CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

As social nature of human being, people use language to communicate or interact with others. Language is also used to express thoughts, feelings, desires, or experiences. As its functions, language is more than just words to communication. Saphir (as quoted in Fasold 1996: 50) describes that language can be used to keep relationship among or between individual(s), since there is nobody who is getting hurt because of the use of language in the interaction. Within an interaction, people need to keep harmonious condition between the participants. Leech (1983) defines politeness as forms of behavior that establish and maintain comity. It can be pointed out that the politeness is a crucial thing in an interaction. Through compliment, people can show the social strategy of politeness in simple ways.

Holmes defines a compliment as a speech act which explicitly or implicitly attributes credit to someone other than a speaker. Usually, the person addresses for some good (possession, character, skill, etc.) and it is positively valued by the speaker and the hearer. He also states that the primary function of a compliment is affective and social rather than referential or informative (2003: 177). In giving compliments, it is based on the social factors and cultural context in which the conversation
happens. Wolfson (in Wolfson and Judd, 1983) points out that what members of particular cultural groups thank or apologize for, or compliment on, usually reflects values, because in performing these speech acts, people often implicitly assess the behavior, possessions, accomplishments, character, or appearance of others. Therefore, the way people give an appropriate compliment depending on their closeness of relationship and the context of situation themselves.

In the TV-series entitled *Smallville Season 1 Episode 1-18*, there are numerous data found in the dialogues between the characters. The compliments and responses of compliment are applied in various ways that is why the researcher is interested to conduct a research on that TV-series. Besides, the researcher considers that the phenomenon above is unique because the addresser not only delivers compliment in verbal utterances, but also they use physical contact, body language and/or facial expression to show respect and sincerity of the compliment as American culture. There are also various ways of the characters in this TV-series delivering the compliment and the compliment responses. Therefore, the researcher intends to conduct a research using Pragmatics approach entitled: The Analysis of Compliment Expressions and Compliment Responses Employed by the Characters in the American TV-Series Entitled *Smallville Season 1 Episodes 1-18*. 
B. Research Questions

Based on the research background, the research questions are arranged as follows:

1. What types of topics of compliment are employed by the characters in the TV-series entitled *Smallville Season 1 Episode 1-18*?

2. What are the functions of compliments used in the TV-series entitled *Smallville Season 1 Episode 1-18*?

3. How do the addresses respond to the compliment expressions in the TV-series entitled *Smallville Season 1 Episode 1-18*?

C. Research Objectives

Based on the research background and problem statements above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To find out the types of compliment’s topics employed by the characters in the TV-series entitled *Smallville Season 1 Episode 1-18*.

2. To find out the functions of compliments applied in the TV-series entitled *Smallville Season 1 Episode 1-18*.

3. To describe the compliment responses used by the addressee in the TV-series entitled *Smallville Season 1 Episode 1-18*. 
D. Research Benefits

The research is done to give contribution as follows:

1. This research is expected to give more information and understanding for the students of the English Department and the other students from the other faculty about the types of topics of compliments, its functions, and their responses used by American people.

2. This research also may be used as references for those who have the same interests with the researcher about speech act, especially compliment expressions.

3. This research is also expected to be helpful for the readers in using appropriate compliment to the others. Sometime compliment may become an insult and hurt others’ feeling. Therefore, it is important to know how to give the compliments.

E. Scope of The Study

The researcher focuses its analysis on the types of topics of compliments, the functions of compliments, and their responses to compliments in the TV-series entitled Smallville Season 1 Episodes 1-18. Thus, the researcher tries to restrict and takes the research only in the direct communication (face to face communication) between the characters which deals with the compliments and their responses. Further, the researcher identifies the types of topics of compliments, the functions of compliments, and the responses used by the characters in the TV-series.

F. Thesis Organization
As an academic writing, this research will be organized into five chapters includes the bibliography, as follows:


2. Chapter II consists of Literature Review. It shows the entire theories that will be used for solving the Research Questions. The theories are theories about Pragmatics, Speech Act, Ethnography of Speaking, Direct and Indirect Speech Acts, Kinesics, Theories about Compliment, the Synopsis of the TV-Series, Review of Related Studies.

3. Chapter III is a Research Methodology. It consists of Type of the Research, Data and Source of Data, Sampling Technique and Data Collection, Data Coding, and Procedure of Data Analysis.

4. Chapter IV consists of Data Analysis and Discussion. In this chapter, the data are processed through classifying process, describing process, and analyzing process.

5. Chapter V consists of Conclusion and Recommendation. In this chapter, all the data that have been analyzed are concluded and the recommendation is given as the result has been made through data analyzing.