

# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Introduction

Since the title of this study is 'Interconnectedness between Speech Acts Expressions and Social Variables,' it covers the discussion of language and social context wherein social variables of the speakers could determine the choices of speech acts' class utilizing. The data sources used is a pop-up new genre novel i.e. chick lit that believed by many women as their life representation. This possible linkage of analysis between speech acts and chicklit is briefly enlightened in sub-chapter background of the study and methods of investigation.

The present chapter also provides the formulation of the problem, aims of the study, significance of the study, clarification of the key terms, and organization of the paper.

## 1.2. Background of The Study

Language is a system used by human with the purpose of communicating thoughts, feelings, and ideas (American Heritage Dictionary 2004; Finnegan et al 1997). Language cannot be alienated with a society that functions it because language definition is also what the members of a particular society speak (Wardhaugh 1998: p.1).

Discussion of language and society, which is part of sociolinguistics, covers the subject of language and gender. Language and gender focuses on the characteristics of language used by women and men. Keith and Suttleworth (p. 222)

suggest that women's characteristics are more polite, indecisive/hesitant, complain and nag whereas men are swearing more, dominating conversation, and giving more commands.

Those characteristics are not universal and depend upon certain society in which language is functioned as social representation that contains traditional values. A society that culturally places women at secondary status to men has significant aspects in determining polite attitude to women. Indonesia, for example, that considered has root in patriarchal culture, creates social behavior that plays a very significant role when women interact with others, either men or women. One of the examples is politeness concept (Hadiz & Eddyono 2005).

Along with a slowly-evolved society, language starts to change as well (Heath 2003). It is found that young women, in particular situation, use interaction traits that belong more to men's characteristics (Beattie 1981, cited in Graddol and Swan 1989). Such linguistics alteration is much considered caused by social factors like individual aspiration, changing life style in a community, or new communication context. In view of that, language practices are also influenced by individual character. This is in line with Le Page and Tabouret-Keller (cited in Graddol and Swan 1989, p. 217) who state that each individual creates linguistics attitude patterns which are similar to patterns of community's and needs to be identified from time to time or differs from others.

Aziz (2000, p. 157) strengthens the theory by affirming that individual character shaped by social profiles which have contribution to the choice of expressions, the strategies, and the degree of politeness in speaking. The profiles, which also termed with social variables, are age, occupation, and language and

cultural background (ethnicity), gender, degree of integration into community, religion, social status, etc (Aziz 2000; Britain 2005; Wikipedia 2007).

Derived from the above theories, this present study tried to see the interconnectedness between linguistics expressions and different speaker's profiles. The study focused on women due to the consideration of society's requirements to them in speaking as explained before. The intended linguistics expressions are in expressing feeling of dislike.

Expressions of dislikes are such an emotional communication which may cause an acceptance to the interlocutor; feeling harmful. Emotional intelligence has something to do with individual behavior patterns that effect to their communication. In the name of changing social behavior and different profiles and characters of the speakers, expression of this emotional communication may vary to each speaker.

The writer emphasized on main characters in novels to be compared. Novel has the advantage of producing much more relaxed and fluent speaking style (Campbell, 2000). The chosen novel is chick lit; a new genre of feminism novel (Imran 2005; Kompas 2004). Chick lit stands for chick literature. It is written by and about women (Kompas 2004; Ward cited in Widiанти 2005, p.9). Entering Indonesia in March 1993, chick lit has became one of the popular culture industries that believed by its enthusiastic reader as self-representation of current women. Most main characters are presented as financially independent women and leading a metropolitan lifestyle. The reason for choosing chick literature is because it could portray the present language characteristics of women in the set of modern society.

Character's profiles in a novel could be exposed by means of characterization.

Characterization is a method used by the author to present his/her character either by showing or telling. It reveals the personality, the physical images, the social standing, and the company of the characters. Besides, it also discloses how the characters speak (Gill 1995). In relation to this study, characterization has the benefits to open up the social variables of the main characters.

Linguistics expressions would not only appear in conversation amongst the characters, but also in narratorial voice (Black 2006, p. 20). Narratorial voice is voice of narrative perspective (point of view). There are three narrative perspectives: omniscience narrator, first-person narrator, and third-person narrator. First-person narrator is narrative point of view came from character in the story who is commonly plays as main character (protagonist) (Klarer 1989). Gill (1995, p. 136) adds that to emerge into in-depth characterization of main character, first-person narratorial voice is very much helpful. It gives descriptions of what main character thinks of his/her world. Furthermore, he/she speaks by the way he/she thinks.

To conclude, this at-hand research concerned on how the different social variables influence the speakers in choosing expressions of their feeling of dislike. The variables limited in occupation and level of education. The research employed chicklits as the data sources whose main characters spotlighted as speakers for being analyzed.

### **1.3. Formulation of the Problem**

1. What are the social variables of the main characters?
2. What expressions do the main characters used in expressing feeling of dislike?

3. What are the differences of dislike expressions made by the main characters with regard to their social variables?

#### **1.4. Aims of the study**

Based on the study formulation, the aim of this study is divided into three-folds:

1. To discover the social variables of the main characters.
2. To find out the expressions of feeling dislike that utilized by the main characters.
3. To know the differences of dislike expressions made by the main characters with regard to their social variables?

#### **1.5. Significance of The Study**

The present study is hoped to be about to contribute to linguistics society for the research of speech acts, and to literature society for the same research as well. The analysis on linguistics, for this case is speech acts, could be attached to, or moreover be elaborated with another language study that is literature. So could literature that not only be analyzed by literary criticism or discourse analysis, but also by linguistics tools in the matter of its utterances and stylistics. Therefore, this would be one of additional collections of linguistics and literature research dealing with speech acts and stylistics on popular literary works.

## **1.6. Methods of Investigation**

In accordance with the field of observation, this research takes descriptive qualitative method. According to Wary (Fitrianti 2005), qualitative data deals with kind of material such as judgments, perceptions and insight. Maxwell (1996 p. 17) remarked that qualitative design is to understand the meaning of the events, situations, and actions that the participants in the study involved with. It is also to understand the particular context within which the participants act, and how it shapes events, situations, and meanings

### **1.5.1. Data Collection**

Data collection was conducted by selecting chicklit which relevant with the study and fulfill the conditions as follow:

1. The chicklit is written by Indonesian writer, not a translated one;
2. The chicklit writer is a female;
3. The chicklit's main character is a female;
4. The main character roles as first-person narrator as well;
5. The main character uses many utterances in expressing her feeling of dislike;
6. Each chicklit's main character has significant different social variables.

The selection phase results two chicklit to be the data sources. Those are:

1. *"Sttt... I'm A Playgirl"* written by Sari Azis
2. *"Funny Feeling: Kayak Gini Ya Rasanya Jatuh Cinta"* written by Dila Rosa

### 1.5.2. Data Analysis

To begin analyzing data sources, the writer did repeated close-reading and undertook these steps:

1. Deciding the main character and peripheral characters of the chicklits;
2. Characterizing each main characters by using literary theory that is characterization;
3. Characterizing peripheral characters based on their roles in brief;
4. Collecting expression of dislike either utterances or narratorial voices;
5. Categorizing each locution into the five speech acts' class: representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations.
6. Finding out the differences between the utterances that utilized by two different main characters with regard to their social variables.
7. Interpreting the data based on the findings and related theories.

### 1.6. Clarification of terms

To comprehend the notions underlying the title of this research, some terms are clarified as follows:

**Speech Acts:** The actions performed by the use of utterances to communicate.

It has five categories; representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. (Yule 1996).

**Narratorial Voices:** The voices made by a narrator in case of judging or narrating the stories (Black 2006; Klarer 1998)

**Chick lit:** Stand for Chick Literature. It is the shorthand term for breezy novels written by and about young women (Ward; 2003 in Widianti).



**Characterization:** The method used by author in presenting his/her character in a story, either physical or personal images, by means of telling and showing (Baribin 1985).

**Social Variables:** Social attributes that influence the varieties of language use in communities. They are gender, age, level of education, ethnicity, religion, degree of integrity into community, group loyalty, etc. (Britain 2005; Wikipedia 2007; Wardhaugh 1992; Aziz 2000)

### **1.7. Organization of the paper**

The research paper will be organized along these ways:

#### **Chapter I Introduction**

This chapter is comprised of background and brief explanation around the research. It is then followed by the formulation of the problem, aims of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the problem, methods of investigation, clarification of the key term, and organization of the paper.

#### **Chapter II Theoretical Foundation**

In this chapter, some supporting theories are conducted which stand as foundation to the study. Those are about pragmatics, speech acts and its five categories, novel and chicklit, character and characterization, narratorial voice, and the last is social variables.

#### **Chapter III Research Methodology**

This chapter presents methods of investigation utilized in the study i.e. data collection phase, data analysis steps, data sources, and synopsis of



the novels.

#### **Chapter IV Findings and Discussion**

Chapter four provides findings of the data sources such as social variables that revealed through characterizations of main character and the using of speech acts in expressing feeling of dislike. Those findings are interpreted and discussed under relevant theoretical frameworks.

#### **Chapter V Conclusion and Suggestion**

After having such research, chapter five gives conclusions and suggestions for the sake of further research.

