Strategies Used by English Department Students at State University of Padang in Refusing Invitations in Indonesian and in English

Thesis

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By

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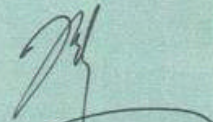|	
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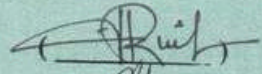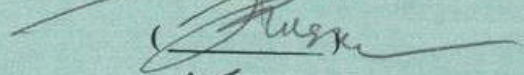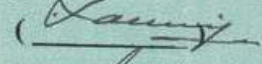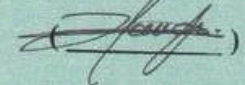
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ABSTRAK

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Setiap individu memiliki cara yang berbeda untuk menolak sebuah undangan. Hal ini disebabkan karena adanya pengaruh budaya dari masing-masing individu. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melihat strategi-strategi yang digunakan oleh mahasiswa jurusan bahasa Inggris saat menolak undangan lisan dalam bahasa Indonesia dan bahasa Inggris. Teori untuk menolak undangan yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini dikemukakan oleh Carmen Garcia (1992), sedangkan metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode deskriptif, yaitu berusaha menggambarkan dan menginterpretasikan tentang kondisi yang ada. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menggunakan *Discourse Completion Test (DCT)*. Dari hasil analisa, jelas terlihat bahwa strategi yang paling banyak digunakan mahasiswa jurusan bahasa Inggris saat menolak undangan lisan yang berbahasa Indonesia dan berbahasa Inggris adalah sama (*reason/explanation*). Hal ini disebabkan karena adanya pengaruh budaya, sehingga respon yang diberikan terhadap undangan lisan yang berbahasa Inggris terkadang merupakan transfer dari respon terhadap undangan lisan yang berbahasa Indonesia.

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Padang, November 2011

The Researcher

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Every time people have interaction, it is useful in order to keep a good relationship with other people. In doing interaction, people have to show their respect or appreciation to the interlocutors in order to have a good relationship. In showing the respect or appreciation, people have different ways. Some people show their respect or appreciation by trying to keep a good communication with the interlocutors, for instance people always pay attention to the language used or the choice of words. Sometimes, people show their respect or appreciation by trying to show their desire to accept the invitation from the interlocutors.

Moreover, there are many kinds of human interactions that can show their relationship or the way people doing interaction. For example, people like to send messages, such as chatting, sending birthday card, and etc in order to keep a good communication. Other ways, people like to hold an event and invite the others to keep the relationship. All of the interactions describe how people try to have a good social life.

However, in making the invitation people will get different responses from the interlocutors. Because, sometimes the interlocutors accept the invitation and sometimes they refuse the invitation. All of those responses will give different impact toward the relationship. The impact of the acceptance is a good relationship between the invitee and the inviter. It will be different if the invitation

is refuse by the invitee. Actually, refusing an invitation is everyone's right, but not every refusal can safely maintain the social relation. It can hurt other's feeling if someone gives a refusal with an incorrect way. On the other hand, by knowing the characteristics of a refusal, people are ready to receive a refusal when they deliver an invitation.

An invitation as a form of communication is really needed by people to maintain their relationship. Because by giving the invitation, people can meet and share the idea with their friends. Also people can show their respect or appreciation toward the inviter. In other words, invitation is a common occurrence in everyday life, particularly in the maintenance of good relationship. For example, in lunch break time, A says to her friend B, "how about getting lunch in Samba Lado?". A who initiates such question has the intention of inviting B to get lunch in a restaurant which is called "Samba Lado".

In making invitation, people have different ways and strategies. The way people make the invitations is also influenced by their cultural background. For example, in Indonesia, the invitation is based on the relationship between the inviter and the invitee. If the inviter and the invitee have close relationship, they will say the invitation indirectly. Indirectly here means the inviter does not say the invitation in formal way (by giving the invitation card). For instance, while two friends are passing a new coffee shop, one of them may say, "How about take a cup of coffee?" One who initiates such a question has the intention of (inviting) paying for the drink. Furthermore, if the inviter and the invitee do not have close relationship, the invitations say directly. Directly here means the inviter invites the

invitee in formal way (by giving the invitation card). For example, "I invite you to come to a new coffee shop at Ahmad Yani Street" (the inviter give an invitation card to the invitee).

In invitation that occurs across cultures may cause misunderstanding between the inviter and the invitee. It is because a polite behavior in a particular culture does not mean as a polite behavior in other cultures. For example, Japanese do not apologize or express regret to the lower inviters. It is different from American who does not show the different frequencies of semantic formulas between higher and lower status of the inviter. That is why people should learn and know about other cultures.

However, not all of the invitations are accepted by the invitee, some of them may be refused. In this case, they have to refuse the invitation without burdening or breaking people's heart. They have to respect the invitation by using utterances that do not underestimate people, because every person has different characters. It is better to refuse the invitation by using good utterances and the degree of closeness. If people refuse by using good utterances the interaction run well and it is important in social life.

Refusal is important because it is a language behavior that can cause misunderstanding in human communication. For example, when A invites B to come to her birthday, B says, "I can't come to your birthday". B's answer can cause A disappointed and break their relationship. Besides, refusal strategy has a part when people communicate with others, especially people who are different in age, gender, ethnicity, status, etc.

In many cultures, how one says "no" is probably more important than the answer itself. Therefore, sending and receiving a message of "no" is a task that needs special skill. Because it can break human relationship. According to Al-Eryani (2007), refusal is a face-threatening act to the listener/requester/inviter, because it contradicts his or her expectation, and it is often realized through indirect strategies. Refusal must be negotiated in social interaction, because it is so sensitive to social factors, such as gender, age, level of education, power, and social distance.

The failure in refusing appropriately can influence the interpersonal relations of the speakers. Consequently, refusals usually include various strategies to avoid offending one's interlocutor. The choice of the strategies which are employed by the participants in having communication may vary across languages and cultures. For example, it's quiet difficult to say "No, I can't" or to refuse someone directly in Indonesian. Kana (1982) in her research noted that the Indonesian notion of politeness required maintaining at all times a smooth, untroubled appearance between individuals. An explicit refusal is interpreted as impolite, and as a means of causing friction and hurt feelings. It is influenced by the Indonesian culture and tradition which say that people should be polite and friendly that Indonesians feel inappropriate to refuse someone's invitation or offer directly. It is really different from American culture. In American culture, it is not rude to say directly, "No, I can't." So, if a person knows that she cannot accept an invitation, she should be truthful about it, and not tell a lie that he or she will come.

Based on this phenomenon above, it is important to understand interlanguage refusals. Besides, refusal strategies are important in relation to preserve human relationship. So, this research is about strategies used by English Department students at State University of Padang in refusing invitations in Indonesian and English. The research want to investigate the similarities and differences between refusal strategies in Indonesian and English that used by English Department students, because they know about English culture and Indonesian culture. In other word, they speak English and know about English culture. Furthermore, English Department students have studied about English culture from Cross Cultural Understanding class.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

There are some points of views that can be used in analyzing problems related to interlanguage refusal. First, conversation analysis which can be used to analyze how an invitation and refusal occur. This point of view can be used to show the pattern of the refusal.

Second, sociolinguistics point of view which can be used to analyze how gender, social status and the environment influence the refusal to the invitation. In refusal to the invitation the social factors, such as sex, gender, and age have a fundamental impact on the type of refusal. Through sociolinguistics people can study about it and show the relation between the social factors of the inviter with the invitee.

Third, pragmatic point of view which can be used to analyze the strategies used in refusing the invitation and also the speech act in refusal of invitation. Every person has different strategies in refusing an invitation. It is influenced by the cultural background of that people. Furthermore, people also have different act through an invitation. By using pragmatics people can study about it.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on identification above, this research focuse on interlanguage pragmatics. It investigates the refusal strategies used in refusing Indonesian and English invitations. This research also see the similarities and differences between strategies used by English Department students who have studied Cross Cultural Understanding at State University of Padang in refusing oral invitations in Indonesian and English.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the identification and the limitation of the problem, this research formulated the problem in following question, "What are the strategies used by English Department Students at State University of Padang in refusing oral invitations in Indonesian and English?"

1.5 Research Questions

The problem of this study is formulated in the following questions:

1. What are the strategies used by English Department students in refusing invitations in Indonesian?

2. What are the strategies used by English Department students in refusing invitations in English?

3. What are the similarities and differences of refusal strategies in invitations in Indonesian and English?

1.6 Purposes of the Study

The purposes of the study are:

1. To identify the strategies used by English Department students in refusing invitations in Indonesian.

2. To identify the strategies used by English Department students in refusing invitations in English.

3. To identify the similarities and differences of refusal strategies in invitations in Indonesian and English.

1.7 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this research can be useful for enriching linguistics study especially in interlanguage pragmatic. In linguistics, this research can help to show the pattern and the strategies that are being used by the respondents. Practically, it is expected that the findings are expected to be useful for enriching

the reader's knowledge and understanding about refusal strategies. Through this research the reader will be able to learn more about refusal strategies in Indonesian language and in English. In addition, the result of this study can be used to support the next researcher who is interested in analyzing about refusal strategies in a social community and compare the refusal strategies which used in their first language and the second language of the community.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

1. Refusal : is a negative response towards oral invitations in Indonesian and English that used by English Department students at State University of Padang.

2. Invitation : is a spoken word which is conveying the message by which one is invited.

3. Refusal strategy: is strategy to disapproval or rejection of the interlocutor's invitations.