

SPEECH ACT OF CRITICIZING USED BY WOMEN AND MEN  
OF MINANGNESE IN INDONESIAN LANGUAGE

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**ABSTRACT**

This paper reports on the results of sociopragmatic study conducted with a view towards finding out how the speech act of criticizing is realized (in terms of directness and indirectness) among native speakers of Minangnese-in this case men and women-, by extension, what strategies are used by them in socially differentiated speech events. In the research, the writer used some theories proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987) and Holmes, Janet (1992; 2001). And, the method used is descriptive method.

From the data collected, the writer finds that women speak differently from men. The differences can be seen in terms of forms of words or vocabulary, and grammar. In this research, the writer just limited the study on the communication strategies used by women and men in criticizing where those speech acts which high potential of threatening face of the hearer. The result shows that there are varieties and various communication strategies used by them in order to consider the four maxims of Minangnese principles that are postulated in this study. A number of sub strategies used by men and women in four communication strategies such as notice, use in-group identity markers, seek agreement, give reasons, be conventionally indirect, question, hedge, be pessimistic, be ironic, presuppose, use rhetorical questions, etc.

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