

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This section discusses the research background, problem identification, research questions, research objectives, and research benefits.

A. Research Background

Communication through language is vital to both daily life and education. The Oxford Dictionary defines language as a means of communicating thoughts and emotions through gestures, symbols, and sounds. Meaning that anyone can simply convey their thoughts and ideas through language. Interaction and information sharing might take the form of brainstorming, questions, requests, excuses, thanks, agreements, and refusals. Everyone has many ways of expressing themselves in everyday life, including when they apologize, wish someone well, or express gratitude for something. Sometimes, individuals can also object when someone says something rude. This refusal is an example of a pragmatic speaking act.

The study of meaning as it is communicated by speakers (or authors) and understood by listeners is called pragmatics (or readers). As a result, understanding what people mean when they speak is more important than understanding what the words or phrases they use actually imply (Yule, 1996). In other words, pragmatics is a component of everyday communication that can aid listeners in understanding the speaker's intentions when they are murky or ambiguous in terms of context, place, time, etc. Therefore, understanding the speaker's intent toward the other person is essential for effective communication.

Each speaker adopted the refusal method in order to convey their meaning. It is used to negotiate over the refusal of what people feel, which is established through daily conversation, classroom interaction, and communication in public places. The speaker could occasionally not get the desired response from the other person. It occurs when the other person does not understand what we are trying to say.

When a teacher requests students to turn in their assignments after class, for instance, and they object by saying, "Oh no ma'am, give us some more time," that is an example of student resistance. These statements frequently come up during class exchanges. We call that refusing.

We must understand that refusal is difficult for a variety of reasons, including one's standing, power, and familiarity. For instance, when our old teacher requires assistance and we

are unable to fulfill his requests. We do our best to avoid embarrassing them by turning down their request, though. In this case, we are recommended to gently deny them by making a proper refusal. We have to maintain our good name, so this is significant. Of course, it will be different if we have to decline our classmate's request; in that case, we can state our position clearly by being honest or by providing a brief justification for our refusal. Refusal and refusal are two ways people can express their disapproval of our objectives.

When speaking, people frequently consider several factors. It depends on the circumstances that each person must face. The social rank difference between the speaker and the interlocutor also affects it. In various contexts, people pronounce words using various utterances. When people are faced with circumstances where they must refuse, a variety of utterances also appear. Refusal is a rude speech behavior the speaker uses when speaking to the other person. This occurs as a result of a person's refusal to follow the speaker's instructions, orders, offers, solicitations, requests, and so forth (L. Beebe et al., 1990).

Refusal happens regularly in daily life, making it a good topic for study. Refusal is thought to be both universal and culturally unique, like other speaking acts. The activity is available in several languages. But it varies across cultures in terms of where and how it shows up. Research indicates that spoken acts of refusal are cultural (Wijayanto, 2019). Politeness is both general and particular. All languages share the idea of politeness, yet they all have different ways of expressing it. Directness might be regarded as polite in some cultures but as disrespectful in others.

Because the speaker either explicitly or indirectly declines a request, invitation, or recommendation from the other person, refusing is a challenging situation. Researchers have become interested in this speech behavior because of how face-threatening it is. Refusal imperils the recipient's negative side, namely, his or her desire for future freedom in action and speech.

The act of refusing is itself a very complex speech act because how it is realized depends on several normative factors, including cultural norms, the person who initiated the act of refusing, the other person's social standing, the degree of formality, politeness, or facial expression, and pragma linguistic proficiency (Wijayanto, 2019).

When responding to invitations, requests, offers, and suggestions, the expression of refusal is typically employed to indicate disagreement with the speaker's intent (L. Beebe et al., 1990). Introduced several subcategories that build on the initiation described above,

including the refusal of requests, which is further divided into the refusal of requests for favor, the refusal of requests for acceptance/agreement/permission, the refusal of requests for information, and the refusal of requests for action. In contrast, refusing an offer includes refusal offers for opportunity, refusal a gift, refusal a drink or food, and refusal for a favor. Additionally, there are two subcategories of refusal to suggestions: refusal to solicited suggestions and unsolicited suggestions. The sort of invitation refusal can further be divided into two types, namely actual invites, and ritual invitations.

Based on this phenomenon, this research focuses on analyzing the types of refusal strategies and those that are most used by the characters in the *Never Have I Ever* series. So, the title of this study is speech act of refusal found in the *Never Have I Ever* series. This film reveals the many statements of refusal needed in this study as data sources. Besides that, in this series of films, a moral message can be taken, the series captures how we should confess who we really are and embrace it with open arms. Devi and her mom struggle so hard to act normal when in reality they haven't treated their own grief and constantly deny it. Other characters like the hot boy Paxton, Ben's nemesis, and Devi's two sidekicks also deal with humility and disappointment. Refusal strategies in the way of speech when people refuse or reject the other person's offers, requests, solicitations, and suggestions. All data in this film is analyzed and an explanation is needed to identify and differentiate all species. To get the right analysis, the types of refusal strategies are analyzed using speech acts of refusal, refusal strategies, and the context of the situation. To avoid a broad discussion, this study focuses on the analysis of refusal strategies used by figures such as refusing speakers to make requests, offers, solicitations, and suggestions based on the theory of Beebe et al (1990).

Refusals have been studied by several researchers in recent years, but the research subjects are different from this study. Several research conducted with research subjects of the characters in movie Rifandi, Kamil, & Ningksih (2019), Anshari (2021), Hidayati & Rahmaniah (2020), Rosdiana (2018), Lubab (2021), Anggraini & Ambalegin (2020), Permataningtyas & Sembodo (2018), and Charismawati (2013). Furthermore, several research with the subjects of the characters in the series were carried out by Anjani (2020) and Mulyadi (2019). Apart from that, there are many similar research on refusal expression but with different research subjects, such as EFL learners. Such as research conducted by Nufus (2019), Retnowaty (2018), Al-Mahrooqi & Al-Aghbari (2016), Kasih (2020), Boonsuk & Ambele (2019).

Based on this explanation, this research is different from previous studies. This research includes research on type of refusal and the function of refusal. Then, the difference lies in the data source in this study. So that this research is expected to be able to contribute to explaining the refusal speech act in more detail about the type and the function of refusal. The difference between this study and previous research lies in the theory used to analyze the data. This research tries to expand the previous theory about types of refusal by Beebe et al (1990). In addition, researcher use the function of refusal from Turnbull & Saxton (1997). This study uses Never Have I Ever series as data source. Therefore, this study aims to determine the type of refusal and also the function of refusal in Never Have I Ever series. in addition, it is still rare to find research on the function of refusal.

B. Research Limitations

The researcher limits the analysis of refusal utterances in Never Have I Ever series and only focus on refusal utterances by the character in Never Have I Ever. Never Have I ever series is the source of the information. In this study, researchers used type of refusal theory by Beebe et al (1990) and refusal strategies by Turnbull and Saxton (1997).

C. Problem Statement

Based on the research background that has been mentioned, below is a problem statement formulated by the researcher:

1. What are the types of refusal used by the characters in the “Never Have I Ever” series?
2. What are the functions of refusal used by the characters in the “Never Have I Ever” series?

D. Research Objectives

Based on the problem statement mentioned above, this study has two objectives, namely:

1. To analyze the types of refusal that used by the characters in the Never Have I Ever series
2. To find out the functions of refusal that used by the characters in the Never Have I Ever series

E. Research Significance

The research benefits consist of theoretical and practical benefits.

1. Theoretical

Benefits Theoretically, the authors hope that this article can add insight to researchers and readers in knowing the speech act of refusal and can practice how to express refusal in everyday life according to the context and situation.

2. Practical

Benefits Practically, the authors hope that this research can be used as a reference and guide for further research. In addition, this research can be used as learning material on how to express refusal in everyday life.