

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Language and Gender

Sociolinguistics is a specific point of the study of how language and society interact. It is concerned with the interaction between linguistic and social structures. Sociolinguistics also teaches by showing the language, or a variety of languages, used when speaking to be able to communicate well with other people. As a means of communication with other people, language is important for daily life. In their interactions, people always make a statement, whether it turns out about their intentions, thoughts, feelings, or emotions. It's been known for a very long time that language and gender are related. Holmes (2013) states, men and women speak differently because, in every communication, there is some degree of contrast between the linguistic forms that men and women use. For example, it is claimed that men and women emphasize various functions of speech and that women use more respectful language than men to communicate with other people. In her book *Women, Men, and Language*, Coates also discusses language use, focusing on how men and women as speakers use language differently.

One of the variables that influence language features is gender. The term gender is more often used than sex because gender is a social construct that develops from a person's biological sex, while sex refers to categories that are distinguished by biological traits (Eckert & McConnell-Ginnett, 2003). For identifying persons based on their sociocultural behavior, including speech, gender is more appropriate. In Coates' study, men and women usually use different languages when communicating. In terms of goals and communicative skills, men and women differ, which shows that they have different ideas on how to offer a compliment or an apology. These distinctions are based on unfounded assumptions about statements or concepts about language they are a part of linguistics. For example, in Britain, women grew up believing they talk more and like gossip while men like to swear more than women (Coates, 2013).

2.1.2 Language Features

Language can be used by people to communicate with another, there are several language features used by both men and women. Women tend to talk about other people and their feelings instead of things while men are more likely to talk about current news, travel, and sports (Coates, 2013). Therefore it can be said that women are typically known for having personalities that are expressive and skillful at expressing their emotions. In *Women, Men, and Language* book, Jennifer Coates mentions that women tend to use minimal responses, hedges, tag questions,

questions, commands, directives, swearing and taboo language, and compliments as their language features.

a. Minimal Responses

Minimal responses are in the form of body language, nodding, and short words like "*mhm*," "*yeah*," "*right*," and "*I agree*." The concept of minimal responses refers to the short comments or statements made by conversation participants. Women frequently use minimal responses to show that they are listening and following the conversation. Women frequently use this expression to show their agreement with the truth or their acceptance of a new topic and highlight their role as good listeners to other people.

b. Hedges

Hedges express the speakers' certainty or uncertainty about the topic being discussed (Coates, 2013: 88). Hedges are verbal expressions such as *I think*, *I'm sure*, *you know*, *kind of*, and *perhaps*. Hedges are more often spoken by women than men because men's talks typically keep clear of sensitive topics in contrast to women speakers. They rarely always talk about themselves and rather talk about other topics that are not sensitive. Hedges become important for speakers when sensitive topics are being discussed because they reduce the impact of what is said and protect both the speaker's and the partner.

c. Tag questions

Holmes (1984) cited in Coates (2013: 91) stated tags according to whether they express meaning that is primarily modal or affective, means Tag with modal indicates that the speaker wants the facts to confirm their proposition. Tag questions are used by women more often than men, for example, the sentence "*She looks gorgeous today, isn't she?*" or "*That was so unique, wasn't it?*". The usage of tag questions on women is a tool to test the opinions that they expressed.

d. Questions

Questions are part of the conversational sequencing device Question + Answer (Coates, 2013: 93). In conversation, questions need answers from the addressee, because of that questions and answers are related. So, questions are more powerful than statements because the questions give the speaker feedback from other people. Questions are more often used by women to keep the conversation going with the other person.

e. Commands and Directives

A speech act that commands someone to do something, such as an action, is known as a directive. Men and women deliver commands differently because men make specific demands whereas women rarely do. The commands and directives that men use are more unpleasant than the ones that women use. The words "*I want,*" "*let's,*" and "*get away*" are some of the examples of commands and directives. Goodwin (1980,1990,1998) cited in Coates (2013: 94) argues the

linguistic forms used reflect and at the same time reproduce the social organization of the group. The boys' group is hierarchically organized, with leaders using very strong directive forms to demonstrate control, while the girls' group is non-hierarchical with all girls participating in decision-making on an equal basis. It shows that men more often use explicit commands than women.

f. Swearing and Taboo Languages

There is a common folk linguistic assumption that men use more taboo words and swear more than women. Women speakers are more likely to focus on producing their speech to make sure that they use appropriate and respectful words. Swearing and other taboo words are rarely used in this context. Jenny Cheshire's research on adolescent speech (1982) cited in Coates (2013: 98) believes that using swearing has a symbolic significance for this age group. It indicates that young people, particularly those from working-class backgrounds, believe that using taboo language is part of being "cool." Girls from the same background also employ linguistic strategies that are usually employed by male speakers. Women are therefore permitted to swear in informal conversations.

g. Compliments

A compliment is a positive sentence conveyed by someone to another person in a conversation, a compliment usually represents a sign of appreciation or regard for the person who receives it. According to Coates, women use compliments more than men because in some situations women tend to use compliments as a positive sign of politeness. Based on New Zealand research, 51%

of women compliment other women, but only 9% of men did the same. 23.1% of compliments were made by men to women and 16.5% were made by women to men (Coates, 2013: 98).

2.1.3 Function of Language

According to Jakobson (1960), there were six most important functions of the language of communication such as referential, expressive, conative, phatic, metalingual, and poetic function.

a. Referential function

A referential function is a function to convey information effectively using different types of speech, such as declarative or interrogative remarks (Holmes, 2013: 275). The referential function is focused on the communication context. This feature is used to communicate information or inform others about the speaker's perspective.

b. Expressive function

Holmes explained expressive function is a function to analyze someone's feelings or to express the speaker's feelings at the time (2013: 275). Based on Jakobson in Sebeok, an expressive function focused on something that was intended, aims to be a direct statement of the speaker's feelings (1960: 354)

c. Conative function

A conative function is a function used to influence behavior, or in other words, the speaker is trying to persuade someone to do something in response to his or her statements. In the opinion of Jakobson in Sebeok, the conative function finds its fullest grammatical expression in the vocative and imperative, which differ from other nominal and verbal categories syntactically, morphologically, and often even phonemically (1960: 355).

d. Phatic function

Holmes assumed phatic function is a function to express solidarity or empathy with others (2013: 275). Physical and psychological involvement is at the center of phatic function. This function is responsible for establishing, prolonging, checking, and concluding linguistic messages in communication.

e. Metalingual function

According to Jakobson as cited in Sebeok's book, a metalingual function is focused on the code whenever the addresser and/or the addressee need to check whether they use the same code: it performs a multilingual function (1960: 356). This function refers to the nature of the interaction by concentrating emphasis on the code, which can be used to clarify or renegotiate it.

f. Poetic function

Based on Jakobson in Sebeok, this function cannot be investigated effectively unless it is connected to broader issues in language. On the other hand, a full examination of language requires a detailed analysis of its poetic function (1960: 356). The poetic function is designed to illustrate textual aspects in which the chosen form is the message's essence. Jakobson (1960) stated that poetic function is usually used or found in literary works such as poetry. Even though this function is frequently found in poetry, it can also be used in daily conversation despite the fact that possibilities are uncertain. Although this function is frequently found in poetry, it can also be used in daily conversation even though the possibilities are uncertain.

2.1.4 The Factors that Influence Use Language

Participants, setting or social context, and topic are the three important factors that Holmes (2013) states have always influenced how people use language. The following factors include:

a. Participant

The participant is an important factor in the use of language in communication. In this factor, there are considerations in terms of solidarity and power between the speaker and the interlocutor, the choice of language they make is influenced by several things such as gender, age, social strata, cultural background, and relationships with other people.

b. Setting or social context

The setting and social context in communicating, namely where they are speaking or in what situation they are speaking.

c. Topic

The topic factor is the content of the conversation or what is being discussed in a communication. Different topics will affect the choice of language use.

2.2 Research Methods

2.2.1 Types of Research

The researcher used a descriptive qualitative method to describe language features and connect them to the function of language in each feature in the *Five Feet Apart* movie. This method is considered to be relevant for this study because the data will be the transcription of the *Five Feet Apart* movie, which will be analyzed. This study provides a short and easy-to-understand explanation of Stella's utterance, including features of language and the functions of language in each feature. The researcher uses the utterances of the main female characters that include specific linguistic features as the units of analysis in this study.

2.2.2 Data, Data Sources, Population, and Sampling Techniques

The data are taken from Stella's utterances in the *Five Feet Apart* (2019) movie and the research's data sources from the script of the *Five Feet Apart* movie. The population of the data is the clauses in which Stella participates actively and passively in every utterance. Purposive sampling is one form of non-random

sample approach that was used by the researcher. The researcher used a purposive sampling technique by annotating the Stella utterances that were part of the language features and showing the function of language.

2.2.3 Methods of Collecting Data

The study used several steps to collect the data and analyze language features and the function of language that occurred in the utterances of Stella in the *Five Feet Apart* (2019) movie. First, the researcher watches the movie *Five Feet Apart* (2019) on Netflix. Then, the researcher uses the movie transcript as accompanying data from the original data which contains the conversations between actors in the *Five Feet Apart* movie. The researcher marks Stella's utterances included features of language in the movie transcript. Lastly, the researcher watched the *Five Feet Apart* movie several times to understand and match the transcript, which included the utterances of Stella in the movie.

2.2.4 Methods of Data Analysis

In the movie *Five Feet Apart*, the writer used several steps to analyze language features and the function of language in Stella's utterances.

- a. The researcher selected and focused on each utterance, word, clause, phrase, or sentence already marked, which are included as Coates' (2013) language features and the function according to Jakobson (1960) found in *Five Feet Apart* movie.

- b. The researcher classified the features of language and described the social factors that influence the function of language in Stella's utterances in the *Five Feet Apart* movie.
- c. Finally, as a result of the analysis, the researcher concluded.