Key words: gender differences, compliment strategies, compliment topic, socio-pragmatic.

This thesis is a socio-pragmatic study on compliments used by Indonesian Learners of English to give English compliments based on the compliment topics (appearance and performance) and gender differences. Fifty respondents (25 females and 25 males) were taken from the students of English Department, Faculty of Letters, State University of Malang cohort 2006 and 2007. They were asked to give compliments based on the situations given in the Discourse Completion Test (DCT). The DCT was used to elicit the data about a speech act of compliments from Indonesian English Learners based on the compliment topics (Appearance and Performance) and gender differences. The data were analyzed using the classification of compliment strategies formulated by Ye (1995).

The results of this study show that Indonesian Learners of English employ all types of compliment strategies in responding to the situations given. Specifically, four types of compliment strategies are Explicit Compliment, Implicit Compliment, No Response, and Non Compliment. Female and male respondents tend to offer Explicit Compliments in both topics, which differ slightly to the assumption that Indonesian people rarely give compliments among other. Implicit Compliment occur less frequently on Appearance than on Performance, considering that giving compliments indirectly may cause misinterpretation. On the other hand, on Performance, more males use No Response, Non Compliment and Implicit Compliment than females due to the perception of Indonesian gender-inequality.

This study only investigates compliments based on the compliment topics (appearance and performance) and gender differences in giving compliments. Therefore, further studies in relation to compliments and with other variables are recommended to contribute more to pragmatic theory. A study about other social factors that may influence the preference of the types of compliments might be interesting to be analyzed.