CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter encompasses the background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, limitation of the study, significance of the study, clarification of key terms and organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the tool to interact with other people or to make exchange with regard to social identities of participants involved. Interaction is realized through dialogue as a spoken text which subsequently can be analyzed through cohesive patterns of conversational structure (Halliday, 1994). It describes how the participants negotiate the exchange of meanings in dialogue.

Eggins (2000) suggested that "being able to take part in the dialog means being able to negotiate the exchange of interpersonal meanings, being able to realize social relationship with other language users". By taking Halliday's perspective as the building block to analyze the grammar of interaction, she then correlated speech functions and the form of realization of each function appears. Mood types are the way, both typical (unmarked) and non-typical (marked) correlation, to express initiating and responding moves provided by the interactants. Unmarked correlation is typical way in expressing the moves (see the detail specification in chapter 2) which automatically affects social role constructed tenor dimensions to be defined as

equal power, frequent contact and high affective involvement, otherwise the move is considered to be included into marked structure.

What makes it interesting for me to be analyzed is whether the mood choice is congruence or incongruence. Such phenomena will lead us to uncover and study the social creation and maintenance of hierarchic, gender and idiosyncratic social roles in which, for instance, male character appears to be more dominant in taking the initiation whereas female tends to be more responsive. This condition expresses meanings about interactants' positions in the discourse as part of the realization of interpersonal meaning of a text which means the realization of the tenor dimension, in this case male character represents a more powerful role than female. Eggins also mentioned that expressing interpersonal meanings about roles and attitudes is the general function of dialogue.

There are four basic move types of speech functions including statement, question, offer and command each of which involves speech roles (giving and demanding) and commodity choices (goods & services and information). The realization of those moves would be types of clauses like declarative, interrogative, imperative, modulated declarative, elliptical and substitution clauses, minor clause and non-verbal action. These have been classified into the category of unmarked and marked series.

Fairclough (2003) then stated that determining the speech function of a clause often requires taking account of social contextual factors. This is the way how interpersonal meanings are being realized in interactive text which

again deals with role relationship variables of tenor dimensions, i.e. power, contact and affective involvement.

The present study attempts to put forward the speech function and its realization of grammatical mood to examine the issue of male and female language use distinction represented in a movie script. A film by Doug Liman, *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* is an eye-catchy one starring famous, good looking artistes - Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie- as a marriage couple neither of whom knows that the other is an assassin. The film achieved $ 100 million blockbuster providing the genre of action spiced with humor and romance which made it interesting and easy-watching. A husband and wife relationship is an interesting topic to be discussed. It brings gender, role, status and power issues.

Concerning the issue, previous study was conducted by Eggins (2000, p.146-148) herself in investigating dialogic exchange of informal tenor (dialogue between friends played by five interactants: Simon, George, Diana, Margaret, and Sue). It is indicated as an informal one considering the fact that the participants can argue and interrupt each other. In line with this, David Butt et. al. (2000) revealed tenor relationship between adult and child that is indicated by familiar and elliptical speech identifying a minimal social distance.

For this reason, I then make an effort to expose the initiating and responding speech functions and various typical and non-typical mood types as their realizations to uncover tenor dimensions laid underneath congruence

and incongruence choices. The analysis pattern applied in this study is based on Halliday's theory which is adopted by Eggins (2000).

1.2. Research Questions

The formulation of the problems focused on this study could be depicted through the questions below:

1. What is the significant aspect(s) of speech functions and mood types realized in *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* movie script which constructs social role relationship?
2. How tenor dimensions are performed by male and female characters in order to reveal interpersonal relationship occurred in the dialogues?

1.3. Aims of the Study

Considering the issue examined in this study, it is aimed:

1. To investigate the significant aspect(s) of speech functions and mood types realized in "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" movie script which constructs social role relationship;
2. To find out how tenor dimensions are performed by male and female characters in order to reveal interpersonal relationship occurred in the dialogues.

1.4. Scope of the Study

The system of dialogue at the level of social context is represented as a move (Firth, 1957). Initiating is the first move the speaker committed in the exchange while the reaction of the initiation is considered as responding move. The study focuses on investigating speech functions, both initiating and responding moves, and the realization of mood types emerged in *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* movie script. The initiating and responding move analysis is addressed to reveal the tenor dimensions by identifying speech function and grammatical mood numbers of typical (unmarked) and non-typical (marked) correlation. Further analysis will be conducted to expose gender differentiation in language use portrayed by the representation of male and female characters played in *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* movie script with also regard to situational context supporting it.

The scope of analysis is purposively Mr. and Mrs. Smith's dialogues as the representation of male and female character in twelve (12) scenes of the movie script excluding the fourth and sixth scenes considering the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Smith private interactions. The dialogues will be analyzed per clause.

Textual analysis is applied in light of Hallidayan notion adopted by Eggins (2000) involving qualitative social research supported by quantitative data (see chapter 3 for further explanation).

1.5. Significance of the Study

The study is expected to help linguistic learners, especially those who draw their attention to analyze discourse, in exploring linguistic features in

conversational structure. Hopefully, the study will attract language learners to gain some significant advantages from entertainment product like movies. The learners are expected to criticize them creatively than merely watching and enjoying the movies.

1.6. Clarification of Key Terms

The following terms are the core key words dealing with the research:

৸ Conversational : Specialized approach to discourse analysis
  Analysis   centered in sociology (Van Dijk, 1997b)

৸ Speech function : The function which is emerged when speech role (giving and demanding) and commodity choice (information and goods-&-services) are taken together in committing the act of speaking including four primary initiating moves: statement, question, offer, command and a set of responding moves: supporting (acknowledgment, answer, acceptance, compliance) and confronting (contradiction, disclaimer, rejection, refusal) (Halliday, 1994)

৸ Grammatical Mood : Grammatical structure used to realized speech functions (Eggins, 2000)

৸ Tenor : The social role relationships played by interactants (Eggins, 2000)

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₪ Text : Authentic products of social interaction in relation to the cultural and social context in which they are negotiated (Eggins, 2000)

₪ Spoken Text : A text containing turn taking organization, context dependent, dynamic structure, spontaneity phenomena, everyday sorts of words and often sentences will not follow standard grammatical constructions (Eggins, 2000)

1.7. Organization of the Paper

This study is organized into five chapters:

Chapter one is an introduction. It includes the background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, limitation of the study, significance of the study, clarification of key terms and organization of the study.

Chapter two presents theoretical foundation of the relevant issue. It provides a brief explanation about functional grammar, the theory of speech function and grammatical mood, tenor dimension as one of register element, then the depiction about gender and power relations.

Chapter three points out the design of the research encompassing research objectives, a brief description of textual analysis and data source including the profile and synopsis of *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* movie. It also explains research

procedure involving how the data are collected and analyzed using Eggins' theory which is based her work on Halliday's perspective.

Chapter four provides the data presentation including the research findings of unmarked and marked series of speech functions and mood types which is gained from clausal analysis. Moreover, it explains how the data are analyzed in order to come up with some significant discussion about the relevant issues.

Chapter five subsequently draws the conclusions and recommendations for further study.