

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the research

Language is important for social life because language is a means of communication in the world. So, in our daily life, we cannot be separated from language. According to Deckert & Caroline (2011: 2), language is a system of signs that are used by people to communicate with one another. Since language is a systematic system, we may ask systematic questions about the varied choices we make while talking to each other. Holmes (2013) states language varies according to its uses and users, when it is used, how it is used, and who uses it. Our choice of code or variation, whether script, dialect, or style, is influenced by the recipients and the context. Style refers to the manner in which people communicate. It describes how different social identities are projected by speakers and how different social relationships are formed by their styles. According to Wardhaugh (2015: 52), when deciding on a style, you can be highly formal or extremely informal, depending on the situation. Ceremonial situations nearly always necessitate highly formal speech, public lectures are slightly less formal, the casual discussion is rather informal, and chats between intimates on smaller things can be highly informal and casual.

Joos distinguishes styles into five forms in his book *The Five Clocks* (1962), there are five language styles namely: frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate, based on degrees of formality in spoken and written English. The communicative style is influenced by an intuitive sense of the level of intimacy or affection between the communicating people. But in this research, the writer uses Holmes's theory. Researchers can gain a better understanding of each formal and casual style based on Holmes theory's descriptions of its different characteristics.

The Pursuit of Happiness is an American biographical drama movie directed by Gabriele Muccino and starring Will Smith as Chris Gardner, a homeless salesman. In the movie, the researcher found that there are formal and casual style is used by the speakers to communicate with other people, because there is situation that was set in the office, hospital, and also on the street, where the formal and casual style is more used in that situation. This research investigated formal and casual styles based on Joos's theory, and the factor of speakers' utterances in using formal and casual styles used in the pursuit of happiness movie, by using Holmes's theory. The writer only analyses formal and casual language styles, because formal and casual styles are styles that are widely used in everyday life. As reflected in *the pursuit of happiness* movie which is the theme of the study.

The writer is interested in language style because it is significant and requires a deep understanding to get the arrangement and relationship between language and social community. And the writer chooses movie is because many people are affected after watching movies, it can be by the language style used in the movie. Sometimes people want to imitate their favorite characters and actors. People can be influenced by imitating the language styles used in the movie to use in communication. And in this movie, there are formal and casual styles used. So, the writer is interested to analyze this subject.

The writer used qualitative and descriptive methods to analyze the data. The writer uses that method because that is suitable for this study for the purpose of writing this thesis.

The writer hopes that this research gives benefit. For the writer, it can gain new experience and knowledge about the utterances of formal and casual styles and the factor of formal and casual styles. The writer hopes that the findings of this study will provide some relief to the reader, especially those at Bung Hatta University English Department Faculty of Humanities. Furthermore, the writer hopes that this thesis will inspire readers to be more

attentive, curious, and never bored while learning and investigating the field of linguistics, particularly those studies that have a connection to social life.

1.2 Research Question:

The writer formulates two questions to seek potential answers about the formal and casual language style showed in *the pursuit of happiness* movie.

1. What are the characteristics of formal and casual styles that occur in *The Pursuit of Happiness* movie?
2. What social factors affected speakers using formal and casual styles used in *The Pursuit of Happiness* movie?

1.3 Purposes of the research

The purpose of this study that represents what this research wants to accomplish is described as follows:

1. To identify the characteristics of formal and casual style in *the pursuit of happiness* movie.
2. To identify the social factor that affected the speaker using formal and casual style.

1.4 Limitation of the Research

In this thesis, the writer only focuses on the language styles, especially the formal and casual styles utterances used by the speaker in *the pursuit of happiness* movie. And to identify the characteristic of formal and casual style based on Holmes's theory, and identify the social factor of speaker utterance in using a formal and casual style which are used by the characters in "The Pursuit of Happiness" movie.

1.5 Significance of the Research

In this thesis, the writer also hopes to gain some significance for the readers:

1. Theoretically, the writer hopes that this research will add to our knowledge of the language style, especially as it appears in movies. To more understand the characteristics of the formal and casual style used in the movie "The Pursuit of Happyness".
2. Pragmatically, this research should be used for all students, but especially for those in the English Department. Student's knowledge and understanding of language style can be applied in everyday conversation, especially in informal situations. This research is also of interest to students of the English Department who are interested in sociolinguistics and its various aspects.