

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some important points in this study, there are background of study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, and definitions of key terms.

#### 1.1 Background of the study

As human being who lives in a society, we have to communicate with each other in purpose to fulfill our necessity. The important thing in communication is language, without language we can not deliver our means, our need, and our feeling to another. Jenkins (2001) states that, "By using language, people can express their emotion, friendliness, pain or pleasure to others because language is a system of communication." In addition, by communication people able to affecting each other. According to Baran (2002, para. 2), "Communication can be defined as a message transmission from a source to a receiver and it will occur when a source sends a message via a medium to the receiver producing some effect."

In using language, speaker will not deliver a blank message to the hearer, speaker will send meaningful message explicitly or implicitly. For implicit message people need to interpret the meaning. In particular, the study of interpreting meaning is called Pragmatics. According to Fromkin et al (1998, p. 159), "Pragmatics is the study of relation between context and interpretation of

meaning.” Beside to understand about the meaning in implicit message, people also need to understand that communication have an important aspect, that is politeness. Politeness is a social behavior performed by people in their everyday interaction. According to Choyimah (2012), “Politeness is a kind of verbal language or verbal attitude that could make an addressee feel at ease.” Being polite means that people are aware of one’s personal feelings; when talking, they respect each other and try to not to be offensive. The way of politeness used is different between persons who are in the social distance with another who is socially close. Yule (1996, p.34) says that “Politeness might involve ideas like being tactful, modest, and nice to other people.” In most of the studies, the politeness has been conceptualized especially as strategic conflict-avoidance or as strategic construction of cooperative social interaction (Eelen, 2001, p.21; Watts, 2003, p.47). Politeness helps us to learn how to make polite communication without misunderstanding with someone else because we live in wide society that has different language and politeness principles.

Brown and Levinson introduced the concept of ‘face’ into politeness theory. The terms face expresses people need to be recognized and respected by other people. According to Brown and Levinson (1987, p.61), “‘Face’ is consisting in two related aspects, positive face and negative face.” Positive face is including the desire that this self-image be appreciated and approved by somebody else. Negative face is the basic claim to territories, personal preserves, right to without destructions; it means the freedom of action and freedom from any burden. Analyzing the Face Threatening Acts is interesting because people



usually cooperate in maintaining face in interaction. Besides, the writer choose face threatening acts as theory of research because in daily conversation with or without realize we always use face threatening acts to keep our self-esteem.

Fortunately, we can found face threatening acts not only from daily conversation but also from dialogs of the movies or film. The writer tends to conduct research using specific theory of face threatening acts and politeness strategies. There are strategies to minimize face-threatening acts: bald on-record, positive and negative politeness, off-record, and the last is doing no FTAs.

Movie or film is an important art form, a source of popular entertainment, and a powerful medium for educating citizens. It is interesting to analyze face threatening acts in movie because movie has visual basis to gives a universal power of communication.

Related to the theory, the writer decides to find out face threatening acts that appear in main characters' dialog of "Sherlock Holmes: The Game of Shadows" film. The writer analyzes the conversation by using Brown and Levinson's theory of face-threatening because the writer wants to know acts threats positive or negative face wants that applied and what politeness strategies which used in order to minimize threat if FTA cannot be avoided. "Sherlock Holmes: The Game of Shadow" is based on Arthur Conan Doyle's short story "The Final Problem" which was published first time in 1883, it appeared in a book form as part of the collection "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes". The movie is based on the battle of mind between Sherlock Holmes and his dangerous rival Professor James Moriarty. The story started with Holmes who found Irene Adler's

suspicious package. He suspects that there is a common thread in the recent assassinations, terrorist attacks and business acquisitions in Europe. The genres of this film are action, adventure, crime, mystery, and thriller. From this film, the writer wants to find face-threatening acts used by Sherlock Holmes when he should face his eternal enemy and his friend. The film is interesting rather than first film because in this film Sherlock Holmes finally met Professor Moriarty, beside that Sherlock Holmes is famous fictional detective who always has amazing cases created by Arthur Conan Doyle and attracts the writer to analyze not only face-threatening acts but also politeness strategies. Face threatening act is selected because in daily speaking people always use face threatening act and it depends on the factors such as situation, level of knowledge, and mood of people itself. Moreover, the writer wants to proof that in the movie face threatening acts does exist as in real life. And then, the writer attends to looking for contradiction or similarities among face threatening acts that used by the characters with different position, likes conversation between friend and foe.

The writer chooses *Sherlock Holmes: The Game of Shadows* movie in conducting research because in this movie the characters have their own characteristics and the story tells about two people who have high intelligence with different purposes. The war between Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty is kind of unique; they fight by physically and mentally. The writer sure that there are Face Threatening Acts performed in this movie and utterances conveyed by the characters definitely have meanings and purposes. Moreover, the writer wants to know if there is difference in using face threatening acts between



two opposite relation, those are partnership between Sherlock Holmes – Dr. John Watson and hostility between Sherlock Holmes – Professor Moriarty.

This study is very important for the writer, because there are many face threatening acts that can be find and also the politeness strategies that are used by main characters in Sherlock Holmes movie. Furthermore, the writer hopes this study will be beneficial for the next researcher as reference or guidance for produce better research. Also for the readers, the writer expects that this study will give more understanding about face threatening acts and how to convey their aim to interlocutor politely.

## 1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the formulations of the problems are:

1. What face threatening acts are performed by the main characters in the movie “Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows”?
2. What types of politeness strategies are performed by the main characters in the movie “Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows”?

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

Writer expects some objectives that can be answered from the problem of the study.

1. To identify the Face-Threatening Acts performed by the main characters in the movie “Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows”.

- 2. To find out the Politeness Strategies performed by the main characters in the movie “Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows”.

**1.4 Definition of Key Terms**

1. **FTAs (Face Threatening Acts):** are acts and strategies which could harm or threaten the positive or negative face of one’s interlocutors. (Brown and Levinson, 1987)

2. **Sherlock Holmes “A Game of Shadows”:** a 2011 British–American action mystery film, it was released on 16 December 2011 and directed by Guy Ritchie. The film nominated in Saturn Awards, including Best Action/Adventure film and Best Costume. It also nominated in Teen Choice Awards including Choice Movie: Action, Choice Movie Action: Actor for Robert Downey Junior (as Sherlock Holmes), and Choice Movie Action Actress: Noomi Rapace (as Madame Simza Heron) (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1515091/>).