**ABSTRACT**

Puspitasari, Refvy.2012. *Strategic Competence Employed by Foreigners in Small Discussions with English Department Students of Semarang State University.* Final Project, English Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts, Semarang State University. First advisor: Dr. Abdurrahman Faridi, M.Pd., Second advisor: Prof. Dr. Dwi Rukmini, M.Pd.

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 The aim of this study is to reveal and describe various kinds of strategic competence used by foreigners in small discussions with English department students of Semarang State University. The research problem is: what kinds of strategic competence are used by foreigners in small discussions with English department students of Semarang State University.

 The data are obtained through recording the conversations in two small discussions among foreigners (from Spain and Mexico) and English department students. This study is designed as a descriptive-qualitative study. The theory of Celce-Murcia et al. (1995) which classify strategic competence into five categories: Avoidance or Reduction Strategy, Achievement or Compensatory Strategy, Stalling or Time-Gaining Strategy, Self-monitoring Strategies and Interactional Strategy is chosen as the theoretical framework of the study for the sake of specifics. The analysis of the data starts from the process of recording, transcribing, identifying, reporting, drawing conclusion and giving suggestions for readers.

Research finding tells us that the appearing strategies are *Avoidance or Reduction Strategy* (1.68%), *Achievement or Compensatory Strategy* (18.72%), *Stalling or Time-Gaining Strategy* (68.99%), *Self-monitoring Strategy* (6.20%), and *Interactional Strategy* (4.46%). The most frequent strategies employed by foreigners are fillers (hesitation device) and self and other-repetition which belong to stalling or time-gaining strategy (68.99%). The writer concludes that almost all the strategic competence proposed by Celce-Murcia et al. (1995) are employed by the foreigners and the use of the strategies depend on the problem the foreigners face. Here, the writer has some suggestions. First, it is recommended for lecturers to teach strategic competence when teaching speaking. Second, students of English department need to learn more strategic competence to overcome communication breakdowns. Moreover, for the next researchers, the writer expects this study can be a model for their research.