CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Refusal is a negative response used by people to reject an offer, request, invitation, or suggestion. Commonly the people use the words such as “No” or several words or sentences such as “I’m sorry“, “I can not“ and etc, to make refusal. According to Al-Eryani (2007), “refusal is a respond negatively to an offer, request, invitation, and suggestion. Refusals as all the other speech acts occur in all languages“.

Refusal in Javanese is unique and complex. Javanese people commonly use the sequential orders of refusal strategies appropriate with status level (higher, equal, lower) for the reason politeness, because they have feeling reluctant to decline someone’s invitation. Wierzbicka (in Nadar, 2007) argues that in Javanese culture it is considered appropriate to conceal one’s wishes and one’s intentions, particularly if they are in conflict with other people’s wishes and desire. Prawito (in Wijayanto, 2012) states that to decline an invitation the Javanese frequently used indirect strategies by showing politeness or considering the inviters feeling.

Wijayanto (2011: 190-193) reported that refusals in Javanese tend to vary sequential orders according to different status levels, Native speakers of Javanese use apology/regret when they decline an invitation to those of unequal (lower and higher). While, they decline those of equal
status, they commonly use direct strategies more often than indirect ones. By contrast refusals in English include apology/regret followed by explanation to show politeness. Native speakers of English mostly use apology/regret to decline an invitation to a collocutor of unequal status (higher and lower status). It is initiated by using positive opinion and which is often concluded refusals with good luck (Wijayanto, 2011).

Wannaruk (2008: 322-323) argues that refusals strategies in English tend to vary sequential orders according to different status levels. The native speakers of Thai used direct strategies, when they decline an invitation to those of higher, equal, and lower status. They commonly use inability followed by explanation. NTs also use regret but the frequency is low. Whereas, native speakers of English use indirect strategies to decline to those of unequal (higher and lower status). They often use regret followed by explanation. While, they decline those of equal status, they mostly use direct strategies.

The present research focuses the discussion on the pragmalinguistic forms of refusals to invitations used by Javanese learners of English (JLE). The participants answered the DCT scenarios, eventually they produce two utterances, those were Javanese and English. For example:

DCT scenario

_Hari inikamu bertemu dengan teman sekelasmu perempuan dan dia mengundangmu untuk datang ke ulang tahunnya malam minggu besuk, tetapi karena kamu sudah ada janji dengan kakakmu laki-laki, maka kamu menolaknya._
Context:
The interlocutor met his/her friend, then his/her friend invites him/her to come to her birthday party on Saturday night, but he/she refuses her invitation. The interlocutor and inviter have familiar social distance and have equal status, because both of them are the same age.

(1) Refusal strategies in English

A: Would you like to come in my birth day party on Saturday night?

B: I’d really like to, but sorry I have an appointment with my brother

(2) Refusal strategies in Javanese

A : Suk malem minggu teka ning acara ultahku ya?

B : Waduh, kayane aku ra isa’e wis enek janji karo masku.

The data above show that refusal strategies in English and Javanese are different. The conversation (1) used an indirect strategy, that is the interlocutor express an indirect refusal, by combinationing positive opinion (to give agreement), apology, excuse (to explain his/her reason). While, in the conversation (2) the speaker uses a direct strategy includes the combinations of fillers, inability, and excuse. The Javanese speakers used lower level of Javanese language the and used inability to decline the invitation and excuse to justify their inability to accept the invitation.

There have been growing research on refusal strategies for example Kuncoro (2011), Prawito (2007), Nelson, Gayle L, Carson, Joan, AlBatal,
Mahmoud and El Bakary, Waguida (2002), Al-Eryani (2007), Kwon (2004), etc. However, studies comparing refusal in Javanese and English have been very limited to Wijayanto’s (2011). So, this research is to extend further study about refusal strategies in Javanese and English used by Javanese learners of English with a focus on refusal to invitations.

B. Problems Statement

Based on the phenomena mentioned on the background of this study, the writer formulates the following problems:

1. Are there any similarities and differences of refusals to invitations in Javanese and English?
2. What are the politeness strategies used in Javanese and English refusals to invitations?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement, the writer would like to present the objective of the study are follows:

1. To describe the similarities and differences of refusals to invitations in Javanese and English.
2. To examine different politeness strategies used in Javanese and English refusal to an invitation.
D. Scope of the Study

In conducting this study, the writer focuses on Javanese and English refusals to invitations. This study deals with similarities and differences of refusals strategies. The writer takes the data from Javanese learners of English through DCT. The data of refusals are analyzed according to Beebe et al. (1990), The politeness strategies are analyzed using Brown and Levinson (1987).

E. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes that this research gives some benefits in the pragmatic analysis, especially in speech act. There are two kinds of benefit in this research:

1. Theoretical Benefit
   This research will give contribution in pragmatics study especially on politeness and refusal research.

2. Practical Benefit
   a. The Students
      This research will have some knowledges in the pragmatic analysis, especially in speech act and improve the reader’s knowledge of understanding speech act used in refusal invitation.
   b. The Lectures
      To the lectures, the study will get knowledge and to become reference in teaching especially in linguistics.
c. Other Research

This research will help other researcher, who are can see this research to makes the other research which better especially linguistic.

F. Research Paper Organization

The writer organizes this research paper in order to make clear of this research content. This research is divided into five chapters. Each of them is concerned with different issues, but it relates to each other.

Chapter I is introduction which deals with the Background Study, Previous Study, Scope of the Study, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, and Research Paper Organization.

Chapter II is Underlying Theory. This chapter covers Notion of Pragmatic, Notion of Speech Act, Kinds of Speech Act, Notion of Politeness, Kinds of Politeness, and Speech Act of Refusal.

Chapter III is Research Method. This chapter consists of Type of Research, Subject of Research, Object of Research, Data and Data Source, Technique of Collecting Data, and Technique for Analyzing Data.

Chapter IV is Research Finding and Discussion. This chapter consists of Analysis and Discussion.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion. This chapter consists of Conclusion and Suggestion.