

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, homosexuality has become a hot issue and an interesting topic in many countries. Eighteen countries such as Canada, Netherland, Spain, United Kingdom, etc have legalized the same-sex marriage constitutionally (www.freedomtomarry.org). It makes many homosexual people in those countries bravely come out to other people around them in public places. Moreover, they can successfully hold wedding parties for their same-sex marriages.

United Kingdom is the fifteenth country which legalizes the same-sex marriage for homosexual couples. The Queen of England granted royal assent to a bill extending to marry to same-sex couples in England, Wales, and Scotland. It is also approved by the British House of Commons and House of Lords. According to official website of UK Government, it stated that the UK government enables same sex couples to marry in civil ceremonies (Government Equalities Office, 2010). This policy makes this country becomes the comfortable place for homosexual communities.

As the impact of legalization of same-sex marriage in United Kingdom, it makes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex (LGBTI) communities burgeon rapidly. According to Integrated Household Survey (2014), in London, there were 1.2% of adult males and females came out as gay or lesbian in 2013. It was higher than the percentage of adult males and females identified as bisexual

(0.5%) and other sexual identities (0.3%). Based on the survey, the writer focused on the lesbian and gay because of the higher amount of gay and lesbian compared to bisexual and other sexual identities.

Besides, gay and lesbian create their own forums or communities in which it can be as a coordinating institution to share their own stories and experiences in their LG life, most of these communities also have its own magazines. According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 5th Edition (1995), magazine is a type of large thin book with paper cover, containing stories, pictures, etc and issued usually every week or every month.

Nowadays, magazine is not only published in a printed book, but it can be in an online version. There are online magazines about LG published in United Kingdom such as *Bent* and *Diva* magazines. Both magazines have different target readers. Officially, in the magazines' website, *Bent* magazine states that it is for gay men, while the *Diva* magazine is a lesbian magazine. *Bent* magazine as the gay's magazine, its content usually provides topic about gay's life such as relationship, fashion, health, and other gay topics. *Diva* magazine also has similar topics, but those topics are related to lesbian's life. As the online magazine, both magazines have their own website to be accessed easily by the target readers. Gay readers can access Bent at mag.bent.com, while lesbian readers can visit Diva's website at www.divamag.co.uk.

Bent and *Diva* as online mass media have vital role-play in establishing and spreading information to the certain readers like gay and lesbian readers. In order to keep close to their readers, magazines usually use some terms which have

been shared and known by the target readers. Those terms are called as register. As cited in Holmes (2008), register is a term for specific vocabulary related to certain group of people.

Some registers derive from adjectives word class. According to Biber et al (1999), in written language, adjectives are more frequently used in registers than adverbs. However, adjectives and adverbs are considerably less common than nouns and verbs. Mostly, registers in written language such as in magazine's articles are formed from adjectives and nouns compared to verbs and adverbs. For example, in Indonesian LGBTI Magazine, GAYa Nusantara Magazine, there are several terms of gay language can be found such as *pria lekong* (**masculine** guy), *amplop* (**sorry**), *cowok binan* (**homosexual** man), and many other registers. Those examples are registers which are from adjectives. It is very interesting in how the gay and lesbian magazines use adjectives for their registers in order to reach and to amuse the target readers.

It has been argued that gay and lesbian have their different style of language. Some researchers have done the study discussing about homosexual language, especially gay spoken and written language. One of them is Perdana (2010) who conducted a study about word-formation processes on Indonesian queer magazines *GAYa NUSANTARA*. In his research, he found that Indonesian gay words are more various in word-formation than Indonesian words. Another previous study, Dang (2013) conducted a research about gay spoken language in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He found some women's language features are also commonly used by gay communities in Ho Chi Minh City. It means that gay

people in Ho Chi Minh City are identical with feminine things. They also tend to use high-pitched tone, rising intonation and word lengthening like women usually do. Meanwhile, it has widely been known that women's speech has their own linguistic features as opposed to men's speech such as rising intonation on declaratives, emphatic stress, empty adjectives, etc (Lakoff, 1975).

Some researchers also have done the study in language of magazine, but it is based on gender differences of its target readers. One of them is Ekasari (2008) conducted a study about adjectives roles found in online man's and woman's magazines. She focused her study on the adjectives used by two different gender target readers, male and female. Meanwhile, in this study, the writer focused on the use of adjectives of magazines' articles which considerably have different target readers based on their sexualities, gay and lesbian.

As the previous studies mentioned above, gays have their own language terms and they have similar linguistic features to women's speech. As Cameron and Kulick (2003) states that gay are believed that they have similar speech styles like women, and lesbians are also like men in speech style. It is clear enough that between gay and lesbian have different style in spoken language. While in language and gender, between male and female also have differences in spoken and written language. It leads the writer to a curiosity whether gay and lesbian also have differences in written language especially in how the gay's and lesbian's magazines use adjectives for their own target readers.

In this research, the writer tried to analyze gay's magazine *Bent* and lesbian's magazine *Diva*. Those are the online versions of gay's and lesbian's

magazines published in United Kingdom. The articles of *Bent* and *Diva* are chosen as the object of this study because this magazine can be accessed easily by visiting its official website anytime. Both are also published in the same country, United Kingdom, the fifteenth country which has legalized the same sex marriage constitutionally.

This research focused on the characteristics of syntactic and semantic roles of adjectives used in *Bent* and *Diva* magazines, which have different target readers, gay and lesbian. The writer chose these gay's and lesbian's magazines because these magazines are based on the sexual orientation of their target readers. The writer also chose adjectives because it is mostly used in news and academic prose in which magazine is considered as a news media. According to Biber et al (1999), adjectives are frequently used to modify nouns, thus adding to the informational density of expository registers such as news and academic prose. So that, it is easier to find adjectives in the article of magazines since it belongs to news text which tends to give information to the readers.

Adjectives also can be defined by their morphological, syntactic, and semantic roles (Biber et al, 1999, p.505). Furthermore, in this research, the writer gives scopes and limitations in analyzing the adjectives found in the articles of gay's magazine *Bent* and lesbian's magazine *Diva* based on the syntactic and semantic roles.

The study of queer language is also still very limited study in English Department of Universitas Airlangga, especially in syntax and semantic fields. The data of this study are article texts, which contain many sentences, so the

analysis of the data are more suitable in syntactic and semantic analysis instead of morphological analysis.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. What are the similarities of syntactic and semantic roles of adjectives used in gay's magazine *Bent* and lesbian's magazine *Diva*?
2. What are the differences of syntactic and semantic roles of adjectives used in gay's magazine *Bent* and lesbian's magazine *Diva*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the similarities of syntactic and semantic roles of adjectives used in gay's magazine *Bent* and lesbian's magazine *Diva*.
2. To find out the differences of syntactic and semantic roles of adjectives used in gay's magazine *Bent* and lesbian's magazine *Diva*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

For the theoretical significance, this research hopefully can make contributions to the field of the Sociolinguistic study focusing on Language and Gender. This study will give the readers knowledge in understanding about queer language especially in the syntactic and semantic roles of adjectives used by online gay's and lesbian's magazines. For the practical significance, this research can enrich the readers' knowledge in understanding the types of adjectives used by online gay's and lesbian's magazines and the application in text such as article magazines. By reading this research, the readers can be more sensitive in reading articles by noticing the patterns of adjectives showed in the articles.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Adjectives : It refers to words that express a feature or quality of a noun or pronoun (Crystal, 2003, p. 166).

Semantic Roles of Adjectives : It refers to central adjectives which are descriptive and typically characterizing the referent of a nominal expression (Biber et al, 1999, p. 506).

Syntactic Roles of Adjectives : It refers to central adjective generally used in attributive and predicative adjectives as role of the core (Biber et al, 1999, p. 505).

Magazine : a type of large thin book with paper cover, containing stories, pictures, etc and issued usually every week or every month (Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 5th Edition, 1995),

Sexuality : It refers to sexual orientation or sexual preference (Cameron and Kulick, 2003, p.4).