

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Face threatening acts and politeness strategies appear in daily communication, such as casual communication, texts, talk show, etc. Debate is one of communication, even though it cannot be classified into daily one. Based on democracy value, everyone has an opportunity to give their opinion freely. Everyone has a different idea and different perspective in facing and responding the issues. Debating is actually a common thing that we do every day but they may do it unconsciously. Best of all, we have the opportunity to stand up and argue with someone in public, in stimulating and organising dispute about real issues

Both in formal and informal debate, debaters stimulate and organize dispute about real issues. They will stand in their position and work hard to convince public that their arguments are totally better and true than their rival. They used their power and it may be expressed in their ways of communication by threatening another individual expectation regarding self image and avoiding element of politeness to counteract the threatening acts among the debaters only in order to convince public to be pro with their arguments, stand with their arguments and kill their rival arguments in order to be the winner in that debate which is based on readers' voting. In recent years, the phenomenon

of face threatening acts and politeness has become central to the discussions of the human interaction.

Face threatening acts is occurred when the speaker says something that represents a threat to another individual's expectations regarding self – image, it is described as a face threatening act. (Yule, 1996 : 6). The FTA can be counteracted by two ways. The first is positive politeness strategy and negative politeness strategy. Haugh in (Akram and Ghani, 2013:1) suggests “Politeness involves speakers’ showing what they think about themselves and others, and addressees’ perceptions of those evaluations”

(Choyimah, 2015: 41) explained that in general politeness can be defined as linguistics attitude which can make an addressee feel at ease. Hence, the parameter of being politeness is the convenience in the part of the addressee. In relation with this matter, Brown and Levinson in their phenomenal book proposed the concept of face. Face is basic desire/needs that everyone wants to satisfy.

Brown and Levinson's (1978: 62) divided Politeness into two, positive and negative politeness. Negative face or negative politeness is the want of every competent adult member of a community that their actions be unimpeded by others. Positive face is the want of every member that their want be desirable to at least some others. So, a face-saving act that emphasizes a person's negative face will show concern about imposition, will show solidarity and draw attention to a common goal.

Non formal debate not only occurs in the real world but also in the cyber world. In this globalization era, modern technology has developed very rapidly, people can do debate towards a certain issue with other people in this world freely in cyber world. One of the modern technologies used by the societies in the world is internet. Through internet, people can do almost everything. People can do communication, learning and debating in the internet. Internet provides so many communicating devices. There are so many facilities are provided in the internet where people are able to create some websites and groups in this internet freely, they can use those groups and sites whatever they want. So, it is possible for people not only to make conversation visually, orally, and in written form by using internet but also they are also able to do debate. One of debate sites commonly used in internet is debate.org

[Debate.org](http://debate.org) is the premier online community where intelligent minds from around the world come to debate online and read the opinions of others. To encourage discussion this debate forum built website around these core features: The first is debate, in this debate.org occurred challenge members to one-on-one debates on specific topics, with several rounds to make their case. The side with the most votes from the community wins the debate. Secondly is opinions, pose a question to the community and allow members to pick a side and provide their opinion. Members can chime in and reply to each other's arguments and attempt to sway those on the opposing side. Thirdly is a forum, start an open format discussion with the community on any topic. Subscribe to posts, and keep the conversation going when there is more to say. The last is

community, make friends from around the world based on the issues that mostly matter. See where members stand on the Big Issues, and create new relationships through passionate debate. To be the member in this debate forum, people have to sign up so they can start voicing their opinions.

And here the debate takes place. As explained above that the members in this debate forum are from many countries in the world. They may do not know each other while they were arguing or rebutting. They only focus on their right to give opinions, to show up their intelligent minds towards a certain issue to compete with other's arguments in order to convince public to be the winner. The situation should be different when we compared to a real – life situations where the debaters interact at the same time and often in the same spatial environment. The same debate rules are adhered to both in cyber world's debate and in face to face debate. However, some specific features of debate, such as the politeness strategies, might be different from those who meet outside the cyberspace.

Many researchers have conducted a research in Politeness cases. Such as in Academic Research International Journal who has conducted a research about Politeness and the Language of Pakistani Politicians, In one-on-one debate, rivals tout similarities: Clinton, Obama let politeness reign and so many others. Ayu Trijayanti, the students of IAIN Tulungagung has also studied about Politeness strategy used by different gender in cyber world. In line with the explanation above, the writer conducted a research about politeness strategy in non formal debate which is not related with Politic power or cyber

world communication. As stated by Freely and Steinberg (2009: 19) that non formal debate is done without formal rules and the term nonformal has no reference to the formality or informality of the occasion on which the debate takes place.

B. Statements of the Research Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher is interested in finding the answer of the following questions:

1. What Face Threatening Acts are commonly performed by the debaters?
2. What Politeness Strategies are performed by the debaters to soften the Face Threatening Acts?

C. Objectives of the Research

In line with statement of the problems above, this study is aimed to analyse:

1. To describe Face Threatening Acts are commonly performed by the debaters.
2. To describe Politeness Strategies are performed by the debaters to soften the Face Threatening Acts.

D. Significances of the Research

The result of the study is expected to be beneficial in two ways:

1. Academic significance

This study gives the contribution in developing of pragmatics discipline. The finding of this research can be used as a teaching material for the teacher. The finding of Politeness strategy used by debaters when

they argued their arguments can be used as the references on how the role in communication especially in debate must be happened.

2. Practical Significance

The findings of this research give the information to the readers especially for the debaters about the politeness strategy that must be used when they argue their arguments and also give the information on how the debaters must differentiate politeness strategy used by debaters in order to avoid miscommunication that might happen during the debate. In addition, the findings of this study are useful for further researchers. The result of this study can be used as a reference in conducting research related to topic in the same field.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

In this study, the researcher studied merely the politeness strategies occurred in debate forum that is debate.org sites. The researcher analyzed how debaters performed politeness strategies during debate, where some of them might do not know each other while doing debate in cyber world

To ease the analysis, the researcher downloaded some topics which has been debated in the form of written text. It is easier to be understood and more safe-timed to analyze. Beside that, the researcher did not consider the debaters whether they have been expert or not and also the researcher didn't consider on status based on their age, social status, or jobs. It just focus on written utterances produced by debaters to be analyzed about their Face Threatening Acts and also Politeness Strategies which are performed.

F. Definitions of the Key Terms

1. Debate

Debate is competing arguments towards a certain topic between two sides, they are the opposition who disagree towards the topic and the affirmative who agree towards the topic.

2. Face Threatening Acts (FTA)

Face threatening acts is the acts of threatening someone's negative and positive desire that need to be satisfied

3. Politeness Strategy

Politeness strategy is the strategy to counteract the acts of threatening someone's negative and positive desire that need to be satisfied

4. Positive Politeness Strategy

Politeness strategy is the strategy to counteract the acts of threatening someone's negative and positive desire that need to be satisfied which is oriented to someone's positive face

5. Negative Politeness Strategy

Politeness strategy is the strategy to counteract the acts of threatening someone's negative and positive desire that need to be satisfied which is oriented to someone's negative face

