

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

People use language as a media to give a request, refuse, suggestions, offers, and many other ways to make conversation smoothly. Understandably, the language is a media to interact between the speakers and the hearers. When people do an interaction, the speakers and the hearers should have a good comprehension related to the utterances that are going to be discussed. Thus, every conversation needs context.

Context is a situation or condition where it appears the utterances. Every utterance will have a meaning. When the speakers and the hearers cannot connect the context and the meaning of the utterances, it leads to miscommunication between the speakers and the hearers. Yule (2010) claimed that the pragmatic's role is needed here because pragmatics is a study related to the meaning

One of the pragmatics phenomena that always occur in a real-life is refusal. Félix-Brasdefer, (2008), *P.48* stated that refusal belongs to the category of commissives because the speakers commit the hearers to perform an act. This means, refusal is an act to deny or an intention to decline what is proposed by the speakers. It ensues on the hearers' side. They can comprehend what is conveyed and proposed by the speakers. The hearers refuse because they do not have the same idea, opinion, or thought in terms of request, offer, suggestion, invitation, and various situations

This research focused on figuring out the refusal expression in terms of utterance, or expression of refusal itself. Refusal happened because the hearers (the refusers) did not have an agreement to what is proposed or instructed. The general issue of refusal utterance was found in the Reuters news site on April 4th, 2022 (<https://www.reuters.com>). Nowadays, the world knows about the issue of Ukraine and Russia. Russia and Ukraine had a problem, but Russia's president didn't want to make peace when the two presidents held a conference. Russia's president said, **“Unfortunately, I don't share Arakhamia's optimism”**. This expression contained the refusal expression. According to Houck, (1999), refusal is signed by a negative statement, because The utterance above the contained word 'don't'. Also, Houck, (1999) stated that if 'don't' in the statement is included indirect refusal and non-performative refusal.

The next refusal issue was figured out in ABS news on June 18th, 2020 (<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com>). Recently, the world is facing a pandemic where people have to wear a mask everywhere. The news was about the political activist from America, Brandon Straka. Brandon Straka flew by using American Airlines. When he **sat** on his chair, the flight attendant saw him for not wearing a mask. So the stewardess asked him to wear a mask.

The stewardess: sir, could you wear your mask?
 Brandon Straka: **“I don't like wearing a mask”**.

This expression showed the refusal utterance implicitly, where Brandon Straka did not refuse clearly or say the word “refuse”. Félix-Brasdefer (2008 , P.78) claimed that refusal was marked by the word do not, no, cannot specifically. Then, Houck, (1999) statement these three words are classified into direct refusal

or non-performative statement. On the other hand, the speaker also understood that if the hearer said the word “do not” by expressing the words.

Finally, it was on the BBC news channel on YouTube on March 25th, 2022 (<https://youtu.be.rnaimc4xmhc>). The topic of this news was Novak Djokovic Breaks Silence over Covid Vaccine Refusal’. The presenter’s statement about the covid vaccine interviewed Novak Djokovic,

Presenter: “have you received any vaccination?”

Novak Djokovic: “**I decided not to take the vaccine**”.

Djokovic refuse the utterance from the presenter in an indirect way. Brown & Levinson, (1987) stated that when the hearer refused the speaker utterance, it could respect the precision and clarity of the communication. The expression of Djokovic to refuse the presenter’s statement by using indirect way. Houck, (1999) declared the expression which contain refusal when the expression included in non-performative statements.

The pragmatics phenomena above occurred in society. This research is very interesting to discuss refusal as an object of research. Beebe et al, (1990) stated that refusal is one of the pragmatics studies where the hearers are not able to express the politely. It will have a meaning in which they are not able to accomplish what is proposed or instructed by the speakers. Refusal could be accepted in conversation as long as the hearers were polite in doing that.

Refusal causes a difference of opinion between speaker and hearer and it can threaten the speaker’s face (FTA). Yule, (1996) claimed that People usually act as though their expectations about their public self-image or face desires will be regarded in their ordinary social interactions. A face-threatening act (FTA)

occurs when a speaker says anything that threatens another person's expectations about his or her self-image.

The pragmatics phenomenon does not always occur in society, but also in the artwork. One of the artworks in the public is a movie. A movie is an artwork created by someone whose plot of the story is life-like a picture, (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/movie>).

An example of a motion picture was "Spinning Out" Series season 1, this series talked about a skater who had bipolar disorder. She also had a big trauma because she fell while participating in a skating competition. Then, the coach to play a skate with a partner, Justin, offered her. However, she refused the offer from the coach. Based on the conflicts, the researcher was interested to conduct this movie as a data source. In addition, in the utterances of this movie, there were many refusal utterances in the hearer expression. In the movie, it was found the strategy and the function of refusal. The refusal statements happened between speaker and hearer.

The refusal phenomena happened during a conversation between Serena's mother and Serena. The refusal expression occurred in the series when the hearer (Serena) woke up in the morning and the speaker (Serena's mother) asked her to eat some food. Then, the refusal could be found when the speaker uttered the utterances.

Carol Baker: "Serena, aren't you eating?"

Serena Baker: **"It's so early. If I eat, I'm gonna puke."**

Carol Baker: What did Mitch say about getting enough protein? Eat it!

Serena Baker: **Mom.** (00:05:42-00:05:50)

Serena, as the hearer applied indirect refusal, when the hearer refused what the speaker offered. It was indicated as indirect because the hearer gave an implied meaning to refuse by **postponement strategies**. Félix-Brasdefer, (2008) stated that when the hearers postponed a refusal, the hearers were indicating that they did not want to make a definitive commitment and deferring an invitation, a request, or a recommendation.

The hearer refused in terms of **offer functions** in which the hearer did not have any intention to conduct or listen to the offer from the speaker. Beebe, (1990) said that function of refusal is the present or extend something for someone to accept or reject as desired. In other words, it has the purpose of offering or presenting anything to others for them to accept or reject as they want. Understandably, the refusal strategy and function were applied by the hearer expression how she refused in a properly. It may soften the refusal response and it may save the face of the speaker.

Flick, (2014) stated that movie is a medium of utterance. In this research, the researcher analyzed the refusal expressions in a “Spinning Out” Series Season 1. This series released in 2020. The researcher chose this series because some characters applied refusal expressions. They expressed the refusal based on the situation. Besides that, Flick, (2014) stated that utterance and context are just two examples of the several purposes that can influence an analysis. Hence, the researcher focused on the characters that uttered the refusal statements. Fortunately, the characters provided sufficient data. In this research, the researcher

focused on the strategies of refusal and the functions of refusal applied by the characters.

Other researchers investigated the study of refusal. It has been an interesting study and it provided us with new knowledge. Harared, (2020) identified the form of refusal strategy in the situational comedy and to figure out the structure of refusal strategy used by Sheldon Cooper, Ph.D. This research applied the theory by Félix-Brasdefer, (2008). As the result, the researcher found refusal direct explanation strategies used by characters in *The Big Bang Theory*, notably Sheldon Cooper, Ph.D.

Next, Qadi, (2021) investigated the refusal strategies and their frequency among Saudi EFL students of Bachelor of Science (BS) at Moon University (pseudonym), Saudi Arabia. This research applied the theory by Bebee et al, (1990). As the results of this research were despite Saudi culture's tendency toward directness, the researcher classified the indirect refusal strategies were being used by Saudi EFL students more frequently than direct refusal strategies.

The scholars above explored the refusal strategies and the aim of refusal strategies. Meanwhile, the present research investigated the refusal strategies and the functions of refusal. The previous scholars applied theories proposed by Félix-Brasdefer (2008), and Bebee et al (1990). The present researcher applied the theories proposed by Félix-Brasdefer (2008), Bebee et al, (1990), and Houck (1999). Generally, the previous scholars conducted field research meanwhile the present research would gain the data from the movie and it would be non-field

research. Also, the data source in previous research they took from the field, but the present research chose movie series as a data source.

The phenomena were written above, they provided the source of the knowledge of refusal study that reflected to the real life that refusal study was a crucial to be known and understood. Hence, the “Spinning Out” Series Season 1 interested to gain the strategies of refusal theorized of Félix-Brasdefer, (2008), Houck, (1999) and functions refusal theorized of Beebe et al, (1990) and it appeared in the title Refusal Statements Applied in “Spinning Out” Series Season 1: Pragmatics Approach.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, there were seven problems identified, that is:

1. Refusing to reconcile on the news then people intimate it.
2. Refusing compliance with the law impact for people to rebut the law.
3. Refusing to obey the law with anvil the argumentation.
4. The strategies of refusal statements in “Spinning Out” Series Season 1.
5. The functions of refusal statements in “Spinning Out” Series Season 1.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identifications of the problems, so the limitation of the problem divided into two categories:

1. The strategies of refusal statements applied in “Spinning Out” Series Season 1.

2. The Functions of refusal statements applied in “Spinning Out” Series Season 1.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem, it formulated the problem as research questions:

1. What are the strategies of the refusal statements applied in “Spinning Out” Series Season 1?
2. What are the functions of the refusal statements applied in “Spinning Out” Series Season 1?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem, there were the objectives of the research:

1. To find out the strategies of the refusal statements applied in “Spinning Out” Series Season 1.
2. To find out the functions of the refusal statements applied in “Spinning Out” Series Season 1.

1.6 Significance of the Research

1.6.1 Theoretical Significance:

Theoretically, this research has three main purposes namely; this research could be expected to become a source of knowledge to the readers related to the refusal in terms of functions and strategies. Then,

this research is able to be a reference for the upcoming researchers who want to have a wide comprehension due to refusal generally or deeply. Finally, this research is expected can help the readers or the English student to develop their knowledge related to the refusal in more depth.

1.6.2 Practical Significance

Practically, this research is able to be a media for English students or English literature students to conduct the same research related to the refusal or gain the information due to refusal. Then, this research could be expected as one of the sources for the readers to learn more or comprehend the refusal in terms of the functions and the strategies and gain the information related to refusal generally or deeply.

1.7 Definition of Key Term

Pragmatic: The study of “invisible” meaning and identify what is meant even it is not written or said. Yule (2010)

Refusal: Refusal belongs to the category of commissive due to the speakers commit the hearers to perform an act. Félix-Brasdefer (2008).

Strategy: The way to decrease the negative effect of refusal it can save the face-threatening act (FTA) of the speakers. Félix-Brasdefer (2008)

Function: The purpose of the hearers to refuse in terms of suggestion, request, offer, and invitation. Beebe (1990)