

# GENDER WRITING STYLES OF BATAKNESE AND JAVANESE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN WRITING ARGUMENTS

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## ABSTRACT

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The objectives of this study are to describe the characteristics of gender writing style of Bataknese and Javanese students and to describe the reason of male and female Bataknese and Javanese students' writing style characteristics the way they do. This research was conducted at SMAN 1 Onanrunggu and SMAN 2 Percut Sei Tuan. The method of this research was qualitative descriptive research. The subjects of this research were XI grade students of SMAN Onanrunggu and SMAN 2 Percut Sei Tuan. The technique of data collection was writing assignment. The research finding showed that in writing argumentative text, the writing style characteristics of each gender of Bataknese and Javanese students were different. The writing style characteristics of Male Bataknese Senior High School students are strong, convincing, logical and rational. Meanwhile, the characteristics of writing style used by female Bataknese senior high school students in writing argumentative text are emotional and sentimental, strong and logical. For Javanese students, the characteristics of writing style used by male are strong, logical, sentimental and terse, while the characteristics of writing style used by female are logical, terse, sentimental and silly. The reason that caused different characteristic of their writing style are gender and culture.

***Keyword: writing style characteristics, Bataknese and Javanese Culture, argumentative writing***

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is a centre to social interaction in every society regardless of location, and time period. It cannot separate from society and culture. Language gives influence how groups in a given society are separated by certain social variables like ethnicity, status, gender, age and level of education. Language itself is used in both spoken and written communication, which means it is involved in both speaking and writing.

The issue of gender and writing style has been widely debated. Some studies have found that student writing style does differ depending on the gender of the author. Keroes (1990) argues that women's writing tends to focus more on personal experience than does men's. Argamon (2003) states that women in their writing will use pronoun a lot. The using of pronoun will be female preferential which are regarded interactional. It is used to encode the relationship between the writer and the reader; meanwhile, the male preferential forms are the determiner and quantifier which are regarded as informational.

Geographically, Indonesia belongs to Asian countries. Asian culture is said to have different culture from Western's. Western value is individualism in which individuals should have sufficient freedom. On the contrary, Asians' values is collectivism who see themselves as parts of one or more groups (family, co-workers, tribes, nations) and emphasize their connectedness to members of these collectives (Connor, 2008). Western rhetoric is characterized by practical and scientific orientation, and factual concrete evidence; they are more direct in their argumentation. Meanwhile, Asian's is typically humanistic aesthetic orientation and subjective in providing evidence. Therefore, they tend to use indirect approach in their argumentation (Kaplan as cited Sibarani, B and Pandia, B, 2020). However, culture cannot be regarded as national entity; within a culture, there are variations of rhetoric (Comfortas cited Sibarani, B and Pandia, B, 2020).

Indonesia consists of various ethnic groups such as Batakese, Javanese, Sundanese, Manado, etc. Their rhetorical pattern will be varied although they belong to Asian culture which will be in line with Comfort's statement.

Batakese and Javanese are two of many ethnics in Indonesia that have very particular characteristic in the way they communicate. Muriyantina (2011) said that Javanese and Batak are usually seen as two opposite culture based on the way they communicate with other. According to Tobing (2014) Batak people have certain characteristic such as impolite, egoistic and dare. In traditional Batak is not advisable to salute such excessive, they will directly to what they want to say. Batakese in their communication will not to be outdone,

even if lost; they would make a lot of reasons. Therefore, Batak people have high confidence (not that shameless) so that in all things would be in front. On the other hand, Javanese in general are assumed as polite and calm, that make people often seen them as polite, and else 'tidak tegas' or indecisive (Muryantina, 2011).

Based on the description above the researcher is interested in conducting a study about gender writing styles of Bataknese and Javanese Senior high school studnets in writing arguments.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **The Nature of Gender**

West and Zimmerman (2003) states that gender is not something inherent when someone was born with, but something someone does. It means that gender is behavioral characteristics. People show gendered characteristics through something which they do or act, such as the way they interact or communicate with other people. Gender is not something which someone has, but something that someone does. Gender is not an individual matter but social matter.

### **Gender Language**

West and Zimmerman (1977) see the difference from the dominant perssperspective that said language difference between male and female create a power distiction in which males are in more dominant position and females are in more subservient position. Male dominance is representative of interruption pattern while women's use of prestige form. The other most important approach in the study of language and gender is the difference approach. It believes that men and women belong to different subcultures and that any linguistic differences can be attributed to culture differences. As men and women were children, they were raised differently so the ways they use the language differ. Boys, who tend to play in large group with hierarchical social structures, learn value status and became power focused; meanwhile, girls, who tend to play in small group of best friend, learn to value intimacy and become solidarity focused (Tannen, 1990).

### **Argumentative Writing**

This kind of writing is a fundamental language process for learning how to give a opinion of a story, write about a topical issue or give reasons for a viewpoint. In educational

context, at school, students are also stimulated to show their argumentation, such as giving their notions of a story, or giving reasons for a viewpoint. This is beneficial for their skill in stimulating their critical thinking. By writing argumentative, they know how to express their opinion and to give reasons for a particular point of view. Besides, by writing argumentative, students learn how to persuade by applying the grammatical features of arguing, like using of mental process in expressing opinions, useing of connectives in arguing to maintain logical relation and to link points, use of nominalization to allow the writer to condense information and deal with abstract issues.

Argumentative writing moves through the following stages those are thesis, argument and conclusion. In thesis, the writer will introduce the thesis statement and the preview about an issue. In the stage of argument, the writer will mention some points about the issue and elaborate it by following counterpoint and the elaboration. For the last stage which is conclusion, the writer will summarize the writing by reiterating the thesis. (Knapp and Watskins, 2005).

### **Gender Writing style**

Hiatt (1987) in her study tries to investigate the writing style used by both gender, male and female. Men and women, it is commonly believed, write differently. Male writing style is characterized as strong, convincing, rational, logical and formidable. Meanwhile female writing style is characterized as emotional, sentimental, illogical, terse, silly, shrill and hysterical, and vapid.

### **The Nature of Culture**

Wood (2009) states that a culture is made up of structures, primarily institutions, and practices that reflect and uphold a particular social order. Culture is made by the society and use by them in order to make the rule in that group in one society and it is related to the socialization process.

Ethnicity is the part of culture and it cannot be separated one another. Cohen in Fought (2006) states that ethnicity is a set of descent-based culture identifiers used to assign persons to groupings that expand and contract in inverse relation to the scale of inclusiveness of the membership. Ethnicity is often assumed to be the culture identity of a group, often based on language and tradition

According to Tobing (2014) Batak people have certain characteristic such as impolite, egoistic and dare. In traditional Batak is not advisable to salute such excessive, they will directly to what they want to say. Bataknese in their communication will not to be outdone,

even if lost; they would make a lot of reasons. On the other hand, Javanese are assumed as polite and calm, that make people often seen them as polite, and else 'tidak tegas' or indecisive (Muryantina, 2011).

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research conducted with descriptive qualitative design. Descriptive qualitative design is the method when straight descriptions of phenomena are desired (Sandelowski, 2000). In this study, the researcher described the characteristic of gender writing style of Bataknese and Javanese senior high school students as well as the reasons why they write argumentative text the way they do. The subjects of the study were the female and male Bataknese students grade XI of SMAN 1 Onanrunggu and those female and male Javanese students grade XI of SMAN 2 Percut, Sei Tuan. The researcher selected 12 subjects which consist of 3 female and 3 male Bataknese students and 3 female and 3 male Javanese students. The data of this study was the students' writing of argumentative text. The technique for collecting the data was writing assignment. The writing assignment was done to get the main data which is about gender writing styles of Bataknese and Javanese Senior High school Students in writing argument. It was taken by assigning the students to write an argumentative text based on the predetermined topic, namely, *should students be banned to bring their phone to school?* The researcher assign the students of both female and male of Bataknese and Javanese students to write an argumentative writing with the topic of should students be banned to bring their phone to school, then read the students' argumentative writing extensively. After reading the data, the researcher identified the writing style of female and male Bataknese and Javanese students by applying the theory related to writing style as predetermined category. After categorizing the data, the researcher compare the writing style of the female and male Bataknese and Javanese students from the perspective of gender and ethnics.

## **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISSCUSSION**

### **Research Findings**

Based on the results of the data analysis, there are two reasons why male and female use different writing style, they are gender itself and culture. Each of these reasons is proved in the following part.

### The Difference of Writing Style Characteristics between Male and Female

#### Bataknese

No .	Characteristics	Male Data	%	Female Data	%	Difference
1	Strong	Imperative Judgment adjective Data 1: <i>AP1,2,3/LS/p1 s1/s2/B/M; JR/p4/B/M; AS/p3 s2/B/M</i>	17 0	Imperative Judgment adjective Data 3: <i>Ap4,5,6 /CS/p3 s1/B/F; RP/p1 s2/B/F; VP p1 s1s2/B/F</i>	7 7	M is stronger that F in stating the argument
2	Convincing	Information Facts Data2: <i>AP1,2,3/JR/p2 s1/s2/s3/s4/B/M; AS/p2 s1/s2/s3/B/M</i>	18 3	0 No Data found	100 100	M do convincing F do not do convincing
3	Rational	Reasoning Verbs Data 3: <i>AP1,2,3/ AS/p1 s1/s2/s3/B/M; LS/p1 s2/B/M</i>	7	0 No Data found	100	M makes reasons F do not want to make reasons
4	Logical	Connected Adverbs Data 4: <i>Ap1,2,3/ AS/p3 s1/B/M; JR/p2/B/M; LS/p1 s2/B/M</i>	61	Connected Adverbs Data 8: <i>Ap4,5,6/ RP/p2 s2/B/F; CS/p1 s1/B/F; VP p1 s1s2/B/F</i>	46	M is more logical than F
5	Emotional	0 No Data found	100	use adverbs of emotion Data 5: <i>(Ap4,5,6/ VP/p2 s2/s3/B/F; RP/p3 s1 s2/B/F</i>	6	F is more emotional than M
6	Sentimental	0 Static verbs	100	Using static verbs Data 6: <i>(Ap4,5,6/ VP p2 s4/s5/p3 s1/B/F); RP/p3 s3/B/F; CS/p3 s3/B/F</i>	6	No M use explicit propositional Attitude; F use explicit propositional Attitude

In this table, male and female from the same culture, that is batak culture, were compared in terms of their writing style characteristics. If their writing styles are different, then it must be caused by the different gender; not by the culture. The results of the data analysis displayed in table 4.5 showed that Male are (1) convincing and (2) rationale. These are the

distinctive features of male's writing style. These styles are caused by the gender itself. So Male or sex is a factor which causes the convincing and rationale style. The result of the data analysis also showed that female is (1) emotional, and (2) sentimental. These characteristics of writing style are caused by the gender. The first and the second finding proved that gender affect the writing style. The table showed the third results that both male and female are (1) strong- although male are stronger than female-, (2) logical – even though male is more logical. These characteristics of writing style are not affected by gender. However, male contribute a little factor to writing style of strong and logical, in which male and female are different in terms of degree of strength and logic.

### The Difference of Writing Style Characteristics between Male and Female Javanese

No	Characteristics	Male Data	%	Female Data	%	Difference
1	Strong	Imperative Judgment adjective Data 9: <i>Ap7,8,9/ MKA/p1 s5/p2 s1/s2/J/M; A/p4 /J/M</i>	7 3	0 No Data found	100	M is strong F is not strong
2	Logical	Connected Adverbs Data10: <i>(Ap7,8,9/ MIW/p2 s5/J/M; A/p3s1s2 /J/M; MKA/p1 s4/J/M</i>	39	Connected Adverbs Data 17: <i>(Ap10,11,12/ FA/p1 s1/J/F;K/p2 s1/s2/J/F; DKS/p2/s5/J/F</i>	43	F\ is more logical than M
3	Terse	more than 20 words per sentence Data 12: <i>(Ap7,8,9/ MIW/p2 s1/s2/s3/J/M; MIW/p2 s1/s2/s3/J/M; A/p1 s1s2s3 /J/M</i>	78	less than 20 words per sentence data 15: <i>(Ap10,11,12/ FA/p2 s1/J/F); K/p1/s1s2s3/J/F; DKS/p1/s1s2s3/J/F</i>	65	M is terser than F in stating their argumet
4	Sentimental	Static verbs Data 11: <i>(Ap7,8,9/ A/p2 s3/s4/s5/J/M; MIW/p3/J/M</i>	7	Static verbs Data 14: <i>(Ap10,11,12/ FA/p1 s1/s2/J/F; DKS/p3/J/F; K/p2/s3/J/F</i>	17	F use more implicit propositional attitude than M do
5	Silly	0 No Data found	100	Using simile Data 13: <i>(Ap10,11,12/ K/p2 s1/s2/J/F; DKS/p2/s4s5/J/F</i>	9	M do not use simile F use simile in compering the thing

In this table, male and female from the same culture, that is Java culture, were compared in terms of their writing style characteristics. If their writing styles are different, then it must be caused by the different gender; not by the culture. The results of the data

analysis displayed in table 4.6 showed that Male is strong. This is the distinctive feature of male's writing style. The style is caused by the gender itself. So Male or sex is a factor which causes the strong style. This finding proved that gender affects the writing style. The result of the data analysis also showed that female is silly. This characteristic of writing style is caused by the gender. The table showed the third results that both male and female are (1) logical- even though female is more logical-, (2) terse- even though male is terser-, (3) sentimental- although female is more sentimental. These characteristics of writing style are not affected by gender. However, male contribute a little factor to writing style of terse; and female contribute a little factor to writing style of logical and sentimental, in which male and female are different in terms of degree of logic, terseness, and sentiment.

The second reason is the culture of the writer. Batak Male's writing style is characterized by the use of convincing and rational arguments. While Java male's writing style is characterized by the use of terse and sentimental arguments. The same thing is also true in the comparison between Batak female and Java female. The distinctive features of Batak female are emotional and strong while the Java female are terse and silly.

### **The Difference of Writing Style Characteristics between Male Bataknese and Male Javanese**

No	Characteristics	Male Batak Data	%	Male Java Data	%	Difference
1	Strong	Imperative Judgment adjective Data 1: <i>AP1,2,3/LS/p1 s1/s2/B/M; JR/p4/B/M; AS/p3 s2/B/M</i>	170	Imperative Judgment adjective Data 9: <i>Ap7,8,9/ MKA/p1 s5/p2 s1/s2/J/M; A/p4 /J/M</i>	73	M Batak is stronger than M Java
2	Convincing	Information Facts Data2: <i>AP1,2,3/JR/p2 s1/s2/s3/s4/B/M; AS/p2 s1/s2/s3/B/M</i>	183	No Data found	100	M Batak do convincing M Java do not do convincing
3	Rational	Reasoning Verbs Data 3: <i>AP1,2,3/ AS/p1 s1/s2/s3/B/M; LS/p1 s2/B/M</i>	7	No Data found	100	M Batak makes reason; M Java do not want to make reason
4	Logical	Connected Adverbs Data 4: <i>Ap1,2,3/ AS/p3 s1/B/M; JR/p2/B/M; LS/p1</i>	61	Connected Adverbs Data10: <i>(Ap7,8,9/ MIW/p2 s5/J/M; A/p3s1s2 /J/M;</i>	39	M Batak is more logical than M Java



		<i>s2/B/M</i>		<i>MKA/p1 s4/J/M</i>		
5	Terse	0 No Data found	100	more than 20 words per sentence Data 12: ( <i>Ap7,8,9/MIW/p2 s1/s2/s3/J/M; MIW/p2 s1/s2/s3/J/M; A/p1 s1s2s3 /J/M</i> )	78	Male Bataknese is terse Male Javanese are wordy
6	Sentimental	0 No Data found	100	Static verbs Data 11: ( <i>Ap7,8,9/A/p2 s3/s4/s5/J/M; MIW/p3/J/M</i> )	7	No M Batak use explicit propositional Attitude; M Java use explicit propositional Attitude

In this table, male Batak and male Java from the same gender, that is male, were compared in terms of their writing style characteristics. If their writing styles are different, then it must be caused by the different culture; not by the gender. The results of the data analysis displayed in table 4.7 showed that Male Batak are (1) convincing and (2) rationale. These styles are caused by the culture itself. So Male Batak or culture is a factor which causes the convincing and rationale style. The result of the data analysis also showed that male Java is (1) terse, and (2) sentimental. These characteristics of writing style are caused by the culture. The first and the second finding proved that culture affect the writing style. The table showed the third results that both male Batak and male Java are (1) strong- although male Batak are stronger than male Java-, (2) logical – even though male Batak are more logical. These characteristics of writing style are not affected by culture. However, male Batak contribute a little factor to writing style of strong and logical, in which male Batak and male Java are different in terms of degree of strength and logic.

### **The Difference of Writing Style Characteristics between Female Bataknese and Female Javanese**

No .	Characteristics	Female Bataknese Data	%	Female Javanese Data	%	Difference
1	Strong	Imperative Judgment adjective Data 3: <i>Ap4,5,6 /CS/p3 s1/B/F; RP/p1 s2/B/F; VP p1 s1s2/B/F</i>	7 7	0 No Data found	100	F Batak is strong F Java is not strong
2	Logical	Connected Adverbs	46	Connected Adverbs	43	F Batak is more

		Data 8: <i>p4,5,6/ RP/p2 s2/B/F; CS/p1 s1/B/F; VP p1 s1s2/B/F</i>		Data 17: <i>(Ap10,11,12/ FA/p1 s1/J/F; K/p2 s1/s2/J/F; DKS/p2/s5/J/F</i>		logical than F Java
3	Terse	0 No Data found	100	less than 20 words per sentence data 15: <i>(Ap10,11,12/ FA/p2 s1/J/F); K/p1/s1s2s3/J/F; DKS/p1/s1s2s3/J/F</i>	65	F Java is terse F Batak is wordy
4	Emotional	use adverbs of emotion Data 5: <i>(Ap4,5,6/ VP/p2 s2/s3/B/F; RP/p3 s1 s2/B/F</i>	6	0 No Data found	100	F Batak involve adverb of emotion in their writing F Java is not emotional
5	Sentimental	Using static verbs Data 6: <i>(Ap4,5,6/ VP p2 s4/s5/p3 s1/B/F); RP/p3 s3/B/F; CS/p3 s3/B/F</i>	6	Static verbs Data 14: <i>(Ap10,11,12/ FA/p1 s1/s2/J/F; DKS/p3/J/F; K/p2/s3/J/F</i>	17	F Java use more implicit propositional attitude than F Batak do
6	Silly	0 No Data found	100	Using simile Data 13: <i>(Ap10,11,12/ K/p2 s1/s2/J/F; DKS/p2/s4s5/J/F</i>	9	F Batak do not use simile; F Java use simile

In this table, female Batak and female Java from the same gender, that is female, were compared in terms of their writing style characteristics. If their writing styles are different, then it must be caused by the different culture; not by the gender. The results of the data analysis displayed in table 4.8 showed that Female Batak are (1) emotional and (2) strong. This style is caused by the culture itself. So Female Batak or culture is a factor which causes the emotional and strong style. The result of the data analysis also showed that Female Java is (1) terse, and (2) silly. These characteristics of writing style are caused by the culture. The first and the second finding proved that culture affects the writing style. The table showed the third results that both female Batak and female Java are (1) logical – even though female Batak are more logical than female Java-, (2) sentimental- although female Java is more sentimental. These characteristics of writing style are not affected by culture. However, female Batak contribute a little factor to writing style of logical, and female Java contribute a

little factor to writing style of sentimental, in which female Batak and female Java are different in terms of degree of logic and sentiment.

## **DISSCUSSION**

From the data analysis, it is known that each gender of Bataknese and Javanese presented four characteristics of writing style. Male Bataknese characterized their writing style by the use of convincing, rational, strong, and logical argument. Female Bataknese characterized their writing style by the use of emotional, sentimental, strong, and logical argument. Male Javanese characterized their writing style by the use of strong, logical, terse, and sentimental argument. Female Javanese characterized their writing style by the use of silly, logical, terse, and sentimental argument. The Characteristics showed by Javanese and Bataknese students varied in four characteristics: convincing, rational, emotional, terse and silly. This indicated that ethnic cultural value is related to the four characteristics, while to other characteristics of writing style in argumentative writing, the two ethnics shared same characteristics.

Beside the culture, gender is also the reason that caused different characteristic of writing style of male and female Bataknese and male and female Javanese. Wood (2009) states that gender is a social, symbolic construct that varies across cultures, over time within a given culture, over the course of individual's life spans, and in relation to the other gender. To be masculine is to be strong, ambitious, successful, rational, and emotionally controlled, meanwhile to be feminine is physically attractive, deferential, emotionally expressive, nurturing, and concerned with people and relationship. In writing argumentative text, male and female from the same culture which is Batak and Java were compared. Male Batak are found as convincing and rationale which is the distinctive features of male's writing style. Meanwhile female Batak are emotional, and sentimental which is the distinctive features of female's writing style. These styles are caused by the gender itself. So Male or sex is a factor which causes the convincing and rationale style and female is the factor which causes the emotional and sentimental style. It is also true for male and female of Javanese. Male Java are found as strong which is the distinctive feature of male's writing style. Whereas, female are silly. This style is caused by the gender itself. So Male or sex is a factor which causes the strong style and female is the factor which causes the silly style.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

After analysing the data, it can be concluded that The writing style characteristics of each gender of Bataknese and Javanese students were different. The writing style

characteristics of Male Batakese Senior High School students are strong, convincing, logical and rational in writing argumentative text. Meanwhile, the characteristics of writing style used by female Batakese senior high school students in writing argumentative text are emotional and sentimental, strong and logical. For Javanese students, the characteristics of writing style used by male are strong, logical, sentimental and terse, while the characteristics of writing style used by female are logical, terse, sentimental and silly. The reason that caused both gender of Batakese and Javanese senior high school students did the writing by following characteristic of writing style the way they did are gender and culture.

Based on the conclusion, it is suggested for other research, as this study is focused on argumentative text, gender, ethnicity and the subjects are limited, it is suggested for the further researcher to point out the other factors and involve more subjects of the study to get deeper findings such as, personality, age, family background, topic of writing, etc. For teachers, it is important to know that there is a certain writing style characteristics of writing style used by different gender of Batakese and Javanese senior high school in writing argumentative text that can make the teacher be aware of the their difference.

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