

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

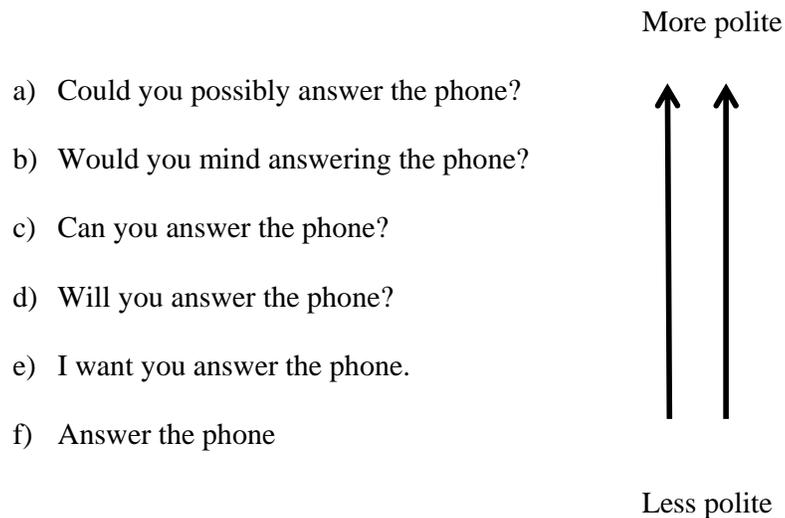
A. Background of the Study

People use language to send or convey their purposes, message or information. Message and information can be shown from the structure of language, or by understanding intrinsic meaning of its word formation. (Leech,1983: 1) stated that someone can not understand rightly about the feature of language itself, if he/she does not know how the language is used in communication. So, context is important in using language. One of them of the context is pragmatics. The focus of pragmatic analysis is on the meaning of speaker's utterance rather than on the meaning of word or sentences. Pragmatics concentrates on aspects of meaning that cannot be predicted by linguistic knowledge itself but it takes to account for the knowledge about the physical and social world, e.g the use of politeness.

According to Brown and Levinson (1987), politeness can be defined as a desire to protect face. A speaker must show awareness of the hearer's face and self-image through various strategies. To be successful in interaction, one has to follow some important strategies to be polite. According to Fauziati (2005: 193), in English, polite language may be characterized by the use of indirect speech, the use of form of address system like, *Sir, Madam*, or the use of formulaic utterances like, *please, excuse me, sorry, thank you*, ect. In Indonesia this politeness is usually called *tatakrama* (manners). In Indonesia

EFL learning context, it is very rare. This study is intended to fill the gap, thus this study is to extend on interlanguage pragmatic research in Indonesian context, particularly on politeness strategies used in speech act of request by in EFL learners.

Speech act is action performed via utterance which are generally called ‘speech’ and in English are commonly given more specific labels, such as apology, complaint, promise, or request (Yule, 1998:47). In this case, the higher indirectness indicates the higher politeness. Leech (1983) points out, “some illocutions (e.g. order) are inherently impolite, and others (e.g. offers) are inherently polite”.



From the examples above, it is shown that the degree of indirectness influence the degree of politeness. Utterances that are more indirect are more polite. In that situation the higher indirectness influences the decrease of the benefit to the hearer.

Basically, the sociolinguistic component refers to rules of speaking which depend on social, pragmatic and cultural elements. For example, when we utter a polite utterance in any language depend on the social status of the speaker or hearer's and on age, sex or any other social factor. Based on the DCTs and survey of the data, perception of the students to the politeness used in request are different, caused the feel between first language and second language also different. Depend on the reason before, perception the degree of politeness used in request influenced of many factors, such as age, sex, and social factor. Bellow is one of the example of politeness in request:

Situation : on behalf of a friend, a person (R) ask a neighbour who is a friend for help to write a job application. (Job application)
 RL : can you help me to make a job application, please?
 NS : yes certainly.

The datum above it is conclude to very polite request, caused the use of the word "can" and "please" for situation of close-equal. And the request above concerning the hearer's willingness to carry out the desire act serve as compliance-gaining strategies by conveying to the requestee that requester does not take compliance for granted.

Along this line, the research of politeness by EFL learners has been done by several researcher in Indonesian. For example: the research by Wijayanto (2009), Endah (2013), Sholikah (2008), Sholikah (2008), Rachmasari (2013), Wijayanto et all (2013), Oktaviani (2006), Dina (2009), Abdul Majeed (2004), Rini (2012), Suryani (2012). Theoretically the use of politeness by Indonesian EFL learners has important role to get knowledge

how the way people acting as the polite person. In case of politeness, the way people do some acts have several conditions. Such as: gender, social, age, ect.

This present study is to explore the perception in politeness of request produced by Indonesian EFL learners which has not been investigated previously. The data of this research come from Indonesian EFL students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. They were forty Indonesian EFL learners in the seventh semester of English department. This research is to develop interlanguage pragmatics research focusing on the Indonesian EFL learners, especially analyzes the perception of polite request produced by Indonesian EFL learners. The researcher interested to this topic because the society assumed that context, level, and gender was influenced the students to judge politeness in requests.

The research is going to prove that the politeness strategies contribute to the determining the degree of politeness used in politeness of request by Indonesian English Foreign Language learners.

Based on the fact above the writer are to conduct research in analyzing the perception of politeness request. The research entitles“**PERCEPTION OF POLITENESS IN REQUESTS BY INDONESIAN LEARNERS OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE**”.

B. Scope of the Study

This research is limited in the discussion of perception of politeness request which produced by English Foreign Language learners, discussion the

difference perceptions of politeness request between male and female learners and the last discussion about the reasons provided by Indonesian English Foreign Language learners to judge politeness used in request.

C. Problem Statement

From the background above the writer formulated the problem statements, as follows:

1. What are the perception of the Indonesian English learners to the politeness used in request in some different social situation?
2. What are the different perception between male and female to politeness of request produced by Indonesian English Foreign Language learners?
3. What are the reasons provided by Indonesian English Foreign Language learners to judge politeness used in request?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on problem statement above, the writer has a some objective of the study. The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the perception of politeness in request produced by Indonesian English Foreign Language learners.
2. To describe the different perception between male and female in politeness of request produced by Indonesian EFL in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

3. To explain the reason provided by Indonesian EFL students to judge politeness used in requests.

E. Benefit of the Study

In this study there are several theoretical and practical benefits that are expected to be implemented after the study authors.

1. Theoretical Benefits

- a. This research is expected to be useful for the Indonesian learners especially the Indonesian English Foreign Language (EFL) learner, to understand the politeness of requests because they can learn how to give perception in politeness of requests.
- b. The result of this study can contribute the pragmatics study, especially in giving description about perception politeness of requests.
- c. It can give additional reference in teaching linguistics. In addition, it can be used as further references study about linguistic study in particular the politeness of requests.

2. Practical Benefits

- a. For teachers, this research can be used as additional source of teaching speech acts especially in politeness of request.
- b. For other researchers, this research is also significant for stimulating to the other researcher in conducting such kind of research in the future.

- c. For the learners, the students can learn how to analyze utterances, especially on perception of politeness in requests.
- d. Hopefully, oral DCT could be one new interest in collecting data in interlanguage pragmatic in UMS.

F. Research Paper Organization

In order to have guidance for either the writer herself in arranging the research paper or readers in reading the whole contents of this research paper the researcher organizes her research as follows:

In chapter I consists of the background of the research, previous study, problem statements, the objective of the study, limitation of the study, the benefit of the study, and the research paper organization.

In this chapter II consists of the notion of pragmatics, the aspect of linguistics on pragmatics, speech act theory, level of speech, type of speech acts, directive utterances, speech act of request, strategies of request, politeness theory, pragmatics scale.

In chapter III is the research method. It is dispersed into five sub-point which are: type of research, object of the research, data and data source, method of data collection, technique of data analysis.

In Chapter IV is analysis and discussion. It consists of data analysis and discussion. In this chapter, the researcher presents data analysis and the result of research

The last chapter is chapter V which consists of conclusion and suggestion.