CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Social interaction plays a role in individual or group community. An interaction is required to communicate to each other. Besides, they need language as a means to relate their communication/interaction. As we have known, language has a meaning in every word, phrase, sentence, etc. By the existence of language in human life, it triggers them to construct speech acts through their utterances in expressing of what they mean. It is communicated by the speaker and interpreted by the hearer to accomplish the goal of communication.

Nevertheless, in performing their speech acts, people’s utterances are affected by social distance term. It includes in the status of the hearers or interlocutors, age, sex, degree of intimacy, etc. The overall factors of social distance are to show degree of respectfulness and indirectness within a given speech situation (Leech in Thomas, 1995). In other sides, social distance or solidarity usually affects the suitable language choice, because how well the speakers know the interlocutors will become one of important factors influencing the way he or she talks (Holmes, 2001). For instance, the way they utter commissive speech acts, specifically refusal.

As a negative response and face-threatening act, the refusal is expressed when someone tends to refuse interlocutor’s offering, requesting, invitation, etc. In delivering a refusal, the speakers have generally a particular strategy to refuse
an action directly or indirectly, because every person has different way to show a refusal. The speakers usually prefer to apply a direct refusal, because they feel comfort to apply a directness form in refusing a request, command, invitation, etc towards a person who they know well to each other before than a stranger. Nevertheless, they sometimes do not realize while they employ a direct refusal to refuse an action in the same of age, social status, class, occupation, sex, ethnicity, etc, it is able to threaten the interlocutor’s face. Therefore, the way of using refusal strategy appropriately is needed in order to avoid the interlocutor’s feeling gets hurt. To know the strategy of refusal, the researcher concerns with the classification of refusal by Takahasi and Weltz (in Widowati, 2011) namely direct refusal, indirect refusal, and adjunct to refusal. A direct refusal is usually expressed by uttering “No”, I can’t, and I don’t think so. Meanwhile, an indirect refusal is showed by saying “Sorry..”, “I promise I’ll..”, etc. The last, an adjunct to refusal is performed by stating “I’d like to..”, “uhm..”, “Thanks..”, etc.

The novel entitled “The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas” is historical story created by John Boyne. The novel involves some characters, namely Bruno, Gretel, Shmuel, Bruno’s grandfather and grandmother, Bruno’s parents, Lieutenant Kotler, Fury and his wife. Bruno is one of the main characters in the novel. There are some expressions of refusal executed by the children characters in the novel. Hence, the researcher is interested in the children characters as the subject of the research. The researcher also focuses on the social distance in influencing the choice of refusal strategy. Then, the researcher wants to find out the way children characters use refusal expressions, the types of refusal
expression, and the reason why children characters employ refusal expressions. Finally, the researcher decides to analyze “The Existence of Social Distance in Refusals Delivered by Children Characters in the Novel Entitled The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas”. (A Pragmatics Study).

A. Problem Statements

In this research, the researcher would like to find out the existence of social distance in influencing refusal expressions produced by the children characters. Therefore, there are some problems will be discussed by the researcher as follows:

1. How children characters employ refusal expressions in the novel entitled “The boy in the Striped Pyjamas”?
2. What are kinds of refusal expression performed by children characters in the novel entitled “The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas”?

B. Objectives of the Research

Through this research, the researcher would like to observe the way children characters use refusal expressions, the types of refusal expression, and the reason why children characters employ refusal expressions in the novel entitled “The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas”. The several objectives can be portrayed in the description below:
1. To know how children characters use refusal expressions in the novel entitled “The Boy in the Stripped Pyjamas”.

2. To identify kinds of refusal expression employed by the children characters in the novel entitled “The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas”.

3. To reveal why children characters apply refusal expressions in the novel “The Boy in the Stripped Pyjamas”.

C. Scope of the Research

The scope of the research is pragmatics study to analyze the data. To limit the study, the researcher only takes refusal expressions executed by children characters in the novel entitled “The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas” in which the refusals are influenced by the existence of social distance.

D. Significances of the Research

The research would like to convey the findings of the way children characters state refusal expressions, types of refusal expression, and the reason why children characters produce refusal expressions, since refusal is as a face-threatening act. The findings of the research are expected to be useful for others. The specific significances of the research are:

1. English Department student

   The researcher expects the research can be very beneficial for student. It is able to give more insights for the student in understanding how far social distance affects refusal expressions as
face-threatening act to refuse an action towards the interlocutors
looked from the way children characters use refusal expressions,
kinds of refusal expression, and the reason why children characters
utilize refusal expressions.

2. Other Researchers

The researcher hopes the research can be employed as source of references for them in carrying out further study, specifically the researcher who is interested in the refusal speech act and indirectness factor, namely social distance by using pragmatics study.

E. Research Methodology

The research is conducted by collecting, classifying, and analyzing the data based on descriptive qualitative method. The data are the dialogs among the characters which contain refusal expressions conveyed by children characters in the novel “The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas”. The sampling technique used in the research is purposive sampling technique since it applied to know the purposes of the research. Meanwhile, the samples are chosen based on criteria which have been constructed in the purposes of the research.

F. Thesis Organization

The thesis is divided into five chapters which consist of some subchapters. The organization of this thesis can be drawn as follows:


CHAPTER III  Research Methodology: Type of Research, Research Location, Sample and Sampling Technique, Source of Data and Data, Technique of Collecting Data, Technique of Analyzing Data, and Data Coding.

CHAPTER IV  Findings and discussions

CHAPTER V  Conclusions and Suggestions