

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Communication is one of the most important matters for living things, especially for human. We have to communicate in order to help us fulfill our needs, because we cannot get what we want if we do not say it. Every human who lives in this world is created as a social creature. He or she always needs other people in his or her society to fulfill the social needs. In order to meet the social needs as a social creature, people have to be able to communicate or interact with the society. To communicate people needs tools of communication in which language is one of them. The use of language can be found in a conversation. Thus, conversation is a real form of language uses. It is an exchange of words, sentences and many other expressions that happen when two or more people are involved in talking about a certain thing in a certain situation. Making a conversation people does not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words, but they also perform an act through those utterances. In other word, the acts are characterized in term how they are related to each other rather than the kind of function they are independently used to perform.

As a mean of communication and a part of culture, language has an important role in human's life. Therefore, it reflects speaker's behaviour. That is also why language is able to build human relationship. But every speech which is spoken by speakers or hearers is not exactly alike. Those differences, generally, are influenced by education, age, personality, sex, and setting. These factors are

sometime affected how close relationship or the interaction between speaker and hearer is. The personality, for instance, as a matter of fact that describes our character being related with the emotional states. Or sometimes we are conditioned by setting either formal or informal so we should decide how to behave in order to appropriate with its situation. Of course, the differences above influence people in using language whether it is regarded as polite language or not. It should be realized by everyone in forming good conversation because the use of language can reflect the behavior or the attitude.

Communication breakdown entails lack of effective and efficient communication; however, various measures are linguistically put in place to avert such situations. In daily interaction, people often do conversations with their gesture movement, and the way they talk with each other. It showed by their face when they perceive something from their face. Face is something that is emotionally invested and that it can be lost, maintained or enhanced and must be constantly attended to in an interaction. Goffman (1967) argues that face is a mask that changes depending on the audience and social interaction because in any society, whenever the physical possibility of spoken interaction arises, it seems that a system of practices, conventions and procedural rules comes into play which functions as a means of guiding and organizing the flow of messages. This is something that can happen in such situation that the researcher adopts for the current study.

This study focuses on the phenomenon of face threatening act. Face threatening act is considered as a linguistic product of contact, determined in various ways by the social circumstances in which it occurs. Face threatening act

is now considered to be a natural product of interaction. Face-threatening act is act which in some way threaten the 'face' or self-esteem of another person (Brown and Levinson, 1987). Some people think that all communicative acts are potentially threatening. In fact, the potential does exist to threaten 'face' with every act of communication. Whether the act is actually a threat depends not so much on the intent of the speaker but on the perception of the hearer. Face threatening Act includes act other than spoken or written. Very often we can threaten others' face by a look, an expression or some other non-verbal communication. Staring at someone is often perceived as a FTA for no other reason than it can be so unnerving. The starrer's motivation is always questioned. The person who is being stared at must wonder, what is wrong. A child (or adult) at times can be more expressive and rather than hide a FTA, might express him or herself openly.

Talking about face threatening act, there are some types of face threatening act. Brown and Levinson (1987) distinguished two types of face threatening act. They are Negative Face Threatennng Act and Positive Face Threatening Act. Negative face is threatened when an individual does not avoid or intend to avoid the obstruction of their interlocutor's freedom of action. It can cause damage to either the speaker or the hearer, and makes one of the interlocutors submit their will to the other. Freedom of choice and action are impeded when negative face is threatened. Positive face is threatened when the speaker or hearer does not care about their interactor's feelings, wants, or does not want what the other wants. Positive face threatening acts can also cause damage to the speaker or the hearer. When an individual is forced to be separated from others so that their well-being is treated less importantly, positive face is threatened.

The overall people around this world have ethnicity each other and they use language for their communication and interaction, especially in Indonesia. In Indonesia most of members of society have their own ethnicity. Ethnicity is a named human population with myths of common ancestry, shared historical memories, one or more elements of common culture (e.g. religion, customs, language), a frequent link with a homeland and a sense of solidarity among at least some of its members' (Hutchinson and Smith, 1996 in Cristi Karner, 2007). Ethnic is a work containing the basic study of the processing and analysis of the culture of a tribe or ethnic group. In this study the researcher is discussing about the interaction in the ethnic group that can occur for different ethnic speakers between Batakese and Javanese in school context. Batakese and Javanese are two of many dialects in Indonesia that have very particular characteristics in the way they communicate that many linguists are interested in studying those dialects. Muryantina (2011) said that, Batakese and Javanese are usually seen as two opposite cultures based on the way they interact with other people. Batak people are always seen as rude because they speak outloud in an aggressive manner. While Javanese people are always seen as indecisive because they speak softly and politely.

In this study people make interaction and take place in SMK Negeri 10 Medan. In every interaction, there are kinds of face threatening act in communicative events that appear between teachers, employess, and students. Communicative events are events which comprise communication, communication fuction as identity.

According to Saville-Troike (2002) state that the communicative event is the basic unit descriptive purposes. A single event is defined by a unified set of components throughout, beginning with the same participants in general topic, generally using the same language variety, maintaining tone or key and the same rules for interaction. An event terminates whenever there is a change in the major participants, their role relationship, or the focus of attention. If there is no change in major participants and setting, the boundary between events is often marked by period of silence and perhaps a change in body position.

In this case, the Bataknese and Javanese do the face threatening act and the interactions took place in environments of school. The researcher aims are to give an overview of face threatening act, and to tell the readers what face threatening act is actually and how important to manage a FTA in our daily life based on Brown and Levinson's theory. The example of phenomenon face threatening act in communicative events is describe below:

TT<sub>1</sub> : On di son baen surat na! (*here put the letter!*)

TT<sub>2</sub> : Mauliate! (*thanks*)

MT : Ini udah ada sampe 3.000.000 uang jula-julanya  
(*the total of the money is 3.000.000*)

TT<sub>2</sub> : Bah baen ma. (*alright.*)

Jangan dipegang-pegang lagi uangnya, salah nanti lagi perhitungannya, aku lagi nanti yang repot!

(*don't touch that money, it will get mess*)

TT<sub>1</sub> : Olo! Cerewet hian ho, Cuma salah dikitnya tadi ku hitung, udah panjang protesmu!

(*ok! You are very talkative, I only made little mistake and you get mad of it.*)

MT : Eh mana cataan yang dicatat sama kak Enitia tadi gimana?  
(*where is the note that given by Enitia?*).

TT<sub>2</sub> : Udah diambilnyalah! (*it has taken by her.*)

TT<sub>1</sub> : Itu yang uang 500000 ribu katanya dari yang belum kasih jula-jula kemarin dan udah ditulis balik kakak itu tadi jumlahnya!

(*she said that 500.000 from them that did not add yet yesterday and it has*)

- written the total of that money by her.)*
- TT<sub>3</sub> : Itu tambahkanlah dengan uang 3.000.000 tadi.  
*(please add it with 3.000.000.)*
- MT : Kalo udah urusan duit memang pande kali lah kalian berdua, langsung lancar otaknya hitung menghitung duit.  
*(when you are talking about money, you are so smart, straightforward the brain can count that money fast.)*
- TT<sub>2</sub> : Jangan lagi dipegang-pegang uang itu buk, bersalahan lagi nanti, udah pas tadi ku hitung jumlahnya!  
*(don't touch the money anymore, it will get mess, I have counted it).*
- MT : Okelah! *(ok!).*

From the example above the power, the role of speaker and the nature of circumstances for the set of rights. They play role in determining what messages may be expected both in terms of form and content. It is based on the idea that any communicative act has both informational as well as interpersonal aspect an idea that is also expressed by Brown and Levinson (1987) but they also focus on impolite or rude aspects of social behavior. For a message to be perceived to be polite, impolite or merely appropriate depends on the judgments the interactants make at the level of relational work during an ongoing interaction in a particular setting. For that reason, the researcher decide to study face threatening act of different ethnic speakers in communicative events of school context and to know whether there are reasons behind their daily interactions.

## **1.2 The Problems of the Study**

In accordance with the context given above, the statements of the research problems which are investigated in this study are as the following:

1. what types of face threatening acts are performed by the different ethnic speakers in communicative events of school context?

2. how does face threatening act of different ethnic speakers look like in communicative events of school context?
3. why does face threatening act of different ethnic speakers look like the way it does?

### **1.3 The Objectives of the Study**

In accordance with the problem above, the objectives of this study are:

1. to describe the face threatening acts are commonly performed by the different ethnic speakers in communicative events of school context.
2. to describe face threatening act of different ethnic speakers look like in communicative events of school context.
3. to describe the reasons why the way it does.

### **1.4 The Scope of the Study**

The study is within the scope of face threatening act in communicative events of school context. This research is limited to investigate face threatening act of teacher different ethnic speakers look like in communicative events of school context. The main aspect of this research to analyze the phenomena of face threatening acts based on Brown and Levinson's theory and takes situation of the conversations as the context of the utterances by teacher different ethnic speakers to get know the interconnection between them in their conversation that occur in certain condition.

### 1.5 The Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to be useful theoretically and practically. Theoretically for the readers, the research findings will be expected to contribute to the related theory of face threatening act, specifically to the theory of what makes people do face threatening act. The findings will make it sure all of the current theoretical factors work in the terms of conversations and add up more clearly by different ethnic speakers in communicative events. Practically for the readers, it is also expected that the findings of this research as the information and the contribution to the readers to broaden the knowledge of the public or the reader in understanding of face threatening act and the case which is going on can be finished more effectively.

