

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1. 1 Research Background**

It is widely known that language is a powerful communication tool that serves three main functions, which include building and maintaining relationships, revealing identity, and transmitting messages. Communication involves sharing information between two or more people through either spoken or written words, with the ultimate goal being to establish new relationships and convey opinions, thoughts, or messages. However, the meaning of the utterances shared with others may be ambiguous and need interpretation. This phenomenon can be studied in the field of pragmatics. Pragmatics studies the relationship between language and its users.

Pragmatics is branch of linguistics studying the meaning of a speaker's utterance in a particular context and how that context influences what is said. Thomas (1995:1) defines pragmatics as meaning in usage or meaning in context. According to Leech (1983:6), pragmatics deals with the meaning of language depending on speaker's intentions. While according to Robin (1965: 23), the field of pragmatics is understood as meaning related to phenomenon that involves around the different elements of a speech situation. One issue discussed in pragmatics is politeness strategies.

Politeness strategy, in pragmatics, plays a critical role as it helps people communicate with others while minimizing conflict. The fundamental goal of politeness strategy is to communicate with others in a way that causes the least amount of conflict possible. Appropriate language choices and wording are crucial to ensuring a clear and accurate message, given that misunderstanding may arise due to improper wording. People should therefore think carefully about what to talk about, who to talk to, and how to talk.

In regard to that, politeness phenomena are mostly found in daily human conversations, such as at home, at school, at office, and so on. It can also be found in

movie conversation. Through this research, the researcher wants to demonstrate how a movie can be utilized as a medium to learn politeness strategy, especially through the male main character, *Will Newman*. As the primary focus of this study, the researcher chooses the film *Five Feet Apart* as its subject.

With the theme of rare diseases, the movie attracted the attention of researcher with the complicated and tragic love story of *Will* and *Stella*. The movie is a touching and emotional movie telling about two teenagers, who both have *Cystic Fibrosis* (CF). The movie is a beautiful story of how these two young people fall in love while learning to live with their disease and the restrictions that come with it. Not only about romance between *Will* and *Stella*, but it also contains friendship among *Will*, *Stella*, *Poe*, and their other friends.

There are three major characters in this movie, namely *Stella*, *Will*, and *Poe*. The three of them, basically, have differences in character. The first character is *Stella*, a cheerful, optimistic, and hopeful patient who has lived with CF since she was seven. The second character is *Poe*, also a cheerful patient just like *Stella*, who has been hospitalized since childhood. Lastly, the third character is *Will Newman*, who has only been infected with CF for eight months but has more severe *Cystic Fibrosis*.

At the beginning of the movie, it is shown that *Will* and *Stella* were involved in a small dispute due to differences in personality between them. Then later it turns into the seeds of love. Unfortunately, their illness does not allow them to have physical contact with each other. They even need to maintain a minimum distance of six feet apart so as not to transmit and harm one another. Even though they know that they cannot, they still force their relationship. But, as predicted, their relationship does not work. The first problem they face is when *Poe* died which left everyone shaken, especially *Stella*. Another problem is when *Will* and *Stella* fell while going out with *Will* and ended up being rushed to the hospital.

The most tragic part in this movie is the ending. In this part, *Will* gave a surprise for *Stella* as well as saying goodbye to *Stella*. Even though it was hard, *Will* finally

decided to leave Stella for their good. The most heartbreaking part is, when *Will* said that he had to let go of Stella to keep her safe from him and when he asked Stella to close her eyes when he was about to leave. Lastly, he also said that he loves her so much.

The researcher recommends this movie for those who are also interested in health-themed movies. It aims to raise awareness about the struggles and challenges that people with CF face on a daily basis. It provides viewers with an insight into the life of people living with this disease and the difficulties that they go through. The story is heartwarming and it brings to light the importance of human connection, family, love, and hope.

One of the reasons why you should do the research on this movie is that it is a beautifully made movie with great performances by the actors. The chemistry between *Will* and Stella is, undeniable, making their love story all more captivating. The film is also an absolute delight to watch.

Additionally, the movie helps to shed light on the importance of organ donation and the huge impact that it can have on people's lives. The message of the movie is powerful, and it encourages viewers to appreciate the little things in life and cherish the moments we have with our loved ones.

Overall, *Five Feet Apart* is a beautiful, well-made and captivating movie that provides valuable insight into the life of people living with *Cystic Fibrosis*, while shedding light on the significance of human connection and love.

The reason of choosing Politeness Strategy as the topic for this research is based on the curiosity of the researcher about the types of politeness strategy used by the male main character in a movie entitled *Five Feet Apart*. The use of politeness strategy can be useful for creating good interactions. It can be used when making an apology, a request, a refusal, a promise, an offer and so on so that other people can understand what that person really means and the interaction can run effectively and naturally. The

use of politeness strategy in communication in the *Five Feet Apart* movie is chosen because it provides the phenomena of politeness in the interactions between the male main character with other characters. This research provides information of the kinds of politeness strategies by *Will*, the male main character of the movie, and how he applies those strategies to each character who speaks with him.

## **1. 2 Research Problems**

In conducting this study, the researcher constructs two research problems dealing with the topic.

1.2.1 What kinds of politeness strategies used by *Will* in *Five Feet Apart* movie?

1.2.2 How are the strategies used by *Will* in *Five Feet Apart* movie?

## **1. 3 Research Limitation**

The character is chosen because he is the male main character. This research is limited to the use of the bald on record, the positive, the negative, and the off record politeness strategies and the ways of using politeness of the male main character to several characters who have friendship and romantic relationship, family relationship, and the stranger in *Five Feet Apart* movie. *Will* was chosen as he is the male main character that must has important role and must be appears a lot in the movie. Therefore, he of course has much portions in conversation and the utterances may contain politeness strategies.

## **1. 4 Research Objectives**

The objectives in this research are:

1.4.1 To find out the kinds of politeness strategies that are used by *Will* in *Five Feet Apart* movie.

1.4.2 To find out the ways of using politeness strategies by *Will* in *Five Feet Apart* movie.

## **1. 5 Research Significance**

In general, this research aims at examine the bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record politeness strategies used by the male main character in *Five Feet Apart* movie, *William Newman* a.k.a. *Will*. In addition, this research also has two basic significances.

Theoretically, this research provides much knowledge regarding politeness strategies. This research can be utilized as a reference or comparable study for future research regarding politeness strategies, as a reference for English teachers, as a learning material for English learner, and as general knowledge for other readers.

Practically, this research is very useful since it provides much knowledge about the way people speak politely to each other so that it can be applied in our everyday communication. The researcher does hope this research will be beneficial for all the readers, so that they can communicate politely by applying this strategy in their daily life.

## **1. 6 Definition of Terms**

### **1.6.1 Politeness Strategies**

Leech (1983) defines politeness strategy as a tactic aims at avoiding conflict and showing respect to others. Furthermore, Lakoff (1975) states that politeness strategy is the strategy used to prevent insults and reduce conflict between the speaker and hearer in communication. Meanwhile Watts (2003), he states that politeness strategy is used to improve positive face while avoiding hurting hearer's negative face. In other words, politeness strategy is, basically, a set of strategies used to lessen conflict and make a good conversation between the speaker and the hearer.

### **1.6.2 Main Character of *Five Feet Apart* Movie**

The term “main character in a movie” refers to the central character around other characters in the movie. The main character is often the person who undergoes the most significant development or experiences the most

substantial arc throughout the film. They are usually the protagonist, driving the plot forward and interacting with other characters to promote conflicts, relationships, and resolutions. The main character's journey and experiences are often the focus of the story and audience's engagement, leading to their emotional investment in the story. This research focuses on analyzing the utterances containing politeness strategies employed by one of the main characters in *Five Feet Apart* movie, namely *Will Newman*.