CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In daily life, human are always in contact with others. This relationship is commonly called conversation. According to Yule (1996: 71)

> "Conversation is like dance, with the conversational partners coordinating their movements smoothly. For other's it's like traffic crossing an intersection, involving lots of alternating movement without any crashes. However, the most widely used analytic approach is based, not on dancing (there's no music) or on an analogy with the workings of a market economy."

From the statement, conversation means not just exchange of information because through conversation it can be decided whether the message is received by the hearer or not. Therefore it will promote not only a message but also a favorable response of the hearer.

Conversation involves social values such as age, power, social distance, and formality. The investigation of that conversation carries out the term politeness. Mills (2003: 6) defines politeness is the expression of the speakers' intention to mitigate face threats carried by certain face threatening acts toward another. It means that the use of politeness in conversation is important to create the comfortable atmosphere between the speaker and the hearer.

Goffman (1967) state that face is a mask that changes depending the audience and the social interaction. But there is a limited amount of strategies to maintain face. A threat to a person's face has been termed a face-threatening act

(FTA). A face-threatening act (FTA) is any utterance that intrinsically threatens another's face and includes disagreements, critics, delivery of bad news, and request. There are three sociological factors that involved in doing the FTA which a speaker (S) will use to the hearer (H): these are relative power (P) of H over S, the social distance (D) between S and H, and the ranking of the imposition (R).

The reason for choosing the topic "Face-threatening Act" is based on the writer's curiosity in analyzing politeness phenomena from different point of view, which is based Brown and Levinson's politeness strategy.

Kennedy (1970: 231) states that a novel is a book length story in prose whose authors try to create the sense that while people read, they can experience actual life. Novel makes the reader feel entertained because it give various emotional things that make people open-minded to pass the time in the world. Characters in the novel are similar to people who live in a real life, they communicate each other to convey their intention. It is also a fact that miscommunication sometimes happens.

"The Cry and the covenant" is a modern novel. It is about a heroic doctor who gave his life to save mother and the children they bore. Early in his career, Ignaz Philipp, a brilliant young interne in a famed Viennese hospital, made the shocking discovery that thousands of women were dying at childbirth because of the unhygienic methods of the physicians who attended them. But when he broached his theory the hospital committee refuse his theory and ignominiously driven out of Vienna. But he never stops until his last day in his life.

In Morton Thompson's novel entitled "The Cry and the Covenant" there are lots of conversations among the characters. The conversations in this novel are various, such as: a son (Ignaz Philipp) and his parents (Joseph and Therese Semmelweis), Ignaz Philipp and his brothers (Joseph, Karl, and August), Ignaz Philipp and his friends (Chiary, markussovky, Hebra, etc), Ignaz Philipp and his lecturer (Mr. Albert, Prof.Rokitansky, etc), Ignaz Philipp and his patients, and so on. From the conversations, it is found that there are various kinds of the use of face-threatening act strategies. Beside that, from this novel, it can be seen that in every condition even at home with other family members or at school with friends and lecturers, someone usually uses face-threatening act to state his or her idea.

Based on the statement above, it seems to be relevant to study the use of face-threatening act strategies in novel entitled "The Cry and the Covenant"

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problems of the study are:

1. How are the face-threatening acts (FTAs) strategies used by the characters' utterances in novel entitled "The Cry and the Covenant"?

2. How is the comparison of characters' FTA described in novel entitled "The Cry and the covenant"?

1.3 Scope of the Study

The discussion of this study deals with the Face-threatening Acts (FTAs) proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). They are Bald-on record strategies,

Positive politeness strategies, Negative Politeness strategies, and Off-record politeness strategies used among the characters in the novel entitled "The Cry and the Covenant". The data are taken from the utterances used by the characters.

1.4 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the face-threatening Acts (FTAs) strategies used in the characters' utterances in novel entitled "The Cry and the Covenant"

2. To describe the comparison of characters' FTA in novel entitled "The Cry and the Covenant"

1.5 Significance of the Study

The significances of the study are as follows:

1. For the researcher

   a. Applying theories and knowledge that the researcher gets during her study at the university.

   b. Increasing the researcher ability in analyzing a literary work especially "The Cry and the Covenant" novel which will analyzed by using Brown and Levinson's Face-threatening Act strategies.

2. For the students of English Department

   To increase their understanding of Brown and Levinson's Face-threatening Acts (FTAs) strategies and to discover their application in Morton Thompson's Novel entitled "The Cry and the Covenant".

1.6 Thesis Organization

The study is arranged into five chapters. The first chapter, introduction, contains the general background of the study, statement of the problem, scope of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study and thesis organization.

Review of related literature is discussed in chapter two. It consists of the description about the speech acts, politeness and face-threatening act (FTAs).

The third chapter contains the method of investigation, where the researcher discusses research design, unit of analysis, source of data, technique of data collection and technique of data analysis.

In chapter four, there will be the result of the analysis about the use of four strategies in the novel. Finally, in chapter five the researcher proposes conclusion and suggestion.