

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In daily life, we communicate with other people. We are social creatures unable to live alone. We need other people to interact with us. We cannot live to our heart's content because we will make others angry and uncomfortable when we express our intentions impolitely. We simply need other people to help us and vice versa. In order to interact with, to communicate with others, to ask people to help us, to show our interest, we are led to apply politeness. Without politeness, it will not be easy for us to ask others to lend us a hand.

One of the experts in pragmatics, Robin Lakoff, suggests that people should apply politeness while having an interaction with others and the reason why she suggests the use of politeness is to ensure the interaction run smoothly.

Even a famous novelist, Anne Holm, in her novel *I Am David*, states that "Politeness is something you owe other people, because when you show a little courtesy, everything becomes easier and better. But first and foremost, it's

something you owe yourself” (Holm 121). These are examples why we have to be polite and understand the important rules of communicating with others.

We sometimes find problems where the hearers get angry with the speakers because the speakers speak without paying attention to the politeness or the important rules in communicating with others. For example, there is a boy and a girl. Although they are not socially close to each other, they have the same status as students. When the boy asks the girl to lend him her book and says, “Give me that!” the girl will be angry because the girl thinks that the boy has threatened her face. The boy should not have uttered that sentence because such an utterance only fits for a person who has power over another or only if they have a close relationship. This case shows us how people often threaten others’ face. Thus in pragmatics, this term is well defined as politeness.

Sometimes politeness is miscalculated. The miscalculations of the politeness strategies are known as Face Threatening Act or can be simplified as FTA (Thomas 169). Since many cases show that people often threaten others’ face, I would like to analyze further about politeness strategies used in conversations and the miscalculation of politeness strategies that lead to the occurrences of tense atmosphere. From the example that has been shown before, it can clearly be seen that people who do not apply the politeness strategies in conversing with others will make others have his/her face threatened.

The opposite will happen when people apply the politeness strategies in conversing with others. Their conversation partners will be pleased and will not have any reasons for having their face threatened. These are the reasons why we really need to be polite in conversing, especially with strangers who are socially

distant from us. These facts make me interested and I would like to take this topic to be analyzed in my thesis.

From my explanation above, I can say that the significance of my thesis is that people who read this thesis will be more aware of and realize the importance of being polite in having conversation with others, so that they can make others pleased while revealing their intentions.

The corpus of my data to be analyzed in this thesis comes from the TV series titled NYC 22. NYC 22 is an action movie which consists of one season only and includes thirteen episodes. NYC 22 is a drama series which involves new six diverse New York police officers. There are a number of tense atmosphere that lead to the occurrence of the conflict found in this movie.

In the TV series, there are a lot of miscalculations of the politeness strategies which can be seen when the characters say harsh words to others, treat others harshly due to others' being impolite and so on. I choose to analyze this movie because I think there are many conversations in which conflicts happen due to the miscalculation of the politeness strategies between one person and another. Moreover, the characters have distant relationship between one another because they are new police officers and are placed together in guarding a place, solving problems, and the like. This is why they have to communicate and interact with their partners. However, despite the fact that they are strangers, they sometimes miscalculate the politeness strategy they should apply. Because of their miscalculation of politeness strategies, others feel displeased and angry.

In my thesis, I would like to specify my analysis only on the occurrence of the conflict which occurs due to the miscalculation of the politeness strategies in

conversing with others. Therefore, my thesis topic is “The Occurrence of Conflict Due To the Miscalculation of the Weightiness of the FTA in NYC 22”.

My topic belongs to Pragmatics. Pragmatics is meaning in interaction. What is meant by interaction here is our interaction with others, by simply having conversations with other people. Pragmatics has many areas of interest such as the study of meaning in context, the study of speaker’s meaning and the study of implicatures. As for the detail, pragmatics as the study of speaker’s meaning means utterances produced by the speaker, thus the utterances interpreted by the hearer of the message (Thomas, 1948).

The specific theories I use in analyzing NYC 22 movie are politeness strategies and the management of face. Jenny Thomas in her book *Meaning in Interaction: an Introduction to Pragmatics* asserts that politeness means that a speaker shows awareness of another person’s face and tries to avoid and dismiss the damage of threatening the hearer’s face. Face itself is defined as the public self-image of a person.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

1. What is the speech event?
2. How does the miscalculation of the FTA happen in the scene?
3. How does the miscalculation of the FTA make the conflict occur in the scene?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

1. To know the speech event.

2. To know how miscalculation of the FTA happens in the scene.
3. To know how the miscalculation of the FTA makes the conflict occurred in the scene.

1.4 Methods of Research

The source of data to analyze in my thesis is from the movie series titled NYC 22. First, I went to the DVD station which sells many kind of movies. I chose some films with different genres such as horror, war, politics, drama and so on. Then, I picked NYC 22 TV series. I watched NYC 22 and noted down conversations that contain miscalculating the politeness strategies that resulted in conflict. Afterwards, I looked for the theories from the internet and books concerned with politeness and the weightiness of the FTA. Lastly, I wrote the report and the analysis of my thesis about the politeness strategies in NYC 22 TV series.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the theories used in analyzing the data. Chapter Three contains the discussion and the analysis of the occurrence of conflict due to the miscalculation of the weightiness of the FTA in NYC 22. Chapter Four contains the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and Appendices.