

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. **Background of the Study**

Politeness is one of the behaviors exhibited others either in speaking or behaving. Politeness is usually used to express the speakers' intention to mitigate face threats carried by certain face threatening acts another (Mills, 2003, p. 6). The objective of politeness is to save face other within positive and negative face.

One of language use which involves politeness is speech act such as, request, refusals, promises, orders, commands, and complaints. A speech act that is done directly is called as direct speech act. Request is speech act used by people to ask to do something. It explains ones' respect to others and raises the chances that one's request will be granted. Blum-Kulka (1989) classified requests into three main categories: direct requests, conventional indirect requests and non-conventional indirect requests. The indication of a direct request is in the utterance by grammatical, lexical or semantic items (e.g., "Please give me a glass of water."). A conventions indirect request is the expressions of the illocutionary forced by using fixed linguistic conventions (e.g., "Could you give me a glass of water?"). a non-conventional indirect request is expressed by speaker to make partial reference to the requested act (e.g., "Do you have a glass of water?"). Thomas (1995 in Brown and Levinson 1987) stated that the level of directness is determined by contextual factors

such as power and social distance between the interlocutors and the degree of imposition involved. In a more formal situation, a speech act involves a high-degree of imposition and is addressed to a person who has more power. In such a situation, the greater degree of indirectness is required to protect the face of the interlocutor. When the speech act involves a low-degree of imposition and is produced for a person in equal relationship, the degree of required indirectness tends to be smaller.

Politeness does not just vary between situations, but also culture-dependent. What sounds polite to some hearers might be embarrassing or upsetting people from other cultural backgrounds. Therefore, in every country and place, politeness has its own form and application. Something that is considered to be polite in a country or in an area has not certainly been considered similarly in the other country or place. For example, western culture it is very common to call the first name of someone who is older than the speaker and even without certain attributes. However, it is impossible in Indonesian context.

There are ways getting the things that we want. When we are with our friends, we can say "give me a water!", or "stop!" However, when we are surrounded by a group of adults at a situation, in which parents are attending, people tend to say, "Could you please give me a water, if you don't mind?" and "I'm sorry, could you stop there." In different social situations, we are obligated to adjust our use of words to fit the occasion. It would seem socially

unacceptable if the phrases above were reversed. Thus, polite language is crucial in certain communication contexts.

There are a number of research about politeness and request, such as requests in email (Krulatz, 2012), politeness theory on EFL students' requests (Elmianvari and Kheirabadi, 2013), request in Hong Kong workplaces (Shum, 2008), the use of requests by graduate students (Memarian, 2012), requests in FROZEN movie (Cahya, 2016), politeness in requests in INCEPTION movie (Krisnoni, 2013), request based on gender differences (Ishikawa, 2013), politeness in requests by EFL students (Sari, 2015), requests and apologies as produced by Saudi Hijazi, English as a Foreign Language learners, and British English university students (Qari, 2017), politeness in requests by Algerian students (Slimane, 2013), indirect/direct requests in Hindi (Kumari and Reddy, 2012), requests in term of gender difference (Oria, 2013), and indirect requests in relation to politeness (Janochva, 2013).

B. Problem of the Study

In this research, the writer formulates the problem statements as follow:

1. What are the strategies of requests used by the XI grade students of SMA N 7 Surakarta of the academic year of 2014/2015?
2. What politeness strategies are used in requests by the XI grade students of SMA N 7 Surakarta of the academic year of 2014/2015?

C. Objective of the Study

The writer would like to examine:

1. the strategies of requests that are used by the XI grade students of SMA N 7 Surakarta of the academic year of 2014/2015.
2. the politeness strategies that are used in requests by the XI grade students of SMA N 7 Surakarta of the academic year of 2014/2015.

D. Limitation of the Research

To make the research paper clearly understood, the writer would like to limit the problems. The request strategies are the ones elicited by means of DCTs. The social contexts underlying the requests were developed by the researcher. Requests strategies were analyzed on Trosborg theory. The politeness strategies used to analyze the data of request are based on Brown and Levinson (1987).

E. The Significance of the Research

The advantageous which can be obtained by this study include practical and academic ones:

1. Practical benefits
 - a. This research gives more understanding to the reader about the strategies of request of the XI grade students of SMA N 7 Surakarta in Surakarta in the academic year of 2014/2015.

- b. This research gives more understanding to the reader about the types of politeness strategies used of the XI grade students of SMA N 7 Surakarta in Surakarta in the academic year of 2014/2015.

2. Academic benefits

- a. This research gives the contribution to the development of pragmatic field mainly in making request in the realm of speech act theory and the grammar theory.
- b. This research benefits as an additional reference for further research especially in request strategies.

F. Research Paper Organization

In order to have guidance for the readers in reading the whole contents, this research paper is organized as follows: Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study, and research paper organization. Chapter II is Theoretical Review. It covers previous study, the notion of pragmatics, the branches of pragmatics such as deixis, presupposition, entailment, speech act, implicature and politeness. Chapter III is Research Method. It consists of the type of the study, object of the study, data and data sources, method of collecting data, and technique for analyzing data. Chapter IV is Analysis Result and Discussion. Chapter V is Conclusion, Recommendation and Weakness of the Study.