CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Language has an important role in human's life as a way of communication. As social human being surrounded by the society, people must interact with each other. They use language as a part which makes a link between all people in the world. People also express their feeling and idea through language with different topic such as compliment, agreement, disagreement, interruption, and many more. On the other hand, people must respond to whatever topic the speaker stated.

Compliment is a part of topic, which occurs in daily conversation. Consciously or unconsciously, Indonesian people give the compliment to someone who can be praised. According to Wolfson (1983), Herbert (1990), and Holmes (1995), people who have the same status is more frequently stating the compliment each other (Kuntjara, 2003, p. 67). Based on the theory of book *Sociolinguistic*, Manes (1983) and Holmes (1986) said that the compliment that is usually given is about appearance, ability, possessions, and some aspects of friendliness (Paulston and Tucker, 2003, p. 187). Furthermore, the compliment that is stated has a positive strategy to show positive face (Brown and Levinson). In other word, the speaker gives the compliment to continue and keep in a relationship. Basically, compliment will be causing the recipient feel satisfied for something has been done properly.

There are many ways to give the compliment, and there are many ways to respond them. Every people have a different way in responding compliment stated. It might happen because there are some factors, such as gender, background of culture, situation, status, and so on. Based on a discovery by Herbet (1990), there are twelve types of compliment response which appears in responding praise (Rosemarie, 1997, p. 8). They are appreciation token, comment acceptance, praise upgrade, comment history, reassignment, return, scale down, question, disagreement, qualification, no acknowledgement, and request interpretation.

One factor of the compliments that is analyzed in the paper is gender. Everybody knows that man and woman have a different manner to speak. Gray (1992) claimed that the way woman and man talk to each other is definetely not the same, including the way in expressing themselves, the way in stating opinions, and the way in sharing ideas (Kalingga, 2010, p. 1). Then, the writer finds that it would be such an interesting research to analyze how gender affects compliment responses. Moreover, the writer has personal interest in gender differences itself. Why are they so different?

Through this research, the writer wants to investigate the differences between males and females in responding compliments in Indonesian. The writer also figures out the dominant type of compliment responses from each gender.

1.2. Statement of Problem

This research seeks to find out the types of compliment responses based on female and male expressions in the daily conversation. In order to seek the answer for this problem, the research is aimed to answer the following questions:

1. Are there any differences between male and female in using compliment responses?

2. What types of compliment responses are most frequently used by male and female?

1.3. Scope and Limitation

This analysis would be done based on the scope of sociolinguistics since it deals with language usage in the society. Specifically, the writer focuses on analyzing the differences of compliment responses between male and female in responding compliment-using Indonesian, within twelve types of compliment response by Herbert (1990): appreciation token, comment acceptance, praise upgrade, comment history, reassignment, return, scale down, question, disagreement, qualification, no acknowledgement, and request interpretation.

In this research, the writer limits her study by choosing 80 participants that consists of 40 males and 40 females. It is aimed to get the equal number of the data from both male and female to generalize. The participants are taken from the university students in Jakarta and they are all Indonesian. Their ages are around nineteen to twenty one years old. The writer chooses them because they are considered coming from the same status as students. Besides, they are also assumed to have more self-determination to respond any statement given, so that it can be useful to provide the data for the writer. The compliment and responses given are all in Indonesian. The reason why the conversation is provided in Indonesian because we live in Indonesia country and Indonesian is the language which is used in daily conversation

1.4. Goal and Function

Goal:

By conducting this research, the writer intends to find out whether there are any differences between females and males in responding compliments using Indonesian. Besides, the writer wants to know the dominant type of compliment responses used by females and males.

Functions:

Through this investigation, the writer dedicates this research to those who really appreciate sociolinguistics. The writer hopes the readers will get additional knowledge regarding to compliment responses based on gender. Hopefully, this research will be useful for further investigation by contributing some findings for English Literature students who are interested in this topic.

1.5. Research Method

In conducting the research, the writer uses library research and field research in order to discuss this issue. The research is conducted by selecting textbooks and journals related to the topic in some libraries. The writer also browses online for articles to collect data and information.

In analyzing the data, the writer uses qualitative approach. Firstly, the writer searches and collects the participants. The participants who have the qualifications would be the participants of the research. Secondly, the speaker states the compliment and records the dialogue that occurs among the participants. In collecting the data, the writer is also helped by a male speaker. Finally, the writer will summarize the findings of the analysis to come into a conclusion about the research.