

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

In our daily life, we converse with people around us. Commonly, we produce more than one utterance within our conversation. Furthermore, our utterance may indicate more than one meaning, which depends on the context and situation of our utterance.

In our conversation, sometimes people cannot express their intention or utter what they want to directly. Thus, we have to have more awareness of interpreting people's intention within their utterances. This is the thing that I would like to discuss in my thesis. In my thesis, I hope to be able to understand more of what someone intends to say indirectly within his or her utterance. I find it important to know what actually someone intends to say through his or her utterances, especially the things which are not said directly. In other words, we must be more critical in interpreting one's intention within his or her utterances. If we do not understand one's utterances properly, it may lead to the occurrence of misunderstanding, disappointment or even humor.

The idea of choosing this particular topic for my thesis arises from the fact that there are a lot of people around us that always say something indirectly which, in linguistics, is termed as *say something off record*, within their daily conversation. In particular, *say something off record* is a type of statement which is said indirectly to the other (Yule, 2000:63). One often adopts *say something off record* to reveal one's intention when one is speaking to one's family and friends. Very often, one's utterances imply another meaning. For example, when one wants to praise the other, one rarely does it directly. Sometimes, one also asks something indirectly. For instance, one utters, "I went to *Kota Bunga* at *Puncak* and saw a beautiful Chinese bowl yesterday. I wanted to buy that bowl, but there was not enough time." On hearing the particular sentence, we are likely to interpret that the speaker is only telling us about his or her experience in *Kota Bunga*. Yet, it is also possible that the speaker may have another intention of telling people about his or her experience. It is probable that he or she might actually want us, the hearers, to buy that bowl for his or her. In this case, he or she adopts *say something off record* to ask someone to buy his or her the bowl indirectly. He or she does it because he or she does not want his or her utterance to sound impolite.

The same thing also happens to me. When I hear the speaker's utterances, I do not immediately realize his or her intention of saying that sentence indirectly. This fact motivates me to know further *say something off record* for my thesis. It is truly hoped after I have finished my thesis, the readers and I will have more awareness of one's intention within his or her utterances.

In this thesis, I would like to observe the utterances used in people's conversation through movies. There are different genres of movies, such as mystery, comedy, romance, action. However, for my thesis, I would like to choose situational comedy series as my data. It is because I find that there are a number of humorous scenes that occur due to the application of *say something off record*. I choose *Friends* TV series because it is one of the most popular comedy films. I think it is appropriate for my source of data. There are a lot of daily conversations which indicate *say something off record* in this film.

In this film, I find that the characters use *say something off record* in various situations. In addition, I would like to find out in what kind of situations the character usually applying *say something off record*. I also find out there are a lot of utterances indicating that the characters do not reveal their intentions directly. I also point out that in this film, the use of *say something off record* makes particular scene become funny. Besides, I choose this source of data as I like watching *Friends* movies series. I enjoy watching comedy films. Hence, my thesis title is *The Use of 'Say Something Off Record' in Friends TV Series*.

My topic falls under the study of Pragmatics. Pragmatics is the 'study of speaker meaning as distinct from word or sentence meaning'. In Pragmatics, we can learn about some types of statements, and politeness. According to George Yule, there are two types of statement. They are *say something off record* and *say something on record*. Saying something off record means people are not saying their intention directly. People use *say something off record* in their utterances for they want to respect other people. They want to show their politeness towards

other participants. While saying something on record means people's revealing their intention directly through the utterances. (Yule, 2000:63)

Statement of the Problem

1. Which of the character's utterances uses *say something off record*?
2. What are the features of *say something off record* used in the character's utterance?
3. What makes the character decide to apply *say something off record*?
4. What does the character actually want to say within his or her utterance?
5. How does the use of *say something off record* help the atmosphere of the scene to become funny?

Purpose of the Study

1. To know which of the character's utterance suggests *say something off record*.
2. To know the features of *say something off record* used within the character's utterance.
3. To know their reasons for the characters' applying *say something off record*.
4. To know what the character actually wants to say within his or her utterance.
5. To know how the use of *say something off record* help the atmosphere of the scene to become funny.

Methods of Research

In analyzing my topic, I watch *Friends* movie series and then I select the data, which show the function of *say something off record*. After wards, I look for the theory from the Internet and read some books concerned with *say something off record*. Furthermore, I read some references related to my topic. Finally, I analyze the use of *saying something off record* in *Friends* TV series.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the Theoretical Framework as a basis used to analyze the data. The discussion of the *say something off the record* in *Friends* TV series is presented in Chapter Three. Subsequently, it is followed by Chapter Four, which is the Conclusion. Eventually, the thesis ends with the Bibliography and Appendix.

