CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Men and women are different not only in their physical appearances but also in their language. The way men and women speak differs both in terms of pronunciation, vocabulary, sentence structure, and intonation. Such as in Xia's writing (2013), she distinguishes men's and women's talking differences from the pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, syntax, etc. In general, in speaking, women are described as more decent, polite, and talkative, and they are not expected to speak up, not even lead. This is related to different social roles that are expected of them. Lakoff (2004), in her writing, she said that women are seen as subordinate, which is reflected in their language because people at that time assumed that in womanhood, women are not allowed to speak precisely or express their thought. She also emphasized that women need to talk and think like a lady, and if they refused, they would be humiliated as unfeminine or even "less than fully human."

In addition, Chaney (2011, 522) explained that womanhood focused "on the strength, sensitivity, and sensuality of women, and womanhood is also described in terms of feminine behaviours, specifically the way that a woman cares for her family, her physical appearance and her self-respect." Women, in general, are portrayed through how they handle the housework and their family. Women will be judged inappropriate when they do work or jobs that are generally done by men.

When women do something great, which is not done by women in general, men might praise them at the time, but hope that it would stop there and nothing more.

In contrast, men are considered more important than women, especially in language. The language used by men tends to be considered more logical, than that of women who rely more on feelings. This corresponds to Chaney's statement (2011), which says that men are athletic, unemotional, logical, and dominating, while women are weak, domestic, emotional, and dependent. Lakoff (1973, 47) said that women's characteristics can be reflected through their language. Cited in Holmes (2013), Lakoff categorized women's language through ten features. These features are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation, 'empty' adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers, 'hypercorrect' grammar, 'superpolite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

Women's linguistic features basically can be studied in various ways, settings, and contexts, not only in a real conversation. Researchers no longer have to go into the field to search for the subject under their study. They can conduct research through the mass media such as magazines, radio, TV shows, movies, or even social media, which is popular in this era. As we know, many people learn new things not only from something that happens directly, but also through the media.

Some researchers have conducted research about women's linguistic features found in the media. Ramadhani (2017), Subyantari (2018), Roesman (2018), and Anjani (2019) analysed women's linguistic features through movie,

while Amanda (2017) analysed women's linguistic features through videos from YouTube. These researchers use the same main theory which is Lakoff's theory.

Ramadhani (2017) studied women's linguistic features in the utterances of the two main female characters of *Mona Lisa Smile* that are a teacher and a student. She found seven out of ten features which showed that women in the movie tried to show their identity as educated women. Subyantari (2018), in her research, used the main character (princess) of *Brave* as her subject. She found nine out of ten features. Referring to the language that the main character used in the movie, she concluded that the female characters are still considered to belong to the subordinate group.

Furthermore, in investigating women's linguistic features used by two main characters in *Clouds of Sils Maria*, which are an actress and an actress's assistant, Roesman (2018) found eight out of ten features. She stated that women are not too bound with the cultures that society made since her research showed that some of the features were absent or even misused. Anjani (2019) investigated some female characters in *Wonder Woman* that include a princess, a queen, warriors, a scientist, and a secretary. She found eight out of ten features in and explained that these features were used for three reasons: women are the guardian of society, status consciousness, and subordinate group. Amanda (2017) found seven features used by Hillary Clinton in her speech. She found that with the use of these features, Hillary did not show her uncertainty in speaking, as Lakoff said in her theory, but she showed her self-confidence as a female leader.

Most studies on women's linguistic features described above involved educated women as subjects. As mentioned previously, the previous studies chose

the educated women such as a politician, teacher, student, princess, actress, and actress assistant, all of whom can be called good citizens. As cited from UNICEF's book (1996), those classified as educated women are those who have the skills, information and self-confidence to be good parents, workers and citizens. According to the writer, good citizens refer to people who follow government regulations and participate in national development. In contrast, criminals are not included in the group of good citizens in which educated women usually become one of the characteristics In this research, the writer questions how women with criminal backgrounds can maintain their ladylike through language, as Lakoff (2004) states that women need to talk and think like a lady.

This present study chose two main female characters in the movie *Hustlers*. There are several reasons for the writer to choose this movie. The first is because this movie has attracted much attention from the audience as it used quite well-known actresses and singers such as Jennifer Lopez, Constance Wu, Cardi B, Lizzo, and many more. Furthermore, because of this movie, Jennifer Lopez won two awards as the best supporting artist at the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award and Satellite Award. The third reason is that the film is based on a true story based on the writings in New York magazine's 2015 article "The Hustlers at Scores: The Ex-Strippers Who Stole From (Mostly) Rich Men and Gave to, Well, Themselves."

The last reason is related to the specific background of the characters. As mentioned earlier that the female characters in this movie have a criminal background, which makes them belong to uneducated women. Such a background

is still rarely discussed in studies about women's linguistic features. Most studies involve educated women in analysing women's linguistic features. Therefore, the writer attempt to fill this gap by analysing women's linguistic features in the movie with the hope that it will provide more knowledge about the variety of women linguistic features that are likely to occur around us.

This research aims to analyse women's linguistic features used by the two main female characters in *Hustlers* with the theory of Lakoff (2004). Specifically, the writer hopes to find the answer of how the female characters maintain their lady attitude through the language they use.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

Based the background of the study, the writer formulates the statements of the problem as follows:

1. What are the women's linguistics features used by the two main female characters in *Hustlers*?

2. What feature is the most frequently used by the two main female characters in *Hustlers*?

1.3 The objectives of the Study

According to the formulation of the statement of the problem above, the writer elaborates the objective of the study as follows:

1. To identify types of women's linguistic features used by the two main female characters in *Hustlers*

2. To identify the feature which is most frequently used by the two main female characters in *Hustlers*

1.4 The Significance of the Study

From this research, the writer hopes that this research can provide both theoretical contributions and practical contributions. Theoretically, this research can provide further understanding of women's linguistic features in the context of language and gender. Besides, this research is expected to be a reference for those who want to conduct research dealing with women's linguistic features with the hope that the next researchers will complement the lack of this study. Practically, through this research, the readers especially students will be noticing more about women's language in society with different phenomena.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The object of this study is an American movie with the title *Hustlers,* which was released by STXfilms in 2019. This study primarily focuses on the women's language, which is often included in the discussion of language and gender. The writer analysed the women's linguistic features used by the two main female characters and, the feature most frequently used by the two main female characters. The analysis was conducted on the utterances of two main characters, which are Destiny and Ramona based on the theory of Lakoff (2004).

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Language

   A language is "a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements" (Chomsky 1957, 2).

2. Women's linguistic features

   The linguistic features that are used more often by women than men which was proposed by Robin Lakoff (2004) (Holmes 2013).

3. Conversation

   Conversation is a cooperative activity that involves two or more people, in which everyone there are allowed to participate (Wardhaugh 2006, 298).

4. Movie

   "A sequence of moving pictures recorded with the sound that recounts to a story appeared at the specific cinema" (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 2010).