

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the study

Language plays a significant role in society because it is a tool for communication that we use daily; the use of language and society are connected to one and another. Language is crucial in shaping our perceptions and understanding of the world. However, the language is often used to reflect societal norms and gender dynamics differences. Philips, Steele, and Tanz (cited in Wardhaugh, 1998:310) men and women languages differences are formed in the society to construct differences between them. Undoubtedly, differences between the language that are used by men and women have been extensively observed, and 'male and female conversational styles are quite distinct' (O'Loughlin, 2000, p. 2). Daily, people are unaware of how their speaking style is influenced by their jobs, obligations, and gender. Later, when speaking to their circumstances, men and women developed distinct linguistic styles. These linguistic styles are also referred to as Language features.

Lakoff (1973) stated that Men and women use different language features, men speak confidently and manly, and women appear delicate and sweet. We also assume that women talk more than men do due to their social position. This might be why women frequently work as secretaries, housekeepers, and bank tellers. All the work that required services provided more gentle speech. On the other hand, men are hired for positions such as managers, drivers, and police officers. It

endows them with a robust personality and more rigid speech. Luckily, now that both men and women can work in the public sector and hold managerial positions, they can switch roles, which impacts how they use language. To conclude, this research delves into the language features of men and women, uncovering how language influence our understanding of gender roles in society. One could argue that some of the characteristics that set women apart from men are their speaking and language use.

Brad: “when are you going to Paris? And by the way you should stop eating youre getting to look like a cow.

Penny: “excuse me? Look like a cow? But just for a record I’m going to Paris next week!

Brad: “don’t be such a baby I was just concerned of your body health, and well it’s a great deal for you to go to Paris”

Penny: “of course it is. And just for your information, it is not polite to use such word to other people you wimp”

Brad: “what the hell, im just kidding”

Penny: “well it’s not nice of you”

During the talk, Brad asked Penny if she went to Paris and used strong language. Wardhaugh (2006) said that men tend to speak strongly than women, and men use more bad words than women. Brad wanted to find out if Penny went to Paris, so he asked her straightforwardly, which is typical for men. Brad asked Penny a question without speaking anything more. When they talked, Brad used terrible words like “hell” and said things that might not be polite. He believed that Penny was different and that something could have happened to her. He got furious and said the word “hell.” Brad said “hell” to express his emotions. And as we can see from the conversation above, Lakoff’s (1973) theory was right about

men use swear words and get straight to the point when speaking than a women does. Brad asked Penny for specific information, and she gave it to him.

Men's and women's language differs in conversation, which leads to the social phenomenon mentioned above. Given that dialogue can occur in both real life and other contexts, including movies, books, and talk shows, the researcher selects a film to examine and uses the film script as a source of information to carry out a study titled Men and Women Language Features In "Purple Hearts" Movie Script." The film was chosen because it is based on real-life in our society and everyday life. Purple Heart (2022) is an American film released on July 29, 2022—a remake of Tess Wakefield's 2017 novel. Furthermore, it is believed that both men and women use distinct linguistic features in their conversations in this movie. The way men and women are portrayed in films is a reflection of larger societal norms regarding gender roles. Movies often reflect the prevailing gender norms at a given time, although exceptions exist and can challenge these stereotypes. These language features in movies can perpetuate, reinforce, or challenge societal expectations of gender behavior. In this instance, the language characteristics of Cassie and Luke, the primary characters, are the subject of the study. The researcher finds that the language used by the male and female main characters in the film differs significantly in both semantic and syntactic domains.

The theory from Coates (2013;86) about men's language features and Lakoff (1973, cited in Holmes, 2013:302) about women's language was used in this research to help understand and study the language features of men and women because the study focused on the language of men and women. It is

imperative to emphasize that language features in films have the capacity to both impact and be impacted by societal attitudes. While some movies may reinforce traditional gender roles and associated language features, others strive to challenge and subvert them. The evolving portrayal of men and women in movies reflects changing societal attitudes toward gender equality, mirroring the progress and work ahead. Exploring language features in movies allows us to observe how gender roles and expectations are represented and perpetuated in popular culture. The language used by male and female characters reflects inherent societal beliefs and stereotypes, shaping our understanding of gender dynamics within the larger context of society. By critically analyzing these portrayals, we can both recognize and challenge gender biases, ultimately striving for a more inclusive and equal representation of men and women on the silver screen and in society. In this matter, the researcher would provide results developed in the conclusion of this research that was represented by male and female languages features on "Purple Hearts" movie script.

### **B. Problem of the study**

This research aims to elaborate on the expression of language features in the main men and women characters in Purple Hearts movie script Based on the above reasoning, the following questions determine the research result :

1. What type of language features are used by the men and women main characters in the movie Purple hearts?

2. How are the realization of language features that are used by the men and women in the movie Purple Hearts on syntactic pattern?

### **C. Objectives of the study**

Following the background of problem above, the researcher had two objectivities in conducting this research:

1. To categorize the type of language features of the main characters in the movie.
2. To evaluate the realization of language features syntactically by men and women main characters in the film

### **D. Scope of the study**

This research was a sociolinguistic study investigating the differences between men's and women's language features and the use of those features by each gender in "Purple Hearts" movie script. This study employed content analysis, which is a qualitative method, to analyze the data. The object of this research is two leading male and female characters in the movie. The researcher chose to focus on the main character, which consists of one male and one female utterance, as the object of this research. Furthermore, the data are analyzed using theory from Coates (2013:86) about men's language features and Lakoff (1973, cited in Holmes, 2013:302), about women's language.

### **E. Significance of the study**

This research authors hopes that the result of this study can be used to enrich the research understanding on language features between Male and Female in the movie or even in the society that based on sociolinguistic fields of study and especially culture and literature studies, this research expected a result that can provide these following advantages:

1. Theoretically, this research is foreseen and expected as an advantageous reference on other sociolinguistic fields of research about Male and Female language perspective
2. Practically, this research is foreseen and expected to provide knowledge for
  - A. for Student of English literature department, the research can be used as a reference for the student in learning sociolinguistic especially in the study of men and women language.
  - B. For Future Researcher, the researcher expect that this research can be used as a reference in conducting the next research about men and women language in the future.