CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Language is considered to be a product of social contact. In everyday life we use language to convey something or communicate with people around us. Through communication human able to shares his/her mind or ideas to others, sometimes to achieve certain intention. In communicating there are some strategies and aspects that must be considered so that will form an effective communication such as the choices of language that used in communicating, understanding the whole context and awarenesswith whom we are talking to.

When communication occurred the speaker or the hearer produce the basic unit of language that used in order to express meaning and utterance that expresses an intention or what we called speech act. Among different aspects of speech acts such as request, apology, refusal, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise, etc., request is the most frequent one in language use. Request as the most frequent speech act in communication, has been investigated enough in inter language pragmatics and cross-cultural studies.Requests are important in second language learning because the learners need to apply this speech act to ask somebody to do something. It is believed that speakers use different strategies to achieve their goals when talking to different people.

Consequently, the learners have to master how to express request strategy in a good way based on the contextual condition, so that a suitable request with an exact amount of imposition is required. According to Searle in Pradiyan (2013) a request is a directive speech act whose illocutionary purpose is to get the hearer to do something in circumstances in which is not obvious that he/she will perform the action in the normal course of events. Request occurred to

perform some action which gives the benefit to the speakers. Therefore by understanding a request, the speaker convinces that the hearer is able to perform the action as what the speaker means.Request is a face threatening act, if the interlocutor for some reasons rejects to do the desired act, the speaker is eminent to lose face. As a result, it is important to know how to express a request in special contexts.

In this case, English as foreign language so that as a foreign language learners need more opportunity and enlarge the exposurefor more interaction which consequently can lead to more proficiency in pragmatic competence. Pragmatic competence is defined by Barron (2003) as "knowledge of the linguistic resources available in a given language for realizing particular illocutions, knowledge of the sequential aspects of speech acts and finally, knowledge of the appropriate contextual use of the particular languages. In Indonesia, English is known as a foreign language, they rarely used English in daily communication. However, English is needed in this millennial era. Many of Indonesian brings their cultural background when they transfer their utterance from Indonesian language into English, some of them are sometimes understood but some other might be misunderstanding about what the speaker try to say. In social communication, especially for using English to communicate the EFL need to know how the right terms or pattern of sentence to speaksto the interlocutor. The thing that might be a boundaries in conducting a communication is different interpretation in each person because based on pragmatic and sociolinguistic parameters, people in different countries used and interpret verbal behavior quite different and these diverse and lack of awareness that may cause misunderstanding and affect the communication because request strategy used by native speakers different with request strategy used by the English foreign learner.In order to prevent potential misunderstanding in cross cultural communication, language learners must not only improve

their overall proficiency and accuracy in using a language, but also seek to develop pragmatic competence in the language they are learning.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher is interested in conducting a research for the purpose of finding how the students express their request strategies and any modification devices that use by English student.

1.2 Research Question

The questions of this research are:

1. How these English students express their requests strategies?
2. What the modification devices of request are use by English student?

1.3 Research Purpose

The purposes of this research are:

1. To describe how the English students express their request strategies
2. To find out the modification devices of request that use by English students

1.4 Limitation

This research focuses only on what request strategies are used by English students and the modification devices of request are used by them in making request. 10 students from English education study program from the fifth semester.

1.5 Significant of the research

This research is expected to provide information about how the students express their request strategies and the modification devices used by them in requesting.

This research might be used as a reference for other researcher if they are conducting a research related to this topic.

1.6 Definition of the key terms

Request : An attempt on the part of the speaker to get the hearer to perform or to stop performing some kind of action. (Ellis, 1994)

Speech act : The basic unit of language used to express meaning, an utterance that expresses an intension. (Balci, 2009)

Modification devices : The devices are employed to make request more appropriate and polite in certain context. (Hassan, 2014)