CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Language is a naturally social phenomenon which provides insights into how male and female's language use can affect their social world. Their meaningful words reflect differences in the way they think about the world.

In a society, people divide the features of language based on gender. According to Lange (2008) in her article entitled *Male and Female Writing Female* which analyzed four different novels with two male writers and two female writers, gender plays an important role in the lives of human beings, starting at the moment of their birth when they are given a blue blanket or a pink blanket and sent forward on a path that will turn them into what their culture considers proper male or female.

Male and female are different in terms of the language they use (Holmes, 1992, p.164). Although language is a universal thing which means that everyone uses it to communicate with each other, there are also some differences (Trudgill, 1974, p.80). From this statement, the writer can conclude that gender can influence the language used. How male and female use the language to communicate with each other by using different language**.**

The different use of language between male and female can be seen in many ways. One of them is the choice of words. First, female tend to use more adjectives than male. Second, female are considered as/to be less assertive than male. Third**,**

female tend to use fewer taboo words and more euphemisms than male. This choice of word can be seen in the characteristic of female's language that is used because of female's duties in the society especially in the family. Furthermore, Lakoff (1973) states that noun phrases used by female are typically described in relation to their marital and family responsibility (Lakoff: 1973 Cited in Coates, 2004, p.287).

Related to the different gender in using language, people also have differences in the way of writing. These differences in language use can be seen when people write a novel. Novel has become part of human culture in writing since a long time ago. Novel is one of the written products of people's imagination. According to literature, novel is one of literary works that comes from a fictional piece of prose that is written in narrative style. Novel tells story which consists of characters, settings, themes and the messages of the story.

Novel has some elements that can make it good. Besides the writer himself/herself, the elements like the character, setting, theme, and the message of the story also give different influence towards the estimation of the novel's content. The basic element of novel that usually can much influence the reader is the character of the people in the story of the novel. This character is the description of the people in the story.

The use of language in writing the novel's character is influenced by the gender of the writers. According to Gardiner (1980), male and female live differently because of their gender. Therefore, these gender differences will be reflected in their writing. If novels are intended to be written by female, the language which they use

are likely to be the language which are familiar in the areas of female. Conversely, male writers may use the language that is more common in their world. Regarding to the issue of language and gender in novel, the writer thinks that the use of language in male and female writers in the novel is interesting to be analyzed.

A researcher on this subject is Sara Mills, with her research on best-selling novel written by Barbara Taylor Bradford in which the delineation of female character is very different from the delineation of the action performed given by male writer (1995, p.147). The difference resides in constructing female who is as passive recipient from the male's action. Male is more on doing action while female is more on using the feeling or the emotion.

Another important study on different language features by male and female was written by Shlomo Argamon, Moshe Koppel, and Jonathan Fine (2003) entitled *Gender, Genre and Writing Style in Formal Written Texts*. It was found that even in formal writing, female writing exhibits greater use of features identified by previous researchers as "involved" while male writing exhibits greater use of features which have been identified as "informational". "Involved" is features which prominent characteristic. In writing texts, the characteristic of involved can be seen from the use of first and second pronouns, analytic negation, contractions and present tense verb. In contrast, the identified of feature in male writing "informational" is that male authors are more likely to indicate or specify things that they write about.

Another study in the modern era, there has been many studies about language and gender. One of them is conducted by Aritanti Anjar Ekasari (2008). In this

thesis, Ekasari (2008) took the data from the female magazine *Instyle* and male magazine *Detail* which were framed by using figures of language style. In this research, she found that female are more detail in describing something while male tend to use masculine words when writing about female characters.

In the previous studies, the first study analyzed about the theme in two novels written by two writers with different gender. The second study analyzed the language style in formal written text and it used the linguistics corpus to do the analysis. The third study, analyzed adjectives based on semantics found in magazines, and it used linguistic corpus to do the analysis. Those three previous studies are different from this study.

In this analysis, the writer analyzes the language use to represent female characters in two novels written by two writers. They are in different gender. This study focuses on the language used expressed by the gender of the novel's writer in representing female's character in their novels. This study does not use the linguistics corpus to do the analysis.

This study stresses on the difference of female and male language used. Furthermore, the study aims to find the language used by a female writer and a male writer in the *The Christmas Wedding* and *Happy Ever After* novels. The writer chooses these two novels because both of the novels represent female characters strongly. In this case, the writer intends to describe how the genders of the writers of those two novels are reflected in the way they represent female's characters.

1.2 Statements of the problem

Based on the background of the study, the writer forms statement of the problems:

1. What female language features expressed by male writer in the novel "*The Christmas Wedding*" by James Patterson and Richard DiLallo?

2. What female language features expressed by female writer in the novel "*Happy Ever After*" by Nora Roberts?

3. What are the similarities of the female language features expressed by female and male writers in the novels "*Happy Ever After*" and "*The Christmas Wedding*"?

4. What are the differences of the female language features expressed by female and male writer in the novels "*Happy Ever After*" and "*The Christmas Wedding*"?

1.3 Objective of the study

Based on the statements of the problem, the objective of this study is:

1. To find out kinds of language features expressed by male writer in representing female characters in the novel *The Christmas Wedding*

2. To find out kinds of language features expressed by a female writer in representing female characters in the novel *Happy Ever After*

3. To find out the similarities of language features expressed by male and female writers in representing female characters in the novels *The Christmas Wedding* and *Happy Ever After*

4. To find out the differences of language features expressed by male and female writers in representing female characters in the novels *The Christmas Wedding* and *Happy Ever After*

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give theoretical and practical contribution. The first contribution is theoretical contribution. For theoretical contribution, this study gives contribution to the sociolinguistic study, especially those which relate to the language use and gender. Through this study, the writer hopes that the findings can be used to enrich the readers' knowledge to understand the language use presented in the novel.

The second contribution is practical contribution. In the practical contribution, the writer hopes that the findings would provide some useful information to the readers in order to realize some different language use in representing female characters. So that they can understand certain concepts of the language use.

1.5 Definition of key terms

The writer considers that it will be necessary to explain description of technical terms to avoid misunderstanding. These technical terms are used in this study:

Representation   : a set of process by which signifying practices appear and stand for or depict another objector practice in 'real' world (Barker 2004, p. 177)

Female character   : female who is appeared in a narrative prose or novel and interpreted by the readers as a person who has moral quality and certain tendency such as being expressed in what they say and what they do (Abram, 1981, p.76)

Gender   : a social construct involving genetic, psychological, social and cultural differences between male and female (Wardough, 2002, p.213).