CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language is an important device for human being in the world. Not only as a device but also as a way of human being for building communication with each other in the society. Human being is the only one perfect creature who can use language widely. Human being cannot live properly without language, because no one can live alone without contact with others. Knowing a language also means knowing how to use that language since speakers know not only how to form sentences but also how to use them appropriately (Wardaugh, 2006: 3).

Language also has two functions transactional and interactional; Transactional is language serves in the expressions of content, and interactional is expressing social relations and personal attitudes (Brown and Yule, 1982:1). In the daily life, all people use language for sharing ideas, showing expressions and feelings, and interacting with each other. Furthermore, with language one has been able to convey, catch, and understand the messages in the conversation.

To get a response from others, people ask something or utter words containing thought, feeling, desires or needs to each other. When people produce utterances that contain words and grammatical structure, they
usually do some actions through their utterances which are later called “speech act” (Finegan, 1992: 307). Austin specifies speech acts into giving order, making promises, complaining, requesting, and refusing among others (Austin, 1962: 98-99). For example, when a speaker invites someone to go to the party, she will be persuading with polite request. Moreover, request is an act used by people in the direct or indirect conversation.

Direct request is an act of request when the speaker makes request using the performative verbs. Performative verbs are verbs where saying or writing it performs the action itself. For example: ”Please help me to bring these books”. The performative verb of that sentence is ‘bring’. The speaker directly asks help to bring the books. Meanwhile, indirect request is an act of request when speaker making request’s form which is not related to the function. For example: “I’m really hot” the speaker is not merely giving a statement that she/he is very hot, but it contains implicit meaning if she/he wants the listener to open the window or turn on the air conditioner for her/him.

From some theories of speech act, Yule is one of them. Yule’s theory is making clear and appropriate for this study. Yule’s has divided speech act into five types of general functions, such as declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and comissives. Directives is kind of speech act to get someone to do something, and express what the speaker wants (Yule 1996:54). Almost any speech act is the performance
of several acts at once. It can be distinguished by different aspects of the speaker’s intention. One of the speech acts especially illocutionary acts are pointed to directives. Directive is the point of which is to direct the hearer towards doing something; which have a world to word direction of fit, e.g. requests, ask question, suggestion, apologies, and so on (Mey, 1993 in Searle, 1977: 34-8).

In other words, request is called pre-event act, they express the speaker’s expectation of the hearer with regards to prospective action, even verbal or nonverbal (Blum-Kulka and House, 1989: 11). Requests are face-threatening act that hearer can interpret requests as intrusive impingements on freedom of action, the speakers need to be competent about in order to have a successful result in communication even the speakers may hesitate to make the request for fear of exposing a need or risking the hearer’s loss of face (Blum-Kulka and House, 1989: 11-12 in Brown and Levinson’s, 1978).

Related to all explanation above the researcher is interested in analyzing the request strategies in *The Blind Side* movie which is adapted from the extraordinary true story. This movie is based on a book *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game* by Michael Lewis published in 2006. This movie is an American semi biographical sports drama film which is first published in 2009. The genre is drama movie. It was written and directed by John Lee Hancock. *The Blind Side* was a box office success movie
which is grossing over $300 million. This movie has received an Academy Award nomination for Best Picture.

The researcher is interested to analyze conversation spoken by the main characters in *The Blind Side* movie which is containing request strategies. The main characters from the movie are Sandra Bullock as Leigh Anne Tuohy and Quinton Aaron as Sean Junior ‘SJ’. This movie is telling about a poor, oversized and under-educated teenager is recruited by a major college football program where he is groomed into an athletically and academically successful NFL prospect.

There are some reasons why the researcher is interested to analyze request strategies used by the main character in *The Blind Side* movie. Firstly, request is easily and commonly found in daily communication. Secondly, the main character mostly played in the movie and they often uttered and had conversation with each other. Request strategies are one of the central categories on the coding scheme that classification of requests patterns in terms. It has four categorizes which is divided into ten strategies (Trosborg, 1991: 76).

1.2 Statement of Problems

In this aspect aims to find out types and differences that requests strategies by the main character. The research questions for this study are:

1. What are the types of request strategies used by female character (Ms. Tuohy) in the movie?
2. What are the types of request strategies used by male (SJ/ Sean Junior) character in the movie?

3. What are the similarities and the differences of requests strategies used between female and male character in the movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The goals of the researcher’s research are:

1. To identify and to classify the types of requests strategies used by female (Ms. Tuohy) character in the movie.

2. To identify and to classify the types of requests strategies used by male (SJ/ Sean Junior) character in the movie.

3. To investigate the similarities and the differences request strategies used by female and male character in the movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this research is to enrich knowledge of language, especially, for request which is common in daily communication. This research intends to show its scientific side of requesting through the movie *The Blind Side*. This study is a branch of speech act, and the researcher analyzes requests strategies. The researcher thinks that this study is still rarely to use. The researcher hopes this study for opening a new side and evolving the study of speech act wider. Hopefully this study becomes a new reference for linguistic students, especially for English
department students, and for new researcher in the same field but different studies. The researcher also hopes that this study gives a benefit information for the readers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The discussion of this research is limited to identification and classification of requests uttered by the main characters in the movie. The researcher is focused on the utterances of Ms. Tuohy and Sean Junior as the main characters, because only both of them who often speech by request. The data taken from American movie that entitled The Blind Side. The conversations of the main characters in the movie that contain request are classified and analyzed pragmatically into nine types of request strategies.

1.6 Definition Key Terms

1. Request:

Request is a goal the speaker’s reason for making his/ her desire with a command (questioned direct request) whereby give a benefit.

2. Request strategies:

How to make the hearer do something of the speaker demands with direct or indirect. It has divided into ten types of strategies.