

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses six important points related to area of the research. Those points are background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and the definitions of terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

The major thing that distinguishes human beings from animals is basically our way to communicate with each other by using language. We have words for specific things, emotions, and expressions. In each language, words are constructed in a certain way and the way of expressing those words has become different. Day after day, society has gone through great changes which have influenced our languages. New vocabularies have been added and at the same time old-fashioned words have been replaced. Each language has its characteristics which reflect the society and personality of speakers in a great extent.

Interestingly, the differences of language using also depends on the gender of the speaker. Gender difference is a popular research in many fields, such as in psychology, in sociolinguistics, and in female study. In these fields, the differences between male and female in many aspects have been studied from different angles with different methodologies. In sociolinguistics, the use of language is different between men and women in case of the syntactic category, intonation, syntactic structure, and in conversational style.

There are two reasons why the researcher interested in carrying out this research. First, after the researcher read a New York Ballentine best seller book written by Deborah Tannen entitled “*You Just Don’t Understand: The Differences Between Men and Women in Conversation*”, she found several interesting points about gender and language use theory. Those points are: 1) the different intention of speaking; men are competitive and intend to build individual status. On the other hand, women conversations are supportive and were built through gossips. 2) Men are problem solvers; in contrast women are attention seeker. When women give a complaint in order to get empathy from their male partner, men tend to give solution with logical explanations. Whereas, apparently, women only need empathy, and emotional supports. 3) Women use *lets* pattern as a proposal, but men implying it as an order. The book also showed that as consequences the differences in communication between male and female often create miscommunication and misinterpretation meaning from the opposite gender of speakers.

The second reason is because of the researcher’s experience and observation. She observed and found out that male and female use language with significant differences. Her male friends used taboo words (fuck, hell, damn,bad words) and imperative sentence more frequent compare to the females did. Contrary to male classmates, her female classmates were more talkative than the males were. In addition, the researcher also recognized that male and female chose different topic in their conversation. Males’ topic of discussion were more about activities such as sport and games, while females used gossips and shopping.

In view of the facts discussed above indirectly show us that gender and language use theory is happening in the society. Those phenomena also indicate that language is not just a tool for conveying information – it is also a tool for creating and understanding the reality around us.

Based on the explanations and the reasons above, the writer would like to have a scientific research on **The Different Language Use between Male and Female of the Third Semester Students of English Education Study Program of Widya Mandira Catholic University in Academic Year 2018/2019.**

1.2 Statement of the Problems

In order to be specific on the research, the researcher focused on two problems. Those statements are:

1. What are the differences of language use of male and female of the third semester students of English Education Study Program of Widya Mandira Catholic University in academic year 2018/2019?
2. Why do the male and female of the third semester students of English Education Study Program of Widya Mandira Catholic University in academic year 2018/2019 use language differently?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research are the researcher wanted to find out the following things:

1. The differences of language use of male and female of the third semester students of English Education Study Program of Widya Mandira Catholic University in academic year 2018/2019.
2. The reason of male and female of the third semester students of English Education Study Program of Widya Mandira Catholic University in academic year 2018/2019 use language differently.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this research is expected to give practical contribution to three parties.

1. To the Researcher

This research is one of the requirements for the researcher to get the educational degree (Sarjana Degree).

2. To English Education Study Program of Widya Mandira Catholic University

This sociolinguistics research showed the third semester students majoring in English Education at Widya Mandira Catholic University in academic year 2018/2019 use language differently.

3. Future Researchers and Linguists

This research is hoped to give contribution and foundation to future researchers and linguists who are interested in gender and language use theory.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This research is a sociolinguistic study which focuses on the gender and language use. The researcher understands that the gender and biological sex are two different things. Lately, gender as a sexual orientation has additional branches. Those branches are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT). In this research, the researcher only focused on male and female used English as a Foreign Language (EFL). The participants of the research were the third semester students majoring in English Education in academic year 2018/2019. There were 33 students in that semester; the researcher took 18 participants with equal number of male and female (nine males and nine females) as the participants of this research.

Among those four approaches in gender and language use: deficit, dominance, discursive, and difference, the researcher specifically focused on the difference approach. The approach that Deborah Tannen discussed in her book *You Just Don't Understand: The Differences Between Men and Women in Conversation*. The six specific aspects that the researcher would like to find out were (1) exaggerated adjectives and adverbs, (2) exaggerated pronoun, (3) expletives (4) proposal or order – imperative and less imperative sentence, (5) solution or empathy, and (6) differences in topic choosing.

The last but not a least limitation is the researcher set up a situation in situational based question or also known as DCT (Discourse Completion Test) as a strategy in boosting participants' speaking using English. Since the researcher carried out this research among EFL learners, then it was difficult to have direct observation. Hence, the researcher believed that the DCT was the best solution.

1.6 Definitions of Terms

Intending to help readers understand several key words in this thesis, the researcher provides four definitions of terms. The definitions as follow:

1. Different Language Use

Different language use in this proposal means the difference language choice chosen by male and female, in this case, the participants. It indicates how male and female use language differently in terms of syntactic category.

2. Syntactic Category

Syntactic is a grouping of two or more words such as noun phrase, verb phrase, and prepositional phrase.

3. Gender

Gender is sexual orientation. Gender is male, female, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. In this research, the researcher only focuses on male and female.

4. Third Semester Students of English Education Study Program of Widya Mandira

Catholic University in academic year 2018/2019

The Third Semester Students of English Education Study Program of Widya Mandira Catholic University in academic year 2018/2019 were second year students majoring in English Education at Widya Mandira Catholic University in academic year 2018/2019.