CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter is the last part of the paper. It presents conclusions and suggestions related to the present research. Some suggestions are offered to next researchers who are interested in analyzing the realizations of self-reference in Indonesia.

5.1 Conclusions

The research investigates self-referring terms used by young adults in Indonesia. It focuses on how young adults realize self-reference in different contexts of conversation including formality, intimacy, and kinship relations. Besides, it also examines the influence of gender on the use of self-reference.

There are nine self-referring terms used by young adults in this research. These terms are *saya*, *aku*, *gue*, *abdi* (ethnic), *urang* (ethnic), *aing* (ethnic), proper names, kinship terms (e.g. *aa* and *teteh*), andzero anaphora. Each term has been realized in different contexts or situations.

If it is seen from each context, formality appears to be the most influential context in the realization of self-referring terms, as can be observed in the use of terms *saya, abdi*, and zero anaphora. Other contexts, i.e. intimacy and kinship relations are also likely to affect the use of self-referring terms even though not as strong as formality. The influence of intimacy can be seen in the use of informal pronoun forms such as *aku, gue*, and ethnic terms (e,g. *urang*, *aing*). The use of these terms is realized mostly when the respondents are talking to people with close relationships such as peers. Meanwhile, the influence of kinship relation can be seen on the use of proper names and kinship terms in which the speakers tend to use these terms when talking to family.

Furthermore, the research also reveals the influence of gender (i.e. gender preferential) towards the use of self-reference.Females tend to be more informal, intimate, and domestic than men do. It can be seen from the use of self-referring terms *aku*, *abdi*, proper name, kinship terms, and zero anaphora.

Overall, the present study shows that the use of self-referring terms is affected by various social variables and it confirms previous discussions by Djenar (2007), Flannery (2010), Mintz (1994), Saragih (2012), Sneddon (1996; 2006), and Ulum et al., (2013). It suggests that the use of reference 'I', including self-reference is one of the important aspects in communication.

5.2 Suggestions

The present research investigates the realizations of several self-referring terms used among young adults in several contexts including formality, intimacy, and kinship relations and the influence of gender in the use of self-reference. There are some suggestions for further research regarding the investigation of self-reference.

First, further research may focus on the use of self-reference by the respondents in different age grading such as children, teenagers, and adults who are located in different region or ethnic by using other instruments besides DCT and interview such as natural instruments (e.g. recording) and likert scale. Second, it also may add other social variables besides formality, intimacy, and kinship relations such as age and power relations to find out the realization of self-reference in Indonesia. The writer assumes that the realizations of self-reference may be different among different users in different region or ethnic with different research instruments.