

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Studying English language is not far from linguistics. Because linguistics is part of studying English language. One of the linguistics branches is Pragmatics. According to Yule (1996), pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning and contextual meaning, and he also said pragmatics is the study of how more gets communicated. The last definition is that pragmatics is the study of expression of relative distance. From the explanation above, pragmatic means study about contextual meaning communicated by a speaker or writer, and interpreted by a listener or reader.

Yule (1996) also adds that in attempting to express themselves people do not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words, they perform actions via those utterances. Action from speech act is an action performed by means of language, such as requesting something, complaining about something, or refusing something.

According to Austin (1962), a speech act is a functional unit in communications. It is an act that a speaker performs when making an utterance. One of the speech acts is refusal. It is frequently performed in our daily lives. Refusal or rejections can be defined as a disapproval of the someone intention. Sometimes, people are refusals in responded to request, invitations, offers and suggestions.

More complete explanation about refusal will explained by Scarle (1996: 3), she said that refusal is one of the classifications of speech act called expressive speech act that concern with the act of refuse for something or refuse to do something. Refusal in speech act which is also called as the act of refusing. It is categorizing in the type of commissive speech act. Speech act of refusal can threaten positive face. Refusal speech

act threatens positive face when the speakers do not care about the listener's wants. Speaker can show the refusal politely. For example, "Sorry I can't fulfill your request, because the money that you borrowed yesterday hasn't been paid." According to Brown and Levinson (1987: 314), everyone has self-public image which has relation to self-emotion and social sense and expects everyone else to recognize. Politeness in interaction can be defined as the means employed to show awareness of another person's face. Politeness strategies are also used in making refusal. In communication, politeness is used in refusal by both of hearer and speaker. Politeness strategies are strategies which used to prevent a violation of the hearer's face. It is one of techniques to analyze pragmatics issue. Brown and Levinson (1987) then divide the possible strategies in politeness, namely: positive politeness, negative politeness, bald on record, bald off record.

The study of strategies on refusal has been conducted by some researchers. The researcher also mentioned six researches which are related to this research. They are Solikah (2011), Putri (2013), Winerta (2012), Nurjayanti (2016), Eftanastarini (2015), Senowarsito (2013). It is useful to support this research and to know that this research is different from the others research.

Indonesia is the example one of many countries using English language as second language. It is including English students of UMS. The students of UMS are almost java people. According to Barata widjaja (25:2000), Java people are famous as one of polite tribes. They do not want to express their honest which can create a conflict. Because of it, they prefer to silent and not to deny if there are some different arguments. It makes them hard in doing refusal because they are too polite. It is absolutely different with native speakers which can refuse easily with their way. When the students of UMS are studying English language, they do not just study grammar, pronunciation etc. They should know how to do

refusal which is like native speaker. Especially eighth semester because they are ready to graduate and ready to look for a job. It means that their skills have been qualified for this reason, the researcher intends to conduct research entitled *“Strategies on Refusal Used by English Students in Eighth Semester of UMS”* Through this research, the researcher hopes that it will contribute knowledge about the politeness strategies used by English students in eighth semester of UMS in refusal to evaluate the quality of English for college students in all of University in Indonesia. The researcher also hopes that this researcher can be useful for the university to maintain, evaluate and and enhance the material, method, and creating a supporting environment in order to enhance the student’s pragmatic competence.

#### **B. Limitation of the Study**

The topic of this study is “Strategies on Refusal Used by Eighth Semester of English Students of UMS”. The researcher limits the study only on strategies on refusal. It can make this research more specific. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses a theory from M. Demirezen (1993), Delahunty & Garvey (2010). The data are taken from eighth semester of English students of UMS.

#### **C. Problem Statement**

The background has explained pragmatics especially speech act. It will help the researcher to make same issues to be solved. Thus, he sets some questions as follow:

1. What are the types of refusal strategies used by the eighth semester of English students of UMS?
2. What are the reasons in the use of refusal strategies?

#### **D. Objective of the Study**

According to some questions above, they must be some objectives of this study. The objectives are as follow:

1. To identify the types of refusal strategies used by the eighth semester of English students of UMS.
2. To explain the reason in the use of the refusal strategies.

#### **E. Benefits of the Study**

The researcher hopes that his research will give contribution to some aspects. There are at least two kinds of benefits that can be taken through this study. Both kind of benefits can be divided as follows:

##### **1. Theoretical benefits**

Materials of Teaching

Hopefully, this research can be useful to improve the materials of teaching. It can help the education worlds of teaching.

##### **2. Practical benefits**

###### **a. Further researcher**

The researcher hopes that the result of this research will be useful for further researcher. It can be the reference for the further researchers who are interested in pragmatic research especially strategies on refusal.