

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human being developed because the existence of language as a tool to communicate and connect people. According to oxforddictionary.com, a language is a communication method, either spoken or written, using words in a structured and conventional way. Language can be in the form of anything, such as sounds, words, and symbols. People use language to communicate and share their idea, feeling and information simply about their daily life, knowledge, and general information. Communication, according to en.oxforddictionary.com, is exchanging information by speaking, writing, or doing something. The action of communication itself creating an interaction and relationship towards each other.

Men and women as the agent of society have different ways to use language. As Tannen (1991) states in her book *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation* that men and women are living in different world, that is why they also make different words. It means that they also have their own communication style during a conversation. According to Tannen (1991) men often think that communication is mainly for status, not a real connection. While women, on the other hand, think that communication is all that matter. Increasing closeness and intimacy through communication is how they make a relationship. These differences drive some of linguist, especially sociolinguists, to gain more findings about men and women differences using language.

Tannen (1991) gives several examples about these differences of men and women's conversations in her book, several conversations between men and women

from all ages, to show that the use of language for men and women are different. For example:

Man : "I'm really tired. I didn't sleep well last night."

Woman : "I didn't sleep well either. I never do."

*Man : **"Why are you trying to belittle me?"***

*Woman : **"I'm not. I'm just trying to show that I understand!"***

(Tannen (1991:22))

The example above is a conversation between a husband and a wife. The man seemed to get annoyed by the woman's attention. On the contrary, the woman just wanted to show her affection towards the man. The bold utterances above give us a hint that men and women react to a sympathy in a different way and express it differently.

As time goes by, the importance of language leads human being to be more creative in order to survive natural selection. The development of technology and multimedia as the factors of communication development also lead human being to learn more about language to get a better life and higher social status. Nowadays, people can easily use language to communicate and share their ideas with others using many kinds of media, such advertising, broadcasting, publishing, cinema, print media and the press, and photography. Cinema, movie-related, is a story or an event contains with messages and moral value that is recorded by a camera. It is most likely to be everyone's favorite, because it gives them not only entertainment, but also knowledge.

In this 21st century, Cinema has become part of people's social life that sometimes influence them and their perspectives towards something. But today, people are not only focus on one-finished story like Cinema, they are lately interested in a series of stories that is provided in television, or know as TV Show. Its programs can be fictional (as in comedies and dramas), non-fictional (as in news and reality television), educational (as in game shows), and etc. Sometimes a TV Show has short period of episodes, known as miniseries, or doesn't, which means the length of

episodes are unknown, or known as TV Series. Based on the place where it is usually made, TV Series are divided into two: 'Season' that are mostly used in United States or 'Series' that are mostly used in United Kingdom.

Gossip Girl, known as one of the most popular TV Series in United States, is originally a book series written by Cecily von Ziegesar. In October 2006, the books were adapted into TV Series by Josh Schwartz and Stephanie Savage, narrated by Kristen Bell. It has 121 episodes, and aired from September 2007 until the end of 2012. The story is fictionally about high-schoolers who live in Manhattan's Upper East Side as upper-class adolescents. Based on the watchers' reaction towards *Gossip Girl*, on theodysseyonline.com, one of the best main characters for male is Chuck Bass, a part of Manhattan's Elite, which means he is a rich-kid, known as a 'bad boy' with strong character. While the best main character for female in *Gossip Girl* goes to Blair Waldorf, the 'Queen Bee', also has strong character and part of Manhattan's Elite.

Both Chuck Bass and Blair Waldorf have strong image. They also have good family backgrounds from the story that influence their way they communicate with other characters in the show. The way they treat people who are not part of Manhattan's Elite is also different. These phenomena bring curiosity to the researcher to analyze the way they communicate with each other as the representations of men and women that came from Elite family. There are several aspects that need to be considered as the factors of the way they communicate: they are coming from rich families, they have good education since they were little, and they have well-mannered behavior. The researcher wants to reveal how both characters communicate.

The way men and women communicate differently is also known as Genderlect. This theory is proposed by Deborah Tannen in 1990. In *Gossip Girl*, especially in Chuck Bass and Blair Waldorf's conversations, there are many utterances

that are interesting to be analyzed in terms of Genderlect. To make clearer understanding to what researcher means, here is an instance of the conversation:

Chuck Bass : Well, **this is the last place I'd expect to find you.**
Blair Waldorf : **Go away, Chuck.** I've been given orders, practically
from God Himself to avoid you.
Chuck Bass : **Would you consider avoiding me over breakfast?**

The conversation was taken from *Gossip Girl's* 8th episode on season 1 on the 1st scene entitled *Seventeen Candles*. It happened when Chuck Bass met Blair Waldorf in front of a Church. In the bold utterances above, Chuck Bass tried to insult her through his saying that has a meaning that Blair Waldorf is not a good Christian. Blair Waldorf replied him by her saying "Go away, Chuck." to defend as she tried to avoid having an argument with him.

Having seen the phenomena of men and women language, especially Genderlect, the researcher is interested in analyzing Chuck Bass and Blair Waldorf's conversation in *Gossip Girl*. Both Chuck Bass as the representation of men, and Blair Waldorf as the representation of women came from Elite family living in upper east side of Manhattan, New York. The researcher wants to reveal how their language differs during the conversation, and what stereotypes of men and women that are described in *Gossip Girl* as depicted by both characters.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, there are two questions that are needed to be answered. The questions are written below:

1. How do men and women language differ as depicted by Chuck Bass and Blair Waldorf in *Gossip Girl*?
2. What are the stereotypes of men and women that are described in *Gossip Girl* as depicted by Chuck Bass and Blair Waldorf?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statements of the problems, there are two objectives that are needed to be reached. The objectives are written below:

1. To indicate the difference of men and women in using language, as depicted by Chuck Bass and Blair Waldorf in *Gossip Girl*.
2. To reveal the stereotypes of men and women that are described in *Gossip Girl* as depicted by Chuck Bass and Blair Waldorf.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This research focuses on Genderlect of men and women in spoken discourse, especially in one of the American television-series entitled *Gossip Girl*. The data are the conversations of the main male and female characters on the show, Chuck Bass and Blair Waldorf. The researcher limits the analysis on the conversation of the selected Conversation Aspects of Conversation Analysis (Levinson, 1983), namely Adjacency Pairs, to indicate the difference of men and women language, and the theory of Genderlect (Tannen, 1991), to reveal the stereotypes of men and women as depicted by Chuck Bass and Blair Waldorf in *Gossip Girl*.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be useful for the researcher, the readers, and the university. The researcher hopes that:

1. For the researcher
The researcher will get additional knowledge about language and gender, especially genderlect of men and women in discourse. This study will also increase the researcher's skills, quality, and understanding towards the study and everything that comes along with it.

2. For the readers

The researcher would like to contribute to all the readers who are interested in this study. Hopefully this study can be a guideline for them, if one day they want to conduct a research on language and gender, especially genderlect, with the same or different data.

3. For the university

This research will be a reference for Dian Nuswatoro University particularly for English Department students specialized in Linguistics.

1.6 Thesis Organization

In conducting this thesis, the researcher organized it within five different chapters. To make a clearer understanding for the readers, those chapters are being explained below:

Chapter one is an introduction to the study. It consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope of the study, the significance of the study, and thesis organization.

Chapter two is review of related literature in the study. It consists of theoretical foundations. It also discusses about previous studies, language and gender, genderlect, and magazines.

Chapter three is research method of the study. It consists of research design, unit of analysis, source of data, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

Chapter four is data analysis. It consists of research finding and data discussion.

Chapter five is conclusion and suggestion. It consists of research conclusion and also suggestion related to the subjects that are being analyzed.