

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about background of study, statements of research problems, objectives of study, significances of study, and scope and limitation. Those are important to be explained because they will describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of Study

Human is a social creature who need other human to survive. In other words human cannot live alone. That is why it is important for human to interact each other, in order to make a communication. In communication, language is an important thing. By language, people are able to deliver what is in their mind to some other people, so the other people will be able to understand.

Language also has two functions as transactional and interactional. Transactional is language serves in the expressions of content, and interactional is expressing social relations and personal attitudes (Brown and Yule, 1982:1). In the daily life, all people use language for sharing ideas, showing expressions and feelings, and interact with each other. Furthermore, with language one has been able to convey, catch, and understand the messages in the conversation.

To get a response from others, people ask something, utter words containing thought, feeling, desires or needs to each other. When people produce utterances that contain word and grammatical structure, they usually do some

actions through their utterances which are later called “speech act” (Finegan, 1992:307).

Austin (1962:98-99) specifies speech acts into giving order, making promises, complaining, requesting, and refusing among others. For example, when a speaker invites someone to go to the party, she will be persuading with polite request. Moreover, request is an act used by people in the direct or indirect conversation.

Direct request is an act of request when the speaker makes request using the performative verbs. Performative verbs are verbs where saying or writing it performs the action itself. For example : “Please help me to bring these books”. The performative verb of that sentence is ‘bring’. The speaker directly asks help to bring the books. Meanwhile, indirect request is an act of request when speaker making request from which is not related to the function. For example : “I’m really hot” the speaker is not merely giving a statement that she/he is very hot, but it contains implicit meaning if he/she wants the listener to open the window or turn on the air conditioner for her/him.

From some theories of speech act, Yule is one of them. Yule’s theory is making clear and appropriate for this study. Yule’s has divides speech act into five types of general functions, such as declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives. Directives is kind of speech act to get someone to do something, and express what the speaker wants (Yule 1996:54). Almost any speech act is the performance of several acts at once. It can be distinguished by different aspects of the speaker’s intention. One of the speech acts especially

illocutionary acts are pointed to directives. Directives is the point of which is to direct the hearer towards doing something which have a world to word directions of fit, for examples request, ask question, suggestion, apologies, and so on (Mey, 1993 in Searle, 1977:34-8).

In other words, request is called pre-event act, they express the speaker's expectation of the hearer with regards to prospective action, even verbal or non-verbal (Blum-Kulka and House, 1989:11). Requests are face-threatening act that hearer can interpret requests as intrusive impingements on freedom of action, the speakers need to be competent about in order to have a succesful result in communication even the speakers may hesitate to make the request for fear of exposing a need or risking the hearer's loss of face (Blum-Kulka and House, 1989: 11-12 in Brown and Levinson's, 1978).

Related to all of explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing sentences and utterances containing request strategies in novel entitled *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins. This novel is the New York Times Fiction Best Sellers of February 1, 2015. The genre of this novel is psychological thriller. This novel is telling about Rachel Watson who reeling from dissolution of her marriage to Tom, who left her for another woman, Anna Watson. Rachel's drinking has caused herto lose her job, she frequently binges and has blackouts. Everyday she taking a train to London, her train slowly passes her old house, which is now occupied by Tom, Anna, and Evie.

The theory uses by the writer to analyze request strategies in novel *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins is request strategies proposed by Blum-

Kulka (1989). The supporting theory that used by the writer to analyze about the request perspective of request strategies that is also proposed by Blum-Kulka (1989). Previous studies have been done by Astrinita Anantama Marchella about request strategies. But Astrinita analyzed about the similarities of request strategies used by male and female character in movie based on the types of request strategies. Meanwhile, in this analysis the writer analyze about the request prespective of request strategies based on the type in novel *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins. In other words, the writer wants to know about the request perspective of request strategies.

There are some reasons why the writer is interested in analyze request strategies in novel *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins. Fisrtly, request is easily and commonly found in daily communication. Secondly, the characters in the novel often uttered sentences that contain request strategies. For better explanation this is following example of request strategies in *The Girl On The Train* novel :

Anna : “*Come and sit with me, please?*”

Megan : “There was... it’s finished now, but there was... someone else.” (pg.18, prg.8)

Anna said “*Come and sit with me, please?*” as request to Megan, while her main point is to make a request to Megan, to sit beside her. Based on an example above, the requestor give an efforts to get hearer do something. In this case, Megan as requestee do what Anna request to him, that is sit beside her and tell his problem. According to (Blum-Kulka, 1989), the speaker chooses to make it in the

form of request which can realized by the hearer. That is why request strategies are related to directness.

Besides that, this study places request as the focus because request requires something like goods or service from addressees/requestee. On the other hand, functions like suggesting, encouraging, offering, asking for and giving information, complimenting and etc, do not disturb others or addressees's face if reffering term according to Brown and Levinson (1987). Since request imposes the requestor's wants on requestee, strategies may need to be employed in order to increase the possibility of the compliance of the request. Thus, making request is sometimes difficult. Request can be made by anyone such as children, adults, unauthorized and authorized people like president, maid, merchants, teachers, secretaries, and etc, as compared to other functions like commanding and giving permissions which seem to be probably done by only authorized people or those socially having more power. Thus, request has a wider scope in the sense of the involvement of participants.

More over, the writer is interested in analyzing the request perspective in request strategies. There must be some request perspective that influence when speaker ask the hearer to do something. The request perspective, make the request more distinct based on four perspectives that are hearer oriented, speaker oriented, speaker and hearer oriented, and impersonal.

1.2 Statements of Research Problem

Related to the description of the background of study above, there are some problems can be formulated into some research question, those are :

1. What are the types of request strategies found in novel *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins?
2. What are the request perspective of request strategies found in novel *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins?

1.3 Objectives of Study

Related to the statements of problem above, this study intended to :

1. To explain the types of request strategies found in novel *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins.
2. To explain the request perspective of request strategies found in novel *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins.

1.4 Significance of Study

The significance of this study is to enrich knowledge of language, especially for request which is common in daily communication. Generally, there are two significances of this study. They are both the significance on theory and the significance on practically. The significances of theory of this study is to give contribution on educational world about request strategies. The next researcher who interest to analyze language using the same theory, can use this study as his or her reference. The other significance is practically, by

giving better understanding about request strategies, hopefully people attend to use request strategies in daily conversation.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is pragmatics study. This study is concerned with request strategies proposed by Blum-Kulka (1989). Beside that, the writer want to analyze about the request perspective of request strategies, then the writer use theory the request perspective of request strategies which is also proposed by Blum-Kulka (1989). The limitation is, this study only concerns to focus on sentences and utterances that containing request strategies in novel *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins that uttered by all characters in the novel.