

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is a mean of communication used by living things to interact with each other, especially humans. People use language to communicate in order to deliver feelings and thoughts. Communication aims to be able to understand what speakers mean so that ineffectiveness will not appear. However, it is inevitable that there is still ineffectiveness between speaker and hearer during communication. The reason is the hearer does not understand the context of the speaker said or even the speaker is less clear in conveying something. To avoid ineffectiveness between speaker and hearer, must be study pragmatics.

Studying pragmatics help speaker and hearer to prevent misunderstanding in communicating. According to Yule (1996), pragmatics is what the speaker actually means because communication not only knows about the meaning of the words but also the meaning of speech as well. This shows that it is important to know the context that the speaker is talking about so that the interlocutor understands what should be done. Pragmatics has a branch, it is speech acts and as defined by Cruse (2011), speech acts refers to action performed by saying utterance. In speech acts, there is a topic called as request directive acts. Directive acts is used to make someone to do an action (Searle, 1979). As for request, it is defined as directive acts used by a speaker to make an action to be taken, but the action is acceptable to be refused (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). This type of directive acts is used to influence a hearer to do an action which can be refused by

the hearer. In requesting a hearer, a speaker uses the directive acts of request by applying its strategy. Blum-kulka and Olshtain (1984) divided the strategies of request into nine; mood derivable, explicit performatives, reference to preparatory conditions, hedged performative, scope stating, language specific suggestory formula, locution derivable, mild hints, and strong hints. Study these nine strategies are important because different strategies will be applied in different request utterances. Therefore, the research of request is important to be conducted. In nowadays, social media is frequently used by people. They can do something such as searching for music, film, and tutorials about something in YouTube. The researcher found general phenomena related to request on YouTube channel “The tonight show starring Jimmy Fallon in “Pour it out with Kendall Jenner” video. The video was published in 6th September 2019 and below is one of the request phenomena.

Jimmy Fallon : “You ready to play?”
 Kendall Jenner : “Yes”
 Jimmy Fallon : “Alright, here you go, Kendall. **You go first** with this one. Starting here.”
 Kendall Jenner : “Yeah”

In 00:24-00:28 minute, Jimmy Fallon became the speaker and Kendall Jenner as a hearer. Then, in this video they started to play the game. The speaker asked the hearer to take a sheet of paper on coaster and there was question. The hearer had to read the question silently and she must keep it a secret. The speaker told the hearer that the speaker wanted the hearer to play the game first. The speaker used this utterance for asking the hearer to start playing the game first. This conversation relates to one of request strategies that is reference to

preparatory conditions. The reason is that the speaker wanted the hearer to do something related to possibility and the possibility is the speaker played the game first. As the utterance above **“You go first with this one”**. According to Blumkulka and Olshtain (1984), preparatory conditions has intention of speaker that relates to ability, willingness, and possibility.

Another phenomenon of request was found in different YouTube channel. The researcher discovered request phenomenon in YouTube channel of “The Late Late Show with James Corden” with the title “Elizabeth Olsen Loves How new “Doctor Strange” Continues “Wanda Vision” Story. The video was uploaded on May 6th, 2022 on the channel. Elizabeth Olsen and Benedict Cumberbatch as the casts of “Doctor Strange” movie were invited to be interviewed. In this video, James Corden became a host and both of the guests were being interviewed to talk about the movie that has just been released. The utterance of request in the movie is as below.

James Corden	: “Okay. Get ready. ”
Benedict Cumberbatch	: “Yeah.”
James Corden	: “Here we go. We do rock, paper, scissors, and shoot. Okay?”

In 05:27-05:34 minute of the video, James Corden as the speaker said the utterance to Benedict as hearer. The speaker and hearer were in the talk show hosted by the speaker. The speaker said utterance above when the speaker tried to make the hearer and another cast named Olsen to tell further about the movie that they played. The hearer did not want to share story about the movie as the hearer wanted to keep it as secret. Then, the speaker asked both of them to play the game to find out who was the best at acting elaborate hand gestures between the hearer

and Olsen. The speaker said the utterance to make them to be ready before asking them to start the game. The speaker requested them to do action that is about the speaker's intention as the utterance above **"Get ready"**. Blum-kulka and Olshtain (1984) declared that scope stating is when people convey about the feeling, intention or desire.

Request strategy was found on YouTube channel "The late show with James Corden" with the title "Spill your guts with the Jonas brother". The video was published three years ago and have forty-two million viewers. In this video, James as a host and Jonas brothers as the guest stars. Jonas brothers named are Nick, Kevin and Joe. The speaker James started the game and gave information to hearers the Jonas brother if the speaker had a wheel of all the food. There are lots of weird food on it such as the duck tongue, bull penis, beetle toast, three chili pepper smoothies, and others. Below is a phenomenon relating to request strategy.

James Corden : **"Can we bring a milk for Joe, please"**
 Crew : [Brought three glasses of milk]

In that conversation, the researcher found one of request strategies in the minute 00:63-06:33 as above. At first, the speaker asked Joe to answer the question. The question was the speaker want to Joe chose the boy bands from best to worst but Joe did not answer it. The reason is that he did not want to hate by entire world and finally he chose to drink three chili pepper smoothies that spin on wheel of the food by speaker. His brother also did it, but they did not feel hot. Joe felt hot and it made the speaker asked the crew to bring milk for Joe. Then, crew came brought glass of milk for the hearers. The utterance of the speaker contains begging of something with the keyword please, it signifies that the speaker using

one of request strategies explicit performatives as the utterance above “**Can we bring a milk for Joe, please**”. Illocutionary force that is explicitly mentioned by a speaker to request is explicit performatives (Blum-kulka & Olshtain 1984).

There are also specific phenomena that found in the movie. One of the movies that have phenomenon of request is “Soul” movie. This movie was published in 2020 with categories adventure, anime, comedy, drama, family, fantasy and musical and direct by Peter Docter with the main character is Joe Gardner as music teacher. In fact, this movie is told based on a true story of Peter Docter when he was twenty-three years old. There is a phenomenon of request as below.

One of students : “Way to go.”
 Joe : “**Hang on, hang on**. What are you all laughing at?”
 0:01:37-0:01:43

This conversation was in the music classroom whom Joe as the speaker and the students was hearer. In that utterance, the speaker taught all the students to practice played saxophone, but in that class looked a bit messy. The reason is that there were the students that did not play well. but, on other hand, there is hearer played very well when others gave up and the speaker was immediately amazed to the hearer. One of the students laughed at the hearer that played saxophone well. Then, the speaker requested to the hearer to keep quiet. The utterance of the speaker contains directly request as the utterance above “**Hang on, hang on**”. This is one request of strategies named mood derivable. Mood derivable is direct request or close relationship (Blum-kulka & Olshtain 1984).

The phenomenon of request does not only involve in conversation above. Below conversation was also found to have that phenomenon. The conversation

appeared in washing shop between Joe's mother as speaker and Joe as the hearer.

Following shows the analysis of request strategy and form.

Joe's mother : "Playing music will finally be your career. So you are going to tell them yes, right?"
 Woman : **"Please say yes."**
 0:04:08-0:04:16

In this conversation, the speaker and the hearer were in tailor shop. There were some conversations the speaker with the hearer his mother. The hearer wanted the speaker to get a full job in this year and suddenly the hearer asked what the speaker would tell to the speaker's friend. It is regarding the speaker's career and another hearer said to the speaker if the speaker must say "yes". This utterance signifies the hearer demanded the speaker to answer yes without any reasons. It is one of request strategies named explicit performance. Explicit performance is used for when people want to begging or demanding for something (Blum-kulka & Olshtain 1984).

The research of request was done by previous researchers. The research of Prihatin and Aflahatun (2020) aimed at finding out the request strategies used by engineering students. It used the theory of Blum-kulka and Olshtain (1984) to analyze the data of their research. Data were taken from all request utterances produced by 37 students that majored in industrial engineering. Then, it used qualitative method such as discourse completion test to obtain the data related to request strategies. Then, the results found out that the students mostly used conventional explicit performatives became the dominant strategy. The strategy of strong hints, mild hints, reference to preparatory conditions, language specific suggestory formula, and mood derivable were also found in the utterances.

Febriani and Hanidar (2019) analyzed the strategies of request found in utterances of “Full House” TV series. The researchers used the theory proposed by Blum-kulka and Olshtain (1984) aim to find out the request strategies. It took season 7 episode 1-12 as data source and data were from the selected season. The method used is qualitative. It is the direct request level by comparing the way adults, teenagers or children make requests. The result findings mood derivable was analyzed as the dominant strategy and adult characters mostly used the direct request. All characters tended to apply direct strategy if they were not too close with each other.

The similarity of previous and present research is in the theory, method and object. The theory of Blum-kulka and Olshtain (1984) was used by previous research and it will be used by this present research. The previous research took request as the object and request will also be chosen as the object. The difference is in data source because this research will use different data source by taking “Soul” movie. It will be analyzed in the research entitled **“An Analysis of Request Utterances in “Soul” Movie: Pragmatics Approach.”**

1.2 Identification of the Problem

The following problems are as mentioned in the background:

1. The misunderstanding of context affects communication effectiveness.
2. Request utterances found in utterances said in social media.
3. Request utterances conveyed in “Soul” movie.
4. Strategies of request utterances in “Soul” movie.
5. Types of request utterances in “Soul” movie.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem, there are certain problems that this research limits.

1. The strategies of request utterances in “Soul” movie.
2. The types of request utterances in “Soul” movie.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

According to the limitation of the problem, there are two main problems to be solved.

1. What are the strategies of request utterances in “Soul” movie?
2. What are the types of request utterances in “Soul” movie?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Finally, this research is conducted to find a solution. It aims at answering the following objectives.

1. To find out the strategies of request utterances in “Soul” movie.
2. To describe the types of request utterances in “Soul” movie.

1.6 Significance of the Research

1. Theoretical Significance

Through this research, the researcher hopes that people get the understanding of request as the theoretical significance. This research is also expected to give further knowledge about request as pragmatics phenomenon that needs to be understood. Future research also can take this research to be the

involved in their research as reference. This research hopes can be beneficial to give understanding about strategies and types of request in “Soul” movie.

2. Practical Significance

This research is practically conducted to make people can apply the appropriate strategy of request. People that understand all strategies can appropriately produce request utterance and their requests can be carried out by listeners. Besides strategies, this research will also benefit people in term of request types because different form appears in request utterance. This research will help people as language users to use the appropriate strategies and types of requests in communication.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Pragmatics : Pragmatics is what the speaker actually means because communication not only knows about the meaning of the words but the meaning of speech as well (Yule, 1996).

Speech act : Speech act refers to action performed by saying utterance (Cruse, 2011)

Illocutionary : The type of speech acts that is the intention of speaker in saying utterance (Birner, 2013)

Directive Acts : Directive acts is used to make someone to do an action (Searle, 1979)

Request : Directive acts used by a speaker to make an action to be taken, but the action is acceptable to be refused (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985).