

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

A person cannot live alone. He needs other people since the time he was born as an infant, and depended on other persons to keep alive. Then he needs the parents feeding him to continue his life. Being gradually able to socialize, he needs other people to communicate. “Language”, then, comes around them. Language allows people to talk about anything and to express themselves. In other words, it can be said that language is the cement of society, allowing people to live, work, or to play together. Therefore, language and society have a close relationship.

Language, as Hudson’s opinion (1980:1), is a means of communicating information. Besides, language is also a means of establishing and maintaining relationship with other people. In communication, we sometimes hear some people use different style. We can name it as language style.

In society, people may speak different languages to express their ideas depending on the context in which they are involved. Chaika (1982:2) adds that a language is used to divulge or to cloak a man’s personal identity, background, and also character. This opinion is stated in consideration that language can show someone’s social class.

Based on the statements above, it can be seen that language is often associated with people's social class. To this point, Hudson (1980:1) declares that language and society are so intertwined in which there is a combination between the study of language and the study of society namely Sociolinguistics, the study of language in relation to society.

Communication among human beings is sometimes a complicated affair because many difficulties occur in communication among people from different cultural backgrounds and social classes. In a society, the writer also finds that different levels of society, higher class and lower class, have different variations of language styles, different ways of speaking or expressing themselves. Based on the reasons above, the writer wants to analyze language style.

In this study the writer chooses a novel as the source to be analyzed. The title of the novel is *Love Story* written by Erich Segal. This novel told about a boy and a girl who were in love but came from different social classes, higher class and lower class. After the writer read this novel, the writer found that two different classes in this novel had different language style as it also happened in a society. So, this novel contains language style that wants to be analyzed by the writer.

Hymes (1974:29) concludes that diversity of speech can be found in all levels and fields of society and it presents itself as a problem in many sectors of life-education, national development, transcultural communication. It means that the use of a certain language style shows who the speaker is, as Holmes (1992:133) states:

"People often use a language to signal their membership of particular groups. Social status, sex, age, ethnicity, and the kind of social networks people belong to turn out to be important dimensions of identity in many communities".

By analyzing the novel, the writer also learns something as novel has many elements in it, such as character, setting, plot, theme, and point of view. Based on the fact that different classes have different language style in a real society, the writer then decides the study entitled "An Analysis on Language Style in Erich Segal's *Love Story*".

1.2 Statements of the Problem

In this study, the writer wants to analyze the language style found in Erich Segal's *Love Story*. Specifically, the problems discussed are formulated as follow:

1. What language styles are used by different classes of the same modern society in Erich Segal's *Love Story*? Since the source of the data is taken from a novel, the different classes of society are represented by the main and sub characters. So the writer formulates the problem more specifically as follow:
 - a. What language styles are used by Olliver Barret IV, who represents modern high class and Jennifer, who represents modern low class?
 - b. What language styles are used by Olliver Barret IV, who represents modern high class and Olliver Barret III, who represents traditional high class?
 - c. What language styles are used by Olliver Barret IV, who represents modern high class and Philip, who represents traditional low class?

- d. What language styles are used by Olliver Barret III and Alison, who represent traditional high class and Jennifer, who represents modern low class?
 - e. What language styles are used by Jennifer, who represents modern low class and Philip, who represents traditional low class?
2. Why do the two different social classes, higher class and lower class, talk in different language styles?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the statements of the problems, the study is intended:

1. To find out the language styles used by
 - Olliver Barret IV in his interaction with Jennifer
 - Olliver Barret IV in his interaction with Olliver Barret III
 - Olliver Barret IV in his interaction with Philip
 - Olliver Barret III and Alison in their interaction with Jennifer
 - Jennifer in her interaction with Philip
2. To find out the reason why the higher and lower classes in Erich Segal's *Love Story* talk in different language styles.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This analysis hopefully will result in the findings of what language styles the characters use in their interactions in the novel. In this way, this thesis will inspire, first, the students of English Department to make a further study on language style and also as a comparison or reference for those who are making a study on Sociolinguistics, especially about language style. It is also to help them to understand more when reading English novels that contain various language styles used by the characters.

Second, for the lecturers of the English Department, it might be useful as examples of language styles when they are teaching Sociolinguistics or perhaps other related subjects like Discourse Analysis or Structure. Third, for readers in general, like the third point for students of the English Department, the analysis of language styles in this study can help readers to understand language style when reading English novels. Based on these reasons in general, the writer expects that her study would give contribution to the world of Sociolinguistics.

1.5 Scopes and Limitation of the Study

Language has large scope to be dealt with, so the writer thinks that she should limit her study. This study is a sociolinguistics study specifically language style. The scope of analysis is the language style used by characters in the novel

and the writer limits herself to discussing some utterances of the characters in Erich Segal's novel, entitled *Love Story*. Those utterances are taken only from some chapters that represent two different social classes because they have already represented the conversations of the main characters and the sub ones.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is directed by the theory of language style and also supported by some other theories of Sociolinguistics. The theory of language style is used to differentiate some utterances of the characters in this novel, while the theory of Sociolinguistics is used to differentiate the social levels in society since it studies the relationship between language and society. This theory is also apparently essential as it is the main focus of the study.

Although this is a literary work, the writer does not use the theory of literature because the writer wants to focus on the language style, not on the characters, plot, and the beauty of the language.

1.7 The Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity, the writer would like to give the definition of some key terms used in this study. The title of this study is "An

Analysis of Language Style in Erich Segal's *Love Story*. The major terms defined in this study are: analysis, language, style, and language style.

- Analysis

Oxford Advance Learner's defines analysis as study of something by examining its parts and their relationship.

- Language

According to Webster (1986:4), language is a systematic means of communicating ideas, opinions, and feelings by using conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, or marks having understood meanings. It is used and understood by a considerable community and established by long usage. In addition, Nababan (1991:1) states that language is one of the characteristics of human beings that differentiates human beings from other creatures.

- Style

Webster (1986:17) explains that style is a mode of expressing thought in oral and written forms as a manner of expressing the characteristics of an individual, a period, or other identifiable group (as a nation). Moreover, Coates (1986:23) defines it as the way how an individual speaks according to the social contexts.

- Language style

According to the writer, language style is a means of communicating in order to show the way how an individual speaks according to the social context.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. They, orderly, are introduction, review of related literature, research methodology, data analysis and findings, and conclusion.

Chapter I, introduction, deals with background of the study, statements of the study, scope and limitation of the study, theoretical framework, the definition of key terms, and organization of the study. Chapter II, review of related literature, presents related theories of the study. Chapter III, research methodology, consists of nature of the study, the source of the study, the data of the study, the instrument, data collecting procedures and data analyzing procedures. Chapter IV, data analysis and findings, presents and discusses the result of data analysis. The last chapter, conclusion consists of summary and suggestions.