CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background

The relationship between language, gender, and society will always been an interesting topic to be discuss. Language, gender, and society are connected each other. Wardhaugh (1998:1) stated that a society is any group of people who are drawn together for a certain purpose or purposes. People in a society may behave in different ways as they have different attitudes or personalities.

Discussing about the different ways of behavior of people in society may lead us to talk about gender. One of the important things which influence the behavior of the people in society is gender. It is known that women and men are physically different and gender differences include not just some kinds of observable behaviors but more in regarding ourselves as male or female.

Coates (1986:161) stated that speech is an act of identity; when we speak, one of the things we do is identifying ourselves as male or female. Based on Coates' statement, communication is one of the ways to determine ourselves as females or males.

People in a society need to communicate each other to share what they want or feel about something.

Related with communication, language as a means of communication is needed in order to transfer the message from the speaker to the hearer. Lehman (1983:1) said that language provided the means for people to take their place in society, to express their wants, to convey information, and to learn about the people and the world around them.

The language used in a society varies related to the speakers of the language, to whom they talk and the topic of the communication. Montgomery (1995) said that women are less assertive (more tentative), use fewer taboo forms, talk more, and are more conservative and more polite than men. Men are described are more blunt and to the point in their speaking. Men may be more assertive than women. For an example, the language used by men in refusing invitations will be different with the language used by women.

Oktoprimasakti (2006) found that male and female used different language in refusing an invitation. In an invitation to watch a jazz concert, male tend to say "*Sorry, I don't like jazz, ask someone else.*" while female tend to say "*Thanks a lot, you're so kind, but you know I don't like jazz. I'm sorry.*"

Soetanto (2004) also found that male and female used different strategies in refusing invitations.

This research is related to refusal but the writer stressed her study on how female and male students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya refuse invitations. The writer used the English Department students as the subjects since they did not only learn about the structure of English but also the sociolinguistic behavior of it. One of the sociolinguistic behaviors being studied is about politeness. Here, the writer wanted to know whether politeness is applied by the students in refusing invitations or not.

The writer is interested in this topic since in the society sometimes people face a condition which forces them to accept or refuse an invitation. It won't be any problem when they accept the invitation but to refuse an invitation, they need to choose suitable words in order not to hurt others. The need to be polite in refusing an invitation is an important thing to be learned by the English Department students since they learn the sociolinguistic behavior about English. By doing this study, the writer expects that the English Department students are able to know various strategies in refusing invitation so that they can refuse properly.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This study is planned to answer the questions below:

1.2.1 What refusal strategies are used by female and male subjects of the English Department of Widya Mandala?

1.2.2 What politeness strategies are used by female and male subjects of the English Department of Widya Mandala?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study has objectives to answer the questions above. The objectives of this study are:

1.2.1 to find out the refusal strategies used by female and male subjects of the English Department of Widya Mandala

1.2.2 to find out the politeness strategies used by female and male subjects of the English Department of Widya Mandala

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study can contribute knowledge related to refusal and politeness strategies by the English Department students. It is expected that the students know more about refusal and politeness strategies so they are able to refuse others' invitation without hurting the feelings of the requester.

This study is also expected to give a contribution to the sociolinguistic field of study. It is expected that this study can give additional information related to refusal and politeness strategies.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the politeness strategies in refusing an invitation used by the English Department students of Widya Mandala Catholic University Surabaya. Since the data was collected by recording the conversation between the writer and the subjects, the writer only analyzed the refusal statement found and the tone made in the conversation.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1) Gender

According to Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia; gender often refers to the sexual distinction between male and female. In this thesis, gender is a term refers to male and female.

2) Politeness

According to Dufon and Wahab as quoted by Wida Wahyuni (1999), politeness refers to good manners (Fraser, 1990) or proper social conduct (Kasper, in press).

Politeness itself according to the writer is the action of having or showing a good manner to other people. Good manner here means that people should speak and act politely in order not to hurt others' feeling.

3) Refusal

According to Webster (1991:1129), refusal is to decline the grant of the request or invitation of a person, or to decline or accept an offer or suggestion of a person. According to the writer, refusal is an action of being unwilling to give or accept in doing something.

4) Invitation

To invite is to ask somebody to go somewhere or to do something. Invitation here is the term refers to request to do something.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

In doing this study, there are three theories that the writer uses. The first theory the writer uses is the theory of language and gender. The writer uses this theory since it deals with how language and gender are connected each other. Coates (1986:161) stated that speech is an act of identity; when we speak, one of the things we do is identifying ourselves as male or female. Communication here is needed in order to determine

ourselves as male or female. In communication, many researchers found that female and male tend to use different language. Female also tend to be more polite than male. Here, the writer wants to know whether female is more polite than male or not.

The second theory that the writer uses in this study related to refusal. This theory deals with kinds of refusal strategies. According to Beebe et al (1990), there are two different strategies in refusing; they are direct and indirect strategies. The writer uses this theory since this study is planning to find the different strategies in refusing an invitation among male and female students.

The last theory the writer uses related to politeness since this study deals with politeness in refusing an invitation. This theory deals with why politeness is important in daily life and also kinds of politeness strategies. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), politeness consists of attempting to save face for another. Brown and Levinson developed politeness strategies in order to save the hearer's face when face threatening acts are inevitable or desired. This means that the speaker avoids embarrassing the listener or making him feels uncomfortable. Brown and Levinson (1987) also described four

types of politeness strategies; they are: (1) Bald on-record, (2) Positive, (3) Negative, and (4) Off-record indirect strategy.

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. The First Chapter is introduction. It consists of background, statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation, definition of key term and theoretical framework.

The Second Chapter is review of related literature. It consists of related literature and the previous studies.

The Third Chapter is research design. It consists of research design, subjects, instruments, procedure of collecting the data and procedure of analyzing the data.

The Fourth Chapter deals with the findings and results. And the Last Chapter deals with conclusion and suggestion.