

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In human communication or interaction, there is a combination of cooperation and understanding, because success in communication depends on the ability to recognize speakers' communicative intentions and pragmatic meaning in speaking or writing to convey the purpose from the speakers to the hearers. But in conveying the intent or purpose, every person has their own different way depending on a variety of social factors and speech situation. Communication is an important part of human life in order to obtain reciprocal interaction with other members of society. Therefore, to make successful communication people need to be polite, to make their position appropriate and safe in particular situation. In communicating with others, people should use language (verbal or nonverbal), act appropriately considering the culture and context where the communication occurs to avoid misunderstanding, uncomfortable and disrespect.

One of challenging speech acts that need to be understood in communication is refusal. In the refusals matter, the one have to say "no" in order to refuse kind of request and invitation from others. Given the fact that refusals are face threatening speech acts that involve a certain level of offensiveness, applying inappropriate refusal strategies may make FL learners sound rude and impolite in some situations.

In connection with the above, Nuraidar (2008a: 258 - 259) adds that every speech events are always limited to activities which is directly governed by the norms applies to language users. In relation to social rules or norms, then in its application there is an utterance that considered polite (polite) and impolite (apolite). Likewise in the case of rejection. Courtesy and impoliteness an utterance of refusal, in this of course must be adapted to relationship between the speaker and the speech partner. This is intended so as not to give rise to indications negative in conveying the meaning of speech rejection. Therefore, it is necessary to have various strategy so that the intention of rejection can be accepted well by the speaker. If the fulfillment of strategy utilization does not occur, then the relationship between the speaker and the speech partner becomes no balanced. That's why, the line of communication and social relations of both parties need corrected by expressing disapproval as polite as possible. In Nagekeo language, of course there are several strategies that can be used to realize a polite and respectful refusal avoid misunderstanding between speaker and speech partner.

Keo or Nage-Keo is a Malayo-Polynesian dialect cluster spoken by the Kéo and Nage people ('ata Keo 'Keo people') that reside in an area southeast of the Ebu Lobo volcano in the south-central part of Nusa Tenggara Timur Province on the island of Flores, eastern Indonesia. In Keo Language context, the study about politeness strategies of refusals has yet to be ventured, specially focusing on the appearance of politeness in nagekeo culture. The researcher believes that Keo Language society (referred to the people in Keo tengah generally) has their own way of politeness strategies in refusing requests. Based on the background above,

the researcher is interested in conducting research about Refusal Strategies to Request in Keo Language. This research is to investigate the refusal strategies which are used by the people's of Keo Tengah.

1.2 Research Problem

The problem that the writer would like to solve is What are the refusal strategies used by the speakers of Keo Language in declining someone's request?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to find out the strategies used by the speakers of Keo Language in declining someone's request.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research has the practical significance. Practically, this research will be useful for students, the lectures and students. For the students of English Department, this research can help them to have deeper understanding in politeness strategies of refusal expressions. For the lectures of English Department, this research can be used as an additional reference. For the readers, this research aims to help their communication run in harmony by applying politeness strategies refusal expressions.