

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

People always interact with others in their life. This interaction is usually in the form of communication. Gumperz (1982:1) points out that communication is a social activity which requires coordinated efforts of two or more individuals. Communication deals with social activity which involves more than one person. It usually occurs between the speaker (sender) and the hearer (receiver).

People communicate to each other intensively in order to fulfill their necessities by using language as the medium. According to Hornby (1995:662) language is the system of sounds and words used by human to express their thoughts and feelings. Halliday (1978:21) also adds that language has function to express our participation, as speakers, in the speech situation; the roles we take on ourselves and impose on others; our wishes, feelings, attitudes and judgements. The form of language can be either spoken or written. For example, the spoken language can be found in the film. In the film, utterances that are uttered by the actor make the movie much clear. The written language can be found in the script of the film. It has some list of the film utterances.

Language is an important thing in human life. Almost all people's activities need language in their daily life, for examples, at school, in the library, at home, in the restaurant and everywhere. People use language to get along among themselves. So, language is used as a medium by people to interact with others in

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their society. Language is one of the most fundamental aspects of human behavior. Every language has different variations. Every variation is used according to certain situation, because language is a social phenomenon which is influenced by social and situational factor. People can convey the same thing in various ways. According to Holmes (2001:3) "languages provide a variety of ways of saying the same thing – addressing and greeting others, describing things, paying compliments". That is why people may say the same thing to different people in different ways.

People use some language variations in their community, with themselves in their thought processes, and with others in both formal and informal settings. Formal language is used in formal situation like in a dictionary and legal letter. It is also used in the office and school because it has a good structured sentence. Vernacular and slang are kinds of informal language. Informal language is language which is used in informal situation, for example in daily conversation, when people are speaking with their family and friends. This language is arranged in not so well structured sentence.

In communication people produce some utterances, like in the film. According to Leech in Tarigan (1990:35) an utterance is a complete unit of talk, bounded by the speaker's silence. Every context of utterance certainly has intention and purpose. In other words, both speaker and hearer have some purposes in their communication.

The utterances may be found in written form as well as the spoken one because spoken language can be written. The utterances of this study come from

the dialogue in a film which has been transcribed. The writer chooses a film "*A Walk to Remember*" as the object of this research due to the efficiency in collecting data. The film tells about a young man, Landon Carter (Shane West). He is the main character in this film. He falls in love with a guileless young woman, Jamie Sullivan (Mandy Moore). This film contains complex relationship between different participants with different social status in different situation. The writer found that there are many language variations used by Landon Carter as the main character. The title of this research is "**Language Variations Used by Landon Carter in the film "A Walk to Remember"**".

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problems of this research can be stated as follows:

1. What are the language variations used by Landon Carter in the film "*A Walk to Remember*"?
2. What are the factors influencing the language variations used by Landon Carter in the film "*A Walk to Remember*"?

1.3 Scope of the Study

This research focuses on the language used by Landon Carter in the film "*A Walk to Remember*". The writer uses the form of utterances used by Landon Carter to classify the language variations. This research used Holmes theory to analyze the data.

1.4 Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the problem, the objectives of this research can be stated as follows:

1. To find out the language variations used by Landon Carter in the film "*A Walk to Remember*".
2. To describe the factors influencing the language variations used by Landon Carter in the film "*A Walk to Remember*".

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this research will give a valuable contribution to Dian Nuswantoro University, particularly to the students of Faculty of Languages and Letters, especially Linguistics section and everybody who reads this thesis. In detail it is hoped that the result of this research can be:

1. A contribution to Dian Nuswantoro University, particularly to students of Faculty of Languages and Letters, especially linguistics section. This thesis might give knowledge about language variations.
2. A contribution to everybody who reads this thesis. This thesis might increase knowledge about sociolinguistics.

1.6 Thesis Organization

This thesis consists of five chapters that can be stated as follows:

Chapter I Introduction, this chapter consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, scope of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, and thesis organization.

Chapter II Review of Related Literature, this chapter consists of sociolinguistics, language variation and the cause factors, dialect, standard English and Black English Vernacular (BEV), slang, and social dimensions which influence language variations.

Chapter III Research Method, this chapter consists of research design, unit of analysis, source of data, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV Data Analysis, describes and explains the analysis of the research.

Chapter V Conclusion and Suggestion, this chapter consists of the research conclusion and suggestion based on the research result.