

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language act performed by producing utterances is called speech act (Yule, 1996:48). When the speakers say something, they will expect that the hearer will be affected by those utterances. Speech act consists of three related acts, they are; locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Yule (1996:53) classified illocutionary act into five acts. They are declaration, representatives, expressives, commissives, and directives. Directives are the kinds of illocutionary act in which the speaker use an utterance to get someone else to do something (Yule, 1996:54).

One of the primary and essential acts of directive is suggesting act. People sometimes give suggestions to the others when they get confused or misbehave. Suggestion is a language act by which one person guides the thoughts, feelings, or behaviours of another. Rintell in Flor (2005:168) states that when the speaker uses suggestion, the speaker asks the hearer to do something that the speaker believes it will benefit the hearer. Suggestion is a common speech act which is frequently used in people's daily interactions.

Unconsciously, people tend to use words to make suggestions in communication. As English language learners, students of English department have to know how to express utterances in English appropriately. English Department students have different background of languages. Most of them speak in their first languages or their second languages. In this research, the researcher would like to know how English department students, especially first semester students, express their suggestions in foreign language, i.e. English. The researcher chooses first semester students because most of them are not aware of the words they use to give suggestions and how the politeness strategies used to express the suggestions.

Politeness holds very important role in communication in order to deliver speaker's intended message. In delivering the utterances, being polite

is essential in order to maintain the mutual understanding and maintain good social relationship among the speakers. However, in some English language teaching and learning activities, politeness receives less attention. In English department of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the lesson goal does not mention politeness in teaching functional conversation, yet the lesson goal is focused on the application and the mastery in using various kinds of utterances in certain situation, such as formal and non-formal situation. Politeness deserves to be given the emphasis in teaching English especially to the students who lack pragmatic competence, so they will not produce grammatically flawless speech that nonetheless fails to achieve its communicative aims.

One of the most famous and influential theories on politeness is proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987) which is a face-saving view on politeness. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), directive utterance especially suggestion, is considered as intruding into the hearer's world by performing an act that concerns what the hearer should do. It threatens either the hearer's or the speaker's face-wants. Face in this manner is the public self-image that every member wants to claim for himself. Politeness strategies are used to minimize the Face Threatening Act (FTA) when the speaker wants to give suggestion to the other people. There are four strategies of politeness; bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record (Brown and Levinson, 1987:92).

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the strategies the first semester students use to give suggestions and the politeness strategies. The phenomenon leads the research to conduct a research entitled, **“Politeness Strategies of Suggesting Utterances by the First Semester Students of English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta”**.

B. Limitation of the Study

The data for this research is taken from first semester students' responses in the scenario of DCT (Discourse Completion Task). Since there are many types of directive utterance, the researcher will only focus on

suggesting utterance to make it specific. Therefore, the researcher limits the research on the types of suggestions and the politeness strategies used by the students of English Department at the first semester.

C. Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulates the problems as follow:

1. Do social status and familiarity influence the suggesting strategies used by first semester students of English Department?
2. Do social status and familiarity influence the politeness strategies of suggesting used by first semester students of English Department?

D. Objective of the study

Based on the problem statement, the researcher formulates some objectives as follows:

1. To describe the influence of social status and familiarity in suggesting strategies used by first semester students of English Department.
2. To describe the influence of social status and familiarity in politeness strategies of suggesting used by first semester students of English Department.

E. Benefit of study

The researcher expects this study to have some benefits. The benefits are divided into theoretical benefit and practical benefit.

1. Theoretical Benefit

Theoretically, this study is expected to give valuable contribution in linguistics research, especially in the field of pragmatics. In addition, the researcher hopes that this study will give references for those who are interested to do further research in analyzing directive utterance and politeness strategy.

2. Practical Benefit

a. For English teacher

The result of this research is expected to enrich their knowledge in politeness strategies and its importance, so that English teacher can apply it in teaching learning process to help the

students to reach the effective conversation, and give pragmatic awareness views.

b. For the reader

This research is expected to help the readers to enrich their understanding in suggesting utterance, politeness strategies and the relation between suggesting utterance and politeness strategies. It can be adopted by the readers to get confidence in speaking English, how to have effective conversation, and give pragmatic awareness views.

c. For other researchers

This research can help the other researchers to add their references and improve their understanding in conducting a research related to pragmatic analysis of directive utterance and politeness strategy.