

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

This chapter presents the conclusions of what it was previously discussed and found in this sociolinguistic study of thanking among the Minangkabau family members in Pauh, and also some suggestions for future research.

7.1 Conclusion

Through the results obtained from the data taken and through the interview to Mak Katik (69), the researcher concluded that in order to express gratitude for a compliment given by another member of the nuclear family, the Minangkabau used different forms of thanking to express gratitude among them. The forms found were verbal and non-verbal. The verbal thanking expressions were found in the following categories: appreciation token (thank you), comment acceptance, praising God, reassignment and return. The non-verbal thanking expressions were two: smile and laugh that belong to the appreciation token category, which means that the Minangkabau in Pauh not all the time need words to express gratitude, especially if it is related to compliments.

Comment acceptance was the most frequently used response regardless of relationship among the participants. Joking was often used to avoid the impression of self praise. There were differences in the response patterns according to the relative age of the interlocutors that could reflect cultural values of responding to interlocutors in a way that reflects age differences. The new subcategory that appeared was praising God (*Alhamdulillah*) reflecting the

religious nature of Minangkabau culture being used by adults and children alike. Related to the *thank you* expression, it was rarely used by these Minangkabau in a family context. On the occasions where it was used there had been more significant contact with wider and more highly educated social circles. Therefore, the Minangkabau family members in Pauh do not expect to say or hear *thank you* in order to express gratitude after a compliment given within the family. However, the participants and Mak Katik (personal communication, June 21, 2019) mentioned that if a member of the family is complimented by an outside person, his thanking expression won't be the same, he is more likely to use *thank you* or other expressions that show humility, respect and politeness.

In general the different forms that the Minangkabau used among them is due to culture which is influenced by social factors as the social context, topic and participants. The form and choices of language in order to express gratitude among the Minangkabau family members in Pauh after a compliment are based on the family context where its members have an intimate and natural close relationship among them. The different thanking expressions were found regarding to the relationship of the family members, husband and wife, wife and husband, father and children, children and father, mother and children, children and mother and between children (siblings). In some cases the different expressions changed according to the relationship and others related to the character of each person or member of the family.

Related to the different relationships among the Minangkabau families through the results it can be concluded that in the relationship husband and wife,

the form most used by the husbands to express gratitude to they wives was verbal, husbands preferred to express gratitude to their wives using the comment accepted subcategory. Only two participants used *thank you*, and the subcategory less used or chosen was the reassignment one. The form most used by the fathers to express gratitude to the children was verbal, mainly found in the comment acceptance too. Only one participant used *thank you*, and the category less used was praising God.

In the relationship between wife and husband, the form of thanking most used by the participants to express gratitude was verbal, mainly found it in the comment acceptance subcategory. No *thank you* expression in this relationship and the subcategory that no thanking expressions were found were reassignment and praising God. In relation to the relationship among mother and children, the mothers only form of thanking used was verbal, specifically in the comment acceptance subcategory. Just one *thank you* expression was found.

Related to the children, when the children expressed gratitude to their fathers, the form of thanking most used was verbal expressions also found in the comment acceptance subcategory. In this relationship 5 participants used the *thank you* expression, and the ones they didn't use were the praising God and reassignment. Something similar happened with the participants' mothers. They used the same form and subcategory. However, one participant used *the thank* expression and no reassignment expressions were found when children expressed gratitude to their mothers. And finally in the relationship between children, the form of thanking most used was the verbal one, mainly found in the comment acceptance subcategory and not praising God expression was used. Therefore,

after the results and analysis made, it can be said that in general, the Minangkabau families in Pauh use different forms of thanking to express gratitude among them member after receiving a specific compliment. And no matter the relationship of the members the predominant thanking expression was comment acceptance subcategory through affirmation, explanations, or jokes which it is possible to observe the Minangkabau culture within nuclear families in Pauh, Padang city.

7.2 Suggestions for Future Research

As there is no previous study related to the speech act of thanking among the Minangkabau family members from Pauh, it is expected that these findings could be use for further studies. Future research may investigate the same topic but with different data for example, to investigate about the thanking expressions among the Minangkabau family members in other situations or stimulus such as after a favour or help is granted, or after an unexpected gift or invitation, etc. In addition, it will be interesting to compare this study with families where the mothers have high level of education to see if the same happens among their families.

