

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Study

Long time ago in Gayo tribe, the politeness between male and female in communication was similar or no differences both of them. But, now days the communication between male and female among Gayo student has been changed especially in addressing someone, giving and asking, for example when the female addressing someone who is older then she is and also to all people, female often use by using the standard language “ko (you)” in addressing someone, when people uses word “ko” this word makes the people feel uncomfortable in communication, not only in addressing someone female also used bald strategy in asking and giving something, this strategy making the people shock or embarrasses in communication.

For example:

F1. **ko** hana keber kak? (How are you)

F2. Sehat we (Pretty well)

F1. **Ngeh lang**, kah ku acara Gayo (Come to Gayo community tomorrow)

F2. Ike sempat aq ngeh (If I have time, I go there)

F1. Makasih ta kak (Thank you sister)

F2. **A** (Ok)

(F1) female1, (F2) female2, F2 is older than F1, properly, when someone speak to the older, she/ he has to speak with good politeness or has to appreciate the older, in order the older feel the younger are appreciated him/her. The value politeness of female in Gayo students has been shifted this time, actually the Gayo female has to maintain their politeness in communication, because when people speak something with other, and they come out from the rule, they will be judge

as impolite person, so that the utterances we produce are our action to show the politeness, The Gayo female must select the polite word to avoid negative face in communication between speakers and hearers, this fact female habit in using impolite word not only happen in community in Gayo.

For example:

M1. Hana keber **sinen** (How are you friend)

M2. Alhamdulillah sehat **sinen** (Well friend)

In the first and the second line of the example above, the word “ sinen”, the use of word “ sinen” here is considered as showing positive politeness. As Yule (1996) says that positive politeness is the requester to appeal to a common goal and even friendship. It means that positive politeness is needed to make a relationship between one to another person. So M1 and m2 used the positive politeness in the dialogue to avoid distance between one another or to make relationship one another. The reason for M1 and M2 used the word “ sinen” because they do not want to make distance between one another, they want to make relationship between one another, event M1 and M2 are not intimate or family but they just making good relationship.

When the person speak without use word “ sinen” it can make different politeness for example

M1: Hana Keber?

M2: Alhamdulillah sehat

In the first and the second line of the example, M1 and M2 do not used word “sinen” it show the speaker and the hear do not make good relationship and it

makes distance between one another. It is different when the person used word “sinen”.

M2. Keber sehat we sinen (Pretty well friend)

M1. Kune keber kuliah me sinen (How about your study friend)

M2. Alhamdulillah aman we sinen (It is good)

This conversation between M1 and M2 are the same age, but they always maintain their polite wherever, whoever in making good communication.

Different country has different politeness as Gayo tribe, the phenomenon in Gayo community in communication, male are more polite and talk more than female, but some of ethnic female are more polite than male, as what Lakoff (1999:165) says that females are more polite, hesitant, complain, cooperative and talk more in private context than men, women talk more than men, they are polite, hesitant, complain and ask more questions. (Keith, 1990). Being polite in Gayo language can be expressed through the use of words, addressing, asking, giving and greeting, for example when someone speaks to other he/she must chose the polite word in making the positive face of the hearer, then by using pronoun “we” making the speaker and hearer are intimate both of them. Therefore, this study is very interesting to discuss because it can help the male and female especially Gayo students to improve or make good communication in the society and to find out the politeness strategies of gender differences among Gayo students in community.

Misunderstanding can be avoided in interaction inter-ethnic culture if the people express their politeness through their own way and utterances, because different ethic has different way in expressing the politeness (Lakoff, 1999).

Culture is the characteristic of a particular group of people, defined by everything from language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts and culture refer to cumulative deposit of knowledge, experience, beliefs, value, meanings, hierarchies, religion, attitude, behavior, nation of time, roles, spatial relations, concept of universe and material and objects and possession acquired by a group of people in the course of generation through individual, culture also collective programming of the mind that distinguishes the members of one group or category of people from another. For example, in *Gayo tribe*, even one ethnic, Gayo people have different politeness between male and female in addressing someone as what Basow & Rubenfeld (2003:34) state that male and female conduct the communication in different culture. Sometime the people can be impolite when they can't identify the context or situation of the speaker. In communication the people have to choose the polite language, because different culture has own language and politeness. According to Brown (1999:165) language is a part of a culture and a culture is part of language; the two are intricately interwoven so that one cannot separate the two without losing the significance of either language or culture. Culture and language are inseparable because Language is a system of communication and interaction by members of society one to another such as getting and giving information and it is very important element in human's life in order to create relationship among them, so that politeness in speaking is not the same in every person, it based on their culture and habit.

Politeness is the term used to describe the extent to which actions, such the way to say something, (Brown and Levinson, 1987). Politeness is not something

people are born with, but something they have to learn and be socialized into (Watts, 2003:9). When the person speaks to the people, the utterances that she/he produces are actions to show their politeness. The utterances should be able to save the hearer's and feeling enjoyable. The utterance through the language users will be judged with the hearer's. Brown and Levinson (1987) formulate that politeness strategies has four types are bald on record strategy is a direct politeness strategy which contains no redress particle the face threatening act (FTA), positive politeness strategies is redress directed to the addressee's positive face. His perennial desire that his wants or the action/ acquisition/values resulting from them should thought of as desirable, negative politeness strategies is redress action addressed to the addressee's negative face, his want to have his freedom of action unhindered and his attention unimpeded. It is the heart of respect behavior and off record strategy is communicative act, not possible only one clear communication intention to the act. It means that is a speaker wants to do an FTA but wants to avoid the responsibility for doing it, he can do off record and leave it up to the addressee to decide how to interpret it. Politeness can be applied by the utterances with consider the hearer's or speaker's culture.

Gayo is one of several numbers of ethnic groups in Indonesia which known as ethnic group that uses politeness in communication and will happen also in Indonesia. Not only different culture different politeness but different gender also can making different politenes . According to Basow & Rubenfeld (2003:34) states that male and female conduct the communication in different culture. The communication between male and female are also available in Gayo tribe,

especially for Gayo students in their community. Male and female can be distinguished from two terms: sex and gender role. Sex refers to the biological differences that exist between female and male. Male and female have distinctive gender roles, (Croanbach, 1954). It means that gender roles are not innate differences but learned behaviors. In this case male and female have characteristics differences. For example, woman is known talk more active than men. Some of linguists believe that female are known of their low status in society and as the result, use more standard speech form, in their attempt to claim equality or achieve high social status. Female use more standard forms than male related to the ways in which society treats female. Female are designated the role of modeling correct behavior in the community, (Holmes, 1992:173). In view of this, female are accepted to speak more correctly. Gender and language are very interesting to be discussed because male and female acclaimed as having differences in cultures, power and status. Gender differences can make different mode of communication, especially in male and female differences in expressing politeness.

1.2. The Problems of the Study

The problems of the study are formulated as in the following:

1. What are the types of politeness strategies that used by male and female of Gayo students in Gayo community?
2. Why do male and female of Gayo students have some different strategies in expressing politeness in Gayo community?

1.3. Objective of the Study

1. To describe the types of politeness strategies that expressed by male and female of Gayo students.
2. To explain the reasons why do male and female of Gayo students have some different strategies in expressing politeness.

1.4. Scope of the Study

This study is attempted to investigate the politeness strategies used by Gayo students, especially in community who are university students in Medan and this study will be taken from two meeting from different date.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The finding of the study are expected to be significantly relevant theoretically and practically in some aspects. Theoretically, the research findings are expected to enrich the theories of linguistic politeness strategies, especially the spoken language in spoken medium by certain community in certain event.

Practically, since the research focuses on Gayo native speakers in expressing politeness, hopefully it is useful for lectures of sociolinguistic to apply the politeness to the sociolinguistic students in university and daily conversation and also practice the patterns of politeness which are used by the native Gayo.