

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Every human being in this world has to communicate to each other to fulfill his or her own needs. In reaching the goal of communication, at least, there will be two parties; they are speaker and hearer. A successful communication only can be reached if both of the speaker and the hearer are able to convey and understand thoughts, feelings, and desires of each other. When the speaker communicates to the hearer, he or she is performing an action via utterance, which in linguistics known as speech acts.

In English, there are some specific names for speech act; they are apology, complaint, invitation, promise or request and command. The different kind of speech act applies to the speaker's communicative intention in producing an utterance. The speaker normally expects that the hearer will understand his or her intention. The circumstances around the speaker and the hearer are usually the factor that helps the hearer to know the meaningful utterance of the speaker. One of the speech acts used to convey speaker's thoughts, feelings, intentions and desires to others is known as commands (Yule: 1996).

Commands are used when the speaker wants the hearer to do something directly or indirectly for the sake of the speaker. In conducting indirect commands, the speaker cannot just command the hearer, but he or she has to expect positive result from the hearers in the form of compliance. That is why the speaker has to consider several factors; such as when the situation is, where the conversation happens, and to whom he or she speaks too. By considering those factors the speaker will be able to maintain his or her social relationship with the hearer (Mey, 1993: 164).

Commands are very sensitive case, in a sense that they will cost the hearers because the speakers burden the hearers. Besides, commands also usually threat someone's face where individual's feeling should be respected and appreciated and not to be imposed. When a speaker employs commands, it may sound offensive for the hearer. Therefore, a speaker has to use some strategies to employ commands that will not be offensive the hearer. In using the strategies, it will be different when he or she commands someone who is in higher position or not. He or she may employ politeness to lessen the offense.

There are many films containing commands and they are usually expressed both directly and indirectly. One of the films is *Elizabeth: the Golden Age*. This is a mixture film of drama, mystery and suspense. It is directed by Shekhar Kapur, William Nicholson as the script writer and starred by Cate Blanchett as Queen Elizabeth I. This film tells about a life of a Queen in a big empire and some problems that she has to face during her leadership.

This film is chosen as the object of the study because it is about a woman who becomes a queen of England, which is an unusual phenomenon, when a woman becomes the leader of a country. Moreover in this film, Elizabeth is shown as tough, powerful, smart, and married to her country, so it is possible for her to employ commands in order to ask her staff to do her desire.

Elizabeth: the Golden Age begins in 1585, it is when Elizabeth was 55 years old. She faces some problems with the king of Spain and also problems in her love life. It is not easy for her to face and solve all of her problems, but she finally succeeds and becomes the mother of English people.

As the representation of the topic of the research, *Elizabeth: the Golden Age* has many dialogues in the form of utterances which can be analyzed on the aspects of speech acts, especially commands. Most of the characters in this film deliver some utterances indicating commands. They utter words, phrases, clauses, or sentences by doing some different actions to show certain speech acts.

Commands occur in many social interactions and used by most of the characters in many ways and in many situations. For example in this film, commands can be seen when a woman as the queen commands her troops when the war happened, how a woman commands her staffs, and how the staffs order the Queen.

As mentioned before, as the Queen, the main character in *Elizabeth: the Golden Age*, often command other people around her. She employs some types and some strategies in commanding her people. These phenomena lead the researcher to conduct a research entitled: “A Pragmatic Analysis of Speech Act of Commands by

the Main Character in Film *Elizabeth: the Golden Age*". In this research, the researcher focuses on what types of commands are employed, what forms of commands are used, and how the character expresses the commands.

B. Identification of the Problem

Language cannot be separated from communication because people need it when they communicate to each other. There are two kinds of communication, for example in films; communication itself can be verbal or non-verbal. The example of verbal communication can be seen from the dialogues among the characters and it becomes the main act in performing their intentions, while the non-verbal communication helps the audience to understand the story clearly. In *Elizabeth: the Golden Age*, both the verbal and non-verbal communication are found. In relation to those two types of communication, some linguistics problems can be seen in this film.

The first problem is related to speech act phenomenon. In this film, there are many utterances expressing the characters intentions. The characters use various kinds of speech act to convey their intention. According to Searle (1976) there are five kinds of speech acts, they are representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. Those kinds of speech act can be used to analyze the meaning of the utterances by the character both the implied meaning and the explicit meaning.

The next problem existing in *Elizabeth: the Golden Age* is the way of the

characters in this film express utterances. It deals with verbal politeness. The way of the character utter his or her utterances can be analyzed using politeness theory proposed by Brown and Levinson (1978) which are bald on record strategy, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. The strategies mentioned before can be the theory to analyze whether the character is polite or not. It is because being polite means making other people feel comfortable.

Finally it deals with the politeness principles underlying the preference of the character in choosing a certain politeness strategy in their communication. The character in this film may believe that interest and approval to others can be shown through the attitude of praising to other, so they employ one of the politeness principles. There are also six politeness principles proposed by Leech (1983) that can be used to analyze this problem. Those are tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Since there are so many speech acts used in the film such as proposed by Searle (1976): representatives, directives, commissives, expresives, and declarations. In the research entitled “A Pragmatic Analysis of Speech Act of Commands by the Main Character in the Film *Elizabeth: the Golden Age*” the researcher only focuses on the speech act of command, which includes in directives, employed by the main character.

The source of the data is *Elizabeth the Golden Age* film, while the data are the utterances by Queen Elizabeth as the main character in *Elizabeth the Golden Age* movie. The data are classified based on Yule's theory; they are direct and indirect command. Then, the data will be classified by using Holmes in Richards and Schmidt's theory; there are eight forms of commands. Finally, each category of commands found in the movie is analyzed using politeness strategy by Brown and Levinson to find out how the commands are expressed.

D. Formulation of the problems

Regarding the limitation of the problem, the researcher formulates the problems as follows:

1. What types of commands are employed by the main character in the film entitled *Elizabeth: the Golden Age*?
2. What forms of commands are used by the main character in the film entitled *Elizabeth: the Golden Age*?
3. How are the commands expressed by the main character in the film entitled *Elizabeth: the Golden Age* seen through Levinson's theory of Politeness?

E. Objectives of the Study

In accordance with the formulation of the problems, the objectives of the study are as the following:

1. to identify the types of commands employed by the main character in the film entitled *Elizabeth: the Golden Age*,

2. to find out the forms of commands used by the main character in the film entitled *Elizabeth: the Golden Age*, and
3. to know how commands are expressed by the main character in the film entitled *Elizabeth: the Golden Age*.

F. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to be useful both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically, this research can enrich linguistics research, especially in the field of pragmatics. Moreover, it gives supplementary contribution to students who study speech acts, especially speech acts of commands.
2. Practically, it gives consciousness to the society that there are phenomena of speech acts of commands. Thus, it can help the English Department Students to understand deeper in studying the directives speech acts, especially speech act of commands, and they issue commands effectively.