

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Communication is the basic skill that all humans need to acquire to survive in the society. It can be spoken or written but can also be a gesture. According to Gartside (1986) Communication is the art of sharing anything. In general, communication divided into two forms; they are spoken and written communications. It means we can share ideas and feelings in spoken or written form. Spoken communication means the process of expressing ideas and feelings or giving information is done orally. While written communication is done in written form, it is practiced in letter, newspaper, novel, script, newspaper, etc.

On daily basis, communication usually using words that has picked between polite and impolite one, either in spoken or written form. In this term, an individual who tend to use appropriate language will be considered as a good and well-mannered individual. For example, when having a conversation with a friend, it is still appropriate to say (*Hey, pass me the lighter*), however, for someone who is older or a person with higher positions, we tend to use a more polite words like (*Could you pass me the lighter, if you don't mind?*).

By looking at the examples above, it can be concluded that people should consider about the use of politeness, especially on communicating. Holmes (1992) states that a polite person makes others feel comfortable. When people try to be

polite, it will make others be friendly towards you. It is also to minimize and avoid conflict that may occur while communicating. That is why being polite is really important and studying politeness is needed.

As Yule (1996) states that pragmatics is the study of what speakers mean or “speaker meaning” is called Pragmatics. It is one of the branches of linguistics. By studying meaning of a word, phrase, sentences. We can get the intention of one interaction other than to interpret its meaning. Pragmatic skills are important for developing relationships with others, and for communicating with a range of interlocutors in a variety of contexts. As politeness strategy through speech act mostly indicated more scientific study of what pragmatic’s meaning.

According to Brown and Levinson (1987), certain kinds of acts intrinsically threaten face, namely those acts that by their nature run contrary to the face wants of the hearer for the speaker. For example, the hearer’s positive face will damage when the speaker insulting the hearer, and also the hearer’s negative face will damage when the speaker order the hearer. It also could damage the speaker’s own positive and negative face for example, when the speaker admits that he has failed in his job and when the speaker offers help to the hearer. In order to avoid or minimize to reduce the possibility of damage to the hearer’s face or to the speaker’s own face, he or she may adopt certain strategies.

Brown and Levinson sum up human politeness behavior in four strategies among them, they are Bald-On, Positive, Negative, and Off-Record Strategy.

While in society, politeness strategy has been taught from the beginning of civilization, only the study and methods weren't discovered yet at that time. For the differences of polite definition itself, countries, culture, and social class may get very wide. Considering the phenomena of this politeness strategy, the speaker should be able to produce the appropriate politeness strategy for being considered as a polite person considering the place where he or she lived.

Further study by Kamiasi (2017) divides the forms of politeness into 6 types. They are Question, Request, Suggestion, Rejection, Chastisement, and Disagreement. He also states that in formal condition, speaker should speak more polite to show his or her respect to the hearer. This supports more about positive politeness in daily activity.

Furthermore, the writer interested to analyze the politeness strategies based on Brown and Levinson's politeness strategy in a film. The film entitled *On the Basis of Sex* tells about the journey of Ruth Bader Ginsburg from a student in Harvard to Supreme Justice. The making of this film is to depict what she did in the story of her as a lawyer.

The films puts the situation most house where they lived, school, and courtroom, where the different statuses such as parents, friends, colleague, boss or the superior, lawyer, and interact as the result there are many politeness strategy employed in this movie. Since there are many employment of positive politeness strategy found in the dialogue in the film entitled *On the Basis of Sex*. The writer tried to analyze them. To clarify the study background, the following example will give clear understanding about it.

*Ruth : May it please the court. Your honors and may it please the court... May it please the court.*

The example above is one of the positive politeness, Ruth as the main character is trying to be polite in the court room instead of being impolite, considering the hearer are Judge, Government, etc. This indicates that the strategy works for Ruth as the single speaker in the room. This also indicated that Ruth as the main character used her positive politeness in the *Request* type of all six types of politeness.

Budiarta and Rajistha (2017) state that politeness is realized by people in a region by following particular norms in line with the culture where they live, but generally, the purpose of politeness is to maintain harmony in a society. By applying politeness, they will be able to create a good and comfortable situation when they are having a talk in, for example, a discussion, a meeting, a family gathering, a community gathering, and all forms of interactions with the other people. In order to understand more about positive politeness strategy and what factors influence the character to employ the politeness strategy, the researcher intends to conduct a research entitled **Positive Politeness In “On The Basis Of Sex” Movie**

Based on all the explanation above, the writer intended to expose polite utterance in the movie spoken by the main character, because utterances in the movie are quite same as our daily conversation, so the result can be used to help people in understanding politeness theory.

## **B. The Problem of the Study**

Based on background of the study, the problems of the study were formulated as the following.

1. What types of positive politeness used by the main character in *On the Basis of Sex* movie viewed from Kamlasi theory?
2. How does Positive Politeness used in *On the Basis of Sex* movie?

## **C. The Objective of the Study**

In relation to the problems mentioned above, the objectives of the study were formulated as follow.

1. To find out the types of positive politeness used by the main character in the movie.
2. To explain how positive politeness implemented in the *On the Basis of Sex* movie.

## **D. The Scope of the Study**

The main concern of this study limited to analyzing the positive politeness of the main character's utterances throughout the main scene *On the Basis of Sex* movie. The writer analyzed based on the politeness principle theory concept by Brown and Levinson to identify the positive politeness in *On the Basis of Sex* movie.

## **E. The Significance of the Study**

1. Theoretically
  - This paper would enrich the readers' knowledge about positive politeness strategies.

- This paper can improve the knowledge about how the positive politeness strategies realized in the utterances employed in life

## 2. Pratically

- For the reader, this research would be references to the reader to determine positive politeness strategies in daily life especially in character and characterization learning.
- As a reference for students that have concern with English literature who want to do a similar research and discuss about positive politeness strategies.
- For further research, this research could be a reference while doing research that relates with this topic.

