

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Study

Gender refers to sexual identity in relation to culture and society.

Gender as an important variable in sociolinguistic studies. The differences of male and female also stated in following pieces of surah An-Hujarat verse 13:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقْوَىٰ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

In surah Al-Hujarat ayat 13, basically humans are created equal though they come from a nation or tribe different including men and women with the intention that they get to know each other. Al-Qur'an gives a place that the same to all good humans both men and women. Not only in Al-Qur'an, the discussion of the man and women has long been the concern of some linguists. Sociolinguistics is the term which studies the relation between language and society. According to Holmes (1992), Sociolinguistics interested in explaining why we speak differently in different social contexts, and they are concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning. One of sociolinguistics aspects is about gender. Gender

as an important variable in language use. Language and gender differences are now considerably interesting and important in sociolinguistics. Many sociolinguistics suggest that men and women speak differently in any community.

Many people stereotypically thinks that women are more talkative or talk too much. According to Lakoff (1995) 'Woman's language' has as foundation the attitude that women are marginal to the serious concerns of life, which are pre-empted by men. The marginality and powerlessness of women is reflected in both the ways women are expected to speak, and the ways in which women are spoken of.

The reason in choosing this topic is because all phenomena about women's language happen every day in our lives particularly in social media such as in youtube and researcher focused on Lakoff's theory because that Lakoff published *Language and women's place* focuses particularly on the 'linguistic discrimination' experienced by women in society and Lakoff claimed that women employ a distinct style of speech, 'women's language'. From the features of women's language proposed by Lakoff, are they still present by women in this era. Nowadays, women these days also have a big role in politics, economics, education, social environment and other fields.

Hopefully, this research can be a reference for the students of English Language Education Study Program to study sociolinguistics and show the evidence that women's language features are still used by women in this era.

In comparison, the researcher want to find out the use of women's language features in real life situation related to the issue of power. In order to have a deep understanding of women's language, the researcher proposes to conduct the research about women's language features by Kamala Harris in her conversation with Joe Bidden at Joe Biden's Youtube Channel. In this era, women's language that is used in real life is found in social media. In this research, the researcher only focus on the women's language used in Youtube video at Joe Biden's Youtube Channel. Joe Biden is very famous, you can know it from looking at his Youtube Channel. He is also an American politician who is the 46th and current president of the United States.



*Figure 1: Joe Bidden & Kamala Harris Devi*

The researcher choose Kamala Harris due to her status and background in society. Kamala Devi Harris or Kamala harris is an American politician and attorney who is the 49th and current vice president of the United States. She is the first female vice president and the highest-ranking female official in U.S. history, as well as the first African American and first Asian American vice president. In 2005, the National Black Prosecutors Assosiation awarded Harris the Thurgood Marshall Award. That year, she was included in a Newsweek report profiling “20 of American’s Most Power Women”. In 2013, 2020, and 2021, *Time* included Harris on the *Time* 100, *Time*’s annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.



*Figure 2: Kamala Harris Devi*

Based on the background above, this study will focus on investigating what are the women’s language features used by Kamala Harris in her

conversation at Joe Biden Youtube Channel and the function of using those features.

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the background above, the researcher will investigate and focus on:

1. What are the women's language features used by Kamala Harris in her conversation at Joe Biden's Youtube Channel based on Lokoff's theory?

## **C. Objective of Study**

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of this research are started as follows:

1. To find out kind of women's language features used by Kamala Harris in her conversation at Joe Biden's Youtube Channel based on Lakoff's theory.

## **D. Significance of Study**

1. English Learners

The first, the researcher hopes that this research will help English learners in learning sociolinguistic, specially about women's language.

This research also helps learners to gain the understanding of social perspectives on femininity

## 2. English Teachers

The second, this research is expected to be the source for teaching and learning, english teacher and english learner can use the research to study more about language and gender and women on the way of speaking and communicating.

## 3. Future Researcher

And the last, for the future researcher this research can give information for other researcher to help them complete their research about sociolinguistic, specially for discorsal features women's language.

## **E. Definition of Key Terms**

To avoid misinterpretation of the little, the researcher explains the technical terms such as below:

### 1. Women's language features

Some women's language features that could be found in women utterances aaccording to Lakoff's theory: In this research lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declaratives, empty adjectives, precise color term,

intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress.

## 2. Utterances

Utterances is a unit of speech. In this research, utterances are the word or sentence that women's language features produce orally.