

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusions

This study was concerned with the use of politeness strategies by an Indonesian native speaker towards a friend and a senior in a casual conversation. It was intended to reveal types of politeness strategies which were applied by the Indonesian participant (henceforth, IS) towards each of the interlocutors. The other purpose was to discover the factors which influence the use of politeness strategies by IS in the casual conversation.

The findings of this study revealed that IS utilized all the four Brown and Levinson's politeness strategies (1987), namely bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record both to the friend and senior. Similarly, IS favored positive politeness strategy the most other than the other strategies while talking to both of them. It can be seen from the frequent use of in-group identity markers such as slang, jargon, dialect, and nicknames in the conversation.

However, some differences were discovered in the use of other strategies particularly bald on record and negative politeness. The results showed that to the senior whose relative power (P) is regarded as 'higher' and whose social distance (D) value is regarded as 'not close', IS tended to use negative politeness strategy and rarely used bald on record strategy. On the contrary, to the friend who has the equal P and whose D is regarded as 'close', IS rarely used negative politeness

strategy and often used bald on record strategy. These facts lead to the conclusion that relative power and social distance has certain influence on politeness strategies usage of IS in the casual conversation.

Furthermore, in terms of the ranking of impositions, it was evidenced that IS applied different politeness strategies in various cases of impositions. When expressing critic and disagreement which were regarded having high impositions, IS tended to use more redressive strategies such as off record and negative politeness. On the other hand, in having small talks like telling story or giving information which have low impositions, IS performed less redressive strategy namely positive politeness. From these findings, it is assumed that ranking of impositions also has some influence on the use of politeness strategies by IS in the casual conversation.

Concerning the other possible factors suggested by IS (e.g. age, gender, and educational background), they cannot be firmly stated yet as the main factors in the present study. It is because the present study did not include all those variables in the focus of study. The age and education level in this study were treated as one of assessments to determine the P and D value of the participants. It is still required to conduct a further study proving that these variables could be treated in separate way with the social distance and power relation factors.

Hopefully, these findings would add more useful data on the realization of politeness strategies among Indonesian speakers and become a basis for further studies concerning this topic.

5.2 Suggestions

The present study has attempted to reveal the politeness strategies used by an Indonesian native speaker (henceforth, IS) in a casual conversation on the surface level. It also investigated the factors which influenced IS's usage of politeness strategies through comparing the politeness strategies used by IS towards a friend and towards a senior in the casual conversation. Seemingly, these issues has not been explored in previous studies. Therefore, the present study was conducted to fill the gap.

For further studies, there are some suggestions which could be considered in conducting research with relevant topic. While the present study only analyzed the use of politeness strategies by an Indonesian native speaker, it would be much better if the further research can hire participants as many as possible to enrich the data. Besides casual conversation in boarding house, there are also other settings which can be considered such as at school, home, or public places. In addition, employing any recent theories is also recommended to produce various findings.