

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Study

Human beings use and need language everyday. They can express everything in their mind by using language to follow every human's activity. If someone cannot communicate with the other s/he would find everything in his or her world difficult, therefore it is important to see clearly what language is. Language is a means of communication. It is the important part of human existence and social process. By the ability to communicate, human being are able to express their ideas, to live and work. Without language, problems in society may appear legions and misunderstanding. The function or role of language is an institution whereby a human being communicates and interacts with one another by means of habitually used oral, auditory, arbitrary and symbols. In the light of this definition, language is viewed as a system of arbitrary, vocal, symbols, that permits all people who have learned the system of culture to communicative and interest.

People who speak a certain language share a certain culture too. The relationship between language and culture is correlated. Leviredge (2010) states that the relationship between language and culture is deeply rooted. Language is used to maintain and convey culture and cultural ties. Different ideas stem from different language use within one's culture and the whole aspects of these relationships start one's birth.

Language is used as a means of communication but also for its great concern with other field. In Indonesia, as one of the developing countries, English is learnt as a foreign language. Indonesia is constituted by numerous ethnic groups such as Javanese, Batakese, Acehnese and others. The Acehnese as one of the biggest ethnic groups in Indonesia and the biggest in Aceh. There some cultures in the Aceh namely Acehnese, Gayonese, Alasnese, etc. The Alasnese as one of ethnic groups in Aceh also learn English for special purposes such as tourism, education and occupational purposes Learning English for also learn English for special purposes such as tourism, education and occupational purposes. Learning English for the Alas is not easy because the patterns, structures and grammar of English are viewed as very different from the Alas. The differences can be seen in the pattern of the sentences.

Knowing the culture of the society will help us build comfortable interaction. One can be impolite if s/he cannot do interaction based on the context of situation. Different tribes have different ways on doing communication. When the speaker makes utterances to the hearer in context, the communication between speaker and hearer will success if it is understandable and the hearer can be understood the speaker meaning and intention in a context.

For Alas people, communicating and sharing ideas can be expressed in many ways for instance in the wedding ceremony. There are some figures of speech are used in the wedding ceremony especially in Alas wedding ceremony. Figures of speech or figurative language are words or groups of words used to

give particular emphasis to an idea or sentiment. A figure of speech expresses an idea or experience vividly, forcefully, and briefly. Sometimes figure of speech may seem even more direct than literal language because it helps the listener grasp important ideas immediately. In other words the figures of speech are forms of expression in which words are used differently from their normal meanings. According to Croll (1986:65) figures of speech are forms of expression that departs from normal word or sentence order or from common literal meanings for words, for the purpose of achieving a special effect.

In broad outline, figure of speech can be divided in to four kinds (Kosasih: 2007:121) 1)Comparison figure of speech; 2)Substitution figure of speech; 3)Addition or amplification figure of speech; 4)Omission or Suppression figure of speech. Where comparison figures of speech consist of simile, metaphor, allegory, and personification. Substitution figures of speech consist of metonymy, synecdoche, merism, euphemism, and irony. Then, addition or amplification figures of speech consist of parallelism, repetition, hyperbole, climax, and anticlimax. And the last is omission or Suppression figures of speech consist of ellipsis, erotesis, and meiosis.

In Alas wedding ceremony, there exist *ngekhane*. *Ngekhane* is a kind of cultural address, where the terms used are different from what we always hear in daily communication. *Ngekhane* consists of three parts, namely: opening, body of speech, and closing. The function of *ngekhane* is to make communication and diplomacy easier when wedding ceremony is taking place. If there is

miscommunication, the bride side will make the process of ceremony more difficult. And it will give bad effect on the wedding ceremony.

In *ngekhane* use many figures of speech that are difficult to understand by common people because *ngekhane* words or utterances are different from daily conversation.

The use of figurative language in *ngekhane* is suitable with the ideology in Alas that is speaks based on the place, and polite in order not make the listener feel offended. But, Alas people who know the meaning of utterance in *ngekhane* is limited. Only certain person can understand the meaning that is the leader of tradition and the people who has high knowledge about literature Alas. Communication will be success if listener can understand the message (Miller: 2005). In the fact by using many figures of speech, make the listener do not understand the meaning of *ngekahne*. It is mean the function of communication is not run well.

As Trudgill (2000) argues that, language is closely associated with social structure and culture value system. And he also states that language as a social phenomenon is closely tied up with the social structure and value system of society. It is mean that language cannot be separated with the social structure and culture value system. By language a culture will be exist and the other hand.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in exploring deeply the figure of speech in Alas wedding ceremony.

The Problems of Study

The focus of this study is to find “How figures of speech are used in Alas wedding ceremony”? In order to answer the question, the problems of research are formulated as in the following.

1. What figures of speech are used in Alas wedding ceremony ?
2. What is the type of figure of speech dominantly used in Alas culture ?
3. How do these figures of speech reflect the cultural values of Alas?

1.3 The Objectives of Study

Related to the problems , the objectives of the study are .

1. describe figure of speech in Alas wedding ceremony,
2. derive the dominant figure of speech in the Alas wedding ceremony, and
3. describe underlying cultural values in the figure of speech used in the wedding ceremony.

1.4 The Scope of Study

In Alas wedding ceremony there are several steps and one of them is Peperi.. In Peperi there exists *Ngekahane* before marriage agreement. they will use *Ngekahane* as a welcoming utterance and the utterance uses figure of speech.

In this case the study is limited on figure of speech that is used at *Ngekahane* in Alas wedding ceremony.

1.5 The Significances of Study

Finding of the study are expected to give both theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the findings of the present study are expected to be useful for those who are interested in sociolinguistics especially for lecturers in teaching sociolinguistics. They can use this research to enlarge their knowledge about the kinds of figures of speech that is used in Alas wedding ceremony. Practically, the findings can useful for researchers who are concerned with Alas wedding ceremony then the writer hopes that this research will provide additional references for those who want to conduct studies in this field and as a device to maintain Alas's culture from extinction.

