

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Language can be used to express someone's opinion towards people or things. The way people give their opinions is called as evaluation or appraisal in English. Appraisal is one of the discourse systems which the function is to negotiate the attitude. As Martin and White (2005: 34-35) stated that appraisal is used to construe interpersonal meaning. There are three interacting domains which belong to appraisal. The first is attitude. It deals with human's feeling or emotional reaction towards things. The second is engagement. It concerns with the resources of attitudes in discourse. The last is graduation which used to break down the phenomena whereby feelings are amplified and categories blurred. Moreover, Martin and Rose (2003: 26) explained that people use the resources of appraisal for negotiating social relationships, by telling the listeners or readers how people feel about things and people.

As one interacting domains in appraisal system, attitude has a vital role in the expression of interpersonal meanings of language. In accordance with Martin and Rose (2003: 26) attitudes have to do with evaluating things, people's character and their feelings. The way people evaluate them can be delivered in different way. First, it can be delivered orally. For instance, when someone listens to a singer in a concert and say 'She is really a good singer'. In that example the person appraises the singer's voice by the word 'good'. Second, the appraisal itself can be given in written form. It can be happened when someone writes a text, especially argumentative text. As Knapp and Watkins (2005: 187) said that the genre of

arguing is a process that involves reasoning, evaluation and persuasion. It can be said that argumentative text use appraisal resources, especially attitude in constructing an argumentative text.

Many researchers have made some investigations which deals with appraisal and argumentative writing. Crosthwaite (2018) discovered that generally appreciation was the predominant type of attitude in argumentative essays than the other two types namely affect and judgement. It can be seen also that the argumentative essays tended to use more positive attitude than negative attitude. Yang (2016) also found the same thing. In Yang's research for Chinese college students' English argumentative writing, appreciation resources were contained much more than affect and judgement. Actually overall, the Chinese students tended to use appreciation and affect resources.

In line with Yang (2016), Mardiana (2018) also found the same thing. The study aimed to explain the appraisal system manifested in students' debate competition, the students' realization of using appraisal and the contribution of appraising items to debate structure. Another research has been done by Lv (2015) which found the same thing as the two previous research before. It was found that argumentative essay contained much more in appreciation than judgement and affect. Except for the result whether they are given positively or negatively. In this research most of the argumentative essay contained more negative attitude. Refnaldi (2018) got little different thing in the research. Most of the attitude resources in the argumentative essay are dominated with appreciation, but the value of the attitudes is unlike the four previous research before. In Refnaldi's research it

was found that the amount of positive attitude and negative attitude is quite similar.

The positive attitude is 10 while the negative is 9.

So far, it is stated that appreciation is more used in the students' writing than affect and judgement. In contrast, the researcher found something different, as it is shown in the observation data below.

*The fourth and the last, internet is as a way for users who work as traders because they **can** (+Judgement: capacity) market their merchandise through accounts, whether it's Facebook, Instagram or major online shop stores such as Shopee, Lazada, Zilingo, and others. As well as for buyers, internet becomes access for shopping the needs they **want** (+Affect: inclination) online. In addition, through the internet we **can** (+Judgement: capacity) also choose tourist destinations that are **comfortable** (+Appreciation: reaction) to be visited, and don't spend too much, because starting from the description of the location, flight tickets, and choice of hotel rooms can be viewed online. For the application used is like Traveloka.*

It is seen that the text consists of some resources of appraisal especially attitude. They are affect, judgement, and appreciation. Most of the attitude used there are not appreciation but judgement. It means the writer of the text tend to evaluate on human's behaviour than evaluate the things. Another data can be seen also as follows:

*Therefore, internet brings so many advantages for everyone in this world. Like I said before, internet can help you to find out what you are looking for, you can use internet if you look for job, you **can** (+Judgement: capacity) also use internet to find out your friends which lost contact with you, even you **can** (+Judgement: capacity) use internet to book plane, hotel, if you **want** (+Affect: inclination) to get holiday to other countries, and many else. So, all of people in this world must **be able to** (+Judgement: capacity) access internet because there are still a lot of district which can't access internet.*

From the data above, it can be seen also that appreciation is not used at all in the paragraph. But judgement is mostly used inside. It means, the writer of the

text still focuses on evaluating human's behaviour rather than the things. Others data can be seen also as follows:

*Internet is something that is **very important** (+Appreciation: valuation) today. Everyone from the youngest to the oldest, **needs** (+Affect: inclination) internet to ease their lives. From the **lowest** (-Affect: unhappiness) education to the highest education **needs** (+Affect: inclination) internet in their education world.*

This phenomenon shows that affect is used more rather than appreciation. It means that the writer of the text chooses to express their feelings or emotions than evaluate human's behaviour or the things. Another data can be seen below:

*First, internet provides so much information that we **need** (+Affect: inclination) in our lives. Students **need** (+Affect: inclination) internet to find information in completing school assignments, people who work **need** (+Affect: inclination) internet to **make it easier** (+Appreciation: valuation) for them to send messages, files, and access information from all corners of the country and even the world without visiting the area. Not only that, even housewives also **need** (+Affect: inclination) internet to **be able to** (+Judgement: capacity) find cooking recipes, see cooking tutorial videos, and other activities that support housework.*

Through the data above, it shows that affect is used more in the paragraph than the other types of attitude. It means that the writer tends to express how is the feeling than evaluate human's behaviour or the things. Another data can be seen as follows:

*Third, internet can be used as a medium in carrying out buying and selling transactions. In the conventional way, buying and selling is done by face-to-face transactions between buyers and sellers. So, someone must take the time to go to the place the items are sold if someone **wants** (+Affect: inclination) them. But now, there are more practical ways to make buying and selling transactions. Internet gives the answer. Nowadays there are a lot of online shops, we **can** (+Judgement: capacity) transact with sellers only through internet, without having to come to the store. Before buying, we **can** (+Judgement: capacity) see the items we **want** (+Affect: inclination) to buy through shared photos, if there is a match, we **can** (+Judgement: capacity) chat the seller to order the item,*

*and the item will be delivered directly to our address. Very easy. Even now, we **can** (+Judgement: capacity) also order food through internet applications, send goods, even order the transportation we **need** (+Affect: inclination).*

This phenomenon shows different result. There is no appreciation found. There are only judgement and affect found there. From all the observation data and if it is compared to the articles which are discussed before, it can be assumed that appreciation is not the highest type of attitude used in argumentative writing.

Moreover, the researcher also thinks that it is required to analyse the appraisal resources especially the attitude in Indonesian students' argumentative writing because from all the previous researches, none of them analyses appraisal in argumentative writings which are written by Indonesian students. The researcher is interested in investigating whether the background of the writers affect the way the writers give the attitude positively or negatively.

## **1.2 Problems of the Study**

Based on the background of the study, the problems of this study are formulated as the following.

- (1) What types of attitude are used in students' argumentative writing?
- (2) How are those attitudes realized in students' argumentative writing?
- (3) Why do the attitudes occur as the way they do in students' argumentative writing?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are expressed in the following statements.

- (1) To find out types of attitude used in students' argumentative writing.

- (2) To elaborate realization of attitudes in students' argumentative writing.
- (3) To explain reasons of the way the attitudes occur as the way they do in students' argumentative writing.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is limited to one of the appraisal resources which is attitude. In addition, the attitudes which are analyzed only that found in argumentative writings which is written by students of English Education Faculty Study Program at State University of Medan. The theory of attitudes proposed by Martin and White (2005) which consist of expressing feelings (affect), judging people's character (judgement), and appreciating things (appreciation). The analysis will be collaborated with the theory proposed by Knapp and Watkins (2005) about the genre of arguing.

#### **1.5 Significances of the Study**

The findings of this study are strongly expected to have the theoretically and practically indispensable significances. Theoretically, the research findings are expected to be invaluable contributions for other researchers who will conduct the studies in the field of discourse, particularly about the attitudes in argumentative writing. Practically, the research findings are beneficial for those who are in the same field of study for giving more practical of using the attitudes in argumentative writing.