

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

In maintaining a good relation with other people, a good communication is necessarily needed. It also includes the way people regard and respond others' interests while maintaining their own opinion through interactions in daily lives. Therefore, there are many interactions in our lives and the result of the interactions may be either good or bad, depending on the way people behave toward others. One of the ways in sharing interest with other people is through giving an invitation. However, everyone has his or her own opinion toward an invitation and the result of invitation itself will be either an acceptance or a refusal. The impact of an acceptance is good in maintaining the relation between the inviter and the invitee. However things can be different when the invitee produces a refusal toward the invitation. Of course, refusing an invitation is everyone's right, but not every refusal can safely maintain the social relation, in fact giving refusal with an incorrect way might hurt other's feeling. On the other hand, by knowing the characteristics of a refusal, people are ready to receive a refusal when they deliver an invitation. Therefore the writer considers refusal strategies as an important subject to discuss as his thesis.

There are many kinds of refusals, it happens everywhere and anytime in our world. The writer decides to choose the most interesting topic in refusal, which occurs in teenager's life, that is the refusal toward a date invitation. As an Indonesian who holds the Eastern culture, it is a general truth that an inviter of a date invitation usually is a male and the invitee is a female, even though the modernization makes some female dare to give the date invitation to male, but the writer decides to put male as the inviter and female as the invitee based on common practice in the eastern culture.

Many friends of the writer were asking the good way how to deliver an appropriate date invitation to a girl and several female friends of the writer were complaining about the responses of the male students who invited them in a date invitation, it seems they do not meet the expected response from both sides. Being smart and success in academic record does not guarantee someone will be successful in

delivering a date or maintaining the relation after the refusal has been delivered. Based on his friends' experiences, the writer believes that a date invitation is a case sensitive among the students and many students have lack of knowledge about it. By giving an inappropriate date invitation or misunderstanding the refusal given by the invitee, both interlocutors may ruin the social relation that have been built among them. This will cause both interlocutors feel disappointed just because the misunderstanding and the miscommunication among them. By understanding the characteristics of inviter and invitee based on their ethnicity, the chance of having a successful date or maintaining the relation after the refusal has been delivered may increase. Through this study, the writer tries to compare the way Chinese female students and Javanese female students in giving response to a date invitation. He chooses Chinese and Javanese ethnics because he thinks both ethnics are different in their social background. The Javanese is one of the original ethnics from Indonesia, while the first generation of the Chinese came from Far East Asia. They hold different cultures that make the writer curious with the result of the refusal toward a date invitation. Moreover both ethnics are the majority students in Surabaya; therefore by doing this research, the writer hopes that this study will give a contribution for both ethnics in understanding their opposite gender related to date invitations and refusal strategies.

In a sequence of refusal strategies, the invitee might produce one or more expressions. However, only one expression can be categorized as the Head Act, it is the core of the refusal strategies, while the others are the supportive moves, which will either mitigate or aggravate the effect of the Head Act. The Head Act represents the core of the refusal toward a date invitation. Therefore the writer considers Head Act as the important clue in understanding refusal strategies toward a date invitation. By categorizing which one is the Head Act and which one is the Supportive Move and the combination of them, the writer will be able to understand the characteristics and the patterns of each ethnic in refusing a date invitation. Many previous studies about refusal strategies have been done, but unfortunately they focused on the occurrence of the refusal strategies only and did not emphasize on the further analysis related to the reason and the intention why they produced such things. Hence, by doing the study with the help of the classification of the Head Acts and the Supportive Moves, the

writer believes that he will contribute something new to the study of refusal strategies. The details of the classification will be explained in the Chapter II.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

In this study, the writer intends to find out the preferred refusal strategies that are used by Chinese and Javanese female university students of Airlangga, Surabaya, and Petra Christian Universities in expressing their refusal to a date invitation through these several questions:

1. What are the similarities and the differences between the refusal strategies used by the Chinese students and those used by the Javanese students viewed from the Deference Politeness of the Head Acts?
2. What are the similarities and the differences between the refusal strategies used by the Chinese students and those used by the Javanese students viewed from the Solidarity Politeness of the Head Acts?
3. What are the similarities and the differences between the refusal strategies used by the Chinese students and those used by the Javanese students viewed from the Deference Politeness of the Supportive Moves?
4. What are the similarities and the differences between the refusal strategies used by the Chinese students and those used by the Javanese students viewed from the Solidarity Politeness of the Supportive Moves?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to identify the similarities and the differences of refusal strategies used by the Javanese and the Chinese Female university students in rejecting a date invitation by comparing the occurrence of each strategy. The writer will divide all the data into two big parts; those are the Head Acts and the Supportive Moves. Then, the writer will classify each of the Head Acts and the Supportive Moves into Deference Politeness and Solidarity Politeness based on Politeness Strategies by Scollon and Scollon in order to know how similar and difference both ethnics in

expressing their feeling, either they will be open-minded or keep a social distance toward the inviter in rejecting a date invitation. Finally the writer will see the occurrence of the refusal strategies to reveal the pattern of the refusal itself.

1.4. Significance of the Study

There are many studies about refusal strategies, but it seems no one in Petra Christian University has done research about Refusal Strategies to a date invitation, so this study will give a contribution to the world of research. Furthermore, this study emphasizes on the refusal strategies used by the Chinese and the Javanese female university students, therefore the writer is able to know how they respond differently in this sensitive case, which is the date invitation. This study intends to help students, especially male students dealing with date invitation, so their success in delivering a date invitation will be bigger.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is Sociolinguistics because it deals with language in its relation to society. To limit his research, the writer takes refusal as the main study because he is interested to find out in how female university students refuse a date invitation. By knowing the way female university students refuse the date invitation, the writer hopes it will give broader knowledge for the male students.

To limit his research, the writer studies the strategies used in refusal based on the ethnicity, considering Javanese and Chinese are different linguistically. Because the writer intends to find out the refusal strategies used by the different ethnic of speakers, the way respondents pronounce or give intonation in the refusal expression will be excluded.

Furthermore, the writer also limits his subjects into 30 Javanese and 30 Chinese female university students from Airlangga University, Surabaya University, and Petra Christian University. The writer decides these three universities as the source

of the respondents because he thinks all of them have the equal qualities in educational background.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

The writer uses several terms that are needed to define the limitation of the study.

- **Strategy:** the choice of the speech acts to respond to a situation in which the speaker has to refuse the addressee's invitation or offer (Longman Dictionary of Applied Linguistics, 1985, p.274).
- **Refusal:** the act of rejecting an invitation or an offer. (Wolfson, 1989,p.118).
- **Politeness Strategy:** a strategy used to avoid or minimize the Face Threatening Act (FTA) that a speaker makes (Brown and Levinson, 1987).
- **Solidarity:** Politeness which implies an underlying assumption of low power difference (-P) and low distance (-D) and establishes camaraderie and solidarity between the speakers (Scollon and Scollon. 1983, p.170, cited in Garcia. 1992, p.209)
- **Deference:** Politeness that places value on maintaining distance (+D) between individuals' and implies formality and respect (Scollon and Scollon. 1983, p. 169, cited in Garcia. 1992, p.209).
- **Head Acts:** The minimal unit which can realize a request; it is the core of the request sequence. (Blum-Kluka. 1989, p.275).
- **Supportive Moves:** A unit external to the request, which modifies its impact by mitigating its force. (Blum-Kulka. 1989, p.176).

1.7. Organization of the Study

The organization of the thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of background of the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and

limitation, the definition of key terms, and the organization of the study. Following the Introduction is chapter two that is the Review of Relevant Literature. The second chapter consists of the underlying theories and the review of related study. The next chapter, chapter three, explains the methods used in this research. The Methodology consists of the approach of the study, the method of data collection, and the method of data analysis. Chapter four is about the Findings and Interpretations, and it consists the findings, and interpretation of the findings. Finally, the writer concludes all the results of the analysis and put them in the Conclusion in chapter five.