

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A.1. Background of the Research

Sociolinguistics is the study of language that is concerned with all things that exist and occur in society. Wardhaugh (2010) defines sociolinguistics as the study of the social variation of language. Van Dijk (2009) highlighted a similar concept, where he argued that sociolinguistics explores the relationship between language and its sociocultural context. In this way, it is undeniably proven how strongly linked language and society have always been.

The way a language is used according to the regional, social, and contextual factors of the speaker is called language variation (Trask, 2007). He continued by claiming that language variation includes all the elements of language, such as phonemes, morphemes, grammatical constructions, as well as meanings. Variations in language use among groups of people could appear in pronunciation, lexical choice, and preferences for a particular pattern of grammatical form.

A variation of language that concerns the region or society is called dialect (Spolsky, 1998). Dialect denotes the variations that are geographically or socially located. It is distinguished based on vocabulary, syntax, and pronunciation among several varieties of languages. This research determines the social dialect or sociolect.

According to Chaer and Agustina (1995) sociolect is a language variation that is associated with social status and class. Sociolect refers to the dialect distinctions employed by various social groups. Wardhaugh (2010) defines sociolect as a distinct set of linguistic components, such as sounds, words, and grammatical traits, which can be related to social groups. Linguistic variations are applied to determine differentiations in each social group's usage of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. It means, the lower social group can use different terminology than the upper social group.

Holmes (2013) elaborates that there are two types of sociolect spoken by different social groups. Well-educated English speakers across the world use the standard dialect. On the opposite, nonstandard dialect refers to the linguistic forms associated with the lower social groups. As a result, comparing standard and nonstandard dialects is nearly impossible to avoid, as they are very distinct.

The occurrence of sociolect does not merely emerge in real life, but also in literary work. "*A Streetcar Named Desire*" 1951 movie version, which was first presented as a play in 1947, covers the issue ideally. Written by Tennessee Williams, this remarkable work of the American playwright became a phenomenally successful play and is still appreciated today. Following the success of the drama, Elia Kazan, an American movie director, adapted the play into the movie.

Furthermore, "*A Streetcar Named Desire*" is generally acknowledged as controversial due to its theme, which portrayed the life of Americans, especially the upper class and lower class, following the upheavals of The Great Depression in

the 1930s and World War II in the 1940s. The movie depicts the issue of both social classes adjusting to America's modern reality through the characters' dialogues.

Hence, it is possible to conclude that this research examines the sociolect found in "*A Streetcar Named Desire*" 1951 movie version by applying Holmes' sociolect theory. The principal rationale of this study is that sociolinguistics research has been done by various researchers, yet only a few of them which discuss sociolect. Number of linguistics studies that use "*A Streetcar Named Desire*" also has been published. However, there are none of them which discuss the use of sociolect. Therefore, this study aims to showcase how sociolect characterized certain social groups from the distinct use of language.

A.2. Problems of the Research

Based on the previous explanations, the researcher came up with the questions of the research:

- a. What are the types of sociolect found in "*A Streetcar Named Desire*" 1951 movie version?
- b. What are the linguistic features of each type of sociolect found in "*A Streetcar Named Desire*" 1951 movie version?
- c. How does the dialogue of the characters in "*A Streetcar Named Desire*" 1951 movie version is influenced by the use of sociolect?

A.3. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the research problems, the objectives of this study are:

- a. To describe the types of sociolect found in “*A Streetcar Named Desire*” 1951 movie version.
- b. To explain the linguistic features of each types of sociolect found in “*A Streetcar Named Desire*” 1951 movie version.
- c. To describe the factors which influence the use of sociolect in “*A Streetcar Named Desire*” 1951 movie version.

A.4. Significance of the Research

A.4.1. Theoretically

Hopefully, this study can be advantageous to those interested in sociolinguistics, especially in language variation based on social class. This research offers insight that the social condition of a particular group of people highly influences language. This research represents the language use based on the social status of the speakers, known as sociolect. The sociolect under investigation appears in “*A Streetcar Named Desire*” 1951 movie version which illustrates the circumstances of the upper and lower social groups in New Orleans, United States of America, in the 1940s.

A.4.2. Practically

This research is expected to be a study that is potentially able to enhance future sociolinguistics studies, especially in the development of the issue of sociolect. In addition, this research is expected to be considered as a reference for people who are interested in

sociolinguistics, specifically on the idea of language variation based on the speakers' social class, which is called sociolect. Moreover, this study is also particularly designed for those who are interested in "*A Streetcar Named Desire*" and paid close attention to how sociolect is well executed in it, especially in its 1951 movie version.

A.5. Limitation of the Research

This research is mainly discuss the usage of sociolect in the dialogues of "*A Streetcar Named Desire*" 1951 movie version. The sociolect that is examined occurs in the movie script consisting of eleven scenes which portrayed the social class of the various characters through their dialogues. This study describes the types of sociolect found in the movie's dialogue, the linguistic features of each type of sociolect, as well as describing the factors that influence the use of sociolect by the characters in the movie.

A.6. Definition of the Key Terms

A.6.1. Social Class

The term class refers to any group of people who live within the same typical circumstances of chance, specifically in terms of obtaining goods supplies, living environments, and personal experiences, with all these chances determined by the power within a given economic order (Bendix; Lasswell, cited in Pyakuryal, 2008). Eventually, it is explained that the major principle of the class is the phenomenon of economic power inequality, as well as the inequality of opportunity distribution.

A.6.2. Sociolect

Holmes (2013) defines sociolect as a linguistic variety produced by the people from diverse social groups, which is distinguished in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Sociolect is associated with social class and social status (Chaer and Agustina, 1995). The standard dialect is spoken by well-educated English speakers from all over the world. Meanwhile, the nonstandard dialect refers to linguistic forms associated with the less prestigious social groups (Holmes, 2013).

A.6.3. Movie

A movie is a sequence of moving pictures with sound that conveys a story and is shown in a theater (Hornby, 2006). It is mainly produced for the purpose of entertainment and/or commerce in order to turn a profit (Brown, 2006). The term is derived from the words "moving picture," which is shortened to "movie." This is generally referred to as slang in the United States, and it has gained mainstream acceptance (Brown, 2006).

A.7. Organization of the Research Report

This research paper is divided into five chapters. Each of them includes the distinguished main idea from the background to the conclusion of the research.

Chapter I includes the introduction of the research, such as Background of the Research, Problem of the Research, Objectives of the Research, Limitation of the Research, Significance of the Research, Definition of Key Terms, and lastly, Organization of the Research.

Chapter II includes the literature review of the research, namely Theoretical Framework and Review of Related Research.

Chapter III includes the methodology of the research, such as Design of the Research, Data and Source of the Data, Method of Collecting Data, Technique of Collecting Data, Unit of Analysis, and Method of Analyzing Data.

Chapter IV includes the analysis of the data, consisting of Data Description, Data Analysis, and Discussion.

Chapter V includes the conclusion of the research, consisting Conclusion and Suggestions.

