

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters; those are background of the study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study. Those are very important to be explained in this chapter because they assist the readers to understand this study generally.

1.1 Background of the Study

In social life, people cannot be separated from communication processes. Since people cannot live alone, they need others to communicate and to interact in order to share something. In communication processes, language holds important roles in human's life, because it is an effective means to express ideas, intentions and feelings.

Language as a means of communication has multifunctions especially for showing many kinds of expressions. One of language function is to express what people feel in their social life. It is admitted that people certainly express their feelings with various expressions that occur in the different conditions. Some of them are quite various and simple. One of the simple word to express feeling is the word *thanks*. People certainly utter *thanks* in the daily interactions.

According to Cehan (2010), parents in various cultures spend their energy and time to teach their children to say *thank you* in their mother tongue and then, teachers introduce *thank you* in the foreign language classroom among the first communication. In other words, since childhood, people have been educated by

their parents to say *thank*. Expression of *thanks* is a kind of habit in our social life as a positive attitude. In other ways, the expression of *thanks* sometimes makes someone to be appreciated, pleasant or even irony. *Thank you* can be used ironically and has a function to accept and dismiss an offer or signaling the conclusion of the conversation (Eisentein and Bodman, 1986, cited in Aijmer, 1996). It means that, *thanks* or *thank you* have multifunction such as accepting an offer, closing the conversation and many others.

The writer has conducted a research about the expression of word *thanks* or in Madura *sakalangkong*. In general, Madurese use the word *sakalangkong* to express *thanks* (Pawitra 2009). The word *sakalangkong* is quite simple and unique to be analyzed. *Sakalangkong* expression is very familiar and commonly used by Madurese to express *thanks* in the daily activities, in spited formal or informal situations.

In addition, the word *thanks* or *sakalangkong* is interested to be investigated, because *thanks* or *sakalangkong* expression has many different functions. Thanking is not only about gratitude expression but also referring to the different function of language such as compliment and closing in the conversation (Bodman and Eisentein, 1993, cited in Farnia, 2009).

Expression of *thanks* or *sakalangkong* commonly occurs if people interact in their routine activities in public place such in market between sellers and buyers, in a bus between a conductor and passengers, and in a school between the students and teachers.

The writer decides to choose the students school of SMP Al-Ghazali as the source of data because the writer is familiar with the students, that all the students are native Madurese and constantly use Madurese language to communicate each other. Because of this reason the writer is easier to make interactions and come together with the students in every activity. Most of the *sakalangkong* expressions uttered in SMP Al-Ghazali used by the students in their routine activities.

The writer is familiar with *sakalangkong* expressions since she ever heard conversations between students in SMP Al-Ghazali that used the word *sakalangkong* to express *thanks*. See an example of the use *sakalangkong* below taken from a conversation between students in SMP Al-Ghazali.

Madurese: Rika : mara patèppa' aghi lu kerudung
 Dela : huu ta' nèmmo tèppa' molaè ghelle' kosè,
 paniti'i koddhi'
 Rika : iyâ ta' deddhi..
 Dela : kèmma mara dâ' ènna' èpatèppa'a
 Dela : marè la...
 Rika : **sakalangkong** yâ, èngko' kako ta' bisa jâ'
 Dela : **iyâ depade**

English: Rika : *please help me to fix the veil*
 Dela : *huh...you are still not ready since a couple
 minutes ago, try to pin it*
 Rika : *I can't*
 Dela : *come here, I will pin it for you*
 Dela : *I have done it...*
 Rika : **thank you**, *I can't do it by myself absolutely*
 Dela : **you're welcome**

The conversation above occurs between two students that gather in the school yard. A speaker is having a trouble to fix her veil. Then her friend as the hearer helps her, to tidy up her veil. In order to be polite, the speaker expresses her

gratitude feeling, by uttering “*sakalangkong* yâ, èngko’ kako ta’bisa jhâ” (*thank you, I can’t do it by myself absolutely*).

Referring to the conversation above, the expression *sakalangkong* is considered as acknowledging a major favor because the speaker values and appreciates her friend’s help. Her friend does a major favor in the form of helping the speaker. She cares about the speaker. When the speaker asks the hearer to fix her veil, she directly does so without any reason. The speaker believes that she is benefited by the hearer because without the hearer’s major favor the speaker will not look beautiful.

Another example also occurs in the break time, when a student offers meat balls to her friend by saying “èya’ pèntol?” The hearer responds by uttering “ènjâ’ *sakalangkong* (*no, thanks*)”. Through the citation of the conversation above, it indicates that the thanking expression *sakalangkong* has a function to refuse the speaker’s offer. Here the hearer rejects the offer politely by adding the word *sakalangkong*. Referring to the expression of thanks through the word *sakalangkong* above, it can be seen that *sakalangkong* has another function to reject a person or a person’s services. So when Madurese talks to someone by expressing the word *sakalangkong* sometimes it indicates gratitude to a person’s favor. In other words it does not mean thanks as usual, but can have other functions such as rejecting, accepting, and others.

The writer aims at investigating deeper about the functions of *sakalangkong* expression used by the students in SMP Al-Ghazali Sumenep. She

also intends to analyze the responses towards the word *sakalangkong* as one of thanking expression.

There are some studies related to thanking expression, like that was done by Altalhi Hana (2014) which was about Speech Act of Thanking and Thanking Responses By Hijazi Females, Morsi Rehab (2010) which was about The Speech Act of Thanking in Egyptian Arabic, and Cheng (2010) which was about the investigation of a Corpus-based Approach the thanking speech act of spoken corpora, based on six major categories that were identified. Those studies discussed thanking expression in different source of data. Yet none of them conducted a study about *sakalangkong* as one of thanking expression. Therefore, to cover the vacant space of the previous research, the writer of this study is interested to analyze *sakalangkong* expressions and the responses to it used by the students in SMP AL-Ghazali in Sumenep Madura.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Through the background above, the writer emerges the following questions:

1. What are the functions of *sakalangkong* expressions used by SMP Al-Ghazali students?
2. What are the types of response of the interlocutors towards *sakalangkong* expression used by SMP Al-Ghazali students?

1.2 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of the research problems above, the purposes of this study are:

1. To explain the functions of *sakalangkong* expressions used by SMP Al-Ghazali students
3. To explain the types of response of the interlocutors towards *sakalangkong* expression used by SMP Al-Ghazali students

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide not only theoretical significance but also practical significance. Theoretically, people are expected to understand and are able to distinguish the use of *sakalangkong* and the responses to it used by students in SMP AL-Ghazali Sumenep. Moreover, this study also can be a reference for people especially university students who are dealing with gratitude expressions of thanks.

Practically, the purpose of this study is to help people to know more about the use of thanks through *sakalangkong* expression and the response to it in the different situations. The writer expects this study can give benefit, knowledge and contribution to other researchers who want to conduct a research which is related to the functions of thanks and its responses through the word *sakalangkong*.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is pragmatic approach which concern about speech act focuses on thanking expressions. The writer analyzes the functions of thanks

of *sakalangkong* expression and the responses to it used by the students in SMP AL-Ghazali.

The writer limits this study only on thanking expression of *sakalangkong* and the response to it used by SMP AL-Ghazali students in Sumenep regency, Madura Island, East Java. Indonesia.