

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the author includes some contents such as: background of the study, research problems, the objective of the study, and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the primary medium or tool for communication. According to (Holmes, 2013) humans use language to ask for and give information. According to Trudgill (1974), the function of language is not only to disseminate information, but also to build and maintain relationships with other people. Language is in the form of thoughts, desires, or feelings in speakers. Speeches that can be conveyed must be able to clearly support the intent so that what is thought, desired, or felt can be well received. As a communication tool, language can create a sense of mutual understanding between speakers and speech partners, or between writers and readers. Language in the process of communication and interaction is needed by every human being in all forms of activity. Therefore, language is a medium that cannot be separated from humans, because without language humans cannot carry out their activities normally.

One of the language phenomena that occurs in society is compliments. Compliments are common and widely used by humans in general to greet, encourage, thank, and compliment in conversation. Holmes (2003: 177) states,

compliments are a speech act that explicitly and implicitly attributes appreciation to someone other than the speaker, usually that person is intended for some 'goods' (possession, skills, characteristics etc.) which are positive values of speaker. and listeners. He further emphasized that the main function of compliment is affective and social, not referential, or informative.

The theory of compliment is one of the subjects studied in pragmatics. Giving compliments is a speech act that is often used in daily interactions, and cannot be separated from the interactions of everyday life. The speech act of giving compliments is one way to express feelings of respect for someone. Holmes (2003: 177) states that compliment is a speech act that directly or indirectly gives appreciation to someone other than the speaker, usually the speaker, for some of his "advantages", such as possessions, characteristics, skills, and so on that the speaker appreciates. Compliments is a speech act that is done to give appreciation to someone for what is obtained or achieved. Compliments are common and are widely used by humans in general to greet, encourage, thank, and compliments in conversation.

In the learning process at school, teachers and students are certainly involved in interactions. Interaction occurs because of teacher and student speech; without speech, the learning process will not run in accordance with the objectives of achieving learning. Thus, the utterances conveyed have various forms, whether in the form of information, questions, apologies, requests, compliments, and so on.

As with learning at SMPK Santa Familia Kupang, in the classroom, both in a relaxed state and in the learning process, teachers and students often use expressive speech, by describing the psychological state of the teacher and students about something. For example; expressing, thanking, congratulating, criticizing, blaming, complaining, and giving compliments and others. Therefore, the researcher focuses her research on speech acts of

compliments, because speech acts of compliment are not only conveyed in the form of words, but speakers also convey compliment based on the source, level of sincerity, objectives, expressions, and the form of the speech. In pragmatic studies, there are various kinds of expressions. According to researcher the strategy of giving compliments in class is very important because giving compliments to students can motivate students. On the other hand, it can make students feel happy and satisfied with what they get and increase student enthusiasm for learning.

Since compliments come in many varieties, it is very important for people to know what compliments to give. Therefore, this study aims to determine the compliments used by English teachers at SMPK Santa Familia Kupang through teachers who give compliments in the development of pragmatic learning. There are several reasons researchers make teachers as targets in research, teachers have a very important role in learning activities in the classroom. Such as appreciating students by giving compliments as a form of motivation to increase student enthusiasm for learning. The focus of this study is compliments used by English teachers at SMPK Santa Familia because there are many unique interactions between teachers and students who give compliments to appreciate their appearance, skills, and possessions.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background above, the author identifies two problems, formulated in question below:

1. What are compliment strategies used by English teachers in giving compliments?
2. What are the functions of compliments given by the English teachers?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Related to some problems above, the objective of the study is as follows:

1. To find out the strategies for giving compliments used by English teachers at SMPK Santa Familia Kupang
2. To find out the functions of compliments given by the English teachers

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to provide theoretical, practical, and pedagogical benefits. Theoretically, this study aims to determine the strategy of giving compliments used by English teachers at SMPK Santa Familia Kupang.

Practically and pedagogically, this research provides two benefits for the readers. First, this research is expected to provide an understanding of compliments strategies. Second, this research can add to and broaden English knowledge, especially by broadening the teachers' horizons, both for teaching and self-development to give compliments.