

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A.1 Background of the Research

A movie is a moving image work currently in demand for amusement and even information by people worldwide. Some movies are images without sound, some only contain musical instruments, and there is also a combination of audio, visual, and vocal. Movies are made in various genres and themes and use various backgrounds, locations, years, and even atmospheres. Many films depict events and activities that happen in society. These incidents may have occurred in the past or are now occurring (modern era). The film frequently includes the gap in social class as an interesting and hinted theme. This social class is defined by a variety of factors, including distinctions in linguistic style and age.

Social class is a grouping of people based on a position that occurs naturally in society. The groupings are usually based on wealth, educational attainment, occupation, income, and societal membership. Chambers (1995) describes the social class division concerning language study. According to Chambers, the division of social class can be established by some factors, one of which is labor. Chambers (2003:42) classified social classes into three categories based on work: high, middle, and lower social classes. People in the upper socioeconomic class work as entrepreneurs, directors, or inheritors of money. People from the middle social class have occupations as experts and division

leaders or as office workers or employees with a solid education. People who work as laborers, maids, merchants, and other manual workers who rely on energy rather than brain thinking are considered lower class.

Based on some of the explanations above, social class, language, and age are related. Social class and age certainly affect the use of language styles in society. The language style in question is how someone expresses a sentence that is spoken in a certain condition and place. For example, if someone who works as a laborer in a factory talks to his co-workers, it will be different when he talks to his boss or superiors. When talking to their colleagues, they tend to speak in casual language or even add some slang and harsh sentences. When talking to their superiors, they tend to use formal style language or polite language to show their respect. Likewise, when superiors or bosses provide explanations to their workers, they tend to use language that is easy to understand but is still a good category of language and is classified as polite (consultative style language). From this example, it can be concluded that people with a high position at an adult age will have a better language than those who work as laborers at an adult age.

Researchers in this study use sociolinguistics as a field of language research studies. Sociolinguistics is one of the branches of linguistics. Sociolinguistics studies the relationship between language and society, specifically the relationship between language usage and the social structures in

which language users live. It is a field of study that claims human society is made up of various interconnected patterns and behaviors, some of which are linguistic. According to Janet Holmes, in the book entitled *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*; Third Edition, sociolinguistics is:

“Sociolinguistics study the relationship between language and society. They are 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.”

(Holmes 2008:1)

As explained above, we know that sociolinguistics is a linguistic study of the relationship between language and society, specifically how language has an important role in social life, in other words, in terms of communicating and interacting with other people.

The psychological thriller and crime movie *Joker*, which premiered in 2019, is one of the most well-known American movies. The movie *Joker* is set in 1981 and the metropolis of Gotham (a fictional city). This movie depicts the life of Arthur Fleck, a party clown who lives with his sick mother in an impoverished neighborhood. Arthur has a neurological condition that causes him to laugh at inopportune moments. As a result of society's avoidance of him and labeling him as a peculiar person, Arthur resolves to embrace a life of crime and chaos

because he is constantly aware of the injustice that continues to afflict him. This movie shows a lot about how chaotic life is in the city, where small people who do not have power, wealth, or even a good education live with oppression. This movie highlights the differences in social class, which is seen from the high position in work, wealth, and living environment. In addition, each character's language style is different depending on the situation and to whom they are talking. The two elements contained in the film in the form of social class and language style can be analyzed using sociolinguistics studies, namely the social class theory by Chambers and the language style theory by Martin Joss. This attracted the attention of researchers to examine these two elements using the theory from the *Joker* movie.

A.2 Problem of the Research

Based on the description in the background of the study above, the writer focuses on the following problems:

1. What are the language styles used by the characters from different social classes in the *Joker* movie?
2. What are the factors influencing the language styles of the conversation between the characters in the *Joker* movie?
3. How do different social classes affect the language styles used by the characters in the *Joker* movie?

A.3 Objective of the Research

In this analysis, there are objectives of the study to answer the problem research. The objectives are:

1. To explain the language styles used by the characters from different social classes in the *Joker* movie.
2. To find out the factors influencing the language styles from the conversation between the characters in the *Joker* movie.
3. To explain how different social classes affect the language styles used by the characters in the *Joker* movie.

A.4 Significant of the Research

The analysis gives some significances for the readers. The significances are:

1. Theoritically

Based on the research objective above, the researcher hoped can contribute to everyone who wants to study sociolinguistics, especially on social class and language style in the movie. So, the result of this study explains social class and the effect of social class on the language style used by the characters in the *Joker* movie.

2. Practically

The result of this study is expected to be useful for readers, students, and writers because this research is expected to provide and

develop sociolinguistics, especially on social class and the effect of social class on the language style used by the characters in the *Joker* movie.

A.5 Limitation of the Research

In this analysis, the researcher focused on analyzing an American movie entitled *Joker* (2019). This analysis focused on how social class affects the language style among characters in the *Joker* movie. This analysis is a sociolinguistic approach. The researcher takes the data from the *Joker* movie, which was watched on Netflix. The *Joker* movie was chosen as the movie to analyze because this movie highlights the differences in social class, which is seen from the high position in work, wealth, and living environment. In addition, each character's language style is different depending on the situation and to whom they are talking. This movie is very suitable to be used as material for analysis by researchers. The researcher also wants to explore and research more deeply about language style and social class based on dialogue and conversation between characters. This research is based on a sociolinguistic approach. Researchers hope that this research can be used by other readers or as new knowledge and new research references for other researchers.

A.6 Definition of Key Terms

A.6.1 Language Style

Language style refers to how people communicate using both written and spoken language. Linguistic forms to convey social or artistic effects are referred

to as style. Styles also serve as a set of guidelines. According to Llamas (2007:95), "Language style is a dimension of language where individual speakers have a choice". People do not always express themselves in the same way. We constantly change how we communicate when we move from one scenario to the next. People typically employ formal and casual language when communicating with other people, depending on the situation. The listener is also told how to accept what is being said: seriously, cynically, humorously, or in another way.

There are five types of language styles. According to Martin Joss (1976: 153-155), there are five types of language styles: frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style.

A.6.2 Social Class

Social class is a grouping of people based on a position that occurs naturally in society. The groupings are usually based on wealth, educational attainment, occupation, income, and societal membership. The existence of a social class is caused by differences in views and respect for social status in society; for example, a family in a community member who has a high social status due to their wealth and position. There are also community members who are looked down upon because of their low social status, for example, having a low level of education or no wealth.

A.6.3 Movie

A movie is a moving image work currently in demand for amusement and even information by people worldwide. Some movies are images without sound, some only contain musical instruments, and there is also a combination of audio, visual, and vocal. Movies are made in various genres and themes and use various backgrounds, locations, years, and even atmospheres. "Movie is truly a motion picture, a flowing, ever-changing strand of pictures and sounds flashing freshness and energy with its own a fluid blend of image and motion possessed by the restless need to be vibrantly alive, to avoid the quiet and the static," according to (Boggs and Petrie, 2000). Aside from being a source of entertainment, movies may also be used to educate the public and disseminate information.

A.7 Organization of the Research Report

This research has five chapters, with a brief explanation of each chapter as follows:

Chapter I of this research contains a discussion of the Introduction, which consists of the Research Background, Problem of the Research, Objectives of the Research, Limitation of the Research, Significance of the Research, Definition of Key Terms and Organization of the Research Report.

Chapter II of this research deals with the Literature Review, which consists of a theoretical framework and the Review of Related Researches, which contains an explanation of the review of related relevant research.

Chapter III of this research deals with the Research Method, which consists of Research Design, Data and Source of the Data, Method of Collecting Data, and Method of Analyzing Data.

Chapter IV of this research deals with Data Analysis which consists of Data Description, Data Analysis, and Discussion.

Chapter V of this research contains some explanations from the conclusion and Suggestions of the research.

