

**The Use of Politeness Strategies in Conversations of some American
and Indonesian Speakers in Bukittinggi**

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Penulis dalam penelitian ini membahas kesopanan berbahasa antara orang Amerika yang berkunjung ke Bukittinggi dan orang Indonesia yang tinggal di Bukittinggi. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menjelaskan tipe-tipe kesopanan yang digunakan, dan tipe kesopanan yang dominan muncul dalam percakapan mereka. Proses pengumpulan data menggunakan metode observasi dengan teknik rekam. Data dianalisis dengan pendekatan pragmatis menggunakan teori kesopanan Brown dan Levinson. Selanjutnya data disajikan dalam bentuk penjelasan deskriptif dan didukung dengan tabel.

Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa orang Amerika cenderung menggunakan tipe kesopanan *Positive Politeness* dalam berbicara dengan orang Indonesia. Hal ini dipengaruhi oleh nilai-nilai kesopanan dalam budaya Amerika yang cenderung bertutur kata langsung (*direct speech*) terhadap lawan bicara. Sedangkan orang Indonesia cenderung menggunakan tipe kesopanan *Negative Politeness* dalam percakapannya. Hal ini disebabkan oleh nilai-nilai kesopanan dalam budaya Indonesia yang cenderung bertutur kata tidak langsung (*indirect speech*). Persentase kemunculan tipe-tipe kesopanan yang ditemukan dalam bentuk *Bald on Record* (7.5%), *Positive Politeness* (57.5%), *Negative Politeness* (30%) dan *Off Record* (5%). Sedangkan tipe strategi *Don't do FTA* tidak digunakan dalam percakapan tersebut.

Selanjutnya, dalam penelitian ini ditemukan bahwa baik orang Amerika maupun orang Indonesia sama-sama kurang memahami nilai-nilai kesopanan dalam budaya lawan bicara, hal ini dikarenakan mereka saling beradaptasi dengan budaya lawan bicara. Dalam berkomunikasi dengan orang dari latar belakang budaya berbeda, mereka cenderung menggunakan aspek-aspek kesopanan dari budaya mereka sendiri, hal inilah yang memicu beberapa kesalah-pahaman dalam mengekspresikan strategi kesopanan.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Being polite is the most important thing in communication. Everybody should be polite to the person that they know well or to the new comers even to the people that come from different background or culture. This way is supposed to build a good communication. In this research, the writer is interested in observing how politeness is used in communication between American Speakers who visit Bukittinggi and Indonesian Speakers who live in Bukittinggi. The writer wants to know how American Speakers (AS) and Indonesian Speakers (IS) in Bukittinggi speak politely. Therefore, the writer entitles the thesis "The Use of Politeness Strategies in Conversations of Some American and Indonesian Speakers in Bukittinggi."

Politeness is a part of pragmatics, which is an interesting and broad subject that deals with the way we express our feelings and thoughts. As a social creature, we should know our method of speaking; that is, how we choose a word in order to create good communication with others. Logically, we will get good communication if we act and speak politely, because it shows respect and interest between speaker and listener. Politeness phenomenon is a basic foundation in the social order of human social life that is reflected in language use. The study of politeness phenomena have primarily concerned with individual choices of using utterances in face-to-face conversation. Politeness influences how people interact

within their society as well as outside their society. For example, someone can directly say, "Hey, what's up friend?" to a friend, but he or she cannot say the same thing to a stranger because he or she may be considered impolite or rude. These happen because there are many ways of using politeness that exist in the world. However, the most important thing is how people act politely to other people. Therefore, in this research, the writer analyzes how politeness aspects in various languages develop the cross cultural understanding in language use.

Brown and Levinson (1987:61) say politeness is the expression of the speaker's intention to mitigate face threats carried by certain FTA toward another. Politeness consists of attempting to save face for another. According to Leech (1983:82), "politeness is a form of behavior that establishes and maintains courtesy". We can see examples from our daily conversation. People adjust their conversation depending on the situation; among friends, they take the liberty to use fewer formalities, which would seem impolite to a stranger.

1.2 Identification of Problem

Based on politeness that is used by AS and IS, the writer identifies the problems by formulating it on research questions below:

1. What types of politeness strategies are used by American Speakers and Indonesian Speakers in their conversations in Bukittinggi?
2. What are the dominant types of politeness strategies used by American Speakers and Indonesian Speakers in their conversations in Bukittinggi?

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

This research investigates forty data that indicate the politeness strategies applied by American and Indonesian Speakers in their conversations in Bukittinggi. Based on the analysis, the writer finds that the strategies used by American Speakers are Bald on Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off record. Meanwhile, Indonesian Speakers just use two types of politeness strategies: Positive Politeness and Negative Politeness. From Table 2, it is obvious that Bald on Record strategy and Off Record strategy do not occur in Indonesian's utterance. The percentage of Positive Politeness occur in (37.5%) of AS utterances and (20%) of IS utterances. Negative Politeness occurs in (7.5%) of AS utterances and (22.5%) of IS utterances. Neither AS nor IS do not use Don't do FTA strategy in their utterances. The statistic results above indicate the differences of the use of politeness strategies by the participants. In essence, the most dominant type of politeness is "Positive Politeness", and then, the second dominant type is "Negative Politeness".

Based on the table, the writer concludes that the types of politeness strategy that dominantly occur in AS utterance is "Positive Politeness" strategy (37.5%), whereas Indonesian speakers dominantly use "Negative Politeness" (22.5%) in their utterances. The specific type of Politeness strategy used by American speakers is "Seek agreement" strategy which is part of "Positive Politeness", whereas the specific type used by Indonesian speakers is "Give

Deference" strategy which is part of "Negative Politeness". The writer concludes that the differences in the way of politeness are influenced by differences in American and Indonesian culture.

There are various interesting phenomena found in this research concerned with the way of expressing politeness strategies, mostly Indonesian speakers tend to use indirect utterances as the influence of Indonesian cultural values, whereas contradictorily the American speakers tend to use direct utterances as the influence of American cultural values. Moreover, both Indonesian or American speakers merely try to be polite based on their own culture, and they have lack of understanding about the politeness aspects in the culture of addressee. As the results of these differences, mostly Indonesian speakers consider the American's utterances as the courtesy that are a common sense or natural in Indonesian culture, whereas the Americans consider their utterances as the cordiality and sincerity which are the common sense in American culture, this is a sort of cultural problem in expressing the politeness aspects to other cultures. Based on the analysis, it is obvious that the way of expressing politeness is influenced by the way they apply their own cultural values, but it does not create conflict explicitly. Such the differences of expressing politeness can be seen based on the inability of the participants to provide the contextually proper utterances in accordance with the culture of the addressee.

Both Indonesian and American speakers do not have a profound comprehension about each culture. The participants have the lack of understanding about the culture of the addressee; therefore they do not grasp the

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