CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, the research problem, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Politeness is one of the important aspects when interacting with others. In general, politeness is concerned with a relationship between two people, whom we may refer to as self and other (G. N. Leech, 1983). According to Sifianou (Watts, 2003), politeness is a social principle that considers satisfaction between the speaker and hearer when interacting. Politeness becomes one of the speaker's efforts to keep the hearer feeling so as not to be offended or uncomfortable with the speaker's speech or actions. In other words, politeness is an act that speakers take to respect the interlocutor. Politeness could be seen not only in the substance of dialogue but also in how its participants control and shape it (G. N. Leech, 1983). Therefore, both speakers and hearers should pay attention to what will be talked about, when it is time to talk, who is talking and how it should speak to maintain good relationships with others in interaction.

Considering the relationship between politeness and the interaction between speakers and hearers, learning activities are one of the interactions that allow the use of politeness strategies in the interaction between speakers and listeners. In learning activities, there is a teacher and students in the same classroom, and there is a process of communication. The occurrence of

politeness can be found in both the implicit and explicit forms of communication. Both speaker and hearer may not be aware that they are employing the concept of politeness in their speech acts at the time of the event.

As a result of the globalization era, students' attitudes and morals are changing constantly. Most of them are unpleasant and unfriendly to elders, speak impolitely, and prefer to communicate in slang or informal language regularly. This circumstance indicates that politeness in Indonesian education is declining. Dealing with this issue necessitates collaboration between parents and the school system. But, realize it or not, at this time most parents prefer to assign the problem associated with students' attitudes to the school. Indirectly, the teacher as one of the school organizations has a crucial role to build students' morals and values. Raharjo in (Rostikawati, Aeni, & Wuryani, 2020) states that the positive character of the nation is a result of a solid education. Therefore, if society's character is good and responsible, civilizations may be properly established. It is possible to envision if the teacher does not implement the function correctly. This nation and country will be left behind in the increasingly relentless growth of science and technology. As the beneficiary of the trust, the teacher is ethically obligated to educate their students so that they acquire biological-psychological-spiritual maturity, allowing the teacher to work properly and responsibly (Rostikawati, Aeni, & Wuryani, 2020).

Based on the statement, this current study is interested in conducting research at SMPN 1 Mojo. This school is one of the primary schools which is

located in Kediri. The reason to choose the topic and the school is based on the observation or pre-research that did by the researcher. The researcher found a variety of natural acts related to politeness strategies used by students and teacher in the English learning-teaching process. Then, when the researcher was conducting classroom observations, the researcher found a strategy of politeness carried out by teacher when communicating with the students. The students' polite habits can be seen from the way they greet everyone they meet, especially those who are elder than them, or when they talk to their teacher.

The researcher found that there were some students still cannot control their language when communicating with their teacher. It may be influenced by their age or their habit to communicate with other people. Sometimes, the students use impolite language when doing conversations with their teacher in the classroom. This habitually should be changed to build students' attitudes toward politeness. Besides, sometimes the teacher also says uncomfortable words to their students when doing the learning-teaching process. This act possibly offends students' feelings and makes them not interested in joining the class. So, politeness has an important role in the school environment, because it can create a comfortable atmosphere and avoids offense between teacher and students in the classroom.

Because of this problem, the researcher is interested in studying politeness strategies used by teacher and students in the learning-teaching process. Besides, some previous studies have supported the reason why this study needs to be done. First, there is a thesis written by (Muhasibi, 2021) entitled "Politeness Strategies Used by Teacher and Students on Online English

Teaching Learning Process at SMPN 2 Tanon, Sragen in Academic Year 2020/2021". The objective of this study is to investigate the types of politeness strategies and the most dominant politeness strategies used by teacher and students in the online English teaching-learning process by using Brown and Levinson's theory. Second, there is a journal article written by (Annisah, Waliyudin, Ramli, & Nurbaya, 2021) entitled "Politeness Maxims Used by English Students Program Study at STKIP Taman Siswa Bima". The purpose of this study is to look at the types and functions of the most common types of politeness maxims employed in classroom interaction by English Program Study students at STKIP Taman Siswa Bima by using the concept of maxims proposed by Leech. Therefore, the researcher conducted the study entitled "An Analysis of Politeness Strategies Used by Teacher and Students in English Class at SMPN 1 Mojo Kediri".

B. **Research Problems**

Based on the research background described above, the researcher formulates the problem as follows:

1. What kind of politeness strategies are used by teacher and students in English class?

2. What are the most frequent politeness strategies used by teacher and students in English class?

C. **Objectives of the Study**

Based on the background of the study and the research problem above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze what kind of politeness strategies are used by teacher and students in English Class

2. To find out the most frequent politeness strategies used by a teacher and students in English class.

D. The Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is focused on politeness strategies in English class as a foreign language that is used by a teacher and students of SMPN 1 Mojo. The limitation of the study is only observing a teacher and students of a certain class that is class 7 G of SMPN 1 Mojo Kediri. Besides, this study only discusses the types of politeness strategies proposed by Leech (1983) namely tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim.

E. The Significances of the Study

The results of the research are expected to be useful both theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically

Theoretically, this study could give additional information about politeness strategies in this particular context.

2. Practically

a. For the teacher

A teacher is a part of the school and has an important role in the teaching-learning process. As education practitioners, teachers are expected to build their students to have good manners and attitudes by applying politeness principles and could be more selective and wise

when giving speech acts to their students following the politeness strategies.

b. For the students

The students who follow the teaching-learning process, they expected to understand how to be polite in doing interaction with others. Especially when they talk to their teacher because their teacher is older than them.

c. For the other researchers

The study can be one reference to other researchers on the same topic.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Politeness

Politeness is a social value that prioritizes the satisfaction of the speaker and hearer following their communication expectations. Politeness is a concept in communication that aims to reduce conflict and misunderstanding. In general, politeness contributes to social peace and the avoidance of social conflict.

2. Politeness Strategies

Politeness strategies are ways of conveying someone utterances politely and showing concern for others to minimize threats to one's self-esteem.

3. Maxims

Maxims are the rules that appear in the conversation and determine whether the speaker can be cooperative or not while doing a conversation (Hamani & Puluhulawa, 2019).

4. SMPN 1 Mojo

SMPN 1 Mojo is one of the primary schools in Kediri which applies Kurikulum Merdeka for the academic year of 2022/2023. Kurikulum Merdeka is applied to improve the quality of Indonesian education which has the main purpose to increase students' creativity and try to create students more active in the classroom.