CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1. Background of the Study

Language is a universal human activity. It is said to be means of communication. People use language in order to be able to communicate with one another in everyday life. Through language, people can express their feelings, emotions, and thoughts to others. Lehmann (1983:1) states that language provide the means for us to take our place in society, to express our wants and convey information, to learn about the people and the world around us. Language, in short, enables us to live effectively, to develop our capabilities, and to satisfy our curiosity about our surroundings. Furthermore, as what Holmes (1992:133) says that people use language to signal their membership of certain groups. Social status, sex, age, ethnicity and other social networks that belong to those people become important dimensions of identity in most of communities.

Since language is universal, all people in the entire world use it. Every nation has its own languages that differ from that of other nations. For example, people who live in England use English as their language to be able to communicate with other people in that country. Although they speak the same language, the way they speak that certain language is different. This different way of speaking is called diversity of speech or speech variations. Giles (1975:133) states that no normal person and no normal community is limited to a single way of speech, to an unchanging monotony. This statement is confirmed by Holmes,

who says, "No two people speak exactly the same. There are infinite sources of variation in speech."

Hymes in Giles (1975:29) states that "Diversity of speech has been singled out as the hallmark of sociolinguistics." From this statement, it can be concluded that the most prominent feature of sociolinguistics is the study on the diversity or variation of speech. Furthermore, he says that we can find this diversity of speech in all levels and fields of society and it exists as a problem in many sectors of life, education, national development, and transcultural communication.

The statement concerning speech diversity is explained further by Trudgill (1972:27) who says that the language choice depends on the internal differentiation of human societies. He says that different social groups use different linguistic varieties, and as experienced members of speech community, we have learned to classify the speaker accordingly. This means that social differentiation has effect on language because of many forms, for example, by class, age, sex, race, or religion. Holmes (1992:6) states that these social influences on language choice determine social factors. This speech diversity can be seen in the vocabulary or word choice, in sound, word structure (morphology) and grammar (syntax).

Speech variations deal with the different social attitudes of the speaker toward the person spoken to, which is usually caused by their different social levels or status, especially when the level is related to the social aspects of the speaker or the user's role in its use. As has been pointed above, the formation of

speech variations according to Holmes (1992:12-14) depend on four factors, they are (1) formal or informal situation of speaking, (2) the condition of the speaker's social status, (3) related or unrelated relationship between speaker's social status, (4) different age of the speakers. The choice of one linguistic variation than the other is caused by social considerations, such as the participants, social setting and the topic purpose of the interaction.

In general, the occurrence of speech variations can be classified into two main factors, they are speech variations according to the users of the language and speech variations according to the uses of the language. As what Holmes (1992:245) says: "Language varies according to its uses as well as its users, according to where it is used and to whom, as well as according to who is using it. The addressees and the context affect our choice of code or variety, whether dialect or style.

However, the writer's main concern is on the speech styles that are used by the main characters in the novel 'The Woodlanders' by Thomas Hardy. The Woodlanders (completed in 1887), deals with the intricacies of passion and sexual feeling between the four main characters of Marty South, Giles Winterborne, Grace Melbury, and Edred Fitzpiers. The interwining of these four solitary lives against the background of an isolated rural community, leads to tragedy and continual loneliness. The four characters in this novel come from different levels of society. Each of them uses different style of speech when speaking to each other. By knowing the speech styles that are used by the main

characters, she will be able to know how social factors may influence the main characters' speech styles.

The writer analyzes the speech styles in literary works, in this case a novel. A novel describes a certain social life of a certain place, at a certain time and they are able to get information or knowledge of many kinds of human characters with their culture.

These are the reasons for the writer to make a study on the speech styles in the novel 'The Woodlanders' by Thomas Hardy. The writer analyses the speech styles and the factors that affect the speech styles as shown in the dialogues in the novel.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

As it has been explained above that the choice of speech styles are influenced by the social factors involved with the speaker. The writer would like to analyze: (1) What speech styles are used in the dialogues by the four main characters in the novel? The choice of a certain speech styles is determined by the social factors, such as: social background, the status of the participants, the social dimension of the participants, and so on. So, the next problem will be: (2) what social factors determined the main characters to use their speech styles.

1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the problems that are mentioned above, the writer would like to analyze and find out:

1. The speech styles that are used in the dialogues by the four main characters in the novel; and

2. The social factors that determine the main characters to use their speech styles.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The result of this study hopefully will give a better understanding of the speech styles the main characters used in the novel and the social factors determine the main characters to choose a certain speech style. In this way, this analysis will be useful for an additional reference for the students who are interested in studying the language used by the characters, especially their speech styles, as represented in 'The Woodlanders'. This analysis then will give a contribution to the understanding about the correlation between characters and the language they use in particular, and the correlation between linguistics and literature in general.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

Realizing that Thomas Hardy's novel, "The Woodlanders" is very broad, the writer intends to limit her discussion on the four main characters, Marty South, Giles Winterborne, Grace Melbury, and Edred Fitzpiers. She will examine

them through the language they use. She will use Holmes' speech components, namely participants, setting, the topic of the interaction, and the four dimension of speech, namely solidarity – social distance, status, formality, and referential and affective function of the interaction.

1.6. Terminology (Definition of Key Term)

In order to avoid misinterpretation or misunderstanding, it is necessary to define the following key terms:

a.   Speech style:

According to Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics, speech style can be defined as the alternative ways of speaking within a community which are often ranging from more colloquial to more formal. Usually, the range of styles available to a person varies according to his or her own background and the type of speech community (Richard and Platt, 1992:346).

b.   Social factor:

Social factor according to Holmes (1992:11-12) deals with the factors which influence the speaker to choose a certain speech style. The social factors can be said social components of speech, they are:

1.   The participants: who is speaking and whom are they speaking to?

2.   The setting or social context of the interaction: where are they speaking?

3.   The topic: what is being talked about?

4.   The function: why are they speaking?

c. The sociolinguistic characteristic of the speaker:

The speakers have what is so called sociolinguistic characteristics, namely, sex, age, race, and social status. These sociolinguistic characteristics influence the speakers of the characters to use a certain speech style.

1.7. Theoretical Framework

The writer uses the theories especially those dealing with the speech style, the speech components, and the sociolinguistic characteristic of the speakers. The underlying theory the writer uses in her analysis are the theories which deal with sociolinguistic types of characters, which show the relationship of the choice of linguistic aspects (speech style) and the social aspects of the characters (they are the participants, the setting, the topic of interaction and the purpose of interaction).

1.8. Organization of the Study

Chapter I is the introduction, which is divided into sub-chapters: background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope and limitation, significance of the study. They are followed by terminology or definition of key terms, and organization of the study. Chapter II is the review of the literature, which consists of a review of speech styles, speech components, and the sociolinguistic characteristic of the speakers. Chapter III is the research methodology which is divided into research design, the subject, the research questions, the data collection, and the data analysis. Chapter IV is the data

analysis and research findings. Chapter V is devoted to the conclusion of the analysis and followed by some suggestions. Finally, this thesis is completed with a bibliography.