

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Human employs a system of communication named language, which comprises words and phrases that can be combined to form utterances with an unlimited number of possible meanings. People can only connect with other people through language (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015). This means language conveys various aspects, including thoughts and feelings. Human uses multiple languages, and there is no limit (Lakoff, 2004). Language is influenced by the ideas we want to communicate. Human lives depend on language to communicate and serve various purposes.

According to linguistics, men and women speak differently. Women have language characteristics as a social group (Holmes, 2013). The differences can be seen in the language features, word choices, and how they convey the language when they speak. These distinctions may be seen and identified. Some theories discuss the differences between men's and women's languages, such as Lakoff's (2004) and Parab's (2015) theories. Lakoff's theory is the oldest idea that examines differences in language use between men and women. Parab's theory is the latest theory related to women's language features. Therefore, the researcher will analyze the data using these two theories as a main reference, then look for similar indicators to find the most potential research indicators as a reference in analyzing the data.

Many studies on women's language feature in movies, such as Nuringtyas & Navila (2022), Purnata et al. (2021) and Pamekasih (2017). Two of them used Lakoff's theory of women's language features, and one used the theory by Parab. Previous research in this area has focused on the characteristics and functions of women's language. As the researcher has already shown, all of the previous studies did not uncover

every aspect of women's language. Some previous studies discovered eight, nine, or even six women's language features. All of the previous studies also discussed women's language features in movies, and rarely studies discussed women's language features in speech. As a result, researchers are expected to examine about the women's language features in the speech by Lakoff's and Parab's theories.

One of the things that affect language in society anywhere in the world is gender. Men are typically called masculine, and women as feminine (Ehrlich et al., 2014). Currently, the position of men and women in society is relatively similar. The cause is related to changing of women's roles in modern society and sociolinguistic elements in dialectology and linguistics (Coates, 2013). The rights of men and women were very different in the past, and the general public believed that women did not need to pursue higher education or hold positions of leadership because they were only expected to care for the family after marriage (Sakinah et al., 2022). However nowadays, women have key roles in various fields, including entertainment, politics, technology, fashion, and education. Besides that, now many people look like men; it is called masculine women. Masculine women have behaviour and characteristics like men, such as strength, courage, independence, leadership, and assertiveness (Paechter, 2007). Women's language features were studied because, despite women's positions being equal to men's, they are still expected to talk "ideally" and are always underestimated. Therefore, it is important to discuss the language features of women. The researcher is interested in examining the types of language used by masculine women according to the women's language features, and in explaining language differences and similarities used between Emmeline Pankhurst's and Kamala Harris's speeches, moreover, they are one of the fighters for freedom who are in a different century.

The study focuses on analysing women's language features used by Emmeline Pankhurst's speech "Freedom or Death" in 1913 and Kamala Harris's speech at Fisk University in Nashville. In the UK, Emmeline Pankhurst campaigns for women's rights and coordinates the Women's Social and Political Union. Emmeline Pankhurst gave a speech in Hartford on November 13<sup>th</sup> 1913 that motivated everyone, especially women. The speech points out how crucial it is to fight for women's suffrage so there is no longer any prejudice against women. The researcher chose Emmeline Pankhurst because the data presented masculine women. According to Bartlett (2021) and an article in the Indiana University Archives, everyone recognizes Emmeline as a masculine woman until everyone calls her a "soldier," even though Emmeline has a completely female body. This is because of her suffering, heroism, and strength past role for women's rights. The researcher chose the title of the speech, "Freedom or Death," because, at that time, women's voices were officially barred from political decision-making (Rogness, 2015), and the "Freedom or Death" speech is regarded as one of the speeches that changed the world, making it one of the greatest in the 20th century.

The second speech that analyze by the researcher is Kamala Harris's speech at Fisk University in Nashville on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023 after Tennessee lawmakers ousted. The researcher chose Kamala Harris because many people consider Kamala Harris to have a masculine personality and character even though her face and body are more feminine (Cassidy & Liebenow, 2021). Kamala Harris exemplifies a manly woman with great courage to speak for democracy. She is also the first woman, Black American, and South Asian American to be elected Vice President. The researcher used this speech because, at the time, it was a furious speech delivered after state representatives were removed from the Tennessee House of Representatives for protesting the

significance of freedom by raising their voices on the general assembly floor. As a result, Kamala Harris, as Vice President, delivered this address to defend the significance of freedom and liberty, which everyone, including state representatives share.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher will describe the features of women's language, particularly in the speech of masculine women in different century. The researcher concentrate on the types of women's language features employed in speeches by Emmeline Pankhurst and Kamala Harris and explain the differences and similarities and also the impact of masculinities in women's language used in their language. The researcher is interested in conducting further research on the language features of women entitled "**Analysis of Women's Language Features in Masculine Women's Speech.**" The researcher will analyze and explain the research question about the types and differences and similarities between Emmeline Pankhurst's and Kamala Harris's language features and also the impact of masculinities in women's language used in their language.

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the background of the study, this study is focused on answering this question :

1. What are the types of women's language features used in Emmeline Pankhurst's speech "Freedom or Death" in 1913 and Kamala Harris's speech at Fisk University in Nashville in April 2023?
2. What is the impact of masculinities in women's language used by Emmeline Pankhurst and Kamala Harris?
3. What are the differences and similarities between Emmeline Pankhurst's and Kamala Harris's language features?

### **C. Research Objective**

The following are the study's objectives following how the question was explained:

1. To explain the types of women's language features used in Emmeline Pankhurst's "Freedom or Death" speech in 1913 and Kamala Harris's speech at Fisk University in Nashville in April 2023.
2. To explain the impact of masculinities in women's language used by Emmeline Pankhurst and Kamala Harris.
3. To explain the differences and similarities between Emmeline Pankhurst's and Kamala Harris's language features.

### **D. Significance of the Research**

The researcher hopes this study can contribute theoretical and practical contributions to the educational field.

1. The researcher hopes this study will add to the theoretical contribution of linguistics research, especially in language and gender.
2. For practical contribution, the researcher hopes that the findings will help us learn more and help the reader to learn about linguistics, specifically women's language features. The researcher hopes it will be a helpful resource for future researchers when discussing women's language features. This research strengthens theories and knowledge to help people understand women's languages more effectively. Additionally, this study can be a starting point for a future researcher interested in women's language features, especially masculine ones.

### **E. Scope and Limitation**

This research focused on the women's language features explained by Lakoff (2004) and Parag (2015). The researcher limited this research to masculine women's speeches, Emmeline Pankhurst's

“Freedom or Death” speech in 1913 and Kamala Harris’s speech at Fisk University in Nashville in April 2023, explaining the types of women’s language features, explaining the impact of masculinities in women’s language used in their language, and also explaining the differences and similarities. The researcher chose people with masculine characteristics and behavior, such as independence, courage, strength, leadership, and assertiveness. These utterances all identified as linguistic features in the data. This limitation supports the researcher's analysis of the women's language features, the impact of masculinities in their women’s language, and their differences and similarities.

## **F. Definition of Key Terms**

### **1. Women’s Language Features**

Women's language was developed to describe a woman's character or personality. There are eight of the most potential research indicators in women’s language features based on Lakoff and Parab, such as hedges, tag questions, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, polite expressions, rising intonation on declarative, expletives, and adjectives.

### **2. Masculine Woman**

In this study, a masculine woman is a woman who shows characteristics and behaves like men, such as independence, courage, strength, leadership, and assertiveness. Women are viewed as feminine figures in society. However, many women have masculine personalities and features. Topic selection, monologues, playing the expert, questioning, harsh swear words, and verbal sparring are only a few indicators of a person's masculinity.

### **3. Emmeline Pankhurst**

Emmeline Pankhurst was born in Manchester, England, on July 15, 1858, and passed away in Hampstead, London, on June 14, 1928. Emmeline Pankhurst is a British political activist who founded

the Women's Social and Political Union and was the suffragette movement's leader.

4. Kamala Harris

Kamala Harris is an American politician and lawyer who served as the 49th Vice President of the United States. She was born on October 20, 1964. Harris is an Indian-American, an African-American, and the first woman to serve as Vice President of the United States.