

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

This study was conducted to analyze the politeness principle violation in *Mind Your Language* comedy series. This chapter discusses the background of the study, identification of the problem, delimitation of the problem, the research questions, the objective of the study, significances of the study and organization of the chapter.

### **Background of the Study**

Humor has an important aspect in human being. Understanding humor in the current situation can be used to release tiresome, fatigue and stress. Matwick in Lustyantje and Dewi (2019) mentioned that humor is an instrument for how social control is given and self-identity is displayed. Furthermore, Dynel as stated in Lustyantje and Dewi (2019) divided humor into two criteria; the first one is stylistic figures (e.g., metaphor, irony, paradox, punning or figurative) and the second one is pragmatic figures (e.g., jokes, humor or humiliation). Koestler in Ma and Jiang (2013) gave general classification of humor which are verbal humor and situational humor. The linguistic research on humor is done both semantically and pragmatically. Humor from the perspective of pragmatics is posed by someone that can have a hidden meaning or intention which is interesting to analyze the relationship of humor in conversation. In addition, humor occurs when the listener cannot catch the message or may not fully understand the utterance from the speaker that cause conflict during communication.

Lynch (2002), stated that humor has no boundaries, and people may have different taste of humor. That is why sometimes people have different interpretations of humor. The form of humor can be seen not only in real life communication but also on television, radio and printed media such as book, novel, or comic. Almost every day in our life viewers are provided with

jokes/humor/comedy programs on television. Usually, humor is created from violating the politeness principle violation Wijana & Rohmadi in Dajmika et al, (2019). When the message is not delivered in appropriate way, it makes the listener feel humiliated or offended by the speaker but sometimes turns out it makes a humor (Rohmahwati & Yuliasri, 2017).

Communication is one of the main aspects of human needs. Through language, human convey what they feel, and what they want to talk about with the others. In every communication there are always two aspects; the speaker and the listener. In every conversation between them, the listener should be able to interpret the meaning from the speaker's utterances. Sometimes when people have a conversation, the speaker has another meaning behind what is said, and that is why the listener should interpret to understand the message. Greenfield as stated in Haryanto et al (2018) defined that meaning in communication is called pragmatics. Greenfield said that meaning is not only something in the word itself, nor something from the speaker utterances, nor something to the listener interpretation, but also a bound of three of them. Besides, according Leech stated in Haryanto et al (2018) pragmatics is a study of how language is used in a particular situation. In line with Leech, Levinson defines pragmatics as a branch of linguistics that studies the relation of language and the context (Haryanto, Weda, & Nashruddin, 2018).

When people communicate, sometimes there is misunderstanding between the speaker and the listener because of inappropriate utterances from the speaker. As the speakers, they should be able to pay attention to speak carefully in order to make the listeners feel more comfortable in doing conversation, and it is called a politeness. Lakoff, in Wang and Wei (2016) defined three basic conditions of politeness; 1) do not impose on others; give others the right of choice; 2) be friendly with each other, and 3) make each other feel good. In addition, Lakoff in Haryanto et al (2018) said that politeness is an interpersonal relationship designed to facilitate

the interaction or communication. Besides, Leech defines politeness as a human behavior that is expressed in a good way (Haryanto, Weda, & Nashruddin, 2018).

There are six maxims of politeness principle according to Leech, those are; tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. These maxims are considered as the extension of Lakoff's three *conditions* of politeness. Those six maxims are intended to make the speakers and the listeners or the communicators feel comfortable. Brown and Levinson said that in communicative activities, both sides have to respect each other and consider the feelings (Wang & Wei, 2016). In conclusion, politeness principle is maintaining a proper speaking to the others without offending them. In the context of humor TV program, usually the actor uses politeness principle violation to make a joke or humorous utterances.

Based on the above issues, the researcher is interested in analyzing the politeness principle violation of *Mind Your Language* comedy series. *Mind Your Language* comedy series is a British comedy series that was premiered on ITV in 1977. The series shows how people from different countries and language learn English together. The focus of this show is a teaching-learning process of English as foreign language students in a college in London. The communication in classroom does not work well because the students have lack of English' speaking ability and students have different mother tongue language. Therefore, the teacher and the students often misunderstood each other. The misunderstanding occurs because there are mispronunciations and politeness principle violation.

## **Identification of the Problem**

In this study the researcher has chosen *Mind Your Language* comedy series as the object. There are two problems that occur in this movie. First problem is different of mother tongue use among characters. The character in this movie is teachers and students. They are from different countries. The communication in classroom does not work well because the students have lack of English' speaking ability and each student has different mother tongue language. Therefore, the teacher and the students often misunderstood each other.

The second problem is politeness principle violation. Sometimes there is misunderstanding between the speaker and listener because of inappropriate utterance from the speaker. There are many cases in which unnecessary misunderstanding as the result from communication politeness principle violation such as improper word or impoliteness. In this movie, there are a lot of conversations which shows politeness principle violation at the time of learning in the classroom. In other hand, this makes an amusement because politeness principle violation can create humorous utterance. The researcher is only focus in the second problem. This study is intended to find out further politeness principle violation in *Mind Your Language* comedy series.

## **Delimitation of the Problem**

Based on the problems identified in the previous section, the researcher decided to only focus to the final issue that is politeness principle violation. The researcher is interested to analyze the politeness principle violation in *Mind Your Language* comedy series. It is as a learning tool. It will be inspired to use humor in classroom to create enjoyable atmosphere in the learning process. In this movie it contains a type of politeness principle violation is very complete based on politeness principle by Leech (1991) which consists of six maxims; tact

maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. There are 42 episodes of *Mind Your Language* comedy series. The researcher focused only on five episodes in the first season of the series. Finally, the researcher conducted this study used descriptive research design.

The researcher decided to use *Mind Your Language* comedy series because the genre of humor this movie is education and the situation happen in the movie is still relevant with nowadays teaching and learning activities.

### **Research Questions**

In line with the problem, the research aims to find out:

1. What are the politeness principle violations in *Mind Your Language* comedy series?
2. What are the effects of politeness principle violation in the conversation?
3. What is the purpose of politeness principle violation made by the speaker in *Mind Your Language* comedy series?

### **The Objective of the Study**

Based on the research questions above, this study aims to analyze the politeness principle violation in *Mind Your Language* comedy series, the effect of politeness principle violation in *Mind Your Language* comedy series and the purpose of politeness principle violation made by the speaker in the conversation of *Mind Your Language* comedy series.

## **Significances of the Study**

The researcher believes that this study is important to conduct. This study at least can be beneficial for the students, teachers and other researchers.

Firstly, this study would be beneficial for the students. The result of this study shows that politeness principle violation causes a humorous situation. After studying this research, the researcher hopes that the students will be inspired to use humor in classroom to create enjoyable atmosphere in the learning process.

Secondly, this study would be beneficial for the teachers. The researcher hopes that the result of this study is useful to give the teacher consideration to use humor in classroom activities.

Lastly, the researcher believes that this study would be beneficial for the other researchers. This study would be a reference for the further research concerning humor in linguistic and communication principles such as cooperative principle and politeness principle.

## **Organization of the Chapter**

The chapters of this study are organized as follow. Chapter one is an introduction. This chapter explained why the researcher concern to study the problem. In chapter one, the researcher discussed background of the study, identification of the problem, delimitation of the problem, the research questions, the objective of the study, the significances of the study and organization of the chapter.

Chapter two is literature review. This chapter reviews some theories related to humor, politeness principle, politeness principle violation, and a brief explanation of *Mind Your*

*Language* comedy series. The researcher also provides the review of related previous studies as the support literature.

Chapter three is research methodology. In this chapter, the researcher explains how this study is conducted. This chapter discusses the research design, the research subject and object, the instrument of the study, technique of data collection, and data analysis.

Chapter four is result and discussion. This chapter provides the results of the study. The researcher describes the analysis of each research questions of the study. This chapter also provides the discussion of the results.

Chapter five is conclusion and recommendations. The last chapter in this study shows the summary of the research based on the research results. Then, the researcher also provided the recommendation for the readers.