

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

As human beings and members of society, we are constantly and thoroughly accompanied by talking, that most people rarely stop to think about their activity, or to speculate about the nature and the origin of communication system that they used. Most people have always somehow recognized the very special advantage of being able to talk, and that it is precisely this ability that marks them off from the rest of the universe about them. We can sure that no two speakers have the same language as no two speakers have the same experience on language. Holmes (1992) states that, "...women and men do not speak in exactly the same way as each other in community. Women are more linguistically polite than men, for instance, and that women and men emphasize different speech functions."

That there are differences between man - woman is hardly a matter of dispute. On the average, women are mature more rapidly and live longer than men. The woman voice usually has different characteristics from the man voice, and often woman and man exhibit different ranges of verbal skills. However, we know that many of the differences may be the results of different socialization practices.

Nevertheless, we must also be aware that social factors may account for some differences. For example, women may live longer than men because of the different roles they play in society and the different jobs they tend to fill. Differences in voice quality may be accentuated by beliefs about what men and women should sound like when they talk, and any differences in verbal skills are undoubtedly explained in great part through differences in upbringing.

By looking at men and women roles in society, some researchers have carried the analysis of sex differences in language. Men may perceive women as more talkative than men because of observing women's interaction that point the other way. According to Holmes (1992: 324), women may decrease their talking when it comes to a wide range of contexts, particularly non-private ones such as television interviews, staff meetings and conference discussions. While men, on the other hand, may dominate the talking in this kind of interaction. Furthermore, Holmes (1992: 324) argues that there are two kinds of interaction in a conversation between gender. First is the interrupting behaviour and second is conversational feedback. Interrupting behaviour is a violation of speaker's turns to talk, while conversational feedback is the responses of a speaker's statements during a discussion or a conversation.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in studying the male-female interrupting behaviour in a discussion. Therefore, the writer makes an investigation on one of the television programs that

carries out a formal discussion between sex. The program is called SAKSI (Saran, Aksi dan Visi) which it is usually showed on Indosiar every Monday night, at 10.30 P.M. Indosiar usually invites some students from two different universities to be the floor and two or three gueststars to give their opinions on a certain topic. During the discussion, the students usually give chances to interrupt and offer their opinions about the topic being discussed.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problems**

In line with the background of the study, this research is intended to answer the following questions:

- (1) Are there any differences in the speech of male-female interrupting behaviour?
- (2) During the discussions, who interrupts more?
- (3) What are their motivations to interrupt?

## **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

In line with the statement of the problems, this study is intended to find the different speech of male-female interrupting behaviour in a cross-sex interaction on television program called SAKSI (Saran, Aksi dan Visi) which is usually showed on Indosiar. Besides, it aims at finding the differences in the speech of male-female interrupting behaviour, who

interrupt more during the discussions and what are the motivations that lead to such behaviour.

#### **1.4. Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to have both practical and theoretical contributions. The writer expects that the findings of this study will be useful for the students of English Department of Widya Mandala Chatolic University and society who might realize their speech of interrupting when they participate in a discussion or a conversation.

The writer hopes that this study will give some contributions to other people in understanding the speech of male-female interrupting behaviour that the different roles in the society can influence this behaviour.

#### **1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

It is not possible for the writer to take all of the discussions on SAKSI, because of her limitation of time and ability. Therefore, she limits this study based on four data. The first discussion is dated on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1999 which talked about "Problem Mudik dan Angkutan Lebaran. It involved students from *STIE Jayakarta Jakarta University* and *Muhammadiyah Prof.Dr. Hamka University*. The Second discussion was taken on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999, and talking about "Penanggulangan Narkotika Bagi Generasi Muda". As the participants of this discussion were students from *Pajajaran Bandung University* and *Sebelas Maret Surakarta University*. The third

discussion was taken on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999. The topic of the discussion was about "Kemungkinan Munculnya Kelompok Oposisi di Indonesia", and involved students from *MPU Tantular Jakarta University* and *IISIP Jakarta University*. The last discussion was dated on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1999. The topic was "Pemilu dan Perubahan Sosial" that involved students from *Bayangkara Jakarta Raya Unveirsity* and *STISIP Widuri Jakarta University*.

## **1.6. The Assumptions**

This study is based on the following assumptions:

- (1) The differences in men' and women's speech are closely related in the roles they have in society.
- (2) There is a widespread belief in the society that women talk more more than men.
- (3) In a cross-sex interaction, interrupting behaviour can be influenced by some factors, such as age, ethnic group, gender, or social status.

## 1.7. The Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, some important terms used in this study are defined below:

- **GENDER:** the classifications of sex that are used to designate people's biological sex categorizations; male and female.
- **Interrupting Behaviour:** a violation of speakers' turn to talk. It is a kind of slaughter in a discussion or a conversation that makes the interrupter is looked as an anger attacker, while the person becomes an innocent victim.
- **SAKSI (Saran, Aksi dan Visi):** one of the television programs that is usually showed on Indosiar, every Monday night at 10.30 P.M. This program aims at discussing some recent issues in the society. The floor is the students from two different universities.

## 1.8. The Organization of the Study

This chapter consists of four chapters. Chapter I is the introduction, containing the background of the study, the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study, the significance, the scope and limitation of the study, the assumptions, the definition of key terms, and the organization of the study.

Chapter II is the review of the related literature. It consists of language and gender, gender and conversational style, interrupting

behaviour between gender, types of interruptions, Women's and men's features, and symbols of conversational analysis.

Chapter III is the methodology. This chapter consists of the research design, the subjects of the study, the instruments of the research, the procedures of collecting the data, and the procedures of analyzing the data.

Chapter IV is the findings and discussions of the findings. It presents the speech of interruption employed by male-female, the frequency of the interrupting behaviour, and the motivations of doing the interrupting behaviour.

Chapter V is the last chapter in this study. It consists of summary, conclusion, and suggestions.