

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about Background of the Research, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Research, Scope and Limitation of the Research, Significant of the Research and Definition of Key Term.

1.1 Background of the Research

Language has important role in social life, people can interact with others by using the appropriate language. They can express what they mean and deliver it to the interlocutor or addressee. Gumperz argues in Wardhaugh (2006:11) that “sociolinguistics is an attempt to find correlations between social structure and linguistic structure and to observe any changes that occur”. Concerning with sociolinguistics Spolsky (2010: 3) also stated that sociolinguistics is study of the relation between language and society, between language use and social structures which language users live in. from those theories, Language can develop based on the society and social structure. It means society as language user have to consider and produce the appropriate language whom they are talking with. Since, language has different norms in different places. People can create the norms they live while others have another ways to make it.

Despite the language has many norms in different places, it still has the same function on how to communicate and interact with interlocutor or addressee with the appropriate language. People can raise the addressee and lower themselves with the language use based on sociolinguistic aspect in social life in order to

achieve the goal of conversation. The sociolinguistic aspect can be called sociological variable in influencing someone to produce the appropriate language. According to Brown and Levinson (1987: 74) there are three sociological variables in politeness strategy. They are:

1. the 'social distance' (D) of S and H (a symmetric relation)
2. the relative 'power' (P) of S and H (an asymmetric relation)
3. the absolute 'ranking' (R) of impositions in the particular culture.

From those sociolinguistic aspects, every society has different level in social life. The first is social distance which means both speaker and addressee (listener) have known each other (symmetric relation). The second is power where the speaker might have powerful or powerless toward addressee (asymmetric relation). The last is ranking of imposition. It means the speaker needs something to the addressee (listener) with his/her request. Thereby, all of those sociolinguistic aspects can be used in communication based on the social life they face.

By recognizing within social distinction, power and ranking of imposition, those can be applied to society who want to use politeness in social interaction. Since society are as the user of language, they must be able to filter the utterances on how to speak and inform to addressee with proper word in order to obtain the aim of their communication. Based on Watts (2003: 9) he stated that,

“Politeness is not something we are born with, but something we have to learn and be socialized into, and no generation has been short of teachers and handbooks on etiquette and ‘correct behavior’ to help us acquire polite skill”.

From the statement above, people have to learn and socialize with others to recognize language regulation. With politeness, they can avoid the conflict and will not hurt someone else. Therefore, the appropriate language can be used by them when they have measured the social aspect within the addressee.

According to Brown and Levinson in Meyerhoff (2006:85) stated that Politeness has two kinds. They are Negative Face “*their actions be unimpeded by others*” and Positive Face “*their wants be desirable to at least some others*”. It means people must look at the face of addressee. Face means to avoid being embarrassed, humiliated and losing face of addressee or listener. Based on the statements above, people can choose the politeness based on their social aspect. They can use positive politeness with face-threatening act (FTA) regarding with the listener’s positive face or they use negative politeness with face-saving act (FSA) regarding the listener’s negative face. Furthermore, they have to opt the language strategy in their communication to save the addressee’s face.

In this research, the researcher takes Anton Chekhov’s a one-act play because he is one of the most famous authors in Russia, born June 17th, 1860, especially in his one-act plays that are considered as apotheosis which means many people admire his one-act play. So, the researcher uses the one-act play from Anton Chekhov entitled The Proposal. Since, the politeness process can be found in this play which is conducted by Lomov toward Chubukov and Natalia. It was released in Russia in 1916. There are three characters in this one-act play; Stepan Stepanovitch Chubukov is as landowner who is fifty five years old, Natalia Stepanovna is as his daughter who is 25 years old, the rest is Ivan Vassiliyitch Lomov as landowner. He is a Chubukov’s neighbor and is thirty five years old. In this play, Chubukov’s family and Lomov’s family were disharmonious neighbors in long time. Lomov wanted to win Chubukov’s family when he had major intention to propose Chubukov’s daughter, so he tries to employ positive politeness to get his aim, while he also uses negative politeness when the topic changes. The

aspects he faces in changing politeness are caused by social distance, power and ranking of imposition.

Up to now, the politeness strategy also can be used by people who want to interact each other. People can measure their social aspects (social distance, power and ranking of imposition) to recognize whom they are talking with and what topic they want to communicate, so they would not impose the addressee.

In this research, the researcher focuses on sociolinguistic aspects of Lomov's politeness as the main character in Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal*. It means both Chubukov's and Natalia's politeness are not be analyzed in this research. By these cases, the researcher entitles this research as "Sociolinguistic Aspects of Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov's Politeness Strategy in Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal*"

1.2 Statement of The Problem

- 1.2.1 What are the sociolinguistic aspects of Lomov's politeness strategies in Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal*?
- 1.2.2 How does Lomov implement the politeness strategy?
- 1.2.3 Why does Lomov choose the politeness strategy?

1.3 Purpose of The Research

The purposes of the researcher are:

- 1.3.1 To interpret the sociolinguistic aspects of Lomov's politeness strategies in Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal*
- 1.3.2 To describe how Lomov implements the politeness strategy
- 1.3.3 To find out the reason why Lomov chooses the politeness strategy

1.4 Significance of The Research

The researcher hopes his research can give the reference to other student in English Department, especially in linguistic. So, this research will be useful for some cases:

- 1.4.1 From the point of view of sociolinguistics, this research is expected to classify the sociolinguistic aspects that involves social distance, power and ranking of imposition by stating good utterance which is mostly used by people to obtain their aims regarding with politeness strategy.
- 1.4.2 From point of view of reader:
 - The result of the research can possibly occur to the society who has different social distance, ranking of imposition and power in social life.
 - The result of the study would be beneficial for the reader on how to communicate with other people whether direct or indirect message
- 1.4.3 From point of view of the writer, this research encourages him to know deeply and applies sociolinguistic aspects within politeness.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Research

This research is limited to analyze the sociolinguistic aspect in politeness by Lomov as the main character in Anton Chekhov's a one-act play entitled The Proposal. The scope in this research is sociolinguistic and discourse.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1.6.1 The Sociolinguistic

Language and society has important role in sociolinguistics. By language, people can differ it through social context which is acquired some levels in social life. According to Holmes (2013: 1),

“Sociolinguists study the relationship between language and society. They are interested in explaining why we speak differently in different social contexts, and they are concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning”

It deals with Ball’s statement (2005: 63)

“Human beings constantly interact with one another and these interactions involve not only the ways we construct our communicative interactions but also how these constructions correlate with “underlying” social forces such as power and solidarity”

1.6.2 The sociolinguistic aspect of Politeness

There are three aspects in politeness strategy. According to Brown and Levinson the factors to be polite can be assessed by social distance, power and rating of imposition.

“(i) the ‘social distance’ (D) of S and H (a symmetric relation)”
 “(ii) the relative ‘power’ (P) of S and H (an asymmetric relation)”
 “(iii) the absolute ranking (R) of the impositions in the particular culture”
 (1987:74)

1.6.3 Politeness

Politeness is the way how people interact using the appropriate language, behavior, and action. And it is generally concerned with looking at politeness as the way that language allows people to interact with the social world. Wardhaugh (2006:276) stated “Politeness itself is socially prescribed”. It means every place has a norm which may be different with others. So, politeness is needed to respect other people who have different norms.

The face they threaten to addressee has two types, positive and negative. Brown and Levinson (1987:101) say “Positive politeness is redress directed to the addressee’s positive face, his perennial desire that his wants (or the actions/acquisition/values resulting from them) should be thought of as desirable”.

In other hands, Brown and Levinson (*ibid*: 129) state that “Negative politeness is redressive action addressed to the addressee’s negative face: his face to have his freedom of action unhindered and his attention unimpeded”. Positive and Negative politeness have many strategies explained by Brown and Levinson.

1.6.4 Face-Threatening Act and Face-Saving Act

According to Yule (1996:61) face wants have two categories. First is face-threatening act (FTA). It means “a speaker says something that represents a threat to another individual’s expectations regarding self-image”. The second is face-saving act (FSA) “the speaker can say something to lessen the possible threat”. By FTA or FSA, speaker can employ

To identify the face wants, it can be indeed indicated the way speaker imposes to the listener within the politeness. The speaker will give tremendous impact in main purpose if s/he threats the face to the listener. Related with face, Brown and Levinson in Watts (2003:86) “Brown and Levinson assume that every individual has two types of face, positive and negative”. It means that knowing positive face and negative face from the listener have important role in producing appropriate language.