

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Language is very important in human beings' life because through language people can communicate with everybody in all around the world. That is why, language ~~can~~ be called as a means to connect people and give them information about anything. According to Holmes (1992), people use language to ask and give other people information. People use language to express indignation and annoyance, as well as admiration and respect. Utterance is used to convey information and express feeling. The way people convey their messages is not similar to each other. The differences of the way people talk are due to age, sex, state of health, personality, size, and emotional state (Trudgill:245). The way people talk is influenced by the social context in which they are talking (Holmes:1). Moreover, social factors influence the choice of appropriate ways of speaking in different social contexts.

Furthermore, the way people communicate is different in each country. It depends on its own culture. Each culture influences the way its people talk. That is why, the degree of politeness is not the same in each country. For example, the degree of politeness in Indonesia is different from that in the United States of America. In Indonesia, it is not polite to call our parents by using their first names. However, in the United States, it is fine to call our parents by using their first names.

That is why politeness strategies are very important. Politeness involves taking account of the feelings of others (Brown, 1977:296). It means that we have to pay more attention to the politeness strategies otherwise there will be miscommunication. If miscommunication happens, it can disturb the relationship. However, being polite is a complicated business in any language. It is difficult to learn because it involves understanding, not only the language, but also the social and cultural values of the community (Brown, 1987). Besides, politeness strategy is also important in avoiding or minimizing the threat of the addressee's face. For instance, "I was wondering if you could pick me up". From that utterance, it can be seen that actually the speaker feels reluctant and he/she does not want to impose on his/her interlocutor by picking him/her up. That is why, he/she uses hedging expression (I was wondering if you could...) to avoid or minimize the threat. From the explanation above, the writer thinks that politeness strategies are very interesting to be investigated.

In this research, the writer wants to analyze the politeness expression produced by the two main characters, Mary and Ted, in the movie namely "There's Something About Mary". The reason why the writer chooses this movie is because it is an American movie and the writer wants to know the politeness expression produced by the American people. There are a lot of American movies, but the writer chooses this

movie because she thinks that this movie provides equal conversations spoken by male and female characters to male and female interlocutors. Moreover, in “There’s Something About Mary”, we can see many conversations which contain four kinds of politeness strategies. It is true that the way people talk and the degree of politeness are different in each country. Besides participants, setting, topic, and function, culture also has the most important thing that influences the politeness expression. Sometimes the differences of the politeness expression *can* cause misunderstanding or miscommunication in the cross-cultural communication. So, through this research, the writer wants to know about the politeness expression produced by the American people and she will use the conversations of the main characters of this movie as the data, in this case, the conversations of Mary and Ted to both male and female interlocutors. The reason why the writer chooses Mary and Ted is because both of them are the main characters of this movie. Besides that, the writer wants to know the difference of the use of politeness strategies produced by males and females. So, she takes Mary **as** the representative of the female character and Ted as the representative of the male character. After that, the writer will analyze the use of politeness strategies produced by male to male and female interlocutors, then the use of politeness strategies produced by female to male and female interlocutors. The writer takes the conversations from the final transcript of this movie which is taken from the internet, not the actual conversations in the movie. There is a little bit difference between the actual conversations in the movie and the final transcript because sometimes the actors and actresses do the improvisation while they are acting. The writer thinks that it is better for her to analyze the final transcript rather than the actual conversations because it is clearer and understandable.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The writer is interested in analyzing the styles of language used by the American people as reflected in the script of the movie entitled “There’s Something About Marry” especially the politeness strategies produced by its two main characters. The writer has several questions about the politeness expression, such as:

1. What are the politeness strategies used in “There’s Something About Marry” produced by Mary and Ted to male interlocutors?
2. What are the politeness strategies used in “There’s Something About Marry” produced by Mary and Ted to female interlocutors?
3. Which politeness strategies are mostly used by **Marry** and Ted?

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The writer wants to examine what politeness strategies are used by **Mary** and Ted to both male and female interlocutors in the movie “There’s Something About Marry” and which politeness strategy is mostly used by **Mary** and Ted.

The purpose of this study is to know the politeness strategies produced by the American people, whether it is due to their sex, the interlocutors, habits, they intend to do **so**, or it comes up automatically. Because of the fact that the way people talk **and** the degree of politeness are different in each country, it is necessary to analyze the politeness strategies in order to avoid or minimize misunderstanding or miscommunication in the cross-cultural communication.

By doing this research, the writer hopes that she will understand more about politeness strategies, especially produced by *American* people so that it can

minimize the misunderstanding or miscommunication between the two different cultures from two different countries.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The importance of this research is to contribute an understanding to the reader's knowledge on Discourse Analysis and Sociolinguistics. The result of this research about politeness strategies is hoped to be able to help the readers to recognize the politeness strategies produced by American people. The findings of this study are also supposed to give a contribution to the English Department students of the Faculty of Letters, especially for those who major in Linguistics. The writer also hopes that ~~this~~ study will provide a better method or technique for other researchers to conduct further research about politeness strategies.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The writer's scope of the research is in Politeness Strategies. There are a lot of conversations in this movie, but the writer only limits the analysis to the conversation/utterances between Mary to male and female interlocutors and between Ted to male and female interlocutors, based on the final transcript of this movie taken from the internet. The writer only concentrates on gender in analyzing the politeness strategies, the social factors and social dimensions are excluded.

1.6 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

1. **Politeness:** behaving in a way that attempts to take into account the feelings of the people addressed (Brown: 1977) or the means employed to show

awareness of another person's face (Yule: 1996).

2. Politeness strategies: strategies that are used to minimize or avoid the Face

Threatening Act (FTA) that a speaker makes. (Brown & Levinson:1987). It consists of **4** strategies: Bald on Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off Record (more explanation in chapter 2).

3. Face Threatening Act (FTA): An act that causes a threat to the positive or negative face of the hearer.

4. Face: The positive image or impression of oneself that intends to show to the other participants. Face consists positive and negative face.

a. Positive Face: The desire of every interactant that his/her self-image, wants, and opinion be liked and approved.

b. Negative Face: The desire of every interactant that he/she has freedom of action and freedom of being imposed.

1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This thesis is divided into **5** chapters. The ~~first~~ chapter talks about the introduction of the thesis which ~~contains~~ background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, **definition** of key terms, and organization of the study. The second chapter talks about review of related literature, including the theories of politeness strategy and the previous study. The third chapter talks about methodology such as the approach, source of data, instruments, data collection, and data analysis. The forth chapter talks about the analysis

of politeness strategies in the movie, “There’s Something About Mary”. The last, the fifth chapter talks about the conclusion.