

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This first chapter elaborates on the introduction of this research project consisting of background of the study, its research question, its aims and scope, the significance of the research, clarification of the key terms, and the organization of research project.

#### 1.1 Background of Study

Police investigative interview is one of the most important actions in resolving abusive practice and revealing the truth (Meissner et al., 2021). The purpose is not only to prevent violence but also to improve the collection and reliability of the information (Muniroh et al., 2022). O'Brien and Kebbell (2014) argued that investigative interviews effectively reduce violence. However, not all regions in Indonesia have implemented it, so violence perpetrated by investigators might still exist as reported by Gual (2020) that Lutfi, a protester apprehended by police, admitted to being tortured and electrocuted by investigators, which resulted in a false confession. Psychologically, police can perpetrate violence through language manipulation, i.e., the use of agency that can be hidden or emphasized.

The agents are important in interpreting events because the use of agents can lead to different interpretations of situations (van Leeuwen, 1996). Agents is analyzed to find out how it is emphasized, manipulated, or hidden by language users such as how the agents are used, either in active or passive or nominalized sentences (Richardson, Mueller, and Pihlaja, 2021). In the active sentence, someone can find out the agent or the doer of an event, whereas if someone uses the passive sentence, the agent tends to be hidden as if the language user covers the doer in an event. Clark (1992) gave the example of agents in active and passive voice; he argued that in active voice if the suspect of crime roles as the agent, so the reader or hearer would know what the suspect did, and he as the perpetrator who will be blamed for the incident. While in passive form the agent can be elided, thus usually it gives the effect of shifting focus from agent into the other roles such as a medium (Young and Fitzgerald, 2006).

While there has been much research on power in police interviews (Greer et al., 2022; Zeng et al., 2021; Herrmann, 2016) and power in a courtroom (Ranosa-Madrugno, 2014), also Ehrlich (2001) analyzed the agents focus on the suspect's answer. However, the research analyzes the agents using ergativity analysis on the transcription of simulated police investigation focusing to the investigators' question. The researcher is interested in analyzing the agents in investigative questions because the agents can explain about language use that might leads to in an unintentional miscarriage of justice.

The research is conducted under qualitative design. The qualitative method is used to gain an in-depth understanding power relations and ergativity analysis on transcription simulated police interview. The data was taken from the transcriptions of a simulated police interview of a domestic violence case. The data were analyzed using ergativity analysis by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004). By using ergative analysis as a lens to find the agents in simulated police interviews of domestic violence cases, the researcher hoped that this study would broaden readers' perspectives on the issue of agents in police's questions.

## **1.2 Research Question**

- 1) What are the types of agents on the transcriptions of simulated police interviews of domestic violence case?
- 2) What forms of power relation are manifested in the types of agents on the transcriptions of simulated police interviews of domestic violence case use by investigators?

## **1.3 Aims of the Study**

- 1) To examine what are the types of agents on the transcriptions of simulated police interviews of domestic violence case.
- 2) To find the forms of power relation are manifested in the types of agents the on the transcriptions of simulated police interviews of domestic violence case use by investigators?

## **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This research is limited to investigating the power relation reflected in the agents in Indonesian police investigation. The research focuses on the relationship

between investigators and interviewees within the transcriptions of a simulated police interview in a domestic violence case.

### **1.5 Research Significance**

This part presents both theoretical and practical significance for the reader.

#### **a. Theoretical Significance**

The findings of this study are expected to contribute to the scope of forensic linguistics, concerning in expanding the field of power relations and ergative analysis.

#### **b. Practical Significance**

This research also provides practical significance to reveal how power relations are reflected in the agents.

### **1.6 Clarification of Key Terms**

- 1) *Power*: Power is the measure of the degree of control over circumstances in your life and the actions of the people around you. It is a skill that is developed by a deep understanding of human nature, of what truly motivates people, and of the manipulations necessary for advancement and protection (Greene, 1998)
- 2) *Ergativity*: Ergativity is a property of the system of transitivity that generalize concept to all process types; ergativity consisting of Agent+Process+Medium and Medium+Process Halliday and Matthiessen (2004)
- 3) *Agent*: Agent is the external cause or in transitive it is the participation who bring the action performed by the Actor. The agent in a material process, it is the actor; otherwise, it may be present as the Initiator of the process. In a mental process, it is the Phenomenon. It also can appear in a relational process and in the attributive type (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004).
- 4) *Investigative interview*: The dialogues set in a legal context unique to each country or jurisdiction (Griffiths et al., 2011)

## 1.7 Organization of Paper

This research project contains five chapters:

- 1) Chapter I Introduction: The chapter contains the background of the study, the research questions, the aim of the study, the research significance, and the systematics of writing thesis.
- 2) Chapter II Literature review: The chapter describes the literature review as the basis for artistic theories related to the title of the thesis.
- 3) Chapter III Methodology: In this chapter, the researcher explains the methods, data collection, and data analysis.
- 4) Chapter IV Finding and Discussion: The researcher explains and describes the findings based on the existing theory in this chapter.
- 5) Chapter V Conclusions and Suggestions: The chapter contains the findings' final conclusions and suggestions or recommendations for further study.