

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. **Background of the Study**

The question about human existence in reality is an endless exertion. These questions grow along side with human development in time; it means that every reality of human existence is also determined by the changes of time. Throughout the time, our curiosity has dealt with the same fundamental question of “Who am I?”, “What am I doing here?”, and what is the purpose of my life?”. All humans begin the life with inferiorities. Human try to strive and develop a unique life style that is basically to solve their inferiorities. This feeling is not only because of organism weakness but also lack of social life, or inability to overcome the life problems. According to Adier as quoted in Hjelle and Xiegler (1992: 142).

People often strive to compensate not only for organ inferiorities but also for subjective feeling of inferiority, those are that arise from uniquely felt psychological or social disabilities.

A study of human existence can be explored from many aspects, for example, human behavior which also can determine human existence in the universe.

The view of human existence can not be separated from the notion of human being itself. Human being as a social and individual creature always communicates with the other from time to time. It can create a various relationship and also reach the understanding in their interaction. Besides,

communication is as a social process. Social process is a process of transmitting facts, beliefs, attitudes, emotional, reactions or any content of awareness between living through communication, we can communicate easily with other people. Communication is a process by which information is changed between two people or more. Both of them have the role as a sender and receiver. They must have the same code, when the message from sender is not understood by the receiver, there will be absurd noise code. In order to get an effective communication, the sender must concern to all consistence owned by the receiver, age, sex, personality skill, intelligence and experience characteristic (everything useful which has been gotten in the society, it can be learning by doing, time and experience so he/ she can apply and become special labeling in her/ his life) that he brings to communication.

The basic tool of communication related to social environment is language. Language is the most effective means to enable man to communicate with others. In addition, people who master some languages have more opportunities to make variation of speech or in communication with others (Suwito, 1986: 17). Dealing with their language mastery, it means that the more languages they master, the more skills they have for supporting their work. The mastery of two or more languages is a pride for the speakers (Badudu, 1985: 85). Language is not just denotation, a term which refers to the process of conveying meaning, referring to ideas, events or entities that exist outside language. Through language, one could express his ideas, feeling, emotion and knowledge to other people in order to know and to

understand what he meant or wanted. So, while language is the material of thought it is also the basic of social communication.

All languages are produced to be communicated in social exchange. It is because there is no society without language and anymore there is no society without communication. A language is inseparable from the man's life in his role as the member of society in which he lives. Since people live in different places, they use different language when they want to communicate with other people from different countries. Through their language, we know in what class they are, what their position in society are. It can be related on their occupation or their gender. Their gender is often influenced by the power they have. Gender is not only something we are born with or we called sex, but it is also something we do or something we perform. Sex is biologically definition where as gender is a social construction involving the whole gamut of psychological, social and cultural differences between males and females (Eckert, 2003:46).

There are communities where the language is shared by women and men, but particular linguistic features occur only in the women's speech or only in the men's speech. These features are usually small differences pronunciation or word-shape (morphology). In Montana, for instance, there are pronunciation differences in the Gros Ventre American Indian Tribe. Where the women say [kja'tsa] for 'bread' the man say [d3a'tsa]. In this community if a person uses the wrong form for their gender, the older members of the community consider them bisexual. In Bengali, a language of

India, the women use an initial [l] where the men use an initial [n] in some words.

Not surprisingly in western communities where women's and men's social roles overlap, the speech forms they use also overlap. In other words, women and men do not use completely different forms. They use different quantities or frequencies of the same forms. In all the English-speaking cities where speech data has been collected, for instance, women use more *-ing* [in] pronunciations and fewer *-in* [in] pronunciations that men in words like swimming and typing.

We have to know the special words which used in special condition for showing the characteristic of the object itself, whether the owner is male or female. It is intended to get proper word to show the intention. For instance, we often hear about the term "baby". If we look for word at the dictionary, it means "very young child". It can be "male baby" or "female baby". The form is constant without any adding affixes as morphological process for showing the marker whether male or female.

Moreover it's different with the term "author". The word can not be translated directly as the first term in which it can represent as male and female category. That word is special form in which it has to be changed by adding suffix as a gender marker. The word "author" is categorized just for a male object. However, if the term is meant to show a female object so it must be added by suffix *-ess* as a morphological process. It will be "authoress". If we look the word at the dictionary, we can not find it.

There are many kind of new words to indicate the gender of object itself. Some of them must be changed the form whether morphologically or unmorphologically. The other forms, there are the words which can indicate both of male and female category. It is very complicated to study about the word itself.

Chaer (2003: 163) states that Bloomfield, the structural linguistics, did not view the word as the unit of lingual, but as a morpheme or the smallest unit of linguistic meaning. Bloomfield exclaimed that word is a minimal free form, which is an element that can occurs in isolation and or whose position with respect to neighboring elements are not entirely fixed. For example, the word “stewardess”, can be called as a word since it can occur in isolation as in the answer the question “Who is she?”. In contrast, the unit-*ess* does not count as words here since it can not occur in isolation and its positioning with respect to adjacent elements is completely fixed. So, the people cannot say *Essteward* but only *Stewardess*.

When people make up new words using existing words and word forming elements, we understand them with ease-providing know what the elements they use to form those words mean and providing the word forming rules that they employ are familiar. The study of word formation and word structure is called MORPHOLOGY.

Morphological theory provides a general theory of word structure in all the languages of the world. The task is to characterize the kinds of things that speakers need to know about the structure of the words of their language in order to be able to use them to produce and to understand speech. First, they need to be able to analyze existing words. Usually, if we know the meanings of the elements that a word contains, it is possible to determine the meaning of the entire word once we have worked out how the various elements relate to each other. Second, speakers need to be able to work out the meanings of novel words constructed using the word building elements and standard word construction rules of the language.

Morphological theory provides a general theory of word formation applicable to any language. This research is intended to make explicit some of the things that we know subconsciously about words. It is an out frame work of linguistics which introduce to the nature and structure of English words. Based on the crucial reason above, the writer thinks that it is very important to study word formation in English (Morphology), especially in English gender markers. So, the writer takes “A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH GENDER MARKERS AND THEIR USES” as the title of this research.

## **B. Previous Study**

In this case, the writer will discuss some previous research to prove the originality of this study. There are some researchers who precede the study about gender using different objects.

Ahmad Muthali'in (2000) who focuses on *Socialisasi Bias Gender Dalam Proses Pembelajaran di Sekolah*. The result of this study is the situations in which gender socialization happen in teaching learning activities. The study

shows that there are gender socialization in teaching learning process in which each process happen socialization's form as the realization of gender's refraction. Besides, there is a kind of education process in which gender's influences is more dominant and more conspicuous in teaching genders influence is more dominant and more conspicuous in teaching learning process.

Akif Khilmayah (1999) in her study of *Ketidakadilan Gender Dalam Rumah Tangga Keluarga Muslim*. She analyze the work distribution in a household based on the gender only, it will shackle the woman in her life. The study reveals that the woman is just limited for doing internal activities so she does not afford in doing the external ones to improve her knowledge and skill. In contrast, the men are not independence for providing the house works. This research produces some main points:

- a. There is a work burden because of the work distribution, it is not because the gender's skills.
- b. There is a stereotype view in which judgment that the house works are only woman's responsibility.
- c. There are subordination and marginalization of women
- d. There is a woman's violence

Robert J. Stoller (1968) in his research *Sex and Gender : On The Development of Masculinity and Feminist*. He argued that a person's physical sexual attributes, mental attitudes and objects of desire could "Vary independently of one another". The study indicate that there are many kinds of differentially between male and female in which it can involve the inner, outer

terms and also physically and mentally items. Each of them has special characteristic which become marker and influence so much in their social life.

This research will be different from the previous research. Here, the writer will analyze gender especially in morphological study on English gender.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the background the researcher tries to formulate the search questions as follows:

1. What are the forms of English gender?
2. How are the forms constructed by male and female group?

### **D. Objectives of the Study**

The purposes of writing the research as formulated in advance the research is intended as follows:

1. To identify the forms of English gender
2. To analyze the forms constructed by male and female group.

### **E. Benefit of The Study**

The writer hopes that the research would be useful for the reader and the writer herself. Those benefits are:

1. Practically Benefit

This research will give more understanding for the readers about gender and its differences on the form marker of male and female. The writer also



hopes this research may help the readers to understand the strategy constructed by opposite sex so that may avoid misunderstanding.

## 2. The Critical Benefit

### a. For Students

This research may encourage the students to enable in understanding the forms of English gender which is constructed by both of males and female.

### b. For academic references

The research may enrich the sociolinguistics references and encourage the next researchers to analyze the gender differences deeply.

## **F. Research Paper Organization**

The research paper organization of “A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH GENDER MARKERS AND THEIR USES to make it easier to be understood is as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of Background of the Study; Previous Study, Problem Statement, Objective of The Study Organization.

Chapter II is Underlying Theory. It consists of the Notion of Gender, Gender Markers in English, Morphological Process, Word Formation Process.

Chapter III is Research Method. It consists of Type of Research, Object of The Research, Data and Data Source, Methods of Collecting Data, Technique for Analyzing Data.

Chapter IV is Result and Discussion of The Research Finding. It Presents Data Presentation, Data Analysis and Discussion of Finding.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion. It presents the conclusion of the study and some suggestions related to the study on English Gender.