

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the researcher presents the introduction of the research. It contains background of the problem, statement of the problem, purpose and significance of the research, conceptual framework, previous study, organization of writing, clarification of terms and linguistic symbols.

### **1.1 Background of Problem**

Linguistics study deals with how to analyze any human speech, where utterances are the result of longer processes of thinking, habit, and past experience and how to sentences use in speech event through language. All people always communicate with other to deliver their messages; they want to get across in their daily communication. In their daily speech, disagreement is often revealed by the speaker to show that his/her opinion is not the same as the interlocutor's opinion or suggestion. It is very often to find that people usually have different idea from the other, which causes them in expressing disagreement. Actually, disagreement happens when a speaker thinks that his/her hearer is wrong, misguided, or unreasonable about some issues (Brown and Levinson, 1987:66). In expressing their disagreement the speaker usually has some strategies because when the speaker express his/her disagreement. It can cause misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer.

Disagreement strategies are defined as the linguistic choices that speakers made in different context to convey the message they want to get across.

Disagreement itself is a kind of face threatening act (Brown and Levinson, 1987: 113). In other hand, according to Locher (2004:93), disagreement is likely to involve the exercise of power because it entails a conflict and therefore also a clash of interest. The strategies of disagreement are used by interlocutor who express disagreement about the hearer's statement. These strategies function to extend of disagreement to the hearer. However, the interlocutor has necessary reasons to make a disagreement.

Debate is process of searching out critical points of disagreement about a substantial debatable controversy. If no disagreement exists, the issue is not debatable and therefore no kind debaters engage.

During the year 2008, America was having a determining event. The country was having an election to choose the next American president. The election was very important because the result of the election would influence the country's condition for the next four years. The new president would determine the future of America.

After passing several primaries, the Democratic Party and Republican Party chose their official president candidates. Barrack Obama had been chosen as the president candidate from Democratic Party. On the hand, John McCain was decided as the president candidate from the Republican Party.

There were two more presidential debates. One at the Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2008, and the last one at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2008. The researcher took the first presidential debate because more controversial between both of

candidates. In the first presidential debate, there were three sessions, they are: financial crisis, national security and foreign policy. In the first session, they discussed about financial crisis which emphasized into economic crisis on Wall Street and the financial markets disaster occurred in mid-September. During their discussed about it, McCain's behavior gave the appearance that he was erratic and unsteady. Conversely, Obama appeared confident, cool and collected. Public opinion polling gave Obama 46 percent with 20 percent unsure according to a USA Today (Clayton, 2010: 15).

There are quotations of utterance Barack Obama and McCain in the presidential debate that contains expressing disagreement strategies as follow:

McCain: But somehow in wasting today- and I'm afraid on Wall Street greed in rewarded, excess in rewarded, and corruption-or certainty failure to carry out our responsibility is rewarded. As president of the United States, people are going to be held accountable in my administration. And I promise you that will happen.

Obama: **well, I think** senator McCain's absolutely right that we need were responsibility<sup>1</sup>.

From the statement above, Barack Obama used words, 'well' and 'I think' to express disagreement. According to Locher's theory, the words 'well' and 'I think' are categorized into the hedges. 'Well' here has the function as a marker of insufficiency indicating some problem on the content level of the current utterance. While, the word 'I think' has the function as insecurity.

The other example is:

Obama: and the problem John, with the strategy that's been pursued was that, for 10 years, we coddled Musharraf, we alienated to

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<sup>1</sup> Stephanie, *Transcript of Debate 1: Obama versus McCain (09-27-08)* (U.S: University of Mississippi:2008), P.4

Pakistani population, because we were anti democratic...and as consequence, we lost legitimacy in Pakistan. We spent \$10 billion... that's going to change when I'm president of the United States.

McCain: I – I **don't** think that senator Obama understands that there was a failed states in Pakistan when Musharraf came to power... **but let me** tell you, **you know**, this business about bombing Iran and all that, **let me** tell you my record<sup>2</sup>.

McCain used the combination strategies to express his disagreement. First, he used the word 'don't'. According to Locher's theory, it is classified into non mitigating disagreement that indicates he wanted to defend his point of view. Then, he continued saying '**but let me tell you**'. The word 'but' here just has a function as conjunction not as a marker of disagreement strategy. To support his disagreement then he used the words '**let me**' that categorized into hedges.

From the case about, the researcher is very interesting to show both of the president candidates who attacked each other in giving the opinion and show their programs up with systematical reason and extensive concept. The researcher interested to take the first presidential debate because of the candidates of president were more express disagreement strategies that made the candidates pro and contra in giving the opinions. Besides, this debate also had submitted Barack Obama becomes the president of United States through his strategies in presidential election. The first presidential debate took place at University of Mississippi, Oxford on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2008.

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

In understanding about disagreement strategies, the researcher had to understand about the kinds of disagreement strategies and its function, how to

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, P.22

categorize the text into disagreement strategies, because in disagreement strategies there is a word that categorized into the conjunction. So, the researcher must be able to different which one conjunction and disagreement strategies.

In understanding the disagreement strategies, the researcher has to effort to closely understand what the researcher means about disagreement strategies and its function. Its function means the purpose of the speaker to express his/her disagreement. Therefore, to make this research valuable, the following questions are necessary to carry out of an identification of the problems.

Based on those statements above, there are some problems that can be formulated:

- 1.2. 1. What are the disagreement strategies used by Barack Obama in the first presidential debate?
- 1.2.2. What are the disagreement strategies used by McCain in the first presidential debate?
- 1.2.3. What are the differences and similarities of expressing disagreement between Barack Obama and McCain?

### **1.3 Purpose and Significance of the Research**

The purpose of the research is to find out the problems as the following statement.

- 1.3.1. To identify disagreement strategies used by Barack Obama
- 1.3.2. To identify disagreement strategies used by McCain.
- 1.3.3. To find out the differences strategies of disagreement defend on their opinions.

The significant of research is very useful for the researcher who has been studying English especially in Linguistics term and also those who are interested in analyzing work.

For better comprehension of significance of research, the points are mentioned as follows:

1. The researcher hopes that through this research, the reader can understand more about how to express the disagreement to the hearer without hurting the other's feeling by using the appropriate strategies.
2. The researcher also expects that this study can be useful to the readers especially in helping further researchers who want to study the disagreement strategies.

#### **1.4 Conceptual Framework**

Language has the important rule that happens in daily life for interaction each other, and it often causing miscommunication or conflict. Disagreement also often causes conflict because everyone has the differences in way of thinking. According to Locher (2004:93) 'disagreement is likely to involve the exercise of power because it entails a conflict and therefore also a clash of interest'. Because disagreement is able to cause conflict, therefore, the speaker looks for how to get the point. According to Locher (2004: 93-143), there are some strategies to express disagreement which consist of the use of hedges, giving personal or emotional reasons for disagreeing, modal auxiliaries, shifting responsibility, objections in the form of a question, the use of but, repetition of an utterance by next or the same speaker and non mitigating disagreement strategies.

In the debate, disagreement often happens when both of speakers give the differences of opinions. It happens also in the debate of Barack Obama and McCain for presidential election. Both of them competed in giving opinions in order the people can evaluate them to be a proper president of the United States. Therefore, they needed some strategies to get some points. According to Rieke et.al (in Freeley, 2005: 317), debate is single most interesting campaign activity. Also, it is the center of presidential campaigns that sometimes become the decisive factor in determining the winner of the election (Freeley and Steiberg, 2005: 368). In addition, according to Freeley (2005:3) debate is a decision – making tool used in a variety of argumentative setting. Because debate can raise the conflict, debater may have ‘conflicting interest’, different ways of understanding a common problem, and different priorities and different ideas about what is the most important. Therefore, debate is the means for airing and considering all these differences as decision are made.

Since the debate of Barrack Obama and McCain related to the disagreement, therefore, this debate related to disagreement’s theory by Locher. In disagreement strategies, there are eight strategies and its functions. Each word has to be categorized and interpreted based on its function. So, to understand more the readers have to read carefully. Because one of the disagreement strategies, it is similar to conjunction. Therefore, to different which one conjunction and hedges one, the reader have to read more the script.

## **1.5 Previous Study**

Disagreement strategies have gained many attentions from many researchers, they are politeness (Brown and Levinson, 1987), politeness principle (Leech, 1983), Disagreement in politics and philosophy (Jacques Ranciere, 1998), Political disagreement (R. Robert Huckfield, Paul E. Johnson and D. Sprague, 2004), Strategic disagreement stalemate in American politics (John B Gilmour, 1995), and power and politeness in action (Locher, 2004). These researchers have successfully revealed the strategies of disagreement. Locher (2004: 93-143) successfully revealed eight strategies of disagreement.

Each researcher has their typical characteristic of disagreement based on their field. Because this disagreement has the wide scope, not only for interaction in the society, but also in politics which used as advocate, debate and so on.

Barrack Obama and McCain debate have also sucked attention by students of English Department for their research. One of them is Julia Valentina in University Christian of Petra Surabaya, she examined about The Type of Argument Structures Used by Barrack Obama and Jim McCain in Their Presidential Debate. But for disagreement strategies in the first presidential debate, the researcher didn't find about it. Therefore, the researcher took this study for the research.

## **1.6 Organization of Writing**

Organization of writing in this paper is divided into five chapters. Each chapter divided into some subchapter. Chapter I introduction consists of; background of problem, statement of problem, purpose and significance of the



research, conceptual framework, previous study, organization of writing, clarification of terms and linguistic symbols. Chapter II debate theory, disagreement theory and biography Barack Obama and McCain. Chapter III methodology consists of; method of the research, data, data source, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. Chapter IV disagreement strategies in the presidential debate between Barack Obama and McCain consist of; Disagreement strategies produced by Barack Obama toward McCain, Disagreement strategies produced by McCain toward Barack Obama, the differences strategies between Barack Obama and McCain in expressing disagreement, and similarities strategies between Barack Obama and McCain.. Chapter V conclusions and suggestions.

### 1.7 Clarification of term

- Barack Obama** : the 44<sup>th</sup> and current president of the United States
- Debate** : 1) formal discussion at a public meeting or in parliament (Oxford, 2008: 114).  
2) A formal Argument or discussion of a question, e.g. at the public meeting or in parliament or congress, with two or more opposing speakers, and often ending in a vote (Hornby, 1995, 121).
- Disagreement** : an expression which was used by speaker to express his or her opinion which was different from his or her interlocutor (Pomerantz, 1984:66).
- McCain** : Senior senator of the US from Arizona and he was the Republican nominee for president in the 2008 United States election.

**Strategy** : the choice of speech acts to respond to a situation in which the speaker has to disagree with the hearer's question or statement (Longman Dictionary of Applied Linguistics, 1985:274).

### 1.8 Linguistic Symbols

- ^ : indicates Pr. Accent circonflexe<sup>3</sup>
- : a single dash indicates an abrupt cut off<sup>4</sup>
- : indicates lengthening of the preceding sound<sup>5</sup>
- = : a) turn continues below, at the next identical symbol  
b) If inserted at the end of one's speaker's turn and at the beginning of the next speaker's adjacent turn, it indicates that there is no gap at all between the two turns<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Harimukti Tridalaksana. *Kamus Linguistik* (Jakarta: Gramedia, 1993)

<sup>4</sup> Bowles et.al. *Conversation Analysis and Language for Specific Purpose* (German: International Academic Publishers, 2007 p.7)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid p.7

<sup>6</sup> Ibid p.7