

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this chapter, I am going to discuss about the analysis of the data and the findings that can be provided as the answers of my research questions. Firstly, I am going to divide the discussions of the compliment responses strategy used by the female basketball players into two parts. In the first part, I am going to observe and discuss about the compliment responses used when the respondents face compliment on ability. Then in the second part, I am going to discuss about the compliment responses used when the respondents face compliment on appearance.

IV.1. THE OBSERVATION

I live with my three respondents in a dormitory for the basketball players in the club, as the first location, named *mess*. Actually, it is not a real dormitory, which is full of regulations, it is more like a home for us, where we can live, as we want, but we have to obey some certain regulations considering the basketball club's rule. Each of my respondents has different characteristics and backgrounds that can be my consideration to choose them as my respondents.

The second location for my observation is in the basketball field where we exercise basketball together every Monday and Thursday. It is a basketball field for Marine Corps actually, which is located on Jalan Perak Timur, Northern Surabaya, in the location of Kodikal (Komando Distrik Angkatan Laut), where the Marine Corps' live.

Another location I took for my observation is at any unplanned places, places that I could get the data spontaneously from my respondents. However, the main locations, which I used to observe for my research, were in the basketball field and in the mess, because my respondents and I very often, meet each other. For keeping my respondents' identities, and for the goal of my research, I used the fake names to call my three respondents.

My first respondent, Marry, is the daughter of a Chinese couple. Her mother comes from Malang (East Java), and her father comes from Bali. She has a younger brother and an elder brother. She is 26 years old now, and has just graduated from her study in University of Surabaya. She has been living in the *mess* for about eight years, and playing basketball in the club. She grew up in Malang and lived there until she graduated from high school, then moved to Surabaya to study at Ubaya (Universitas Surabaya). However, she has the citizenship of Bali, since her family has moved to Bali for two years. She is the captain of our basketball team. She has a baby face look that makes her look younger than her real age, I meant, she is more like a teenage girl rather than an adult woman like she is supposed to be. I may call her, a talk-active person, who usually starts the conversation to everyone she wants. I have lived with her in our *mess* for about four years. We have already known each other well, although we have many disagreements of our thoughts or opinion, different behavior, and so on. My relationship with her is nice, but we do not share our problems and feelings so often. She and I have good relationship in the basketball circumstances, but not so well in personal relationship, we just have fun together, not more than that.

My second respondent, Ann, is 21 years old, has Chinese parents. She has six brothers (three elder brothers and three younger brothers) and a younger sister, and she herself is the fourth child. I may say that she has a 'big' family. The 'big' here means that there are many persons of her family, but the persons of her family really have 'big' size, I mean, they are sturdy and tall. The male persons in her family are all about 180 centimeters high, and the female persons are at least 170 centimeters high. It is a big family, I think. Ann and her brothers and sisters were born in Surabaya (East Java), but then they moved to Samarinda (East Borneo) to live there, because of their parents' job. Annie went back to Surabaya to study when she was in high school, and then continued to Petra Christian University.

Actually, she has been joining our club for about three years. I have a good relationship with her since she studies at the same university with me. We often share our problems, opinions, and spend the time together. I think she is a girl who has enough confidence, who always tries to keep her good image.

The third respondent, Katty, is a 26-year-old girl. She is a daughter of Javanese parents. She is boyish, and feels like funky girl, by dressing like a 'really

funky person', we called it '*anak gaul*,' although I do not think so, because my image of 'funky' is not the same like her. A funky person in my mind is a person who dresses as up-to-date style, or fashionable person, for example: wears skater outfit when the trend of it happens. Her father is a policeman like the one I have described in chapter three. My relationship with her is not so close, but sometimes we have same opinions, and often share and tell our experiences.

IV. 2. COMPLIMENT ON ABILITY

a) MARRY

We, the basketball team, exercise basketball twice a week, Monday and Thursday, at night, from eight o'clock until eleven. Marry is my team's captain; she has a good ability in playing basketball, although her height is not so high. She is only 160 centimeters high, and a thin girl, but she still can play basketball better than the higher girls can.

In the basketball field, when we exercised, she often does a good job in playing basketball, including *passing*, *shooting*, *dribbling*, and so on. As I could notice, my friend, Monic, who was our ex-captain before Marry, spontaneously gave her compliments on her ability in basketball: "*Weh, ciamik rek, kayak Jordan tuh barusan*". [Wow, you do it very well, it's like Jordan just now]

Receiving such compliment, she did not say a word; she just stared at the complimenter for a second, and then made a face at her without saying a word. The replacement of captain from Monic to Marry in the past might influence Marry's response of Monic's compliment. Marry might feel uncomfortable to accept the compliment, because she might feel that Monic envy her position as a captain. The previous captain of our team was Monic, but, she did a fatal mistake (impolite retirement), that made her dumped from the captain position. In another time, Marry gave no verbal response when her friend, Katty, complimented her spontaneously and grumbled on her ability when seeing Marry shot to the basket.

"*Jangkrik, titis tenan arek iki*". [Shit, she shots so precise]

Some people think (maybe have stereotype) that the spontaneous words are the true feeling or opinion that comes out from the speaker. I think Marry is the one who has the assumption like that. That caused her shy to receive the compliments, although

the compliment was more like grumbling than complimenting, and that resulted no verbal response from Marry.

The recipient of the compliment might interpret those compliments given spontaneously negatively or positively, depending on the characteristics of the persons who receive the compliment. On another occasion, I asked my boss (Cin Ming)' wife, named 'Cie Fong-Fong' ('cie' is an address term in Chinese to call an elder woman or sister), who is the one of our ex-basketball player (30 years old), to give compliments to my three respondents. I told her that I was in my observation for my thesis, so she could help me to collect the data. Firstly, she gave compliment on Marry's ability, when they were not playing, but during the break. While walking out of the basketball field, to the side for resting, Cie Fong-Fong gave compliments to Marry:

"Waduh, Marry tadi maenne ciamik soro ya...three point-e ya titis, ya Mar? Maenmu lho, tadi ciamik." [Wow, Marry has done a very good job in playing and shooting. It is right, Marry? Your performance just now, was so good]
Facing such compliment from her elder partner, and the boss' wife who payed her, Marry responded with no valued verbal response. She only mumbled:

"Oh, hehehe (laughed and grinned)"

Marry acted shyly because of the compliments given from Fong-Fong. When Fong-Fong said the first statement, Marry seemed to ignore the compliment that was why Fong asked her again to get Marry's response. In this case, Marry responded as no acknowledgement, as a fact that she was shy to accept such compliment from her boss. In addition, she responded it with no verbal response such as smile and grin, as her politeness manner to the complimenter. However, in another time (a week after it), when Fong-Fong gave compliment to Marry: *"Ciamik tadi Mar, passingmu tadi itu timingnya pas sekali, pinter kamu passingnya"* [Your passing is great, good timing]. Marry actually could respond it with "thank you" as an 'appreciation token', but in fact, she responded it with a 'scale down' statement:

"Mana? Ngga kok cie, tadi itu pas karena Siane lagi kosong kok ya an, jadi timing-nya pas" [Really? It is not good, Cie, Siane was in a good and empty position just now, so I could pass her rightly].

Marry responded Fong-Fong's compliment like that maybe because of Marry's embarrassing to accept a serious compliment from Fong-Fong. They have had a close relationship each other, like a sister, I thought. Fong-Fong had been in our club for about four years before Marry joined. Therefore, when Marry joined, she knew Fong-Fong and treated her as her own sister. As a sister, they thought something mostly as a joke, so are the compliments. That is why, when Fong-Fong compliment Marry that sounded seriously (maybe because I asked her to), Marry felt reluctant and embarrassed to accept that.

Still in the same place, Marry gave different responses when she accepted compliments from her friends. As we were taking a rest beside the lawn, I gave her a compliment on her ability in playing basketball as she had done "*Weh, gendeng kon Marry, nge-fly koyok Jordan. Wes ngono shot tangan satu e... Ciamik.....*" [Weh, crazy Marry, can fly like Jordan. Moreover, you can shot with one hand.... Amazing]

Accepting the direct compliment like that, she responded by saying:

"Apane ciamik, orang tadi aku wes loncat, digandoli ambe Jenny, trus tak lempar ngawur, tibake masuk, hehehe". [What is so great? I had jumped, but Jenny decked me, so I threw the ball nowhere, fortunately, it was in to the ring. Hehehe]

From the statements uttered by Marry, I may say that Marry responded to my comment with a 'scale down' (Herbert, 1990.p.209) statement like many Indonesians would do, but, it also may be included to a 'disagreement', because Marry thought that it was a lucky shot, not a great one. Marry might feel that actually she could not do such performance, but in fact, she successfully had done a great one, and she thought that she was only lucky, not a nice one.

On another occasion, Marry accepted compliment on her performance in dancing from my elder sister. It was about eight o'clock in the evening when we were chatting together in the living room of our 'mess'. We were talking about what we had done the previous night, when we went out together to a famous café in Surabaya, named 'Java Jimmy's or 'JJ'. 'JJ' is a famous café for the youngsters for dancing, chatting, and clubbing in Surabaya. As we chatted, I heard my elder sister

complimented to Marry in her ability of dancing that night: “*Lho..., kemaren kalian ngga lihat ya Marry beraksi? Kemaren Marry disco hebat banget, sampe kabeh ngeliat iri.....suit...suit...*”. [You did not see Marry’s act last night. She danced so well, everyone’s envy...]. Accepting such direct compliment, Marry responded enthusiastically by saying:

“*Wow, iya... kemaren kalian ngga lihat ya... aku goyang Inul yo... bokong-ku ngebor abis deh...sampe lantai disco-ne tak-bor pisan, sampe bolong. Hehehehehe..., Lembeng kalah yo kemaren. Eman lu ngga lihat!*”. [Wow, it was true, you did not see me last night. I moved like Inul’s spin... my bottom had spun round and round...until there was a hole in the dance floor...Hehehehehe... Lembeng lost last night. So sorry you did not see!].

In this case, my sister seemed to express compliment in a joking tone to Marry. My elder sister, Lembeng, is the one who has always been the rival of Marry in being the persons who is insulted in our joke, in the basketball team. So, when my sister complimented Marry, in a joking note, of course, Marry responded it with a ‘praise upgrade’ statement, that made Marry being more embarrassed and insulted like my sister expected, because they always joked by making each other embarrassed. Honestly, we thought that our joking conversation was fun, especially by complimenting someone in order to make her or him embarrassed.

Receiving compliments from our coach, Marry tend to give ‘no acknowledgement’ responses without saying any word. As I noticed in the basketball field, when Marry had done a good passing or assist passing and made the team won, my coach complimented her by saying “*Bagus tadi itu passingmu itu! Assist-mu sing nggarai bola masuk dan menang!*” [Your passing was nice! Your assist caused the ball was in, then you won the game]. Accepting the compliment from her coach, Marry responded with no verbal response. She just stared at the coach, and tended to be quiet. The coach was an old man on his fifties, and I guessed that Marry did not like the coach so much, because of the way the coach teaches us, and the personality of the coach which tend to have a love affair with someone of our team. Therefore, she gave no response when the coach gave her a direct compliment. On another, day, the coach reprimanded my friend, Siane, in the basketball field when Siane did a mistake in playing basketball. “*Yak apa se, sudah dibilangi berkali-kali, ojo nge-*

jong dari tengah!Kamu mana mampu? Yang bisa cuma Marry, kamu belum se-level!" [How can you do that? I've told you, do not drive in from the center! You cannot do that. Only Marry can do it, you have not had the same level!]. In fact, Marry was there at that time, and she heard the indirect compliment from the coach. She had no response toward the compliment. All the players there tended to be silent when hearing that kind of statement and I thought that the players at that time did not think that the statements were a compliment, and there was nothing important about Marry to be complimented at that time. We tended to focus on what was the fault and how to fix such fault, not about complimenting someone. Therefore, that, all of us, including the recipient of the compliment, felt to be warned by the coach.

When 'Ko' Ge Hie (35) did compliment to Marry, she responded it with a 'praise upgrade' statement. Ge Hie said to Marry: "*Mar, apik soro itu tadi jump-shot-nya! Kalau kamu isa gitu terus, pasti ngga ada yang bisa ngalahno!*" [Mar, your jump shot was so great, perfect! If you always do it, nobody can lose you!"]. Accepting the compliment, Marry responded:

"Wah, jadi malu tuh. Koko ngga usah buka rahasia gitu ah" [Wow, I am shy. You do not need to tell my secret].

The word 'Ko' is used to address elder brother in Chinese family, or elder man. Ge Hie was our senior male basketball player, who had known Marry well, as Fong-Fong had known Marry. In the past, when Marry had just joined in the club, they (Marry, Fong-Fong, and Ge Hie, lived together in 'mess', that was why they had a close relationship. Marry might feel that the compliment from Ge Hie was a joke, because it was weird to accept compliment from Ge Hie who rarely complimented her in a serious way, so that she praised herself confidently, in a joking tone.

b) ANN

Ann is the tallest girl in our team, and the youngest one who lives together in the 'mess'. She studies in Petra Christian University, the same university as I do. She is talented in playing basketball, not only because of her height, but also her mobile ability and her strength. She is a perfectionist athlete, I think, because she usually

comments and criticizes someone's fault, even she herself, although the fault is not so worthy.

Still in the same location, the basketball field, I have taken the observation in the evening, when we exercised basketball together. After Ann did a great 'lay up' (a basketball action in which the player put the ball into the basket while jumping), I complimented her by saying "*Yes, ciamik, Ann...barusan lay up-nya keren banget...langkahmu kayak pemain NBA!*" [Yes, it is great, An. You lay up so cool just now... your step is like NBA player!] Responding my compliment, Annie replied my comment with a 'scale down' response. She said:

"Apane.... Iya lha wong lagi kosong ngga ada yang njaga" [What so great...It's because there's no one decked me] that seemed to be a 'disagreement' of what I commented of her ability.

I asked 'cie' Fong-Fong to compliment Ann when she sat beside Ann, during the break. In fact, Fong-Fong hardly ever complimented Ann, especially in a serious tone, because the relationship of them (Ann and Fong-Fong) was not as close as Marry had. Fong-Fong recognized my sign to give compliment to Ann, and she spontaneously complimented Ann on her ability when playing basketball, Fong-Fong said to Ann: "*Ann tadi kamu ciamik lho maenne...ya Jun ya? Tadi Annie maenne ciamik soro... sampe ngga ada yang bisa njaga lho Ann.*"

[Ann you did a great play...is it right Jun? Ann played so great, nobody could deck you, An.]

In this case, Fong-Fong complimented Ann in front of Ann and I (Fong-Fong and others call me Jun). When Fong-Fong complimented Ann, Fong-Fong asked my comment of her opinion, because Ann seemed to wonder and could not believe in accepting such compliment in front of me, especially from the senior player like Fong-Fong.

"Ah...cie-cie juga bagus tadi maennya ya Jun?" [Ah, you played well too, isn't it Jun?]

Said she, and I think she responded it with a 'return' comment to the complimenter. Both of them asked my comment on each opinion, maybe in order to make sure that

their opinion is true. However, I knew that Fong-Fong made sign to me to notice readily on Ann's response. The fact that I was in there with them might have caused Ann to feel embarrassed and reluctant to accept such compliment. Ann's feeling might be due to Fong-Fong is being her senior and boss, who seemed to be weird for Ann to accept compliment from Fong-Fong, that was why Ann made me her supporter of her response to the compliment.

In the next exercise day, Fong-Fong did compliment to Ann again in her ability, as I asked to Fong-Fong. "*Annie ciamik soro ya mainnya!*" [Ann was so great in playing basketball, isn't it?] said Fong-Fong to Ann, and directly responded by Ann:

"Apane se cie, ciamik, ciamik, apa, guyon ae!" [What's so great? Are you kidding?].

From the way Ann responded to the compliment, I guessed Ann thought that Fong-Fong's compliment was a white lie statement, so Ann might have been embarrassed to accept the compliment positively, and responded it with a 'disagreement' statement. Besides, I thought Ann had a bad mood that day, especially about her play on court. She had just played not well on court; her ball was frequently blocked that resulted no point for her team. Ann seemed to be frustrated about it. When she accepted such compliment, she might think that the statement did not correspond for her (remember that she was a perfectionist athlete), so that she negatively responded the compliment, and it seemed to be a 'disagreement' response. Fong-Fong's compliment at that time actually was not the natural one, because I asked Fong-Fong to do so. However, the data I got (Ann's compliment responses) was the natural data, because in this case, my respondent, Ann, did not know that there was an intention for research behind the compliment given.

Another time, I noticed Ann responded Fong-Fong's compliment with three types of compliment responses. Fong-Fong expressed the compliment in the form of direct compliment to Ann: "*Ann, kamu sama adikmu mainnya sama ciamik-e ya?*" [Ann, your brother and you both are well in playing basketball, isn't it?]. Accepting such compliment, Ann responded with a 'scale down':

“Waduh cie, tolong kalau ngomong jangan berlebihan gitu dong.” [Oh please, sister, you don’t tell something too much over-stated]; a ‘question’: *“Masa sih sini ciamik?”* [Do you really think that both of us are good?]; and a ‘comment history’: *“Soalnya kalau di Samarinda itu, tim cowoknya yang ciamik-ciamik itu Tengleng/Chinese, kalau tim ceweknya yang Wanna-Wanna yang bagus, jadi ya agak kres gitu kalau tanding.”* [Because in Samarinda the best male basketball team is the Chinese team and the best female basketball team is the Indonesian team, so we will fight if there is a championship].

From the way Ann responded to the compliment, I could assume that she was actually embarrassed to accept compliments from Fong-Fong so many times, so she wanted Fong-Fong to stop complimenting her. Actually, it was not a natural compliment, because I asked Fong-Fong to do so, although my respondents did not know the intention behind the compliments given. In the first statement, she used a ‘scale down’ strategy to value modesty, as many Indonesians would do. In the second statement, she used a ‘question’ strategy to ensure Fong-Fong’s compliment, because she might think that it was just a joke or a white lie. In the third statement, she used a ‘comment history’ strategy to change the topic or topic shift toward their conversation at that time. In the third statement, we might have prejudice that Ann was telling something ‘racial’, because at that time she responded by whispering to Fong-Fong.

It was at the beginning of May 2003, when Ann and I went to Jakarta to play basketball in the National University Basketball League, called Libama (Liga Bola Basket Mahasiswa). We had just played basketball versus the team of Trisakti University from Jakarta, and we won the game. When we chatted and discussed the play we did, I complimented Annie’s work in playing basketball we did. I said to her: *“Tapi tapi tuh An, waktu kamu dapet ‘offensive rebound’, trus kamu kocak lagi dek ‘under basket’ trus bola masuk, keren banget loh, point langsung seri!Hebat!”* [However, Ann, you were so great and cool when you got the ball from offensive rebound, and then you dribbled it to under basket and then the ball was in, the point became draw! You were great!]

From the way I complimented Ann, I tended to discuss our work we did, not complimenting her directly (indirect compliment). However, Ann looked so happy

and proud accepting my compliment. She responded with a 'question' response, and continued with a 'qualification' statement:

“Ha, iya ta? Tapi tadi tuh Bella lebih keren yo mainne!” [Oh, do you really think so? But Bella did it nicer and better than me!"]

It showed that Ann was feeling complimented, but she had been reluctant to show her acceptance to the compliment.

Another occasion, I complimented Ann's ability in playing one of the game from 'play station' program, named "winning eleven" (a soccer game using CD in 'play station'). As I watched her playing on the TV in the living room, I said to her: *“Wih, kok pinter soro kamu mainnya? Angel lho main winning eleven pake tim Inggris!”*

[Wow, how can you play it so well? It's difficult to play winning eleven using the England team!].

I complimented her while I watched and accompanied her playing the game, but I did not join the game, I just commented on her ability spontaneously. She looked so happy, and responded my compliment with a 'request interpretation' by saying:

“Hehehe, kamu mau tak ajari ta carane? Gampang kok, gini lho!” [Hehehe, you want me to teach you, don't you? It is easy, like this!].

Ann thought that I gave her compliment on her ability in order to ask her teaching me the way of playing the game, so that she offered me to try her way of playing, even I did not ask her to teach me. I thought, she had already known about my inability to play the game in the play station, so that she assumed that there was a hidden intention behind my compliment to her. Ann might think that my compliment was a blunt statement in a direct form. As Kuntjara (2001) said, a blunt statement is difficult to be interpreted as it is without any suspicion of other meanings behind it. Ann might have affected by Javanese custom in perceiving a direct compliment, which tended to conceal the true feeling of the complimenter (Geertz, 1960).

Ann was apple of the coach's eye, because she had a good talent in playing basketball. In addition, the recent coach of our team was Ann's coach in the past when Ann was the member of CLS (Cahaya Lestari Surabaya) basketball club. The

coach and Ann moved out from CLS into our basketball team, Rajawali Sakti Surabaya.

Our basketball coach, Mr. Nico often gives Ann compliments on her ability in playing basketball on court. One day, when we exercised in the evening, the coach was in a bad mood, because we, the players, came too late to the court. The coach stopped us playing when he wanted to give correction on our faults. Unfortunately, he was in a bad mood to us, except Ann, because Ann is his favorite player. As I could notice, he only told Ann, not others, about the right step in playing. I noticed that he complimented Ann about her good performance: “*Tadi itu kamu sudah betul passing-nya, timing-nya pas sekali, saking ae dia yang goblok nerimanya*” [You did well in passing, the timing was perfect, but she was too bad to catch the ball]. Ann responded by saying nothing, she just watched the coach gave example to her, and Ann responded it with a ‘no acknowledgement’. The response of Ann was because of the coach’s bad mood, so Ann might feel that she should not say anything but silent. However, when the coach had a good mood, Ann responded the compliments positively. As the coach said to her: “*Ann, permainanmu sudah maju, kalau dilatih terus bisa nyaingin Bella*” [Ann, your play is developing well, if you exercise regularly, you can be Bella’s rival]. Ann responded with a ‘question’ and a ‘disagreement’ statements. As a ‘question’ statement, she responded:

“*Masa sih sudah maju, Suk?*” [Do I really develop well, Suk? (‘Suk’ is a Chinese word to address older man, or Mister)].

Then, she continued with a ‘disagreement’ statement:

“*Yang bener aja suk, masih jauh kok bagusnya ama Bella!*” [You must be kidding; Bella still leaves me behind!].

From the way Ann responded to the coach, Ann did not seem to be reluctant to accept such compliment, because she had a closer relationship with the coach than the others.

When we played billiard at that night, my sister complimented Ann; in a joking tone, using an indirect compliment. My sister (26), called Lembeng, said to Andre: “*Ko, kapan-kapan Ann bok diajak main billiard lagi, soale dee sekali nyodok*

langsung selanjute masuk terus bolane...pura-pura ndak isa, padahal wes ciamik.”

[Ko, we sometime should not ask Ann to come out playing billiard, because she is so great in playing billiard...she is pretending that she cannot play, although she is good.] Although my sister did not say anything to Ann, Ann responded her statement by saying:

“Lho, apane ciamik,ce? Aku memang ngga isa kok, dari tadi cuma hogi tok”

[What so great? I really cannot play well; it was just a lucky game.]

My sister wanted to compliment Ann, but she made it a joke by grumbling to Andre, as a third person. In fact, my sister wanted Ann to hear that, so she said to Andre in front of Ann, then Ann directly responded it with a ‘scale down’ and a ‘disagreement’ statements. Ann’s response was different from the others when complimented by my sister. Other players commonly use a ‘praise upgrade’ while they accept compliment from my sister, because she is always joking. However, the response of Ann was shaped because of Ann’s characteristics of being modest, by keeping her good image, such as saying or responding something in polite manner, not like the other (Marry and Katty) who responding and saying something rudely. Ann’s family background might influence her characteristics to respond to the compliment. Ann is the first daughter of her family, and the fourth child of eight brothers, so that she had to have more responsibility and better behavior; i.e. saying something in well manner in order to give example for her brothers and sister.

c) KATTY

Katty, is one of our club’s female players who is a Javanese-Indonesian girl. Honestly, we used to be no Javanese-Indonesian girl lived in the ‘mess’ before, then Katty joined in the ‘mess’ and became the only Javanese-Indonesian girl. The other players who live in mess are mainly Chinese-Indonesian girls, no matter where they come from; they have real Chinese-Indonesian profiles. However, we gradually are common to live together with other races. We, the players, call Katty with our own created name, ‘Katok’ (Indonesian word of underwear), because we usually call every player with our own created names. Our relationships are close enough to each

other, and we chat so often that makes us not feel reluctant to comment rudely on each other.

I noticed her responses in the night when we exercise basketball, in the same court where I did my observation of Marry and Ann. Katty has a good ability to shoot the ball precisely, and she is strong enough to play and run although she smokes cigarettes.

When she shot the ball precisely to the basket, my sister complimented her in the form of questioning her ability to shoot well: “*Waduh, cek titis-e kamu?*” [Wow, why you are so perfect in shooting?] She responded with no verbal responses, I could notice it as a ‘no acknowledgement’ response. In another action when she shot precisely, Marry complimented her in the form of grumbling: “*Taek, titis kon monyet sitok ini!*” [Shit, this one monkey is so well in shooting!] Katty responded with an irrelevant comment:

“*Awas, awas! Jenny di depanmu!*” [Watch out! Jenny is in front of you!]

The fact that we still had been playing, made Katty responded to Marry’s compliment with an irrelevant comment or ‘no acknowledgement’, she tended to ignore Marry’s compliment, and had been concentrating to defend from Jenny’s offence at that time.

In the break time, I complimented her in the form of questioning her ability; i.e. in a joking note, as my admiration of her ability: “*Tok, Katok, kamu mari makan apa tadi? Kok shooting-e jadi titis soro heh?*” [Tok, Katok, what have you eaten just now before playing? Did it make you so precise?] Ika seemed to know my joking intention, she responded with a ‘praise upgrade’ statement:

“*Iya, tadi aku mari makan taek, makane tadi jadi titis soro*” [Yes, I have eaten shit, so that I became so well in shooting]

I continued questioning her: “*Ha iya ta? Berarti tiap hari kamu makan taek yak kok tiap latihan titis?*” [Oh really? It means that you eat the shit every day, so that you do shooting so well in every exercise?] She responded my question with a ‘scale down’ in more serious note:

“Ngga kok, tadi tuh bener sakit tanganku” [Oh no, my hand was hurt]

I did not stop my question, I continue by saying: *“Wah, tangan sakit saja titis kayak gitu, apalagi kalau tanganne fit yak apa ya?”* [Wow, you could do it well just with a hurt hand, what if you do with a fit hand?] In this question, she responded with a ‘disagreement’ statement:

“Sakit tenan iki rek” [It hurts].

The conversation like that might happen if and if only both interlocutors were very intimate and used the compliment quite often and in joking note, so that we used a sarcasm statement to be a joke, and did not suppose to be complimented seriously. However, when Katty felt complimented in my third question, she began to realize that I really complimented her.

Fong-Fong did compliments to Marry, Ann, and Katty, as I asked. Fong-Fong complimented Katty as she did to Marry and Ann, in almost the same way. As far as I could notice, only two types of compliment responses I heard from Katty, when she responded Fong-Fong’s compliments. Fong-Fong complimented Katty in the form of questioning her ability to play basketball: *“Wah, Ika main-e ciamik ya! Kok isa titis kayak gitu, Ka? Ajari opo-o!”* [Wow, Ika was so great in playing basketball! How can you do that? Please teach me!] Katty responded with a ‘no acknowledgement’ action, with no verbal response, but just smiling on her face. If I could translate Katty’s feeling at that time, Katty might say “Oh, you are too much over-stated it”, but in fact, only a smile which visually appeared on her face. Her non-verbal response; i.e. smile, was her strategies in responding to the complimenter who was older, as her polite manner to respond the compliment with ‘no acknowledged’ strategies. Katty had been joining in the club for about three years, and she did not know Fong-Fong better than Marry knew. Katty seemed to feel reluctant toward the complimenter, because she said to me about it. After receiving Fong-Fong’s compliment and smiling to her, Katty directly whispered to me (beside her):

“Sungkan aku, Jun, dibilang ciamik gitu.” [I feel reluctant; she said that I was good].

Katty might feel uncomfortable to accept compliment from someone who was older than her, it might make her embarrassed. Moreover, the position of the complimenter could be said, 'higher' than Katty, because Fong-Fong was her boss' wife, so that she might feel reluctant and 'complimented'. Katty's feeling might be shaped because of her family background, which military might influence the strategies to express the compliment responses. The Javanese custom in not showing one's true feelings and that positive feelings should be concealed, might have affected the way people perceive direct compliment, as quoted from Kuntjara's (2001) study, considering on Geertz's (1960) opinion. In Kuntjara's (2001) study, she took Geertz's (1961) definition of the word '*sungkan*', which defined as a feeling of respectful politeness before a superior or an unfamiliar equal. It is like the meaning of embarrassed, but it was a positive shyness, such as when someone, while being a guest, was asked not to be '*sungkan*' to eat more, that in fact, the polite manner actually was to eat just a little. Moreover, as I discussed in Ann's responses, Katty might feel that Fong-Fong's compliment is weird and uncommon, because they did not know Fong-Fong's behavior as well as Marry did. Marry knew Fong-Fong longer than Ann and Katty, so that they had different responses toward Fong-Fong's compliments.

Again, Fong-Fong complimented Katty on her strength to play basketball although she had been two weeks with no exercising. Fong-Fong expressed her admiration to Katty with a comparison of her strength: "*Gendeng kon Ika, wes 2 minggu gak latian masih kuat ae. Cie-cie ae baru tiga hari gak talian wes menggoss-menggoss*" [Are you nuts? It has been two weeks with no exercise, but you are still strong. I have just been three days with no exercise, but I cannot breathe well.] Katty responded the compliment with a 'scale down' statement:

"Sebenere sih udah gak kuat main, Cie, kesel soro, tapi ya gak keliatan."

[Actually, I could not play anymore, I was so tired, but you did not see it]

Katty responded it with a 'scale down' statement, considering the Indonesian culture, which values modesty. Moreover, Katty seemed to be reluctant to respond the compliment in a joking note, such as; a 'praise upgrade' statement to someone she respected. It is different from Marry's response toward Fong-Fong's compliment. Marry tended to respond it in a joking note, and with 'praise upgrade' responses. It

might happen because of the level of intimacy to Fong-Fong of Marry is higher than Katty.

Katty responded differently when she accepted compliments from the coach. The coach complimented her directly by saying: "*Katty, bagus kamu mainnya. Nipu lawan terus masuk dengan mudah*" [Katty, you did it well. You cheated then you drove it easily] Katty responded it with a 'no acknowledgement'. Another time, when the coach complimented her indirectly: "*Kayak Katty itu lho mikir dulu kalau mau shooting, ga kayak kamu ngawur*" [You had better try Katty's way, think before shooting, not like you!] The coach statement pointed to Sianne, but indirectly complimented Ika, that was there at that time. However, Katty responded with 'no acknowledgement', because Katty might think that there's no one complimented, while the coach suggested to Sianne. I thought Katty mostly ignored the coach's compliments, especially about her play on court. 'Ignored' here means that there's no verbal response toward the compliments, it might just non-verbal response, or no acknowledgement. Moreover, Katty was one of the players in our team who did not like the coach. We did not like to the coach's personality, which tended to do unfair treatment to each player, and the way he coach us. I, myself, did not like the coach at all, because he treated someone (named Olive) in my club not only as an apple of his eye, but also as a 'wife', I thought, and it made me sick. Most of the players who live in 'mess' thought as I did, that he had affair with someone. Truthfully, I did not envy to Olive, but it was true, that the coach made us sick.

Another occasion, our senior, Andre, complimented Ika's bravery to go home to Jogja alone. Andre said: "*Wah kamu kok berani ya pulang sendirian naik bus? Hebat*" [Wow you are brave enough to go home alone by bus? It's great]. Katty responded the compliment with a 'scale down' statement, as many Indonesian would do:

"Oh,ngga, sudah biasa kok ko, semua juga berani kok." [Oh, no, I commonly do it, all of my friends are brave too].

Katty might respond like that considering the Javanese custom in being modesty (Geertz, 1960), and she might respect Andre as an elder person, so she should be polite to him by responding with a 'scale down' statement. In addition, Katty knew Andre not so well, because they had not knew each other for so long. Katty might think that Andre's compliment was a white lie, which consider to be

responded politely, such as with a ‘scale down’ response. Moreover, I thought it was common to respond like that in such conversation by them.

IV.3. COMPLIMENT ON APPEARANCE

a) MARRY

Marry actually has a ‘cute’ face, some people say as a ‘baby’ face, because she has a younger face than she actually has. She is more like a teenager (eighteen or nineteen), although she is twenty-six years old, but she really looks younger than she is. For example, when we played basketball in a tournament in Pasuruan (East Java) not so long ago, many people thought that Marry was still a High-school student. Some people even thought that she was a Junior High-school student. As my new friend, Yohan (17), asked to Marry about her school: “*Kamu umur berapa? Kelas berapa?*” [How old are you? What grade are you in your school?]. Yohan even believed Marry’s answer when she confessed: “*Oh, aku umur lima belas tahun, kelas dua SMP, hahaha*” [Oh, I am fifteen years old, and I am in my second grade of Junior High School, (laughing)]. In fact, she was twenty-five years old, and she pretended to Yohan that she was still a teenager, and Yohan believed it. The fact that we, the team, were there around Marry and heard about that, made us sick and admired Marry’s potential. My sister praised it up by saying: “*Wah, Marry imut tuh, sampe disangka umur lima belas, padahal wes tuwek soro tuh, wayahe married.*” [Wah, Marry is so cute and has a baby face, in fact you are so old, time to marry.] Marry responded the compliment with a praise upgrade too:

“*Oh, iya sih...aku kan memang masih imut, masih umur lima belas tahun lho cie...* (with her hand touching her face proudly) [Oh, of course... I am so cute; I am still fifteen years old, elder sister]

The way Marry addressed my sister as ‘cie’ (elder sister), showed that Marry responded my sister’s joke by insulting my sister as the older, although Marry was older than my sister was. From the way Marry responded to the compliment, showed us that she was actually proud on her appearance, which looked younger than she was. In the case of joking conversation with her team, she used a ‘praise upgrade’ in

order to make the joke was more motivated. We would be motivated for joking if someone complimented herself, because we could insult her and make it as a hotter and exciting joke. It would be boring if someone responded a compliment with other responses, such as appreciation token. In our friendship, it would be an interesting joke if the conversation contained full of rudeness to both insult and compliment someone, and full of praise upgrades to respond to it.

On another occasion, Marry accepted a compliment on her nice appearance in wearing new clothes. At night, when we wanted to go to the mall (Galaxy Mall), our friend (also a team player), Rebecca, complimented Marry's new suit. Marry wore a new arrival tank top blouse, and a denim jeans trousers. The sexy tank top blouse was dominantly in color white, with a 'Spiderbilt' trademark, and had a tight style. Her jean was dark blue denim, a boot cut style with a 'Lea' trademark. It was a fashionable suit, especially for the young of Surabaya, and we all liked the style. When Rebecca picked us up at 'mess', she was excited on Marry's appearance that was so trendy, and Rebecca complimented Marry: "*Wah, ini kan tank top-nya Spiderbilt yang kapan hari aku mau beli itu. Akhirnya kamu jadi beli? Waduh, aku kepingin sekali lho beli ini, apik soro lho, keren!*" [Wow, this is the Spiderbilt's tank top which I wanted to buy. Finally you bought it? Wow, I really want to buy this one, it's really cool, nice!] Rebecca complimented Marry and touched the clothes, adored the tank top she liked. Accepting Rebecca's compliment, Marry responded by saying:

"Hehehe (laughing), iya nih, kapan hari jadi beli juga pas dianter Ndog ke TP. Lha piye, kepingin soro e, selak ga osom." [Hehehe (laughing), it's true, I finally bought it when Ndog accompanied me to TP. So how? I was really keen on it, if did not buy it sooner, later would not be trendy anymore.]

Ndog is Marry's boyfriend who has a real name 'Handoko', but we called him Ndog, as a nickname taken from the Indonesian word of 'egg'. Marry's response seemed to be a 'comment acceptance' statement in the first statement, and a 'comment history' response in her statements. Marry had the same feeling toward the clothes with the complimenter, Rebecca, who liked the new dress. Therefore, at the beginning of the conversation about the nice dress, Rebecca might express her true feeling about the dress, and Marry seemed to respond it seriously by saying such

responses. However, the response of Marry about her nice appearance had not finished yet. When Rebecca continued complimenting her dress, Marry responded it with a ‘praise upgrade’ statements. Rebecca kept complimenting the dress Marry wore and touched the dress and said: *“Iya, apik soro ya, keren! Isa pas bek keren lek mbok pake, potongane itu isa pas. Isa ketok sexy”* [Yes, it’s really cool and nice! It suits for you, cool man, the cut is perfect. You look sexy wearing that dress.] As Marry’s tendency in responding to the compliment, she used a ‘praise upgrade’ response, and tended to treat the compliment as a joke.

“Wah, yak apa seh, sebenarnya yang sexy itu aku. Bajunya jadi kelihatan sexy karena dipake aku, kalau orang laen yang pake yang ga ketok sexy. Potongan badan ku kan mirip model. Sudah jangan pegang-pegang, mahal nih ntar rusak.” [Wow, how could you think like that? The sexy thing is me, not the dress. The dress looks sexy because I wear it, if the other wears it, it won’t look sexy. My body shape is like a model. Don’t touch it, it’s expensive. It will be broken if you keep touching it.]

Marry used ‘praise upgrade’ statements to respond the compliment from Rebecca, because Rebecca had been our friend for about four years, and we all had a close relationship with her. Therefore, Marry did not feel reluctant at all when she praised herself in front of us. Marry knew that Rebecca would suppose Marry’s responses as a joke too. If I could transcribe all of the conversation at that time, it would be full of ‘praise upgrades’, and so many insulting and rudeness words in our jokes, such as ‘a bitch model’, or ‘slut’, and other obscene words. We, the female basketball players of Rajawali Sakti Surabaya, usually connect anything with the obscene things. I truly did not know why, but as I could find the reasons, it’s only because of the youth traditions, especially in basketball team, which like telling something fun, and telling something obscene is fun for us.

When the trend of ‘ionic’ hairstyle happened, we, the players, including Marry, followed the trend. ‘Ionic’ hairstyle is a setting of hairstyle, which straightens the hair extremely, from straight hair, waved hair, curly hair, or even afro-curly hair. Every kind of hair can be straightened by ionic system of straightening method. The extremely straight hairstyle was adopted from a Japanese hairstyle trend, which influenced the younger in Indonesian to do so. Rebecca, Ann, my sister Lilian, and I

had set our hair in that way, the ionic hairstyle. It was Marry's turn to set her hairstyle as we did before her. Then, when she finished setting her hair at the famous hair and beauty salon, she went home and showed her new hairstyle. She had her hair straightened that seemed nicer than ours, it made us compliment her on her appearance. Ann commented on her beautiful hair:

"Lho, cie Marry, kok jadinya rambutmu lebih bagus dari aku? Obate pake podo kan? Jepang to?" [Sister Marry, how can your hair be nicer than me? The formula you use is the same, isn't it? Made in Japan?]

Rebecca's compliment added Ann's comment:

"Iya, kayake polane rambutmu lebih tebal bek sehat daripada sini, makane jadine lebih lurus" [It's true. Maybe because of your thick and healthy hair, so that the result of yours is nicer than us.]

Accepting such compliment from her friends, Marry responded with a 'question' statement, a 'reassignment' statement, and a 'praise upgrade' statement, which sounded as a joke:

"Ha, iya ta? Mosok lebih apik? Be e polane rambutku ga pernah disemir ya? Kamu kan pernah disemir?" [Oh, really? Do you think so? Maybe because my hair has never been colored, not as yours.]

As Rebecca and Ann admired Marry's hair and touched Marry's hair, Marry added her response toward the compliment:

"Lagian kan liat-liat orangnya ya. Kalao orang yang ion cakep, pasti rambutnya juga cakep jadinya. Kalo orangnya jelek ya tetep aja jelek, seperti kalian ini. Ga boleh iri lho!" [Moreover, it depends on the person, whether she is pretty or not. If she is pretty, the hair will be nice. If the person is bad, the hair will be bad too, as yours. You do not envy me!]

Marry's first response is a 'question' type, because she might feel embarrassed to be complimented seriously by Ann. As I said before, Marry had thought that every comment on her, including a compliment, is a joke, so she might think something was weird if someone complimented her. She shyly answered Ann's comment in a serious tone. However, when Rebecca added the compliment on her

new hairstyle, her characteristic of making joke was emerged, in the form of a ‘praise upgrade’ statement. She started insulting her friends in order to make joke. The second response might rise because of her embarrassing feeling in accepting such compliment, so that she avoided the embarrassing feeling by covering it with a joke.

When Marry accepted compliment from male, she seemed to respond it with a ‘praise upgrade’ statement. At that night, when we the female players together with the male players went to our friend’s party, a male player named Kevin, who was Marry’s new friend, complimented her on her appearance. Kevin met Marry in the party room, and he suddenly said to Marry: “*Wow, penampilanmu kok keren gini? Sampe ototmu ketok kabeh, sangar ya lenganku.*” [Wow, you look so cool. Your muscles appear, your arm is cool.] Marry responded the compliment from her friend with a ‘praise upgrade’ statement, as she responded it to the female complimenter:

“*Wow, iya se, aku kan memang keren banget, tau. Sexy ya lenganku? Hahahaha (laughed out loud)*” [Wow, of course, I am very cool, you know. My arm is sexy, isn’t it? Hahahaha (laughed aloud)]

Marry responded Kevin’s compliment with a ‘praise upgrade’ statement, because she felt embarrassed, and wanted to cover her embarrassing feeling by telling something that praised upgrade herself.

Marry had had a harmonious relationship in her family background in the past, even until she has grown up. She is used to joking with her family and her friends in almost every conversation, even when she proposed a job in an office. The unserious behavior that Marry had, influenced Marry to respond to the compliment given to her. No matter what the intention of the compliments, she tended to respond it firstly in joking tone.

b) ANN

Ann, who is the tallest girl in our team, usually thinks that she has an older face than she actually is. Ann was embarrassed if someone called her ‘cie’ (elder sister) or ‘tante’ (Ma’am), because he or she thought that Ann’s face was older than she actually was. However, I did not think that Ann’s face and appearance were older than her age, because how someone looks is a relative point. I might think that Ann’s

appearance would be older than she was if she wore unfashionable suit, old fashioned dress, and career women's outfit, because it made her look older. Therefore, when she accepted compliments on her appearance, she seemed to feel excited.

One day, when Ann wore a new blouse that she had just bought, our friend Marry, complimented her. Ann's new blouse had a Sabrina's style, which made the wearer look thin, because it had an open shoulders cut. Marry complimented Ann on her nice appearance when Ann wore the black colored blouse: "*Wah, baju baru nih. Apik lho, Ann, model Sabrina ya? Isa kelihatan tambah langsing, apalagi warnane item, ketok tambah putih.*" [Wow, is it a new blouse? It's nice. Is it Sabrina's style? You look slim, and the black color makes you look whiter.] Accepting such compliment, Ann, who has Chinese dark skin, responded:

"Ha, iya ta? Kemaren beli mbek Sherry, soale baju ini memang dari dulu tak pingini, modele itu apik. Bisa bikin aku tambah imut ya? Hehehe. Apane cie, ngomongo ae nek kulitku item, trus nek pake baju ini jadi kelihatan tambah putih." [Oh, really? I bought it yesterday with Sherry, because this is the blouse that I want for a long time, it has a cute style. It can make me look cute, Isn't it? Hehehe (laughing). Are you kidding? You had better tell me that my skin is dark, and then I look whiter if I wear this blouse.]

Ann responded the compliment with a 'question', asking Marry's opinion about her new blouse. It continued with a 'comment history' that Ann offered a comment on the object complimented (or a reasoning), and a 'reassignment' that the complimentary force was transferred to the object itself (the blouse). Then Ann responded the compliment with a 'request interpretation' (Herbert, 1990), but I thought that it tends to be a 'comment interpretation' for insulting her. Ann might have known that Marry wanted to make a joke by insulting her, so that she interpreted Marry's compliment as a presumption before Ann felt bigheaded. However, Ann was lucky through her suspicion of Marry, to assume that Marry's compliment was not a true or honest compliment. Ann realized that there must be something behind the direct compliment, before Ann felt bigheaded. Marry said to Ann after Ann's response: "*Lho, kok tau she? Hehehe. Memang kamu gak pantes,*

yang pantes pake cuma aku. Weeee.” [Oh, so you know it? Hehehe (laughing). It’s not suit for you, it just suit for me. Weeee]

Accepting such comment of insulting joke from Marry, Ann pretended crying of it, and defended herself by saying ‘praise upgrade’ statement:

“Huhuhuh... dasar cie Marry sirik, kalo iri ama aku bilang dong. Kalah keren to?” [Huhuhuh...tell me if you do envy me. You are afraid to be worse than me, isn’t it?]

Then Marry laughed (felt satisfied to make joke) and made sure Ann that the blouse was nice for her, to calm down Ann’s despair, and she finished her joke! Ann was serious in responding Marry’s compliment, she was afraid to think that people supposed her older than she was because of her appearance. Ann was a sensitive person in regards to her appearance, and she might think that she had to be perfect in shaping a nice appearance. I thought it might be because of her keeping good image (self esteem), as the oldest daughter who has to give good examples for her brothers and sisters, and her avoidance of being called ‘*tante*’ (Ma’am). However, she was influenced by the basketball players’ custom, which tend to use ‘praise upgrade’ statement as jokes, so that she followed the stream of such behavior by responding like that. Ann might feel embarrassed to be insulted as a joke by Marry, so that she replied Marry with ‘praise upgrade’ statement as the team usually did as jokes. I thought, she did not realize that she effected by the special behavior the team had in responding the compliment, which was ‘praise upgrade’ strategy.

Our senior male player, Andre (36), called ‘Kodok’, because he drives a VW Beetle’s car, had ever complimented Ann. It was in the evening when we went to a Billiard and Bowling Court, in Go Skate Building, on Jalan Embong Malang. We, some of the female players and Andre, that night, wanted to play billiard and have fun together. The relationship of us (Andre and us) was close enough. As we waited for the available Billiard table, we look for the chairs to sit on. When we found a seat, Kodok said to Ann: *“Kamu duduk ae Ann, soalnya kalau kamu ikut berdiri, sini kelihatan pendek sekali jejer ama kamu.”* [You had better sit down, Ann, because if you are standing too, we’ll seem to be so short beside with you.” From the way Andre complimented, actually, he did not compliment Ann, but I could see that Ann felt complimented at that time. She responded by saying:

“*Ah, ya ngga kok*” [Oh, it is not] and smiling happily.

Ann used a ‘scale down’ statement to respond the compliment given by Andre, because she was happy at that time to accept such compliment. Ann seemed to be proud of her height, especially when she was in the middle of the people who were shorter than her height. Moreover, she looked quite slim for her height, and I thought that she realized about it, so that she was confident at that time. However, she responded it with a ‘scale down’ statement because she might be afraid of hurting one’s feeling that was shorter than she was, to keep politeness I thought. According to the study of politeness done by Kuntjara (2001), the Chinese concept of politeness also indicates modesty or self-denigration as the point of politeness besides respectfulness and refinement.

My friend Monic, was seldom giving compliment to someone, because (I thought) she was a perfectionist person. She might think that she was perfect, better, or even the best person, so that she seldom complimented people. At that night, when Ann wore a basketball’s costume that had armless cover and showed her full arm, Monic complimented her. Monic said to Ann about her arm: “*Wah, wes pecah rek lengan-e saiki.*” [Wow, your shape your arm well now.] Responding such compliment, Ann use a ‘disagreement’ statement:

“*Ngga. Pecah, pecah. Pecah apane, pecah lemak- e tah?*” [No. What so muscly? My fat?]

Ann responded with a ‘disagreement’ statement, which showed that she did not agree with Monic’s comment on her arm appearance. Ann actually wanted her arm to be shaped well, and looked tight muscled as the trend of women body shaping nowadays. In addition, Monic who seldom gave compliment, complimented Ann on her appearance. It might make Ann embarrassed and did not know what she should say but ‘no’ to downgraded that showed her disagreement.

Another occasion, I saw Ann was thinner than before, because we had not been meeting for a month. I expressed my feeling at that time, to tell her about her transformation of appearance that looked thinner: “*Lho, Ann, kamu kok jadi kurus soro gini? Turun piro kilo? Lengan bek pupu-mu jadi melok kurus. Lapo ae?*” [Hey,

Ann, why do you become so thin? How many kilograms have you lost your weight? Your arms and thighs become thinner too. What have you been doing?]. Accepting my comment on her change of appearance, Ann responded my comment with a ‘question’ statement, and continued it with a ‘comment history’ statement:

“Ha, iya ta? Hehehe, iya nih, aku memang diet tiga minggu ini. Ben isuk jogging yo! Selamat deh isa tambah kurus, berhasil!” [Oh, really? Hehehe (laughing) it’s true. I had been in diet during this three weeks. I started jogging every morning, and luckily, it seems to work!]

From the way Ann responded my comment, she looked so happy knowing my attention toward her weight loss. Ann had an opinion of the figure of a sexy and beautiful woman is someone who is thin, she said, ‘slim’. However, Ann’s opinion of a slim woman seemed to be a very thin person, I thought. The figure of a slim woman according to Ann’s opinion is like someone who suffered bulimia or mal nutrition, I thought. For examples, an actress of Ally McBeal (Callista Flockhart), or some Paris models who had too much height for their weight. In fact, I did not compliment Ann at that time, I just comment on her weight loss, that seemed to thin for her height. Ann’s height was 173 centimeters, and her weight at that time was 55 kilograms. I explained to her about her misunderstanding of my comment: *“Lho, yak apa se? Kamu itu kekurusen. Apalagi kamu tinggi soro, maleh jadi ketok kurus soro.”* [Hey, you were wrong. You look so thin. In addition, you are so tall, so that you look so thin.] Ann responded my correction with her satisfaction feeling of her new weight:

“Ah, ngga ah. Yang penting aku seneng isa kurus gini. Thanks ya sudah merhatiin perubahanku.” [Oh, I think it’s ok. I like my appearance like this. Thank you, you have concerned my change appearance.]

Although I had told her about her misunderstanding toward my comment, she ignored it. She assumed that my comment on her weight was a compliment, while actually my comment was an expression of concerning to her body which too thin for her height. Ann seemed to feel happy and proud of her successful diet, so that when I

comment on her weight loss, she interpreted it excitedly with an ‘appreciation token’ statement.

In one night, I chatted with Ann in the living room, talking about friends, study, and boys. When we talked about hairstyle, Ann told me about she accepted a compliment on her appearance from her ex boyfriend. Actually, Ann and I shared our willing to let our hair grow to be long hair, no matter we would look good on the long hair or not. Then, Ann told me that she had ever asked her ex boyfriend about her accepting compliment from her ex boyfriend in the campus. I thought that was my opportunity to interview her about her response to the compliment. Ann said,

“Waduh Jun, tadi pagi aku ketemu Arron di selasar, trus ya ngobrol. Pas dee komentar rambutku yang udah panjang, katane, kok ngga potong lagi? Trus ya tak jawab nek aku mau sengaja ngga potong rambut polane ya mau tak panjangno. Trus dee bilang nek aku memang pantesan berambut panjang, lebih feminim katane. Aku disuruh manjangno rambut, Jun. Aku ya isin, dibilang ketok feminim gitu, tapi ya jadi ge er, seneng.” [Jun, I met Arron in the corridor, then we chatted. When he commented on my longer hair, he said that why I did not do my haircut? Then I answer him that I actually let my hair grow in order to lengthen my hair. Then he said that I actually look good if I am longhaired. I was embarrassed to be called feminine, but I was happy and big headed.]

Then I asked her, *“Jadi yak apa jawabanmu trus? Kamu nanggepi pujiane dee ta?”*[So, what was your answer to him then? Did you respond his compliment?]
Ann excitedly told me:

“Ha? Ya tak jawab bek isin-isin gitu, Jun. Aku tanya dee bener ta, gak guyon? Aku bilang ke dee kalo aku rasane ga cocok rambut panjang, soale katane konco-koncoku koyok genduk-genduk. Tapi katane dee aku pantes rambut panjang, jadi ya tak putusno nek aku mau manjango rambut.”
[What? I responded to him shyly, Jun. I asked him whether his opinion was true or not, Are you kidding or not? I told him that I felt bad to lengthen my hair, because my friends told me that I was like a servant if I was longhaired.

However, he convinced me that I would look good in long hair, so that I decided to make myself longhaired.]

From Ann's story, I could see that Ann responded to the compliment from her ex-boyfriend with a 'scale down' statement when she said, "I was like a servant." It showed that Ann downgraded herself in order to overcome her embarrassing of being complimented. She also responded with a 'question' statement when she said, "Are you kidding or not?" She could not believe that Arron thought that she would look good with long hair. Ann was influenced by her female friends about her appearance with long hair, so that she told to Arron in a 'comment history' statement to give reason of her doubt in lengthening her hair.

c) KATTY

Katty, who is Javanese girl, has darker skin than we all have. She has been the only one of the female basketball players in our team who is Javanese. The Rajawali Sakti basketball team is a club, which is dominated by Chinese people, including the boss, the organizer and manager, and the players. However, she seems to be able to handle her special being in the middle of the Chinese community. Katty could easily associate with all the members of our club, I thought.

Marry, who was Katty's close friend, compliment Katty on her appearance. Katty's arm was sturdy and muscled, but she was not so thin, so that the muscles could not appear easily. At that time, Marry saw Katty's arm when Katty wore an armless shirt, and Marry complimented Katty: "*Wow, wes ketok ya tangan-mu mecah. Otot-e ketok kabeh. Tambah atos yo?*" [Wow, your muscles appear, your arm is shaped. Is it stiff?] Accepting Marry's compliment, Katty responded it with a 'comment acceptance' statement, and a 'comment history' statement:

"Hum, iya nih, wes mulai ketok lagi otot-e. Kapan hari kan wes jadi lemak, sekarang ketok lagi. Mungkin polane aku sering push-up itu lho. Sangar to tanganku? Kayak Pink yo!" [Hum, it's true. My muscles appear again. It looked full of fat in some couples of week before, but now it appears again. Maybe it is because I often do push-up exercise. My arm is cool, isn't it? It is like Pink (an American singer)]

From the way Katty responded to Marry's compliment with 'comment acceptance' statement, Katty seemed to appreciate Marry's compliment. Katty accepted the complimentary force and gave a relevant comment on the appreciated topic. In addition, Katty responded it with a 'comment history' as her reasoning to the complimented topic. Katty could easily share her feeling and opinion to Marry, because they both had a quite close relationship each other. Therefore, Marry's compliment tended to be her opinion of what she saw on Katty, not merely a decency of a friend, and so did Katty who was giving reason of the object complimented. However, Katty followed the stream of behavior that her team had, by responding the compliment on ability with 'praise upgrade' strategies. I thought, Katty did not realize that she used such compliment responses strategy as the influences of the basketball team's behavior.

On another occasion, when I had just arrived at mess, I met Katty in the living room. I saw her dressing a tank top, made from linen material, which was not usual to be worn as a casual dress. The blouse had opened chest and shoulders style, white colored and I thought that it was very vulgar for her, the black colored bra made her so sexy. I asked her and gave compliment to her: "*Wow, cek sexy-ne koen? Mau gimana?*" [Wow, you are so sexy. Where are you going?] Katty responded my compliment with a 'disagreement' statement:

"Sexy apane? Iki kepanasen kok, makane tak buka kebaya-e. Iki dalemane kebaya, rek, mosok ape lungu vulgar gini. Mau ke kondangan kawin koncoku." [What's so sexy? It is so hot, I am burned, that's why I open the 'kebaya'. It is the kebaya's underwear, guys. Why I have to go with this dress? I am going to my friend's invitation.]

Katty responded my compliment with a 'disagreement' statement, because I called her 'sexy' when she wore the kebaya's underwear, which certainly looked too vulgar as a polite dress. Katty explained to me about her reason of wearing such blouse, which made the wearer looked so sexy. In addition, the black color of her bra inside the white blouse, gave sexy and vulgar impression if the Katty did not wear the kebaya (a traditional coat or jacket for Javanese women, which has transparent brocade cloth material. I thought, Katty not only wanted to correct my comment, but

she also might feel embarrassed to be called 'sexy' by me, and she might realize that her blouse was surely too vulgar and impolite without the kebaya. She immediately explained her reason of dressing such blouse, and the weather that made her taking off the kebaya or the coat of the blouse.

As I could notice in my observation to my respondents, especially to Katty, almost never she accepted a compliment on appearance from male. Maybe she accepted compliments from males so many times, but as far as I could notice, I did not notice her accepting compliment from male at all. The way Katty dressing, which tended to look boyish, and her being in the Chinese society in the club, might make Katty seldom accepted compliment on appearance from male. That was why I interviewed her to dig up her compliment response strategies toward the compliment from male. I asked her: "*Lho, kamu potong rambut pendek gitu ga di gejeri ta mbek bojomu? Apa tambah dipuji?*" [Hey, you cut your hair so short, was your boyfriend angry with you? Or even complimented?] I asked her about her new haircut, a very short model like a boy usually has, to make conversation and to touch upon the compliment response strategies she might have. She answered me and told me about her response:

"Oh, ga digegeri se, tapi ya kaget ae dee liat aku ngene. Trus jarene dee: lho, koen kok tambah funky gini rambute? Trus bek aku ya tak bales tanya: Iya ta? Pantas yo aku rambut cepak ngene? Trus jarene dee: hehehe, iyo, pantas, ketok tambah enom. Aku yo seneng ae rek di omong ngono. Aku ngomong nang dee nek aku yo seneng model rambut ngene." [Oh, no, he was not angry with me, but he was surprised with my new haircut. He said to me that I look more funky. Then I reply him by asking him: Oh really? Do I look funky with short haircut? Then he answered with laughing and said: It's true, you look younger. I was so glad to be called like that. I told him that I liked my new haircut too.]

From Katty's story about her boyfriend's compliment to her, I could see that Katty responded the compliment with a 'question' statement when she said ("Oh really"), showed that she was actually doubtful about her new haircut. Then she continued it with a 'comment acceptance' statement when she told me about her feeling accepting compliment ("I like my haircut too"), showed that she was sure

about her new haircut after hearing her boyfriend opinion. For Katty, someone who might have a close relationship with her could be a place to express her feeling. Her boyfriend could be the one who wanted to hear everything. So that Katty would response it freely, no need to keep politeness.

IV.4. OVERALL FINDINGS

After discussing the observation I had done, I might conclude the overall findings of my respondents' characteristics and customs that might have shape their types to respond to the compliments given to summarize the findings from all of the observation I had done to my three respondents. I can conclude that in responding to the compliments, both on ability and on appearance; they have the following characteristics.

A. In responding to the compliment on ability

1. Marry

- In responding to direct and indirect compliments, especially while playing basketball in the court (serious condition), she tends to use 'no acknowledgement' strategies with no verbal response. When using no verbal responses she usually smiles, grins, laughs, and curls her lip or turn up her nose, to the complimenters who are male and female.
- For those who are older than she is, and those who have higher status than she does, she tends to use 'scale down' strategies for the complimenters who compliment her in a serious tone.
- When she is in good mood; to cover her embarrassing feeling when she feels embarrassed to be complimented (especially if the compliments are given in front of other people) Marry usually uses 'praise upgrade' to make everything in the conversation as jokes.

- No difference in the way Marry is giving the compliment responses to male and female complimenters.

2. Ann

- In basketball field (in serious condition), she tends to use ‘scale down’ strategies to respond to the direct/indirect compliments.
- To her coach, and in basketball field, she tends to respond the compliments with ‘no acknowledgement’ strategies. When she is in bad mood, she tends to use ‘disagreement’ strategies to the compliments given.
- She tends to use ‘return’ strategies to those who are older and have no close relationship with her (strangers).
- She tends to use ‘request interpretation’ strategies to her friends in her team, when the compliment is not about playing basketball, she also uses ‘qualification’ to downgrade herself toward the complimenter’s opinion.
- She tends to use several strategies to her basketball coach depending on the coach’s mood and hers. For example, firstly uses ‘no acknowledgement’, then ‘question’, and sometimes it continues with ‘disagreement’.
- No difference in the way Ann is giving the compliment responses to male and female complimenters.

3. Katty

- When she is in the basketball field, and in bad mood, she tends to use ‘no acknowledgement’ strategies to the direct or indirect compliments given.
- She tends to use ‘praise upgrade’ strategies to the complimenter who wants to make jokes with her.
- She tends to give politeness strategies with no verbal response; i.e. smile, or ‘scale down’ strategies to the complimenter who is older than she is, and to respected people.
- No difference in the way Katty is giving the compliment responses to male and female complimenters.

B. In responding to the compliment on appearance

1. Marry

- She tends to use 'praise upgrade' strategies to the direct or indirect compliments given, especially when the complimenter gives compliments not in a serious tone or in a joking note. She tends to respond the compliments given firstly in joking note. She may feel satisfied to make jokes to ignore the compliment's function.
- She tends to use 'comment history' and 'reassignment' strategies in responding to compliments on her appearance to cover her embarrassing feeling of being complimented.
- No difference in the way Marry is giving the compliment responses to male and female complimenters.

2. Ann

- She tends to use 'praise upgrade' strategies to the direct or indirect compliments given on her body, and on her face, she tends to use 'scale down' strategies
- She tends to use 'question' strategies to make sure that the compliment is true or not. She also tends to be suspicious toward the compliments given, she thinks that there must be something behind the compliments. To overcome it, she tends to use 'request interpretation' strategies.
- She tends to use 'reassignment' and 'comment history' strategies to explain the reasons of her good appearance that is complimented to cover her embarrassing feeling.
- A difference in the way Ann is giving the compliment responses to male and female complimenters. The difference lies in the tone she uses to the male complimenter that sounds diffidently, but it does not to the female complimenter.

3. Katty

- She tends to use 'praise upgrade' and 'comment history' strategies to someone who has a close relationship with her.

- She tends to use ‘question’ strategies if the compliment she accepts is something the same with she thinks of.
- She tends to use ‘disagreement’ strategies to overcome her embarrassing feeling in accepting the compliments.
- No difference in the way Katty is giving the compliment responses to male and female complimenterers.

By discussing the compliment responses strategies used by my respondents toward both compliments (ability and appearance), I can find the answer of my research questions. In fact, there are different ways to express compliment responses by the athletes even though they live together in the same place, the same shelter, and environment. In addition, not all Herbert’s theory of compliment responses are used by my respondents. There are some compliment responses, which are not usually used in this community. The unusual compliment responses in this community for example are appreciation token, comment acceptance, which are very often used in the sports community.

From the linguistic view, I can find several findings. Firstly, my three respondents tend to have the same strategies in responding to the compliment on ability, which is ‘no acknowledgement’ strategies, as their characteristic of their profession as the basketball players. I also find that each of them has their own reasons in responding to the compliments given with ‘no acknowledgement’ strategies. The other strategies to respond to the compliment on ability are ‘scale down’ strategies, considering the Indonesian culture, which values modesty. There are several common concepts of modesty as the core of politeness according to Kuntjara’s study (2001). In this case, the Javanese, and the Chinese concepts of politeness, which indicates modesty or self-denigration? The Chinese and the Javanese tend to have similarity of modesty, which might be applied in form of, for example, unwillingness to extend compliments, downgrade, and scale down, and so on. Secondly, while in responding to the compliments on appearance, they tend to use ‘praise upgrade’ strategies. This seems to be the common or usual behavior among the basketball players who live in the ‘mess’, as the special characteristic of the basketball players.

From the cultural point of view, it can be seen that culture and society may have influenced persons in using the strategies of compliment responses. My three

respondents seem to be influenced by their culture, and they are accustomed to the culture where they live.

Marry who has humorous behavior as she has got from her family background may influence her in making a joke at any chance and situation. The politeness manner Marry has, such as to keep cheering, maybe the custom she has to do in her family or society.

The custom from Ann's previous place before in Surabaya makes her not to feel satisfied about the (basketball) ability complimented. Her position as the captain in her previous club in Samarinda encourages her not to easily feel satisfied, but to keep competing until she can reach what she wants.

Katty's father, who is a cop, may influence her to behave as her father behaves. Her father, who applies the military education in the family, may shape Katty's tendency to keep silent toward the compliments given. In addition, the politeness manner she has, maybe the manner she usually does in everyday life in her previous society before she joins with our team.

Beside the culture differences that influence their strategies in responding to the compliment, there are other important factors that surely to be considered. The factors are social factors (the participants, the setting/social context, the topic, and the function) and dimensions (solidarity, status, formality, and content), internal factors (age, mood, personality, and so on), which have a role in shaping their characteristics of compliment responses strategies.

To conclude, I may say, that the sex differences did not really influence the respondents in responding to the both compliment on ability and on appearance. The social factors and conditions; i.e. relationship, one's power or status, and the internal factors such as mood, age, one's characteristic, and so on. They did influence the respondents in using compliment responses strategies.

In my assumption, which I mention in the introduction, I assume that the basketball athletes tend to have negative responds toward the compliments given to them. From my observation I have done, I can find that my assumption does occur in the respondents' life. Although the respondents are the English learners, they tend to say nothing or 'no' instead of saying 'thank you' as positive responds. The Indonesian culture seems to influence the respondents' behavior, which values modesty, and other reasons that I found in the discussions.

Actually, I have tried not to impress the findings with my own opinions and assumptions; however, it might have affected by the moods, interests, biases, experiences, and personality. Finally, I might say that my observation to my three respondents followed the moods of them, with my inclusion to observe in their everyday life. In addition, I might think that the internal factors of my respondents had a bigger role than the social factors they had, in responding the compliments given to them. However, this research follows the natural method, because all of my respondents had no idea or realized that I used them for my study.