

Chapter Three

Methodology

This chapter presents the methodology used in the study, which includes data collection and data analysis. Closing remarks of this chapter is also provided at the end of this chapter.

3.1 Method of the Study

In this study, I decided to employ primarily a qualitative method for two reasons. First, this method is intended to discover meanings and patterns contained in texts, namely, politeness strategy and its benefits as well as drawbacks used by the main character in the chosen novel. Second, the linguistic phenomenon under study is qualitative in nature so that by using a qualitative method, this study would be able to capture complex realities, not fragmentary as expressed in quantitative terms.

Thus, the findings would be more comprehensive and insightful as suggested by Maxwell (1996) and Blaxter (1997) which describes that this method focuses on understanding something, and gaining some insight into what is going on and why this is happening.

3.1.1 Data Collection

The samples for the data as well as the procedures of data collection are explained as follow:

3.1.1.1 Data Source

The data were taken from a novel entitled *Bapakku Arab, Ibuku Cina, Aku...* (*Sebuah Novel Untuk Bercermin*) by Dina F. Al Masyhur, published by IN Publishing in 2007. This study does not investigate all parts, dialogues or attitudes of all characters in the novel. It is limited to the dialogues and attitudes of the main character which apply the strategies of politeness. The selected sample from the novel is attached in appendix 2.

This study only investigates the early parts of the story, particularly from the initial story to the climax because in these parts the main character still considers the hearer's feelings or responses to her utterances. Thus, she applies many politeness strategies in her utterances and attitudes. However, the parts after the climax to the resolution are not investigated because in these parts the main character begins to rebel against her family and their tradition. In these parts, the main character tends to violate her tradition and family. She ignores her family rules and begins to tell her true feelings and opinions to everyone. Thus, it is found that only one utterance which applies the politeness strategy in these parts. After that, the main character does not apply the politeness strategies in the rest of her dialogues in these parts. The climax of this novel is when her father announced that he will marry off the main character to her fiancé.

3.1.1.2 The Synopsis of the Novel

This novel tells about a girl named Fairus. Fairus is the main character of the stories and a first-person narrator as well. Fairus chronologically narrated her life from the time she was a little girl until she became an adult.

Fairus was a daughter of an Arabic descent father and a Chinese mother. She had one older brother named Habib. Often, she, her mother and her brother were hit by her father until her mother decided to have a divorce. After her parents were divorced, she had to live with her father, grand mom and aunty. Living with strong rules about what she can or cannot do made her grow up critically to her own Arabic tradition. Many times she tried to rebel toward the dogma that was professed by her father and his “Jama’ah” community. For several times, Fairus almost always received a hit as a punishment because she opposed rules that were pushed to her. Because of her strict tradition and his bad-tempered father, Fairus had to preserve her utterances and behaviors to avoid conflict.

The conflict began when Fairus and her brother had to move from their Grandmom’s house and live in their mother’s house if they wanted to continue their education in university. It was because their grandmother could not pay for their education in university, and their father even did not ask anything about it. When finally they could move to their mother’s house, Fairus met someone that she could not forget all day and night. Fairus was falling in love with a man that she used to call him ‘my ocean’. When her father announced that he will marry off Fairus to Usman, Fairus rejected it. She did not want to be pushed to marry anyone. She wanted to marry her own choice. But when her father knew that Fairus’s boyfriend was not a

moslem, he was very angry; he drubbed Fairus until she was bleeding. Then, her father pushed Fairus to marry Usman or she would not be considered to be her daughter anymore.

Insincerely, Fairus finally married Usman to make her family happy. But fairus always avoided to serve her husband in bed. One day, her husband lost his patience and tried to rape Fairus. Fairus tried to fight until her father-in-law stopped them. Finally, Usman decided to divorce Fairus. Fairus's father finally realized that he could not push his ambition to her daughter. Then Fairus continued her education until she graduated and worked in one company. At the end of story, Fairus met with her 'ocean' in an exhibition and found the answer about how she should live her life. She also found that the answers of her questions about life, about relationship, about family and everything in this world were there in one answer, namely, Al-Quran.

3.1.1.3 Procedures of Data Collection

My decision to choose this novel as the source of data was based on some criteria, namely, accessibility, practicability, efficiency, appropriateness and manageability. First, this novel is accessible by anyone. It is not written for a specific community or segment. Subsequently, this novel is well known and can be read by anyone. Second, analyzing a text is a practical but deepened study by using a qualitative method. Third, because this novel is analyzed by using a qualitative method, the study is efficient if it is seen from the cost. The study does not have to spend much cost as a quantitative method. Fourth, this novel appropriately contains a linguistic phenomenon, namely, politeness that is the major point of the study.

Fifth, the analysis of the texts in this novel is manageable because the researcher has a knowledge and collects the relevant theories to analyze the data from many experts such as Brown and Levinson (1978, 1987), Lakoff (1990) and Mills (2002).

Furthermore, other reasons why this novel was chosen are because the author has the same background as the main character so that it would affect the author in writing the story. Consequently, this condition might lead to a lifelike portrayal of the background and setting as encountered in Jakarta during that period, despite the fact that the work is fictional. Besides that, the main character roles as first-person narrator as well, so the situation can be investigated from her point of view.

3.1.2 Data Analysis

After decided the novel to be investigated, some steps were conducted, namely, identification, classification, calculation, analysis, and discussion. Those steps were undertaken in order to answer the congruent research questions.

First, the novel was read thoroughly, and then separated between main character's dialogues and other character's dialogues because the focus of study is main character's dialogues. Afterwards, the dialogues were scanned or identified whether those represented the strategies of politeness.

Second, the novel's elements of the assumed dialogues were explored in order to discover the reasons or backgrounds why the main character conveys the utterances. Here, the explored novel's elements were only setting and plot because both of those were enough for examining the reasons and backgrounds as described above. Then the dialogues or texts were classified into strategies of politeness by

relating them to the politeness theories of Brown and Levinson (1987, 1978). According to Brown and Levinson, there are four politeness strategies namely, positive politeness, negative politeness, off-record politeness and bald on-record politeness. Positive politeness aims to minimize the threat to the hearer's positive face. Negative politeness aims to minimize the particular imposition that the FTA unavoidably effects. Furthermore, off-record politeness aims to convey something ambiguously. That is why the off-record politeness violates Grice's maxim. While, bald on-record aims to obtain information in maximum efficiency, it is utilized by following Grice's maxim. The analysis of the text is attached in appendix 1.

Third, the kinds of politeness strategies were calculated in percentage. From these percentages, the most commonly used politeness strategies could be identified. The percentages would be written in chart form.

Fourth, in order to answer the last question, the discovered data were analyzed and related to the relevant theories from some experts to obtain and examine the social implications of the strategies toward positive and negative faces.

Finally, discussing was the final process. It reveals and describes the found data presented previously. It also presents the thinkings and assumptions based on the found data and the relevant theories from those experts such as Brown and Levinson, Lakoff, Leech, and Mills.

3.2 Closing Remarks

The general objectives of the research have determined the data collection methods applied in the present study. The aims of the present study are folded into three points. The first is to discover the kind of politeness strategies that are applied by the main character. The second is to reveal the most commonly used politeness strategy by the main character, and the last one is to explore the social implications of the strategies in both positive and negative faces.

The data source of investigation is a novel entitled *Bapakku Arab, Ibuku China, Aku...* (Sebuah Novel Untuk Bercermin) by Dina F. Al Masyur, where the synopsis is describing in data collection. The steps to obtain data are explained in the data analysis.