CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the nature of the present study. It begins with background of the study, the formulation of research question, aims of this study, scope of the study, and glance of research methodology of the present study. This chapter is also completed with organization of paper as the general description of research paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language as the instrument which is formed of thought and feeling, mood, aspiration, will and act (Hjelmslev: 1969), helps human to communicate with others. A successful communication happens when people realize that there are some norms that organize their language use and their interpretation toward the action and the utterance of the addressee. These norms are used by people to maintain social relationship with others. Politeness, as one of social norms, is reflected in their daily communication. Therefore, people may know someone being polite or not through the way they speak. In order to be polite, people should consider contextual aspects of interaction, such as, who they are talking to, what the relationship is, and what they are talking about.

When people realize politeness and perform it in human interaction, it is possible for them to maintain their social relationship with others. Like Yule (1996:60) say that politeness used in communication "as the means employed to

show awareness of another person's face". Thus, when this concept is used, it can prevent misunderstanding or miscommunication between speaker and hearer. Furthermore, it can restrain making someone feel uncomfortable and embarrassing or 'losing face'.

However, sometimes people do not aware to another person face. Then, if speaker does not care the face of the addressee, he or she might threaten the face of speaker or hearer then it is called Face Threatening Acts (FTAs). Any kind of speech act is seen as inherently face-threatening (Kasper: 1990). FTAs happen in communication and can threaten both positive and negative face. Therefore, to minimize threat happen in communication, politeness strategies are applied to repair these FTAs. Brown & Levinson (1987) suggest a number of politeness strategies to repair FTAs: do the FTA with *positive politeness, negative politeness, off-record politeness, bald on-record politeness* and do not do FTA. The number of strategies is represented in different situations.

According to Brown and Levinson (1987, cited in Aziz: 2000) there are three independent variables need to consider when someone chooses which strategy to use, such as social distance (D) between speaker and hearer, their relative power (P), and the ranking of imposition (R) associated with the required expenditure of goods or services.

Moreover, there has been much research talking about politeness, for examples are the studies which are conducted by Guodoong and Jing (2005), Nwoye (1991), Van Noppen (2002), Manno (1999), Jane Pilkington (1992), Munro (1987), Aziz (2000) and Sifianou (1990). In addition, Hernandez (1999)

says that interest in politeness has been something important in the last three decades of the 20th century. In Indonesia, the study about politeness has been done by Aziz (2000). His study is aimed to investigate politeness strategies in the responses of requestive speech act by Indonesian people. In his study, he proposes that the principle of mutual consideration (PMC) is considered as the primary condition in polite communication.

However, there are a lilted studies conducted to investigate the realization of politeness strategy for disagreement in Department of English Education of UPI. Thus, the writer conducts a study about politeness strategies. Here, this study is intended to investigate the realization of politeness strategies for disagreement speech act under the influence of various contextual factors. Furthermore, this study finds out the most common types of politeness strategies used by male and female English Students of English Department of Indonesia University of Education (UPI).

Disagreement is chosen in this study because this act usually happens in daily communication. According to Sacks (1973) and Pomerantz (1984) cited in Miao-tzu Chen (2005), the act of disagreement is usually regarded as an action that is not preferred, because this act can impede the social relationship between speaker and the addressee. When this act is performed, it can threaten the face of both the speaker and the hearer. Thus, politeness strategy is used in this act to minimize FTA to happen. Moreover, this politeness strategy is used to maintain social relationship between the speaker and the hearer.

In addition, this study chooses to find out the most common types of politeness strategies that is used by male and female with the reason that of politeness is usually connected with gender (Mills: 2003). According to Holmes (1995) women are more polite than men because women enjoy talking and make it as a means of keeping in touch. Furthermore, Brown and Levinson (1987) states that women usually use standard form of language when they speak to others because of their status and role in society. Thus, the writer is curious to know whether there is any difference of common types of politeness strategy that is used by male and female when expressing disagreement.

Students of English Department of Indonesia University of Education (UPI) are chosen as the respondents in this study because of their capability in English. Since the questionnaire is in English, it will be easier for them to understand the situation given and to provide a proper response in questionnaire. Furthermore, as language learners, they are expected to know linguistic and communicative competence. Since they know linguistic and communicative competence, they are assumed to know how to use language appropriately in communication. As a result, they can maintain social relationship with others.

1.2 Research Questions

The research questions are formulated below:

a. How do female students and male students of English Department of UPI realize politeness strategies when they are expressing disagreement to minimize FTAs?

b. What is the most common type of politeness strategy that is used by female and male students of English Department of UPI when they are expressing disagreement?

c. To what extent do social variables such as social distance, power relation, and degree of imposition influence the realization of politeness strategy used by female and male students of English Department of UPI when they are expressing disagreement?

1.3 Aims of The Study

The aims of this study are as follows.

a. To find out the realization of politeness strategies used by female and male students of English Department of UPI when expressing disagreement,

b. To figure out the most common types of politeness strategy used by female and male students of English Department of UPI when expressing disagreement,

c. To examine the extent of influence affected by the three social variables - social distance, power relation, and degree of imposition - and how they influence on such realizations.

1.4 Scope of The Study

The study is focused on politeness strategies for disagreement between female students and male students of English Department of UPI. Since there are many students of English Department of UPI, the writer only limits the respondents into 40 students, 20 female and 20 male students, from class 2005.

1.5 Research Methodology

Research methodology used in this present study is qualitative approach. The study is conducted in English Department of Indonesia University of Education involving 40 students consist of 20 females and 20 males. The data for this study were gained through questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire, which is in the form of Discourse Completion Test (DCT), comprised of nine scenarios that represent socially differentiated situations. Underneath there is a blank space where the respondents have to fill their oral response as natural as possible for each situation described in DCT. Furthermore, interview as the second instrument is conducted to find out the reason behind the respondents' responses.

1.6 Clarification of The Main Terms

Politeness**:**	the means employed to show awareness of another person's face (Yule 1996:60).
Face Threatening Acts (FTA):	if a speaker says something that represents a threat to another individual's expectations regarding self-image (Yule 1996:61).
Politeness strategies:	the strategy that is used by someone when perform face threatening acts. (Brown and Levinson: 1987)
Face:	the public self-image of a person (Yule 1996:60).

1.7 Significance of the Study

Communication is very important in daily life. Through communication, people can maintain their social relationship with other people. Since there are many ways to communicate with others, sometimes some acts threaten a person's face. From this study, the writer hopes that it can offer a new knowledge for everyone who is interested in this subject. This study can be an example for someone who wants to observe the same or other study in depth.

1.8 Paper Organization

The paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter 1 present information about background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, research methodology, clarification of terms, significance of the study, and organization of the paper. Chapter 2 contains of theoretical foundation, which is supporting the statement in the discussion of finding. Chapter 3 provides information about research methodology. It presents the respondents of study, instrument of the study, procedure to gain data collection, and steps of data analysis. Chapter 4 contains analysis of the responses to the DCT, and some detail discussion of the analysis. Chapter 5 presents the conclusions of the present study and suggestion for further research.