

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction chapter presents background of the study, research problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Language is the main key of human being to communicate. Using language, human can communicate and share everything they want. Thus, it's true that communication is the most important tool for human being to have relationship with other. People need to communicate in order to extend information or to express their feeling. In social life, people can perform language as communicative function such as requesting, promising, apologizing, expressing agreement or disagreement and more. Therefore, language can be used in any situation, anywhere and anytime.

Many experts have stated the definition of language. Holmes (1992:286) divided the function of language; the function is referential and functional. Referential function is language that is used in order to exchange or to give information with others. It allows people to accumulate and to share everything related to how to solve any problem based on their nature. While functional aspect of the language refers to the function of language used by human being for

maintaining social relationship. In this case, language is used by people to make any interaction among them in order to make good social relationship.

Language has several aspects; they are vocabulary, structure, pronunciation and others. One of those aspects is meaning. Meaning is very important because without knowing the meaning, the message cannot be accepted clearly. Studying meaning does not only deal with individual minds but it must also have 'agreement' among people who have the communication in social life to avoid any misunderstanding.

In using language (communicating), people talk differently in different circumstance with different listeners or interlocutors. However, communication depends not only on recognizing the meaning of words in every utterance, but also recognizing what speakers mean by their utterance. The meaning of utterance is not only seen from its lexical meaning but also from the situation (or what so-called context). Every utterance will have different meaning if the speaker is different. It is also different if the situation and/or the listener(s) are different. Having different speaker or listener in communication, then, will produce different interpretation. Thus, we need to understand the entire social context in which a sentence is uttered. That's why every language produced is not as simple as its lexical meaning but also depends on the context. The study of the contextual meaning is called pragmatics.

Pragmatics explores the role that context plays in the interpretation of what people say. In studying pragmatics, we study about how we recognize what is meant by even when it isn't actually said or written. In having communication,

generally we recognize the type of action performed by speaker with utterance. The focus of studying acts in pragmatics is called speech act.

Speech act is the study of how we do things with an utterance. Speech act describes what speaker means, what the utterance means, what speaker intends, and what the listener understands. By studying speech act, people could understand the notion of speech act. It will make people realized that any utterance will have different meaning or communicative function when it is used in different situation and context.

In studying speech act, the interpretation of every sentence will be different if the speaker, listener and the situation is different. The utterance "I'm hungry", for example, has various interpretations. That utterance can be said as giving information or giving invitation to buy a meal if it is said among close friends. It will have the function as request if that utterance is done by the husband to his wife. So, as stated before that interpretation of an utterance goes beyond understanding its meaning at the level of grammar.

According to Austin in Meyer (2006:50), every utterance will produce three acts simultaneously; they are locution, illocution and perlocution. Austin believes that every utterance will perform the utterance itself, the force behind the utterance and the result of the utterance. Searle in Meyer (2006:50) classified speech act into five categories, such are: representative speech act, directive speech act, commissive speech act, expressive speech act, and declarative speech act. Speech act will be done direct or indirectly when people talk to other, telling

something, asking something, or suggesting something. In this study, the researcher focuses on a certain speech act which is 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 Rulijaji (2010:2) 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 et al (1989) there are two strategies of request; direct and indirect strategy. The direct strategy is divided into five types; mood derivable, explicit performative, hedged performative, obligation statement, and want statement. The indirect strategy is divided into two types; conventionally and non-conventionally indirect, where the conventionally indirect strategy has two types; they are suggestory formulae and query preparatory, while the non-conventionally indirect strategy has strong hint and mild hint as its types.

Request is one of the essential linguistics topic to analyze. The researcher is interested in doing this study because request requires the ability of the speakers not only in the language but also in applying the language in context. Besides, the researcher chooses request to be analyzed because request is conducted in many strategies. People often misunderstand each other because of the differences in interpreting. For example when someone says "You left the door open" (Yule, 2006), the hearer may think that the speaker just tell him that he did not close the door before leaving. Whereas by saying that, the speaker may expect he should close the door before leaving his house, so it can be said that the speaker asked the listener to close the door indirectly.

In this study, the researcher intends to analyze requestive act since in having communication people use to ask the listener to do something they want. The fact is people do not only make relationship with someone who has same culture and language, but they also make a relationship with others around the world that may have different culture and language. Here is the role of English to make people around the world easy to have agreed to put English (as the most prioritized international language) to have relationship with others of non-speaking English.

People have to be able to speak using the international language if they want to survive in social life. Since English is the foreign language (or second language for certain people) in our country, the researcher realizes that the speaking of English in our society is less functional. The people still focus on the grammatical structures rather than the circumstance of the situation whereas the meaning of any utterance is not as simply as the lexical meaning, and is also considered based on its contextual meaning. 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 of English. Besides, by studying request strategy, the teachers can take some samples 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 done by the actors and actresses in movie entitled *Twilight*. This movie is chosen for its contextual characteristics with today's setting which can be suitable to be used as language model.

B. Research Problems

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

1. What request strategy is employed by speakers in conversations occurring in movie entitled *Twilight*?
2. What is the frequency of each type of the request strategy employed by speakers in conversations occurring in movie entitled *Twilight*?

C. Objectives of the Study

The purposes of this study are:

1. To know what strategy that is used in request acts in conversation in movie entitled *The Twilight Saga*.
2. To find out the frequency of each types of the request strategy employed by speakers in conversation in movie entitled *The Twilight Saga*.

D. Significance of the Study

This study is significant to enrich the understanding about pragmatics, especially about request act and the strategies through 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 hopes that this study give contribution for:

1. English learner

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 speak based on the context – who is the listener, when and where and in what situation. The English learners are not only able to speak correctly in the grammatical form but also they can speak correctly where they are, with whom they have conversation, when they are speaking and in what condition they speaking. So, the English learners can have good social relationship.

2. English teacher

The English teacher can took some samples from this study to teach the English learners since this study gives an acceptable model in delivering requesting acts based on the context. The English teacher can took some samples from this study to create various learning materials that is not only concern in the grammatical form but also concerning in the context – who is the listener, when and where the speaker is and in what condition he delivers his utterance, since the curriculum makers rarely focus on the context, they tend to focus on the grammatical ones.

3. The reader

The readers can learn the way how to express request acts and the strategies of request act based on the context – who is the listener, when and where the speaker is and in what condition he delivers his utterance. The reader also can know how to realize it in their daily lives.

E. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is speech acts. According to Searle (1979) in Meyer (2009:50), speech act is divided into five categories. They are representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. This study focused on the directive speech act. This study is limited to analyze the request and the strategy of conveying request in conversational fragment of film "*Twilight*". The researcher limits the study only in conversational fragment of the film and takes the situation of the conversation as the context of the requestive utterances.

F. Definition of Key Terms

In order to give clear definition and as guidance for the readers to understand the whole study, the definition of the key terms are given here.

1. Request

Bulm Kulka (1989:11) stated that requestive acts are pre-event acts; they express the speaker's expectation of the hearer with regards to prospective action, verbal or non verbal

2. Film

A film, also called a movie or motion picture, is a series of moving images. It is produced by recording photographic images by camera, or by creating images using animation techniques or visual effects. Films are cultural artifact created by specific cultures, which reflect those cultures, and in turn, affect them. Film is considered to be an important

art form, a source of popular entertainment and a powerful method for educating or indoctrinating citizens.

3. Conversational fragment

Conversational fragment is a part of film, novel or play that consists of dialogue between the characters. It explains what the character intends to do and built the plot of the story.

4. Request strategy

Holmes (1990) in Ruliaji (2010:5) stated that request strategy is several strategies that are available to express request since the speaker always think of the most appropriate way of getting the hearer to do something based on particular context.