

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes some points including the background of the study, statements of the problem, the objective of the study and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In daily life, communication is an action that allows us to be able to receive and provide information or messages according to what we need. In the communication itself, a strategy is needed in speaking between the two parties, be it the speaker and the interlocutor, which is carried out directly or indirectly. Therefore, politeness strategies are needed in people's lives. Politeness strategies are used to respect the interlocutor and maintain the feelings of our interlocutors when communicating with anyone, anywhere, and in any condition because a person's personality can also be seen from the way he/she uses politeness strategies, therefore the learning strategy considers the most basic morality.

Everyone must have a good attitude to be able to control his/her behavior toward the people around him. Certain people need special respect such as parents, teachers (educators), and elders. Respectful behavior, courtesy in speaking is manifestations of attitudes obtained through education and training from various people in their respective positions, such as: parents and teachers, religious general and the general public.

As a foreign language in Indonesia, learning English is not only about mastering the knowledge of its structure but also the awareness in daily communication and interactions, which are of course very important aspects as a part of, the socio-cultural aspects of the language to learn.

English students need to use a politeness strategy because speaking in an educational institution environment such as in the elementary school, junior high school, senior high school or university level politeness is needed. As English learners students need to speak politely to avoid things that may offend the interlocutor, speak polite words are also seen as respect for school friends and classmates and lecturers. The politeness strategy is also a guideline for English learners in their behavior and creates a comfortable and peaceful atmosphere in everyday life in educational institutions and in families. This politeness can also control the behavior of an English learner.

Politeness in today's era is very concerning where many people no longer pay attention to how to behave politely such as talking to everyone, they meet especially older people. Dealing with the importance of politeness strategies, Suhartono(2020) says that politeness is influenced by several factors. The key factor is the presence or absence of the other person and another factor is that the other person is under the influence of the speaker So it can be said that this politeness factor occurs if there are speakers and listeners who are correlated and can cause discontinuity between the two parties. For example, many teenagers do not maintain good manners due to several factors, such as family factors, friends/association factors, mass media factors, and others.

Politeness is a very practical thing but it is very difficult for people to do these days, many people are more concerned with ego than being polite to others, people prefer to be respected by others but do not want to respect others. 'Politeness and hedging are thus manifested in such speech act as requests, offers, apology, greetings, appreciation, criticism, excuses etc` Dozie et al., (p. 62). From Dozie et.al's statement, it can be said that politeness itself is described as a form of manifestation of feelings or opinions that cannot be seen.

The present study aims to observe the politeness strategies in asking for help carried out by students of the English study program of Widya Mandira Catholic University when communicating in English as a foreign language that they have learned. In the teaching of English, the students are not only exposed to English language structure but also speaking skills. The speaking skill embodies pragmatic competence and being polite in asking for help is one of the competences that they should learn.

1.2 Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, there are two questions that must be answered as the statement of the problem of this study;

1. What kinds of politeness strategies are used by the students of English Study Program in asking for help?
2. Which of the politeness strategies is mostly used by students of English Study Program in asking for help?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Going in line with the problem statements above, this study has two objectives:

1. To find out what kinds of politeness strategies used by the students of English Study Program to ask for help.

2. To find out the most dominant politeness strategy used by students of English Study Program in asking for help.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study will give some benefits for English learners, English teacher and the writer.

Theoretically, this study can help students in learning pragmatics, especially politeness strategies proposed by Brown and Levinson and also can enrich the previous study on politeness strategy.

Practically, this study can encourage English learners to be more aware and be capable of using appropriate English politeness strategies in communication. This study also can encourage English teachers to asses and evaluate not only the grammatical skill but also the students' pragmatic skill in daily interactions.

Pedagogically, this study is expected to provide a good improvement for English students in their daily interactions because politeness is very important in social life. If the politeness continues to be preserved, the student's personality will also be good.