CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Pragmatics

Pragmatics (Yule, 1996:3) is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). It has, consequently, more to do with the analysis of what people mean by their utterances than what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves. This type of study necessarily involves the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influences what is said. It requires a consideration of how speakers organize what they want to say in accordance with who they are talking to, where, when, and under what circumstances. This approach also necessarily explores how listeners can make inferences about what is said in order to arrive at an interpretation of the speaker’s intended meaning. This type of study explores how a great deal of what is unsaid is recognized as part of what is communicated. We might say that it is the investigation of invisible meaning.

Pragmatics is the study of speaker and contextual meaning. It is the study of how more gets communicated than is said, also about the expression of relative distance.

Other linguists, have their own opinion about Pragmatics. Levinson (1983: 9) said that Pragmatics is the study of those relations between language and context that are grammaticalized, or encoded in the structure of a language. Pragmatics is the study of how language is used to communicate. Mey (1993 : 42) said that Pragmatics
is the study of the conditions of human language uses as these are determined by the context of society.

2.2 Politeness Principle by Geoffrey Leech

According to Leech, (Leech, 1983 : 80) politeness becomes important in a broader, socially and psychologically oriented application of pragmatics principles. 

Prinsip kesantunan (Kunjana, 2005 : 59) yang sampai dengan saat ini dianggap paling lengkap, paling mapan, dan relative paling komprehensif telah dirumuskan oleh Leech. (Up to this time, principle of politeness that regarded more complete, more establish and relatively more comprehensive are formulated by leech). The politeness principle is a series of maxims. The maxims are:

1. Tact maxim: Minimize cost to other. Maximize benefit to other.
2. Generosity maxim: Minimize benefit to self. Maximize cost to self.
5. Agreement maxim: Minimize disagreement between self and other. Maximize agreement between self and other.

In Leech Principle of Politeness, every maxim above could be benefit for determine Politeness scale of an utterances. The followings are the scales:

1. Cost-benefit scale: Representing the cost or benefit of an act to speaker and hearer.
2. Optionally scale: Indicating the degree of choice permitted to speaker and/or hearer by a specific linguistic act.

3. Indirectness scale: Indicating the amount of inferencing required of the hearer in order to establish the intended speaker meaning.

4. Authority scale: Representing the status relationship between speaker and hearer.

5. Social distance scale: Indicating the degree of familiarity between speaker and hearer. (Leech, 1983: 123-126)

2.3 Tact Maxim

Tact maxim is minimize cost to other and maximize benefit to other. It (Leech, 1983: 107) applies to Searle's directive and commissive categories of illocutions, which refer, in their propositional content \( X \), to some action to be performed, respectively, by the hearer (h) or the speaker (s). This action may be called \( A \), and may be evaluated in terms of what as assumes to be its cost or benefit to \( s \) or \( h \). on this basis, \( X \) (‘you will peel those potatoes’, etc.) may be placed on a COST-BENEFIT SCALE, as in the following examples:

1. Peel these potatoes. Cost to h less polite
2. Hand me the newspaper.
3. Sit down.
4. Look at that.
5. Enjoy your holiday.
6. Have another sandwich. Benefit to h more polite

Other examples:
7. Answer the phone
   indirectness         less polite

8. I want you to answer the phone

9. Will you answer the phone?

10. Can you answer the phone?

11. Would you mind answering the phone?

12. Could you possibly answer the phone? more polite

At some rather indeterminate point on this scale (depending on the context) the relevant value becomes ‘benefit to h’ rather than ‘cost to h’; but clearly, if we keep the imperative mood constant, there is a general increase in politeness (others factors being equal) between 1 and 6.

There are (Leech, 1983:109) two sides to the Tact maxim, a negative side “Minimize the cost to h”, and a positive side, ‘Maximize the benefit to h’. The second is less important, but is a natural corollary of the first. It means, for example, that in proposing some action beneficial to h, s should bias the illocution towards a positive outcome, by restricting h’s opportunity of saying ‘No’. Thus an imperative, which in effect does not allow h to say ‘No’ is (in an informal context) a positively polite way of making an offer: help yourself; have another sandwich; etc. the positive bias can even be increased by the persuasive emphasis of: do have another sandwich! You MUST have another sandwich! In this case, the more indirect forms of 9-12 are if anything more polite than the most direct form: would you mind having another sandwich! Would suggest that h would do s a positive favour by accepting and therefore perhaps that the sandwiches were stale, inedible, or poisoned! The reason for this reversal of polite strategies in impositives and commisives is fairly obvious, and has to do with the asymmetry of politeness: what must be expressed
strongly by one participant as a ‘polite belief’ must be played down equally by the
other participant as an ‘impolite belief’. So increasing the positive politeness of an
offer means anticipating and counteracting the negative politeness of the recipient.

2.4 Literature

Literature (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literature) is the art of written works,
and is not bound to publish sources (although, under circumstances unpublished
sources can be exempt). The word literature literally means "acquaintance with
letters" and the pars pro toto term "letters" is sometimes used to signify "literature,"
as in the figures of speech "arts and letters" and "man of letters." The two major
classifications of literature are poetry and prose.

Literature is usually differentiated from popular and ephemeral classes of
writing, and terms such as "literary fiction" and "literary merit" are used to denote
art-literature rather than vernacular writing. Texts based on factual rather than
original or imaginative content, such as informative and polemical works and
autobiography, are often denied literary status, but reflective essays or belles-lettres
are accepted. In imaginative literature criticism traditionally excluded genres such as
romance, crime and mystery and the various branches of fantastic fiction like science
fiction and horror, along with mainstream fiction with insufficiently elevated style,
but the idea of genre has broadened and is now harder to apply as a border-line.

2.5 Short Story

The short story (Stone, 1976:5) requires the reader’s utmost attention, a
focusing of the mind on each detail in order to realize the final fullness of effect. The
short story depends on concreteness, on sensual impressions that deliver their meaning without waste. The action of a conventional short story is compressed within a short (usually continuous) time frame and space. The characters, few in number, are revealed, not developed. The background and setting are implied, not rendered. In novel, the pace can be leisurely, its settings, characters, and events slowly developed until fully rendered. The novelist can tolerate subplots and digressions from the main thrust of his story, he can even desire them in order to achieve changes in pace and intensity. But that kind of pacing and development is not appropriate to the short story.

There are in the main three qualities that mark the short story as clearly different from other forms of prose fiction, that make it a “genre”. The first quality is of course brevity. The second is its power of compensating for the consequences of shortness. And the third is the interaction of one and two.

The short story writer cannot, like certain novelist, stop his narrative while his characters psyches are analyzed or their portraits painted. He cannot take time out to draw a scene. The story writer must intimate the setting, imply the complexity, insinuate the character, and the reader must infer the rest.

2.6 Related Studies

In accomplishing this thesis entitled “An analysis of Tact Maxim in selected Short Stories of Oscar Wilde”, the writer uses a previous thesis as reference of discussing about Tact maxim such as “An analysis of tact and approbation maxims based on Leech’s politeness principles in the movie “Maid in Manhattan”, by Eka Nurdianingsih (2006).
The research is a descriptive research using Pragmatics approach, particularly, the politeness principles. The six maxims proposed by Leech are tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement and sympathy maxims. This research took conversations consisting of tact and approbation maxims in the movie “Maid in Manhattan” as the data. This thesis does not divide Tact Maxim into two sides, such as Positive and Negative side, in analyzing the utterances.

The similarities between this thesis and previous thesis are discussing about Tact Maxim although the previous thesis not only concerns to Tact Maxim, but also discusses about Approbation which applied Geoffrey Leech principle of Politeness. The object is literary works. The difference is on the object of study. The previous thesis takes movie as the object, while this thesis takes short stories as the object.

The other previous thesis is entitled “An analysis on politeness principles in the expressive act in the movie of Pearl Harbor”, by Wijiyanto (2009). This research (etd.eprints.ums.ac.id/5480/) is aimed at describing the types of expressive utterance, describing the intention of expressive utterance, and classifying the politeness principle of expressive.

The object of this research is expressive utterances in Pearl Harbor movie manuscript. The similarities with this thesis are describing utterance of the object, applying the Leech theory to know the politeness patterns used in data and takes literary works as the object. The differences are this previous thesis using all of the politeness principle, while this thesis just focus on Tact maxim, one of the politeness principle. And the object of this previous thesis takes a movie manuscript, while this thesis takes short stories.