CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This Chapter presents some aspects related to the topic being studied. It consists of the background of the study, the research questions, the objectives of the study, the significant of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, and the key term.

A. Background of Study

Language is a language system of communication that uses arbitrary signals, such as voice sounds, gestures, or written symbols. The study of language is called linguistics.[1] Human use language to communicate each other. people have to know its grammar when they want to understand a language. Sometimes people used utterances that grammatically have no connection with previous or next sentences, they used it to express their feeling or performing a certain meaning, it is called discourse markers.

Discourse markers has increased with growing interest in the production and comprehension of extended discourse and, more generally, in pragmatic and contextual aspects of utterance interpretation.

Research on discourse markers has expanded continually throughout the 1980s and 1990s because it was found that they have

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[1] http://grammar.about.com/od/il/g/languageterm.htm (accessed on Monday, 06 October, 2015)

prominent role, not only in pragmatic and discourse analytic research but also in studies of language acquisition and language pedagogy, and in research on sociolinguistic topics. Within the past ten years or so there has been an increasing interest in the theoretical status of discourse markers, focusing on what they are, what they mean, and what functions they have.[2] The analysis of discourse markers is part of the more general analysis of discourse coherence, how speakers and hearers jointly integrate forms, meaning, and actions to make overall sense out of what is said.[3]

Discourse marker is an expression which signals the relationship of the basic message to the foregoing discourse; it does not contribute to the representative sentence meaning, but only to the procedural meaning.[4]

The use of discourse markers could make conversation more interesting, more understandable, and even more polite, and more powerful, though it won't change its grammatical meaning. It can be read from Fraser's statement: "the absence of the discourse marker does not render a sentence ungrammatical and or unintelligible".[5] It does, however, remove a powerful clue about what commitment the

[2] Fatemeh Zarei. *Discourse Markers In English*. International Research Journal of Applied and Basic Sciences © 2013 Available online at www.irjabs.com ISSN 2251-838X / Vol, 4 (1): 107-117.

[3] Schiffrin D. *Discourse markers*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1987). Page. 49.

[4] Bruce Frazer. *Pragmatic Markers*. (Boston: Boston university, 1996).21

[5] Bruce Frazer. *Types of English discourse markers*. (Acta Linguistica Hungaria,1988). vol. 38.

speaker makes regarding the relationship between the current utterance and the prior discourse.

Discourse markers are used for organizing and monitoring the topic development. They can be used to open or close a topic, mark topic boundaries, and attract listener's attention. They also may function as markers of the speaker's view point, their emotional reactions, or to tone down the utterance's effect.

In this research, the researcher chooses the discourse marker "*well*" and "*oh*" as the focus of research. The researcher analyzes the discourse marker because "*Well*" is found to be the most frequently used one in conversation.[6] "*Well*" is used as a topic opening or closing device or as an introduction to a reformulated utterance.

"*Well*" often occurred when a respondent could not meet the demand of a response because the content of the answer would not fit the options opened by a prior question.[7] "*Well*" could also be used to delay the main portion of an answer. So, to use "*well*" as well as and an appropriate to the context we have to know the functions of that marker.

The researcher uses theory from jucker to analyze the discourse marker "*well*". Jucker is one of the experts who focuses on linguistic

[6] Schifrin Deborah, *Discourse Marker*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987).
[7] Hokensen Hanne, *The Different Function of Discourse Marker "Well", AL 6086 Using Corpora in The Language Classroom Dr. Hanh Nguyen*, may 02, 2013.

research. He also had known as professor of English linguistics. Many researches had been researched by Jucker especially on linguistics field. Jucker explains the functions of "*well*" more understandable and completely than other expert. Many researchers use references from jucker to support their research. According to Jucker "*well*" had four main functions, "*wel"l* as a marker of insufficiency, "*well*" could also be a face-threat mitigator, *well* as a frame, *well* could also function as a delay device.

When speaking spontaneously, people sometimes need to correct a previous statement, insert new information, or redirect their utterances, we can use particle "*oh*" to make the utterances more appropriate and interesting. *"Oh"* may serve an important function for listeners in these self-initiated repair.[8] The function of "*oh*"can either be described as an exhaustive list of each environment in which oh occurs, with each use treated independently, or as a single underlying construct that in combination with different environments manifests itself somewhat differently[9]. *"Oh"* informs listeners that they should process the upcoming information independently from the immediately preceding information.Without *"oh"*, listeners would attempt ordinary integration across adjacent utterances that may not be integratable, leading to confusion.

[8] Schifrin Deborah, *Discourse Marker*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987).
[9] Fatemeh Zarei. *Discourse Markers In English*. International Research Journal of Applied and Basic Sciences © 2013 Available online at www.irjabs.com ISSN 2251-838X / Vol, 4 (1): page 115

"*Oh*" have a variety of politeness functions in thanking, inviting, apologizing, and expressing appreciation. In this research, the researchers used theory of discourse markers from Aijmer about "*oh*". Aijmer is linguist whose research focuses on topics in pragmatic and discourse. This thesis use theory from Aijmer because she could be considered as one who has done the most extensive study of "*oh*" in the London-Lund Corpus of speech and indentified a large number of ways the use of *ohs*. In her book English Discourse Particles, she explains several uses of "*oh*" from many linguists such as: Stenstrom who points out "*oh*" and lexical collocation, Wilkin who connects "*oh*" as interjection with indexicality. Aijmer also describes functional indicators of "*oh*".

The important point, when participants in conversation want to express their ideas, sometimes they do not know how to respond speaker or hearer's questions directly, especially if the speaker doubts or confuses what to say. To fill the empty "space" before they decide what to utter, they use some particles occasionally such as: "*well*" and "*oh*".

Sometimes we only use "*well*" and "*oh*" without knowing the function of that particle. The researcher interested in this topic because she wants to share the information about the function of "*well*" and "*oh*" based on the theories from the expert such as; Jucker and Aijmer through the analysis movie that the researcher done.

Movie, also known as films, are type of visual communication which use moving pictures and sound to tell stories or inform (help people to learn). Movie is a type of entertainment or a way to have fun. Every people in the world like to watch movie. Some people can feel happy, sad, angry, even they can cry when they watch movie.

In movie there is one important thing such as sound and picture. The sound in a movie usually includes the sounds of people talking. It is called dialogue. The dialogue of the movie contains of conversation of the actor and actress. As we know that conversation is one of the basic types of communication and to communicate we need a language.

This study concerns with the function of *well* and *oh* as discourse marker expressed by the characters in film entitled "*A Thousand Words*". In this movie there are many conversation of characters that using *"well"* and *"oh"*as discourse marker. In this movie, the characters use *"well"* and *"oh"*in many situations and many functions based on the plot. In this research, the researcher analyzes the function of *well* as discourse marker in "*A Thousand Words*" movie based on the theory from Jucker and the function of *oh* as discourse marker in *"A Thousand Words"* movie based on the theory from Aijmer. So, the researcher takes the title in this thesis, **"An Analysis of *Well* and *Oh* as Discourse Marker Used in *A Thousand Words* Movie".**

B. Research Questions

Based on the background of study, the researcher has two problems to be discussed through this study namely.

1. What are the functions of *"well"* as discourse marker used in "A Thousand Words" movie?

2. What are the functions of *"oh"* as discourse marker used in "A Thousand Words" movie?

C. Objective of the study

The objective of this research is finding the answer or conclusion after this research activity is done. In this line with this research problems, there are objectives in this research, they are:

1. To analyze the functions of *"well"* as discourse marker used in "A Thousand Words" movie.

2. To analyze the functions of *"oh"* as discourse marker used in "A Thousand Words" movie.

D. Significant of study

The researcher takes a great hope that this study is expected to be useful as follows:

1. For researcher herself

This research can give motivation and comprehension about discourse marker, and this research will contribute a broader understanding on discourse analysis especially in *"well"* and *"oh"*

as discourse markers. So, researcher can enrich her knowledge on how to communicate well.

2. For learner and reader

It can open new knowledge of the readers about this analysis. In addition, it also could help them to understand on how dialogues are interpreted by using the theory of discourse marker especially *"well"* and *"oh"*.

E. Scope and Limitation

In the study of discourse analysis, there are many kinds of expression that is used. The researcher will take the discourse marker as object of research. The scope of this research is a discourse analysis which is focused on analyzing discourse marker used in "A Thousand Words" movie. The limitation is discourse marker which is focused on the functions of discourse marker *"well"* and *"oh"* that used in "A Thousand Words" movie. The researcher uses theory from Jucker to analyze the function of *"well"* as discourse marker and uses theory from Aijmer to analyze the function of *"oh"*.

F. Definition of key term

In this section, it is important to know the definition of key terms in order to avoid interpretation about the explanation of the topic discussed.

1. Discourse analysis

   Discourse analysis is a verbal communication, utterance, conversation, unit of texts which are used by linguist to analyze a number more than one sentence. A discourse analysis is based on the details of speech (and gaze and gesture and action) and writing that are arguably deemed relevant in the context and that are relevant in the arguments analysis which is attempting to make.[10]

2. Discourse marker

   Discourse markers are linguistic elements that signal relation between units of talk, relation at the exchange, action, ideational, and participation framework levels of the discourse. This is express like *well, but, oh, you know, because,* and etc.

3. "A Thousand Words" movie

   Jack McCall (Eddie Murphy) is a literary agent who uses his mouth to get various book deals, and is not afraid to stretch the truth to get them. While trying to get a book deal from a new-age self-help guru named Dr. Sinja (Cliff Curtis), the Boddhi sees through the lies and curses Jack by magically appearing in his backyard with 1000 leaves. Jack was sent a catalog by Dr.Sinja and demands an explanation also include the Boddhi Tree. Dr.Sinja goes to Jack's house and explains that for every word that Jack says, a leaf will fall off of the tree. When the tree runs out of

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[10] James Paul Gee. *An Introduction of Discourse Analysis.* (New York: Madison Ave, 2011)

leaves, the tree will die, along with Jack. In time, he finds that even written words count towards his limit, plus anything that happens to the Tree will also affect Jack. When Jack tries to cut it down with an axe, an axe wound appears on him. When squirrels climb the tree, it tickles him. When a gardener tries to poison it with DDT, Jack gets high on the fumes. With Jack forced to pick and choose his words, communicating with others becomes difficult and full of misunderstandings. These misunderstandings cost him two book deals, his job, and his wife Caroline (Kerry Washington). She walks out on him when she thinks his sudden silence does due to him not love her anymore. When he tries to explain the tree to her, she does not believe him. Only Jacks assistant Aaron (Clark Duke) realizes he is telling the truth, and goes to Jacks house to keep track of how many leaves are remaining. With his life falling apart and the tree running out of leaves, Jack goes to Dr. Sinja and asks how to end the curse. The guru tells him to make peace with all of his relationships. With just one branch of leaves left, Jack tries to reconcile with Caroline, but she is still hesitant towards him. He visits his mother (Ruby Dee), who lives in an assisted living center and has dementia. She tells Jack who she thinks is Raymond, Jacks late father that she wishes Jack would stop being angry at his father for walking out on them when he was a kid. Jack, realizing that this is the relationship that needs the most

mending, goes to visit his father's gravesite. With only 3 leaves remaining, Jack forgives his dad. With 0 leaves remaining, Jack collapses and appears to have died. Jacks cell phone rings and it is Aaron. He tells him that the trees leaves have magically reappeared. Jack, who is still alive, asks if any leaves are falling off, and they are not. Jack can now talk freely again. It works and they get back together. He does not get his job back (Aaron was promoted to Jacks old position), but he wrote a book about the experience and gets Aaron to make the deal. Aaron later receives a branch of the Boddhi tree when his new assistant Steven informed him that there is a delivery for him, resulting to Aaron being shocked at the moment. Jack makes a last ditch effort to get back Caroline by buying the house she always wanted and he did, they both smiled as their child spoke his very first words "boom".