

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this section, the writer summarizes several theories related to the purpose of this study. The writer realizes that some theories are needed in doing analysis in every field of study. Hence, this study uses a number of theories to help the writer analyze the data.

2.1 Language and Gender

Today many linguists have approached language and gender from various perspectives. This study employs the first approach of language and gender which is the deficit approach. That approach characterizes the Robin Lakoff's work, *Language and Female's place* (1975), and it is claimed to establish something called 'women's language' (WL). Women's language becomes the comparison between male and female. Female should learn to speak like male if they want to be taken seriously.

Male and female have different emotion and physical characteristics. However, all human beings are not only distinguished as males and females. Actually, human beings are also distinguished by duties and expectations from the society. In line with this expression, Lindsey adds that, linguistic and sex varieties arise because language as social phenomenon is closely related to social attitudes. Male and female are socially different in the society, different social roles, and also different behavior (Lindsey, 1990, p.49).

In general, mother or female call for roles involving love, nursing, self-sacrifice, and availability. Conversely, the father or male call for expected roles of breadwinner, disciplinarian, and ultimate decision-maker in the household (Lindsey, 1990, p.2). Lindsey also states that those noun phrases used by female are typically described in relation to their marital and family responsibility (1990, p.5).

There are many factors that persist the classification between female and male, including social, political, and economical. In term of socio-cultural problems, male and female are different in their linguistic behavior because male and female is raised in different subculture. As said by Lakoff (cited in Cameron, 1991, p.220-221), little girls in the very start, learn two different ways of speaking. Since the mothers are the dominant influences in the lives of most children under the age of 5, probably both boys and girls firstly learn 'female's language' as their first language. As they grow older, boys especially go through a stage of rouge talk.

Therefore, female like to use words which can touch their emotion. In written language, female tend to use affective function to show their feelings. James (1996, p.56) says that female use terms of endearment such as '*sweetie*', '*dear*', '*honey*' in wider range of setting (1996, p.56). Female are also very emotional. Holmes (cited in Wardaugh, 2002, p.320) states that female tend to use affective function in interaction. While male have been found to swear more, use longer words, more articles, and more references to location.

Female also tend to use more standard form of English. Based on Thanasoulas's opinion, there are three reasons of it. First, it explains that female are

aware of their low status in society. Therefore, female use more standard speech forms to claim equality. Thus, female in paid employment have the tendency to use fewer standard forms than unemployed female. The second reason is what related to the ways in which society treats female. Female are designed to be the role of modeling correct behavior in the community. Thus, female are expected to speak more correctly. The third reason is that by using standard or polite forms, a female claims to have higher status in the society around her (Thanasoulas, 1999, p.1).

Robin Lakoff hypothesizes at length about two aspects of female's language: first, the existence of female's dialect which avoids strong or forceful statement and, second, the tokens of language behavior which degrade female. It maintains, too, that reinforcement for acting out female's roles and for accompanying the language used during childhood responsible for female's language which utilizes tag questions, intonation differences, and weak expletives (Cutler, 2003).

That is why, according to David and Joan (2003), the variety between male and female in the way of experiencing their lives in the society is basically not only the result of how the society classifies someone according to his or her physical and biological figures. But also, the duties and expectations also classify female in the society in all culture differentiations (Gradol, David & Joan, 2003, p.11).

It has been strongly debated in sociolinguistics whether a person's sex could influence male or female's use of linguistic features. The way female and male communicate was fascinating many sociolinguists whether or not there are linguistic gender differences (Coates, 2004, p.1). It is portrayed by linguistic forms such as

hedges, 'empty' adjectives, talking in 'italic', and exaggerating intonation contour (Coates, 2004, p.6). Moreover, 'female's language' is described as weak and unassertive in other words, as deficient. Female are usually less powerful than male. Many female therefore typically use powerless language (Coates, 2004, p.109).

The term gender is a very broad concept and especially the terms sex and gender can be difficult to separate. In Penelope Eckert and Sally McConnell's book, *Language and Gender*, the difference between gender and sex is explained in the following way; "Sex is biological categorization based primarily on reproductive potential whereas gender is the social elaboration of biological sex" (McConnell, 2005, p.10).

However, Sven Von Svenson in *Language Defines Gender* states that female tend to be more detail to describe everything, for example events, persons, places, things (Svenson, 2006). Therefore, female are believed to have longer sentences than male. Besides, in mirroring phrase-level findings of tentativeness in female language, female have been found to use more intensive adverbs, more conjunctions such as *but* and modal auxiliary verbs such as *could* that place question marks of some kind over a statement (Svenson 2006, cited in Newman, et al, 2007, p.5).

2.2 Features in women's language

In the study of language and gender, the discussion on the different linguistic features between male and female is very interesting. Linguistic feature is features which are applied in linguistics such as phonology, morphology, syntax and

semantics in people's speech. Focused on the syntax, Lakoff (1973) describes that "female's subordinate social status in American society is indicated by the language female use" (Lakoff 1973, cited in Holmes, 2008, p. 297). In addition, Lakoff claims that female often use color words such mauve, beige, aquamarine, lavender, and magenta. In term of adjectives, female commonly use the adjective such as adorable, charming, divine, lovely, and sweet (Wardhaugh, 2006, p. 318). There are some linguistic features of female's language according to Lakoff's investigation and perceptions (Holmes, 2008, p. 298):

- (a) Lexical hedges or fillers, e.g. *you know, sort of, well, you see.*
- (b) Tag questions, e.g. *she's very nice, isn't she?*
- (c) Rising intonation on declaratives, e.g. *it's really good.*
- (d) 'Empty' adjectives, e.g. *divine, charming, cute.*
- (e) Precise color terms, e.g. *magenta, aquamarine.*
- (f) Intensifiers such as *just* and *so*, e.g. *I like him so much.*
- (g) 'Hypercorrect' grammar, e.g. *consistent use of standard verb forms.*
- (h) 'Superpolite' forms, e.g. indirect requests, euphemisms.
- (i) Avoidance of strong swear words, e.g. *fudges, my goodness.*
- (j) Emphatic stress, e.g. *it was a brilliant performance.*

2.3 Features in Man's language

The different ways of analyzing the relationship between language and gender have perspective that the notion of male language being the norm and something

female should learn. According to Lakoff (1973), in her contribution to the debate, the dominant approach of male's language is also seen as a way for male to show power. These are some characteristics of how male speak:

- Use deeper voices or lower in pitch
- Swear and use taboo language
- Be more assertive in group interaction (interruptions, few tag questions)
- Use falling rather than rising intonations
- Discuss "traditional" male topics like business, politics, and economics
- Use non-standard speech, even in middle class community
- Use explicit commands (Gimme the pliers)

2.4 Characteristics of written text

The speech of every individual is unique. The uniqueness of the speech in every individual have been influenced by gender, age, occupation, social class, temperament, and regional dialect. Therefore, people create their own idiolect or personal style of speaking. This is often caught by the novelist who uses dialogue to mark out the individuality of the characters in the novels (Pridham, 2001, p.93).

According to Pridham, even in a spoken narrative, people frequently report back and use voices to convey what other people have said in order to make their narrative more real and vivid. Some novelists give their narrator a clear, distinctive voice, with which they tell the whole story. In most novels, novel writers use dialogue for a variety of purposes. For example to present and develop character; to

further the plot; to allow characters to explore themes and ideas of the novel; to create atmosphere; and to present different points of view (Pridham, 2001, p.93).

Studies of accent and dialect have also revealed how, as individuals, we act as representatives of different groups in society. Dialect can function to show a character's particular region, social occupation, class or even to some extent and gender. Because of society's in-built attitude to different non-standard accents and dialects, both can also be used for the following: to show integrity in a character; to provide comedy; to show simplicity or lack of education; and to show intimacy (Pridham, 2001, p.82).

Moreover, Pridham argues that the vocabulary and grammar given to individual characters in the novels would give them an idiolect that strengthens the impression they create on the readers. The way the characters speak will give the readers information about where the characters come from, related to their origin and social status, their level of education, their occupation, interests, and even gender and personality.

By allowing the characters to present themselves in dialogue rather than the narrator passing on the information, the reader becomes more involved in the novel (Pridham, 2001, p.84). The variety of the language used in the written in the novel is similar to the language use spoken by the readers. In short, Pridham states that spoken language used in the novel is the real daily conversation written as texts in the novel.

2.5 Element of Novel (Character)

Since the writer focuses on the language used in representing female characters in the novel, the writer considers using the theory of Edgar V. Roberts (1991). In his book, *Writing Theme about Literature*, he explained that character in literature is an extended verbal representation of a human being. This character determines thought, speech, and behavior. Through dialogue, action, and commentary, the writers portray characters that are worth caring about, rooting for, and even loving although there are also characters whom you may laugh or whom you may dislike or even hate (Roberts, 1991, p. 64).

Moreover, Roberts also stated that there are two types of character. The first is 'round character' and the second is 'flat character'. Round character profits from experience and undergoes an alteration which may be the realization of new strength and the acceptance of new condition. Obviously, round characters are central to serious literature, for they are the focal points of conflict and interest. Round character can be called as dynamic character. In contrast to round characters, flat characters do not grow, no matter what the circumstances. They end where they begin, and they are static, not dynamic like the round characters (Roberts, 1991, p. 66).

2.6 RELATED STUDIES

2.6.1 Gender Differences in Language Use: An Analysis of 14,000 Text Samples

It has been argued that some differences in linguistics style between male and female exist only in speech, informal writing, and electronic message. One might therefore expect that such differences of language and gender would be reduced or even eliminated in such formal written texts. In one notable exception, Newman, Groom, Handelman and Pennebaker (2007) examined gender differences in language use using standardized categories to analyze a database of over 14,000 text files from 70 separate studies. Unlike Koppel et al. who used a version of the EG algorithm to automatically select the features to identify writer gender of unseen document, this study was provided by text files in which the gender of the writer is already known. The result shows that female used more words related to psychological and social processes whereas male referred more to object properties and impersonal topics. Although the findings are also consistent with other previous studies, the pattern of variation suggests that gender differences place fewer constraints in language use.

This study is different from my study because this study uses the formal text which the text is unknown writer. This study analyzes the language use in formal text to identify the gender of the writer. In the other hand, my study aims to find out the features of female's language in the two novels which are written by the different gender of the writer.

2.6.2 A Gender Based Adjectival Study of Female's and Male's Magazines

Another study in the informal writing, Arvidsson (2009) examined gender differences in adjectival use in the magazine. In this study, Arvidsson used four of the biggest fashion magazines in the world. The magazines are *Elle*, *Marie Claire*, *GQ* and *Vogue Hommes International*. *Elle* and *Marie Claire* are magazines addressing female readers and *GQ* and *Vogue Hommes International* are magazines addressing male readers. From the material introduced above, the writer extracted 462 adjectives from the 8 different articles in the magazines. The articles consist of 9597 words and they are vary in length from 158 words to 4181 words. The writer used classification of adjectives to analyze the data. The classification of adjectives used by the writer is *attributive* or *predicative function*, *connotative adjectives* vs. *neutral adjectives*, and *color terms*. Based on connotative value, the writer has also divided the adjectives into *positive connotation* or *negative connotation*. In this study, the writer found that the gender of the magazines' writer influences the language use depending on the message of the magazines that want to be delivered towards the readers. If the message is for male readers, the magazines' writer uses more masculine language but if the message is for female readers, the magazines' writer uses feminine language. This study is different from my study. This study focuses on the using of adjective based on the gender of the writer. In the other hand, my study focuses on the features in female's language in representing female character used by different gender of the novel's writer.

2.6.4 The Comparisons Between The Language Used by Male and Female Peers in Twitter

The newer related studies about the language used is done by Soedjono (2013) the thesis entitled *The Comparisons Between The Language Used by Male and Female Peers in Twitter* used the methodology of corpus linguistics in taking the data. The writer took the data randomly from the twitter and used the corpus linguistics to know the collocates of the words. In this thesis, Soedjono found three results of language used by female and male in twitter. The first is the most typical words used by female are closely related to online shopping and personal strong opinion. On the other hand, the most typical words used by male tweets are closely related to sports and news. It means that males tend to avoid personal topics and discuss more general topics instead. In further analysis, the writer found that female tend to be more self-centered and direct in addressing people while males are not. The second is the use of abbreviations. In her thesis result, it shows that both male and female use abbreviations equally in their tweets. Last is the use of vulgar words. This thesis found that both male and female use vulgar words in their tweets but in the female category, the vulgar words undergo spelling diversions called eccentric spelling.

This study is also different from my study. This study uses the data from twitter of male and female to find out the language used. This study uses linguistics corpus to analyze the data. In other hand, my study uses two novels from different gender of the writers. And in my study, I do not use the linguistics corpus to analyze

the data because in this analysis need to be carefully to find out the sentence which is represent female character in two novels.