

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Research

Language is used to convey all messages or information as well as to express thoughts, feelings, desires, or experiences. To know whether the message or information contains of thought, feeling, desire or experience, it is necessary to give attention to the context in order to know the intended meaning as the speaker's intention. This deals with pragmatic study which is used to explore whether there is an intended meaning behind the words or not.

To know the intended meaning, it is necessary to give more attention not only by seeing the utterance itself but also the context inside. According to Mallinowski (in Halliday and Hassan, 1985: 6-7), there are two kinds of context which has an important role in interpreting meaning. The context is divided into two, they are context of situation and context of culture. Context of situation refers to the environment or situation in which the speech is uttered. Meanwhile, context of culture refers to the cultural background or history behind the participants. These become important aspects to interpret the utterance which may contain of command, request or expressions that language can work as its function.

Language is used to communicate to other. As its function, language has a role as a means of communication. Since it is a means of communication, it is used to express speaker's intention. One of the intentions which may be intended

by a speaker is to express feeling. When a speaker expresses his/her feeling, it deals with psychological statement which is based on the speaker's emotion. According to Yule (1996: 53), the expression, which refers to speaker's emotion, includes into expressive in speech act. Since it is a speech act, it refers to the action of speakers actually do via utterance which can also perform some functions such as stating fact, promising, commanding or expressing feeling. There are many kinds of expressions which includes into expressive in speech act. One of them is compliment.

According to Yule (1996:53), compliment is classified into expressive in speech act. It is considered as a positive worth to show admiration toward one's work, performance, or ability. Compliment is categorized as expressive in speech act since it is related to psychological statement based on human's emotion. Compliment is aimed at keeping relationship between the addresser and the addressee as long as the actions or object, which is being complimented, is regarded by both parties; addresser and addressee as positive worth. Manes (in Wolfson, 1983:97) states that the individual compliment has to be recognized easily as a positive comment which both parties; addresser and addressee feel the object or action complimented as a positive worth.

As compliment is a positive comment, there is an object or action which becomes a material to be complimented. This refers to the topic of compliment based on the object or action complimented. The object or action, which is being complimented, has to be considered by the speaker to express his/her compliment. According to Wolfson (1983:90), there are two major topics of compliment,

namely topic of appearance and topic of ability. Each of these major topic are classified into two types. The topic of ability is classified into two types, namely general ability and specific act ability while topic of appearance is also classified into two types, namely the type of possession and the type of physical appearance. Thus, compliment can be delivered by the addresser by seeing the appearance or ability towards the addressee.

Compliment cannot be separated from compliment response as long as it is delivered in face to face interaction. According to Herbert (in McKay and Hornberger, 1996:334), there are twelve types of compliment responses, they are appreciation token, comment acceptance, praise upgrade, comment history, reassignment, return, praise downgrade, question, disagreement, qualification, no acknowledgment and request interpretation. Appreciation token and no acknowledgment can be used by two ways such as by using verbal or non-verbal communication.

The addressees of the compliment have different ways in responding the compliment. Different addressees have different ways in responding the compliment. They have their own reasons in choosing the type of compliment responses in order to respond the compliment in which the choice of the type of compliment response can be influenced by the status among the participants or the situation in the conversation. Thus, the film entitled *Kung Fu Panda* is chosen for the reason that there are different types of compliments which are responded with different types of compliment responses in which it is delivered by the characters from different status and situations described in the conversation of the film.

Based on the film entitled KUNG FU PANDA, there are expressions containing compliment and compliment response. Below is the example of dialogue containing compliment and compliment response.

PO : I'm keepin' you up. We got big things tomorrow.  
 Alright! You're awesome.  
 CRANE : /silent/

Based on the situation in the film, Po is going to sleep. However, he gets the wrong room since it is his first night sleeping in the Jade palace. The owner of the room is Crane. He is also going to sleep. But, Po tries to chat with him. At the end of his chatting, he delivers a compliment. There is no object or action complimented in this dialogue. However, based on the story, he is a kung Fu student longer than Po. This is assumed that the topic of compliment refers to the ability where the ability, here, includes into general ability. This is interpreted as the type of general ability since the Kung Fu student has skill which is known by Po as the addresser. The word which is used by the addresser to represent the compliment is adjective 'awesome'.

As the addressee of compliment, Crane responds the compliment by using no acknowledgement as one of the type of compliment responses. In this type of compliment response, the addressee of compliment gives no indication of having heard the compliment (McKay, 1996: 334). Based on the conversation, Crane is only silent in receiving the compliment. By giving no response, this does not mean that the compliment cannot be accepted by Crane, who is as the addressee, since he is the member of The Five, who is known as the kung fu expert. This

indicates that the situation influences the addressee to be silent in responding the compliment. Based on the situation, Crane is going to sleep. However, his intention is disturbed by Po who invites him to chat. Based on the scene, Crane listens his chat without giving any intense response on the chat. This deals with the status of Crane which is as the superior. The superior tends to show his uninteresting feeling to the subordinate directly. Thus, the status, who is as the superior, also influences him to give no appreciation to the compliment which is delivered by the subordinate. In this case, there is no positive response based on the topic compliment, which is actually as a positive comment.

Hence, the addressee of the compliment, who is higher than the addresser, does not show whether the compliment is accepted or not since the addressee is only silent. Silent while doing other activity is shown by the addressee to respond the compliment. The addressee uses nonverbal response; silent to respond the compliment. This means that the addressee, who is as the superior, wants to show his uninteresting feeling due to the addresser's coming. The situation, which happens at that time, also supports him in giving no response to the compliment. This can be indicated that it is not necessary for the superior to show his positive response to the subordinate due to the compliment delivered by the subordinate in the inappropriate time. Thus, this can be said that a positive comment does not always be responded positively due to the situation and the participants in the conversation.

Considering the above phenomenon, the researcher is interested in analyzing the types of compliment's topics and the reasons behind the choice of

the types of compliment responses which have different intentions behind the choice of the types of compliment responses.

### **1.2.Statement of Problems**

There are many kinds of speech acts delivered by the characters in the film entitled Kung Fu Panda. However, this research is only focused on the compliment expressions and their responses as the part of expressive in speech act. Since it deals with the compliment expressions and their responses, the research is restricted only for the conversations performed by the characters face to face. Based on the research background, the research is conducted to cover several problems as formulated below:

1. What types of compliment topics are delivered by the characters in the Kung Fu Panda film script?
2. Why do the characters deliver different responses to respond to the dialogue in Kung Fu Panda film script?

### **1.3.The Purposes and Significances of the Research**

Related to the problem statements, the purposes of the research are stated as follows:

1. To find out the types of compliment expressions delivered by the characters in Kung Fu Panda film script.
2. To describe the reasons why the characters deliver different responses to respond to the compliment in Kung Fu Panda film script.

## Research Benefits

The significances of the research is expected to give contribution for:

1. The students of the English Department

It is expected that this research gives more input and understanding in studying compliment expressions and their responses.

2. The other researcher

It is expected that this research can be used as a reference for those who are interested in analyzing further analysis on compliment expressions and their responses.

