

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of Study

Sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society. Sociolinguists are interested in explaining why people speak differently in different social contexts. And the effect of social factors such as social distance, social status, age, gender and class. Language can be considered as a medium for transmitting a message, information, or idea from speaker to hearer. One of the utterances that people often use in conversation through language is compliment and compliment response.

Compliment is often found in the conversation of everyday life within people in the society. People give compliment in order to establish and maintain a good social relationship. Compliment is an expression of adoring, praising or admiring toward someone. It can happen between people who have different social status, gender and age. Because of the differences, the act of giving compliments toward someone may vary.

In the field of this study, many linguists as well as the writer are interested in the acts of giving compliment. For example, Wolfson and Manes (1978, 1980) conducted their research on compliment among middle class Americans. They found that women are frequent receive compliment regardless of their status. In contrast, men are usually in higher status and they rarely received

compliment that is related to their performance and their ability. Generally people give compliment based on two things, that is, compliment on someone's performance and compliment on someone's ability. Besides the act of giving compliments that may vary, the expression of the compliment responses also has enormous variations because of social status, age and gender differences of the participant.

In this study, the writer uses gender differences factors in determining the way people compliment and also responded to the compliment. The conversation that consists of the act of complimenting could happen in the movie considering that movie is based on what happens in real daily life conversation. Gender differences can be one of the important influences for people in giving compliment and responding the compliment in relation to the movie writer chooses.

For that reason, the object of investigation in this study will be taken from a movie entitled "Killers". Killers" is categorized as an American romantic comedy action movie. The story tells about a vacationing woman meets her ideal man, leading to a swift marriage. Three years after a fateful trip to the French Riviera, Jen enjoys the good life in suburbia with her handsome husband, Spencer. That comes crashing down, however, when gunfire rings out the morning after his 30th birthday. It turns out that Spencer has not been honest with Jen about his job, he is a deadly spy. Now she must learn to dodge bullets while keeping up an appearance of normalcy. Their idyllic life is upset

when they discover their neighbors could be assassins who have been contracted to kill them.

The writer chooses “Killers” as her source of data because in this film the writer found the uniqueness in the act of complimenting related to the gender differences of the characters. In this movie, Spencer really loves Jen and he is ready and willing to sacrifice a great deal to protect her. Jen loves Spencer, too. In this case, gender differences will influence the way the characters give compliment and also respond to it.

Here one of the examples of compliment expression and its response are applied by the main characters.

Jen : Spence, you remodeled my office. It's so organized.

Spencer : Okay, you can kiss me now.

One of the compliment on skills/abilities can be seen in the conversation mentioned above. In this conversation, Jen praised Spencer, she said “*Spence, you remodeled my office. It's so organized.*” It is a compliment on skills/abilities because Spencer has done his task. From the conversation above, it can also be seen that Spencer responded to Jen's compliment by saying “*Okay, you can kiss me now*”. This response is appreciation token. This response is called appreciation token because Spencer accepted Jen's compliment directly by saying “*Okay, you can kiss me now*”, it shows that the compliment is accepted by the addressee.

In conducting this research the writer focuses on the compliments and the responses in the utterances by some characters that is Jen, Spencer, Mr and Mrs. Kornfeldt, and Mac through the entire conversation in the movie.

### **B. The Problem of Study**

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of this study are:

1. What topics of compliment used by some characters in their dialogues in “Killers” Movie?
2. What types of compliment responses are used by some characters in their dialogues in “Killers” Movie?
3. Why are the types of compliment and compliment responses used by some characters?

### **C. The Objectives of Study**

The objectives of this study based on the problems described previously are:

1. To identify the topics of compliment used by some characters in their dialogues in “Killers” Movie.
2. To find out the types of compliment responses used by some characters in their dialogues in “Killers” Movie.
3. To elaborate the reason why the types and compliment used by some characters.

#### **D. The Scope of Study**

This study is limited for analyzing and explaining the compliments and compliment responses expression which used by some characters in Killers movie. The analysis will be studied based on the theory of Compliment by Manes and Wolfson and Compliment Response by Herbert.

#### **E. The Significance of Study**

The findings of the study are expected to be useful for studies and readers:

1. To improve the knowledge about the way male and female vary in giving compliments and compliment response.
2. To encourage the beginners to learn more about compliment and the responses in different contexts and situations.