"Wow! You Look Stunning!": A Cross-Cultural Study of Compliment Responses Among Tribal Filipino Youth

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Abstract— **This qualitative – phenomenological study aimed to examine the different compliment responses employed by Mandaya, Manobo, and Bagobo Filipino tertiary students. The data were collected through in-depth interview and written discourse completion task (DCT) wherein a total of 30 Filipino tertiary students participated in this study; 12 underwent in-depth interview while 18 answered the DCT. Using the Miles and Huberman framework, data revealed that participants opted to follow the trend from previous researches: accept, reject, and mitigate patterns. However new schemes were also revealed in the micro level, such as the intensifying response and reject + comment. It was also revealed that both Mandaya and Bagobo participants mostly preferred mitigate strategies. On the contrary, the Manobo participants used the accept strategy. Results also showed that all participants preferred opting-out strategy of the Mitigate macro level. Further studies are warranted.**

Keywords- Bagobo, Compliment Responses, Filipino, Mandaya, Manobo

I. INTRODUCTION

An aspect of human interaction that has received numerous researches is the exchange of compliments and compliment responses among individuals. Although this can be viewed as rather normal across cultures, the practice, regularity, and purpose of these may significantly vary (China Papers, 2010). Researchers were able to prove the significance of compliments sociologically as well as pedagogically such as that of Morales (2010) who acknowledged the importance of ESL teachers in shaping the sociolinguistic competence particularly that of the language learners through the speech act of compliment and compliment responding.

Despite the differences in language use between male and female or among gender and cultures, it is important to keep in mind that the influence of gender on interaction might vary depending on the participants' ethnic groups, social classes (Henley, 1995; Reid, Haritos, Kelly, and Holland, 1995; Aries, 1996), and cultures (Melzi & Fernandez 2004), and of course there is individual variation within a given society or culture (Kimmel, 2004). Compliment responses are important to establish solidarity and preserve camaraderie. It is in this light that the researchers are highly encouraged to conduct a cross-cultural study to find out the most common compliment responses among tribal Filipino youths.

A. Research Questions

- What specific compliment response strategies (CRS) at macro and micro level are revealed from the responses by the participants?
- What are the similarities and differences in compliment responses among the participants coming from different tribes?

B. Theoretical Lens

The study is anchored on the viewpoint of Holmes (1986) which asserts that in order to maintain social relationship and to reinforce a desired action, people may compliment one another. He holds to this view that giving compliments appeared to serve as "solidarity signals, commenting on friendships, attenuating demands, smoothing ruffled feathers and bridging gaps created by possible offenses." (1986; 1988: 464). Wolfson (1981: 89) supported this theory who states that compliments are said to "grease the social wheels" and thus to serve as "social lubricants" that build or maintain relationship.

Moreover, Pomerantz (1978) pointed out that compliment responses pose a dilemma for the recipient in that they involve two conversational principles that stand in potential conflict: Principle I, agreeing with and/or accepting compliment and Principle II, avoiding self-praise. This means that if a person accepts or agrees with a compliment he/she is self-praising thus violating Principle II. And if a person rejects the complimentary force, he/she has violated Principle I. This principles were also consistent with that of Leech's (1983) Politeness Principles or Politeness Maxims, more specifically the agreement and modesty maxims. The agreement maxim states "minimize disagreement between self and other and maximize agreement between self and other" (p. 48) which is consistent with Pomerantz Principle I. while the modesty maxim asserts "minimize praise of self and maximize disparise of self" (p. 47) which is consistent with Pomerantz Principle II.

II. METHOD

The major methodological framework that we utilized in this research was a phenomenological study.

A. Research Subjects

We patterned the number of participants to Ngadiran's (2009) comparative study of compliment responses between Malays and Americans. Thus, a total of 30 tribal tertiary Filipino youth from the Mandaya, Manobo and Bagobo tribes were chosen to participate in this study, ten participants per tribe. There were 12 who underwent the in-depth interview and 18 answered the DCT.

B. Research Instrument

For validity and reliability, the data of this study were gathered from Discourse Completion Test or DCT and in-depth interview. At the beginning of the DCT a demographic survey was conducted to ensure that the participants would be the appropriate informants. The appropriateness was based according to the criteria specified in the previous section.

The Discourse Completion Test adapted from the study of Mohammad Ali Heidari-Sharehza, Dastjerdi and Marvi (2011) was composed of two sections. The first section was all about the demographic profile of the participants: sex, age, year level and tribe. The second section focused on the DCT proper. This consisted of four scenarios in which participants of the study were expected to respond to compliments. These scenarios were designed to meet the purpose of this study and to elicit data on compliment responses from the participants. The final version in English was translated by the researchers to the locale's L1, *bisaya*.

The second instrument, which was the in-depth interview, participants were asked to answered demographic questions (e.g. What part of Mindanao are you from?) and compliments were subtly dispersed throughout the conversation. This method aimed to gather necessary data from a natural conversation and examine compliment responses from it. We used a digital tape recorder to document the In-depth Interview (IDI).

It was useful for us to utilize digital tape recording to store all the necessary information and data that transpired during the in-depth interviews. According to Krueger (1998), it is very useful to utilize tape recording in interviews.

C. Data Analysis

We used the Miles and Huberman framework for qualitative data analysis in analyzing the data gathered. This type of data analysis was considered appropriate for the present study. There are three main components of the said framework: data reduction, data display, and drawing and verifying conclusions (Punch, 2005). These components involve coding, memoing, and developing propositions.

Before data analysis had taken place, we transferred first all of the recorded data to the computer. After the transfer, we made the transcripts. These transcripts were printed with wide margins on both sides and with enough spaces in-between sentences for coding and memoing purposes. We created a table with two columns. The first column was the original version of the transcript and the second was the translated version. However, before the two processes were done, the researchers needed to double check the printed transcripts by going over them while listening to the tape recorder. This

ensures that everything transpired in the data gathering had been recorded. After this, the data analysis begun.

All throughout the analysis, we went back to the research questions of the study as a guide thus, file sortment method was utilized. We assigned first descriptive codes to all participants. MN stands for Mandaya, BG Bagobo, and MB for Manobo. Each participants was also assigned to the type number for organization and coding purposes. Descriptive codes were also assigned to the type of research instrument and types of compliment. DCT for Discourse Completion Test and In for In-depth Interview, AC stands for Appearace compliments, CC for Character compliment, SC for abilitiy or skills compliment, and PC for possession compliment. Then pattern codes (Punch, 2005) while doing memoing, drawing and verifying conclusions all at the same time. As what Punch (2005) said, "memoing begins at the start of the analysis along with coding" (p.201) and "drawing and verifying conclusions is likely to happen concurrently with them" (p. 202). During the whole duration of the analysis of information, we made use multi-colored sticky notes for easy identification of codes.

D. Trustworthiness and Authenticity

In order to achieve validity and reliability, we made use of *credibility, transferability, dependability* and *confirmability,* techniques of Lincoln and Guba (1985), in conducting this qualitative phenomenological study. The following paragraphs elucidate the processes of achieving each technique.

With the intention of making the research more credible, we made use of two methods of gathering data: the Discourse Completion Test and in-depth interview. Moreover, the interview was conducted by the three researchers. Lastly, the study is supported by various theories. Through these reasons, triangulation was attained. Triangulation is the combination of two or more data sources, investigators, methodologic approaches, theoretical perspectives (Denzin, 1970; Kimchi, Polivka, & Stevenson, 1991), or analytical methods (Kimchi et al., 1991) within the same study. Additionally, Denzin stated that the goal in research is to use two or more methods of research to strengthen the design and to increase the ability to interpret the findings.

Merriam (as cited by Shenton, 2004: 1) states that external validity or transferability "is concerned with the extent to which the findings of one study can be applied to other situations." In achieving it, we ensured that sufficient contextual information was provided to readers to relate the findings to their own positions. The information covered the procedures in gathering, transcribing and presenting the language data as well as describing each of the participants. Detailed account of each was evident in the entire study. With these reasons, future researchers could use our research to unravel new discoveries or strategies pertaining to compliment responses in a different group of participants.

To address the issue of dependability, all participants received a complete copy of the transcripts of the interview that was conducted. The participants were assured by the researchers that they could review the transcripts and make necessary changes if there was a need to. Through this, the three core principles accepted in research ethics was attained,

namely the respect for persons, beneficence and justice (Mack et al., 2005). It was assumed then that the participants did not have any misgivings with regard to the data gathered and transcribed, given that no transcription was returned back to the researchers. Nevertheless, each participant was assured that confidentiality was established all throughout the analysis and presentation of the findings of the data; hence pseudonyms were employed prior to the study,

Lastly, auditing of the obtained data was instituted through the use of audit trail, thus we attained confirmability. Each of the transcriptions of the participants was coded in order to be easily accessed for reviewing purposes. These codes were indicated in every word-for-word response of each of the participants.

To sum up, in gathering the data for this research, we made use of the Discourse Completion Test and in-depth interview. Comprehensive description of data gathering, data analysis and data presentation and discussion was presented. Moreover, the transcriptions were presented back to the participants for review and comments. Lastly, an audit trail was established. All of these were done in order to achieve validity and reliability of the study.

III. RESULTS

A. Specific Compliment Response Strategies at Macro and Micro Level

Table 1 presents the frequency distribution of tribal Filipino youth compliment response types in the macro level. It is visible that the Mitigate strategy was the most preferred strategy of the participants. Slightly lower from the Mitigate level is the Accept macro level. The Reject macro level however is very low in percentage.

TABLE I.   FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF TRIBAL FILIPINO YOUTH COMPLIMENT RESPONSE TYPES IN THE MACRO LEVEL

Macro Level	Number	Percentage
Accept	60	43
Reject	13	09
Mitigate	67	48
TOTAL	**140**	**100**

Table 2 also shows the frequency distribution of tribal Filipino youth compliment responses in the micro level. It is evident that the opting out strategy was the most utilized compliment response type among the three tribes. It was followed by the deflecting informative comment and Appreciation token in the Mitigate and Accept micro level respectively.

TABLE II.   FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF TRIBAL FILIPINO YOUTH COMPLIMENT RESPONSE TYPES IN THE MICRO LEVEL

Macro Level	Micro Level	Number	Percentage
Accept	Appreciation Token	18	13
	Agreeing Utterance	7	5
	Downgrading Qualifying Utterance	9	6
	Return Compliment	**6**	**4**
	Intensifying Response	15	11
	Neutralizing Utterance	4	3
	Praise Upgrade	1	1
Reject	Disagreeing Utterance	10	7
	Challenging Sincerity	2	1
	Reject + Comment	1	1
Mitigate	Opting Out	31	22
	Request Reassurance	1	1
	Change Topic	1	1
	Diminution of Credit	5	4
	Shift Credit	6	4
	Deflecting Informative Comment	18	13
	joking	5	4
Total		140	100

B. Similarities and Differences in Compliment Responses among Mandaya, Manobo and Bagobo

Figure 1 presents the comparison of frequency distribution of compliment responses types among the tribes in the macro level. It shows that both the Mandaya and Bagobo tribes prefer to mitigate or avoid the compliments. Contrariwise, the Manobo tribe opts to accept it. Similarities among the three are that the percentage rates of the reject macro level are extremely low.
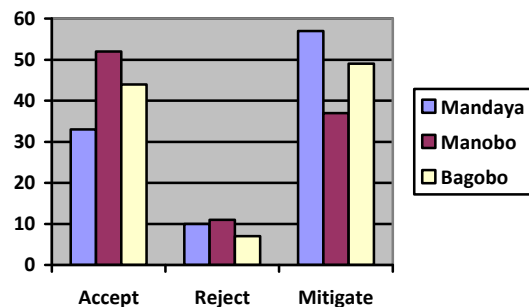

Figure 1.   Comparison of Frequency Distribution of Compliment Responses Types among the Tribes in the Macro Level

In the micro level, all three tribes prefer to opt out in responding to compliments. Manobo tribe was the only tribe that uttered the Praise Upgrade, Reject + Comment, and Change Topic. The Mandaya tribe also incurred the Request

Assurance strategy in the entire corpus. Table 3 below shows the frequency distribution of tribal Filipino youth compliment response types in the micro level.

TABLE III.   FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF TRIBAL FILIPINO YOUTH COMPLIMENT RESPONSE TYPES IN THE MICRO LEVEL

Macro Level	Micro Level	Mandaya		Manobo		Bagobo	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
Accept	Appreciation Token	5	10	6	13	7	16
	Agreeing Utterance	2	4	3	7	2	4
	Downgrading Qualifying Utterance	2	4	3	7	4	9
	Return Compliment	2	4	2	4	2	4
	Intensifying Response	4	8	7	15	4	9
	Neutralizing Utterance	1	2	2	4	1	2
	Praise Upgrade	0	0	1	2	0	0
Reject	Disagreeing Utterance	4	8	3	7	3	7
	Challenging Sincerity	1	2	1	2	0	0
	Reject + Comment	0	0	1	2	0	0
Mitigate	Opting Out	12	24	10	22	9	20
	Request Reassurance	1	2	0	0	0	0
	Change Topic	0	0	1	2	0	0
	Diminution of Credit	3	6	0	0	2	4
	Shift Credit	2	4	3	7	1	2
	Deflecting Informative Comment	6	12	3	7	9	20
	Joking	4	8	0	0	1	2
Total		49	100	46	100	45	100

IV.   DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

A.   What specific compliment response strategies (CRS) at macro and micro levels are revealed from the responses by the participants

After presenting the findings of the compliment response strategies used by the Mandaya, Manobo and Bagobo tribes, the results revealed that there are similar classifications from existing taxonomies specifically that of Holmes (1988) and Chen (2003) however, new categories have emerged as well.

Following Holmes' taxonomy in categorizing the results, it consisted of three macro levels namely Accept, Reject and Evade. In this case, instead of using Evade, it was altered into Mitigate strategy while the Accept and Reject categories were kept unchanged. The Accept strategy pertains to the complimentee's recognition or acceptance of the compliments given to them. If the complimentee rectifies the complimentary force then that is a description of the Reject strategy. Meanwhile, due to the conflict that arises between Leech's agreement and modesty maxims (Cutting, 2008), recipients of compliments try to resolve this through a variety of solutions by means of the mitigate macro level which refers

to the complimentee's avoidance of the compliment or the complimentee may also redirect the compliment to a third party or to the object being complimented.

The Mandaya participants mostly mitigated or evaded the compliments given to them and had very minimal reject compliment responses. Acceptance strategies were also commonly observed being their second most used macro level strategy. The same results were applied by the Bagobo tribe who least preferred the reject response while avoidance and acceptance response types essentially comprised their overall compliment response strategies, respectively. For the Mandaya and Bagobo tribes, the mitigate scheme was the most executed response for compliments thus, this entails that the Mandaya and Bagobo youth participants exercised Leech's maxim of modesty (Cutting, 2008). These findings bear similarities to the recent study done by Katsuta (2012) where Japanese speakers preferred Avoidance the most and Reject the least as well as by Ali Heidari et al. (2009) where female Iranian teenagers expressed Evade strategies the most when receiving compliments for possession. Furthermore, it supports the argument that Filipino college students still displayed earlier generations' timidness despite the Modern era (Mojica, 2002). This also affirms the assertion of Ghawi (cited by Al Falasi, 2007) that the acceptance rates are much lower in non-western languages than those in English speaking communities and that L2 speakers have struggle in responding accordingly to compliments. Although there were no major differences in the choice of compliment response strategies within the Mandaya and Bagobo tribes, the changes in the percentages are still worth another look.

Contrariwise, only the Manobo corpus adopted the acceptance strategy as the predominant strategy in comparison with the other two tribes, thus adhering to Leech's agreement maxim (Cutting, 2008). This has similar results with previous researches from Chung & Chen (2010) where EFL Taiwanese young learners chiefly used the acceptance strategy and Cai (2012) where acceptance strategy was found to be more frequently adopted by Chinese college students. Furthermore, this contradicts the assertion that speakers of Asian languages were likely to reject compliments (Urano 1998 as cited by Al Falasi).

Although the three tribes came from one of the main island group of the Philippines, Mindanao to be exact, the fact that there were differences in their compliment response strategies coordinates with the point of Al Falasi (2007) that disparity arises in the utilization of compliment responses.

The Accept, Reject and, Mitigate macro level strategies is then subdivided into sub-categories in the form of micro levels. Grounded from Holmes' taxonomy, there are four micro levels under the Accept scheme namely the Appreciation token, Agreeing utterance, Downgrading qualifying utterance and Return compliment. However, there were added sub-strategies under the Accept macro level that were found in this study and these were the Intensifying response, Neutralizing utterance and Praise upgrade. Table 4 shows the taxonomy of compliment responses emerged out from our study.

A complimentee that shows appreciation or says "Thank you" to a compliment is categorized under the appreciation

token sub-strategy. This micro level is the most common response type under the Accept macro level. In the findings of Morales (2010), 60 percent were accounted by his male Filipino respondents and 66 percent were from female respondents. A complimentee that agreed or approved a compliment would mean that the agreeing utterance sub-strategy was utilized. The downgrading qualifying utterance occurs when the compliment is accepted by the complimentee but to a lower referent. Lastly, from Holmes' taxonomy is the return compliment strategy which is a stated or implied acceptance of the compliment and that the complimentee reciprocates a compliment back to the complimenter. This type of compliment response is one of the most infrequent statistically; this was consistent to a previous research by Bu (2010) who accounted only one utterance from the Chinese learners of English language data and none from the native Chinese participants. The intensifying response was a new strategy that the researchers created based on the compliment responses given by the participants. This micro level pertains to the complimentee's acceptance of the compliment but further explains what is being complimented or gives inspiration to the complimenter. Another added sub-strategy is the neutralizing utterance. This is akin with the former research of Lee (2009) where such strategy also emerged. She elaborates that "this is a smart strategy that allows the complimentee to accept the compliment in an acceptable way" (p. 533). The last additional sub-strategy for the accept macro level is the praise upgrade. The sub-strategy was derived from Herbert's taxonomy of compliment responses (cited by Al Falasi, 2007). The recipient accepts the complimentary force but asserts it to be insufficient thus elaborating the compliment by adding more praise to one's self.

As for the Reject strategy, Holmes found three sub-strategies under it and these were Disagreeing utterance, Question accuracy and Challenging sincerity. The question accuracy scheme was the only sub-strategy under the reject macro level that was not accounted statistically. In its place, the researchers generated the Reject + Comment sub-strategy. This new micro level of rejection occurs when the complimentee rejects the compliment however, gives a comment or instead offers a suggestion regarding the object being complimented. Previous Asian researches such that of Bu (2010) and Chen (1993) contradict the data of the Filipino tribal youths since in their study, the native Chinese preferred to reject the compliments given to them whereas, all three tribes had really low occurrences of reject compliment responses. This indicates that the participants of this study are least familiar with or dislike using the reject strategy in responding to compliments as compared with other Asian cultures hence, they do not go against Leech's agreement maxim plus have no intention of disagreeing with the complimenter.

Last but not least, the Mitigate macro level consists of seven sub-strategies: Opting out, Request reassurance, Shift credit, Deflecting informative comment, Change topic, Diminution of credit, and Joking. In comparison with Holmes' taxonomy, the added micro levels of the Mitigate strategy were opting out, change topic, diminution of credit and joking whereas the

informative comment was changed to deflecting informative comment to further specify the particular scheme.

As shown in the results chapter, the Mandaya and Bagobo corpus predominantly used the Mitigate strategy, and the opting out sub-strategy was the most executed of all. The Opting out strategy happens when instead of verbally responding, the complimentee reacts through laughter, smile or filler. For Herbert (1986), non-verbal responses were categorized under the Rejection strategy since complimenting behavior is an adjacency pair in western conversations and is considered a flout to the Grice's Cooperative principles. But in the Philippine context, complimenting behavior need not to be a give-and-take situation which is why the Filipino researchers incorporated the opting out micro level in the Mitigate macro level. A relative outcome came from Cedar's study (2006) where some of the Thai subjects used the Smiling (Laughing) strategy which did not exist in the American subjects' responses. She elaborated that "the function of smiling in Thai culture is to lessen embarrassment and tension between interlocutors" (p.16). Furthermore, the similarities between the present study and Katsuta (2012) are substantial. Most significantly, both involve the recording of naturally occurring compliment responses in free flowing conversations and the conversation leaders were the researchers themselves wherein their relationship with the participants were strangers. Another is how both adapted Holmes' approach and how the opting out sub-strategy was observed from the data, in Katsuta's case was labeled as "Sociable laughter" and coded under Avoidance tokens. According to her, the response for this sub-strategy is that of "Aisowarai" or nervous laughter. "The "Aisowarai" functions as an indispensible lubricant for smooth conversational interaction while "Nervous laughter", arises when the speaker finds the compliment embarrassing or funny" (p. 37). The request reassurance micro scheme occurs when the complimentee asks for confirmation from the complimenter while shift credit however, transpires when the complimentee shifts the credit to another agent. For Chiang and Pochtrager's categories (Cedar, 2006), these two sub-strategies were categorized under Neutral Elaboration. For Holmes, informative comment happens when additional information is provided by the complimentee, in the present study however; in the deflecting informative comment, the complimentee does not only provide additional information but also gives motivation or explanation to the complimenter. Another micro level is the Diminution of credit. This has similar features with Herbert's (1986) Scale Down micro level in which the complimentee reduces the complimentary force by using a scaled down evaluative term. One more new scheme is the Change topic where the complimentee intentionally changes the topic to avoid responding to the compliment. This sub-strategy also occurred in Katsuta's (2012) research which was coded under Avoidance token. Finally, the Joking micro strategy which falls under the Mitigate macro level matches with Lee (2009) who also coded Joking under the Deflect/Evade macro level. Lee further elaborates that "this type of response is usually accompanied with laughter thus seems to presuppose solidarity and intimacy between parties" (p. 536). In addition, Filipinos are known to have an uncanny

ability to joke about the most serious matters and could be a strategy to defuse an uncomfortable situation thus; in terms of joking as a compliment response the researchers coded it as a Mitigate strategy; however it is very low in percentage.

TABLE IV. COMPLIMENT RESPONSE STRATEGIES

MACRO level CRs	MICRO level CRs	EXAMPLES
Accept	**Appreciation token**	C: *Bagay gud sa imo ang polo* (You look great with polo) CR: *Salamat* (Thank you)
	Agreeing Utterance	C: As in *parehas ani? Bagay sa imoha.* (Really? Something like this? You look good on that.) CR: Yes it is.
	Downgrading qualifying utterance	C: *Uy! Nindot lagi na imohang sinina ay! Bagay kaayo sa imoha ba!* (Your dress is so nice! It suits you well.) CR: *Uy! Salamat barato raman ni...* (Oh thanks, it's just a cheap one.)
	Return compliment	C: *Uy! Nindot lagi na imong sinina ay! Bagay kaayo sa imuha ba!* (Hey! Your shirt is nice! It suits really well on you!) CR: *Ai. Salamat, imuha pud!* (Ay. Thank you, yours too!)
	Intensifying Response	C: *Gahut kaayo kag* report; *unta ana pud ko mureport uie. Hawd kaayo ka,* as in! (Your report is awesome; I wish I can report just like you! You are really great!) CR: *Ay salamat, ang imong buhaton kay pangandaman nimo imong mga gamiton para sa imong* report. (Oh thanks, what you need to do is to prepare what you're going to use for your report.)
	Neutralizing Utterance	C: *Uy, salamat kaayo sa imong tabang ha! Buotan kaayo ka ay!* (Thank you so much for your help! You are very kind.) CR: Ok *ra na uy, ana man jud ta na mga estudyante kailangan nato magtinabangay* (It's okay, students should help one another)
	Praise Upgrade	C: *Buotan jud diay ka...* (You really are kind) CR: Responsible, generous *daw... hatag kung hatag...* (smiles) (I always give and give.)
Reject	**Disagreeing utterance**	C: *Gahut!* (Amazing!) CR: *Dili pud...* (giggles) (Not really)
	Challenging sincerity	C: *But-an kaayo ka...*

MACRO level CRs	MICRO level CRs	EXAMPLES
		(You are so kind) CR: *Charut!* (laughs)
	Reject + Comment	C: *Gahut kaayo kag report, unta ana pud ko mureport uie... Hawd kaayo ka.* (Your report is awesome; I wish I can report just like you! You are really great, as in!) CR: *Dili uie...* Just do your best *lang jud para matarong nimog* report... (No I'm not... just do your best so that you'll be good too.)
Mitigate	**Opting Out**	C: *Bagay man pud sa imoha.* (It suits you really well.) CR: Smiles
	Request reassurance	C: *Hala, wait lang. Ganahan lagi ko sa imong pantaloon. Ganahan kaayo ko sa iong pantalon. Bagay kaayo sa imuha.* (Hey, wait a minute. I like your jeans. I really like them, it really suits you) CR: *Ayy hala!* (Laughs) sure *ka?* (Oh my! Are you sure?)
	Change Topic	C: *Ganahan gud ko sa imong sapatos napansin lang nako* (I like your shoes. I just noticed it) CR: *Nasa* Ecoland *ko nag* board (I rented a room at Ecoland.)
	Diminution of Credit	C: *Ah Bongga!* (Amazing!) CR: *Daan naman pud ni. Hehe.*(It's pretty old. Hehe.)
	Shift Credit	C: *Hala, bag-o lagi imong cellphone, nindot kaayo! Unta ana pud akong cellphone oy!* (Oh my! Your cell phone is new, I like it! I hope I have a cell phone just like that!) CR: *Sa ako ning mama.* (My mother owns this.)
	Deflecting Informative Comment	C: *Gahut kaayo kag report, unta ana pud mureport uie... hawd kaayo ka,* as in!(Your report is awesome; I wish I can report just like you! You are really great, as in!) CR: *eh di, magpractice ka!* (so you should practice)
	Joking	C: *Char, mayaman!* (Wow, How rich!) CR: *Pero ilupad da* (But, it was blown by the storm.) (pertaining to their store)

B. What are the similarities and differences in cmpliment responses among the participants coming from different tribes?

This research question led us to the findings that the Manobo, Mandaya and Bagobo tribes had different patterns in responding to a complimentary force whether in the micro and macro level. However have huge similarities on the theories that support these patterns of compliment responses.

The Mandaya tribe had coded the Mitigate macro level as its most frequent compliment response in the Macro level, followed by the Accept and lastly, Reject. In terms of the micro level, out of the total 17 twenty schemes that emerged out in our study, the said tribe had incurred fourteen. Only the praise upgrade micro level had not accounted by the Mandaya tribe, same as well with reject + comment in the Reject macro level and change topic in the Mitigate level. The most frequent micro level in the Mandaya data was the opting out.

In contrast to that of the Mandaya, the Manobo tribe tends to accept the compliment more, rather than to reject or mitigate it. They accounted all the micro levels in the Accept and Reject macro level, and coded four micro levels in the Mitigate level. Schemes that were not incurred in the mitigate macro level were request reassurance, diminution of credit and joking. However, the said tribe is the only one which accounted Praise Upgrade and Reject + Comment in the total corpus in our study. Even though the Manobo tribe tends to accept the compliment more, the largest number of compliment response in the micro level fell under the Mitigate level, opting out. This result is consistent to the results from the corpus of the Mandaya tribe.

Consistent to that of the Mandaya, the Bagobo tribe also preferred to evade or mitigate the complimentary force, yet the accept level was slightly lower to that of the Mitigate. Reject, constant to the other two tribes, was the most infrequent. In the micro level, 16 were incurred by the Bagobo. The same to the Mandaya tribe, it did not incur any praise upgrade and reject + comment compliment responses in the Accept and Reject macro level respectively. Two were not also coded in the mitigate level. These were the request reassurance and the change topic. Opting out was also the most preferred compliment response of the Bagobo tribe, consistent to the results of the Mandaya and Manobo tribe.

Amidst the difference of compliment responses in terms of pattern preferences, still the three tribes had huge similarities in terms of the most frequent compliment response in the micro level, opting out. Our data resulted that the Mandaya, Manobo and Bagobo tribes tend to opt out in a compliment rather than to accept or reject it. More specific to this, they tend to smile or giggle upon receiving a compliment.

This is also a support to our next finding that the tribes included in our study tend to evade more or mitigate rather than to accept. This is consistent to previous works of compliment responses that used Asians as their research subjects. According to Ghawi (1993) (as cited by Al Falasi, 2007), non-acceptance rates were lower to non-western languages compare to those of English speaking communities. Communities such as those of the Chinese opted to reject rather than to accept (Bu, 2010; Chen, 1993). Japanese and Koreans are also reported to hardly accept compliment responses. (Daikuhara, 1986 and Baek 1998, as cited by Kim 2003). The same goes for Taiwanese college students who respond to compliments through disagreement in order to avoid self-praise (Tsai & Wang, 2003).

Thus, we found out that Filipino tribes practice modesty in order to preserve solidarity among fellow youths. This is a virtue that is consistent to those of the Chinese (Shih, 1986). Evading or mitigating to compliments more supports the notion of Pomerantz principle II, avoid self-praise. Upon mitigating the compliments, the Filipino tribes had avoided it. The notion of modesty supported the study of Mojica (2002) that Filipino college students find it essential to be modest despite of the advent of modern age.

V. IMPLICATIONS

After we had analyzed the information that we gained from our research participants, we personally make the following implications to individuals and groups of people, who, in one way or another, give and receive compliments.

Students should learn how to give and accept compliments in order to establish and preserve camaraderie and solidarity among peers. Compliments and responses can also help them avoid misunderstandings to one another and can establish a harmonious relationship between them.

In the classroom setting, teachers' compliments to students can also help them motivate more to work hard or study hard. They can realize that establishing a harmonious relationship to students can affect the engagement of the students in class. Through this, they can also use appropriate teaching methodologies that would be able them to target the lesson for the day and utilize compliments as rewards to successful students.

The administration can also be of a benefit to teachers. They can conduct seminars on ways to motivate the students and how to give correct compliments to students.

What we have stated, analyzed and concluded are not the end on this topic for there are still a lot of things needed to be done in this area. We believe that our study does not generalize the totality of the tribes here in the Philippines. The next studies could focus more into tribes that are not included in our research. A combination of cross-cultural study and gender study can also be conducted to be more specific on findings. We believe that there is a strong need for similar studies in a wide variety of settings and communities to gain better knowledge about compliment responses.

We also believe that status of both the complimentee and complimenter can also give us a different result. Our study focused on a stranger to stranger and student to student relationship. Thus, next studies can opt to choose a close friend relationship between the complimentee or complimenter, or perhaps teacher to student relationship, professional to student and the like. This can give us results that would discover schemes unique to our findings and other previous works.

In terms of the cultural perspective, we believe that in order to gain full understanding about the compliment response of the tribes, it could be more beneficial to use their

first language upon the conduct of the research. Future researches should require researchers that have high knowledge on the participants' L1. In order to have a more naturalized response, future researchers can visit the community of tribes and conduct the study there.

Additional studies are also needed to learn more of complex compliment responses. We have discovered the reject + comment response in our study which is a special type of compliment response. However it only occurred once in our study. Future studies can explain its occurrence and more about its particular context in which they are used

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