

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, several parts are discussed, including the background of the study, research problem, objectives of the study, and benefits of the study.

A. Background of the Study

Communication is basic activities in human life. When humans interact or communicate, they will need language as a tool. It can be said that language itself is basically a means of communication between humans. The importance of the function of language in communication itself is used to convey ideas, information, feelings, to the speaker's intent. In the communication process, speakers will produce utterances with the aim of getting changes or influences from listeners as a result of what they say. However, not all listeners will immediately understand the meaning of the speech. Therefore, pragmatics is needed to examine the meaning conveyed by the speaker. In pragmatics there are many principles, and speech acts are one of them. In one type of speech act there is a phenomenon that will be examined in this study, namely refusal which is included in the commissive type.

The phenomenon of refusal expression can be found in TV series because it reflects everyday life. The writer found example of refusal expression in the *Bridgerton* TV series, as follows.

Penelope Featherington : “Should you allow me to delay only a year, just as Lady Bridgerton has done for Eloise, I may remain dedicated to my studies, perhaps.”

Portia Featherington : **“The answer is no, Penelope.”**

The example above showed the refusal of request for acceptance, because Penelope asked her mother to delay her debut. In addition, this example also demonstrates a direct strategy of the so-called non-performative expression of refusal, where Porita rejects Penelope's request by saying "no" outright.

Refusal expression is one of the types of speech acts that occur used in everyday life. According to Searle in (Brasdefer, 2008) refusal expression is included in the speech acts that refer to commissive category because they refuse to take an action. While according to Searle and Vanderveken (1985) (in Chunli & Nor, 2016), refusal expression is the negative opposite

of acceptance. Since refusal expression is a speech act that somewhat includes a kind of rudeness, using an inappropriate refusal strategy can damage the relationship between the interlocutors. Refusal expression itself is a highly complex speech act because its realization is sensitive to various aspects of norms such as cultural norms, the initiating acts of refusal, social status of the interlocutors, degree of formality, politeness or facial maintenance, and pragmalinguistic competence (Wijayanto, 2019).

Refusal expression can be defined as a disagreement with the speaker's intent and is usually used in response to invitations, requests, offers, and suggestions (Beebe et al., 1990). However, from the initiation above, there are several subcategories proposed by Yang (2008), such as in refusal of requests, which are subcategorized into refusal of requests for assistance, refusal of requests for acceptance/agreement/permission, refusal of requests for information, and refusal for request for action. Whereas in the refusal of offers, there are refusal of offers for gifts, refusal of offers for opportunities, refusal of offers for foods/drinks, and refusal of offers for favour. In addition, in the refusal of suggestions, there are two sub-categories, namely solicited and unsolicited suggestions. And finally, in the type of refusal of invitation, there are also two sub categories, namely real invitations and ritual invitations.

Because expression of refusal is very complicated, we must to determine the appropriate strategy in order to minimize face threats. Beebe et.al (1990) proposed 3 strategies that can be used in refusal, namely direct, independent, and also adjunct. Direct strategies are divided into two subcategories, namely performative verb "I Refuse" and also non-performative with direct no or showing negative willingness "I Cannot". Meanwhile, indirect itself are divided into eleven subcategories, including statements of regret, wishes, explanations or excuse or reasons, alternative statements, regulating past or future conditions, promises of future acceptance, statement of principle, statement of philosophy, attempts to obstruct the interlocutor; statement of negative consequences, the function of acceptance as refusal, and avoidance. And the last strategy is adjunct, where there are 4 subcategories, namely feeling or agreement, statement of empathy, pause fillers, gratitude or appreciation. In everyday life, refusing requests, invitations, offers and suggestions often happens. In making a refusal, the speaker can use direct and indirect refusal at the same time. In addition, adjuncts can also be added and used with other strategies. It can be used to avoid being rude and disrespectful.

Many studies discuss the expression of refusal, here are some examples of research on the refusal expression. The first research was conducted by Wardani (2019) with the title

Refusal Strategies Used by 5th Semester Students of English Department in State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya. The purpose of this study was to determine the classification of strategies and sequences of refusal used by 5th-semester students as respondents. The second research was conducted by Dewi, Wibawa, & Hastuti (2020) with the title *An Analysis of Refusal Strategy of the Children at Ketare Village: A Pragmatic Study*. This study aimed to identify the refusal strategies used by children in Ketare village. Moreover, this study also analyzed the factors that influence the differences in the refusal strategies used by children in Ketare village. The third research was conducted by Hidayati, Bafadal, & Rahmaniah (2020) with the title *A Socio-Pragmatics Approach of Refusal Strategies on a Biopic Movie "Sang Pencerah (the Enlightener)"*. This study aimed to classify the refusal strategies used by the characters in the biopic movie entitled *Sang Pencerah*.

Many studies on refusal have been done, but the three studies above did not examine the details of the types of refusal. Another difference is that this present study did not examine the sequences of refusal expression and factors that influence refusal expression. Moreover, the difference from previous research is the data source used, where two previous studies, namely research from Wardani (2019) and Dewi et al (2020) used data sources from tests given through the Discourse Completion Task (DCT). Meanwhile, this study used data sources from TV series in analyzing refusal expression (for the detail will be presented in chapter II part A).

It is important to learn refusal expression because not all of us understand how to politely and adequately refuse. In addition, by studying the expression of refusal, we can also master the aspects that influence it, one of which is actional competence which refers to the ability to choose speech acts or knowledge of language functions. In refusal expression, the selection of the right strategies is very necessary to avoid facing threats. This research was expected to complement previous research that discusses the expression of refusal, including the types and strategies of refusal expression contained in the *Bridgerton* TV series itself.

B. Problem Statement

In this study, researcher have focused to examine several things, including

1. What types of refusal acts are found in the *Bridgerton* TV Series?
2. What kinds of refusal strategies are found in the *Bridgerton* TV Series?

C. Objectives of the Study

There are two objectives that the researcher expects in this study, such as

1. To describe the types of refusal found in the *Bridgerton* TV series.
2. To describe the kinds of refusal strategies found in the *Bridgerton* TV series.

D. Benefits of the Study

This writer is expected to provide benefits, theoretical benefits and practical benefits for all interested parties:

1. Theoretically, this research is expected to contribute to the development of pragmatics theory in refusal expression. This research can provide benefits to improve pragmatics in the field of linguistics.
2. The practical benefit of this research is to provide general understanding or knowledge in the form of refusal expression found in *Bridgerton* TV series.
 - a. Pragmatics Lecturer

This research will be beneficial to pragmatics lecturers in giving examples of types and strategies of refusal expression.

- b. Future Researcher

Further, the future researchers can have the information that this topic has been researched, so the future researchers can find other that sources.