

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

In the context of target language learning, pragmatics plays an important role in communication appropriateness. This study focuses on compliment responses, as one type of speech act that often causes misunderstanding in communication, due to their inappropriateness in expressing intentions and goals according to the context, especially if the speaker is in the process of learning the target language. The purpose of this study is to explore compliment responses produced by English Language Teaching Students from Indonesia and the Philippines, with a focus on the realization of macro and micro strategies based on Holmes (1988) taxonomy. The analysis was conducted within the framework of the Interlanguage Pragmatic (ILP) study with the aim of determining the participants' pragmatic abilities or competencies when using English as their target language (L2).

Based on the results of the analysis, both groups of participants were known to tend to use the macro strategy Acceptance dominantly, followed by Evasion and Rejection. Indonesian students used the Acceptance strategy more than Filipino students, while the Evasion strategy was more prominently used by Filipino participants.

Furthermore, participants demonstrated their pragmatic competence or ability in using the selection of compliment response strategies to adjust to social situations based on power and distance factors. The Acceptance strategy

is more dominantly used in relationships where participants have a lower status compared to the complimenter (Lower to Higher) whether they know or do not know each other closely (Know & Don't Know Each Other, while the Evasion strategy increases in relationships when participants have a higher position compared to the complimenter (Higher to Lower) and a close social distance (Know). This shows that both participants show a norm of caution in responding to compliments based on social context.

More deeply, the micro strategy, Appreciation Token is the most frequently used strategy by both groups of participants, followed by Agreeing Utterance, then Shift Credit, and others. The Question Accuracy strategy was not found at all. The dominance of the Appreciation Token strategy is also supported by native English speakers, as seen in previous studies discussed in the discussion.

Thus it can be concluded that ELT students from Indonesia and the Philippines have shown good development of their pragmatic competence. The choice of macro and micro strategies they use in responding to compliments also shows similarities to the patterns of native speakers, which means that they have experienced success and progress in mastering Interlanguage Pragmatic Competence in their target language, namely English, both in terms of sociopragmatics and linguistics.

B. Suggestions

Based on the results and discussion of the study, this study recognizes several limitations that can be opportunities for further research.

1. Participants in this study were limited to English language education students from two universities in Indonesia and the Philippines, so it is recommended for further researchers to involve learners from broader cultural and institutional backgrounds who can reveal different pragmatic behavior patterns in a more global context.
2. This study does not use a theoretical basis related to culture. Thus, for further researchers it is recommended to explore factors that discuss culture in order to find out the reasons behind the choice of participant strategy use in responding to compliment. The addition of a cultural perspective will enrich the analysis and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between cultural values and pragmatic competence of English language learners.
3. This study focuses on macro and micro strategies in the context of power and distance. Other sociolinguistic variables such as gender, age, social roles, or language proficiency levels, which are not discussed in depth in this study can be explored.
4. In addition, further research is also highly recommended to consider the use or addition of interview methods or role play in real interactions. This approach can obtain contextual compliment response data in everyday life and allows researchers to capture deeper pragmatic nuances such as intonation or expression.