

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the study. It consists of background of the research, limitation of the problem, research questions, aim of the research, and significance of the research.

1.1 Background of the study

Compliment and compliment response is one of language phenomena that occurs in social interactions. Compliments are commonly and widely used in general human society to greet, encourage, give comments, thank, and praise in a conversation. While, sociolinguists have categorized the three responses to a compliment there are: acceptance, deflection, or rejection. Therefore, compliments and its response cannot be separated. Holmes (1986 as cited in Zhang, 2013, P.26) states that "Compliments and compliment responses are considered key speech acts that are used in daily life situations in order to praise and congratulate others or to reply to their praise or compliments". For example when you wear a new scarf and your friend said "***WOW! That's suits on you and you look gorgeous, I swear.***" Or when fans meet their artist for the first time she said, " ***OMG!! You are very handsome and Tall! I couldn't take my eyes of you!***". From those example, we can see that you are giving compliment implicitly.

In terms of how people communicate with others, there are numerous speech acts that occur in a conversation such as complimenting, asking, requesting, apologizing, and so forth. According to Austin (1962), speech act itself means "The actions performed by saying something". For instance, when we hear something bad from someone we know we'll directly say "***I'm sorry to hear that***" or "***I don't mean to make you recall your bad***

memories” another situation that we often found when people or someone give command toward other by saying “*Stand up Please!*” or when someone we know gives advice to us like “*You must open your eyes because people pretending well*”. From those examples, people can realize that they use various speech acts in their daily life conversations.

Since Holmes (1986, as cited in Andi, 2015 p. 1) also defines that compliment response as a speech act that explicitly or implicitly attributes credit to someone, so it has a positive value both for the speaker and the hearer. The researcher also found the common case in CR is the complimentee tended to “*accept*” compliments from complimenters based on several studies. As we know, most people really like to get compliments from others and some of the compliments will increase their confidence. That's the reason why in several studies from CR, complimentee will accept the compliment. Additionally, people are more likely to employ this sort of language phenomenon in their daily lives, and we can easily identify it when we engage with others.

Moreover, as a human being when we interact and engage with other people-in society- the use of language is needed. Communication also can be defined as a process by which people assign and convey meanings in the attempt to create shared understanding, according to Musa & Domatob (2011). The interaction process is emphasized in order to allow interchange feedback between the speaker to their interlocutor and vice versa. The researcher find out the use of compliment while we communicate because we know compliment and its response are natural in all cultures and according to Levinson (1983), they reflect the social aspects of the culture.

Furthermore, Compliment Response has been conducted by many researchers from around the world. Such as Pomerantz (1978) as the first pioneer researchers,

Tamimi Sa'd (2015), and Shabani, M & Zeilani, M. (2015). Tamimi Sa'd (2015) examined that several patterns by using theory from Yu (2004) and the result confirmed participants relied on certain syntactical and lexical structures in order to realize compliment response in English. While, the approach of the study from Shabani, M & Zeilani, M. (2015) is cross-cultural politeness behavior between Iranian native speakers and English native speakers. By using the formulation of compliment response namely "Accept, Evade and Reject" the results show that "accept" is the most widely used. In addition, it also found that there are some similarities between Persian and English Speakers by responding to compliments.

Based on this language phenomenon, it leads the researcher to try to investigate how Compliment Response Strategies are performed by someone. The study will be carried out to investigate compliment response strategies on their daily life events or when they are on campus. Furthermore, this research aims to explore compliment response strategies produced by English students from Jambi University.

The researcher chooses participants from fourth semester because they are young and have different ways to express something toward their interlocutor. Not only that, the researcher also considers their cultural behaviour and their environment at University. In addition, they are also bilingual students and their environment requires them to speak a foreign language, and it makes them have a lot of expressions during they interact with others. For instance, they will say "***Hey! Nice Jacket***" or "***Your nails are lovely!***" they can express themselves freely when they meet others or someone they know and the complementee will respond immediately.

Hence, the researcher is interested in conducting research entitled "Investigating Compliments Response Strategies Performed by English Department Students at Jambi University" based on theory from Holmes (1986, as cited in Razi, 2013)

1.2 Research Question

1. What are compliment response strategies used by English Department Students at Jambi University?

1.3 Research Purposes

Based on the research question above, this research aims to analyze how Compliment Response Strategies (CRS) are performed by students from English Department at Jambi University. To describe how the students from fourth semester English Department at Jambi University will produce the responses from complimenters. The researcher also wants to analyze whether the object of compliment will affect the response itself and describe what types of Compliment Response (CR) that they-students- produced during the conversation.

1.4 Limitation of the problem

This research only focuses on a Sociolinguistic study about Compliment Response Strategies and limits of the analysis in 3 types of Compliment Response Strategies by perspective of Holmes (1986, as cited in Razi, 2013). Those are: *Accept, Reject, and Deflect or Evade* at fourth semester students in English Education Study Program Universitas Jambi. The researcher will take 10 participants at fourth semester students in English Education Study Program Universitas Jambi.

1.5 Significance of the research

As the significance of this research, this research is expected to provide information about the compliment response strategies (CRs) performed by English Department students at Jambi University. For the researcher, this research might be useful to the researchers who want to enrich knowledge about the theories of compliment response strategies and can be used as a reference for anyone who are interested in conducting research related to this topic. The researchers therefore expect that everyone who reads this research will find it valuable in understanding more about CR theory and how they will use it.

1.6 Definition of key terms

- Compliment

A compliment is defined as an expression of admiration, respect and credit to someone.

- Compliment response

Compliment response is an act from the compliment itself, meanings that the condition when the hearer answer the compliments from other.

In short, compliment and its response constitute as “asymmetric adjecancy pair”.

