CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the research, statement of research problems, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Research

Language is one of social aspect of human life. One of the most important function of language is as an instrument of communication in order to maintain a relationship with others. It is a symbol of social identity and an emblem of social group membership and solidarity. Without using language, it is hard to imagine how people can be cooperative one another. Furthermore, languages are also used throughout the world to daily communicate or countless our ideas, beliefs, intentions, actions and feelings.

The definitions give an understanding that language is quite significant for people as a means of communication. People need language when they are motivated to express their ideas, feelings and thoughts or when they communicate one and another. However, language will serve its meaning if only there are people who apply the language, and the process must be settled in the proper context. Communication activity involves not only a participant but also other participants. In order that participants understand each other's utterance, they must have a good understanding in what context they are

communicating. Therefore, pragmatics, as a branch of linguistics that studies how more gets communicated than is said, also necessarily involves the interpretation of what people mean in particular context and how the context influence what is said.

When we communicate, we can do all sorts of things, from aspirating a consonant, to constructing a relative clause, to insulting a guest, to starting a war. These are all, pre-theoretically, speech-acts done in the process of speaking (Horns, 2006: 53). Actions performed via utterances are generally called speech acts and, in English, are commonly given more specific labels, such as apology, complaint, invitation, promise, or request (Yule, 1996: 47). The theory of speech acts, however, is especially concerned with those acts that are not completely covered under one or more of the major divisions of grammar. By studying speech act, people could understand the notion of speech act. It will make people realized that any utterance will have different communicative functions when it is used in different situation and context (Nuraini, 2014:3).

There are some categories in speech acts. Based on Searle in Yule (1996:55) classified speech act into five categories, namely: declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commisives. Besides, there are two different types of speech act, direct and indirect speech act that could be used when people are talking with others, in terms of telling, apologizing, asking, suggesting, even requesting. In this study, the researcher focuses on certain speech act called request.

Linguist states that request is an expression which is arranged in order to make the listener do what the speaker asks. Searle (1976) in Nuraini (2014: 4) stated that the function of request is to express the speaker's desire that the hearer considers the expressed desire as the reason to act. According to the theory of Blum-Kulka (Vol. 5, No. 3, p.201) there are two strategies of request, there are direct and indirect strategy. Here, the researcher focuses on the indirectness strategies categorized into nine types; mood derivable, performatives, hedged performatives, obligation statement, want statement, suggestory formulae, query preparatory, strong hints, and mild hints (Blum-Kulka, 1989: 18).

Request strategy as one of pragmatic phenomena proves the ability of the speakers not only in the language but also in applying the language in context. The researcher is interested in doing this study as request can be analyzed in various strategies. This both cases, for example; "Close the door," and "You left the door open." That two cases exactly included into request strategy even the second one presents on the indirect strategy which cannot be interpreted at a glance. Whereas by saying that, the speaker may expect the hearer should close the door before leaving his house, so it can be said that the speaker asked the listener to close the door indirectly.

Request strategy can be found in the movie because it's one of the literature types. Movie has a lot of examples of request strategies which can be analyzed based on its contexts. Additionally, movie could be a suggested authentic material for the teachers to improve their students' ability in

speaking class. There is an unchanged forms delivered by the teacher when they're teaching about speaking is using forms like *"Would you, could you, may I..."* in requesting something. As this case, the students just aware that by saying that structure they can communicate the request form.

There are various strategies in request act that can be analyzed from its sentence pattern too. The researcher is interested to seek the structure of conversational fragments containing requests in *Divergent.* Behind nine strategies of requesting, there are different analysis on the pattern of sentences. Like the example taken from Blum-Kulka et al (1989:18), "Close the door!" as mood derivable that starts with verb is has different pattern with another example, such "You should close the door." The second pattern more emphasize on the pattern "have to" and "should". It obviously different when we took one looking on the imperative pattern at the first example and mostly there is none of sense of request at the second example.

In this study, the researcher intends to analyze requestive act since in communication people need to ask the listener to do something they want. The strategy used by the people especially native speakers might have a different pattern with others language. English is the priority language used by the people around the world. So that, if the people can understand about its culture in requesting, it should be easy for non-native speakers to keep a relationship with others people around the world.

People prefer learning English in the term of grammatical structures to mastering in circumstance of certain context. In pragmatics, it called as

pragmatics clarity. In studying about requestive act, it's needed a pragmatic sensitivity for interpreting about the context about our communication. Up till now, in teaching English, especially in conversation class, the material frequently concerns in the terms of grammatical and abandons about contextual terms. In requesting something, for example, the students identic to choose conventional ways in requesting like "could I borrow your pencil?" rather than "do you have two pencils?" However, the second way is the way of native speakers in uttering their want to borrow a pencil. Then, the researcher conducts this study in order to give an acceptable model of speaking in teaching and learning since the English teachers often have to teach non-native speakers. Moreover, by studying request strategy, the teachers can take some samples as authentic model to teach their students in having communication based on its situational context.

In this study, the subject analyzed by the researcher is any request act in conversation employed by the characters in *Divergent* movie. This movie chosen for it fulfills the requirements related to the situational characteristic and context used by people today which can be suitable to be used as language in speaking model.

B. Statement of Research Problems

Based on the background of the research above, the research problems are stated as follow:

1. What request strategy is used by the characters in *Divergent* movie subtitles?

2. How are the sentence patterns of the request strategy employed in the conversations occurring in *Divergent* movie subtitles?

C. Objectives of the Research

The objective of this research are:

1. To know what strategy that is used by the characters in *Divergent* movie subtitles.

2. To know how sentence patterns of the request strategy are used by the characters in *Divergent* movie subtitles.

D. Significance of the Research

This research is significant to enrich the understanding about pragmatics, especially about request act and the strategies trough literary work such as novel. By reading literary work and analyzing the request act and the strategies used in the dialogue, we can understand how to apply it appropriately in our daily life.

The researcher expected that this research gives contribution for:

1. English learners

The English learners can know how to express English natural requesting acts; they can improve their ability in using English, especially in speaking. This study leads the learners to understand the

strategies in delivering request based on the context – who is the listener; when, where, and in what situation. Moreover, this study can improve the learner's knowledge in the term of pragmatic clarity.

2.   English teachers

The English teachers can take the examples from this study to teach the English learners as it gives an acceptable model in delivering request based on the context. The English teachers can practice some samples from this study to enrich various learning materials for this study took form authentic model of native speakers in uttering their request on some ways.

E.   Scope and Limitation of the Research

The scope of this research is request strategy and sentence pattern of request strategy in *Divergent* movie. It's only focused on the directness scale not about the politeness terms of strategy of requests. The limitation of this research is to describe the application of request strategy and its pattern used by the characters in *Divergent* movie. It's only limited on the description not about generalization of the request strategy usage.

F.   Definition of Key Terms

In order to give clear definition and as guidance for the readers to understand the whole research, the definition of the key terms were given here:

1. Request

   Request is an utterance containing the action that conveyed by the speaker to the listener. The speaker may ask or suggest the speaker to do what his want.

2. Request strategy

   Request strategy is a strategy in delivering request. The speaker may apply the strategy in uttering their want. It obviously depends on the context.

3. *Divergent* Movie

   Divergent is a sci-fi movie released on May 2014. The main reason of selecting this movie is about the contextual terms; the conversation applied the examples of nowadays English used by the native speaker; also the background and setting are presenting nowadays context.