

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Women Language

According to Lakoff (1973) women's language tends to show their lack of confidence. The language features that they used such as tag questions (*she's beautiful, isn't she?*), lexical hedges (*sort of, you know, well, kind of*), super polite, and intensifier (*so, really, etc*) reflect their uncertainty and hesitancy. Moreover, women language is known more polite, indirect, attentive and facilitative (Holmes, 2006). Women use more polite forms than men because they have more self-consciousness regarding their social status. Unlike men, women also use more indirect expression in conveying such a comments and critics in order to prevent hurting the addressee's feelings. In using the language features women focus on the intimacy and the connection between speaker and addressee. Women's concern is not on the message that they want to convey, but about how it will affect the participant's feelings. It shows how much women's solidarity toward the interlocutor during the conversation. In addition, women language features are considered as facilitative and attentive because they tend to give the listener facilitation in joining the conversation.

2.1.2 Features Of Women's Language

Five types of women's language features by Robin Lakoff are used to examine the different interpretations of women in the same language features. The language features used in this research are as follows;

1. Tag Questions

According to Lakoff (1973, women utilize tag questions more frequently in

comparison to males. Women tend to use this language feature in order to show their lack of certainty. However, Holmes (in Cameron, McAlinden, and O'Leary, 1988) argues that tag questions are not only used by women. Some studies revealed that in certain contexts, men used more tag questions than women with different functions. Holmes (1984) classifies two main functions of tag questions as modal and affective. The first function, the modal known as epistemic modal tags has the function to seek for approval or confirmation. The use of this form indicates that the speaker is not certain about something, so they need to make sure about it (for example, *'It's around 6 o'clock, isn't it?'*). In other words, this form is speaker-oriented because it shows the speaker's need to confirm information. On the contrary, the affective function concerns the addressee instead. There are two distinct forms of this function, which are called positive-politeness and negative-politeness. In the positive-politeness form, the speaker uses tags to facilitate the conversation. The speaker wants to elicit a response from the addressee by using tags as devices (for example, *'Quite a nice room to sit in actually, isn't it?'*). The second one, negative-politeness known as 'softeners' has the function of softening a directive or mitigating a face-threatening act. For example, *'You'd better not do that again, had you?'*. The utterance shows the concern of the speaker towards the addressee. Nevertheless, a single tag might have two functions modal and affective. In this case, the writer used Lakoff's classification in analyzing women's tags in the movie.

2. Lexical Hedges

Lexical Hedges is one of women language features such as *I guess, kinda, I*

think, and I suppose which expresses the speaker's uncertainty (Lakoff in Aries, 1996:116). There are a variety of forms of lexical hedges: verbs (*I believe, I think, I reckon*), adverbial (*perhaps, maybe, probably*), epistemic modal (*could, might*), and discourse features (*kind of, sort of, I mean, you know*). However, there is no permanent list of words that belongs to lexical hedges. Holmes (1986) states that a clause *I think* has a different meaning based on the position in a sentence or utterance. For instance, "Her parents are not home yet, *I think*" is more tentative, while "*I think* you will be a great doctor" is more deliberative. Tentative means that the speaker shows their uncertainty. In addition, the speaker might want to soften the force of a speech act or concern about the addressee's feelings. This function can be used as a facilitative function where the speaker intends to express solidarity or maintain the conversation. In contrast, the deliberative function interprets the speaker's confidence in their speech. The speaker wants to add authority to their speech by using this language feature. In addition, the social context whether it is formal or informal can influence the use of these forms. Holmes claims (in Aries, 1996:117) that women used more lexical hedges as deliberative functions in a formal context. Whereas, men tend to use them as deliberative in informal contexts. These functions can be applied to other lists of words that belong to lexical hedges.

3. Intensifiers

Intensifier is a form that is used to strengthen an expression in the conversation. The speaker used this language feature in order to show their strong feeling. Key (in

Aries 1996:126) claims that women used more intensifiers such as *so*, *really*, *absolutely*, *extremely*, and *rather* more frequently than men. That is because women are known to be more exaggerated in responding to something than men. Moreover, the use of an intensifier also indicates the speaker's emotions in their statement. For example, 'The performance is *extremely* amazing'. The word 'extremely' indicates the strong feeling of the speaker when he/she was watching the performance.

4. Superpolite forms

Super polite form is one of the language features used more by women than men (Lakoff, 1975). Super polite form here means that women tend to use indirect requests in their speech in order to soften their direct statements. Generally speaking, women are more courteous than males. because they have more self-consciousness with their society (Holmes, 2003). Super polite forms are used to show the speaker's concern toward the addressee's feelings. In this case, there are two kinds of politeness negative politeness and positive politeness. In negative politeness, the speaker tends to show respect toward the addressee by avoiding offending them in their speech. On the contrary, positive politeness is a strategy that is used by the speaker to show their solidarity by giving the addressee a chance to give a response.

5. Rising Intonation

According to Lakoff (1973), this feature should be employed when women are hesitant to provide information or a comment. As a result, people often respond by raising their tone of voice.

These exchanges between A and B provide instances:

(A) *When will dinner be ready?*

(B) *Oh.. around six o'clock?*

According to B's comment, the time is six o'clock (if that's acceptable to you).

B reluctantly responds to A's query as a result.

6. 'Empty' Adjectives

In most professions and social classes, males are forbidden from using "empty" adjectives, according to Lakoff (1973), because doing so will make them appear suspicious. Women, unlike males, express their opinions about a subject in a distinct way through their word choices. When women want to communicate how they feel about something in a certain setting, they utilize words like "empty." According to Lakoff (1973), women employ words with frivolous connotations like *divine*, *charming*, and *cute* to entertain themselves. An ordinary individual could exclaim, "What a *terrific* idea!" even when it is actually a very awful one. Nevertheless, ladies will exclaim, "What a *divine* idea!" because women find the word *divine* more entertaining than *terrific*.

7. Precise Colour Terms

Women have their unique vocabulary for identifying the hues, claims Lakoff (1973). For males, the terms *aquamarine*, *lavender*, *ecru*, *beige*, *persimmon*, *mauve*, and *peach* seem alien. Because colors are significant in women's lives, Arliss (1991) asserts that women likely have greater color vocabularies than males. Women are stereotyped as being preoccupied with house décor and fashion.

8. 'Hypercorrect' Grammar

Women constantly employ traditional verb tenses, which is a characteristic of this group (Holmes, 2013). Women tend to adhere to the word's original form and will say *going* with the g-word at the end rather than saying *goin* which is what most males do. In order to be polite, women frequently employ conventional English forms.

9. Avoidance of Strong Swear Words

According to Lakoff (1973), women express their feelings about things using expletives or by avoiding powerful swear words. When adolescents are astonished by anything, they frequently use terms like *fudge*, *my goodness*, *oh my*, *oh sugar*, and *shoot* instead of profanities. Examples of this type of language are ***Oh Fudge***, my hair is on fire and ***Dear me***, did he kidnap the baby?

10. Emphatic Stress

Boosting devices are another name for emphatic stress. Women use this quality to influence the listener and convince them of their message and intended meaning. The usage of it also serves to emphasize the message (Holmes, 2013). The following are some expressions that show emphatic stress: *it was a BRILLIANT performance, it is a GREAT movie, I had a BEST DAY ever!*

2.2 Research Method

The qualitative descriptive is used as the research design in the study. Qualitative descriptive is a design that explains social phenomenon based on direct descriptions from the people who have experienced it. In this kind of research, the writer tends to penetrate the data in any interpretive depth (Sandelowski, 2000). In other words, qualitative research is a kind of research procedure which is used to analyze data in the

form of words, sentences, picture and not in the form of numbers as Bogdan and Taylor stated (Moleong, 2004).

The writer wants to discover what types of women language forms used by female characters in the movie titled *The Queen's Gambit Series*. In this case, Sociolinguistics study is used in analyzing the data. Social factors such as social status, gender, context and another factor are constructed in the process of analyzing the data. The language form types observed consist of hedges, intensifier, tag questions, super polite forms and question forms.

2.2.1 Research Location

The research location of this study is the 2020 American historical drama television. It is a coming-of-age story. In order to find out this phenomenon, this study analyzes the dialogues or scripts uttered by female main characters in the movie.

2.2.2 Data and Data Source

The source of data is the subject to which the data are obtained (Arikunto, 2006). In this study, the writer uses the script or the dialogues between the main roles and other characters in "*The Queen's Gambit*" Series. The genre of the movie is drama, sports, and adult which elevates the journey of a young woman who is good at playing chess.

Meanwhile, the writer uses both primary and secondary data in this present study. The primary data contains the conversation or dialogues between the main characters with other characters in the movie. The secondary is data which contains the previous studies relating to women's language features or speech forms. The data of this research include questions, tag questions, intensifiers, and lexical hedges uttered by The

Queen's Gambit characters.

2.2.3 Sampling

Sample is a part of the data being observed (Hadi, 1983). Sampling is related to the technique of taking samples from a research location (Gulo, 2002). This is because the writer does not select the sample randomly, but they are selected by some considerations such as the setting, participants, and some theories related to women's language features in conversation. The writer uses transcripts of the dialogues between the characters in the movie "The Queen's Gambit" which employ the women's language forms such as tag questions, hedges, question forms, intensifiers, and super polite forms.

2.2.4 Method of Collecting Data

Content analysis is used to collect the data for this study. The study analyzes the content in collecting the data. The content that is going to be analyzed is the dialogues or the speech of the characters in the movie that contains the women's language forms.

1. Watching the movie of The Queen's Gambit series several times to understand the whole story.
2. Transcribing the dialogues in the movie containing five types of women's language forms into the form of a dialogue list as the data.
3. Selecting the data containing women's language characteristics uttered by female characters in the movie.
4. Classifying each data based on the types of women's language devices that are used by the characters, based on the theory of Robin Lakoff (1975).
5. Giving codes on each classified data.

6. Analyzing and interpreting the data to answer the problem statements.

2.2.5 Method of Analysing Data

1. Data Analysis

Queen's Gambit, a film, served as the study's main source of data. Books, periodicals, and movie screenplay subtitles were used as secondary data sources. The referential identity method was used to analyze the data and the function of the features in this research. The video was downloaded from the internet as the initial stage. The next stage was to closely observe and pay attention to the dialogue between the characters. Third, reading the written movie script to understand the dialogue from the character's point of view. By marking in the movie screenplay the final utterances that have women's linguistic characteristics, the last utterances were organized according to women's linguistic characteristics. For more precise data, the researcher analyzed Beth 's speech using the articulatory phonetics method, where the researcher listened to whether there was an increase in intonation when Natalie spoke. Here's the step on how to collect and analyze the data:

1. The first step, the movie subtitles script (PDF), was downloaded from <https://scribtpdf.com/the-queens-gambit-script-pdf/> and converted into plain text (txt).
2. Then, separate the dialogue of other characters from the main character (Beth) in episodes 1,3 and 7
3. After that, Categorized utterances used by Beth based on the theory proposed by Lakoff (1973) and Coates (2013) by providing a code that has been made at the end of the utterance.

4. Calculate the frequency of each feature. At this point, the analyses' findings are given simply.
5. The result presentation is identified from the data about the women's language and language features.