

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

When expressing themselves people do not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words, they also perform actions via those utterances. Levinson (1983) considers that "in uttering sentences one is also doing things but we must first clarify in what ways in uttering a sentence one might be said to be performing actions" (p. 236). Speech act contains what is commonly called as the illocution (or illocutionary force) such as commanding, offering, promising, threatening, and thanking.

According to Hornby, gratitude is the feeling of being grateful or the desire to express thankful feeling (1995: 45). For example, a boy will say "*thank you very much*" when someone help him. Besides, a girl say "*don't mention it*" to respond her friend. This act called gratitude response, is uses to minimizing the favor. Furthermore, this expression and respond can be expressed in different ways depend on the reason of the speaker in uttering it. They can use positive or negative based on person's purpose when they give respond to the speaker.

A gratitude expression occur in various types, especially when it happens in social life. According to Algoe and Haidt "..... Because gratitude expression is uniquely good expression that shows positive emotion, it motivates the benefactor to do the good things or make a good relationship with other" (2008:15). In the

case the benefactor has given advantage for recipient, the recipient should appreciate him/her by expressing gratitude. It is a reciprocity which in the next time will create good relationship among others because of gratitude. There are: feelings of honor, appreciation, mutually require, and the modesty but there is no boasting and egoism. Gratitude is the reflection of mutual need. Furthermore, it can stimulate the hearer to do the good things more and more.

In line with the research conducted by Nur Rohman ( 2016), a thesis entitled “Gratitude Strategy Used By The Characters Of I Love You, Man Movie. Gratitude strategy is the way of choosing words or phrases to express one’s kind feeling or appreciation toward action, saying or benefit received. This is considered unique because people look at it as politeness behaviour, as the crucial part to build and establish good social relationship. This research aims to analyze gratitude strategies in I Love You, Man movie. The researcher describes what are the gratitude strategies used in I Love You, Man and how gratitude expression and gratitude response are used by the characters of I Love You, Man movie. This research is qualitative. It is analyzed descriptively based on related theory of Cheng’s gratitude strategy, Hymes’ theory of gratitude expression and Aijmer’ theory of gratitude response. The data be explains by showing the context of situation, the strategies of gratitude, and meaning of the utterances. From the analysis, they often use strategy of modification of explicit expression combined with stating the favor .Then, it can be found there are five functions of gratitude expressions used by three characters in I Love You, Man movie. The most frequent types uses to express gratitude expression is

acknowledging a favor. Furthermore, the gratitude response used by the characters is minimizing the favor and pleasure responses.

Farnia and Raja Suleiman (2017) conducted a research with the title “a pilot study to examine the speech act of expressing gratitude among Iranian EFL learner”. Data were collected from 2 groups of Iranian EFL learners using a written Discourse Completion Tasks. L1 (Level 1) and L2 (Level 2) data were also collected from a group of Iranian native speakers of Farsi and a group of American native speakers of English. The findings suggested that Iranian and American respondents used the same type of strategies in responding to the questionnaire. The use of thanking and appreciation as the first and second most frequently used strategies by native speakers of English can be attributed to respondents’ cultural values. It was found that there was no correlation between language proficiency and the use of strategies. The difference is based on the object of the research. Farina and Raja Sulaeiman use pilot prophecy while this research uses character of the movie.

In addition, when someone receives a favor, she or he is expected to give the respond in the form of gratitude expression. The response in expressing gratitude is related to the value of material or immaterial thing that she or he receives. Here, the speaker has to pay attention on the strategies in expressing gratitude based on the value of thing that she or he gets. The strategies that the speaker uses to respond a simple compliment may be different from that the speaker uses to replay a special gift. According to Leech, thanking is one of the speech acts which has relation with social life, gratitude expression is always related to politeness

because it shows the level of politeness of the speaker when delivering conversation. It depends on the speaker in expressing gratitude to whom he/she speaks (1993:25). Gratitude as the part of speech acts has relation that is influence each other. It is suitable with Aijmer's view. Aijmer says,

“Functionally, thank you/thanks is analyzed on the speech acts level, as a politeness marker and as an element organizing the discourse. In contrast, when the speaker impolitely expressing gratitude sometimes will make the negative effect to the human relations between speaker and hearer, and it also can cause a negative response from the hearer “(Aijmer, 1996: 33).

It happens when the speaker says the gratitude has other intention such as sarcasm, irony, brusqueness.

Unconsciously, gratitude phenomenon often occurs in our environment. Movie reflected on human daily life. It contains various kinds of communications that interesting to be analyzed. Movie is included in kinds of literary works because movie not only gives entertainment for human but also reflects a condition of “social, historical, industrial, technological, philosophical, aesthetic, psychological, personal conditions, and so forth” (Villarejo, 2007:9). Aijmer states that gratitude expression has social functions that can make the relation between the speaker and hearer closer (1996: 67). There are some functions of gratitude that people usually use in different ways because different reason in different situation, and condition of the speaker. From the phenomenon above, the researcher choose *The Vow* movie as the subject of this research.

The movie entitled *The Vow* is a 2012 American romantic drama film directed by Michael Sucasny and written by Abby Kohn, Marc Silverstein, and Jason Katims, inspired by the true story of Kim and Krickitt Carpenter. The film stars Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum as the Collins, with Sam Neill, Scott Speedman, and Jessica Lange in supporting roles. *The Vow* is the eighth highest-grossing romantic drama film since 1980. This was Spyglass Entertainment's last film until the company's resurrection in 2019.

*The Vow* is based on the actual relationship of Kim and Krickitt Carpenter, who wrote a book about their marriage, also known as *The Vow*. Ten weeks after their wedding on 18 September 1993, the couple was involved in a serious car accident. Krickitt suffered a brain trauma, which erased all memories of her romance with Kim as well as their marriage. Kim was still deeply in love with his wife, although she viewed him as a stranger after the accident. This movie describes how relation of love influences the using of gratitude. Besides, this movie contains many gratitude expression and respond in various form. There are: simple thanking, thanking by stating the favor, thanking and mentioning the imposition caused by the favor that can be describe when the person in the movie get a kind, help, favor and other kindness. It is necessary to learn how to understand and to produce language that is appropriate to the situations in which one of functioning, because failure to do so may cause misunderstandings and miscommunication. Below is an example from the movie

Joan : *Thank you for eating*  
Lucy : I'm the first one, huh?  
Joan : Yeah

Based on the sample of the conversation above, the italic sentences can be categorized as gratitude expression. Joan says “*Thank you for eating*” to appreciate what’s his bestfriend has done. Lucy eats the foods offered to guest. The gratitude strategy used by Joan is simple thanking combined with stating the favor. We can see that expression of thank is applied widely in daily communication. *Thank you* is usually used when person gets something from others.it can be said that expressing gratitude has some important social values in any society.

In Robert C.Bogdan’s book entitled *Qualitative Research for Education* (2006) written that there are five features of qualitative research, they are naturalistic, descriptive data, concern with process, inductive and meaning. Here, why the researcher choose *The Vow* movie to be analyzed, because of naturalistic. Naturalistic means that the researcher is the key instrument. The researcher has actual settings as the direct source of the data. The researcher feel that action can best be understood when it is observed in the setting in which it occurs. When the data with which they are concerned are produced by informants, as in the case of official records, qualitative researchers want to know where, how and under what circumstances they came into being. The researcher wants to analyze gratitude expression and response used by the characters in *The Vow* movie.

## 1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulates three research questions as stated in the following:

1. What types of the gratitude expressions and responses are used by the characters in *The Vow* movie?
2. How are the gratitude expressions and responses used by the characters in *The Vow* movie?
3. Why are those types of gratitude expressions and responses realized in the ways they are?

### 1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems of the study, the objectives of this study are as the following:

1. To describe the gratitude expressions and responses used by the characters in *The Vow* movie.
2. To elaborate how are the gratitude expressions and responses used by the characters in *The Vow* movie.
3. To explain the reason of utilizing gratitude expressions and responses in *The Vow* movie.

### 1.4 The Scope of the Study

This study was attempted to describe and to explain gratitude expressions and responses used by the characters in *The Vow* movie. Referring to the problems of the research above, the scope of the study limited on the sentences and utterances produced by the characters in *The Vow* movie.

### 1.5 The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to be useful theoretically and practically:

a. Theoretically

The aim of this study is to show how the used of gratitude expressions and responses in *The Vow* utterances in Movie. Thus, theoretically, it is expected that the findings of this study can give contribution to applied linguistics particularly gratitude strategies.

b. Practically

The English and non-English department student as the reader can take some knowledge about gratitude expression and responses that used by the characters in the movie. It can add their knowledge to understand the utterances of gratitude expression and responses used by the characters in the movie. It is can be used as reference for the similar cases in the next studies which related to gratitude expression and responses in the movie.