

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the methodological aspects of the present study. It covers the objectives and procedures of the research as well as the technical analysis of data.

3.1 Research Procedure

The study is conducted by using qualitative approach because it is more responsive to every significant aspect. According to Straus and Corbin (1990), qualitative approach can be used to reveal and comprehend something beyond phenomenon which has not been disclosed yet. The researcher uses gender discourse theory since the theory of Deborah Tannen (1990a) is considered useful in exploring the data.

The researcher found the script of “The Bird Cage” Movie on internet. The script firstly will be analysed by using conversational analysis to examine the preference structure. After the preference structure has been revealed, the researcher will apply the theory of Deborah Tannen (Gender Discourse) to know the sex role, ‘male’ and ‘female’ in gay couple. Then, the male’s category will show a characteristic or a pattern that is usually used by men in conversation and woman will have a characteristic and a pattern as well.

3.1.1 Data Source and Collection

This study focuses on the analysis of the gender discourse in the gay couple. The writer uses a theoretical review (library research) in collecting the information about gay and gender discourse. In the process of collecting that information, the writer goes to the library to find a book related to them and browses to the internet as well.

In fact, there are a lot of gay movie that supports the idea of sex role in gay couple. However, the choice goes to this movie, “The Birdcage” (1996). The uniqueness of this movie is that the gay couple has a kid and they have been taking care of the kid until he is grown up. In addition, the gay couple acts as a man and woman in growing up that kid. As a result, they are similar to normal couple who has a kid. The portrayer of man in this movie is a real man that is straight-acting whereas the portrayer of woman is depicted by a man as well but he is not straight-acting.

“The Birdcage” movie is chosen because it is potential to be investigated. The movie supports the idea of “male” and “female” in gay relationship so that it is easier to examine the sex roles.

Furthermore, the researcher can easily investigate the gay couple because the characters support the idea of “male and “female” in gay couple. Consequently, investigation begins from the movie especially the script to examine the conversation and decide the sex role.

3.1.2 Synopsis of Birdcage Movie

It's the story about a flamboyant middle-aged gay couple - Armand (Robin Williams) and Albert (Nathan Lane) – who both run and live in a night club namely 'Birdcage'. They both have a child, Val (Dan Futterman). Surprisingly, Val comes to them with news that he is engaged to marry with Barbara (CalistaFlockhart). Unfortunately Barbara is a senator's daughter who is leading a Coalition of Moral Order and he does not really like gay people; even he is against the same-sex marriage.

So, Val convinces his dad to help him because barbara's family will come to have dinner at his house. After that he wants to have a proper mother, a real woman not Albert. Finally Armand and Albert come to a biological mother of Val and ask her to come to be his couple for dinner.

The problem comes when the real mother of Val come late. Albert comes to that dinner with dressing up and making up like a woman and the makeup as well, pretending to be a woman (Val's mother). However, his disguise is not long lasted. Val reveals the identity of his fake mother and said that his parents are men, gay couple. The senator gets confused and never thought that the woman he is talking to is a man.

3.2 Data Analysis

The research is carried out to examine the sex role in gay couple. Firstly, the researcher uses conversational analysis to interpret or explain the conversational meaning. After that, the researcher applies the theory of gender discourse by Deborah Tannen. The general analytic framework will be described below.

3.3 Framework

The research uses perspective of Deborah Tannen so that the major focus of this research is on conversation between gay couple. In order to answer the research question, the researcher will be following the step below.

First, the researcher will read repeatedly and carefully to gain an understanding about the script. In order to make it clear, the researcher tries to watch the movie as well and matches the script with the movie.

Second, the researcher jots down the note of textual evidence to emphasize which part is considered as characteristic of the man and which part is characteristic of the woman. After it has been done, the researcher will try to analyse them by using conversational analysis. However, the researcher applies only the orthographic transcription to know the people's intention as it mentioned in chapter II. The orthographic transcription is used because it is much easier to note the people's intention in conversation and the strategy in taking a turn.

Lastly, the researcher will interpret the preference structures of conversation and after that the gender discourse will be applied in that conversation. The preference structure assists the gender discourse in determining the characteristics a man and a woman in gay couple.

3.3.1 Units of Analysis

The unit of analysis of this research is the event of the movie. This event will be the emphasis of this research as a mark of the change of the case in the movie. In addition to that, this event will help the writer to see the alteration of the characters from one event to another event. This movie consists of four major events those are in the club, the house decoration, the visit of val's biological mom and the dinner with val's fiancée and family.

3.3.2 Sample analysis

In this research, the writer provides data analysis. The data analysis will be described as follows

Event : Live Performance at Birdcage

Armand: “A ↑ gador where's [Starina]?

Cyril:
[“Agador said She'd be down in 5”]

- Agador: =”Starina won't go on.
She's still in her robe”.
- Armand: “Damn!”(.)
- Agador: “I don't know what happened.”
- Armand: “Go upstairs. [Try to get her ready. I'll be right up. Go!]” (.)
- Agador:
[She won't]
- Armand: “Merde! Have Carmen get ready to do
Starina's number, just in case.”
- Agador: “Ho::ne::y, ple::ase. You got to
get dressed for me. Ple:::ase!”
- Albert: “No, Agador.”(.)
Victoria Page will(.) not dance
the Dance of the Red Shoes tonight.”
- =Or any ↑other night=
- Agador: =”How about just your stockings?
Okay?”(.)
- Albert: “Victoria Page is dead”(.)
- Agador: =”Watch how nice
I'm gonna put it for you”
- Albert: =[You know how she died?]=
- Agador: =[How]

Albert: Al::::one...
weeping [for her lover.]

Agador: [Oh, No::]

Albert: “Darling(?), have you eaten?
 You look haggard.”(.)

Agador: Ple:::ase!=
 You got to help me a little.”

Agador: =”What is this?”=

Albert: =Supplements.
 “I (.2) bought them for Armand, but... (.2) that's all over now.”

Armand: “Albert!”

Albert: (screaming)

Armand: “Are you ↑ trying to ruin me?”

Albert: ↑ Don't look at me.
 I'm hideous! (?)

Hideous!(?)
 Fat and hideous. ↑

Albert: “Agador, I'm in such pain ↓

Agador: “I know, honey. ↓
 It's gonna pass.”

Albert: ”No::!: It will never pass(?)
 I hate my life(?)

Armand: "Are you crazy? ↑
 [There is a packed house out there.]

Albert:
 [That's all I am to you--a meal ticket.]

"I can't stand this. Forget about my feelings never mind about my suffering, it's just about yo::ur ↓sho::w. Not even our↓ show. Yo::ur sh::ow. .I want a palimony agreement. NOW(?)

Armand: I don't have one on me now. =ls tomorrow all right? ↓

Albert: =Don't use that tone to me.

Albert: =What tone?

Albert: That sarcastic, contemptuous tone that means (?)
 yo:::u kno:::w e:::verything
 because you're a ma:::n and I know nothing because I'm a woman=

Armand: =You're not a woman.

Albert: Oh, you bastard! ↑

Key Feature

↑ Shift into especially high pitch

NOW especially loud sounds

:: prolongation of the immediately prior sound

(.) brief interval (it's about tenth second) at the end of utterance. And it's the indication of the next utterance

- stress
- = latching. If the two people latch at the same time
- ? rising intonation
- ↓ Falling intonation
- [] overlapping. Two people talking at the same time

Textual Evidence

In this movie, the sex role is obvious that Armand becomes the “male” and Albert becomes the “female”,

<i>Albert:</i> <i>yo::u kno::w e:::verything</i> <i>because you're a ma:::n</i> <i>and l know nothing</i> <i>=because l'm a woman.</i>
<i>Armand:</i> <i>=You're not a woman.</i>

Another textual evidence is that the connection – status,

<i>Albert:</i> <i>“Victoria Page is <u>dead</u>”(.)</i>
<i>Agador:</i> <i>=”Watch how nice</i> <i>l'm gonna put it for you”</i>

Albert:
=[*You know how she died?*]”=

Agador:
=[*How*]

Al::::one...
weeping [*for her lover.*]

Agador:
[*Oh, No::*]

In this case, Albert tries to get a support and connection from Agador. Since she feels sad and he needs a support and someone who can stand behind him. Compared to Armand, that can stand alone without having to get a connection like Albert does.

In conclusion, it is a piece of proof if that sex role in gay couple is the same as normal couple. They have the same characteristic as it's described by Deborah Tannen, based on the nine dimension of interpretative framework.