

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer explains about the background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

In the world, human being as social creature cannot live alone. They live in society as group to be drawn together for certain purposes. They need tools to communicate and interact with other people around. Therefore, language is the most important tools of communication which is needed by all people. Language helps the speaker to deliver message, idea, feeling and opinion to the hearer. Language may refer to the material act of speaking, writing or signing in a given situation or performance. Jenkins (2001) states that by using language, people can express their emotion to others because language is the system of communication.

Crystal and Varley cited in Bloomer et al (2006, p.15) state that communication is the sending and receiving of messages. In other words, it is the process of transferring information between the speaker and the hearer. According to Renkema (1993, p.8), communication is “a process by which we assign and convey the meaning in an attempt to create shared understanding; both the speaker and the hearer should hold to general rules and principles and thereby use certain strategy”.

The branch of linguistics which deals with how the speaker conveys messages and how the addressee receives the messages from utterances is called pragmatics.

Specifically, Pragmatics deals with verbal act because it concerns with the intended meaning of language (Leech, 1983), and one of the products of the verbal act is utterance. However, people in different societies and different languages have different politeness principle.

Most people know how to deal with other people in the same culture and native language. A good interaction requires politeness principle to organize how to communicate the information to others. Yule (1996) states “in interaction, politeness can be defined as the means employed to show consciousness of another person’s face”. According to him, showing consciousness of another person’s face in social distance is different from person who is socially close. For example, we will ask someone about direction politely and it is different when we talk with our friend.

In communication, face-threatening acts often happen between speakers and hearers. They can damage each other’s face by acting oppositely to each of their wants and desires when they are asking something, declining statement, or refusing.

This act is called “Face-Threatening Acts (FTA)”. If someone is doing FTA, it means that the speaker threatens the addressee’s face, so the addressee’s face could not be fulfilled. On the other hand, there are two strategies that are used to formulate messages in order to save the face of either the speaker or the hearer when face-

threatening acts are desired. They are positive politeness strategy and negative politeness strategy.

Related to the theory, the writer wants to find out the face threatening acts and the politeness strategies that are done by the main character of Sherlock Holmes, "A Game of Shadows" movie. In this movie, Holmes as the main character is threatened by Professor Moriarty 'a mathematical genius' and 'the Napoleon of crime' because Holmes tries to prevent bombing done in France and Germany that is actually controlled by Professor Moriarty. Many face-threatening acts are indicated to be performed in this movie.

From the phenomena above, the writer wants to know how politeness strategies are applied to minimize threat if FTA cannot be avoided and how a relationship can influence the choice of strategy. The reason why the writer chooses Sherlock Holmes, "A Game of Shadow" movie because the writer want to know how politeness is reflected in Holmes' life when he was insulted by Moriarty. Another reason in choosing this movie is because it has an English background and also used English language which is in line with the subject taken by the writer which is linguistics.

This study is expected to be useful for the writer, the Study Program of English students and the next researcher. By doing this study, the writer can apply the linguistics knowledge especially the application of pragmatics in real situation. This study is hopefully useful for the Study Program of English students to give them

description about pragmatics in term of politeness strategies that are applied in their surrounding, and this study can be reference for the next researchers who have the same interest. The writer also suggests the next researcher to conduct a deeper analysis such as find out what factors influencing the choice of strategies in doing conversations. In this research, the writer applied the theory of Brown and Levinson (1978) that is considered to be the most appropriate theory to investigate politeness strategies used by the main character in Sherlock Holmes, "A Game of Shadows" movie.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Related to the background, the problems of the study are stated as follows:

1. What are the face-threatening acts performed by the main character in the conversation in Sherlock Holmes, "A Game of Shadow" movie?
2. What are the types of politeness strategies performed by the main character in the conversation in Sherlock Holmes, "A Game of Shadow" movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems of the study above the objectives of the study are:

1. To identify face-threatening acts performed by Holmes in the conversation in Sherlock Holmes, "A Game of Shadow" movie.

2. To find out the politeness strategies performed by Holmes in the conversation in Sherlock Holmes, "A Game of Shadow" movie.

1.4 Definition of Key Terms

1. **Politeness** : the means employed to show awareness of another person's face (Yule 1996)
2. **Face-Threatening Act (FTA)** : the public self-image that every member wants to claim for himself (Brown and Levinson, 1978)
3. **Sherlock Holmes, "A Game of Shadow"** : 2011 British–American action mystery movie, Sherlock Holmes as detective and Watson as Doctor join forces to outwit and bring down their most cunning adversary, Professor Moriarty

