

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains four subchapters of the study. They are background of the Study, Research Problems, Objective of the Study, and Significance of the Study. They are explained in detail below.

1.1 Background of the Study

Gratitude is a lifestyle left behind by the times in the world modern life. Gratitude is also an emotion and value that is put aside in psychology (Emmons, 2004: 3-16). There is no age limit for individuals who must have gratitude because gratitude should be owned by every individual at every age level, including the level of children and adolescents (Tian, 2015; Froh, 2010, Killen & Ann; 2015). Peterson and Seligman (2004) said one of the most beneficial positive forces for individual self is gratitude. Cicero (1851; in Emmons, 2004) also say gratitude is not only the greatest virtue, but is the mother of all virtues. Gratitude is a happy feeling in receiving and obtaining gifts from alternative individuals, from circumstances, and from God.

Humans often receive all gifts from other individuals, from circumstances, and from God, and they will respond to each gift, how to respond also varies, depending on the object of the gift and sometimes situations and conditions also affect each person to express his gratitude. Gratitude can be used as a foundation to help other individuals, because there is a sense of other individuals to do well.

Related to the gratitude, language plays a very important role in almost all fields of life such as: communication, commerce, economy, politics, education, science, technology, and

social life. Language connects people to each other in social relationship and allows them to participate in a variety of activities in everyday life (Agha, 2007: 1). Language also functions as social controls, social integration, and adaptation since it can be used to build cooperation with others (Keraf, 1973: 13-14). It is also a tool of communication and interaction among the people in a society (Alwasilah, 1983: 81). As a tool of communication, language can be used or expressed in two ways: verbal and non-verbal. In verbal communication, a speaker expresses language orally or in the spoken form, while in non-verbal communication, a speaker uses body movements or gestures. From that reason, it can be said that language has a unique characteristic in its role as a tool of making communication.

In a language we have a term called dialect. The term dialect in sociolinguistics is used to describe the speech characteristics of a region (regional dialect) and of a group of people defined by social or occupational characteristics (social dialect) (Mesthrie, et al. 2000: 45). Furthermore, a language is determined by the culture of its society. Based on some different systems of the language above, the writer is interested in doing a study of gratitude terms in Tetun Fehan dialect of Tetun Language spoken by the people in Lasaen.

Tetun language is a language spoken by the people who reside in North part of Belu Regency and South of Malaka Regency of Timor Island. It belongs to Austronesia language. Tetun Fehan dialect is a dialect spoken by people living in West part of Malaka regency. Meanwhile, the terms of gratitude are the terms used by people to honor each other in daily life (Pateda, 1997: 16). Terms of gratitude are used by people to show politeness and honorifics. Terms of gratitude in a community are influenced by some factors, such as identity, age, sex, kinship terms and social status. Although there are some sentences that used in general when

expressing gratitude, to anyone and in any situation. The terms of gratitude in its daily use, some of them are the following.

1) *Obrigado Barak*

‘Thank you so much’

2) *Terima Kasih Wain*

‘Thank you very much’

As far as the writer is aware, as in the example above, until now there are only one or two forms of gratitude expressed by people who speak Tetun and the Tetun Fehan dialect, namely *Obrigado Barak*, even though this word was adopted from the Tetun language of Timor Leste which means most have been mixed with Portuguese and local dialects. This study intends to investigate possible expressions of gratitude in this language as the phenomenon of language contact is inevitable. In addition to contact with Tetun Portu, Tetun Fehan is also in contact with languages such as Bahasa Indonesia and Uab Meto.

Considering the explanation above, the writer is interested in making further research about the terms of gratitude in TetunFehan dialect with the title ‘**A Study on Gratitude Terms of Tetun Fehan Dialect of Tetun Language Spoken by People in Lasaen of Malaka Regency**’.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background of this study, the writer specifies the topic in some problem statements, as formulated in the following questions.

1. Are there any borrowed gratitude terms in Tetun Fehan Dialect of Tetun language spoken by people in Lasaen of Malaka Regency?
2. What are the gratitude strategies commonly used by the Tetun Fehan Dialect speaker?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Objective of a study is the aims of what a study wants to find out. Based on the problems above, the objective of the study is formulated in the following statements.

1. To identify whether there are borrowed gratitude terms of Tetun Fehan Dialect of Tetun language spoken by people in Lasaen of Malaka Regency.
2. To identify strategies of gratitude used by the speakers of Tetun Fehan Dialect.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study will be explained as below:

1.4.1 Theoretical and pedagogical benefits

Theoretically and pedagogically, this study will

1. Contribute ideas to linguistic theory, especially dealing with the sociolinguistic theory in the branch of language in interaction and pragmatics.
2. Become scientific information for the sake of enriching literatures on the related study in the future.
3. Become a scientific reference for the related study review for the coming researchers, especially the local language research.
4. Become an additional source of reference for the maintenance and development of Tetun Fehan dialect.

1.4.2 Practical Benefits

On the other hand, this study practically will:

1. Provide the linguistic knowledge and skill of the writer on how to conduct and do research in scientific way.
2. Increase the skill and knowledge of the writer in Tetun Language especially in gratitude terms of Tetun Fehan dialect.
3. Provide good information about gratitude terms for the Tetun fehan dialect speakers.
4. Provide information on local cultural linguistics for English Department students that go in line with the vision and mission of FKIP of UNWIRA.