

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with background of research, statement of problems, research objectives and research significances.

1.1. Background of Problem

Every language user has their own special characteristic in using language to communicate each other. It usually makes the differences and similarity in many aspects of language itself. There are many differences and similarity in human life that makes language also be different and similar, and gender is one of them.

Gender, which is one of the effects of feminist movement, is the interesting topic to talk about. West and Zimmerman (1987: 34) pinpoints that gender is not something we born with and something we have, but it is something we do and perform. Talking about gender is talking about differences and dominances between them although there are also the similarities between them. In line with that statement, Lakoff in Eckert (2003: 2) argue that the study of language and gender is focused on differences and dominance issues between man and woman.

The differences and similarities between man and woman are usually found when they doing communication. When people do communication, there are always the acts in saying something, which known as speech act. According to Searle (1969:

23-24) there are four stages of speech act: utterance acts Propositional acts, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. He classified illocutionary act into five categories: assertive, commissives, expressive, declaratives, and directives.

Question is one of directive examples, when it is said by speaker it makes the hearer give response and answer (Searle, 1969). Questions are produced from human critical thinking. Asking question is the way to know about something or to get information. Every people will have different way to think something, or even they have similar idea and critics in something they will have any difference in say their purpose. In the process of study and learning question is the way to get more explanation about the material of learning. Questions are also used for sharing information between other students. One of the methods of learning activity that used questions to get more information is discussion.

In learning activity, discussion as an activity in which people talk together in order to share information about a topic or problem or to seek possible available evidence or a solution. Classroom discussion provided motivation, students became more motivated through taking an interest in their peers' claims and positions within a discussion (Chapin, O'Connor, and Anderson: 2003). In that situation every participants share their knowledge and information to the others, response the speaker explanations, and give answer to participants' questions.

Question in classroom discussion is used to say the ignorance of critical thinking (Fiengo, 2007). Every person has their own view on something and they will be expressed what they think in their own way, it seen in the way they delivering the

question. Many difference questions will be delivered by students even in the same view of something. Because of those phenomena, the delivering question in the classroom discussion will be the focus of this analysis. Classroom discussion is one of learning methods in English department of UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Contemporary Critical Theory is one of subjects, which practice the classroom discussion as the method of learning. In that discussion, the students should speak English in delivering their critical thinking, such as questions and arguments. When attending that discussion, many questions are delivered from students to presenters. From questions that are delivered, the writer has seen there are some types and characteristics of male and female language in delivering questions. The writer has found that most questions are delivered by woman.

The differences and similarities between male and female related to language and gender is the interesting topic to be analyzed, but only some of research that have analyzed the questions. One of them is Putri Francisca Utari (2012). In her paper, she analyzed Tag Question in man and woman utterance in Talkshow Larry King Live and The Oprah Winfrey Show. This research aims to describe the types and the functions of tag question that are found in the men and women utterance in Talk show Larry King Live and The Oprah Winfrey Show. The research result shows that types of tag question found in men and women utterance in Talk show Larry King Live and The Oprah Winfrey Show are declarative tag and exclamative tag. The functions of those words are as softener, facilitator and expressing uncertainty. Both

women and men are using tag question despite having different purposes. In women tag question is used more as a facilitator, while the men used to indicate uncertainty.

According to that case, the writer is interested in analyzing the use of questions between male and female in the classroom discussion. The similarity of that previous study with the research that will be done by writer is the analysis about the topic of language and gender. Different from the previous study by Utari (2012) that concern on the differences in using tag question between man and woman, The writer will analyze the use of questions between male and female students in the classroom discussion. Six semesters students of English Department in UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung will be objects of this research. They are chosen for the objects of this analysis because of the assumption that they have experience in doing the classroom discussion.

1.2. Statement of Problems

Based on the research background above, the problem of this research is about the use of questions between male and female students in the classroom discussion, thus the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of question used by male and female students in the classroom discussion?
2. What are the characteristics of male and female students' language in delivering questions in the classroom discussion?

1.3. Research Objectives

In accordance with the problem above, the purpose of research are follows:

1. To identify the types of question used by male and female in the classroom discussion
2. To identify the characteristics of male and female students language in delivering questions

1.4. Research Significances

In this research, the significances of study is divided in two categories, there are practical and theoretical significances. Theoretically, this research can complete the knowledge for writer and reader about the study language and gender in relation with communication, especially to know more about the type of questions and the characteristics of male and female student's language in delivering questions in the classroom discussion. Practically, this research can give more information about the type of directive speech act especially questions. Furthermore, this research to be a reference directed for those who are interested in doing the same topic in language and gender.