

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research carried out in this study. It begins with the phenomenon of political debate held in modern democracy, the language the debaters used in relation with politeness principles and the underlying reasons of the choice of the debate analyzed in this study.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

A leader should be a trustworthy person. This is one requirement that should be fulfilled by a person who wants to be a leader, a leader of any fields or institution . Thus, the requirement is also applied for a leader of a country or a region. Trustworthiness has been becoming a crucial issue in a country or regional leadership history in the world. Many countries which are previously powerful can become in ruin due to misleading policy direction from their leaders. It has been recorded through history that some powerful countries has been degraded into powerless countries after an era of certain leaders reigning, such as Soviet Union, German, and Greece. Indonesia as a big developing country also has ever experienced a misleading era. This has triggered the reformation of the nation in 1998. At that time, Indonesian people did not believe the leader of the country- the president. Trustworthiness that they sought after a leader could not be found in the president figure. As a public figure, he failed to prove his credibility as corruptions happened in many fields of bureaucrat in this country. People could not see trustworthiness in him that made him replaced by a new leader- a new

president. Thus, trustworthiness as the base of credibility of a leader has been a point of interest of people throughout the world as well as Indonesia. People learn from history that they should be more cautious in electing a leader that they desire, a trustworthy leader.

The need to find a trustworthy leader of a nation or a region has urged the emergence of political debate in an election. In a campaign of the election, political debates are held. A political debate can be referred to as a political discussion which has opposing arguments from the participants. In a political debate, a moderator will raise the topics. The participants then express their ideas concerned with the topic and argue with other participants to defend their points of view. In this kind of debate, a moderator will allocate the time for the participants to speak. Political debates are mainly aimed to show people about their vision and mission that they will do when they rule a region.

Thus, political debates can be used as an important instrument to measure the capacity and capability of leaders candidate in modern democracy. Through the debate, people know whether the candidates really comprehend problems that their country or their region have. Furthermore, through the debate, people will view the candidates' readiness to solve problems that arise in their country or region.

The political debates held are believed to increase the public' preference of the electability of the region leaders candidates. This fact is found in the survey carried out by Kompas survey and research department in the 28<sup>th</sup> of January to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017 (Akbar, 2017). One of the indicator is the increasing debate

viewers. There are 57.6% viewers from 804 respondents admit that they watch the debate of the first Jakarta leader candidates election. The number of the viewers increase at the second debate. It becomes 62.2%. The findings of the survey also show that 28.4% respondents admit that they are sure to change their choice after watching the debate. The finding has proved that the debate has a significant effect on the election of the leader candidates.

Political debates can be used as a tool to impress their viewers through language that they speak and how they express it. The choice of the language and the way they convey it in expressing their ideas and intention seem to influence the success of the debate. Moreover, the tensivity of the debate atmosphere often has effects on the performance of the participants of the debate. Due to this, it is often found out that the participants of the debate cannot control themselves and respond using inappropriate language or even express their intention in impolite ways. This phenomenon has made the writer of the study interested in analyzing the language the debaters used in relation with politeness.

People tend to have expressions of politeness to achieve their goal in a communication. Through politeness utterances, people try to express their intention to make other people understand what they mean. To accomplish this intention is not always easy. Sometimes, people cannot feel satisfied with the result of their communication. Pertinent to this, people needs to know what expressions of politeness that they should utter when they communicate. The right choice of expressions of politeness can lead participants in a conversation achieve success in a communication.

Politeness Principle (PP) proposed by Leech (1983) is one principle in communication which needs to be mastered. To know and understand Principle of Politeness and its maxims are important. The maxims governed by Leech's Politeness Principle are Tact Maxim, Generosity Maxim, Approbation Maxim, Modesty Maxim, Agreement Maxim and Sympathy Maxim. By comprehending them, participants of a speech event can achieve their goal of a communication successfully.

Regarding the political debate and the politeness principle, the writer was interested to conduct this study to analyze the utterances of politeness expressed by the regent and vice regent candidates of Badung in Badung Regent Candidates Debate in 2015. It is interesting to know whether the participants of the debate use expressions of politeness to impress the audience in the debate with their ideas and concerns in which this will lead them to be elected as the leaders of Badung Regency. Being the leaders of Badung Regency is an important and prestigious status, as this regency has been the focus of attention in Bali. This is due to its highest regional income which has the biggest contribution to help the development in Bali. This region has also contributed its income to help the development of some regencies in Bali.

## **1.2 Statements of Research Questions**

Based on the phenomenon stated in the background of the study, the writer of the study formulates the following research questions.

1. What maxims of politeness principles expressed in Badung Regent Candidates Debate in 2015?

2. What is the dominant maxim of politeness principles used in Badung Regent Candidates Debate in 2015?

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

In relation to the background and the research questions, the writer of the study states the following objectives :

1. To find the maxims of politeness principle expressed in Badung Regent Candidates Debate in 2015.
2. To find the most dominant maxim of politeness principle used in Badung Regent Candidates Debate in 2015.

### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

In this study, the researcher tries to focus on finding and analyzing maxims of politeness principle expressed by the regent and vice regent candidates in the Badung Regent Candidates Debate in 2015 and to find the most dominant maxim of politeness principle used in the debate.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The research contributions can be differed as theoretical and practical contribution. Theoretically, this research is hopefully able to give linguistics information in relation to the analysis of politeness principles. Practically, this research is dedicated to the students of English Department. The findings of the study are expected to become a reference to have a better understanding about pragmatics, about how to apply pragmatics theory, which are related to Politeness

Principles which can become an example of linguistics – politeness in public speaking. Furthermore, it is very beneficial for teachers who most of their time deals with people – students, parents of the students and staffs at school. They need to use strategy in communication so that they can convey their intention and ideas well.

### **1.6 Assumption**

In this study, the researcher has an assumption as the following :

The participants of The Badung Regent Candidate Debate in 2015 are assumed to express maxims of Politeness Principle, namely Tact Maxim, Generosity Maxim, Approbation Maxim, Modesty Maxim, Agreement Maxim and Sympathy Maxim. Furthermore, in the debate there is the most dominant maxim of politeness principles used by the regent and vice regent candidates.

