

2.2.2 Types of Request Strategy

Requests are generally realized in the form of strategies. A request strategy is defined as the obligatory choice of the level of directness by which the request is realized. Directness is defined as the degree to which the speaker's illocutionary intent is apparent from the locution (Blum-Kulka, House & Kasper, 1989: 278). There are three situational variables which affect a speaker's imposition on a hearer: (1) Necessity of the request (how badly a speaker needs to impose on a hearer; greater necessity makes imposition smaller). (2) Ease of carrying out the request (the easier a request is to carry out, the less is the imposition). (3) Cultural differences (people with different cultural background perceive the same request as having different imposition) (Kitao, 1988). The nine expression types of request is classified into three levels: Direct requests, conventional indirect requests, and nonconventional indirect requests. A direct request was indicated in the utterance by grammatical, lexical, or semantic. A conventional indirect request expresses the illocutionary force by using fixed linguistic conventions. A non-conventional indirect request is expressed by speakers making partial reference to the requested act. The level of directness is determined by contextual factors such as power and social distance between the interlocutors, and the degree of imposition involved. In a more formal situation, a speech act involves a high-degree of imposition and is addressed to a person who has more power. In such a

