

EXPLORING POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN STUDENTS' INTERACTION WITHIN THE CLASSROOM

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ABSTRACT

This research was aimed to describe the expression that the students used in communicating with others to show their politeness in doing discussion in the classroom, but not in the learning environment. The researcher applied descriptive qualitative method and used recording as the only instrument. The participant of this research was the second-grade students of Senior High School in SMAN 5 Barru, which consisted of 21 students. The result of this research showed that many factors were influencing the students' politeness in communication such as situation, status, age, culture, gender, etc. Moreover, there were two common ways that the students used in expressing their politeness, which was questioning and commanding.

Keywords: politeness, strategies, students' interaction

INTRODUCTION

Communication is a process conveying meanings in order to share understanding of others. In communication, the speaker and the listener should hold some rules, principles, and strategies. A strategy which people commonly used is politeness.

The definition of politeness is not absolute, it is defined in several ways by many experts and depend on some factors, including the age, social distance between speaker and listener, the context, personality, how well the speakers know each other, and so on. To characterize polite language, we might refer to the language of a person which display respect to others, contain respectful forms of address like *sir or madam*, and use polite utterances like *please, thank you, excuse me or sorry*. Politeness or sometimes called as etiquette is a procedure or custom which prevails in the society and agreed upon jointly by a particular community. In Indonesia, the term "politeness" is usually called as "tatakrama" (manners). According to Ritonga (2012), politeness can be seen from the various facets of everyday interactions.

First, politeness which contains a value that will demonstrate good manners or etiquette in everyday interactions. When someone says polite, he will be getting

part as members of society. When he talks polite in society, society will give him a value whether it is conducted immediately (sudden) or conventionally (long). Second, politeness is contextual which prevails in a society, place, or a particular situation, but not necessarily applicable in the community, places, or other situations. When someone meets with his crony, he can use words loudly and rudely, but it is impolite when he uses it for the guest or someone whom he had not known before.

Third, politeness is bipolar or having two-ways relation, such as between children and parents, between young people and older people, between the host and the guests, between men and women, between students and teachers, and so forth.

Fourth, politeness is reflected in the dress code (dress), how to do (acting), and how to speak (language). Furthermore, every person has his characteristics himself and those characteristics differ them with other people. They way to express their speech act is also different, some of them use polite speech and some are not. Talking politely to others is critical to know because it will influence the listener's feelings. Thus based on these, the researcher was interested in conducting a research with the title ***"Politeness Strategies in Students' Interaction"***. In this research, the researcher tried to look at the use of language that was used by students in the classroom when communicating with each other, but not in a learning environment.

As stated in the introduction that some people use polite speech and some are not. The researcher tries to formulate the research question:

- a. What are the expressions that the students use in talking to others to show their politeness?

This research was aimed to describe the expressions that the students used in talking to others to show their politeness. So, by studying this research, the reader can gain knowledge and insight about how to express the politeness in communication.

LITERATURE OF REVIEW

Fraser (1975) stated that politeness as a property related to an utterance and according to what the listener hears, the speaker has neither exceeded any rights nor failed to fulfill any obligations when speaking.

Politeness Strategies

Many experts in different opinions propose the concept or the principle of politeness but still, have some similarities. The concept of politeness is divided into two major forms, which is: (1) A concept of politeness that is formulated in the form of rules then those rules will form the principle of politeness, and (2) A

concept of politeness is formulated in the form of strategies then those strategies will form the theory of politeness.

The most central component for politeness is face. This face is divided into two aspects which are positive face and negative face (Brown and Levinson, 1987).

1. The positive face is the face that refers to the image of what a person think when he is willing to do something. He will think about what he does, what he has, or what his values or believes to be good, fun, worthy of respect, and so on.

Example:

1.1 I am happy with your honesty.

1.2 Now, the honesty does not a guarantee of success.

Statement (1.1) is a polite statement because it appreciates what his partner did, while the statement (1.2) is not polite because it does not appreciate what his partner did.

2. The negative face is the face that refers to the image of what a person think when he wants to be rewarded from others. In this case, the speaker lets him be free to do his actions or leave him to be free to do something.

Example:

2.1 Do not sleep late because you will wake up late!

Statement (2.1) is an irreverent statement because the speaker does not let his partner says free to do what he wants to do. On the other hand, statement (2.1) is impolite statement and refers to negative face. The politeness associated with a negative face is called negative politeness.

There are some strategies that the speaker can use for speech to express the politeness, they are:

- a. Doing speech act as usual, without preamble, and by obeying Grice's cooperation principle
- b. Doing speech act using positive politeness
- c. Doing a speech act using negative politeness
- d. Doing speech act with off record, and
- e. Not doing speech act or silence.

So, as the speaker, we can choose which strategy we want to use. In some case, the choice of strategy depends on the size of the threat to face. The smaller the threat to the face the smaller the number of strategy choices, and the greater the threat to the face the greater the number of strategy choices (Rustono, 1999).

The Politeness Factor

Three factors influence the way of people communicates when expressing speech both to polite and impolite. These factors known as socio-cultural or contextual factors, namely:

1. Social power, the social power is a power that the listener have to make the speaker talks more polite to him,
2. Social distance is the distance between speaker and listener which include their intimacy, closeness, and relationships,
3. The ranking of the imposition, this ranking is based on the act themselves,

4. Culture, culture differences will have an influence of the emphasis and the strategy for someone in speech act,
5. Age, a speaker who is younger than the listener will talk more polite to him.

Speak Politeness

There are some categories of politeness (Lakoff as cited in Jumanto, 2008), namely:

- 1) The speech act does not contain the speakers' coercion or vanity,
- 2) The speech act gives the option to the speaker to do something,
- 3) The speaker provides comfort and friendliness to the listener

Ways of Conversation

According to Brown and Levinson (1987: 61) there are some common ways that people usually do in everyday conversation to express speech acts, namely:

- 1) Advising refers to sentence that contains advice to other people.
- 2) Requesting refers to a sentence that contains a request to another person to do something requested. The request sentence should use a subtle and non-compelling language.
- 3) Questioning refers to a sentence that contains a question to others to get an answer from who are asked. In writing, questioning usually ends with question mark (?). The characteristics of this sentence are using rise intonation, using the question word which is 5W (what, why, who, when, where) + 1H (how), and using the particle question *-kah* in Bahasa.
- 4) Commanding refers to a sentence that contains the meaning of asking or commanding someone to do something. The meaning of command sentence is to tell the listeners to do something that we want. In writing, command sentence usually ends with an exclamation point (!). While in speaking or oral form, command sentence is characterized by high intonation at the beginning and low intonation at the end.
- 5) Promising refers to a sentence that states willingness and ability to do something to others
- 6) Criticizing refers to a sentence that contains opinions that are accompanied by reasons both good and bad for something. In criticizing, it must be objective because the goal of criticizing is that the creator of the work can improve the quality of the product. The language should be polite and courteous. The reasons used should also make sense. Thus good criticism is constructive criticism.
- 7) Offering a help to others

Apologizing refers to a sentence that contains an apology to others

METHOD

1. The Participant

The participants of this research were the second-grade student of Senior High School in SMAN 5 Barru. There were 21 students involved in this research.

2. Method, Instrument, and Procedure

This research used descriptive qualitative method in order to know the expressions that the students used in talking to others to show their politeness. The data were collected through a recording from the participant. The researcher recorded the participant when they were in the classroom and doing discussion but they did not in the learning environment. After having the recording, the researcher analyzed the data collected.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

In this research, the conversation among the students in the classroom mostly used Bahasa and Buginese pronoun. There were two common ways that they used in expressing speech act, which was questioning and commanding.

1. Questioning

In this research, some students used questioning in speaking. It was used to get information or reaction (response) from their friends like the purpose of questioning. Below were some examples of questioning that showed by the students' in expressing their politeness in conversation:

Extract 1 (A chairman asked to the classmate)

Fajar : *Trus yang mau saya tanyakan, yang mana ide ta yang paling berkenan? Yang mana?* (Then what I want to ask is, which is the most agreeable idea? Which one?)

Ina : English Camp... English camp !!

When the chairman asked the question to his classmates, he used the familiar pronoun *-ta* (yang mana ide *ta*?). This was the example of politeness, and it influenced by many factors such as situation, status, etc. In this case, the situation is informal and the status between Fajar and Ina in the classroom is the same even though he was a chairman, in which they are a member of the class. Besides that, the use of pronoun *-ta* is based on the culture. In South Sulawesi especially Buginese and Makassarese, pronoun *-ta* is one of the ways to express the politeness to the listener.

Extract 2 (friend to her friend)

Anti : *weh! pergiko kemarin?* (Hey! Did you go yesterday?)

Ina : *tidak.. tidak pergika* (No... I did not go).

When Anti asked to Ina, she used the familiar pronoun *-ko* (*weh pergiko kemarin?*). In this conversation, Anti used pronoun *-ko* because she and Ina were a close friend. Besides that, it was habitual that the speaker who had a same age with the listener commonly used that pronoun. In South Sulawesi pronoun *-ko* is an example of impolite particle word.

2. Commanding

In discussing with friends, the students usually used command sentence or commanding. The purposes of command sentence/commanding was to make someone or listener did what we wanted, for example, to make the listeners expressing their ideas, such as this situation below:

Extract 3 (classmate to chairman)

Rahma : *Fajar..Fajar.. kalau saya toh jangan ko' _sekedar tanya teman-teman bilang ini, ini dan ini... tentukan alasanmu bilang kenapa pilih seminar, apa manfaatnya!* (Fajar... fajar... you do not just ask about like this, this, and this to our friends... ask them to decide the reason why chose seminar, what are the benefit!)

Fajar : OK paeng... (OK)

When Rahma gave a request to Fajar as the chairman, she used pronoun *-ko* (*jangan ko'*) and *-mu* (*alasanmu*). It showed the use of impolite sentence. It caused by the gender. Rahma is a female and female usually use their feeling in talking to other people. As the result, their emotion would be provoked and finally they use impolite sentence. Another reason was for giving firmly impression to her friends so they did based on what she wanted.

Based on some the findings above, we can know that there are many factors influencing the way of people communicate to others such as the distance between the speaker and the listener, culture, age, situation when speaking, and so on.

CONCLUSIONS

The expressions that the students use to show their politeness in the classroom when they discussed is categorized into polite and impolite speech act. There are two common ways they used which is questioning and commanding. Some speech acts used in different ways by the students. Some factors influence the students'

speech act such as culture, situation both to formal or informal, age, gender, and so on.

It suggested for further research who are involved in related with this research is to have more complete data about the politeness strategies in students interaction because the limitation of time so the researcher cannot do a deep research for it.

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