# CHAPTER 1
# INTRODUCTION

## A. Background of the Study

Speech act is an act that is performed by the speaker when the speaker says utterance. The speaker normally expects that his communicative intention will be recognized by the hearer. On any occasion, when the speaker utters something consciously or unconsciously the speaker doing the three actions simultaneously namely, locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. "Illocutionary is one kind of speech act performed via the communicative force of an utterance" (Yule, 1996:48). People do not just express utterance without purpose, but sometimes there are speakers' intentions that are not expressed directly.

Yule (1996:53) divides general functions of speech act into five classifications, such as declaration, representatives, expressive, commissives, and directives. Yule (1996:54) defines commissives as "kinds of speech acts that speakers use to commit themselves to some future action". The types of commissive are agreeing, guaranteeing, inviting, offering, promising, swearing, and volunteering.

Invitation is a part of speech act that is used to invite someone to go somewhere or to do something, either spoken or written. In Indonesia, most of Indonesian people are just familiar with invitation in a form of wedding invitation, birthday invitation, and social meeting. Whereas most of them are also use invitation in daily communication, such as in a sentence *"Let's go to the cinema"* it means that the speaker invites or asks the hearer to go to the cinema, but most of them do not realize it as an invitation. It is very different from the advanced countries such as England, Germany, France, or United State. In the advanced countries, invitation is usually to invite for having breakfast, lunch, or dinner together, watching movies, recreation, or to go to a place together with friends or family. Here, inviting becomes a focus of the study because the researcher wants to know how the students use invitation in

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their daily communication, to make people say "Yes, I would" or "Yes, I did" speaker must be able to convince and use polite utterance.

Using politeness utterance is a way to make hearer appreciate and give a good response to the speakers' intent, such as: would you like to come, I would like to invite you, I'll really be happy if you come to, I'm sure that you won't be disappointed to come to, I would be pleased if you could, shall we come to, and etc.

Being polite is very important to keep relationship among people, especially in making invitation. People should have knowledge of politeness for making other people respect and help to build a strong relationship. Politeness is also effective to reduce the social distance between speaker and hearer, for the students of School of Teacher Training and Education as well. For English students of the first semester, studying politeness is an important thing because it will be the basis and foundation for them to make a good and proper utterance in communication, especially for the student who wants to be a teacher. As a teacher, they have to teach politeness for their students and be a model as well. Furthermore, politeness is used to avoid threats and rejection from the hearer toward the speakers' intention while doing or uttering something.

In addition, having politeness knowledge is not enough for students, because to be able to convey a good sentence students must master and understand pragmatic competence too. Bialystok (in Kasper and Blum-Kulka, 1993:43) defines pragmatic competence as people's ability to use and interpret of language in context. It contains speakers' ability to use language in different purposes, such as requesting, offering, apologizing, threatening, warning, inviting, and much more. It also contains hearers' ability to understand what the real of speakers' intention, especially when the speaker says his purpose indirectly. So, it is important for students to be able to master of pragmatic competence because to be clever and fluent in speaking is not enough to make a good relationship.

Based on the explanation above the researcher is interested in examining the utterances which produce by the students when they would invite someone. The title of this research is *Politeness Strategies of Inviting Utterances by English Department Students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta*.

**B. Limitation of the Study**

To clarify and understand this research, the researcher just focuses on invitation strategies and implementation of politeness strategies of inviting utterance used by English Department students. The researcher uses the theory of Brown and Levinson (1978) to clarify politeness strategies of inviting utterances and adopting invitation strategies of Suketi (2014) to describe invitation strategies used by English Department students.

**C. Focus of the Study**

Related to the background of the study above, there are two problems to be discussed:

1. What are the invitation strategies used by English Department students?
2. What are the politeness strategies of inviting utterance used by English Department students?

**D. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of this research are:

1. to describe the invitation strategies used by English Department students.
2. to clarify the implementation of politeness strategies of inviting utterance used by English Department students.

**E. Benefit of the Study**

This research has two benefits, namely theoretical and practical.

1. Theoretical benefit

The result of this research can give more knowledge about politeness strategies for the readers who are interested in a field of linguistics.

2. Practical benefit

    a. For teacher

        This research is expected to give contribution or reference for the teachers in teaching linguistics and the teachers can implement the result of this study for their students in speaking class. So, the students can speak English well with the polite utterance and the most important thing is to save their face.

    b. For another researcher

        The results of this research are expected to be a reference for other researchers, especially in a field of linguistics who are interested in politeness strategies.