

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is used by different groups of people for different purposes. Each group has various norms of linguistics behavior (Wardhaugh, 2006). It is commonly known as social norms of language. In addition, Wardhaugh (2006) the existence of different norms in language demanded the society to speak to each other by giving a mutual understanding to prevailing norms of each language. Realizing the importance of giving respect and understand to each them norm in particular language, Wardaugh (2006) also explained that “we must try to understand how different groups of people use their language (or languages) if we are to achieve a comprehensive understanding of how that language (or those languages) is related to the society that use it”. From that quotation, it is obviously that anyone is highly recommended to understand how different groups of people use their language.

Politeness assumes that we all have face, and we all have face wants and needs. Further, there are different types of face threatened in various face-threatening acts, and sometimes the face threats are to the hearer, while other times they are to the speaker. face reflects an individual's need for his or her wishes and desires to be appreciated in a social context. One aspect of politeness is the use of honorifics. This aspect is a politeness formula in a specific language that can specifically be in the form of affixes, words, or sentence structures (Richards and Schmidt, 2010). Honorific is used by one or some groups or speech community to appreciate the high prestige of social status distance in everyday exchanges. In

dialogue of everyday exchanges, one or groups of speech community certainly construct some codes or word level to honor / respect one another. Fishman (1971) defines a Speech Community is a subtype of community, all of whose members share at least a single speech variety and the norms for its appropriate use. In the reality, one cannot live alone and cannot live among themselves without language as a medium for interrelation in everyday exchanges. One cannot also use variety or code by him / herself. He must be loyal to social conventional agreement and maintain communication, Mills (2003) in conversation there are a few categories there are politeness, intimacy, relationship and adapting situation

Many research has been conducted on the honorific principle (HP) in daily communication, for example Rejeki and Zamzani (2015), Santana, et al (2015), Lenard (2016), Arapah & Fathur (2017) and Ifansyah and Aini (2018). Honorific as medium to prevent discursive dispute in social relationship ideally. However, little research discussed about honorific local language in Indonesia, especially Bahasa Minang, this study is going to examine the honorific practices of Minangnese influenced by speech level, such as age,gender,situation and formality.

One of the languages in Indonesia is Bahasa Minang of the Minang's ethnic group, which is used by the community of Minang's ethnic group in Kecamatan Medan Area. Minangkabau region is divided into two parts, namely the part land and region. Minangnese develops in such a way that there are some dialects in the Bahasa Minang. The dialects are variety in terms of phonology, morphology, and vocabulary, but no different in syntax (Nio, 1979). In this

chance, the writer focus on honorific of Bahaso Minang in Kecamatan Medan. In census 2018, this Kecamatan had a population of 99.821 people. Its area is 9.05 km<sup>2</sup> and its population density is 24 people / km<sup>2</sup>.

The writer chooses honorific Bahaso Minang because it has the unique culture of Minangnese. Ayub (1993) found that in Minang Culture has own views on women. Women are in an honorable position so that a child follows the maternal or matrilineal lineage and women are in the center of power or matriarch. Matrilineal is one of the key aspects in defining the identity of the Minangnese. Minangnese customs and culture took women to consider as leader. The lineage refers to the mother known as Samande (s). While their father was called by the people by the name Sumando (brother-in-law) and treated as a guest in the family. Women in Minangnese held a special position to be known as Bundo Kanduang, playing a role in determining the successful implementation of the decisions made by the men in their position as mamak (uncle), and Penghulu (tribal). The great influence of the women of Minang is symbolized as *limpapeh rumah nan gadang* (the main pillar of the house). Writer chooses minangnese because These phenomenom certainly enough to be reason in determining the level of speech such as differences in social status that affected by age, gender, formality, and situation.

Levinson (2011) aspect to measure language of politeness is using pronouns. Local languages such as Bahaso Minang has pronouns. Ayub (1993) found that Bahaso Minang is one of the regional languages that live and develop in the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. Bahaso Minang is one of the top ten regional languages. According to Collins (2011) pronouns are words used to refer

to other nouns. When viewed in terms of its function, it can be said that pronouns occupy positions that are generally occupied by nouns, such as subjects, and objects. Personal pronouns are used to refer to people or things that the speaker is talking to or talking about and they can be used as a way for him to refer to himself. There are two kinds of personal pronouns: subjective personal pronouns and objective personal pronouns. Subjective personal pronouns are used to refer to a subject complement or subject of a clause; they include *i, we, you, he, she, it* and *they* and objective personal pronouns refer to the same people or things as the equivalent subject pronouns. Object pronouns are used as either the object, subject complement or prepositional complement of a clause. The objective personal pronouns are: *me, us, you, him, her, it* and *them*

This paper is going to investigate the honorific practices of Minangnese influenced by aspects such as age, gender, formality and situation and also reason of using honorific Subjective in the way they do. Discussion of honorific which considers a number of variables which might affect the speech level, such as 'power, distance, and rank of imposition'

## **1.2 Problems of the Study**

Based on the explanation, the problems of study can be formulated as the following.

1. What types of honorific subject pronouns are used by Minangnese in Kecamatan Medan Area ?.
2. How do they use honorific subject pronouns in Kecamatan Medan Area influenced by gender, situation, age, and formality?.

3. Why do they use honorific Subjective in the way they do ?.

### **1.3 The objective of the Study**

The objective of the study are described as follows :

1. To find out the types of honorific subject pronouns used by Minangnese in Kecamatan Medan Area
2. To describe the way using honorific subject pronouns that used by Minangnese in Kecamatan Medan Area influenced by gender, situation, age, and formality
3. To explain the reason they use honorific Subjective in the way they do

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

Scope of the study is limited to honorific subjective pronouns that used by minangnese in Kecamatan Medan Area and this research investigate first, types of honorific of Bahaso Minang; second, the way using honorific subject pronouns used by Minangnese; third, reason of using of honorifics Bahaso Minang in Kecamatan Medan area

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Through this research, the writer expected to of this study will give both theoretical and practical contribution in pragmatics study.

Firstly theoretical, this study is expected to be one of the sources in pragmatics studies, particularly on the analyzing honorific subject pronouns used by Minangnese, the one of dominant ethnics in North Sumatra.

Secondly practically, this research as reference and suggestion to anybody who wants to know about honorific subject pronouns used by Minangnese in

Kecamatan Medan Area and as research comparison about honorific subject pronoun with other languages

Through this research, it is expected to improve reader's knowledge about politeness because politeness itself focused on public image of person or face wants.



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