

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A.1 Background of the Research

Pragmatics is study of meaning in language within the context of communications. According to Levinson (1983), Pragmatics is the study of the relationship between language and context that provides the foundation for understanding the language which is entailed by a particular context. It concerned with the way language is used in real-life situations, focused on meaning and how it is defined by role diversity in various communication that a speaker provides for a reader or listener to understand. Moreover it is also examines how context, social factors, shared knowledge influenced the interpretation of language. Pragmatics can cover various fields, which will unveil the undiscovered within a contextual dimension. There are a several sub branches of pragmatics, including conversational analysis, speech acts, and politeness (Praktikno et al, 2016).

As one of the branches in pragmatics, politeness has important role in how communication works in our life. Politeness is concept in to how we interact by reconsidering the interlocutors, in this case how we interact by considering several things such as who the person we are talking to, the intent and also what the conditions are during interaction. Politeness is a lay person's concept, something that individuals talk about in everyday situations and have an everyday understanding of (Leech, 2014: 41). By understanding this concept, our

communications will be run well because we could reconsidering the choice of word in our speech, that later will could affect our social relation, avoid conflict, and build harmonious relationships with others in society. This concept is also influenced by several factors such as culture customs that exist in a society which will later influence our interactions.

As one of crucial element of interaction which impact on how people express their intentions, desires, and feelings verbally and nonverbally. Politeness had focus on the management of “face” that became the basis of this concept. According to Goffman, face is “the positive social value a person effectively claims for himself by the line others assume he has taken during a particular contact” Holtgraves (2013: 38). In other words it could understand as a something present during interactions. Understanding the nature of face can help us to Being polite or being friendly to the hearer and avoiding threatening other’s feelings are the methods for being polite to others. This is one of the best ways to make a good impression during conversation since it can enhance interpersonal relationships and show respect for other people's feelings. Moreover this can be done by apply politeness strategies.

Politeness strategies, as defined by academics, give a well-structured framework for appreciating the subtle dynamics of communication within interpersonal interactions. According to Wang (2010) speakers have to be able to choose various communicative strategies to build a good relationship between both interlocutors. This strategy is often used in certain situations, like in emergency

situations, unequal power relationships, and task-oriented activities. Therefore various studies on politeness have produced various definitions and theoretical frameworks from experts to investigate this topic. Then from various existing theoretical frameworks, this research will use Brown and Levinson (1987) politeness strategies as the theoretical framework that will use in this research. They proposed politeness strategies in case to minimize the face threat, in these strategies they divided them into several strategies consisting of bald on record, off record, positive politeness and negative politeness.

As we know, politeness can not only be found in our daily communication but also in other entertainment media such as movies. As we know, there are many titles and types of films that have been produced. In this case, the researcher found a film entitled *Wonder Boys*. In this movie, the main character is seen that when he delivers the intention in social interaction, he seems aware of the condition of his interlocutor. In addition, in this movie, the main character experiences various events, especially in the context of interacting that affect how the speaker communicates and also reacts to his interlocutor and also in this case the phenomenon of politeness is appeared and the researcher here is interested to analyze aspects of politeness especially in how the main character interacts or communicates with others.

There are few studies focus on the analysis of politeness strategies in various movies, each exploring how characters use language to navigate social interactions. Yolanda, Udayana, and Mulyana (2022) examined the use of negative politeness

strategies in the movie "Charlie's Angels" (2019) using Brown and Levinson's framework. They found that all sub-strategies of negative politeness were employed, depending on the characters' goals and the context of the situation. Similarly, Pardede and Pratiwi (2019) analyzed politeness principles in "Big Hero 6," identifying six different maxims of politeness, with Tact maxim being the most prevalent. This study also highlighted how the characters' care and closeness influenced their speech.

Other studies further explored different aspects of politeness strategies in films. Putri and Fitrawati (2022) identified the four types of politeness strategies in the movie "Yes Day" (2021), finding that bald on-record was the most frequently used strategy. Utami (2019) also observed a high frequency of bald on-record strategies in "The Dead Poets Society" (1989), along with frequent flouting of the maxim of manner, indicating power dynamics and conflict avoidance. Last one, Rizqy and Ardi (2020) analyzed directive expressions in "Inglorious Basterds," finding that bald on-record strategies were most common, and they explored how these were translated into Indonesian subtitles. Across these studies, politeness strategies were shown to play a crucial role in character interactions and narrative development.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in writing research on Politeness Analysis using Brown and Levinson's theory on "*Wonder Boys*". The reasons why researcher is interested using movie and politeness analysis are because the this movie is one of best movies acted by Michael Douglas and

nominated in BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Art) and the conflicts possessed by the main character make some politeness expressions. The data were analyzed using Brown and Levinson's strategies namely bald of record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. The research title is "Politeness Strategies of The Main Character in *Wonder Boys* Movie.

A.2 Problem of the Research

1. What are the types of politeness strategies applied by the main character in *Wonder Boys* movie?
2. What are the factors that influence the main character to employ politeness strategies?

A.3 Objective of the Research

1. To find out the types of politeness strategies applied by the main character in *Wonder Boys* movie.
2. To explain the factors that influence the use of politeness strategies employed by the main character.

A.4 Significance of the Research

This study aims to determine a wide range of politeness strategies that are depicted in movies in which can be references in real life. By doing this, it hopes to provide useful data and resources for linguistics students, especially those who are just begin their studies and want to improve their comprehension of politeness. The aim of this study is to create a resource that will be stocked with information and

illustrative examples in the future, making it a helpful resource for people who want to learn more about the intricacies of politeness.

A.5 Limitation of the Research

Based on the data analysis, this research is limiting in analyzing the main character. The data of the research were analyzed to find out politeness strategies using Brown and Levinson (1987) politeness strategy theory. This research looked out for the politeness strategies that exist in the interactions between the main character and other characters in the *Wonder Boys* (2000) movie.

A.6 Definition of Key Terms

A.6.1 Politeness

According to Yule (1996) politeness defines as showing awareness with another person's face. It refers to how the speaker can show polite utterance to the listeners in order not to get imposed by the listeners. By using politeness, the speaker can build good relationships and social interaction with others.

A.6.2 Politeness Strategy

Brown & Levinson (1987) Politeness strategy is a strategy use by a speaker to reduce the impact of a statement in the context of conveying a desire or intention that tends to attack the face or self-image of the listener or speaker in order to sound more polite.

A.6.3 Wonder Boys

Wonder Boys is a comedy-drama film directed by Curtis Hanson and written by Steve Kloves. It is based on the 1995 novel of the same name by Michael Chabon. This film tells the story of the life problems faced by Grady Tripp played by Michael Douglas, a novelist who teaches creative writing at a university but has been unable to finish his second novel. This was followed by an accident that happened to him and one of his students namely James Leer played by Tobey Maguire.

A.6.4 Movie

Movies is a form of visual storytelling and entertainment that typically consists of a series of moving images, often accompanied by sound, presented on a screen to create the illusion of continuous motion. It is a significant medium of artistic expression, conveying narratives, emotions, ideas, and messages to an audience.