

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Study

Language and communication are the important tools in the world; however, they are different from one and another but both are needed at the same time. Language is a system of communication as verbal and non-verbal forms that transfer information between two parties. While communication is a way of interchanging messages and focusing on the meaning. Therefore, language and communication are essential, especially for a human being. As social beings, we are required to always communicate with others in every context. Through communication, the speaker is expected to provide the clarity of information to addressee in order that the message can be conveyed properly. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), communication also has several conditions for the communication can take place placidly, such as: good manner and politeness.

Politeness is essentially required by human as a social being in reason to have a better social interaction. As indicated by Holmes (in Murliati, 2012: 1), being polite demand us to talk to someone what the appropriate things to say and what are inappropriate. Politeness is not just utilized by certain sorts of local area yet to a universal condition that everyone needs to use to have a better social communication. Due to its application, politeness is incumbent to assist the dangers of threatening other members' face and choose the proper strategies to limit any

face threats that may be associated with completing the activity. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), every individual has two kinds of face: positive and negative, and this approach is called Face-Threatening Act.

This study will elaborate the face-threatening act (FTA) based on the main character of *Lost Girls* movie transcript that is adapted from the book *Lost Girls: An Unsolved American Mystery* by Robert Kolker. *Lost Girls* is about the murders of young female sex laborers on the South Shore barrier islands of Long Island, executed by the Long Island serial killer, who persist in being unidentified. *Lost Girls* movie is chosen as the corpus because of the complexity from the main character and her resilience in dealing with negative and positive faces from various parties. The main character faces all kinds of negative judgments about herself and especially the missing girls, simply because they were sex workers. The writer also found there are many Mari Gilbert's utterances that contained face-threatening acts when her self-image and her missing daughter's self-image are being threaten by those parties.

Several previous studies of face-threatening acts have been conducted into various articles by analyzed the dialogues transcript. One of the examples is an article entitled *The Analysis of The Face Threatening Act Delivered by Asperger Syndrome in Adam Movie* by Achmad Mubasyiril, Syamsul Anam, and Wisasongko in 2013. In this article, the writers used politeness theory by Brown & Levinson on a movie titled *Adam*. The research is to find out the pragmatic understanding abilities of Adam that possesses Asperger Syndrome and what utterances for him is potentially confusing that leading him to face-threatening act. The results of this

study show Adam tend to use bald on record communication without redressive action toward confusing utterances. Thus, the predominate weakness of Adam is social interaction and emotional abilities.

In alignment with their study, Lutfi Eldy, Yusrita Yanti, and Elfiondri in their article entitled *An Analysis of Negative Politeness Strategies as Found in Titanic Movie* (2015), have found that politeness strategies also can be analysed in *Titanic* movie. In this article, the writers' aim to describe the negative politeness strategies based on the theory proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987) that reflected in *Titanic* movie by using qualitative method. The results of this study show that the writers found six strategies of negative politeness: (1) question hedge, (2) be conventionally indirect, (3) apologize, (4) give deference, (5) general rule, and (6) minimize imposition. Furthermore, the writers also found the markers used to reflect the negative politeness in this movie: *will you, please, can, and sorry*.

Relatively to the previous articles, the third study titled *The Usage of Face Threatening Act in Princess Diaries 1 and Princess Diaries 2: The Royal Engagement Movies*, was conducted by Anggi Fiona Nasution and Lisetyo Ariyanti in 2013. This article employs descriptive qualitative method. The aims of this study are to describe and to explain the types of Face Threatening Act uses in relation with politeness in the conversation by the characters in *Princess Diaries 1* and *Princess Diaries 2: The Royal Engagement* movies. The results of the study shows there are two kinds of FTA that used by the characters: negative FTA and positive FTA. There are also five kinds of politeness strategy that reflected in those movies:

bald on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, off-record and do not do the FTA.

The other article is *Politeness Strategies Used by Colter Stevens as the Main Character in Source Code Movie*, that written by Retnowaty in 2015. The writer was using descriptive qualitative method and the data were taken from every Colter's utterance in *Source Code* movie that contained politeness strategies. The results of the study show that Colter applied all kind of politeness strategies and for the most appeared from Colter's utterances is he used positive politeness. This indicates that there is a tendency that Colter tried to minimize the threat to the receiver's face. Therefore, the writer concluded that Colter was careful enough in selecting politeness strategies to sustain a good interaction.

Another journal with similar topic is *The Analysis of Politeness in Harry Potter Chapter 1 Movie*, that conducted by Anisa Setyawati and Silpia Rahayu in 2020. The writers chose *Harry Potter Chapter 1* as their corpus because they intended to analyze the positive face and negative face that reflected by the characters in this movie through the dialogues that contains expression and intonation. The method that the writers used is descriptive qualitative research and the instrument is observation from the movie and the data are taken from three scenes randomly. The technique of this research is by watching the movie in order to see the negative and positive politeness that characterized in each of the character. The results of this study show that most of the time Harry used Face Saving Act to anyone he talked to in order to save people's positive face that lean to solidarity, even though he got negative face from Petunia, Dudley, and Vernon

in return. On the other hand, it can be seen from the findings that Petunia, Dudley, and Vernon always use negative face in their conversation with Harry and other people. While for the other character is Hagrid, he used 50% positive face and 50% negative face depends with whom he talked. Similar with Harry, Mrs. Weasley also used 100% positive face to her parents and Harry.

Moreover, face threatening act can also be used as the tool to analyzed articles, for example is *Face Threatening Acts and Politeness Strategy in the Issued of the Live Banned Export of Live Cattle by the Australian Government to Indonesia*, written by Amalia, et al., in 2017. This study is conducted because Australian government has banned live cattle export to Indonesia, due to brutal slaughter of animals' footage in Indonesia's slaughter houses. However, the two countries have released diplomatic statements regarding this issue. Therefore, the writers' aim is to know what kind of face concept and politeness strategies applied in both representatives' countries. The results of this study show that both countries are used positive face because they still consider the bilateral relationship; however, Australian representatives more likely straightforward rather than Indonesian representatives' statement.

Based on the previous studies above, the writer will explore the main character of *Lost Girls* utterances that contain Face-Threatening Act; thus, the writer will identify the types of Face-Threatening Act that relevant to the politeness theory by Brown and Levinson. The theory from Brown and Levinson is used as a tool of analysis since this theory provide fundamental and concise components

on how to explain FTA. This study also uses the *Lost Girls* transcript because during the observation, the writer perceives the existence of FTA.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, this study intends to answer the following questions:

1. What are the dominant types of face-threatening act committed by Mari Gilbert in the *Lost Girls* movie?
2. How is face-threatening act represented in Mari Gilbert's utterances in *Lost Girls* movie?

1.3. Purpose of The Study

Related to the problem above, the purposes of the study are:

1. To identify what are the dominant types of face-threatening act committed by Mari Gilbert in the *Lost Girls* movie.
2. To analyze how is the face-threatening act represented in Mari Gilbert's utterances in *Lost Girls* movie.

1.4. Scope of The Study

The limitation based on the problem of the study are:

1. This study will focus on utterances that are produced by the main character of *Lost Girls* movie that contained FTA.

2. This study will focus on analysing the face-threatening act including the types of face-threatening act and the effect to the hearer after the use of face-threatening act based on Brown and Levinson's theory to analyse how is the face-threatening act presented by Mari Gilbert in *Lost Girls* movie.

1.5. Significance of The Study

The results of the study are intended to improve the understanding and may develop better theoretical models in the study area about the Face-Threatening Act in movie transcript. Thus, this study can also be useful as additional knowledge in sociolinguistic, pragmatics, and others.

