CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I. 1   Background of the Study

Language and gender is an unusual and exciting area of research concerning a phenomenal growth in the last decade or so. It holds out not only linguistic and social theory but also a social critique about sexual inequality.

Gender is a socially rather than a biological constructed attribute. In other words, people learn the behaviors and attitudes appropriate to their sex, they are not born with them. Society treats men and women in two different ways, they have different experiences, different things are expected from them. It can also be said that *women and men have different life*

experiences to and extent that cannot be satisfactorily explained by simple biological differences between the sexes. (Graddol and Swann, 1989 : 9).

Gender involves social, cultural, and psychological aspects linked to males and females through particular social context. What a given society defines as masculine or feminine is a component of gender. Society forms roles of gender. Gender roles refer to the attitudes and behaviors the members of a society are expected to act out (Strong and Devault, 1988; Lindsey , 1990 :3). Every society has mechanism to ensure that its members act in normative and approved way.

Gender roles are the active expression of gender identity. In other words, because our culture defines male as ambitious and competitive, we expect them to engage in team sports and seek out positions of leadership. Females, culturally defined as deferential and emotional, are expected to be good listener and supportive of others. The work done by females and males has been quite different. Women still have a relatively small range of jobs. Their jobs fall within two broad occupational categories. The first is clerical work. These jobs are considered support positions. The second broad category is service work, included waitresses and other food service employees as well as nurses and other health service workers. (Macionis, 1987:354). Males are likely to predominate in any job that provides a lot of income,

prestige, and power such as engineers, managers, lawyers, administrators, and computer specialists.

Gender stratification is evident in the fact that males tend to hold powerful occupational positions while women are in relatively powerless occupation. This hierarchy is often apparent in the job setting itself : male physicians work with female nurses; male executives have female secretaries, and male airline pilots work with female flight attendants. Within a given occupation, the greater a job's income and social prestige, the more likely it is to be held by a male.

Language reflects culture and is shaped by it. Once we learn language, we have great deal of knowledge about how the culture defines the two sexes. In learning language, children are also taught that the sexes are valued differently. Language use is ambiguous and discriminatory as well. We are socialized into the language of our culture, but the language is used differently, according to our sex. Coates has said in Graddol's book, *Gender Voices* :

> *"Linguistic differences are merely a reflection of social difference, and as long as society views women and men as different -- and unequally -- then the differences in the language of women and men will persist "*. (Coates, 1986; Graddol and Swann , 1989 : 9).

Thus it can be seen that social background can form one's mind towards gender division. One's perception of the name of a certain profession is affected by social treatment, something that has been deeply rooted in the society, that a certain profession is appropriate with a certain kind of gender. One example will be this following :

" One of my children is a secretary "

Even if we know that there were both male and female secretaries, the word has shifted from its possible *male* or *female.* Such an utterance may be heard that the word *secretary* is female since it is generally so. If someone heard the word *secretary* for the first time, the hearer will infer that the person being referred to is female. It is likely that 'female' *would be heard as being part of its literal meaning.* (Graddol and Swann, 1989 : 168)

As Frege said in the book by Jerrold J. Katz :

"If anything asserted there is always an obvious presupposition that the simple or compound names used have reference" (Frege; Katz, 1972 : 129).

When a name of profession is uttered it would be interesting to know the hearer's first thought about a certain gender that is referred by a name of profession.

According to Ogden and Richard in their book, *The Meaning of Meaning,* between a thought and a symbol causal relations hold. The *symbol*

is the linguistic element -- the words, sentence, etc. The *referent* the object in the world of experience, while *thought or reference* is concept. Symbolism we employ is caused partly by social and psychological factors. When we hear what is said, the symbols both cause us to perform an act of reference. There is no direct link between symbol and referent, the link is via thought or reference, the concept of our mind. When we think a name, we think of the concept and vice versa. In other words, that meaning consists of our ability associating one with other.

It is not easy to change language to make it more precise and accurate. A doctor is a male and a nurse is a female. Physicians, attourneys, and astronauts are men even though many, if not most, of these people are women. If either sex deviates occupationally and chooses to enter a nontraditional field, we add linguistic markers to designate this remarkable fact. What emerges is the idea of *polisi wanita* (police woman), *dokter wanita* (female doctor), *perawat laki-laki* (male nurse) and so forth.

Obviously, one's perception plays a big role here. The fact that there is a male secretary can be found if the hearer or the reader has the knowledge of the world, a knowledge of 'how the world is'. It is closely related to his or her education, since the one who has received higher education would have broader view. In accordance with this phenomenon, the writer would try to examine whether or not education affects people's perception about a certain

profession that usually refers to a certain kind of gender. *Bahasa Indonesia* is chosen as the field of this research since the phenomenon also occurs in this language. Then the education of the sample is taken as the parameter concerning with the study.

I. 2 *Statement of the Problem*

From the background of the study, the problem that may occur is :

❑ *Does education influence one's sexist perception about some profession names?*

Relating to the problem, the writer tries to find out whether or not education can make differences of someone's perception by comparing the perception of each word. Does higher education will be able to present other possibilities against something that has been deeply rooted in the society.The problem here is an interesting area that invites people to know further. Thus it is really a crucial thing to find out what the role of education upon people's perception is.

I. 3 *Statement of Hypothesis*

On the basis of the statement of the problem, the hypothesis of the paper is :

Education holds a very crucial part in affecting one's sexist perception.The one with lower education is more sexist than the one with higher education.

What is meant by sexist perception here is the perception of the respondents that are associated some names of professions with gender. The writer tries to prove the hypothesis by using statistical accounting in each name. Through the statistics, the result will be presented clearly.

I. 4 *Objective of the Study*

Relating to the problem above, the writer would try to examine the relationship between sexist language and people's education. Thus she would find the role of education towards sexist language. Sexist language has to be avoided. Moreover, the writer will be able to present one main way to realize the aim. Since the she tries to prove that education would open the people's vision broader, her thesis can lead the society to be more aware of the existence of education. Education is very important for every one, no matter who he or she is.

Furthermore, the writer would try to find out the role of social background in affecting someone's perception. By this study, the society will know better about the real situation happens in their daily lives. It is good to be influenced by surrounded environment although we should not keep our

mind away from development. Education is very important to bring us to the real world thus we will be ready to face the future.

I. 5   *Significance of the Study*

The significance of the study is to give the readers broader information about sexist language that still exists in the society. Through the study the writer would be able to present a broad illustration about the relationship between people's language perception and their education. The study will give a meaningful contribution to the readers about what sexist language is. It can not be denied that most people are not aware of the existence of sexist language. What they think sometimes is sexist but they do not realize it. Sexist especially in the field of language should be erased. Language should not be devided by sexes or gender. Language belongs to every person living in the world. Thus there is no reason to place it in a certain parts that cannot be touched by other part of society.

Moreover, social background is also tried to be analyzed since the background may hold a crucial part in affecting someone's perception about the name of a certain profession. By presenting the paper, the readers would know further about the affect of social background. A person should not be deeply affected by his or her social background since the background could be a big obstacle for him/her.

I. 6   *Theoretical Framework*

Social interaction is a reciprocal process involving communication, and most human communication requires the use of language. According to *Grimshaw*, based on the study of *Labov* and *Bernstein*, language behavior reflects social structure. Language is the central component of social structure. Furthermore, in another study done by *Gumperz* it can be said, that social structure determines speech and/or language behavior. For Bernstein, the mode of social interaction is primary contingent on social class, and the principal socializing agent is the families. (Atkinson et als, 1991 :389).

In the sociological theory, social stratification is formulated in many different dimensions of inequality. The most important forms of stratification in the society are:

1. *economic production stratification*, based on one's relation to the major means of economic production.

2. *Socioeconomic stratification*, based on one's educational attainment, occupation, income, possessions, and related factors.

3. *Ethnic stratification*, based on one's race, national origins, or religion.

4. *Gender stratification*, based on one's sex, and gender-determined roles.

5. *Age stratification,* based on one's chronological age and age-determined roles.

6. *Political stratification,* based on one's involvement and influence in political affairs

7. *Intellectual stratification,* based on one's level of intelligence, knowledge, sophistication, and intellectual accomplishment.

(Taken from : Olsen, *SOCIETAL DYNAMICS, Exploring Macrosociology,* 1991 : 105-106).

Our concern should be on the socioeconomic stratification since this stratification comes into the basis of one's educational attainment, occupation, income, and possessions.

The relationship between education and socioeconomic status can be viewed as a vicious cycle that continues across generations. The higher the status of one's parents, the greater amount and quality of education a child is likely to receive. Subsequently, the amount and quality of one's education will heavily influence the status or class position one attain as an adult. (Olsen, 1991 : 105, 475)

Sociologist has defined social classes as a category of people who have the same amount of income, power and prestige. There are 3 different methods for identifying classes, proposed by *Alex Thio* (1992) in his book, *SOCIOLOGY, an Introduction.* They are:

1. *Reputational Method.* Sociologists who use this method select a group of people and ask them what classes they think others belong to.

2. *Subjective Method.* This method is used by asking people what classes they belong to.

3. *Objective Method.* There are some criteria of indicating individuals' class positions used by sociologists. Today, most sociologists use occupation, income, and *education* as criteria, either slightly or jointly.

It is obvious that education can be used as the criteria in indicating one's social class. Thus this study can be analyzed in the basis of the theory of language and social class.

I. 7   *Method of the Study*

I. 7.1 *Definition of Key Terms*

❑ *Perception*   : the way of understanding or interpreting something.

❑ *Sexism*   : discrimination against people because of their sex.

❑ *Sexist language*   : any language that expresses such stereotyped attitude and expectations, or that assumes the inherent superiority of one sex over the other.

❑ *Gender*   : (refer to) a social distinction between masculine and feminine. In this sense it can be

distinguished from the term sex, which relates to the biological and by a large binary distinction between male and female.

- ❑ *Gender roles* : expectations regarding the proper behavior, attitudes, and activities of males and females.

- ❑ *Gender identity* : the ways males and females, guided by culture, learn to think of themselves.

- ❑ *Exclusive language* :language that is exclusive for special gender, e.g, police for men, nurse for woman, etc.

- ❑ *Social class* : an organization of people holding similar statutes on one or more dimensions of stratification that displays boundaries, internal, ordering, and a unique subculture.

- ❑ *Education* : a formal process of learning in which some persons consciously teach while others adopt the social role of learner.

- ❑ *Lower education* : basic education, elementary until junior high school.

- ❑ *Higher education* : further education, senior high school and university education.

- ❑   *Peer group*   : a group of people with similar or equal status and usually of similar age.

- ❑   *Profession*   : what people do for living, legally or illegally.

I. 7.2 Location and Population

The location of the research is Surabaya for the reason that this location is inhabited by various kinds of people with different degrees of education and different social backgrounds. .

As we know, the inhabitants of Surabaya are millions. Education is one main part of those people. They know exactly that education is needed to struggle their lives. Education can be reached by anyone. Besides, Surabaya government provide good education for them. Education from the basic until the advance are available for the inhabitants. They can get education easily in every part in this city. On the other hand, migration from outside Surabaya is very great. Most of them come with low education. Their main objective is to make their lives better. Without any skill, they only become low paying employees in this big city. However, the number of the urbans is becoming greater . They live in Surabaya among the native people.

From those people, both from higher and lower education, the study would examine 100 people that can represent the population.

I.7.3   Sampling

Stratified Sampling Technique is chosen to analyze the study. Stratified Random sampling is usually used if the population consists of different degrees. The first thing that should be noticed is how many degrees exist in the population being analyzed. Then each degree must be represented by sample that can be taken randomly. This study takes 50 samples from people with lower education, those who finish their elementary and junior high school education. And 50 samples from 50 people that finish their senior high school and university education.

I.7.4   Technique of Data Collection

In order to collect the data, the writer distributes 100 questionnaires among the population. The questionnaire contains some name of professions that usually related to a certain gender. The respondents are expected to fill out the questionnaires. The question is concerning their first perception about the 15 names of professions. What is the first thing come to their mind while reading those names?

There are 50 questionnaires for people with lower education and 50 questionnaires for people with higher education. Their answers are expected to be accurate data for this research. Systematically, the steps of data collection are this following :

1. Questionnaires are distributed among 100 people, 50 for lower educated people, and the rest for higher educated people.

2. The respondents fill the answers then the result is obtained to be accurate data for the study.

I.7.5 Technique of Data Analysis

After collecting and selecting the data, the writer would use *quantitative analysis.* This technique uses statistical accounting that is *chi-square.* Chi-square test is a non-parametric statistical procedure most often used to test the independence of the distribution of two namable characteristics within a population. (Fasold, 1984 : 95).

In analyzing the data, each word is analyzed by *chi-square* to compare higher and lower education in responding the questionnaires. The different perception between higher and lower education people can be seen clearly.

These procedures will present a clear and accurate result of the study. The reader would be easier to capture the picture of this phenomenon and understand the result of the study as well. Besides statistical accounting, the writer would also analyze the exclusive words by making a wide picture of them, why they become exclusive.

1.7.6 Organization of the Paper

This paper is organized into four chapters, each contains some subchapters. The first chapter consists of seven subchapters, those are : *Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Statement of Hypothesis, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study, Theoretical Framework, Method of the Study* that is divided into *Definition of Key Terms, Location and Population, Sampling, Technique of Data Collection, Tecnique of Data Analysis,* and *Organization of the Paper*

The second chapter is divided into four subchapters, those are : *Sexist Language, Gender Division, Surabaya Society,* and *The Role of Education.*

The third chapter is divided into three subchapters, those are : *Presentation of the Data, the Analysis of Sexist Language through Sociolinguistic Approach, Interpretation* that are subdivided into *Interpretation through Statistical Calculation,* and *Interpretation of Exclusive Words ;* and the last subchapter is *Analysis of Social Background.*

The fourth chapter contains *Conclusions* and *Suggestions.*

CHAPTER II

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY