

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Compliment is a way to increase people's confidence. People use the compliment utterances to praise other people due to his or her physical or nonphysical condition. Compliment strategies involve the direct and indirect compliment. A compliment strategy contains some compliment topics, such as possession, ability, physical appearance, and personality. Holmes (in Paulson and Tucker, 2003: 177) states that "compliment is a speech act which explicitly or implicitly attributes credit to someone other than the speaker, usually the person addressed, for some 'good' (possession, characteristic, skill, etc) which is positively valued by the speaker and the hearer." Compliment is not only addressed by woman but it is also addressed by man. Women and men tend to give a compliment about the different things. They also have a difference in the compliment topic. Women have tendency to be complimented on their appearance more often than men. Men usually give a compliment to male about his possession. An example of compliment is *good shoes*, it is a compliment about the addressee's possession. Compliment is not only an utterance which contains words, phrases, clauses, and sentences, but, it has a meaning between the lines. By using a compliment, the addressee and the

addresser can make solidarity between them. Compliments also have some functions in interpersonal communication.

There are six classifications of speech acts: declaration, representative, expressive, directive, commissive, and interrogative. The compliment utterance is under the category of expressive utterance. Expressive utterances contain the speaker's feel to the hearer. Some effects of those utterances are usually people can feel happy, good, proud, blooming, and etc. Wierzbicka (in Paulston and Tucker, 2003: 178) states that "compliments are usually intended to make others good."

Woman and man have a difference type in expressing compliment response. Women often receive more compliments than do men. Herbert (in Cheshire and Trudgill, 1998: 68) states that "compliments from females will most likely not be accepted, whereas compliments from males will most likely be accepted, especially by female recipients." So, the compliment from male more likely is accepted by female, except a specific situation, for example, a man who gives a compliment to her is a flattery man. Woman usually will not accept the compliment, but woman will give a non-acceptance or a non agreement response to male's compliment.

Compliment utterance belongs to positive politeness. Holmes (in Paulston and Tucker, 2003: 177) states that "positive politeness can be expressed in many ways but paying a compliment is one of the most obvious." Compliment is one way of positive politeness which expresses a good feel to the addressee. Holmes (in Paulson and Tucker, 2003: 178) states that "compliments are

clearly positive politeness devices which express goodwill and solidarity between the speaker and the addressee.” On the contrary, for some addressers, compliment may be received negatively. They may be patronizing or offensively flattering. They also may be sarcastic. It occurs when the addresser gives a compliment too distant from reality to the addressee. Brown and Levinson (in Paulson and Tucker, 2003: 179) suggest that “a compliment can be regarded as face – threatening act to extent that it implies the complimenter envies the addressee in some way, or would like something belonging to the addressee.” Women and men do not only have a difference of politeness strategy in their compliment utterances, but both them also have a difference in expressing compliment response. There are four kinds of politeness strategies. They are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness and off record.

Some conversations in these romantic movies involve some variations of compliment topics, some variations of compliment responses, and the differences of politeness strategies used male and female in expressing compliment response. For example:

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Mr. Bingley : Your friend Miss Lucas is a most amusing young woman.

Mrs. Bennet : Oh, yes, I adore her. It is a pity she's not more handsome.

Miss Lucas is kinsfolk of Mrs. Bennet’s family. Miss Lucas comes to Mr. Bingley’s party. She also has a chance to dance with Mr. Bingley. Besides dancing with Jane, Mr. Bingley also dances with Miss Lucas. Miss Lucas has a good dancing ability. She makes her dancing partner more enjoyable a dancing

than other girls. Mr. Bingley is so impressed with Lucas's trick dance. It is because Miss Lucas is a splendid dancer. Then, Mr. Bingley gives a compliment about Lucas's dancing ability. So, he gives a compliment to the third person and the third person is absent. He praises Lucas's ability.

Mrs. Bennet gives a response to Bingley's compliment. She offers a response appropriate to Bingley's want. She accepts that Miss Lucas is a most amusing young woman, but she also shows her weakness. The utterance *Oh, yes, I adore her* shows that she accepts his compliment. She also shows her weakness with her utterance *it is a pity she's not more handsome*. So, her response belongs to scale down type.

Her response shows that she appears to agree with Bingley's compliment about Lucas. She utters with *yes, but.....* rather than a blatant *no* for pretending to agree with Bingley's compliment. Her utterance is absolutely classified into positive politeness strategy 6.

The writer is interested to conduct further research entitled **A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF COMPLIMENT UTTERANCES AND ITS RESPONSE IN *THE ROMANTIC* MOVIES MANUSCRIPT.**

B. Limitation of the Study

The focus of this study is on the compliment utterances and its response used in the romantic movies, especially in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Shakespeare in Love* movies manuscript. This study uses the compliment topic theory by Holmes (in Paulston and Tucker, 2003), the compliment response

theory by Herbert (in Cheshire and Trudgill, 1998), and the politeness strategy theory by Brown and Levinson (1978).

C. Problem Statement

Based on the problem statements, the writer formulates research questions are as follows:

1. What are the variations of the compliment topics used by male and female in *The Romantic* movies manuscript?
2. Are there any variations of compliment responses between male and female found in *The Romantic* movies manuscript?
3. What are the differences of politeness strategies used by male and female in expressing compliment response in *The Romantic* movies manuscript?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement, the researcher arranges these objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To describe the variations of the compliment topics used by the characters in *The Romantic* movies manuscript.
2. To classify the variations of compliment responses between male and female found in *The Romantic* movies manuscript.
3. To identify the differences of politeness strategies used by male and female in expressing compliment response in *The Romantic* movies manuscript.

E. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes that her research will have several benefits:

1. Theoretical Benefit

a. Students

The writer hopes this study can be used as reference for students, especially, the study about compliment utterances and its response on the movie manuscript: pragmatic approach.

b. Lecturers

The writer hopes this study can be useful for additional knowledge and information that can be applied by lecture in teaching material which focuses on pragmatic approach.

2. Practical Benefits

The writer hopes this research can be useful for other researchers to analysis other research relate to pragmatic approach, especially in compliment utterance and its response in the movie manuscript.

F. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which consists of background of the study, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory. Underlying theory discusses six main points. First, pragmatics. Second, speech act, which

consists of: the notion of speech act, the classifications of speech acts, and the aspects of speech acts. Third, compliment topic which consists of: the definition of compliment and the kinds of compliment topics. Fourth, compliment response. Fifth, politeness strategy. Sixth is context. The last is previous study. Chapter III is research method. Research method in this research will be divided into five points: type of research, object of research, data and data source, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. Chapter IV is research result and discussion. The research results expound the variations of compliment topics, the variations of compliment responses, and the differences of politeness strategies between male and female in expressing compliment response in *The Romantic* movies manuscript. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion and the last section is bibliography and appendix.