

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an introduction which consists of background of the study, research question, objectives of the study, and benefit of the study.

A. Background of the Study

Languages are the main medium in the process of communication both in oral and writing. Through language we can express opinions, thoughts, ideas, and our feelings to someone directly. In addition, with the language in communication a person will be easier to receive and convey information effectively. The use of language that is effective and easy to understand will have an impact on communication that runs well too. According to Arthur (2003.p.5) Conversation occurs when two or more people have the right to talk or listen without having to follow a fixed agenda. That means that everybody has the right to hear and say something any time. In social interaction usually someone start the conversation by saying or expressing something that performs through language. We can perform an action in communication through our language used.

According to Yule (2003.p.47) people do not only produce utterance containing grammatical structure and words but they also perform by those utterance. In pragmatics, utterance is a form of action in the context of the speech situation which is the activity is called speech act. Speech act is the part of pragmatics. Mey (1993) states that pragmatics is the study of language that people use in the real life to achieve their purposes. According to Yule (1998.p.3) Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning. Contextual meaning is the meaning that arises based on the context of its use. Then, according to Yule in Fauziati (2009.p.173) speech act is commonly given more specific label, such as apology, thanking, complaint, compliment, promise or request.

Thus, each speech act has a different purpose and function depending on the situation and context of the speech.

One of the speech acts are commonly used in daily conversation is the expression of thanking or gratitude, because these speeches appear more often and play an important role in building solidarity between individuals. Thanking expression are expressive speech acts. Hornby (1995.p.45) defines that gratitude is the feeling of being grateful or the desire to express thankful feeling. Einstein and Bodman (1993) declare that when this function is expressed properly, it can create positive feelings and solidarity in interacting, maintaining and enhancing social cohesion and social bonding in the society. Any failure to express gratitude could have negative social consequences for the interlocutors' relationship, leading to irritation, resentment and annoyance (Einstein & Bodman, 1986). Speech act of thanking has a unique aspect to be investigated, because it often occurs in our daily lives when people give kindness, help, gifts, advice, or offers for us.

In this research, the researcher interested to investigate thanking expression that used in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie. The researcher is interested to take the phenomenon that often happened in our social life by choosing movie as the source or data because the researcher found this similar phenomena dealing with thanking expression in a movie. The researcher analyze thanking expression used by characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie. *The Pursuit of Happyness* is an American biographical drama film directed by Gabriele Muccino and produced by Will Smith, Steve Tisch, James Lassiter, Todd Black and Jason Blumenthal. The movie was released in the United States on December 15, 2006. In *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie tells the story of the struggle of a father who loved his child and had to raise his young child in a condition of lack of money, no home and no job. But with his extraordinary struggle Chris Gardner eventually became a successful stock broker, who later founded his own brokerage company and became a generous Multi Billionaire in helping to provide shelter for homeless people, given he had experienced the same thing. The reason for choosing these movie is the

researcher wants to know whether the characters in The pursuit of Happyness movie use expressions of thanking in various ways.

The researcher found some examples of thanking expression in The Pursuit of Happyness movie which different favour of the speaker, for example:

Chris Gardner : Thank you very much for inviting me into the program. I really appreciate it and I'd be very pleased to accept your invitation.

The conversation above happened between Chris Gardner and the staf of Dean Witter. The event occurs when Chris Gardner called Dean Witter Resource. Chris Gardner would like to leave a message for Mr. Jay Twistle. The message is Chris Gardner says thank you for Mr. Jay Twistle has invited him into the program at Dean Witter and he was very pleased to join the program. In this part of the scene Chris Gardner felt blessing by Mr. Jay Twistle, he thanked to Jay Twistle for his help and kindness. The utterances said by Chris Gardner can be classified as the type of acknowledging a major favor because he has benefited from an action by Jay Twistle. He showed the type of acknowledging a major favor using the phrase "Thank you very much for inviting me into the program".

The other examples of thanking expression which has different meaning was showed as follow

Mr. Frohm : Nice shirt.

Chris Gardner : Thank you, sir.

The conversation happened at the Dean Witter office. The participants were Chris Gardner and Mr. Frohm. The event occur when Mr. Frakesh calls Chris Gardner to see Mr. Frohm right away. Anxiously, Chris Gardner walked into the room to meet Mr. Frohm. When he entered the room he was greeted by Mr. Frohm, Jay Twistle and other employees. Mr. Frohm greeted Chris and complimented the shirt worn by Chris. He compliments with saying that Chris' shirt are nice. It's happened because at the time when Chris first met Mr. Frohm during an interview, he just got back from the Polk station and didn't have time to change clothes. So as, he was dressed like a garbage man, he was wearing

clothes that were not appropriate to interview. Chris Gardner respond Mr. Frohm compliment with strategy of thanking somebody explicitly because he thanked most direct to Mr. Frohm. Chris Gardner showed the strategy of thanking somebody explicitly with the word "Thank you, Sir"

Based on the above, the researcher intends to study further about speech act of thanking expression found in the movie by conducting a study entitled: *Thanking Expression in The Pursuit of Happyness movie: A Pragmatics Analysis.*

B. Problem Statement

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

1. What are the types of thanking expression used by characters in The Pursuit of Happyness movie?
2. What are the strategies of thanking expression used by characters in The Pursuit of Happyness movie?

C. Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the types of thanking expression are used by characters in The Pursuit of Happyness movie.
2. To clarify the kinds of thanking strategies are used by characters in The Pursuit of Happyness movie.

D. Benefit of the Study

The researcher hopes that this research has theoretical and practical benefits, as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of this research is expected to be useful in pragmatic field, especially in speech act of thanking expression.

2. Practical Benefits

- a. For the Students

This research is expected to provide more knowledge for the students about thanking expression, especially in pragmatics perspective

b. For the teachers or lecturers

The result of this research is expected to be useful as an additional materials and reference for teachers or lecturers in teaching pragmatic, mainly in speech act of thanking expression.

c. For other researchers

It hopes to be used by other researchers who take a same topic as an additional reference and information.