

THESIS

**REQUEST STRATEGIES AND MODIFICATIONS
PRODUCED BY CHILDREN OF THE FIFTH GRADE OF
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Strata One (S1) Degree**



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**THE FACULTY OF LANGUAGE LITERATURE AND ARTS
STATE UNIVERSITY OF PADANG
2011**

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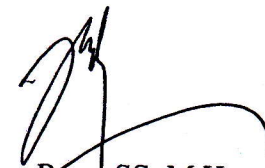
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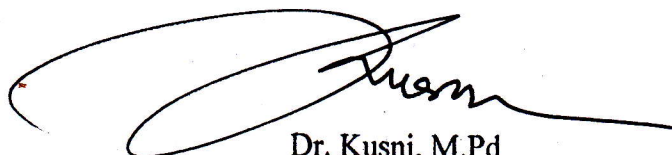
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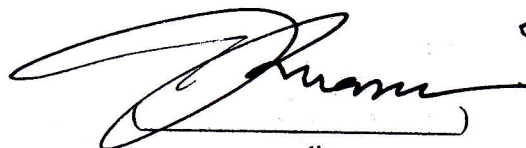
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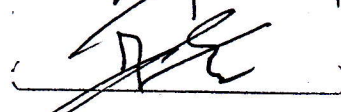
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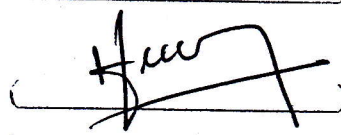
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ABSTRAK

Rahmi, Maulia. 2011. Request Strategies and Modifications Produced by Children of the Fifth Grade of Primary School. Padang: English Department, State University of Padang.

Pembimbing: 1. Dr. Kusni, M.Pd.

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Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis strategi permintaan (request strategies) dan modifikasi yang digunakan dalam permintaan tersebut, yaitu permintaan yang diucapkan oleh anak-anak kelas V SD di SD Negeri 09 Padang. Ada 20 siswa yang dipilih melalui metode purposive sampling. Sampling ini adalah siswa yang menggunakan Bahasa Indonesia dalam ujaran sehari-hari mereka.

Data pada penelitian ini diperoleh dengan teknik wawancara. Peneliti mempersiapkan panduan pertanyaan untuk wawancara. Panduan pertanyaan wawancara ini dibuat sesuai dengan bentuk Test Kelengkapan Wacana secara lisan (Oral Discourse Completion Test). Dalam panduan wawancara ini, peneliti memberikan situasi-situasi yang memungkinkan partisipan atau siswa yang telah ditunjuk untuk membuat permintaan. Selanjutnya, data dianalisis dengan menggunakan metode analisa deskriptif.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa anak-anak pada tingkat kelas V SD lebih banyak menggunakan permintaan yang bersifat tidak langsung (indirect requests) daripada permintaan yang bersifat langsung (direct requests). Dari 280 data, 111 data menunjukkan permintaan yang diutarakan secara tidak langsung, sedangkan 169 lainnya adalah permintaan langsung. Adapun strategi yang mereka gunakan adalah *mood derivable/ imperative, hedged performative, obligation statement, want statement, suggestion/ suggested formulae, query preparatory, permission, strong hint*, dan *mild hint*. Disamping itu, anak-anak kelas V SD ini juga menggunakan bentuk kombinasi dari strategi tersebut. Anak-anak kelas V SD juga menggunakan modifikasi yang bersifat internal dan eksternal. Modifikasi internal ini ditemukan di dalam ujaran permintaan, di antaranya *question, negation of preparatory condition, politeness marker, downtoner, appealer, attention getter, time intensifier, repetition*, dan *orthographic*. Modifikasi eksternal adalah ujaran yang mendahului atau mengikuti permintaan, di antaranya *preparatory, grounder*, dan *threat*. Seperti halnya pada strategi permintaan, anak-anak kelas V SD ini juga menggunakan kombinasi modifikasi, baik kombinasi dari dua modifikasi maupun kombinasi dari tiga modifikasi. Bahkan, bentuk ujaran yang menggunakan kombinasi modifikasi ini lebih banyak ditemukan daripada modifikasi tunggal. Data menunjukkan bahwa modifikasi yang paling sering digunakan adalah *attention getter*. *Attention getter* banyak ditemukan baik dalam penggunaan modifikasi tunggal maupun kombinasi dari dua atau tiga modifikasi.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The writer would like to say *Alhamdulillahirabbil'aalamin*, a praise to Allah SWT., the Almighty, who is the most worthy of praise and who has given the writer chance, strength and knowledge in finishing this thesis. She also sends *shalawat* along with greetings to the Prophet Muhammad SAW., the last prophet, and the greatest leader of human being (Peace be Upon Him).

This research would have never been accomplished without an invaluable help from her two advisors, Dr. Kusni, M.Pd., and Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S., M.Hum. Their wonderful personalities and excellent professionalism are two factors that contribute significantly from the beginning until the final revision of this research. Their patience, encouragement, suggestions, and even critics really opened the writer's mind and widen her view of academic world.

Moreover, the writer would like to dedicate her sincere gratitude to the examiners, Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M.Hum., Refnaldi, S.Pd, M.Lit., and Dr. Hamzah, M.A., M.M. Their ideas have helped the researcher to improve this thesis. Their valuable contributions have improved the result of the research. Then, the writer would also like to express a great gratitude to Dr. Kusni, M.Pd. as the chair person of English Department, to Dra. An Fauzia Rozani Syafei, M.A., as the secretary of English Department, and to her academic advisor, Prof. Dr. Zainil, M.A., who has helped her during her study. The writer also would like to express her thanks to all the lecturers and the staff for the great moment and experiences during the study.

Then, the writer would like to express her deepest gratitude to the headmaster, the teachers and students of SD Negeri 09 Padang. Thank you very much to have permitted and helped the writer to conduct the research in this school.

Besides, this research is also dedicated to the writer's beloved parents, Basrul Yusuf and Syofianis, who always pray and give support during her days, ("I'm sorry for every mistakes and promise to make you proud having a daughter like me. Amin"). Then, the writer's gratitude also goes to her beloved brothers and sisters, Yudi, Taufik, Wawan, Dewi, and Trisna, who always support her to complete this thesis and always pray her to be a successful person (Thank you for your big love for me). Next, to her uncles and aunts, 'Pak Etek' Drs. Firdaus, 'Pak Etek' H. Irkasman, 'Pak Etek' Imran,ST, 'Pak Etek' Dasman, 'Pak Etek' Drs. Damanhuri, 'Pak Etek' Gus, 'Pak Etek' Nurman, 'Om' Anto, 'Mak Tuo', 'Tek' Pit, 'Tek' Yenita, SPd; to the cousins, Irma, Ame, Tia, 'bang' Ferro, Handri, Rian, Vebi, and others, the writer thanks you all (Thank you for your praying and supports).

Moreover, her special thanks goes to the '3Rs' (Rina, Roza, Riri), to Meli n husband, Yusroini, Fitrah (Ihic), Meri, and Nonon, who always colors her day and supports her to finish her study. Last but not least, her great thanks also go to her lovely friends in English Department, especially for Oja, Dina, Nicky, Olin, Imah, and others. She is lucky to have you all. Then, for Marleni, Rio Haris, Rio K.N, and Rahmadian, it was really nice to have time with you, and thank you for your supports.

Padang, February 2011

The writer

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Speech acts are such a phenomenon in linguistic study found in people's utterances. This can be seen not only in adults' utterances but also in children's utterances. When children try to negotiate and collaborate, they use language. In other word, it can be said that children use speech acts. Yule (1998) states that there are five classifications of speech acts; they are declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives. In a play, sometimes children feel pleasure or pain. Here they use expressive speech act in their language or utterance. Perhaps children are commanding or requesting something. In this case, they use directive.

Requesting is a form of language which is used in order to ask someone to do something. It is an object of pragmatics study which relates to social interactions. Since the study relates to the social interactions, it invites the interest of some researchers to analyze it. Thus, the study on requesting act has been conducted in different subjects with different focuses. Iwasaki (2008), for example, studied about second language (L2) Japanese acquisition of the pragmatics of requests during a short-time study abroad. Beside that, Sarwoningsih (2008) conducted a research on the use of requesting speech acts in a popular novel; that is *Harry Potter*.

According to Searle (in Felix-Brasdefer (2007)), a request is a directive speech act whose illocutionary purpose is to get the hearer to do something. By initiating a request, the speaker believes that the hearer is able to perform an action. Since human being has social interactions, there must be various situations of request. These allow the speaker to decide to use direct request, conventionally-indirect strategies or hints to get the hearer do the action he (the speaker) intended.

From the explanation above, the researcher is interested to conduct a research on child's speech acts of request. The researcher found that the researches about requesting acts were mostly conducted on adults' language. However, children also have social interaction and communicate; thus, they produce speech acts either in the types of request, apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, or promise. Meanwhile, few studies which investigated request on children's utterance are found.

In their social interaction, children make requests. A school child, for instance, ask her friend to study together to solve their homework. In the other case, maybe someday she does not bring a pen or a pencil; but she has got to write to finish the exercise given by the teacher. Here, the child will ask another student who has more pens or pencils to lend her those writing equipments. Same situations may happen in both in primary school children or junior high school children.

Achiba (2003) notes that some studies have shown that children have acquired a basic grasp of the diverse syntactic forms used for conveying their requestive intentions. However, some development seems to occur only during the elementary school years. Liebling (1988, in Achiba (2003)) suggests in her

findings that with respect to production of request forms, there is a great improvement in pragmatic skill during the elementary school years; and that by grade five, children are able to use a variety of request forms. It can be summarized that children's pragmatic skill develop greatly in school years even though they have acquired a basic grasp of syntactic forms before the school years. Therefore, **Request Strategies and Modifications Produced by Children of The Fifth Grade Of Primary School** is chosen as the title of this research.

Furthermore, the choice of request strategies and forms is influenced by three main factors; those are social distance, power and degree of imposition. School environment provides such those factors besides family and social environment. These factors may cause varieties on the requests of the fifth grader.

An elementary school named SD Negeri 09 Padang is chosen as a place to conduct the study because this school is one of favorite schools in Padang, which located in Nanggalo district. It is located in the center of a National Housing Authority, called Siteba National Housing Authority. The school always has more new students to register each year; however, only two classes are provided. Of the five primary schools surround this National Housing Authority, this school is famous for the extracurricular activity, that is the marching band, which has performed in some events such as in its and other's school graduation. This extracurricular is commonly followed by students of higher classes (grade four, five and six).

Though the students of higher levels take English course, they do not use English in daily communication. They use Bahasa Indonesia and sometimes Minangkabau dialect. English is still considered as foreign language for the

students in this school. Since Bahasa Indonesia is used more often than Minangkabau language, the researcher decides to research the requests on children of the fifth grade who use Bahasa Indonesia in their communication.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

There are studies which can be conducted on speech acts of adults' and children's utterance. There are also many kinds and aspects to be researched in children's utterance. In this research, the researcher will conduct a study of requesting speech acts toward children of the fifth grade. The researcher will find out the requesting acts produced by the children of the fifth grade who are considered about ten or eleven years old. Since the improvement of children's language take place around third grade and it improve greatly by grade five, the researcher is interested in analyzing the strategies and modifications of requesting on the utterances of children of the fifth grade.

1.3 Focus of the Study

The researcher is interested in studying the speech acts of request considering the fact of how often this kind of linguistic phenomenon is applied. However, there are still few studies which discuss speech acts especially the speech acts of request in children's utterance. In this research, the researcher will focus on analysis of requesting act produced by children of the fifth grade. In order to be a specific research, the researcher focuses on analyzing children's utterance of request in Bahasa Indonesia.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the identification and the limitation of the problem, the researcher formulates the problem in the following question: “What are the strategies and modifications of utterances for request produced by children of the fifth grade?”

1.5 Research Questions

As a guide in the analysis, the problem of the study is formulated as the following questions:

- a. What types of request strategies are used by children of the fifth grade?
- b. What types of modifications of request are used by children of the fifth grade?

1.6 Purpose of the Study

There are two main purpose of the research. First, the purpose of the research is to find out the types of request strategies used by children of fifth grade. Also, the researcher will find out the types of modifications of request used by children of fifth grade.

1.7 Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the research will give valuable contribution to teachers, English department students, and professionals those who are interested in the study of children’s language and who concern in the development of children’s language. Perhaps, this can be a reference and can enrich the linguistic data of

Indonesia about speech act study in the field of pragmatics. It is also hoped that the research can give contribution to the field of sociolinguistics, language acquisition and psycholinguistics. Shortly, through this research it is hoped that either the researcher or the reader can increase their knowledge and develop the study about pragmatics, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, and psycholinguistics.

1.8 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation on the conceptual terms used, it is necessary for the researcher to define the following terms:

- a. request/ requesting act (speech act of request) : a directive speech act whose illocutionary purpose is to get the hearer to do something
- b. request expression : the form of request used by speaker (in this research, the speakers refer to children of fifth grade).
- c. speech acts : an action by the use of an utterance to communicate.