# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the study which consists of background, statement of the problem, research objective, research significance and definition of key terms.

## 1.1 Background

Women and men are members of a society. Interestingly, they have a very significant difference between male and female when they are communicating. Different languages used between men and women can be seen from characteristics language used. Gender issues cannot be avoided in society, because it is an important part of society.

Gender is also something avoided because humans live in a society that demands gender still exist. The people who are entitled to determine who they choose and believe to do something. Those who can judge what can be done. Because gender is an important component for explaining identity within a society. (Wardhaugh, 2006: 316)

Wardhaugh (2006:315) presents claim relating to gender and language variations. He mentions that biologically men and women are different and this difference has serious consequences on gender. Women usually have a non-competitive character and are concerned with the relationship with other. On the

other hand, men tend to put their independence. From the description, it can be concluded that men and women have their own rules and characteristics in the language so that sometimes leads to misunderstanding.

Language has always been an interesting object to be in search of its uniqueness, or oddities. The language of men and women are an unfamiliar discussion. There have been many studies that mention differences and equality of male and female languages. The discussion of gender never lasted until the era of modernization, because human beings who have not really advanced. Some people still doubt the interpretation of women is still not feasible to be a law, because the language of the woman is weak and has no strength.

Almost everyone mentions that women are gossip addict, they always talk a lot when in an association or when they meet fellow women, and often this time into a conversation in the community. Men known for their tendency to always speak as necessary if they think it needs to be said they will say it, but if it is not necessary to say they will be silent, but it turns out the assumption is the opposite. In fact, men talk more than men when they meet fellow men. Even when gathering tends to be noisier than women. While women are very careful in speaking, they will not talk about what they do not know. In the interpretation of al- Qur'an own new women dare to interpret the Qur'an in the modern era. Because of the limitation of science in the old era caused no women to interpret the Qur'an.

The gender stereotypes of modern society say that women talk more than men. Women are known to always be on the phone or gossip with their friends, or 'talk around' what they are trying to communicate, whereas the stereotypical man says what he wants to say and then keeps quiet. This theory has been proven wrong by almost all research carried out on the subject. Men talk more than women in almost all settings, such as staff meetings (Eakins and Eakins, 1978:86), panel discussions broadcasted on TV and spontaneous conversation between spouses (Soskin & John, 1963: 256).

Gender and sex are words that always make misunderstanding in society. In fact, both of thing are very different. Gender is not something we are born it and not something we have, but something we do (West and Zimmerman, in Eckret & Ginet, 2003:10) something we perform (Hitler, in Eckret & Ginet 2003:10). Gender is something that will be known when someone has entered into a society, because gender is not owned by someone when they are born, but something that was done when he was in the community. While sex is something we born it, and something we have. Usually, this is often happening in determining work. Bias gender is often clearly seen in this case, in some works sometimes omen cannot be involved due to various factors. Although now it has entered the modern era, there are still some people who still assume that omen do not deserve to do certain things. So that bias gender often arises and this become one of the gender stereotypes in a society.

The interpretation of the Qur'an is written by some religious experts or also called ulama. Usually, the interpretation of the Qur'an is divided into several

references, some are called ijma and there is also qiyas. The first Ijma and qiyas agreed after the death of the Prophet Muhammad, usually used to determine Islamic law in a region or country. The author of the Quranic interpretation is usually a man. One of the forms of Ijma or qiyas is a islamic traditional text ( Kitab Kuning) in the book, there are several interpretations of the Qur'an that have been agreed upon, then written by an author. Female writers have not been found from various existing islamic traditional text (Kitab Kuning). But the knowledge was written by men mostly comes from women. Therefore this study aims to find out why women's writing has never been made to determine the source of Islamic law, whereas in this modern era there have been many women who wrote about the interpretation of the Qur'an.

The interpretation of the Qur'an began at the era prophet Muhammad SAW, The method used the traditional interpretation. This traditional model's interpretation seems to be exclusive, written only by men. It is not surprising that only the awareness and experience of men are accommodated in it. Whereas the experience, vision, and perspective of women must also enter in it, thus there is no patriarchal bias that can trigger and spur on gender inequalities family or social life. (Amina Wadud, 1999:2)

Lakoff (1975:45-79) argues that women's language has own characteristic called "features of women language". She argues that the language features used by women have 10 characteristics that are Lexical hedges or fillers, e.g. you know, sort of, well, you see, Tag questions, e.g. she's very nice, isn't she?, Rising intonation on

declarative, e.g. it's really good, 'Empty adjectives', e.g. divine, charming, cute, Precise colour terms, e.g. magenta, aquamarine, Intensifiers such as just and so, 'Hypercorrect' grammar, e.g. consistent use of standard verb forms, 'Super polite' forms, e.g. indirect requests, euphemisms, Avoidance of strong swear words, e.g. fudge, my goodness, Emphatic stress, e.g. it was a brilliant performance.

Those are the elements of women language Lakoff the main focus that woman's language is more powerlessness and weak than man. On the other hand, Crawford Eckert (2003:158) have argued such wrongly assume that it is deficits in individual women that explain their relative powerlessness. It can be concluded that a woman's language is not always powerlessness or weak than men.

The difference in language between women and men, to make a difference in every aspect. Differences in language characters used by women and men have always been the talk of the wider society. Differences in the character of that language too influenced their interpretation in interpreting the Qur'an.

This research focused on how the language influence and gender stereotypes by Amina Wadud and Dzakir Naik in the interpretation of the Holy Qur'an. In the book Qur'an and Women by Amina and the Qur'aan and Modern Science by Dzakir Naik, writer about their interpretation of the verse that is in the Holy Qur'an. Each book usually is written into some of the chapters. In both of the books, the researcher takes only one chapter in which there is the same discussion that is the interpretation of the Qur'an verse about the process of human creation.

The research of about characteristics language and gender or gender stereotype is not the first time. The other research is carried out by Valentina Bošković, MA English language teacher Faculty of Business, Singidunum University in her journal, entitled "Gender Stereotypes and Gender Different in Language use". It talks about gender differences in language use respond about some question, and gender stereotypes in society in a way give them choice in the job. In the other research Marshelina Fatin (2014) in her graduating paper entitled "The Difference between Men and Women Language Style in Writing Twitter Updates". This Research talking about the different status updates for man and women on average Twitter users write about the same context, language form, and writing style on Twitter Updates. The difference between this research is object study, in this research will be talked about how the characteristics of language influence in interpretation the Holy Qur'an. Then the writer entitles this research with The Characteristics of Language and gender stereotypes generated in Interpretation of Holy Qur'an by Amina Wadud And Dzakir Naik.

## 1.2. Statement of Problems

The main problem of the research is the analysis of The Different of Language used in the interpretation of Qur'an by Amina Wadud and Dzakir Naik. Based on the background above can be formulated into some research question as follow:

1. How do characteristics of the language influence on the interpretation of Qur'an by Amina Wadud and Dzakir Naik?

2. How do gender stereotypes generated in interpretation of Holy Qur'an by Amina Wadud and Dzakir Naik?

## 1.3. Research Objectives

Based on the research questions above, the research objective can be formulated as follows:

1. To find out the characteristics of the language influence in the interpretation of the Qur'an by Amina Wadud and Dzakir Naik.

2. To find out gender stereotypes are generated in interpretation of Holy Qur'an by Amina Wadud and Dzakir Naik.

## 1.4 Research significances

These research significances are divided into to, theoretical and practical a follow:

1. Theoretical, this research is expected to give contribution I developing our knowledge in sociolinguistics, especially about language and gender, characteristic of language, and gender stereotype.

2. Practically, this research has a practical guide for students to improve they are analytical in the field of sociolinguistics, especially in the proces of categorizing characteristic language influence and gender stereotypes in interpretation of holy Qur'an, and groundwork for the further specific research.

**1.5 Definition of the Key term**

This section describes about several terms which are appeared frequently in this paper in order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding. This chapter is made in order to make the meaning clearly defined and to avoid misunderstanding the meaning of terms used in this research. The explanation below will provide clarification terms of language, gender, gender stereotype, characteristics, and interpretation.

1. Language

Language is a tool of communication with each other. Using words, signs, movement or gesture, so the other people understand what is meant by the speaker. Language can also be called a tool to be able to convey thoughts, ideas, concepts or feelings. Good language develops based on a system, namely a set of rules that are followed by the user. The language itself functions as a means of communication as well as a means of integration and adaptation.

2. Gender

Gender is a socially constructed role, and responsibility for that person becomes a girl or boy, and become a man or women, and in some cultures a third or another gender. Gender we not born with it. Gender role very greatly in a particular society, historical periods, and also depend on socio-economic, education, age, ethnicity and religion. Although gender is very influential in a society, it does not rule out the

possibility that the gender role will change over time, due to different social values and norm in a society.

3. Characteristics

Characteristics is a quality or certain characteristic that distinguishes between someone or something. Characteristic there to find out what are the advantages and disadvantages of something.to find out what is different from something or someone, to be able to better recognize in more detail.

4. Gender stereotypes

Gender stereotypes is a community views or attitudes towards men and women. Stereotypes are generalizations from groups towards people who are in them. The Stereotype is a certain view of someone based on a subjective category. The stereotype is based on our interpretation produce on the basis of perspective and cultural background.

5. Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis performs a unit of linguistics analysis of the use of spoken and written language the involves the delivery of messages with the recipient of the message in the act of communication. (Slembrouck, 2003:1)