

**A SOCIO-PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF REFUSAL UTTERANCES  
IN MOVIE MANUSCRIPTS**



**THESIS**  
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by

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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Research**

People interact each other by using language to share information, express feeling, ask questions, make requests, protest, apologize, thank, do greeting, do farewell, do agreement and do refusal. In such cases, language seems to have as many different functions as the occasions for using language. Dealing with the functions of language, there are many linguists who explain them in detail. Finocchiaro (1974: 5) lists six functions of language: (1) Personal Function, language is used to express one's emotion, needs, thoughts, desires, attitudes, etc. (2) Interpersonal function, language is used to maintain good social relation with individual and groups by expressing praise, sympathy, joy, inquiries about health, etc, (3) Directive function, language is used to control the behaviours of others through advice, warning, requests, persuasion, discussion, etc. (4) Referential Function, language is used to talk about objects or events in the immediate setting or environment or in the culture. (5) Metalinguistic Function, language is used to talk about language. (6) Imaginative function, language is used creatively in rhyming, composing poetry, etc.

In social life, every single one has own needs, wise, and opinion. Because of those differences, sometimes people have to make different decision from one else. In one case, one has to make statement to reject a

friend's invitation. It is called as a refusal utterance. It is one of common utterances that are often used in communication. The partners of speaking should accept every single utterance of someone appropriately and well which is delivered in many various ways. It may be directly or indirectly uttered. A refusal tends to be an utterance that can make other insulted. A Refusal utterance is an utterance that psychologically influences both interaction and communication. It is better for both speaker and hearer know, realize and also consider some particular aspects in communication dealing with language used, such as; the society, situation, condition, custom, values, norms, educational background, setting, time, level of social status, psychological state.

Refusal appearing is usually begun with invitation, requirement, forbidding, offers and the way of speaker delivers his intention before. Then the hearer will respond by uttering utterances, which act refusing something offered or else. What is interesting is how people do refusal. It is common, one refuses something directly by uttering such words "no", "don't", but sometimes people refuse something indirectly by uttering words, phrases, or sentences which do not literally show refusal. People differentiate the diction between the same level of ages people and the older ones when he talks to. For examples:

1. *"No, I cannot company you to go shopping Mom. Doing sport exercises make me tired".*
2. *"Ice is not good for health. Mineral water, please!"*

The basic function of those utterances above is a refusal. In the first utterance, the speaker wants to refuse his mother requirement to accompany her shopping since he is tired. It is a direct refusal since it is clearly showed by “no”. While the second utterance, the speaker actually does not only explain that ice is not good for health but also he intends to refuse one’s offer of drinking. He prefers mineral water to ice.

The writer finds those similar phenomena dealing with such refusal utterances in movie *Pretty Woman* that can be analyzed. For instance this quotation bellow conversation taken from *Pretty Woman* :

WAITER  
Are you ready for the next course,  
sir?

EDWARD  
No. Bring a check, please.

Finishing his meeting, Edward has no more desire to continue eating and he refuses an offer of waiter directly to have next course by uttering such refusal utterances, “No”. That word will be quiet ambiguous when there is no situational context covering it or a reason follows. Edward utters such diction as he is being in such situation, in the restaurant, and not close to the waiter. Besides, there are senses that there is a social distance and awkwardness.

The quotation below is a different event taken from *Pretty Woman* manuscript :

INT. PENTHOUSE - EVENING

Edward enters. He closes the door. He turns. And stops. A beautiful, candlelit, food laden table has been set up in the middle of the room. Champagne and wine chills are in a bucket. A fire burns in the fireplace. Music is playing.

VIVIAN (O.S.)

Hi.

Edward turns. And stares again. Vivian stands in the bedroom doorway. She is wearing an exquisite silk dressing gown. She looks incredibly beautiful.

VIVIAN

I thought maybe you'd like dinner.

EDWARD

Thank you. I would.

(He fingers her dressing gown)

Nice.

VIVIAN

Wait till you see what I have on underneath.

EDWARD

Please.

She opens the dressing gown. What she has on underneath is absolutely nothing. Edward crosses to her. Taking her in his arms, he lifts her up and kisses her breasts.

VIVIAN

What about dinner?

EDWARD

Dinner can wait.

It is clear that seeing her in beautiful attractive gown makes Edward to have mood of making love. That is why He refuses Vivian offer to have dinner at that time. Edward refuses Vivian offer by uttering "*dinner can wait*" as his comment. He indirectly refuses Vivian offer since it is a rhetorical utterance which literally does not show his intension of refusal, and he is removing himself from any imposition whatsoever.

Based on the example above, the writer is interested in conducting analysis of refusal utterances in *Pretty Woman* viewed from the types of

refusal, the meaning of the refusal utterances, and the reason of employing refusal.

## **B. Review of the Previous Research**

The study of refusal utterance has ever been conducted by Susilowati (2002) entitled “*Tindak Tutur Penolakan pada Kelompok Mahasiswa Bahasa Indonesia yang Memiliki Hubungan Persahabatan Angkatan 1998*”. She analyzes the data, refusal utterances uttered by Indonesian faculty students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta having friendship relation, based on the types of refusal, Speech Act theory, especially on Locutionary act, Illocutionary act, perlocutionary act and what tendency of speech act classification appears in the refusal utterances.

While the writer has similar data, but different source of data. The writer takes the data from some Movie manuscript, *Pretty Woman* and *Titanic*. And the writer will analyze the types of refusal by applying the types of refusal given by Kartamihardjo, the meanings by applying speech act theory (locutionary, illocutionary act, perlocutionary act) and the reason of employing refusal by applying SPEAKING theory of Hymes, and Politeness Strategy of Brown and Levinson.

### **C. Problem Statements**

Knowing the problem is the most important part in a research, the writer decides some problems that will be discussed here. The problems are formulated as follows:

1. What types of refusal utterances are formed in movie manuscripts of *Pretty Woman* and *Titanic*?
2. What is the meaning of such speaker's refusal utterances in movie manuscripts of *Pretty Woman* and *Titanic*?
3. What are the reasons of employing such refusal manner of *Pretty Woman* and *Titanic*?

### **D. Objectives of the Research**

In relation to the research statements above, the research is intended :

1. To describe the type of refusal utterances.
2. To clarify the meaning (the locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act) of the refusal utterances.
3. To clarify the reasons of employing the refusal manners

### **E. Limitation of the Research**

This research paper only concerns with "refusal utterances" taken from some Movie manuscripts entitled *Pretty woman* and *Titanic*. The writer analyzes the type of refusal referring to type of refusal given by

Kartamihardjo, meanings of the refusal utterances by applying speech act theory (locutionary illocutionary, and perlocutionary act), and reason of employing such refusal taken from data source of refusal utterances in *Pretty Woman* and *Titanic* by applying SPEAKING theory of Hymes and Politeness Strategy of Brown and Levinson

## **F. The Benefit of the Research**

Hopefully, this research gives several benefits :

### **1. Practical Benefit**

- a. This research will give more understanding to the reader that people may utter refusal in many ways.
- b. This research will give more information to the reader about the interpretation of locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act.
- c. This research will give information to the next writers who want to discuss similar or related study.

### **2. Academical Benefit**

This research will be an additional reference for further research, especially on refusal utterances.

## **G. Organization of Research Paper**

The organization of this research Paper is given in order the reader to be able to understand the content of the paper easier. They are as follows :

*Chapter I* is introduction which consists of the background of the research, review of previous research, problem statement, objective of the research, limitation of the research, the benefit of the research, and the organization of research paper.

*Chapter II* is the related theory. It covers the notion of Socio-Pragmatic, refusal, Sociolinguistic theory; SPEAKING theory, and Politeness strategy, and Pragmatic theory especially speech act.

*Chapter III* is the research method. It consists of the type of research, the object of the research, the type of data and data source, method of data collection, and the technique of data analysis.

*Chapter IV* is research results. In this chapter, the writer will present the data analysis and the findings..

*Chapter V* is conclusion and suggestion.