

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Every individual has his/ her own strategy to assess or criticize others. Therefore, there are several kinds of strategies on how to criticize others. The discussion of several strategy of criticism will become the major topic in the writer's thesis.

Indonesian Idol is one of the singing contest competitions in Indonesia, which interests the writer a lot. There are six seasons of Indonesian Idol, Indonesian Idol 1 to Indonesian Idol 6 in 2010. After watching the shows closely for five seasons, the writer found out a lot of interesting things from these shows of Indonesian Idol, especially the judges' assessments at the end of each contestant's performance. The judges' assessments can either be criticizing or flattering.

In this study, the writer will focus on the judges' criticisms only. The criticisms are given to the contestants with bad performance. Brown and Levinson (1987, p.66) state that "expression of criticism is that S indicates that he/ she does not like/ want one or more of H's wants, acts, personal characteristics, goods, beliefs or values."

The writer has some reasons in conducting this research. The writer feels that there are some different strategies of male and female judges in criticizing the

contestants of Indonesian Idol season 6. Male judges' criticisms also sound more direct than females', for example, "That is bad performance" directly, while female judges will say "Sorry to say, but that is not your best performance" or "I must agree with "A" that your performance is not so good...", etc. The writer thinks that those differences will be interesting to analyze. Those are the reasons why the writer interests to conduct a research on those problems.

In reality, men and women are different; their main difference is their physical structure, including anatomy, key genetic, voices, etc.

Females have two X chromosomes whereas males have an X and a Y; this is a key genetic difference and no geneticist regards that difference as unimportant. On average, females have more fat and less muscle than males, are not as strong, and weigh less. They also mature more rapidly and live longer. The female voice usually has different characteristics from the male voice... (Wardough, 2006, p.316)

They also use language differently. Women's speech is different from men's; this phenomenon is discussed in some sociolinguistic books. One of them is in Wardaugh's book (2006, p.317). He describes "numerous observers have described women's speech as being different from that of men (see Baron, 1986, Arliss, 1991)".

Based on the reasons above, the writer, as a Linguistics student, is interested to take a topic, which is related to her experience to be analyzed. The writer will do a research on speech act, especially criticism, which is still rare. In this study, she will find out what strategies that the judges have used in criticizing the contestants of Indonesian Idol season 6 and also analyze whether there are any

differences between male and female judges' strategies in criticizing the contestants.

1.2. Field of the Study

The field of this research is Linguistics.

1.3. Scope of the Study

This is the study of Linguistics. In this paper, the writer analyzes the strategies of criticism that are used by the judges of Indonesian Idol season 6 and also discusses about differences between male and female judges' ways in criticizing the contestants based on the strategies of criticism they use.

Pragmatics

This study is within the area of Pragmatics because the writer analyzes judges' conversation in criticizing the contestants of Indonesian Idol season 6 as the major topic in her thesis. Criticism is one kind of speech act, which is included in the area of Pragmatics (Geis, 1995, pp.21-23). Watts (2003, p.13 and p.69) discusses criticisms as kinds of speech act which includes an impolite act. Watts (2003, p.69) adds "this entails that certain kinds of speech act are inherently polite (e.g. congratulating, praising, etc.) and that others are inherently impolite (e.g. criticizing, blaming, accusing, etc.)..."

Sociolinguistics

This study is within the area of Sociolinguistics because the writer will also analyze the different strategies between male and female judges in criticizing the contestants of Indonesian Idol season 6, based on the strategies of criticism they use. The study of relation between language and gender is within the area of Sociolinguistics, based on Fasold (1990, p.89) "a major issue in the sociolinguistics of speech is the relationships between sex and language".

1.4. Problem Formulation

The writer attempts to address the following research questions:

1. What strategies do the judges use in criticizing the contestants in Indonesian Idol 6?
2. Are there any differences between male and female judges' strategies of criticism that are used by each judge?

1.5. Objectives of the Study

This study is carried out to achieve the following objectives:

1. To analyze strategies that the judges used in criticizing the contestants in Indonesian Idol 6
2. To find out whether there are any differences between male and female judges' strategies of criticism that are used by each judge

1.6. Significance of the Study

The writer wants to give more new information to Faculty of Letters' students, especially linguistics students about criticism as a kind of speech act, its strategies and its relation with gender differences. Last but not least, this study is expected to give more input to other students who are interested in analyzing the same problem in the future.

1.7. Definition of Terms

There are several terms that are frequently used in this study. They are:

Speech Act:

Speech act means utterances which, in saying, do something (Meyerhoff, 2006, p.88).

Criticism:

Criticism is a fault finding. It is related to judging someone or something that contrasts with our hopes. Criticism is itself an act of resistance and refusal (Jinks, 1997, p.499).

Relational work:

The process of defining relationships in interaction is called facework or relational work. Relational work is of interest when dealing with the subject in giving and receiving advice (Locher, 2006, p.52).

Face:

The word "face" means the public self-image of a person (Yule, 1996, p.60).

Face Threatening Act:

Inherently face-threatening acts are speech acts which necessarily threaten the speakers and/or hearer's positive face and/or negative face (Meyerhoff, 2006, p.88).

