

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an important role in human society as a tool to interact among people. It is a human system that uses arbitrary signals and symbolic device, such as voice sounds, gestures or written symbols. Arbitrary signal is a process to choose any sound to mean anything. Symbolic device is a language symbols to represent any kind of objects structurally. These language symbols are different from one language to the others. Language is an effective ways for communicator to share his or her feelings, ideas or attitudes. It also maintains social relation among society.

Language is base aspect to do communication. Communication is a process of sending and receiving information among people. An American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, National Joined Committee (NJC), (1992: 2) concluded that “communication is any act by which one person gives to or receives from person information about that person’s needs, desires, perceptions, knowledge, or affective states.” Communication is needed to arise good social relations and avoid a misunderstanding between speaker and hearer.

In general, there are two types of communication. They are spoken and written communication. Spoken language is a human natural language in which the words are uttered through mouth as organ of speech. It is also called as oral

language because of its communication process is happened through of this organ of speech.

The communication of spoken language is spontaneous and ungrammatically because it is communicated directly between speaker and listener. This spoken communication between two people or more is called conversation. This understanding is related with the meaning of conversation by Francesca Pridham in her book *The Language of Conversation*. She argued that “conversation, therefore, is any interactive spoken exchange between two or more people and can be face-to-face exchanges . . .” (2001: 2). Conversation is an ideal form of communication because speaker can reveal his or her meaning sense completely with body language and intonation even though silence and laughter. Speaker can make sure the message is understood by addressee’s feedback when he or she does conversation face-to-face.

There are two types of conversation. They are formal and casual conversation. Formal conversation is designed for used in situations in which natural language is unsuitable, for example lawyer to judge, goal setting between manager and employee, or parent-teacher conversation. Casual conversation is the most type of conversation which is used in society and it is called everyday talk. Suzanne Eggins (1997: 8) argued that “. . . casual conversation is the kind of talk we engage in when we are talking just for the sake of talking.” Casual conversation is daily talk and it has no tie to grammar rule. It connects social bonds and maintains relationships and friendship with other people.

Casual conversation is usually followed by small talk. Small talk is social conversation which the main purpose is for managing interpersonal distance. It avoids awkwardness by doing chit-chat with common topics like about weather, current event, hometown or entertainment. Small talk is also called as phatic communication or phatic communion. Richards et al. (1992: 214) assumed that phatic communion is a communication which is not for finding or sending information, but it is a communication which has social function to make steady or maintain social contact.

In this research, the researcher prefers to choose “Phatic Expressions Between Indonesians and Foreigners in the Casual Conversation” as the title of this thesis because it is interesting to analyze and important to add readers’ knowledge, especially who has English as the second language. English learner can improve his or her knowledge about phatic and practice it better in everyday talk since English learner has relation with foreigners and speak English as the language communication. Indeed, this result of researching can prove the truth of theory of phatic where phatic phenomenon itself most appears in casual conversation. Based on the research idea, she especially wants to observe this phenomena which is happened among Indonesians and foreigners in their casual conversation who use English as the tool of communication.

The topic or styles of small talk are different in each countries. It is based on one reason that every country has different cultures and customs. This reason causes the researcher inquisitive sense is appeared to observe and analyze phenomena of phatic communication among Indonesians and foreigners. Then,

she chose different speakers nationalities to find the phatic communion in casual conversation by each of the speakers where they have different national backgrounds.

By this research, the researcher hopes the readers who use English as their second language can interact with foreigners using phatic communication better and apply it in many purposes to create a good relationship to other people.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the researcher states problems as follows:

1. What are the topics which appear in the conversations between Indonesians and foreigners in the casual conversation?
2. What are the functions of phatic communication used between Indonesians and foreigners in the casual conversation?

1.3 Scope of the Study

The main purpose of this research is to analyze phatic communication between Indonesians and foreigners in the casual conversations. The Indonesians are an interpreter, an English learner and a employee. The foreigners are from Libya, Germany and Wales. These three conversations have been taken randomly to analysis the features of small talk. The analyzing covers to the topics and the functions of phatic communication in the conversations.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

In related with the statements of the study, the researcher concludes objectives of the study as follows:

1. To describe the topics which appear in the conversations between Indonesians and foreigners.
2. To identify the functions of phatic communication in the conversations between Indonesians and foreigners.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes that the results of this study can give some advantages to:

1. Reader

The reader becomes more knowing that small talk is one of the most important parts of conversation between speakers. It has no important topics, but it keeps the conversation running smoothly.

2. English learner

Through this research, English learner can improve knowledge and ability to speak and to practice small talk in English society.

3. Researcher

This paper will contribute minded of using of small talk to her, know a good situation with good topics to break the awkward moment.

4. Other researcher

Other researcher is able to use this thesis as his or her reference about phatic communication in casual talk.

5. Mentor

Based on the result of this study, all kind of mentor in school or company can study and apply the benefit of using small talk.

6. Faculty of Humanities

Hopefully, this research contributes to English program of linguistic education, pragmatic branches, especially in phatic communication. It adds the riches knowledge of linguistic section.

1.6 Thesis Organization

This thesis contains into five chapters.

The chapter I is introduction. It describes background of the study, statement of the problems, scope of the study, objectives of the study, and significances of the study and thesis organization.

Chapter II explains review of related literature. This chapter exposes about some theories used as the theoretical basis in carrying out this study. They are communication, spoken language, casual conversation, language and culture, pragmatic study and phatic communication.

Chapter III is research method. It covers research design, unit of analysis, source of data, techniques of data collection, and techniques of data analysis.

Chapter IV is data analysis. It presents the research finding and the discussion of the data analyzed.

Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion of this research.