

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some points of the study. The points are background of the study, statement of problem, the objective of study, significance of study, scope and limitation of study, and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Politeness is an act of good manners and respect for the feelings of others. Politeness takes as an important act to build a connection between human beings. In some social culture, politeness is used as a differentiator between the higher and lower social status. Lower status speakers usually should act more politely towards the higher status and the higher status cannot be too polite (Wang. 2021).

A novel is an extended fictional prose narrative focusing on a few primary characters but often involving scores of secondary characters. It involves events, characters, and what the characters say and do (Abrams, 1993). Sometimes, there are a different speech between the characters inside a novel. There must be some reasons and factors to cause their speech different between the characters.

There is a study analyses the difference of speech between male and female called politeness. Politeness is a practical act of a good manner. Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (2003) pointed out that, because of the social factors, men have higher social status, thus leading to their privileges in speech. And there

is a novel of "*Earth Dance*" by Oka Rusmini that focused on the female character as the lead character in the novel. The researcher use this novel because there are many Indonesian researchers that already use foreign novel for their research. The researcher wants to study about politeness in Indonesia and "*Earth Dance*" novel is the choice. The researcher tries to figure the cause why the main female character speaks differently towards one to other older characters in the novel and what factors that explain the cause. The researcher use politeness theory and politeness strategies approach to analyse the causes that affect main character's speaking.

B. Problem of the Study

The researcher would like to focus on two problems in this reseach, the following problems are:

1. What are the types of politeness strategy does the main character use to communicate with the male characters in Oka Rusmini's novel "*Earth Dance*"?
2. What are the factors that affect the main character in the novel choose different types of politeness and speak differently?

C. Objective of the Study

According to the problems of the study, the objectives are:

1. To describe the types of politeness used by the main character towards the male characters in Oka Rusmini's novel "*Earth Dance*".
2. To identify the factors that affect the main character's politeness choice towards the male characters.

D. Significance of the Study

The researcher wants that this study expected to have benefits and contribute the students of English Department and other.

1. Academic Benefits

a. For English Department Students

The researcher hopes that this study of language and gender can be valuable for English Department Students in studying discourse especially for politeness.

b. For Academic Reference

The researcher hopes that the study can enrich another study about the same topic for another researcher that wants to study about politeness in the future and hopefully it can be used as a reference for those who wants to make a research about politeness.

2. Practical Benefits

a. For the Readers

The researcher hopes that the result of this study can improve the knowledge of the readers in understanding more about politeness in social aspect.

b. For the Researchers

The researcher hopes that the result of this study about politeness can help other researchers to improve their comprehension in their research whom interested in politeness topic and the researchers may add this study as a reference for the study.

E. Scope and Limitation of The Study

There are so many points on pragmatics that can be used for a research. The scope of this study refers to politeness. Many linguists state that there are some factors that make a speech between male and female different. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), "Face is the public self-image that every member want to claim for themselves". Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (2003) pointed out the traditional social factors, meanwhile, the Chinese linguist Chen Songcen pointed out that the age variation caused the language difference. The researcher limits the discussion by foccusing to the types of politeness that the main character use in the novel. There are more than one main character on this novel, the researcher only focus on one main character called *Telaga*.

F. Definition of Key Terms

There are four terms that need to be explained in order to avoid some misunderstandings. There are main four terms to describe:

1. Gender and language

Gender and language is a part of sociolinguistic that describe about phonological differences in the speech behaviour of female and male with respect to the overall frequency of using certain phonological variants.

2. Politeness

Politeness is an expression that the speakers made that intended to mitigate face threats carried by certain face threatening acts toward the listener.

3. Novel

Novel is a kind of book that relatively long prose of narrative fiction work that has many genre. Novel usually contains a person's life story and whatever happen that corresponds to the person. A novel is not restricted by structural limitations and metrical play or poem. Novel has two elements, those are intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic consists of theme, setting, point of view, diction, characterization, and plot. Ekstrinsic consists of background creation, author's biography, history, etc.

4. Oka Rusmini

Oka Rusmini is a famous writer especially in novel, poetry, and short story. She is an Indonesian modern novelist and an active writer until now. She was born on July 11 1967 in Jakarta and now she lives in Denpasar, Bali. One of her famous work is "*Tarian Bumi*" novel.

5. Tarian Bumi or Earth Dance

"*Tarian Bumi*" is a famous Indonesian novel by Oka Rusmini. This novel became phenomenal and controversial from its open story and strike to the circumstances of a woman's life in a noble circle that still feudal. "*Tarian Bumi*" novel was seen as a rebel against culture in the context of Balinese culture. This novel has an English version called "*Earth Dance*".