

## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction**

#### **Background of Study**

In human interaction, there must be a such interaction between two people or more that is used for expressing opinion or idea. According to Mey (1983: p.214) conversation itself is a way of using language socially, of `doing things with words` together with other persons. Conversation also includes a manner how to express a feeling, intention and emotion directly. In fact, people communicate in many different ways, and due to those differences, people might think others as polite or impolite. It could build a good relation with other people, but sometimes spoken language could even make interlocutor offended. As a polite speaker, we usually give signal to the hearer before we directly go into the main idea of the conversation. As a listener, we have to be able to read speaker`s utterances as a signal. That is called pre-sequence.

Mey (1983: p.221) states that pre-sequence is certain utterances that come before other utterances which are usually in the beginning of the conversation, whereas Levinson (1984: p.346) defines pre-sequence as utterances used as an introduction before stating the main topic in a conversation. In conclusion pre-sequence is introduction utterances before proposing the next action or main topic.

Pre-sequence occupies position of the speaker and the hearer in order to differentiate between the formal or informal conversation. It means that the speaker and the hearer can arrange their conversation by themselves into formal

and informal through the pre-sequence utterances. Besides, the speaker and the hearer have already known their position in uttering the utterances.

Pre-sequence is, therefore, such a significant issue in conversation. It occurs as a delivering tool of a message to give information about the main point of the conversation in order to be more indirect, to be polite, or to save the speaker`s face if the interlocutor refuses the speaker`s idea. By uttering pre-sequence, the speaker indirectly gives option to the interlocutor between the preferred acceptance, “go ahead” signal, or dispreferred rejection “stop” signal. If the interlocutor gives a “go ahead” signal, the speaker may continue his or her conversation and propose his/her aim. Meanwhile, the speaker has to finish the conversation, change the topic, or keep his purpose if the interlocutor shows “stop” signal. In fact, even though we do not realize, we actually often produce pre-sequence in daily conversation. We might use pre-sequence before announcing, requesting, arranging, or inviting someone ( Levinson, 1984: p.347). We can see that the quantity of pre-sequence expressions is quite high, even in our daily life or in the film the writer will investigate.

People usually have different styles in communication and the differences may depend on the social context, including gender. The concept of gender allows, however, for describing directness and indirectness behaviors. The writer uses theory of gender proposed by Holmes. In his book, he pointed out how men and women have different communication styles. The way men communicate to one another is very direct and hierarchical, while woman speak more indirect. Holmes (2003: p.707) said that the gender has an important role in

communication; the speakers have to be concerned with whom she/he talks to whether male or female. In this research, the writer looks up the relation between pre-sequence expression and gender because the writer believes that there must be different preference to use certain kinds or types of pre-sequence which shows the direct and indirectness of each gender. The writer uses the theory of gender communication style which is thought of being suitable for interpreting the result of the analysis at the end of research.

The writer interested in conducting a study of pre-sequence because the writer believes that many people do not realizes that actually we talk in this pre-sequence pattern before we talk to the main idea. Furthermore, the writer wants to know the differences of pre-sequence expression between male and female.

Accordingly, in this research, the writer interested in pre-sequence that happened in “A Walk to Remember” film because it contains incident that shows kinds of pre-sequence. Besides, the interaction between male and female character mostly occur in the film.

The film “A Walk to Remember” is directed by Adam Shankman. It is popular in 20th century, published in January 2002 and takes place at North Carolina. The story is about Jamie Sullivan, a girl with righteous values and ethics and her influence on a “bad boy” Landon Carter, the popular guy in his campus. Jamie and Landon becomes classmate from kindergarten until senior high school but they never talk to each other. Jamie is the odd girl who always wears the same sweater and religious person who loves God and always bring her Bible. This film shows that Landon falls in love with Jamie. This movie also shows that how

Jamie influences Landon as the “bad boy” when they got a close relationship. It happens when Carter tries to show his feeling to Jamie that he falls in love with her.

The conversations between male and female character reflect several kinds of pre-sequence expressions. In this film, the writer will only research on the pre-sequence uttered by Landon and Jamie, as the main characters, to each other. The writer wants to know whether there are differences of pre-sequence expression between the male character and the female one.

### **Problem Statement**

The research problem is the different preferences of pre-sequences uttered by the male and female characters in “A Walk to Remember” film. Certainly, in order to answer the research problem, the writer needs some research question which lead to her to the findings. Therefore, the research questions are:

1. What type of pre-sequence uttered by the male and female character in the film?
2. Why the characters uttered pre-sequence expression in “A Walk to Remember” film?

### **The Objectives of Study**

The writer wants to find out the types of pre-sequence uttered by the male and female in the film. Finally, the writer wants to describe why character use pre-sequence expressions in the film.

### **Significance of the Study**

By doing this research, the writer expects that the findings on various types of pre-sequence expressions produced by the male and female main characters of this study can enrich people`s knowledge about the variety of pre-sequence based on gender used by Jamie and Landon in “A Walk to Remember” film. The writer also hopes that it can give description about what is meant by pre-sequence and kind of pre-sequence.

Furthermore, the writer wants to share why did the characters use pre-sequence and which character that frequently use pre-sequence expression between male and female in the film, when they speak to each other, as they are not the same gender. The conversation also provide pre-sequence expression that show indirectness. By mastering this pre-sequence, people can run the communication smoothly as a communication skill.

In terms of knowledge development, the research along with the findings is hoped to give some useful and valuable contribution to other students or people who major in sociolinguistic or discourse field especially in English language pre-sequence.

### **Scope and Limitation**

The scope of this study is Discourse Analysis, Sociolinguistic and characters in the film. Furthermore, the writer uses Levinson`s theory (1984) of pre-sequence and Holmes` theory (2003) of gender communication style.

As to limit, the writer only analyze the pre-sequence uttered by two main characters, Landon and Jamie in “A Walk to Remember” film, in the cases when they give signal to each other of their next action.