CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In this chapter, the writer concludes the result of the study and gives some suggestions for further research that can be made based on this study.

5.1 Conclusion

After going through some analysis of the e-mail messages written by both male and female participant in "Yahoo" discussion groups, finally, the study comes to the following conclusion:

1. Men and women do write differently; although not to the same extent, when responding to e-mail postings from same- and cross-gender participants in "Yahoo" Discussion Groups. This can be seen in the frequency of the language features found in their E-mail responses. Therefore, the language features use when writing to male netpals may differ from those of female ones.

2. Comparing to women, men do not completely use different language style when communicating with other men than women in the discussion groups.

3. Men are more likely to state opinion, aggressive/sarcastic expressions, and share personal experience with other men than women in the

groups. These are associated with men's social stereotypes as being aggressive and more interested in presenting their personal point of view to solve problems in the discussion groups. However, men use more supportive expressions, asking questions, provide personal information, and suggestion when writing to other women in order to match the language style of their female netpals.

4. Men continue to state more opinion when communicating with other women. This implies that men want to dominate and present an 'authoritative' contribution to the discussion in order to maintain social standing.

5. Women do write differently when responding to e-mail postings from other women than men.

6. In the area of same-gender communication, women use a lot more references to emotion, provide more personal information, opinion, suggestion, and supportive expressions. These results imply that women use language to establish closeness as a basis of friendships and that women place a high value on consideration for the wants and needs of others. While in cross-gender communication, women tend to use more opinion, aggressive/sarcastic expressions, and ask more questions in order to fit the situation and be easily accepted in the group. They also use questions to stimulate conversations.

These six conclusions are the result of this study concerning with the different language style use by men and women in responding to e-mail postings in "Yahoo" discussion groups.

5.2 Suggestions

The writer realizes that there are some weaknesses in the study; therefore, for the next researchers, there are some suggestions to give to improve researchers in the same field with the one being discussed in this thesis. The writer of this study suggests that through these findings the future researchers who deal with Sociolinguistics field and especially with the topic of language, gender and online communication can include wider scope either on the subject or the area of analysis.

The point of discussion in this research is the language features used in E-mail discussion groups. It would be a step forward if there is another research which discusses the language used in other forms of online communication, such as instant messaging, chat rooms, or message boards.

In addition, concerning the limited references on the subject, the writer also would like to suggest the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University to provide more books on gender and online communication in order to make the future researchers be able to conduct further studies more easily.

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