

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

As human we live in a society and interact to others. In social interaction, there are written rules, which are laws. And there are also untextual rules referred as social norms. The society understood and followed them in their daily life. These social norms consist of appropriate and inappropriate actions and utterances. The ways in doing things, in dressing, in speaking and in appearance. We communicate using language one another in the community. Social norms limited the language usage. Language is used to communicate one another in the society, and to keep good social interaction among them. In daily life some people follow social norms, it is shown in their good attitude or being polite and speak politely. But some of them didn't do it, they maybe behaving and speaking impolitely.

The politeness actions maybe different from one culture to another culture. In Chinese instead of asking, 'How are you?', it is common to greet the elders with, "Have you had your meal?" It sounds weird, isn't it? While in other cultures, people don't say that to greet others. The meaning of the sentence is to show that we care about the elders's health. Having meals regularly can improve ones health.

There are some utterances such as, 'thank you', 'please', 'sorry', are said by someone when they attempt acting politely. In reality, being polite is what we need

in social interaction. The violation in politeness, or being impolite, is unavoidable. Sometimes we aren't aware that we insult others with our behaviour and utterances which cause one feels humiliate. But sometimes we also utter sentences means to make someone losing her face. This is also mentioned by Culpeper (in Bousfield and Locher, :36), he indicated that impoliteness used communicative behavior which intended to cause someone "face loss" or someone proposed to be so. There is a reason behind it, that made the speaker behaving or saying sentences that perhaps hurting someone feeling.

There are many act of impoliteness that we don't realize it. It masks in the children's utterances such as bullying, insulting, threatening, and verbal abuse. Some children tend to bully their friend, by calling someone 'pig', because she is fat. Some children insult their friends because they don't have the newset toy. Some children threaten their friends to get what they want from their friends. Some children use verbal abuse to underestimate their friends. Many linguists claim that verbal abuse are potentially more dangerous and breakdown than physical abuse. The proved of this statement can be seen in the real life, there was a person who decided to take her own life because her parents always abused her verbally. There were many incident like these happened in our society. Verbal abuse doesn't leave any skin scar but it leaves scar in one's heart. A scar in the heart is harder to heal than skin scar. If we get scar in our skin just put medicine and it will heal, just say in a month. But a scar in our heart won't heal that fast it takes years to heal. Some even can't be healed because the scar is too deep.

A negative attitude towards specific behaviors occurring in specific contexts

can be considered as impoliteness. When a child says to his friend, 'what are you doing here?' 'I don't want to play with you.' His friend potentially feels humiliate because she comes to play together with him. Then if her reaction is positive she will probably just ignore the boy and play wit the group of boy. But if her reaction is negative she will get angry to the boy. While the boy didn't want to play with her because she will be the only girl in the group.

It is socially important to make a research on impoliteness because we can see that more young people tend to be act impolitely. As we all know that in fact impoliteness can damage personal lives. Nowadays, in the digital era, impoliteness is highly salient in public life. It is often reported in the media, verbal abuse directed at the president by the people, and others.

Impoliteness phenomenon do not only happen in social media, in daily life, but also in class. When the children interact one to another, and when they interact with their teachers. In this case the researcher chooses 7-year old children as the data source of this research.

According to Amy Morin, LCSW 2019, in seven-year-old child development milestones, most of 7-year-olds have high spirit, curious to learn about new things. They are natural explorers, scientists, and analysts, and often ask questions about everything from why the sky is blue to where babies come from. It show that they really wants to know about everything the see and that is why 7 year old tents to ask many questions to the adult surround them. Sometime they will repeatedly ask the same question over and over again until the adults feel bore to answer.

At this age, they also like to teach younger children about the things that they know. For a 7-year-old, feel confident because she knows the school area. And also she is one of the students in that school. Achieving basic math and reading skill made them may want to discuss what they learned in school with parents, friends, and caregivers. It means it is the suitable time for them to be taught well. So they will master math and reading which may turn them into a competent adults. They also will love playing with friends but may begin to enjoy spending more time alone, playing by themselves or reading. And nowadays many of them start playing online game which can be played alone or with a group of friends playing the same game. In a child's development of a sense of self and their relations need alone time and downtime. Other people's opinions and thoughts is considered important by them. The downside of this natural phase of child development is an increased susceptibility to peer pressure. Developing empathy and a strong sense of morals and fairness also happens in them. Which make it is the ideal time to teach them to become polite. They often become naturally attach to other adults besides their parents, such as a teacher, an uncle, or even a friend's parents in the process when they grow up and expand their social horizons. Most them are more able to put themselves in someone else's position and solve problem, although sometimes they fight and hurt other feelings in the process.

We need to communicate to our society and we use language to interact. Language has two functions, pragmatic and magic (Halliday and Hasan, 1989). When a language is used to build an active communication every day, the function that reveal is pragmatic, and when it is used as a communication media in

religious ceremonies, its function is magic.

When two or more people gather together and talk to one another sharing their thought and opinion in a friendly environment it is called active communication. As Rivers (1987), mentioned that active communication is cooperative exchange of thoughts, feeling or idea, between two or more people which affecting each of them.

To achieve active communication it needs two sides, it is impossible to communicate one another if it is only one side who speaks. In this case we need to interact with others. In teaching learning process we also need to interact to one another. As a teacher we need to interact with our students, blending and get near to them so we can create a lively teaching environment. (Dagarin, 2004). It means that the communication needs two active side to be called as interactive. If the communication is only from one side like in the seminar, so it is not considered as active communication.

The children's language ability can be increased through interaction as they listen to their friends, in discussion, dialogue and daily spoken language. And as they practice sharing their opinion too. So they will use the language that they have learnt when they speak with their friend. It helps the children to be competent enough to think critically and share their opinion to their friends. The ability to share the ideas in their mind will be a benefit for them once they enter their job when they grow into adults. In real working life communicating skill is very crucial, especially in negotiating a contract with other company. As communicating skill is also very important for a teacher. Because teacher need to

manage the class, and also communicate with the parents of her students.

A child of seven years old is the age at that a child begins to learn to be more mature and engage to his environment. At this age he also establishes trust. He learns discipline, about environmental, social meaning, the meaning of family, and also about the expectations or ideals. Seven-year-old children's language skills are evolving well. They can pronounce words well, they know many vocabularies. They can speak grammatically. They like starting conversations, talk to their friends and during group conversations they can wait for their turn. In sharing their experiences they can put the detail in the story.

It is hard for the children to get rid of their impoliteness acquisition. If it happens then when they grow up they will still be using the impoliteness when they interact with others and as we know that it's hard to get rid something that has been adopted and it is a daily habit so the children will grow up as adults who speak impolitely.

Children imitate what they hear and see. They imitate the people around them, especially their parents. So parents should be careful of what kind examples they give to their children. If parents give good example and speak politely, the children will follow it too. But in the contrary if the parents lead negative behaviour and speak impolitely their children will copy it literally. Due to this pandemic situation most of the children stay at home and play gadget, surfing, and watching youtube. For your information youtube consist of various content which some of them contain impoliteness-related content and thus children who access these content unconsciously will absorb it and start to behave according to what

they have watched. In this case as parents we need to restrict the content that is watched by our children. If we don't limit the content that they watch it will be a total lost for us if they watch negative and impolite content. Because once they start behaving impolitely it will be a total headache.

In language and impoliteness study, there were many studies that described and raised many issues on the different strategies in speaking. According to Yule (1996), the study of what speakers mean or "speakers meaning" called Pragmatics. It means sometimes what the speaker means is way wider than what she said. In the communication, besides understanding the meaning of words in an utterance but we need to dig deeper in what speakers mean by their utterances. In other word, if we want to know the impoliteness of a speaker's utterance, we also have to study the meaning behind the utterance. The analysis of impoliteness in children's is important because it will show us how impoliteness is used and conceived by younger generations who lack of pragmatic abilities and contextual awareness.

There are five impoliteness strategies which is introduced by Culpeper (2005). They are; 1) bald on record impoliteness, 2) positive impoliteness, 3) negative impoliteness, 4) sarcasm/mock politeness, 5) withhold politeness, Based on the children milestones, it mentioned that children are usually polite. But after talking to some teachers that teach young learners, in this case seven-year-old children, there are some children who are impolite. This is a very crucial phenomenon, because those young children will be an adult one day. If this those children consistently behave impolitely and also speak impolitely, it will be a

disaster. Our government also considers this issue important and the government also make a lesson, character building, which is taught from primary level to senior level. Even some of the universities, such as Unimed is also a character-building campus. The research in impoliteness is usually done in others aspects such as the TV show, the movie, the online comment, and others. There are only a few researches in children impoliteness. One of the previous research in children impoliteness was conducted by Siti Marlina. In her thesis, she analyzed the three-year-old children impoliteness around the children home. While the researcher chooses to analyze the impoliteness that occur in seven years old children in this research. Because it is the age of children where they are going to face a more formal education, they are not babies anymore. And as we all know that in formal life there are some unwritten rules that have to be followed. And we want to have better adults.

The examples below are the preliminary data for the study.

First sample

Context: The children were in the classroom, before the lesson started. Then Ms Anna showed up looking so pale and unstylish.

*C1: Miss Anna jelek hari ini, ya kan? ( Miss Anna is ugly today, isn't she? )*

From that sentence we can conclude C1 uttered this spontaneously when she met her teacher. Usually Ms. Anna is very stylish, she always wears make up.

But one day she showed up looking so pale, without her make up on and she also only wore t-shirt and jeans. The word "jelek" which uttered by subject C1 (Children One) showed that he used Positive Impoliteness. He attacked the



teacher's positive face. Because, this was directly uttered by the subject when she talked to his friends about the style of the teacher in front of teacher.

#### Second sample

Context: The children were in the classroom, and every child could choose the seat they want. Then C2 insisted to sit in the front.

*C2: Aku mau duduk didepan pokoknya!* (I want to sit in front, I don't care.)

C2 uttered this when she argued with her friends about the sitting arrangement in the class. He uttered "pokoknya" means that he showed the attitude of "forcing" to be sat in front of the class. The attitude showed that he used Positive Impoliteness. It showed that he didn't have any sympathy towards his friend, who also perhaps wanted to sit in the first row.

From the data above we can see that indicated impoliteness, whether the children realized it or not. It is actually a new phenomenon that occurs in the class of young learners. Theoretically, at that young age, children are supposed, to be polite. Because at that age, they are developing so much in every aspects of their lives. But in reality many children nowadays speak straightfoward, to the point without thinking about others feeling and they tend to be impolite. Most researchers conduct research about the impoliteness strategies in TV show, book, and movies. But there are only a few researcher conduct research about impoliteness strategies in children. Base on this phenomenon the researcher who is also an educator feels pity and she decides to do a research in this field because those children will grow and becomes our nation future. If they tend to use impoliteness strategies when they speak or behave it will be a disadvantage to

their future lives. As an educator who has been teaching children since 1998 she finds that children behavior and their impoliteness tend to increase during those years. Teaching a class full of children who speak impolitely it is surely a headache because it will be hard to control the class

There are many aspects that can be discussed related to this phenomenon such as psychology of the children behavior, the factors that affect the impoliteness behavior, the treatment that need to be made in order to train the children to speak more politely. But the researcher focuses to investigate the impoliteness strategies based on Culpeper theory, the children realization to the impoliteness strategies and the reason of using the impoliteness strategies. This research is also an anticipation to face the children impoliteness utterances and behavior.

## **1.2 The Problem of the Study**

Based on the background, the problems of the study are formulated in the following questions:

1. What types of impoliteness strategies are used by seven-year-old children?
2. How are the impoliteness strategies realized by seven-year-old children?
3. Why are the impoliteness strategies realized by 7-year-old-children in the ways they are?

### 1.3 The Objectives of the Study

With the reference of the above problems, the objectives of the study are:

- 1 to investigate the types of impoliteness strategies used by seven-year-old children.
- 2 to describe the realization of the impoliteness strategies realized by seven-year-old children.
- 3 to explain the reasons of using impoliteness strategies realized by seven-year-old children.

### 1.4 The Scope of the Study

There are many researches on politeness while not so many researches on the impoliteness, it seems that impoliteness is not important. In fact we can easily find out that many people using impoliteness when they interact one other, whether they realize it or not.

The object of the research, are 7-year-old children. They are in the proper age of mental, social and cognitive development. It is the age of the foundation of the children, to start function on their own in variety of settings.

These research focuses on the used of impoliteness strategies in 7-year-old-children, the realization, and the reason behind it. There are 5 impoliteness strategies according to (Culpeper, 2005), they are: bald on record impoliteness, positive impoliteness, negative impoliteness, mock/sarcasm politeness, and withhold politeness. There are 9 kinds of output of the realization in impoliteness strategies: snub, ignore, snub other; disassociate from others; uninterested, unconcerned, and unsympathetic; use inappropriate identity markers; seek

disagreement; use taboo words; threaten and frighten; condescend, scam or ridicule; explicitly associate the other with negative aspect. And there were 3 reasons in using impoliteness strategies there are: vent negative feeling; get power over conversation or action; to show disagreement.

### **1.5 The Significant of the Study**

Based on the background and the objectives of the research, it is expected that this research can give some contributions both theoretically and practically.

The findings of the research are expected to be useful theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the findings of the research are expected to enrich the knowledge of the applicant of the impoliteness theory. And in addition, the findings are potentially used as reference for further study. The findings can give contribution to all readers who are concerned in impoliteness.

Practically, the result of the study will give some contributions as follows:

- 1 It will become guidelines for parents, teacher and adults in facing their children impoliteness behaviors.
- 2 The children, are expected to behave and speak more politely.
- 3 Other researchers, the findings will become the source to conduct the research, in pragmatic especially in impoliteness strategies in other age.