

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Communication is an important thing in human life because it helps them to understand each other. In conversation, people need a language that allows them to convey their wants because language is a tool in communication. People frequently produce an utterance when having a conversation. When people produce an utterance, they take a look at the situation and who are their interlocutors. If they know with whom and in what condition they are going to talk, they will use the proper language that they have to say when having communication. The communication could be in the form of request, command, question, and give some information. It is according to the intention of the speaker. This research is only focused on one speech act, which is the speech act of requests.

A request is a kind of speech act that produced when having communication. The way people make a request are different according to their interlocutor and the situation. People were delivered an utterance related to power, social distance, and size of impositions of their interlocutor. Sometimes they do not realize that they use those things, then they produce an utterance unconsciously. If they take a look at those factors and deliver an utterance according to those things, they can create a polite utterance. That is because they already know what the proper language that they have to use when having the interaction with the different

interlocutor and the different situation. That means the power, social distance, and size of impositions were give significant influences for the speaker to choose the style of language.

For example, in an episode of Ellen Show, the guest stars are SuperM. SuperM is a Korean boyband. They have a popular song which the title is “Jopping”. In Ellen Show, Ellen asks them, “So, you have to tell me what jopping means.” In that situation, Ellen asks them about their popular song. Then, they answer, “we can actually demonstrate.” In that condition, Ellen is older than the member of SuperM. She also has power in that talk show because she is a host. In requesting, Ellen uses direct request when requesting to SuperM. In that condition, Ellen uttered a polite request because she is a host in that talk show and it makes her power is bigger than SuperM. Then, she also tries to make no distance between them. That is why Ellen’s request is polite.

Request may be an important thing to learn and acquired by someone. That is why this research focuses on how English department students of Andalas University make a request, especially the year of study 2016. English department students are the students that learn English as a foreign language. As an English department student, they are expected to know better about English than other students at the university. It also includes how to make and use requests in English properly. In the process of learning, sometimes junior students of the English department make mistakes and sometimes not. That is because they are still learning and in the process of acquiring English as their foreign language.

Therefore, this research shows how English department students make a request and their competence to use request strategies according to the social variables.

1.2 Research Questions

This research focuses on the speech act of request acquired by junior students of the English department of Andalas University. In this research, the writer tries to find some aspects, they are:

1. What are the forms of requests as acquired by Third-year students of English department of Andalas University in 2019?
2. What are the request strategies as acquired by Third-year students of English department of Andalas University in relation to social variables in 2019?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the research questions above, there are some aims of this research. The aims of this research are:

1. To find out the forms of requests as acquired and frequently used by third-year students of English department of Andalas University.
2. To identify the request strategies as acquired by third-year students of English department of Andalas University in relation to social variables.

1.4 Scope of the Research

This research is pragmatics research and focuses on speech act, especially the speech act of request. The analysis focuses on what are the forms and the strategy that acquired and frequently used by junior students of English department of Andalas University (the year of study 2016). Then, the request strategies related to

the social variables that were used by the participants were analyzed in this research.

1.5 Methods of the Research

1.5.1 Participants

The participants are 45 from 80 junior students of English department of Andalas University and it comprises ten male and 35 female students. The participants were asked about their willingness first before they filled in the questionnaires. The students that want to fill in the questionnaires are 45 students. That is why the total number of participants for this research are 45 participants. The data were collected when the participants were seated in the third year.

English department students were chosen as the respondents in this research because they learn English more and deeply than other students in the university. The specific participants in this research are the third-year students of the English department of Andalas University in 2019. The reason why the junior students of English department of Andalas University chosen as the participants in this research are because they are in the middle of the stage of learning and acquiring English in the department. Therefore, they are expected to understand English well and know how to use it in a different situation and different interlocutors.

The junior students were chosen as the respondents for this research, that is because the writer wants to see how their competence in making a request because request is commonly used in their daily conversation. They still pay attention to the rules that they use, or they do not pay attention to those rules. In the process of learning and acquiring, sometimes they make mistakes and sometimes not. It

includes when they use and produce requests in different situations and interlocutors.

1.5.2 Data Elicitation Instrument

The data of this research were collected by using a discourse completion test or DCT. In DCT forms, the writer arranges the situation according to the social variables. It is related to the respondent's college situation, such as a request to the junior, to friends, to the senior, and to the lecturer.

In order to make sure that the DCT questionnaires were appropriate to spread to the English Department students 2016, it was tested first. Firstly, the DCT questionnaires were written in English. After it was tested to three non-participants from English department students 2015, there are some situations that are not understandable enough and make the response was not as expected. Then, the DCT questionnaires were changed to Bahasa Indonesia. After trying out the questionnaires to one student of English department 2015 and one student of Biology international department 2015 by using oral DCT, the writer finds out it presented a better result. The table below shows the social variables scheme of DCT forms or situations according to the social variables.

Table 1. The social variables scheme of DCT forms.

No.	Situation	Power	Distance	Imposition
1.	Requesting your friend that lives in the same dorm and room (your roommate) to accompany you to go to the hospital to visit your cousin.	=	-	-
2.	Requesting for borrowing a motorcycle from your junior that has a close relationship to you.	-	-	+
3.	Requesting to your junior that have the same class but she does not close with	-	+	+

	you to borrow his phone to make a call to your phone because your phone is lost.			
4.	Requesting to turn on the fan to your junior that has not close relationship to you.	-	+	-
5.	Requesting the extension of time to collect a paper as a replacement for an examination to your lecturer.	+	+	+
6.	Requesting your academic supervisor to send you a new form of a study plan.	+	+	-
7.	Requesting to your senior that has a close relationship with you to copy some movies that you are interested in her laptop.	+	-	-
8.	Requesting to coming late to a meeting to the chairperson of an event that you belong to which you have a close relationship with her/him.	+	-	+
9.	Requesting for borrowing a dictionary from your close friend.	=	-	-
10.	Requesting for borrowing your close friend's money because your parents have not sent you the money yet.	=	-	+
11.	Requesting your friend that has not a close relationship with you to send your picture from his phone to your phone.	=	+	-
12.	Requesting a friend of yours in an event that has not close relationship with you to borrowing wireless from an organization because it will be needed in that event.	=	+	+

The tables above depict that if power (=) is when the speaker and the hearer have the same power. For instance, the conversation between friends. If power (high +) is when the speaker has lower power than the hearer. For example between an employee and a boss, between a mother and a daughter. If power (-) is when the speaker has higher power than the hearer, for example, a speaker is a senior and the hearer is a junior. If the distance (-), that means there is no social distance between the speaker and hearer. For instance, between a close friend. If

the distance (+) means there is social distance between the hearer and the speaker. For example, the conversation is between a lecture and a student. If the rank of a degree of impositions is (+) means when the request has a big cost to the hearer. That can be time, money, etc. For example, if someone wants to borrow her/his friend's car. That means the request has a high degree of imposition. If the speaker has a low degree of impositions, such as borrowing a pen, the symbol is (-).

1.5.3 Data Collection Procedure

Before the data collection began, the instrument or DCT questionnaires were arranged in one file. Then, the participants (third-year students of English department of Andalas University) were invited to join the research and asked about their willingness. Then, if they say that they can and want to fill in the questionnaires, the DCT forms were distributed to them. The data were taken during final examination days. The writer meets the participants after they have a final examination in class and it takes one week to collect the data.

The writer gets the data from 45 from 80 third-year students of English department of Andalas University in 2019. That is because of their willingness and their ability to fill in the questionnaires. After the questionnaires were filled in, it was returned to the writer. Then, the data were scanned.

1.5.4 Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the data, the forms of request were identified by Trosborg's theory and it helps by Blum-Kulka and Olshtain theory. The forms of request were identified and grouped into direct and indirect forms and internal and

external modifications of the forms. Then, the writer calculates it based on the situation. After classifying the forms of request, the strategies that the students use according to the forms were classified in this research. Then, the strategies that have collected were related to social variables. The writer uses Trosborg (1995) and relates it to Brown and Levinson's (1987) theory to know what are the social variables that affect them to use the strategy.

The writer classified all of the data according to the theory. Then, the result of the research were counted and put in the analysis based on in what situation that the strategy frequently used. Then, the pattern of request related to internal and external modification were also counted and the writer made the recapitulation of the data based on the higher power, far distance, and high of imposition. Then, five patterns that were frequently produced by the participants were chosen by the writer to be explained in the analysis.

1.5.5 Presenting the Result of Analysis

After analyzing the data, the result of the analysis were presented according to the theory. The results of the research were presented in the tables to make it clear. In the tables, the data consist of the forms of request (internal and external modifications) and the request strategy. Then, the explanation based on the research question and the analysis of the data were made by the writer.