CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is one of communication tools that very important for our life. It is part of human's basic needs that cannot be separated from human life. People use language to communicate and interact with the other. People create a language by forming words which have meaning and can be understood to all people. They use language to make the hearer understood of aim and intention. Communication in a language will be clear not only recognizing the meaning of word also recognizing what speakers mean by their utterances. But, not every people understand the purpose, information, or intention of a speaker or writer utterances. They have to learn to know what the speaker's intended. The study of meaning as communicated by a speaker or writer and interpreted by listener or reader called pragmatics (Yule, 1996).

Pragmatics is related with assumptions and interpretations of the speaker's utterance. People produce utterance as a perform action not only containing grammatical structure and words. Pragmatics is "the study of "invisible" meaning and how a speaker identifies of what is meant even when it is not actually said or written" (Yule, 1996, p.183). It is the study of how meaning depends on context. Pragmatics theory divided into some parts; include deixis, presupposition, implicature, and speech acts.

Austin (1962) defined speech acts as an action performed in saying something. Speech acts is an action performed by utterance (Yule, 1996). Based on Austin and Yule definition, speech acts is an action performed when the speaker saying something or through language. Austin distinguished speech acts into three levels of the act of utterance, there are locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts (Austin, 1969). Austin distinguished speech acts into locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts, whereas Searle gives a distinction in illocutionary acts.

Searle (1969) divided speech acts into five classification for illocutionary acts, they are declaratives, commissives, expressives, representatives or assertives, and directives. One of speech acts classification by Searle is expressive utterances. Yule (1996) explained expressive is kind of speech acts that state what the speaker feels or relate with psychological states. Expressive utterances are the expression of pleasure, compliment, pain, dislikes, sorrow, joy, or likes. For the example, "That's a very beautiful dress.". It is means of praising or compliment that uttered by the speaker to someone.

A part of expressive utterances is compliment expressions. Compliments are positive speech acts that express friendship and increase rapport among people. Compliment expression can be found in daily life or movie, drama, short story, or novel. One of the novels that contain expressive utterances is Little Women novel by Louisa May Alcott. It is a family drama that validates virtue over wealth. This novel is loosely based on the writer's own life, semi-autobiography of Louisa May Alcott. Little Women is coming age story that begins in second civil war America. It is about life and growth of the four March's girls, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. Their father is serving in a war, and they have to keep the house and work hard because the civil war makes their economy in poverty.

The novel of Louisa May Alcott entitled "Little Women" contains many compliment expressions and responses. The compliment expressions are explained in many ways, it depends on the character. Every character in "Little Women" applies the compliment expressions in different aim, response or interaction to other characters. Here is the example of compliment expression and its response is applied by the characters, the conversation between Jo and Beth.

> *M: 'It's the best we've had yet,' said Meg, as the dead villain sat up and rubbed his elbows.*
> *B: 'I don't see how you can write and act such splendid things, Jo. **You're a regular Shakespeare**!' exclaimed Beth, who firmly believed that her sisters were gifted with wonderful genius in all things.*
> *J: '**Not quite**,' replied Jo modestly.*

Based on the novel, the conversation takes place in Mrs. March house, when Mrs. March's daughters prepare for Christmas day. Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy made a plan to give a surprise in Christmas to their mother. Jo asked her sisters to make a drama and to give a surprise. Meg, Beth, and Amy were the actress of Jo's scenario. After they did Jo's scenario, Beth felt that Jo acted great things. Beth gave praise to Jo, with a sentence "You're a regular Shakespeare".The utterance below is a compliment of general ability that shows a character appearance and the function of Beth sentence is to express the admiration of Jo's Work, and the compliment responses is praise downgrade (disagreeing), because the addressee (Jo) disagree that the object complimented is not worthy of praise with a response 'Not quite'.

Many studies have been conducted on compliments and compliment responses in everyday speech in different country (Yuan, 2002; Chen, 2003; Shezi, 2005; Han, 2009; Yousefvand, 2010; Cai, 2010; Duan, 2013; Chen and Wang, 2013; Sidraschi, 2014; Suketi, 2014; Bai , 2015; Purnomo, 2015; Mohamed et al, 2015; among others) other studied discuss compliments and compliment responses in film (Asri, 2007; Parli, 2010; Kuncoro, 2011; Oktavianti, 2011; Iswara, 2015; among others) and compliment in social media (Sahawneh, 2010; Aniiqah and Hoon, 2012).

There were many previous studies analyzed compliment and compliment responses in daily life, film or social media, but there is no previous study analyze compliment and compliment responses in the novel. The researcher interested in conducting the research because the difference characters found in "Little Women" novel makes the way to delivered compliment expression in every character is different, the researcher tries to analyze in the form of thesis entitled Compliment Expressions and Compliment Responses Used by Characters in "Little Women" Novel.

B. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses on the topics and functions of compliment expressions and compliment responses in "Little Women" novel by Louisa

May Alcott. The data will be analyzed using topics of compliment by Wolfson (1983), functions of compliment by Wolfson and Manes (1983) and compliment responses by Herbert (1989).

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study, the researcher identifies the following problem. In this case, the problem statement can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the topics of compliment used by characters in “Little Women” novel?
2. What are the functions of compliment used in “Little Women” novel?
3. What are the types of compliment responses used by characters in “Little Women” novel?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement, there are two objectives of the study follows:

1. To identify the topics of compliment used by characters in “Little Women” novel?
2. To describe the functions of compliment used in “Little Women” novel?
3. To explain the types of the compliment responses used by characters in “Little Women” novel.

E. Benefit of the Study

The expected results of this study are follows:

1. For the reader

   The result of the research is expected will give more information about expressive speech acts especially on compliment expressions and compliment responses.

2. For the teacher

The result of the research is expected will be able to enrich the material in speech acts analysis especially in compliment expressions and compliment responses in an expressive utterance.

3. For other researchers

The result of the study can be used to another researcher as a reference for conducting other research and give new knowledge especially about speech acts of compliment expressions and compliment responses in expressive utterance.

F. Research Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters.

Chapter I is the introduction which shows a background of study, limitation of the study, problem statement, the objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is review of related literature which presents the previous study, underlying theories that explain of the theory of pragmatics, the theory of speech acts, types of illocutionary speech acts, compliment and compliment responses.

Chapter III is research method. It includes type of the study, object of research, data and data source, technique of collecting data, data validity, and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is analyzing and discussing of the data

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.