

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Interaction among members of society is done by the use of a language. It means that language as a communication is central to all human existence and social process. To make the interaction fruitful, a medium of communication is obviously necessary because communication has an important role to express some ideas, feelings, thoughts, and intentions. Therefore, it seems impossible to do some interaction without using communication.

As time passes, and the world is developing, people tend to communicate with others of different languages, cultural backgrounds and gender. Gender and language are very interesting to be talked because male and female are sometimes claimed as having two different “cultures”, “power” and “status”. Basow and Rubinfeld (2003:34) state that male and female exist in different cultural worlds, which means that male and female belong to different culture of communication.

Tannen (1990:12) writes that gender plays important role to be discussed because it consists of trouble talk, intimacy and emotion as a mechanism for getting things done, accomplishing instrument tasks, conveying information, maintaining status and politeness between male and female. It means that gender differences can make different mode of communication, especially in male and female differences in expressing politeness.

Politeness is a way to show the respectful. One will try to be polite with other people to attract their attention. It means that politeness is very important rules in communicating, especially to know the position of the speaker. Nasution (1999:12) states that the level of politeness is fixed by the level of age. Even though there is a power relation and occupation between the speaker and the listener, politeness relates to community or culture.

Brown and Levinson (1987:101) states that there are two types of politeness namely positive and negative politeness. Positive politeness is the sphere of redress which is widened to the appreciation of one's wants in general or to the expression of similarity between ego's and one's wants. While, negative politeness is redressive action addressed to the addressee's negative face: his want to have his freedom of action unhindered and his attention unimpeded.

Yule (1996:2) states that it is possible to treat politeness as a fixed concept, as in the idea of polite social behavior or etiquette, within a culture. It means that it is also possible to specify a number of different general principles for being polite in social interaction within a particular culture. Some of these might include being tactful, generous, modest, and sympathetic toward others. Therefore, it can be assumed that politeness is related to such norms and principles exist in the society at large. Gender differences in expressing politeness has great role in making interaction runs successful. Most of female can deceive other an expression for respects person when they want to describe in terms of respects or deference. For example, when a female is criticized about something of her work, it will raise her emotional by modeling correct behavior in the

community. It means that when criticism is addressed to a woman, she will give some reasons which sometimes the reasons are uttered impolitely such as, it's not your business. This utterance is sounded by the female to protect her face. Therefore, it can raise a conflict over the meanings of politeness itself. In short, politeness must involve a sense of what is said in an interaction to make the communication run well between male and female. Therefore, this study is very interesting to discuss because it can help the male and female to make good communication in the society.

### **1.2 The Problems of the Study**

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

- 1). Why male and female have some different strategies in expressing politeness?
- 2). In what ways do the male and female show their different strategies in expressing politeness?

### **1.3 The Scope of the Problem**

In this study, the discussion focus on gender differences in expressing politeness. Gender plays important roles in some speech acts of human communication. Therefore, this study is limited on some differences between male and female in expressing politeness.

### **1.4 The Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study are:

- 1). to describe the reasons why male and female have some different strategies in expressing politeness.
- 2). to find out the ways of the male and female show their different strategies in expressing politeness.

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

A study on gender differences in expressing politeness is very interesting and challenging especially in the process of studying a language. A study on the politeness will provide a better understanding on how male and female differences in expressing politeness. There are some reasons to these differences which guide the readers to enlarge the knowledge about sociolinguistics.





