

## Abstract

**Yayu Anggraini Katili. 2015. The Differences between Male and Female's Speaking Ability in Debating Context. English Department, Faculty of Letters and Culture. State University of Gorontalo. The principal supervisor was Moh. Syamsurizal, S.S, M.Pd, and The co-supervisor was Indri Wirahmi Bay, S.Pd, M.A.**

Male and female language differences have been observed by some experts. This research focused on analyzing the differences between male and female's speaking ability such as organization, arguments, rebuttal, sentence structure and fluency in debating context. The aims of this research were to describe the differences between male and female students' speaking ability in debating context and to identify the factors that caused the differences between male and female students' speaking ability in debating context.

This research applied descriptive qualitative method by using observation, audio visual recorder and interview to collect the data. The number of the participants were 6 male and 6 female students of fifth semester of English Department who took the Speaking IV. The findings of this research described that male students were better in organizing their speech, delivering their arguments, rebutting their opponents, arranging their sentences and speaking their words fluently than female students. They could speak to the point, used reformulation, used lexical hedges and intensifiers in their sentences and produced occasional pauses in the debate process. On the contrary, female students could not speak to the point, used unfinished sentences, made repetitions, used lexical hedges and intensifiers in their sentences and produced frequent pauses in debating context. The factors that caused the differences were limited knowledge of grammar, lack of vocabulary and psychological obstacles. Therefore, the lecturers should give different treatment to teach, to assess and to measure male and female students' speaking ability in debating activity particularly in Speaking IV.

**Key words : Male and female, speaking ability, debate.**