

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

From the presentation and analysis of the data, the writer is able to answer the questions in the statements of the problems. First, the writer can conclude that not all types of women's linguistic features occur in the dialogues of Gilmore Girls TV series season four episode one, *Ballroom and Biscotti*. There are only nine types out of ten types of women's linguistic features that occur in the dialogues. The features that occur are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, 'empty' adjectives, specialized vocabularies (precise color terms), intensifiers, 'superpolite' forms, avoidance of strong swear words (the use of expletives), and emphatic stress.

Feature number seven, 'hypercorrect' grammar, does not occur in the dialogues. Instead of using 'hypercorrect' grammar (the consistent use of standard verb forms), both male and female characters in this series use nonstandard verb forms quite often such as dropping word-final sound in the pronunciation, e.g.; not sounding the final g in words such as *freakin* instead of the standard form *freaking*. It was also found the frequent use of nonstandard verb forms / casual verb forms in the dialogues such as *gonna* (instead of the standard form *going to*), *'em* (instead of the standard form *them*), and *wanna* (instead of the standard form *want to*). The possible reason why feature 'hypercorrect' grammar does not occur in the dialogues is because the characters in this series live in a small town. Thus, they have quite close relationship, such as relationship between family, neighbors,

and friends. Consequently, the situation in this episode is quite informal also because each character has intimate relationship with the others. Therefore, the use of feature 'hypercorrect' grammar (which is to claim a high status in order to be valued in society) is not really important for the female characters in the dialogues of this episode. This condition happened to the male characters also because men are considered as the super-ordinate group. They do not have to use feature 'hypercorrect' grammar to be valued in society. On the other hand, men prefer to use the vernacular forms because they carry macho connotations of masculinity and toughness.

Second, the writer found that feature number one, lexical hedges or fillers, occurs the most frequently in the dialogues, with 35.46 % occurrences. This feature has possibility to occur the most because hedging is another aspect of women's insecurity (or in general, its usage is supposed to reflect the general insecurity of the speaker). The function of this feature is as a kind of attention-getting device, which is a way to check with one's interactional partner to see if they are listening, following and attending to one's remark. The use of hedges (by women) indicate unassertiveness. This is because the speakers (in this case, women) are socialized to believe that asserting themselves strongly is not nice or lady like, or even not feminine. This feature is also used as an invitation to respond someone's speech and to negotiate sensitive topics. Therefore, this feature appears the most because the characters in this episode want to create a fluent conversation with other characters.

Answering the last question, from the analysis the writer found that the female characters use women's linguistic features more often than the male characters. They use 48.74 % of women's linguistic features, higher than the male characters who use women's linguistic features 42.42 %. This condition proves Lakoff's theory of women's linguistic features that women use women's linguistic features more often than men. As said by Lakoff, this condition can be happened because women were using language which reinforced their subordinate status. They were colluding in their own subordination by the way they spoke. It means that women seek to acquire status through their use of language. The use of women's linguistic features also indicates women's insecurity, uncertainty, hesitancy, and lack of confidence. They use women's linguistic features because they are more status conscious than men. The use of women's linguistic features by women is a way of claiming such status (there is an exceptional for feature number seven, 'hypercorrect' grammar, which does not appear in this episode). They believe that a hesitant style will win their acceptance. Consequently, by using women's linguistic features, women hope that they will reach an equal status as men and will be valued by the society.

Beside the findings above, the writer also found another interesting result from the analysis. Between all of the characters, the character who are older, have higher status and higher education in society, tend to use women's linguistic features more often than the character who are younger, have lower status and lower education in society. This condition happened to both male and female characters. Between the female characters, Emily (Lorelai's mother, Rory's

grandmother), a character who has a high status in society, uses women's linguistic features in her utterances more often (83.93 %) than the other female characters. On the other hand, the other Gilmore Girls, Lorelai (Rory's mother), uses 51.94 % of women's linguistic features in her utterances, while Rory, the youngest Gilmore Girls, uses 38.86 % of women's linguistic features. The male characters also show almost the same results. Richard (Rory's grandfather), a successful businessman, uses women's linguistic features more often (81.48 %) than the other male characters, followed by Taylor, the town's major (the older member of the town), with 65.52 % of women's linguistic features. The other three male characters, Kirk, Luke, and Jackson, who are younger and have lower status than Richard and Taylor, use women's linguistic features less often (29.17 %, 28.79 %, and 25 %). This statistic shows that the differences in the use of women's linguistic features are not only based on gender/sex, but also on age, status, and education. People who are older, have higher status and higher education in society, tend to use women's linguistic features more often than people who are younger, have lower status and lower education in society.

In conclusion, although the corpus of this study comprises of artificial dialogues from Gilmore Girls TV series season four episode one, *Ballroom and Biscotti*, at least this study has proven Lakoff's theory of women's linguistic features that women use women's linguistic features more often than men.

BIBLIOGRAPHY