

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

A good communication can be done through education and should be started from school where politeness is educated and where the relationship between teachers and students, and students to students should be well established. The communication among students does not only happen when they are having break time, but also in the classroom when teaching and learning process are running. The conversation in teaching and learning process mostly occurs in group discussion.

Group discussion is often used specifically in order to increase understandings of material, or to encourage pupils to explore an issue thoroughly (Holmes, 2013:221). A group discussion consists of some students from different social background and taking place in academic activity with a purposeful process that is to exchange the ideas, thoughts and feelings through oral communication. Therefore, in group discussion, there are multi-ethnics students who have different ways in communication. However, the misunderstanding among inter-ethnic students can be avoided if they communicate each other politely.

Politeness is more complicated if it is related to ethnic because different ethnic has different way in expressing the politeness (Lakoff, 1999). In the field of sociolinguistics, ethnicity is a social variable that separates social groups in which different language varieties are spoken. As Mey (2009) states that politeness obviously influenced by a range of sociocultural variables, including power relationships, degrees of solidarity, intimacy, or social distance, the level of

formality of the interaction or speech event, the gender, age, ethnicity, and social class backgrounds of participants, and so on. Therefore, politeness can not be separated with ethnicity.

Indonesia has many ethnics. One of ethnics which is famous of politeness is Javanese. Javanese is an ethnic which show politeness with level of language, namely *ngoko* (low), *madya* (middle), *krama* (high). More higher the level of language, more often the speaker expresses the full meaning of manners. It indicates the feeling of speaker's reluctant (*pakewuh*) to hearer. In addition, most of Javanese people use indirect utterances in their conversation. As Geertz (1976:24) states indirectness or 'indirection' is a major theme of Javanese behavior. Javanese use indirectness and pretence as strategies of showing negative politeness.

The politeness of Javanese people can be seen in the context of classroom discussion. Based on the preliminary data, Javanese students mixed Indonesian language and Javanese language to show their politeness. The politeness strategies used are as follows.

Javanese Student 1: *Iya mas, Aku mboten ngerti ngerjain niku*

(Yes mas, I don't understand to do this)

Javanese Student 2: *Sakjane kue niku piye. Nopo ora wero?*

(What's wrong with you, why don't you understand?)

Javanese Student 1: *Iyo, Aku tenan mboten ngerti ngerjaine, susah tenan. **Tolong ajari aku yo.***

(Yeah, I really don't understand. It's very hard. Please, teach me)

Javanese Student 2: *Aduh mumet lah. Yo uwes kene aku ajari*

(Oh my God. Come on, I'll teach you)

Based on the data, the students mixed Indonesian and Javanese language to show politeness. When discussing, the students used *madya* style whereas they were in the same age and status. Lexicon of *madya* style was signed by *niku* and *mboten* which uttered by student 1 and 2. In this case, the student could say *ini* and *kenapa* instead of *niku* and *mboten*. As the sample of word “*niku*”, the utterance is bald on record strategy kind of non minimalization of the face threat.

Furthermore, other ethnic which uses indirect utterances is Karonese although Karonese do not have any level of language to show their politeness but Karonese has some words which show politeness. Prinst (2004) proposed Karonese has philosophy of life to show their politeness in the society, that is “*Ulakatakensituhuna, tapikatakensitengtengna*”. It means do not say directly what is on your mind, but say a better word to save a person’s face. Therefore, the Karonese people is similar with Javanese people to show their politeness. Both of them prefer indirectness to show the politeness.

However in classroom discussion, based on the preliminary data Karonese student tend to use bald on record strategies to show his politeness to his friend. The Karonese students used karonese and Indonesian language in their sentences and he used word “*kam*” which means you. In Karo language, when you used “*kam*” it means that we used polite utterance to listener. The data can be seen as follows.

Javanese Student 2: ***Aku ora ngertiseng niku***

(I do not understand for this question)

Karonese Student 1: ***Enggak tau kam! Ini kan mudah, masak enggak tau***

(You do not know it. This is easy, I do not think you do not know)

Javanese Student 2 : ***Aku ora iso tentang niku. Tapi tentang cewek iso aku***

(Tertawa)

(I can not answer this question. But, I can understand about girls) (Laugh)

Karonese Student1: (*Tertawa*) **Ada – ada saja kam ni**, serius min

(Laugh) (What are you talking about, you have to serious)

Based on the data, the researcher found gap between Javanese and Karonese students. Both of them used same bald on record strategies but both of them used their ethnic's ideology to show the politeness even though, they speak to other ethnic. In addition, there is new realization in Javanese and Karonese conversation. The sentence "*Tapi tentang cewek iso aku*" indicates off record strategy, kinds of joke with unrelated word. Thus the researcher is interested in exploring politeness strategies among students from different ethnic in group discussion.

The previous study by Katharina (2015) on Polite Requests by Korean Learners of Indonesia found that both Koreans and Indonesians do not use all nine request strategies that are proposed by Blum-Kulka, House, and Kasper (1989). The strategy that occurs mostly is query preparatory. The Koreans prefer to use professional titles than the kinship terms of address. In Indonesian, on the other hand, kinship terms of address are more preferable than honorific titles.

The other study conducted by Senowarsito (2013) on Politeness Strategies in Teacher-Student Interaction on an EFL Classroom Context found that teacher and students basically employed positive, negative, and bald on record strategies. Teacher and students' perception on social distance, the age difference, institutional setting, power, and the limitation of the linguistic ability of the students has contributed to the different choices of politeness strategies. The students tend to use some interpersonal function markers. Linguistic expressions that are used in

classroom interaction are addressing, encouraging, thanking, apologizing, and leave-taking.

Related to the explanation about politeness in particular context above, the researcher is aimed to analyze politeness strategies among students from Javanese and Karonese ethnic in group discussion.

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

In relation to the background of the study, the problems are formulated as follows.

1. What is the dominant type of politeness strategies used by Javanese and Karonese students in the classroom discussion?
2. How are those types of politeness strategies realized by Javanese and Karonese students in classroom discussion?
3. Why are those types of politeness strategies realized in the ways they are?

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

In relation to the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are.

1. to determine the dominant type of politeness strategies used by Javanese and Karonese students in classroom discussion,
2. to explain how those types of politeness strategies are realized by Javanese and Karonese students in classroom discussion,
3. to find out the reasons why the types of politeness strategies are realized in the way they are.

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

This study attempts to investigate the politeness strategies used by Javanese and Karonesestudents in classroom discussion. It analyzes verbal interaction by Javanese students and Karonesese students. The study is limited to types of politeness strategies proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987), namely bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record. The data were taken from Javanese and Karonesese student at SMP Negeri 9 Binjai, located at Jl. Gunung Bendahara, Kecamatan Binjai Selatan. Their utterances were analyzed by using types of politeness strategies.

#### **1.5 The Significance of the Study**

The findings of the study are expected to be significantly relevant to theoretical and practical aspects. Theoretically, the research findings are expected to enrich the theories of linguistic politeness strategies, especially to give a better understanding and new insight on how politeness strategies are related to different ethnic and it is usefull to provide the information of what dominant type of politeness strategies used by Javanese and Karonesese Students in the classroom discussion, and why Javanese and Karonesese students use politeness strategies in classroom discussion.

Practically, it is useful as guidance for English language and literature researchers to conduct further research about politeness strategies used by different ethnics in various contexts such as in physician and patient interaction, in business or employment. Because it is possible to find out another types, realization, and reason of using politeness strategies.