CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters of the study. They are background of the study, research problems, general objective, specific objectives of the study, and significance of the study. They are explained in detail below.

1.1. Background of the Study

Language is the primary medium for communication between people to build a relationship with others. In fact, people use language to share their ideas and thoughts. To share their ideas or thoughts, people sometimes communicate their intention through utterances.

According to Taylor (1990:5), a language is a system of signs used to convey messages. By language, either spoken or written, people deliver their thought to one another. Hence, language becomes important in daily communication, as a medium of transferring and receiving meaning. Regarding this, language plays a very important role in communication. In the interaction, people tend to request others to reach their goals or intentions. Therefore, the existence of language in society becomes more critical to facilitate people reaching their needs. In other words, language becomes a means of communication since it is needed to create a good relationship with others.

In communication, people sometimes make request expressions. Making request expressions toward other people is done in daily life and it shows that people need others' help. Request expression is an act of asking something or

asking an addressee to do something for the speaker. A request is somehow more polite than an order since a request is believed as asking somebody to do something than telling somebody to do something (Maloni, 1982: 23).

Moreover, in communicating people share their ideas or thoughts, also people sometimes communicate their intention through utterances. To understand the meaning of an utterance, people need to have adequate pragmatic competence. Pragmatic competence is the awareness of what is (not) proper in the context (Kasper, 1997). However, it should be noted that the pragmatic competence may be different from one culture to another. The pragmatic competence can be observed from the use of speech act in a communication. Austin (1962) defines speech act as the actions performed in saying something. Through speech acts, people can perform a specific action by uttering an utterance. An utterance can perform these following acts: apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise or request.

A request is a speech act performed by utterances such as ordering, complaining, promising, and requesting among others (Austin, 1962). It is the expectation of the speaker that the hearer will react to what is said with either verbal or non-verbal behaviour. A request therefore is seen as an illocutionary act in which the speaker asks the hearer to perform an act which is for the benefit of the speaker (Trosborg, 1995). In regard to request, Searle (1969) defines request as an act that considered as an effort by a speaker (S) to make hearer (H) do something, and which in S assumption, H is capable of doing what S wants. However, the result of the request is not clear that H will do an act that S requested.

Searle (1969) classifies the illocutionary acts as: representatives, directives, expressives, commissives and declaratives. A request is defined as a directive speech act whose purpose is to get the hearer to do something which he would otherwise not have done under normal circumstance (Searle, 1969).

Furthermore, requests are an everyday occurrence. They happen all the time as people interact and different people have different ways of requesting. In communicative events of the daily situations, various forms are used by the speakers to get their audience to do what the speaker wants or even to get the audience to react in a certain way. In the other word, it can be said that request speech acts are a way to convey feeling or wishing of the speaker that the hearer will do something for him or her.

The coding framework for requests distinguishes nine types of expressions that differ according to the level of directness. The nine expression types were classified into three main categories: Direct requests, conventional indirect requests, and nonconventional indirect requests. The three main categories are explained as follows: First, the most direct or explicit level, this is level includes imperatives. Second, the conventionally indirect level, which includes could and would in the request. Third, Non-conventionally indirect level, at this level the request will be made in the form of hints.

People cannot deny that making request is a common thing in life. It is for that reason that the writer wants to know the request types that take place in particular places, especially in Manggarai language. Manggarai Language (ML) is the main local language spoken by Manggaraian Language Speakers (MLS) in three Manggarai Regencies: Manggarai Regency, West Manggarai Regency, and

East Manggarai Regency. These regencies are commonly called "Great Manggarai" (Erom, 2016).

The Manggarai language (Manggarai: Tombo Manggarai, Indonesia: Bahasa Manggarai) is the native language of the Manggarai people from the western parts of the island of Flores, in East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia. The Manggarai language is part of the Austronesian family, and is therefore related to Indonesian and other Malay varieties. It has 900.000 of Manggaraian native speaker (Wikipedia, 2014). Manggaraian Language consists of four major dialects such as Manggarai dialect, West Manggarai dialect, Manggarai dialect/S/>/H/ (MSH), phoneme /s/ has shifted to /h/, and East Manggarai dialect (Verheijen in Semiun, 1967: 16).

Based on some definitions of request stated by many authors above, the writer is interested to conduct a study in Manggarai language entitled **"An Analysis of Request Expressions in Manggarai Language".** This present study will only focus on requests expression used in Manggarai language based on daily situation. To establish and discuss the forms of requests expressions in Manggarai language, this study uses the classification of request patterns proposed in the Cross-Cultural Study of Speech Act Realization Pattern (CCSARP) proposed by Blum-Kulka et al.'s (1989).

In request strategy, there are also gender differences in male and female speakers in different ways within the community. In relation to gender, women may carry out requests differently compared to men since it has been generally claimed that women often use more polite forms of language than men. Various studies have been conducted over the years to explore this assertion. One such

study is the one done by Hadisantosa (2005). She conducted a research to study the request strategies used by American native speakers of English living in Jakarta in terms of directness and indirectness within a family interaction setting. The result of her study showed that fathers are more indirect in their requests to their children compared to mothers. This supports the claim of the difference in requests performed by men and women, although it is different with the general claim that women tend to use more indirect language than men.

Many studies have been conducted in the area of request. Several previous studies have found that people apply indirect request strategies rather than direct request strategies to the interlocutors. Some researchers were focusing on a cross-cultural approach, comparing one culture to another. However, this study investigated the request strategies in a single language, without comparing it with other languages. This study only focused on the use of request expressions of Manggarai language. This study is small scale which involves native speaker of Manggarai and aims to find out the Manggarai people' understanding in the use of request expression and whether gender matter in the use of request expressions in Manggarai language.

1.2. Research Problems

Based on the background above, the writer identifies two problems that formulated in questions below:

1. What are request expressions in Manggarai Language?

2. Does gender matter in the use of request expressions?

1.3 General Objective

The purpose of this study is to analyze request expressions used in Manggarai language and in the gender matter in the use of request expression in Manggarai Language.

1.4 Specific Objectives of the Study

To specify the general objectives, the following specific objectives are presented.

1. To find out request expressions used in Manggarai language

2. To find out whether or not gender matter in the use of request expressions in Manggarai language

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give theoretical, practical and pedagogical significance to the readers. Theoretically, this study aims to determine the study of request expressions used in Manggarai language.

Practically and pedagogically, this study aims to add new knowledge for readers to carry out request expressions in order that readers can find out the right request expressions in Manggarai language to avoid misunderstanding between the speaker and the interlocutors.