

**DIFFERENCES IN EUPHEMISMS USED BY MALE AND FEMALE IN  
MINANGKABAUNESE**

**THESIS**

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DIFFERENCES IN EUPHEMISMS USED BY MALE AND FEMALE IN  
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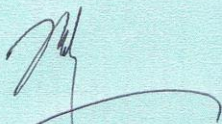
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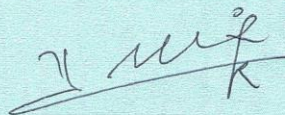
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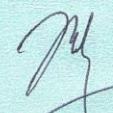
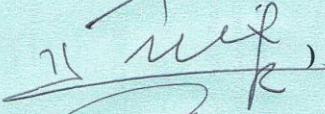



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## ABSTRAK

**Rosadi, Imron. 2013. “Differences in Euphemisms Used by Male and Female in Minangkabauese”. Skripsi. Jurusan Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan tipe tipe ungkapan pelembut (eufemisme) dan fungsi fungsi ungkapan pelembut (eufemisme) yang diujarkan oleh laki laki dan perempuan di dalam bahasa Minangkabau. Penelitian ini termasuk penelitian secara deskriptif yang berpijak pada fakta dan realita dari ungkapan pelembut (eufemisme) yang diujarkan oleh laki laki dan perempuan di kawasan Minangkabau dalam percakapan sehari hari. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 173 eufemisme yang digunakan oleh laki laki dan perempuan dalam bahasa Minangkabau. Laki laki mengujarkan 103 ungkapan eufemisme dan memiliki 13 tipe ungkapan eufemisme sedangkan perempuan mengujarkan 70 ungkapan euphemism dan memiliki 14 tipe ungkapan eufemisme. Tipe yang paling banyak di temukan dari laki laki dan perempuan adalah *indirection* dan *semantic shift*. Sedangkan untuk fungsi eufemisme tersebut ditemukan bahwa laki laki memakai ungkapan eufemisme untuk menjaga perasaan pendengar dari rasa malu dan bersalah sedangkan perempuan adalah untuk menghaluskan dan menjaga rasa kesopanan dengan mengganti kata tersebut seindah mungkin atau fungsi positif. Hasil penelitian ini membuktikan bahwa perempuan lebih ekspresif daripada laki laki dalam menggunakan ungkapan pelembut (eufemisme) dan bahasa Minangkabau lebih banyak menggunakan *semantic change* (perubahan makna asli).

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Problem**

Language cannot be tossed in human lives because it is profoundly influential thing in making a good communication. It has developed rapidly in such way that people may notice various functions as well as intentions in using language. The existence of the language phenomena in society contains certain functions or purposes. Leech (1974: 40) points out that language express the feeling and attitude of the speaker and writer. This means people tend to use language with many variations in order to deliver what they may mean and need and they may also use a smooth language by speak non-literally called figurative language.

Figurative language is a distinction in traditional system for analyzing language. Abram (1966:46) defines figurative language as a language which departs from what is taken to be standard construction, order, and significance of word in order to achieve special meaning or effect. The words or sentences which are uttered must be chosen as well and well interpretation to decrease or omit the dangerous effects to the speaker's language. To change the literal language to non- literal is good way to make good sense of speaking. It means human can use many ways to express their ideas, feeling and opinion through figurative language.

One part of figurative language is euphemism. In society, euphemism is useful to avoid the taboo words or to keep hearers' feeling. Hass (in Wardhaugh



1986:230) states that taboo is one way in which a society expresses the disapproval of certain kinds of behavior believed to be harmful to its members. That means the existence of taboo words and ideas motivates the creation of euphemism and when euphemism is used, the taboo words will be saved and euphemism has function to monitor and keep the meaning of language use. Euphemism is defined as a word or expression that is used when people want to find a polite or less direct way of talking about difficult or embarrassing topics as death or bodily functions which are mostly changed in conversation. By using euphemism, it is believed that euphemism can replace the word or phrase to preserve the stability and keep social relationship among the society or community members. Euphemism exists in areas of daily life and communication which relates to society or communities members. To have euphemism, knowing the context or what in societies' mind are really necessary. It can be said euphemism is closely related to society perception. Wardhaugh (1986:10) divides three relationships between language and society. They are social structure may either influence or determine linguistic structure and/or behavior, linguistics structure and/or behavior may either influence or determine social structure, and the influence of bi-directional.

The relationship of euphemism and society, shortly, can be attached and seen in one of social variables, namely gender. The use of euphemism is different to different gender. The fundamental reasons to this are male and female, as products of gender, have their own particular ways of speaking, choice of words, and rules for conversing. The phenomenon happens toward Minangkabau as

the local language, which is originally spoken and used by people in West Sumatera and is full of euphemism. This thesis discusses the differences in euphemism by male and female in Minangkabaunese. The differences can be looked as the following examples which tend to show the right differences between male and female in using euphemism in Minangkabaunese. Take a look to when male wants to go to toilet, they will speak “*malapor ciek lu*”, or I go to report something, while female says “*sakik paruik a*” or I get stomachache. The other example is euphemism for fat. Male prefers to say “*semok, temok or agak barisi*” which means he or she is quite fat, in contrast, females often uses “chubby” borrowed from English which also means fat. These two examples have proved that at least male and female different in deciding euphemism and the first relationship between language and society which is social structure may either influence or determine linguistic structure and/or behavior is answered.

The study of euphemism is one of the broadest areas in linguistics. However, the exact reasons fail to answer where the euphemism will be appropriate and should be studied. First is in how psycholinguistics views euphemism. It prefers to the human brain in using euphemism. Even it is interesting to be researched, it seems that the study will most focus on how human brain receive and utter euphemism while euphemism will be less informed. In summary, the relevant issue is not whether verbal conditioning prevents thinking about unpleasant topics, but rather, whether thoughts can be influenced or biased by the forms of words. Semantics and pragmatics, in contrary, would imply that the full meaning of the euphemism can only be accessed by its complete word

form. It is not possible to access its meaning (and associated affect) by introducing a synonym in semantics. Pragmatics also cannot cover euphemism perfectly because euphemism is not only to look the response given. Anthropological linguistics, the last, seems to have a wide explanation because euphemism must be related toward the culture and culture acts as a main reason why that or those euphemisms like that. However, sociolinguistics can cover the use of euphemism because social variables that sociolinguistics has can be said as the main point in analyzing it. There are sociolinguistic reasons to embrace euphemism and just as there are sociolinguistic reasons for speaking formally, informally, respectfully, and disrespectfully (Fromklin et al: 2007). In describing euphemism, sociolinguistics must cooperate with semantics and pragmatics to have the meaning of euphemism because it is right that context or culture is inextricably linked to euphemism. Without context or culture, euphemism cannot be completely acquired nor can it be effectively expressed and transmitted. In relation, social variables, semantic roles, and pragmatic functions become one of hierarchies of sociolinguistic study because they will give valuable and detailed description toward euphemism. Gender, one of social variable, announces that male and female are different in using euphemism. By using sociolinguistic study, the language or euphemism of society can be analyzed and other study, such as semantics and pragmatics will be taken to know the characteristics of that society.

Gender is checked because male and female exactly differ because they have different characteristics of ability in vocalizing their language or they have different ways in choosing language. It will be useful to the reader in knowing

how gender affects the euphemisms use or how male and female differ in using euphemism in Minangkabaunese by looking its types and function.

## **B. Identification of the Problem**

Euphemism can be studied from different linguistics point of views including semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, anthropological linguistics, and psycholinguistics study. From semantics' point of view, firstly, euphemism can be analyzed to the meaning of its words and sentences. Then, pragmatics' point of view discusses about euphemism which is used based on context and speaker's meaning. Sociolinguistics' point of view discusses how euphemism and society combined or coalesced. Furthermore, anthropological linguistics' point of view discuss about how cultural background affects the language or euphemism. The last is psycholinguistics suggests how human brain influences the use of euphemism. Based on the explanation above, the topic was only focused on sociolinguistics point of view in order to identify how gender has difference in using euphemism by including semantic and pragmatic study in order to see the meaning of each euphemisms.

## **C. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on identification of the problem above, this research was limited and focused on differences in euphemism used by male and female in Minangkabaunese. To look its differences, male's and female's euphemism was analyzed by looking its types based on Allan and Burrige (1991), Kaosa-Ad (2009), Williams (1975), Shipley (1997), Rawson (198), and Neaman & Silver's

(1983) theories and its functions was from Lin Bin (2006), Guo-Qiang (2003), Al Wasilah in Syarif (1999), Harris (2000) and Wardhaugh in Rahmayanti (2002) theories that all of the theories was combined to specified functions because it can be denied that they might create similar functions among theirs toward euphemism.

#### **D. Formulation of the Problem**

Based on identification and limitation of the problem, the problem of this research is formulated into: what types and functions of euphemism do male and female use in Minangkabaunese?

#### **E. Research Questions**

The formulation of the research problem above is elaborated in the following research questions:

1. What are the types of euphemisms which are mostly used by male in Minangkabaunese?
2. What are the types of euphemisms which are mostly used by female in Minangkabaunese
3. What are the functions of euphemisms which are mostly used by male in Minangkabaunese?
4. What are the functions of euphemisms which are mostly used by female in Minangkabaunese?



## **F. Purposes of the Research**

The main purpose of this research was to find out and describe the use of euphemism by male and female in Minangkabaunese by looking its types and functions. Thus, related to the questions above, the goals of this research were:

1. To explain the types of euphemisms which males mostly use in Minangkabaunese.
2. To explain the types of euphemisms which females mostly use in Minangkabaunese.
3. To explain the function of euphemisms which males mostly use in Minangkabaunese.
4. To explain the function of euphemism which females mostly use in Minangkabaunese.

## **G. Significance of the Research**

The result of the study is expected to give contributions to the related study, both theoretically and practically.

### **1. Theoretical Significance**

The result of this study is expected that it can give contribution as additional information toward euphemism, which informs what types of euphemisms which male and female mostly use and what functions that are inserted in its using.

## 2. Practical Significance

The result of this study is also expected to give practical contribution. To the students, this study helps the student know and understand about euphemism especially on its types and functions in Minangkabaunese used by male and female. To the teachers, the result of this study is expected to be a contribution or additional material for sociolinguistic course, particularly on euphemism. Besides that, the writer hopes this research will be useful for other writers as a reference for further research.

## **H. Definitions of the Key Terms**

1. Figurative language is language that is used non-literally or in a nonconventional way, such as metaphor, euphemism, simile, personification and others in Minangkabaunese.
2. Euphemism is an expression intended by the speaker to be less offensive, disturbing, or troubling to the listener than the word or phrase it replaces by, which is used in Minangkabaunese.
3. Gender is the concern to the psychological, social and cultural differences between males and females in using euphemism in Minangkabaunese.
4. Minangkabaunese is the euphemism which is used by male and female in West Sumatera province or in Minangkabau areas.