

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Every individual speaks using different style of language. There are several factors which make each individual speaks differently, such as age, social status and gender (Holmes, 2013). Holmes (2013) also stated that the main reasons of the differences in speaking between genders are both social and cultural factors. That is why the discussion uses the word gender rather than the word sex. Sex is used to distinguish the biological among individual, while gender refers to the social-cultural construction based on sex (Coates, 2013).

Coates (2013) stated that men and women speak in a different way. The different style in speaking of men and women includes the term of direct or indirect, and standard or non-standard form (Murti, 2018). Women tend to speak more formal and use standard form of language than men. It makes a stereotype that women are more formal than men. Holmes (2013) states that women are more subordinate than men in society, this may make women are less confident when talking because they are powerless. On the other hand, women also tend to be talkative than men. It can be seen when women meet their group or friends, they may chat many things that happen around them. Whereas, men are known to be less talkative, that is why the society usually says that what can be seen in a man is not only from his words but also his action. The differences of women and men when speaking are not only found in the way they talk, but also in the topic that

they usually talk about. Women usually like gossiping, and the topics are about the relationship of people around them and fashion. However, men tend to talk about sport and news (Pebrianti, 2013).

In the past, women were stereotyped as the subordinate ones. It means that women were considered more powerless than men. They had no power to do something freely as men did. According to Goffman (1976), man seems to perform executive role which nobody could have such role except him. For example, in stating opinion, women usually cannot state their opinions in public freely as men usually do. A woman cannot express what she feels because the one who can do that is only man. Since women cannot state their opinions freely, they cannot make a decision either. It usually happens in a family, the one who has to make a decision is the husband because he is the leader of the family. Woman, as a wife, only takes a role as the one who serves and takes care of the family members. However, it has changed since the era of feminism began. Recently, the role of women has changed in a rapid way. Not only can they state their opinion in public, but they can also lead a group of people even a country.

A study of language and gender by Lakoff (1975), an American linguist, has been conducted in order to explain more about how women usually speak. Her study is written in the book entitled *Language and Woman's Place* (1975). It is a study which is focused on women's language. She claimed that there are 10 features which are usually used by women. The features are called Women's Linguistic Features. The 10 features include lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise colour

terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. While, another study such as a study by Coates (2013) claimed that the study by Lakoff (1975) cannot be used anymore in this era because it is now seen as out-dated approach. She identified the features which usually emerge in women's and men's utterances, those features include the use of minimal responses, hedges, tag questions, questions, commands and directives, compliments, swearing and taboo language, and compliments (Coates, 2013).

There are some studies about women's linguistic features which have been conducted around the world. Such as the study written by Itmeizeh and Ma'ayeh (2017) which discussed women's linguistic features in the language of Disney movies in 1937 and 2012. Another study is written by Nisa' (2017), she did a study about women's linguistic features used by the main characters, who are Elsa and Anna, in *Frozen* Movie. Another study is conducted by Safitri (2017), she did a research about women's linguistic features in *Tangled* Movie. Another study is written by Kartika (2015), it is a study about women's linguistic features used by Oprah Winfrey conversing with male and female guest star in a talk show entitled Oprah Winfrey Talk Show. The other study stated by Labotka, she conducted a study of women's linguistic features used by a gay male as the host in a show.

It can be seen that most of them used female character in the movie as the subject of the research as Itmeizeh and Ma'ayeh (2017), Nisa' (2017) and Safitri (2017) did. However, this study used a female teenager who has struggled with Asperger's syndrome, a difficulty in a social interaction. Besides, it can be said

that women's linguistic features can be found in various sources, even in daily conversation in natural setting. Tabloid, newspaper, advertisements, films and television broadcasting are the examples of the source in which the phenomenon of women's linguistic features can be found. For examples, the study by Kartika (2015) and Labotka (2009) used interview in a show as the source of data. The previous studies also show that films or movies and television broadcasting are the most frequently used by the researchers in their studies, but most of the studies used the media where it is arranged in the script behind it, such as Itmeizeh and Ma'ayeh (2017), Nisa' (2017) and Safitri (2017) used movie as the source of the data in their researches. Whereas in the television broadcasting, there is still a program which is played in natural setting. One of the examples is interview in the television news program, even though there is a script which has a function to control the host or the reporter in delivering the question, but the whole program does not fully depend on the script.

Hence, it is worth to conduct a research about women's linguistic features which can be found in the conversation within the interview on the television news program, since there were no studies about women's linguistic features used in interview video of television news program. Clayman (2010) stated that television news program has become progressively interactive over the recent years by replacing the monolog narratives and stories with dialog form like interview, discussion and talk show. According to Clayman dan Heritage (2002), news interview is used for gathering information from politicians, experts, or someone who is in the news. The host can still act in a natural way in order to

communicate with the guest star, even to the audience too. The guest star can also act in a natural way. He or she can answer the host's questions without a script but still around the main topic. The success of television program sometimes depends on who the guest star is and what the topic to be discussed is, because the first thing in which the audience take a look is the guest star of the program and the topic.

The speaker of the television show or it may be called as the guest of the show can be a woman and man nowadays. In the recent time, women can be believed as the speaker or the guest of the show since there are many women become influencer and activist. It also happens to Greta Thunberg. Greta Thunberg is a young climate activist from Sweden. She is brave to utter her speech in the public in order to make people realize the urgency of climate change issue. Eventhough she has struggled with Asperger's syndrome, a difficulty in a social interaction, but she does not give up to try her best in order to give an impact to other people to save the world for future. One of the television show which invited Greta Thunberg as the guest is *Democracy Now!* television program aired on Free Speech TV. The interview between Greta Thunberg as the guest of the show and Amy Goodman as the host may be categorized as the interested one, because Greta Thunberg told about her experience in climate change issue fighting from the start, when she was seven years old, the challenge to defend her action and her message to other young people in order to safe the world for the future. Eventhough she has struggled with Asperger's syndrome, which is

basically difficult to speak with other person who does not have close relation to her.

This study examined women's linguistic features spoken by a guest star, Greta Thunberg, in the interview of television news program. Greta Thunberg is one of the young environmental activists who focused on the risk of climate change from Sweden. She is only 16 years old, but she can influence many people even adult people around the world to take an action towards climate change. It began in August 2018, she has always taken time off school every Friday to protest in front of the Swedish parliament by holding a sign of calling climate action. She and her friends organized a school climate strike movement named *Fridays for Future*. Finally her name has become famous since she was invited in the United Nations Climate Change Conference talking about the urgency to take action towards climate crisis in 2018. Even though she has struggled with her Asperger's syndrome, some difficulties in social interaction and non-verbal communication, she would like to inform everyone around the world the urgency of climate risk. Her name appears almost in every program, it makes the audiences are interested in listening her. That is why this study would take her as the subject of the study.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In relation to the previous background of the study, the writer conducted a study based on the following questions:

1. What are the women's linguistic features used by Greta Thunberg on interview video in *Democracy Now!* television news program aired on Free Speech TV in 2019?
2. What women's linguistic feature is the most frequently used by Greta Thunberg on interview video in *Democracy Now!* television news program aired on Free Speech TV in 2019?
3. What are the functions that make Greta Thunberg used each women's linguistic features on interview video in *Democracy Now!* television news program aired on Free Speech TV in 2019?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problems, this study tried to answer the questions above:

1. To identify the women's linguistic features used by Greta Thunberg on interview video in *Democracy Now!* television news program aired on Free Speech TV in 2019.
2. To explain the women's linguistic features frequently used by Greta Thunberg on interview video in *Democracy Now!* television news program aired on Free Speech TV in 2019.
3. To describe the functions that make Greta Thunberg used each women's linguistic features on interview video in *Democracy Now!* television news program aired on Free Speech TV in 2019.

#### 1.4 Significance of the Study

The aim of the study is to find out the women's language features used by Greta Thunberg On "*We Are Striking to Disrupt the System*": *An Hour with 16-Year-Old Climate Activist Greta Thunberg* Interview Video in *Democracy Now!* Television News Program. This study is expected to give significance both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it is expected to provide more information about women's linguistic feature through interview video in television news program, especially by female teenager. The results of this study hopefully can also contribute to the language and gender field so that it can be a reference for students who study about language and gender, mainly about women's linguistic features. Furthermore, practically it is also expected to help the readers easily choose and identify which feature is more appropriate to use in communicating with other in an appropriate topic.

#### 1.5 Definition of Key terms

Language and Gender : The relation of gender and language use which involves a clear discussion of gender and of the resource that the linguistic system offers for the construction of social meaning (Eckert & McConnell-Ginet, 2003).

Women's Language : The characteristic of women when speak and express their feeling in different



situation to show that the language used by women is different with men (Lakoff, 1975)

Women's Linguistic Features : Language features used by women which proposed by Coates (2013) including the use of minimal responses, hedges, tag questions, questions, commands and directives, compliments, swearing and taboo language, and compliments.