CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

As social beings, humans need to communicate in order to interact with other people. Communication is human ability to share their beliefs, values, ideas, and feeling. In our everyday communication, we express our opinion and response to others opinion. Disagreement is often revealed by the speaker to show that her/his opinion is not the same as the hearer's opinion. Expressing disagreement is an act that commonly happens in daily communication. Actually, disagreement happens when speaker thinks that her/his hearer is wrong, misguided, or unreasonable about some issue (Brown and Levinson, 1987). In expressing their disagreement, the speaker usually has some strategies because when the speaker expresses her/his disagreement, it can cause misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer.

Brown and levinson (1987) in politeness of language consider disagreement as an act that threatens adressee's positive face. Positive face here means the want of every member that his wants be desirable to at least some others. In addition, disagreement is an act that threatens addressee's positive want to be respected and appreciated. In order to avoid the face threatening act between the speaker and hearer, the speaker should use an appropriate strategy to express her/his disagreement. Locher (2004) had classified eight categories of disagreement strategies, consisting of hedges, giving personal or emotional reasons for

disagreeing, the use of modal auxiliaries, shifting responsibility, stating objections in the form of question, the use of *but*, repeating an utterance by a next or the same speaker, and non-mitigated disagreement.

Furthermore, disagreement strategies are influenced by various factors, such as opportunity scale, indirect scale, power, and social distance (Leech, 1983). For this research, the writer focuses on social distance because it is one of social factor that play in the object of this study. According to Holmes (2001) social distance concern about the participants' relationship. Besides, this scale is useful in emphasizing how well the participants know each other, namely intimate relationship (high solidarity) and distant relationship (low solidarity). Moreover, Locher (2004) says that people who do not know each other will have certain expectation about their conversational partners' selves to give an impression about the people. Social distance can also happen in family, for example social distance between father and mother and their children which may be close or distant.

For the object of this study, the writer chooses a film entitled *Meet the Fockers* to be investigated because the film represents disagreement which happen between father and son with different social distance. Moreover, the writer chooses Greg, the main character in *Meet the Fockers* as the subject. The film tells about Greg, a 34 years old male nurse, who wants to marry his fiancée. However, before marrying his fiancée, his fiancée father wants to meet his family first as the requirement to get a license to wed from his fiancee's father. In this movie, it is illustrated that Greg is very afraid of his future father-in-law and also has a burden

to give good impression as future father-in-law order to get permission to marry his fiancée.

Since that the fathers have higher power than their children, the power of either Greg's father or Greg's future father in-law is higher than Greg. However, there is difference concerning social distance between relationship of Greg and his father and relationship of Greg and his future father in-law. The relationship of Greg and his future father in-law since his future father in-law still can be considered an outsider by him.

The writer chooses men as the object of this study because men value disagreement more disagreement than women (Holmes, 1995 as cited in Locher, 2004). It means that men produce more disagreement than women do. The writer also chooses father-son relationship because in every father and son relationship, there will always come disagreement, regardless their personalities and involved intellect (Conroy, 2009). Different from mother-daughters relationship which is constantly close from time to time and seems to bind women together across generations, father-son relationship changes time to time depending on the age period of the son. As children, sons idolize and want to so much to please their fathers to receive their father's approval and acceptance, and then they experience a period of having lots of conflict with their father which makes them feel angry or even fear of their father in their teenager ages (William, n.a). This relationship then evolves when the sons become young adults, although distance still is exist emotionally and they may even ignore each other. This relationship begins to

move into the stage of acceptance from the sons toward the fathers when the sons become adults in their 30 years old and 40 years old, when the fathers and the sons become friends, share common interests and express opinions without heated exchanges because during this time the sons may experience challenges as father with his own son (William, n.a).

Based on the above reasons, the writer will analyze the disagreement strategies used by Greg to his father (Bernie) and to his future father-in-law (Jack) in *Meet the Fockers* movie, will find which categories of disagreement strategy used by Greg to his father and his future father-in-law, and will find the differences or similarities the disagreement strategies used by Greg to his father (Bernie) and to his future father-in-law (Jack).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

- 1. What are the types of verbal disagreement strategies used by Greg toward his father in *Meet the Fockers* movie?
- 2. What are the types of verbal disagreement strategies used by Greg toward his future father-in-law in *Meet the Fockers* movie?
- 3. What are differences and similarities between the types of verbal disagreement strategies used by Greg to his father and his future father-inlaw?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, the objectives of this study are:

- To find out the types of verbal disagreement strategies used by Greg to his father.
- 2. To find out the types of verbal disagreement strategies used by Greg to his future father- in-law.
- To find out what differences and similarties between the types of verbal disagreement strategies used by Greg to his father and to his future fatherin-law.

1.4 Significance of the Study

For the significance of this research, the writer hopes this study can help the readers how to show their verbal disagreement by using appropriate strategies. Furthermore, the writer hopes this study can be useful for the next researcher as a reference for the next study, especially about verbal disagreement strategies related to social distance.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this study, the writer analyzes Greg in showing verbal disagreement. The data is taken from a movie entitled *Meet the Fockers*. The writer limits this study by focusing on the analysis of the Greg's verbal disagreement toward his father and his future father -in -law, especially verbal disagreement related to social distance.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- 1.6.1 Disagreement: A speaker's expression to indicate that the hearer is wrong or misguided or unreasonable about some issues.
- 1.6.2 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.
- 1.6.3 Social distance: It concerns with participant relationships, intimate and distant. Intimate means high solidarity, while distant means low solidarity.