CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

Studies in pragmatics have been concerned with the study of speaker meaning or function of a word within a written text or spoken situation, including factors affecting language use or choice as well as language strategies used by speakers in expressing their ideas or feelings. Yule (1996:3) defines pragmatics as "the study of meanings as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader)." They must have insight on how to do communication to reader or listener. It has consequently more to do with the analysis of what people mean by their utterances than what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves. When doing an interaction or making an utterance, people should pay attention to the hearer, treat the hearer in appropriate ways. This can be realized by speaking carefully in order to make others feel comfortable. Thus, they have to pay attention to other's expectation which means that the speaker is doing politeness.

Brown and Levinson argue that "politeness is rational behavior to all humans and that everyone has a positive and negative face" (1987:61). Politeness is behaving in a way that attempts to take into account the feelings of the people being addressed. In   this   case,   the   speakers   try   to   avoid   embarrassing   other   person,   or

making him feel uncomfortable. Thus, politeness refers to the situation where we respect the others to whom we speak. It is truly significant in our daily communication to make a good relationship with our society. Face Threatening Acts (FTA's) are acts that infringe on the hearer's need to maintain his/her self-esteem, and to be respected. Politeness strategies are developed for the main purpose of dealing with these FTA's.

Yule further states that "politeness is a system of interpersonal relations designed to facilitate interaction by human interaction by minimizing the potential for conflict and confrontation inherent in all human interchange" (1996:106). Politeness strategies have significances for some group in society. These contribute for everyone in all conditions that using language as their tools in daily conversation in order to make a good social interaction with other people in their life. Politeness becomes the basic rules in the language which is used by the participants.

The significance of politeness strategies in communication does not only occur in the real society. Those can also be found in the form of literary works such as novel and drama. They are as the imitation and potrayal of social life. Based on Duhan (2015:197), literature is a reflection of the society is a fact that has been widely acknowledged. Literature indeed reflects the society, its good values and its ills. In its corrective function, literature mirrors the ills of the society with a view to making the

society realize its mistakes and make amends. It also projects the virtues or good values in the society for people to emulate. Literature, as an imitation of human action, often presents a picture of what people think, say and do in the society.

The topic of the present study is linguistic forms in politeness expression. According Brown and Levinson (1987), language usage is a crucial part of the expression of social relations. Brown and Levinson in Thomas (1995:169) state that certain speech act is liable to damage or threaten another person's face; such as known as Face Threatening Acts.

The topic of this study is related with FTA (Face Threatening Theory) According to Brown and Levinson, positive and negative faces exist universally in human culture. In social interactions, face-threatening acts are at times inevitable based on the terms of the conversation. A face threatening act is an act that inherently damages the face of the addressee or the speaker by acting in opposition to the wants and desires of the other. Most of these acts are verbal; however, they can also be conveyed in the characteristics of speech (such as tone, inflection, etc.) or in non-verbal forms of communication.

At minimum, there must be at least one of the face threatening acts associated with an utterance. It is also possible to have multiple acts working within a single

utterance. Meanwhile if some actions might be interpreted as a threat to another face, the speaker can say something to lessen the possible threat, it is called Face Saving Acts (FSA). In order to reduce the FTAs Brown and Levinson sum up four main types of politeness strategy, namely bald on record, negative politeness, positive politeness, and bald off record.

One research related to this topic was Dewi Yani's (2014) study on the linguistic forms of face threatening act strategies used in Oprah Winfrey's Interview with Whitney Houston as her Guest Star. The other was Yuni Murliati's (2013) study on politeness used by George Milton in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. The two studies show that the FTA strategies that are mostly used in the analysis was positive politeness. The use of positive politeness was believed to build some familiar situation between the speaker and hearer and sometimes to break the formal conversation in term of small distance among them. It also confirms that the relationship is friendly and recognizes that hearer has a desire to be respected.

In this study, the writer wants to analyze politeness strategies used in the data from play script and combine it with the social factors that may affect the strategy choice. The purpose of the present study is to analyze politeness strategy expressions. For the purpose of the study, the data are taken from three plays, Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, Alice Childress' *The World on a Hill* and Anton Chekov's *The*

Proposal. The plays are chosen as the data source for the topic of this study because they contain many politeness expressions that are used by the characters. The characters in the play have their own opinions, ideas, solutions. Therefore, the writer is interested in applying the linguistic theory about use of politeness to this play. This study is expected to contribute to better knowledge on the use of politeness expressions in play scripts.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background above, the thesis writer formulates the problem statements as follows:

1. What forms politeness expressions are used in Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler,* Anton Chekov's *The Proposal* and Alice Childress' *The World on a Hill*?

2. What are the types of speech acts being expressed in Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler,* Anton Chekov's *The Proposal* and Alice Childress' *The World on a Hill*?

3. What politeness strategies are used by the characters in Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler,* Anton Chekov's *The Proposal* and Alice Childress'*The World on a Hill*?

4. What are the influencing factors that caused the characters in Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler,* Anton Chekov's *The Proposal* and Alice Childress' *The World on a Hill* used politeness expression?

1.3   Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, the thesis writer wants to find out the forms of politeness expressions and the strategies used by the characters in Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler,* Anton Chekov's *The Proposal* and Alice Childress' *The World on a Hill*. Moreover, the thesis writer wants to know the influencing factor affecting the characters to used politeness expressions.

1.4   Significance of the Study

The thesis writer hopes that the result of this study can contribute to the study of linguistics especially to the study of pragmatics in general and the study of politeness in particular. This study is expected to give an understanding of the politeness strategies in politeness expression.

1.5   Scope and Limitation of the Study

To answer the formulated statements of the problem, the writer needs to emphasize the scope and limitation. This study only focuses on analyzing the speech acts and factors of politeness expressions used in Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler,* Anton Chekov's *The Proposal* and Alice Childress' *The World on a Hill*. The study considers the context of conversations in written text, the factors influencing the use of politeness are priori of considerations and sociological variables. In this thesis, the writer concentrates on the conversations which contain politeness expression. The limitations of this study includes the small number of data, which could provide a space for more conclusive research on politeness in drama and to look into the use of politeness types and strategies in other forms of literary works such as drama.

1.6   Organization of the Study

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, the significance of the study, and the scope and limitation. The second chapter is the Review of Related Literature. This part consists of related theories and

studies. The third chapter is the Research Method. The methods to be used in this study are the data collection and data analysis. Furthermore, Chapter Four is about the analysis of the data and the findings and discussion. Finally, the writer concludes the result of the analysis in the fifth chapter.