

**POLITENESS STRATEGIES OF DIRECTIVE UTTERANCES
FOUND IN *OLIVER TWIST* MOVIE**

A Thesis

*Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
For the Degree of Sarjana Sastra*

NOVRY YOSSY

05 185 025



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT-FACULTY OF LETTERS

ANDALAS UNIVERSITY

PADANG

2010

ABSTRAK

Dalam tesis ini penulis menganalisis strategi-strategi kesopanan (*the types of politeness strategy*) dalam ujaran direktif (*directive act*) pada film yang berjudul "Oliver Twist". Film ini mengisahkan kehidupan social masyarakat Inggris pada abad ke 18 dimana social status berpengaruh besar dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Data diambil dengan cara menonton film sebanyak lima kali dan mentranskripkan setiap ujaran *directive* dalam bentuk dialog. Teori yang digunakan adalah teori Searle (*directive act*), teori Brown dan Levinson (*politeness strategy*), dan juga teori Hymes mengenai konteks yang populer dengan akronim (*SPEAKING*).

Dari 25 data yang dianalisis, ditemukan 15 ujaran menggunakan strategi *bold on record*, 6 ujaran menggunakan strategi *positive politeness*, dan 4 ujaran menggunakan strategi *negative politeness*. Ada beberapa faktor yang mendorong penutur memilih strategi tertentu, diantaranya: *setting*, *participant*, *end*, *instrument* dan *norm*. Faktor yang paling dominan mempengaruhi penutur dalam memilih strategi kesopanannya adalah 'setting'.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

People as social creatures need to socialize and interact with one another. They always have conversation with other people. Generally, to maintain a social relationship, people need to communicate in polite ways. Gumperz, (1987) stated that politeness phenomena are reflected in language. Thus, people may know that someone is being polite or not through the way they speak. Therefore in order to be polite and able to maintain relationship with others, people should know how to use politeness strategies appropriately.

Yule (1996: 60) stated that politeness is a fixed concept in idea of polite social behavior or etiquette within a culture. In our daily life, we convey a message in order to save the hearer's face when the face threatening acts are inevitable or desired. This means that the speaker avoids embarrassing the listener or making him feels uncomfortable.

The standard of polite or impolite utterance is different; it depends on the existence and standard norms or values in that place. An utterance, which is considered polite in certain area, may be considered as being impolite in another area. It is determined by the place where the utterance is used.

Brown and Levinson (1987) suggested five kinds of politeness strategies. They are, positive politeness, negative politeness, bald on record, off record and don't do FTA where each is used differently depending on the different situations. For example, talking to a friend is different with talking to a stranger because the relationship between two person who are friend is intimate than the relationship with a stranger. Someone can directly say "Hey, what's up?" to a friend but can not say the same thing to a stranger because he or she can be considered impolite or rude. On the contrary, if someone says to his or her friend, "Would you please close the door for me?" he or she can be considered as being too polite or funny. Thus, it is very important to know how to use the politeness strategies appropriately in order to avoid miscommunication that may happen when we have a conversation with another.

When producing an utterance, speaker performs specific action or "do things" through specific forces to what they intend. Hence Austin (Levinson: 1983) isolated three basic acts when saying something, they are; Locutionary act, Illocutionary act and Perlocutionary act. Searle (Levinson: 1983) classified illocutionary acts into five basic kinds of actions, they are; representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative. Here, the writer only focuses on analyzing the directive utterances. Yule (1996) proposes that directive is a kind of speech act that a speaker uses to get someone else to do something.

e.g. "Could you lend me a pen, please?"

"Don't touch that"

The way the speaker conveys the utterances above is a kind of politeness strategy; the first utterance uses positive politeness strategy because through the phrase "Could you" the speaker recognized the desire of the hearer to be respected. The second utterance uses bald on record strategy because the speaker conveys the utterance directly without minimizing threat to hearer's face.

Speakers can produce directive utterance in various ways. Normally, the speakers deliver directive utterance in an indirect or question forms in order to create a polite situation. More indirect an utterance is, more polite it is. Directive utterances commonly occur in forms of ordering, commanding, requesting, advising, asking, threatening, concluding, allowing, forbidding, persuading, and recommending. (Levinson 1983:240)

In this research, the writer chooses the movie entitled *Oliver Twist* as the object of the study. This is adopted from the novel *Oliver Twist* written by Charles Dickens. This movie tells us about the social living at England in the 18th century, in which the social status has biggest influence in daily life. It is chosen because it has various communication aspects that are very relevant to be analyzed by using politeness strategy.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

After doing the analysis, the writer concludes that politeness strategy is really important to apply in daily communication in order to maintain social relationship with others. In addition, everyone has emotional and social sense of self and expects everyone else to recognize. The result of the analysis shows that not all types of politeness strategies occur in *Oliver Twist* movie. There are only three types of the strategy which are found in this movie; bald on record, positive politeness and negative politeness. All the types are found in directive utterance. The dialogues in this movie are face to face communication and they know each other.

The dominant strategy in this movie is bald on record, it occurs 15 times. This is due to that most of the utterance is communicated directly and many speakers come from the lower class. That is why they do not pay attention too much to the other person's desire to be appreciated (hearer's face), while the positive politeness occurs 6 times and the last one is negative politeness, it occurs 4 times.

There are some contextual factors which influence the speaker in choosing politeness strategy, they are: setting, participant, end, instrument, and norm. However, act sequences, keys and genres do not occur as the factors which influence the speaker in choosing politeness strategy. The most dominant factor which influences the characters in choosing politeness strategy is 'setting' factor, because this movie describes Oliver's journey from a place to another place and he meets

many different people with the different characters, most of them are lower class people, and the ways of they speak in the interaction is directly influenced by the physical circumstance around the utterances.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Andy, Rothlin. Warren. 2007. Politeness Strategy in Biblical Hebrew and West African Languages. Retrieved on November 25, 2009. From *Journal of Translation home/* [Http://www. Sil.org/siljot/abstrack.asp?id=4904](http://www.Sil.org/siljot/abstrack.asp?id=4904)
- Brown, Penelope., and Stephen C. Levinson. 1987. *Politeness Some Universal in Language Usage*. London: Cambridge University Press
- Fromkim, Victoria, et al. 1988. *An Introduction to Language*. Third ed. Sydney: Hatcourt Brace
- Ibrahim, Abd, Syukur. 1993. *Kajian Tindak Tutur*. Surabaya: Usaha Nasional
- Ilham. 2008. Thesis. *Politeness Strategies in Job Application Letters Written by Indonesian Appicants*. Padang: English Department of Andalas University.
- Leech, Geoffrey. 1983. *Principle of Pragmatics*. London: Longman Ltd.
- Levinson, S.C. 1983. *Pragmatics*. London: Cambridge University Press
- Nash, Thomas. 1983. An Instance of America and Chinese Politeness Strategy. Retrieved on November 25, 2009. From *Journal of Politeness/ Vol14/ No 2/87-98 (1983)*.
- Renkema, Jan. 1993. *Discourse Study: an Essay in the Philosophy of language*. USA: Cambridge University Press
- Shigemitsu, Y. Politeness Argument in the context of argument in Japanese Debate show. Retrieved on January 9 2010. From *Journal of Politeness/vol III/isse2/Shigemitsu.html*.