

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is a centre to social interaction in every society regardless of location, and time period. It cannot separate from society and culture. Language gives influence how groups in a given society are separated by certain social variables like ethnicity, status, gender, age and level of education. Spoken language has always been very important, but it was also the source of many misunderstandings for everyone especially for different gender. These misunderstandings are claimed to emerge because each gender uses language differently.

Beside spoken language, the written language has also become important. As in the spoken language, in the written language, one can see that there are some differences in writing style of men and women. The issue of gender and writing style has been widely debated. Some studies have found that student writing style does differ depending on the gender of the author. Keroes (1990) argues that women's writing tends to focus more on personal experience than does men's. Argamon (2003) states that women in their writing will use pronoun a lot. The using of pronoun will be female preferential which are regarded interactional. It is used to encode the relationship between the writer and the reader; meanwhile, the male preferential forms are the determiner and quantifier which are regarded as informational.

In contrary with previous finding, Sembiring (2016) finds that male and female share same linguistic characteristics. She was conducted the research about

linguistics characteristics of male and female in families in different ethnics and social status. The results of the study are there are no consistent linguistic of male and female in stating their arguments in families with different ethnics and social status, some men may characterize their language to represent either, their powerful and powerlessness.

Here is a data that support the finding above. The woman who has low status and Javanese ethnic use men's linguistic characteristics; 1) direct "ahh, ak tahu lah, pokoknya umi palak kali, besok ayah cari gantinya!" 2) self reference "gitulah, kalau mau beli apa-apa gak bilang-bilang sama umi." 3) less of politeness "ayah ini belinya entah dimana-mana gak bilang-bilang pula." (Sembiring: 2016).

In line with that finding, the researcher also found the same thing in PPL experience that there is no consistent linguistic showed by male and female students with different ethnics giving their argument, for example the Javanese female student who is known as polite and indecisive, but the researcher found that she is direct, "ekstrakurikuler disini gak enak Miss, mereka lihat fisik buat ngerekrutnya", less of politeness "laki-lakinya gak ada yang beres Miss makanya ketua kelasnya perempuan"

Besides, Utari (2017) studies about linguistic characteristic of male and female senior high school students in writing argumentative paragraph. It was found that in writing argumentative paragraph, there are no consistent characteristics of the language used by both male and female students. But, generally, men are direct in stating what they want to state and it makes them heard impolite. It is to show their powerful in society. Some male students may

characterize their languages to represent either their powerless and powerfulness. They used man's linguistic characteristic and also women linguistic characteristic in their writing. The same thing also happens to the female students.

The genre of argumentative writing is an important and influence language process, essential of dealing with many aspects of school knowledge and effective social participation. It is a process that involves reasoning, evaluation and persuasion. The genre of arguing is a fundamental language process for learning how to give an opinion, write about a topical issue or give reasons for a viewpoint. Students should employ the genre of arguing. By writing argumentative text, they know how to express their opinion and to give reasons for a particular point of view (Knapp and Watkins, 2005).

Based on the previous data, it was assumed that male and female have their own linguistics characteristics in expressing their opinion in writing argumentative. The female students expressed more emotion and experiential reference in their writing whereas the males relied on more logical argumentation.

Geographically, Indonesia belongs to Asian countries. Asian culture is said to have different culture from Western's. Western value is individualism in which individuals should have sufficient freedom. On the contrary, Asians' values is collectivism who see themselves as parts of one or more groups (family, co-workers, tribes, nations) and emphasize their connectedness to members of these collectives (Connor, 2008). Western rhetoric is characterized by practical and scientific orientation, and factual concrete evidence; they are more direct in their argumentation. Meanwhile, Asian's is typically humanistic aesthetic orientation and subjective in providing evidence. Therefore, they tend to use indirect

approach in their argumentation (Kaplan as cited Sibarani, B and Pandia, B, 2020). However, culture cannot be regarded as national entity; within a culture, there are variations of rhetoric (Comfortas cited Sibarani, B and Pandia, B, 2020).

Indonesia consists of various ethnic groups such as Bataknese, Javanese, Sundanese, Manado, etc. Their rhetorical pattern will be varied although they belong to Asian culture which will be in line with Comfort's statement.

Bataknese and Javanese are two of many ethnics in Indonesia that have very particular characteristic in the way they communicate. Muriyantina (2011) said that Javanese and Batak are usually seen as two opposite culture based on the way they communicate with other. According to Tobing (2014) Batak people have certain characteristic such as impolite, egoistic and dare. In traditional Batak is not advisable to salute such excessive, they will directly to what they want to say. Bataknese in their communication will not to be outdone, even if lost; they would make a lot of reasons. Therefore, Batak people have high confidence (not that shameless) so that in all things would be in front. On the other hand, Javanese in general are assumed as polite and calm, that make people often seen them as polite, and else 'tidak tegas' or indecisive (Muryantina, 2011). Javanese are known as polite in their communication. Javanese language has variation depending on their social class, context, styles, and registers which is completely different in every degree depending on the age and the social class of the addressee. Even though, in general, they will always keep their politeness in every communication they do by not to be straightforward to clear their feeling. The shape of the politeness in Javanese who always try to not to be straightforward to clear their feeling is done to keep their principle of balance as the identity of

Javanese culture. They believe that they cannot be straight-forward because it can be considered as rude and impolite.

Based on the previous researches; however male and female write the argumentative writing in the way they do the researcher interests to study about the gender writing style of Bataknese and Javanese senior high school students in writing argument.

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

The problem of the study is formulated as follow:

1. What are the characteristics of gender writing style of Bataknese and Javanese students?
2. Why do they have characteristics the way they do?

### **1.3 The Objectives of the Study**

In relation to the problems, the objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the characteristics of gender writing style of Bataknese and Javanese students
2. To describe the reason of male and female Bataknese and Javanese students' writing style characteristics the way they do

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

This study is limited to the study of gender writing styles among Bataknese and Javanese Senior High School students of grade XI in writing argument. The writing style will be examined and categorized into its characteristic.

### 1.5 The Significance of the Study

Findings of this study are expected to be significantly relevant theoretical and practical aspects:

1. Theoretically, the findings of the study are expected to widen and strengthen the theory of gender writing style on how the writing style of male and female of Bataknese and Javanese senior high school students write argument the way they are
2. Practically, the findings are expected to be useful for
  - Other researchers, as a reference for conducting further research in relation to this topic.
  - Teachers in their teaching learning process know that there are a difference writing styles that is used by different gender of Bataknese and Javanese students in their writing.