

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

People regularly chatter at work, among families, and during happy hour. Everyone enjoys gossip. Gossip happens in all societies, among both young and old people. Depending on the channel you use to send your knowledge, you can gossip with a small or large group. People glean information about others nearby by staying silent, reflecting our natural curiosity. Because humans usually like to mind someone's business. As a result, gossip serves as the majority of face-to-face interactions, playing a significant role in interpersonal communication and societal dynamics. Gossip is a product of society.

Gossip is widespread in modern society. A glance at magazine covers in stores or a visit to popular websites shows that the gossip industry thrives on revealing intimate details about celebrities. Beyond public spaces, gossip is hard to escape in personal interactions. For instance, when people meet, their conversations often include references to the actions of others.

Gossip is also alluring. Even if people try to avoid discussing gossip, they often find it irresistible. It is a natural habit to talk about others in various settings, such as private conversations in different locations. When someone introduces an intriguing topic, the listener understands and responds with another piece of gossip, keeping the conversation alive. People can spend an

entire day gossiping because it is enjoyable to discuss others, especially those they dislike or see as rivals.

Gossip can also be linked to compassion and empathy. It can be a way to express emotions, release stress, and react to perceived social injustices. According to Coates (as cited in Nabila, 2019), gossip serves as a means for women to share their feelings and emotions with others. When women gossip, they express their emotions toward the subjects of their discussion. Through gossip, they reveal their true feelings, such as anger, sadness, disappointment, and happiness.

In psychological articles, Feinberg et al. (2012), states that people's heart rates increased when they found out about another person's antisocial behavior or injustice, discussing the person or situation through gossip brought them comfort and reduced their heart rates. Feinberg explains that gossiping "helps calm the body." That is why gossiping is one of the ways for someone to relax their mind. Gossip is characterized as casual, in-group conversation that occurs among people in informal settings. Holmes & Wilson (2022) explained, in Western society gossip defined as "idle talk" and considered particularly characteristic of women's interaction. Gossip sticks with women. We cannot separate gossip and women. Its overall function for women appears to be to affirm solidarity and maintain the social relationships among those involved.

Women are clueless that the activity of gossip can mean many kinds of things. Networking is one of them. Holmes & Wilson (2022), casual

conversations on familiar topics between friends in informal settings, typically associated with women's interactions, and serves to build and maintain social relationships. When women gossip, they are doing more than just gossiping; they are also networking. Networking is essential for everyone, particularly for women, when they meet another woman. It can be quite awkward if they meet but do not engage. In such situations, gossip serves as a networking tool.

Gossip can offer substantial new referential information while simultaneously conveying the speaker's feelings about the subjects mentioned. It is common for utterances to serve both purposes, though typically one function will be more prominent. Generally, the more an interaction focuses on referential information, the less it tends to express the speaker's emotions (Holmes & Wilson) 2022.

When people gossip, they will talk about anything. About someone's background, career, education, marriage life or even talking about their issue. They do not mind talking and sharing about their private life. And most people also gossip about celebrities' life. Starting from their background, appearance, how to dress, their lifestyle, or their attitude. Not even half-hearted, people are ready to dig up and exchange information about the celebrities they hate.

The researcher chose the TV series *Bridgerton* Season 1 on Netflix as the object of the research. *Bridgerton* is a Netflix original series based on Julia Quinn's best-selling novel. *Bridgerton* is set in the 18th century and portrays the eldest daughter of the influential Bridgerton family as she enters London's competitive marriage market for the first time. Everything went smoothly

because the Bridgerton family was well-known at the time. Until, the eldest son got involved in a scandal, making it difficult for his sister to find a partner.

In Bridgerton season 1, Gossip plays a significant role in social life during that period. Gossip spread through friends, servants, merchants, and newspapers. Gossip plays a big role in maintaining someone's reputation or it can easily destroy the career and reputation. There are times when gossip can damage the reputation of a person or an organization. Negative gossip is a form of bullying that is of course detrimental to others. The decision to gossip or not is an ethical decision.

It is based on Holmes & Wilson (2022) theory that women seek deeper connections with their friends and that they will remember more details of gossip information when the gossip is among friends (in the private mode of gossip transmission), which will be analyzed by sociolinguistic analysis. Gossip is discussed in sociolinguistics because it deals with the relationship between language and society. According to Holmes & Wilson (2022), sociolinguists study the relationship between language and society. They are interested in explaining why we speak differently in different social contexts, and in identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning.

The researcher is interested in analyzing Gossip in Bridgerton Season 1. So, this study is expected to identify and describe Gossip found in the conversations among the female characters in Bridgerton Season 1. Also, this series is chosen because in this series gossip plays an important role in social

life at the time. Therefore, it is possible to discover the types of gossip and describe the function of gossip.

B. Questions and Scope of Research

1. Question of the Research

Based on the research focus, the problems are formulated as follows.

1. What types of gossip are portrayed by the female characters in Bridgerton Season 1?
2. What does the function of gossip play in Bridgerton Season 1 among the female characters?

2. Scope of the Research

The researcher tries to explain the kinds of gossip in this study. This research focuses on the conversation between the female characters in Bridgerton Season 1 episodes 1- 4 and classifies the types and functions of gossip used in this series. The researcher uses the theory of Jones (1980) and Foster (2004). This research aims to examine the dialogue of all female characters in Bridgerton Season 1 that contains gossip.

C. Objectives of the Research

The following are the objectives of this research based on the research questions:

1. To discover the types of gossip which are portrayed by the female characters in Bridgerton Season 1.
2. To describe the function of gossip play in Bridgerton Season 1 among the female characters.

D. Significance of the research

This present research discusses gossip which focuses on analyzing the type of gossip and the function of gossip which are used by female characters in Bridgerton Season 1. The final result of this research is hopefully able to bring significance.

Theoretically, the researcher hopes the findings of this research could provide new and insightful perspectives on the topic of female gossip in conversation. The researcher expected that the findings of this study will be useful in providing information on language and gossip, specifically the kinds and roles of gossip.

Practically, this research gives benefits to the reader and the researcher. It may provide further information about sociolinguistics and gossip for readers. The researcher also hopes that this research will help readers understand more about various types and functions of gossip and help linguistic students explore gossip with various topics for future research.

E. Operational Definition

There are some operational definitions that are repeatedly mentioned in this research. Because there are various definitions for each term, it is aimed to present the most appropriate explanations which are personalized best to match the purpose of this research. The terms are as follows:

1. Gossip

Gossip is described as the kind of relaxed conversation that usually goes on between people in an informal context. It has been considered as the way for a woman to share her feelings or emotions with each other. Gossip sometimes

2. Women's Language

Women's Language is a linguistics feature that highlights and reinforces women's inferior status in society. Women's language explains the language feature that women use in conversation. Woman's language identifies a woman's character, such as avoiding a forceful and direct statement and/or relying on conformity, which shows uncertainty and hesitancy.

3. Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics, in general, plays a significant role in interaction. Sociolinguistics is the study of the ways people use language in social interaction. Sociolinguistics studies language together with social studies. Sociolinguistics is not only concerned with language and social issues, but it also concerns behavior, attitudes, and the use of language in social life and society.

F. Systematization of the Research

Systematization of the research means presenting the research in well-edited composing. This research consists of five chapters. Each chapter will be explained with a short narrative, concise and clear systematization. The systemization of the research is written systematically as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of the background of the research, question and scope of the research, objective and significance of the research, operational definition, and systematization of the research.

Chapter II is a Theoretical Description that explains about sociolinguistics, language and society, women's language, gossip, the kinds of gossip, the roles of gossip, and the Bridgerton Season 1.

Chapter III is Research Methodology. It explains the Method of the Research, Procedure of the Research, Technique of the Data Collection, Technique of the Data Analysis, and Data Source.

Chapter IV is Research findings and discussion. It shows data description in the series, analysis of the data where the researcher analyzes all the data that the researcher found in conversations among the female characters in Bridgerton Season 1.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion. It gives the summary of the conclusion which relates to the discussion and suggestion which relates to the significance of the research.