

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the points of the research. It contains background of the study, research questions, and aims of the study. It also discusses scope of the study, research methodology, and clarification of terms. Furthermore, this chapter is ended by the organization of the paper which describes how the paper is organized.

1.1 Background

Speech acts refer to actions conveyed through utterances and take forms as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise, request, disagreement, and refusal (Yule, 1996: 47). According to Searle (1975), speech acts can be classified into 5 types namely declarative, representatives, expressive, directives, and commissives. Searle (1975) further states that refusal belongs to commissive category of speech acts since it shows commitment of the speakers not to perform an action. Refusal requires the speakers to deliver their rejection toward reclusive statement through words as well as to be cooperative in maintaining face of the participants. According to Aziz (2000), refusal is a negative response towards directive speech acts including suggestion, request, offer, command, invitation, and argument.

Beebe, Takahashi, and Uliss-Weltz (1990) define refusal as a face threatening act which is 'sticking point' in a cross cultural communication (cited

in Muarip, 2010). This means that refusal actions relate to the culture of the participants and the context in which the refusals take place. Campillo, Safont-Jorda & Codina-Espurs (2009) find out that in face-to-face conversation, speakers may end up accepting if the petitioner is constantly repeated their request.

Refusal is conditional due to its sensitivity and dependency to social variables including gender, age, level of education, power, and social distance and also to contextual variables such as setting in which the conversation takes place (Brown and Levinson, 1987; Fraser, 1990; Smith, 1985 cited in Hassani *et al.*, 2011). Thus, social variables of the speakers and the hearers take control in influencing the realization of speech acts.

Many studies have covered the speech acts of refusals' realization. The studies can be classified by its focus such as interlanguage refusals (Hiba *et al.*, 2011; Sarfo, 2011), gender refusals (Yuniarti, 2010; Winda, 2012), cultural background refusal strategies (Beebe *et al.*, 1990; Oktoprimasakti, 2006; Yang, 2008; Sadeghi1 *et al.*, 2011) and social status refusals (Hassani *et al.*, 2011).

Moreover, there are some studies of refusal's realization that observed the refusal strategies applied in parent-children relationship. O'Dougherty *et al.* (2006) conducted an observation of Parent-Child Co-Shoppers in Supermarkets. This observation concerned with the children's choice of food, parental yield and refusal strategies used by parents. In term of refusal strategies used by parents in rejecting children's choice of food, the observation showed that parents tend to say no directly, give explanation, avoidance and ignore the children's request. Blum-Kulka (1990; 1997) focused his attentions on parental politeness among

Anisah Septiany, 2013

The Realization of Refusal Strategies by Parents and Children in the Family Domain

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu | perpustakaan.upi.edu

middle-class Israeli, American and American immigrant families during family talk. In general, he mentioned 3 keys that take part in setting voice of politeness in family. Those are power, informality and affect. He also stated that power relations between parents and children show the level of indirectness and directness among them, while informality relates to the offensiveness. The quality of linguistic features in causing the positive affect indicates how important the effect of politeness is.

This study discussed refusal strategies used by parents and children in family domain. The study concerned with specific variable of speaker-hearer relationship which is relied on the power possession possessed by participants and the variable of the nature of the request which is influenced by the imposition of the request. The family was chosen as the domain of the study since it can be classified as a core of community which contains of members with different relationship and power possession.

This study developed and supported Blum-Kulka (1990; 1997)'s and O'Dougherty (2006)'s theories of refusal strategies and politeness among family members. Different from O'Dougherty that had observed family relationship in supermarkets; this study unearthed the realization of refusal strategies used by parents and children when communicating in more general situations. However, the data of the study were collected through observations as what O'Dougherty has conducted.

The study is expected to be useful for English Department since it contained information related to linguistics study, especially pragmatics. It is useful for the students of English Department in improving their understanding on the pragmatics subject especially about the theory related to this study. It is also believed that learning strategies in refusing request takes part in improving human manner when communicating with others.

1.2 Research Questions

The questions of the study were formulated as follows:

- 1) What kinds of strategies are commonly used by parents in refusing requests?
- 2) What kinds of strategies are commonly used by children in refusing requests?
- 3) In what ways do refusal strategies of parents' differ from those of children's with reference to social variables such as speaker-hearer relationship and the nature of request?

1.3 Aims of the Study

This study was conducted within three purposes. The first purpose was to discover the realization of strategy in refusing request commonly used by parents. The second one was to discover the realization of strategy in refusing request commonly used by children. The third one was to analyze the differences of refusal strategies performed by parents and children especially in term of speaker-

hearers relationship which is based on different power possession and the nature of request.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study investigated the response of respondents in refusing request. The data were gained from the conversation existed in family gathering involving a mother, a father, their children and other extended family members. The respondents were monitored during the gathering in every various situations or setting, when they were home, visiting other family member's house, and in special events.

1.5 Research Methodology

1.5.1 Research design

The study used qualitative approach since the study were concern to analyzing the data in the form of words or text. The data were analyzed and interpreted in order to answer the research questions of the study.

1.5.2 Site and subjects of the study

This study focused on Indonesian family, specifically in the relationship between parents, children and others member. This research engaged within a nucleus family (a father, a mother, a daughter, and a son) and extended family (a grandmother, and *uwa* 'aunt'.

1.5.3 Data collection and instruments

The data were collected through observations. The data were gained from the conversation between family members. The respondents were monitored during the gatherings in various situations such as family visit, family talk and wedding.

1.5.4 Data analysis

The data gathered from the observation were processed by some steps as follows:

- 1) Classifying the data has been collected based on categories;
- 2) Analyzing the data collected by using appropriate theory;
- 3) Interpreting the data collected;
- 4) Performing the result of the realization of refusal strategies used by parents and children descriptively.

1.6 Clarification of the terms

There were some particular terms that are mostly used in this study. The terms were clarified due to the possibility in creating misunderstanding in examining the study.

- 1) Request is an act that the addresser requires the addressee to complete certain action (Yang, 2008).
- 2) Refusal is disapproval of the interlocutor's idea and a threat to the interlocutor's face (Beebe *et. al.*, 1990 as cited Campillo, Safont-Jorda & Codina-Espurs, 2009) or negative response towards directive speech acts

including suggestion, request, offer, command, invitation, and argument and so on (Aziz, 2000).

- 3) Refusal strategy is semantic formulas that speakers use to perform refusal speech act (Morkus, 2009).

1.7 Organization of Paper

This study consists of five chapters including Introduction, Theoretical Framework, Research Method, Findings and Discussion, as well as Conclusion and Suggestions. Chapter I, Introduction, elaborates reason of the research, background information of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, clarification of the terms, and organization of the paper. Theoretical reviews which support the topic of the study are presented in Chapter II. Chapter III discusses the research methodology. It consists of research questions, research method, data collection, respondents of the research, and data analysis. The findings and the analysis of the data collected are presented in Chapter IV. Chapter V provides the result of the research. This chapter covers conclusion of the research and suggestion for further research.



Anisah Septiany, 2013

The Realization of Refusal Strategies by Parents and Children in the Family Domain

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu | perpustakaan.upi.edu