

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

In daily communication, language plays an important role as a major tool in transferring message. Communication is an activity or process of expressing ideas and feelings or of giving people informations. People use any kind of expressions to communicate with others in order to show their emotions and feelings. The way of people's communication could be different due to the culture and gender.

In transmitting informations and sharing their ideas, people use speech act as well. Austin (1962) defines a speech act as the act of uttering a certain sentence in a given context for a certain purpose. Speech acts can not be separated in daily life. Almost every utterance consists of speech act. One of speech acts that mostly used, intentional or unintentionally, in communicating is suggestion. Suggestion is defined as proposing someone to do something in a better way. People are more likely to give suggestions in situations which attract their sympathy. In fact, suggestion is a very important speech act in people's daily life. For instance, when a close friend of them having trouble, the act of giving suggestion will be probably raised to help their friend.

Similar with the other speech acts, in giving suggestions people are also considering many aspects, such as distance and power, to whom they are talking and what utterances should they say. They way they speak to older people is different with how they say words to peers or to the younger. Moreover, the

difference of gender may also affect the way of people in communicating, especially in giving suggestions. Male and female will most likely use unsimilar strategy in giving suggestions to their friend, this can be happened because of their different background experiences in the past.

According to Deborah Tannen (1986), communication is more or less cross-cultural, and men and women are genetically unsuit to communicate successfully to each other. In the process of growing up, male and female are told to act differently as well. Females are told to use their manners, play quietly, and be ladylike, while male are excused to use rough language, play loudly, and be rumbunctious (Vinita and Samina, 2012). Moreover, Vinita and Samina (2012) state that in case of using speech act of suggestion, females are more likely to share their problems to the others and receive more suggestions from the hearer than males. In the previous research concerning to this study done by Kuo (1996), the result showed that females use various linguistic devices in sharing their opinions through giving advise or suggestions.

Besides Kuo, there are some other researchers who had conducted the research concerning to suggestion-giving strategy. For instance, Farnia, et al. (2014) and Xiangying Jiang (2006). However, the previous studies investigated both the female and male participants in their researchs, either comparing them or just see the result generally as a community. Hence, the present study attempts to take a specific part of speech act of suggestions among female EFL learners.

Based on the statements above, the researcher is going to conduct a research concerning to the suggestions strategies used by female Indonesian EFL students at

Jambi University. In this case, researcher attempts to investigate the type of suggestions strategies that frequently used among female students of English Study Program in Jambi University.

## **1.2 Limitation of the Research**

This research is limited only in the types of strategies used by female Indonesian EFL learners in giving suggestions among peers. Since this research focuses on female communication, the participants of this reseach will be 20 female students of English departement in Jambi University. In addition, the situations arranged in Discourse Completion Task (DCT) will have equal power and close distance relationship as the research analyzes peers subjects. In this study, researcher just analyze the strategies used by Female EFL learners in giving suggestions based on Martinez-Flor (2005) taxonomy. There are 2 situations of giving suggestios in this research with equal power and distance (see appendix).

## **1.3 Research Question**

This research has a question to be answered, “What strategies are used by female EFL learners in giving suggestions among peers?”

## **1.4 Objective of the Research**

This research aims to investigate the strategies of giving-suggestion expressions used by female EFL learners among peers. It analyzes how the female EFL learners express suggestions to their peers. Moreover, it attempts to determine if they use all types of suggestion strategies (Direct, Conventionalized, and Indirect) or just some types only.

## **1.5 Significance of the Research**

Theoretically, this proposed research provides understanding to the students about type of suggestions strategies based on Taxonomy of suggestion. The result will be hopefully useful for the better understanding of the students in giving suggestions later on in their real life. Moreover, the result will give information for the further researcher as one of the model about giving-suggestions strategies. Furthermore, this research is expected to be useful for academics in improving sociolinguistics understanding and female communication among peers. Finally, the finding of this research can provide valuable information on how the suggestions is given by females, conceptually and verbally, among peers.