

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Communication is an activity to express ideas, feeling and to give some information through an interaction. A communication cannot work if it does not have means. The most important thing in a communication is language and it is produced by people naturally and voluntarily. Sapir (2006: 4) states that language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols. People can communicate, convey information or message, and influence others through language. They can also express what they feel and understand. Thus, language cannot be separated from people's life.

Making a communication is usually performed by conducting a conversation. There are two participants in a conversation, namely a speaker who delivers a message and a listener who receives it. In a conversation, people can understand each other and they can know the purpose of the conversation. The purpose of conversation depends on where people are talking and to whom they are talking. The conversation that is conducted by the participants has a topic and from the topic, the speakers usually deliver what they are going to deliver such as opinion, feeling, message or information to the listener. It needs language and expression. Every human

has different style to deliver the expressions. Therefore, to know people's expressions are one of important things in a conversation.

All people have many expressions which can be expressed through utterances. People do not only say, but they also have a purpose to make someone to do something and they do an action through their utterances. In pragmatics, this phenomenon can be called *Speech Act*. Yule (1996) also describes speech act as an action performed through utterances. People use those expressions to show their feeling and to give an effect for the speaker and the listener. There are some examples of expression that can be seen in every conversation such as anger expression, compliment expression, complaint expression, and refusal expression.

There is a context that gives an influence to someone using expressions. People use an appropriate expression in the right situation and in the right place. It is impossible to use sad expression when people are celebrating a happy moment. Refusal expression is another example of people's expression.

Refusal expression do not only occur in the real life but also happens in the movie. Many movies show the refusal expression, and *Orphan* movie is one of them. Most of family characters in this movie use this expression in their conversation. The main characters in this movie are the member of the family. They are Kate (mother), John (father), Daniel and Max (two children), and Esther (the adopted child). They have to face some problems caused by

Esther. This problem sometimes forces them to use this expression when they are doing a conversation.

The refusal expressions that they used are difficult to understand. The various situations also make the characters using different refusal expression. Hiding something, disbelieving and preserving the argument are the situations which make the characters expressing different refusal expression in their conversation.

The refuters have different style when they deliver the refusal expression including the characters because refusing a request or an offer from interlocutor is not easy for them. In refusal expression, the refuters have to make the listener's feel not to be offended or to be hurt. Refusing is not just saying "no". It is always conducted by them in their conversation when they are in a situation where they have to say it. Refusing is an expression that is expressed by the speaker and it is unexpected for the listener. Therefore, the refuters need some ways to express their refusal expression in order to make the speakers who invite them are not disappointed. There are ways to deliver refusal expression which can be said politely or impolitely. The characters also deliver refusal expression by using the ways.

Commonly, refusal expression can be expressed by saying "no" but it can also be delivered indirectly. Saying "no" or "I refuse" does not exist in the indirect refusal expression. Uttering a reason is widely used in refusal expression. People usually use an explanation and a reason to refuse

someone's offer or request. Politeness strategies are necessary because they have to deliver the refusal expression politely or impolitely.

The researcher is interested to analyze the refusal expressions because they have different functions and different ways. She is also interested to observe the types of refusal expression.

B. Research Focus

Refusal expressions are commonly used in a daily conversation. People consider that refusal expressions are not easy to be expressed. The different types, ways to employ, and functions are the reasons of refusal expression being difficult to be expressed and understood. Based on the background of study, the researcher found three problems of refusal expression used by the *Orphan* movie's characters.

The first problem is the types of the refusal expression. This expression has three types, namely direct refusal expression, indirect refusal expression and adjuncts to refusal. Saying "no", "I can't", "I don't think so" are the examples of direct refusal expression whereas the indirect refusal expression can be implied by saying excuse, statement or explanation.

Besides those types, there is another type of refusal expression. It is based on Takahashi, Beebe and Uliss-Weltz (1990) who add another type, namely adjuncts of refusal expression. Statement of positive opinion ("I'd love to...."), statement of empathy ("I realize you are in difficult situation"),

pause or fillers (“umm”, “well”), and gratitude or appreciation are the content of adjuncts of refusal expression.

The second problem is the strategies of characters to employ the refusal expression. Politeness is also important to deliver refusal expression. It means that they express refusal expression politely or impolitely. There are four politeness strategies, namely, bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness and off record. The strategies become a reference to the refusers to employ the refusal expression. Yule (1996: 60) says that politeness in an interaction can then be defined as the means employed to show awareness of another person’s face. The researcher emphasizes to the family characters on how they employ politeness strategies in refusal expression.

The third problem is the functions of refusal expression. Refusal expressions have different functions. Edmonson (1981) explains that there are four functions of refusal expression that is to refuse offer, invitation, request, and suggestion.

From the explanation of the problems above, this research focuses on refusal expressions used by the characters. Pragmatics is used by the researcher to cover all the problems. There are three problems in this research. Those are the types of refusal expression, the strategies of characters to employ the refusal expression, and the functions of refusal expression.

C. Research Objectives

Based on the limitation of the problems, the problems of the research are as follows:

1. to describe the types of refusal expression,
2. to describe the strategies of refusal expression, and
3. to describe the functions of refusal expression by the family characters in *Orphan* movie.

D. Research Significance

This research is expected to provide the significance, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich knowledge about pragmatics, especially speech act which has a relation to the refusal expression. This research can give an additional reference about pragmatics, especially refusal expression.

Practically, this research is expected to be useful for other researchers, students, especially students of the study program of English Language and Literature who are going to do the similar topic of research.