

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

A request is one of the functions of speech acts, we perform speech acts when we offer a request, apology, invitation, greeting etc. A Speech act is an utterance that serves a function in communication. speech acts of request are one of the speech acts that attract many people in pragmatic studies. According to Trosborg (1995:187) say that request is “an illocutionary act whereby a speaker (requester) conveys to a hearer (requestee) that he/she wants the requestee to perform an act which is for the benefit of the speaker”. Request are produced for various reasons in daily interactions, such as asking for information, obtaining action, or to seek support from others. We as human beings need other people to help us, the example is English, as a foreign language (EFL) student in Islamic Boarding School frequently request or asks their friends for something. Sometimes, EFL students often make an error when they produce a request.

English as a foreign language (EFL) student is students whose first language is not English. They learn English while living in their country. For example, Indonesian people learn English in Indonesia, and we can say that Santri is an example of an EFL student. Students who study in islamic boarding schools are usually called Santri. They are studying and also living in the dormitory. In the dormitory, santri not only learns about compulsory subjects, but also language programs / language week ( English and Arabic) that help their ability to improve their English/Arabic ability. These language programs are a purpose to prepare the santri to master English/ Arabic ability for speaking. A Language program is used to create an English/ Arabic language community in Pesantren Cahaya Islam in order to allow

all of the santri to create an environment that speak English/Arabic, so the students do not feel shy to speak.

An English program at Pesantren Cahaya Islam is expected to improve student's interest in English. This program was held right after school until magrib prayer every day. Every student had to use English during this time. If there is a student who did not follow this program, they will get the punishment after isya prayer, such as push up, run and etc. This program is obtained for all of the student whether Junior High School or Senior High School, santri (male students) or santriwati (female students).

During this program, especially in the speaking English zone, all of the students use English in their conversation, requesting that many things frequently happen in their conversation. Sometimes they make mistakes in making a request or there is an error in using the request. They do not yet have the ability to use words properly when making a request because they are still in the learning process. For example, one student made an error in making a request:

Context : A student asked his friend to lend him a dictionary)

Actual utterance : Can I lend your dictionary?

Corrected Utterance : Can I borrow your dictionary?

The choice of words, in this case between 'lend' and 'borrow' is the problem in the example. Both have different meanings: when you give something, you lend it; when you want to get or receive something, you borrow it.

Such an example represents how students at Cahaya Islam Islamic Boarding School make errors in request in English.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

This research focused on speech acts of request, especially errors in using requests acquired by students of Cahaya Islam Islamic Boarding School. In this research, the writer intends to address the single research question: what types of error in using requests used by the EFL learners/ students in the Cahaya Islam Islamic Boarding School?

## **1.3 Objective of the Research**

Based on the research question above, the aim of the research is to describe the types of errors in using requests used by the EFL learners/ students in Cahaya Islam Islamic boarding school.

## **1.4 Scope of the Research**

This research is pragmatics and focuses on speech acts, especially speech acts of request. The analysis focuses on what types of errors in using request by the EFL learners/ students grade ten and eleven in Cahaya Islam islamic boarding school.

## **1.5 Methods of the Research**

### **1.5.1 Participants**

The participants of this research consisted of thirty-four students, from grade 10th and 11th of the Senior High School in Cahaya Islam Islamic Boarding School. Twenty-six of them are female students and the rest are male students (8 students). The reason why researcher choose the students from grade 10th and 11th ( senior high school ) is because they are expected to have more experience than the students from grade 7-9th ( junior high school ). Therefore, they are expected to use or make a request in their conversation , and sometimes they make mistakes/ errors when they produce a request.

Cahaya Islam Islamic boarding school was chosen as a place for researcher to do this research and the students as the participants or respondents in this research, because in this school they usually practice English every day as they have language programs, so they are expected to have more ability to speak English or make a conversation in English.

### **1.5.2 Data Collection procedure**

The data for this research was collected using a discourse completion test or DCT questionnaire. In this research, there are eight questionnaires (request situations). Researcher asked the students to make responses according to the situations. Then the researcher analyzes the error from the responses.

**Please make a response according to the situation of requests below! (choose 5 of 8 situations).**

**Situation One:** You want your younger sister to tell your parents that you want to go to your friend's house this afternoon. Because your parents are not at home, you ask her to tell them when they go back home. What would you say to her?

**Situation Two:** You want your classmate whom you know very well to accompany you to submit your report book to the teacher. What would you say to him/her?

**Situation Three:** You ask your father to fix your bike when he is reading a newspaper in the living room. What would you say to him?

**Situation Four:** You are the chairperson of the Student Council (OSIS). You ask your junior as a students' activity section to prepare an attendance list and agenda in the reorganization of the Student Council. What would you say?

**Situation Five:** You want your schoolmate to give you a lift to the hospital. You want to visit a sick classmate in the hospital. What would you say?

**Situation Six:** Your teacher has explained the lesson twice but you still do not understand it very well. You ask your teacher to explain it once again. What would you say to your teacher?

**Situation Seven:** You are a committee of the Student Orientation activity in your school. One of the freshmen came late in the first session of the Student Orientation Program. You ask him/her to get a permission form from the counseling office for being late. What would you say to him/her?

**Situation Eight:** You attend an English reading competition and you do not know how to fill in the registration form provided by the committee of the competition because you come late and you miss the explanation from the committee. You ask one of the participants next to you who is also filling in the same form to help you. What would you say to him/her?

The researcher also makes 10 request scenarios and asks the students to make a short dialogue in pairs based on the scenarios. From the short dialogue, the researcher will try to find out the errors that happen in making requests. Here are 10 request scenarios:

1. To borrow something
2. To speak louder or to slow down your voice
3. To open the window/ door
4. To give the directions
5. To postpone something
6. To turn on/off the light
7. To buy something
8. To accompany you to go somewhere
9. To ask an opinion about something
10. To move away from the door

The data was collected by answering the questionnaire and making short dialogues, then the result would be analyzed. Analyzing is done by identifying, describing the errors, and classifying the errors based on the types. Some theoretical frameworks are used to analyze the types of error.

