CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is the thing that people use with one another to exchange ideas or information. According to Hornby (2015), communication is "the activity or process of expressing ideas and feelings or of giving people information" (p. 303). In other words, communication is the way to make an interaction with other people both verbally and non-verbally. In order that communication can run smoothly, people should be aware of their politeness. Moreover, when people communicate with others, politeness is inseparable.

According to Hornby (2015), politeness is "having or showing good manners and respect for the feelings of others" (p. 1186). Highlighting the word "respect", *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* states that people should respect other people in order to avoid something they do not want to happen. In linguistics field, there is a discussion about politeness, specifically in pragmatics. According to George Yule (1996), pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener

(or reader). In short, Yule said that pragmatics is the study of speaker's meaning. Different from politeness in general, politeness in pragmatics is concerned with the ways people apply certain strategies in their conversations.

In pragmatics area, politeness is studied by two pragmatists named Brown and Levinson. According to them (Brown & Levinson, 1987), politeness is an attempt to communicate in such a fashion that does not threaten other people's face or to avoid Face Threatening Act (FTA). They state that politeness in pragmatics is concerned with the act of saving other people's face or Face Saving Act (FSA), which is measured from the weightiness of three elements. Those are: Rate of Imposition, Distance, and Power (RDP). Rate of Imposition deals with the rate of interrupting other people's independence. Distance has something to do with the level of closeness that a person has to others. As for power, it relates to the level of power that one has over the others (pp. 76-77).

I will give an example of politeness in general and politeness in pragmatics. In general, in Bahasa Indonesia if I call my lecturer with "*saya*" and "*anda*", it can be said that I do the FSA. The two terms are formal address terms used for people who are not close. However, if I use "*gua*" and "*elu*" to my lecturer it can be said that I do the FTA. It is because the two terms should be used as address terms for close friends. In pragmatics, if I use "*gua*" and "*elu*" to my close friends, it means that I do the FSA. On the other hand, if I want to do the FTA, I can call my friend "*saya*" and "*anda*", which may indicate there is something wrong between me and my friend as I create a distance with him or her.

2

The three elements, R, D, and P should be first measured, before applying politeness strategy this will be explained further in Chapter Two. Should the type of politeness strategy be appropriately applied, it will maintain a good relationship between those participating in a conversation. However, the principles of politeness strategy can be miscalculated in practice. This results in tensions or even increasing them.

This sort of situation is the element that I discuss in my thesis. To be more specific, I will explain the miscalculation of the politeness strategy applied by the characters in the TV series entitled *Game of Thrones* Season 3. The TV series tell about the Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms that is contested by every kingdom. Sometimes some kingdoms make an alliance to strengthen their power to claim the Iron Throne. The dominant character in this season is Tyrion. Tyrion is the one who always exists in every episode in Season 3 and he has an important part in this TV series. Besides the Iron Throne, the TV series also tells the story about protecting the realm from the ancient threats of legendary creatures from the far north, known as White Walkers.

I find the particular TV series appropriate to analyze in terms of politeness strategies because of its setting of time and place which is in the past and in a kingdom. A kingdom consists of people who are powerful, and also powerless. Tense situations can occur or be made worse when the people involved in the conversation misread the rate of imposition, distance and power that may lead to the application of wrong politeness strategies. Tensions between the kings, the queens, the sons of Kings or even the subordinates are inevitable in the series.

3

They can become even stronger due to the wrong application of politeness strategies. That is why the title of my thesis is 'The Enhancement of the Tense Atmosphere due to the Miscalculation of the Politeness Strategies in Game of Thrones Season 3.' I am choosing Season 3 to continue a previous thesis that has discussed *Game of Thrones* Seasons 1 and 2. Moreover, I want to analyze politeness strategy to help people understand more about politeness in pragmatics.

As for the significance of my study, this thesis can make people aware of the fact that we can learn politeness strategy. Furthermore, it is expected that after reading the thesis, readers can avoid having tension with others or worsening the already-existing tension simply because of miscalculating appropriate politeness strategies in certain situations.

<div align="right">(Total words: 889)</div>

1.2 Statement of the Problem

What I would like to do in the study is formulated in the following questions:

1. What are the types of politeness strategy used by the characters in *Game of Thrones* Season 3?

2. How does the application of the politeness strategy enhance the tense atmosphere in *Game of Thrones* Season 3?

4

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purposes of the study are:

1. to find out the type of the politeness strategy used by the characters in *Game of Thrones* Season 3.

2. to figure out the way the politeness strategy applied enhances the tension in *Game of Thrones* Season 3.

1.4 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter One is Introduction, consisting of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is Literature Review, which presents the theory used and applied in the thesis. Chapter Three is Methods of Research, which consists of Research Design, Data Collection Technique, Framework for Analysis, Data Analysis. Chapter Four presents my analysis of politeness strategies from the TV series: *Game of Thrones* Season 3. The last chapter, Chapter Five, is the Conclusion. Last, I present References and Appendices.