

## **POLITENESS STRATEGIES, LINGUISTIC MARKERS AND SOCIAL CONTEXTS IN DELIVERING REQUESTS IN JAVANESE**

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First received: 4 August 2017

Final proof received: 31 January 2018

### **Abstract**

Delivering request is not only influenced by linguistic factors, but also by socio-cultural factors. Some studies have reported the interaction between linguistic and socio-cultural factors in delivering requests in many different languages. However, this issue is rarely explored in Javanese (language). The aim of this study is to investigate the politeness strategies, the linguistic markers, and the social contexts commonly used to deliver requests in Javanese. The data were collected and sorted from the conversations among the Javanese people in Jember, East Java, Indonesia, when making speech acts to deliver requests. Having been sorted, the data were analysed using the deconstructive method to reveal the linguistic markers commonly used by the Javanese speakers to deliver requests and the social-cultural backgrounds which influence the choice of the politeness strategies. This research shows that (1) there are four types (most direct, direct, less direct, and indirect) of politeness strategies in Javanese, (2) there are four linguistic devices (sentence moods, speech levels, passive voice, and supposition/condition) as the markers of the politeness strategies and (3) the choices of the levels are strongly influenced by the social contexts (social distance, age, social status or power, and the size of imposition) among the tenors. The appropriate strategies for delivering requests in Javanese will make the communication among the interlocutors run harmoniously.

**Keywords:** politeness strategies; social-cultural backgrounds; requests; direct

According to Brown and Levinson (1987), politeness involves an awareness of other people's face wants. They believed that some speech acts such as orders, requests, and apologies were intrinsically face-threatening and were often referred to as face-threatening acts (FTAs). The study of the speech act of requests in different languages has received a great deal of attention by linguists. Blum-Kulka (1987) examined the notions of indirectness and politeness as applied to requests. Blum-Kulka, House, and Kasper (1989) compared requests across languages the realization patterns of requests and apologies to establish the similarities and differences between native and non-native speakers' realization patterns. Felix-Brasdefer (2005) investigated the notions of indirectness and politeness in the speech acts of requests among Mexican Spanish in the formal and informal situation. Anderson (2009) conducted research on polite requests in non-native varieties of English, the case of Ghanian English. Aubed (2012) made a research on the comparison of polite requests in English and Arabic for the purpose of translation. Finally, Salvesen (2015) compared politeness strategies in requests by Norwegian learners of English in comparison with native English speakers.

Several studies above indicate that delivering requests may vary among languages and cultures. What is polite and socially appropriate in one context or culture may be considered impolite or excessively polite in another (Anderson, 2009).

Some studies in communicative acts also proved that social norms might differ from one culture to another, so what is accepted in one culture could be rejected in another (Banikalef, Alladin, and Al-natour, 2015; Sukarno, 2010). Although speech act is controlled by universal pragmatic principles (Searle 1975, Brown and Levinson 1987, Leech 1983), they may vary in their verbalization across languages and cultures (Lee, 2003; Wierzbicka, 1992). Data from non-English speaking cultures indicate that many speech acts are perceived differently in the area of politeness in these cultures (Alsulami, 2015) because language and culture are inseparable (Wierzbicka, 1992). This article tries to identify the patterns of polite requests in Javanese since it is believed that the strategies the Javanese deliver requests are strongly bound by the Javanese cultures.

Studies on the Javanese politeness had also been conducted by some linguists, such as: how to use the Javanese lexicons for courtesy (Gonda, 1949, Sulistyowati, 2008), how to use the Javanese respect forms (Uhlenbeck, 1970), how to use the communicative codes in Javanese (Wolff & Poedjosoedarmo, 1982), how to manage oral communications between superior and subordinators among the Javanese (Zaid, 1999), how to use the indirect speech acts in Javanese (Partana, 2006), how teach the Javanese respect usage to foreigners (Quinn, 2011), and how to respond to compliments politely in Javanese (Sukarno, 2015). Despite the

fact that there are many researches on politeness in Javanese, researches on delivering requests in Javanese have received comparatively less attention, if not yet done. This study aims to answer the following research questions: (1) what types of politeness strategies can be identified in the language of Javanese spoken in Jember to deliver requests, (2) what linguistic devices can be identified to mark the polite requests, and (3) what socio-cultural backgrounds may motivate the speakers to use the politeness strategies in delivering requests.

Chiravate (2012) states that request is asking someone to do something which is beneficial to the speaker but costly to the hearer, and therefore request speech act involves the use of politeness strategies. Requests are particularly sensitive to the contexts of speaking and to the specific social characteristics of the requesters (Syahri, 2013). The speech act of requesting is chosen as the topic of this study for some reasons. Firstly, Javanese often make requests to their speech partners either directly or implicitly in their daily communication to give orders, instructions, do favours. Secondly, requesting speech acts are commonly performed by empowering the linguistic devices (sentence moods, passive voices, and conditional sentences) and make use of different levels of directness that show different personal and interpersonal relations. Furthermore, a request is a face-threatening act (Brown and Levinson, 1987). Finally, requesting speech acts are sensitive to certain parameters, such as social status, social distance, and degree of imposition. Such parameters influence the choice of formula and the level of directness in different languages (Abuarrah, Lochtman, & Lutjerhams, 2013) including Javanese.

As for politeness strategies, some linguists (e.g., Lakoff, 1973, Brown & Levinson, 1987;

(1)	(KI) :	Menopo	panjengan	mundhut	ageman	enggal?
(2)	(KM) :	Nopo	sampeyan	tumbas	rasokan	anyar?
(3)	(Ng) :	Opo	kowe	tuku	klambi	anyar?
		QW	you	buy	clothes	new

‘Did you buy new shirts?’

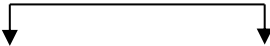
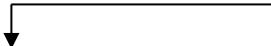
In terms of speech levels, sentences (1) and (2) are classified as *bhasa krama* (KI, and KM) since they contain non-ngoko lexicon, such as *mundhut* and *tumbas* which are from the ngoko lexicon *tuku*. Because the Ng level is the basic level, every concept which can be expressed in Javanese will be stated in a word or a phrase in the Ng style. In cases, where the KM and KI levels do not possess equivalent to the Ng words, the Ng words are used. Semantically, those sentences (1, 2, 3) have the same referential meanings ‘Did you buy new shirts’, but pragmatically they have different meanings. In term of politeness, (1) is the least polite and (3) is the most polite. The right choice among the speech

Leech, 1983) believe that the goal of doing politeness is to save or to protect the face, which in turn it produces a good communication among the interlocutors. There are three rules of being polite from the perspective of the speaker. They are (1) don’t impose, (2) give options, and (3) make the listener feel good, or be friendly (Lakoff, 1973). Furthermore, Leech (1983) formulates a “Politeness Principle” and its maxims. The function of this politeness principle and its maxims is to maintain the social relationship in friendly situations to enable the speaker to assure that cooperation will follow. In summary, the central point of politeness is how to manage ‘face’ in many different ways so that our partner of communication will not lose his ‘face’. Therefore, interlocutors have to use specific strategies to minimize the threat according to a rational assessment of the face risk as an attempt to avoid FTAs (Maros & Rosli, 2017).

However, politeness may differ cross-culturally (Chen, 1993; Watts, Ide, & Ehlich 1992; Holmes, 1988). In order to understand politeness in a certain language, it is important to examine some aspects of their culture particularly their fundamental values (Aziz, 2017). For example, to be polite in Javanese one must know some Javanese cultural concepts, namely: *tata krama*, *andhap asor*, and *tanggap ing sasmito*. *Tata krama* means *tatanan bhasa* ‘the arrangements of language’ or ‘speech levels’. In relation to politeness, Poedjosoedarmo (1979), Errington (1982), and Herrick (1984) classify Javanese speech levels into three levels: the least polite, *Ngoko* (Ng), the middle polite, *Krama Madya* (KM), and the most polite, *Krama Inggil*, (KI). Each level is a different one from another in their lexical items which can be demonstrated by the following examples.

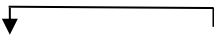

levels of the sentences is determined by the social background among the tenors. For example, if the speaker speaks to a person whose social status is much higher than his (e.g., a student talks to his teacher), or his social distance is far (e.g., someone who speaks to a stranger) he will choose the KI style.

The next concept of the Javanese culture is *andhap-asor*. The phrase is lexically composed of two words: *andhap* ‘low’ and *asor* ‘humble’ which means lowering oneself while exalting others. This concept is rigidly implied in the Javanese syntactic structures as demonstrated by the following example.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|    |                          |
| <p>(4) Opo(Ng)    <b>Panjenengan</b>(KI)    wis <b>dhahar</b> (KI)?<br/>         Qw            You                            already eat</p> | <p><b>Aku</b> (Ng)    tas    <b>maem</b> (Ng)<br/>         I                            already    Eat</p> |
| <p>‘Have you had breakfast/lunch/dinner?’ ‘I just had it.’</p>  |  |

Both the words *dhahar* (KI) and *maem* (Ng) in (4) have the same referential meaning, namely ‘to have a meal’, but they are different pragmatically. In the first clause, the verb refers to the other, or to the respected subject *panjenengan* ‘the exalted you’, so he must choose the KI lexicon *dhahar* to respect him. In contrast, when he refers to himself, *Aku* ‘I’, he chooses the Ng verb form *maem* from the Ng

style to denigrate himself. In other words, the reason of choosing the different verb forms for the same referential meaning in the politeness of Javanese is the realization of the Javanese cultural concept *andhap asor* (exalting others, while denigrating ourselves). Unlike English, this agreement rule also applies to the verb and its object as presented by the following examples.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|   |   |
| <p>(5) a.    Ibu            <b>ngongkon</b> (Ng)    <b>adik</b> (Ng)    adus (Ng)<br/>         Mother    ask                            younger    a bath<br/>         ‘Mother asked my younger to take a bath.’</p> | <p>b.    Ibu            <b>ngaturi</b> (KI)    <b>Bapak</b> (KI)    siram (KI)<br/>         Mother    ask                            father    a bath<br/>         ‘Mother asked Father to take a bath.’</p> |

The motivation of using different verb forms in (5a) and (5b) is not governed by the subject, but by the object. In (5a), the object *adik* ‘younger brother/sister’ who has lower status than the Subject *Ibu* requires the Ng verb form *ngongkon*. In contrast, the object of (5b) *Bapak* who has a higher or similar social status than the subject *Ibu* needs the polite verb form from the KI lexicon *ngaturi*.

Finally, a good Javanese speaker should also have a sense of *tanggap ing sasmito* which can be translated as the ability to interpret the hidden will of the speech partner. In Javanese, the speaker is not always necessary to express his or her feeling directly to the addressee because we have the culture of *tanggap ing sasmito*. The application of a sense of *tanggap ing sasmito* in Javanese can be illustrated by the following utterances, as quoted from Partana (2006).

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>(6) “Mas adoh mas, mengko kesuwen”,<br/>         brother far brother, take a long time</p>      | <p>mengkono tembung-e<br/>         said-his</p>                                    | <p>Safik<br/>         Safik</p>                   |
| <p>‘It is very far brother; it will take a long time, said Safik’</p>                              |  |   |
| <p>(7) “Iki kontak-e, aja banter-banter”,<br/>         This key-the, not run fast-fast</p>         | <p>wangsulane Azar    karo ngelungke<br/>         reply    Azar    with giving</p> | <p>kontak montor-e<br/>         key motor-his</p> |
| <p>‘This is the key, don’t ride too fast, replied Azar while giving the key of his motorcycle’</p> |  |   |

The quotation above indicates that the application of the concept of *tanggap ing sasmito*. As a good Javanese, Azar can catch the hidden meaning delivered by Safik, by lending his motorcycle to him although he does not express his wish to borrow a motorcycle directly to Azar, for instance by saying *aku nyilih montore* ‘I want to borrow your motorcycle’. Such an expression (making a request directly) can make a psychological imposition to the addressee because he can lose his face if he does not fulfil his speech partner’s request.

**METHOD**

This study investigated the Javanese requesting strategies spoken in Jember, East Java, Indonesia, when they delivered requests. There are 20 participants taking part in this study. They were born and grew up in Jember, and other places where Javanese is most frequently used to communicate each other in their daily life. The data are naturally from the spoken language occurring between siblings, parents-children, uncle-cousin, employee-employer, and between relatives. The situations

occurred mostly in informal situations since Javanese is not used as an official language.

The data were collected by recording and note taking the conversations among the participants in many various situations, and purposes. The collected data were selected on the basis of sentences containing requests. Thus, particular attention is paid only to utterances where request speech acts happened. Based on the selection, it is found 25 utterances which are relevant to be analysed in this study. Having been selected, the data were transcribed and translated into English. The relevant utterances were analysed syntactically (to identify the linguistic markers, such as mood types, and voices) and pragmatically (to identify the social contexts, such as power, social distance, and imposition). The goal of this study is to identify and classify the requesting strategy types used by the

Javane speakers in Jember, Indonesia.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this study, the speech acts of delivering requests are analysed to identify the types of the politeness strategies, the linguistic markers empowering to build the types of the politeness strategies, and the social-cultural backgrounds which determine to choose of the appropriate requesting strategies. Adapting and modifying the directness scales of Blum-Kulka (1987), Blum-Kulka, et al. (1989) and Salmani-Nodoushan (2007), the result shows that there are four classifications of politeness strategies marked by the four linguistic units, and three elements of social context as presented in Table 1, and the discussion of each classification is presented respectively.

Table 1. Research result

Types of Requesting Strategies	Linguistic Markers	Social Context
Most Direct Strategy	Imperative Mood Ng level	P : S > H, A : S > H SD: Close/Middle/Far
Direct Strategy	Declarative Mood Imperative Mood Ng level	P : S > H, A : S ≥ H SD: Middle / Far
Less Direct Strategy	Interrogative Mood Supposition/Condition Passive Voice Ng or KM	P : S ≤ H, A : S ≤ H SD: Middle / Far
Indirect Strategy	Interrogative Mood Supposition/Condition Passive Voice KI	P : S < H, A : S < H SD: Middle / Far Size of imposition

P = Power, A = Age, SD = Social Distance

### Most direct strategy

Linguistically, the most direct strategy of delivering the request in Javanese is realized by an imperative mood which is marked by an imperative suffix

(Imp), such as ‘-en, or -no’ and the Ngoko (Ng) speech level. In the following data, a father (as the requester) wants his son (the requestee) to do a favour (to clean a motorcycle) for the requester.

- (1) Umbah-*en* sepedah montor iki! (Ng)  
Wash-Imp cycle motor this  
‘Wash this motorcycle.’
- (2) Umbah-*no* sepedah montor iki! (Ng)  
Wash-Imp cycle motor  
‘Wash this motorcycle/Have this motorcycle washed.’

In data (1) and (2), we find the imperative suffixes -en and -no respectively. The difference between them lies in the person who performs the action (the agent) and the person for whom the action is performed (the benefactor). From the agent perspective, the suffix -en shows that the agent is only the addressee, whilst, the suffix -no indicates that the agent of the action is not necessarily the

addressee. Thus, in (1), it is the son (the requestee) who really washes the motorcycle, but in (2) the agent of the action can be the son or someone else whom the son asks to do so (to get this motorcycle washed).

Because data (1) suggests that the action must be done by the addressee, the use of the suffix -no (data 2) is better in order to avoid the direct

imposition of a request. Therefore, the use of the suffix *-no* in Javanese is more productive than the suffix *-en*. Syntactically, every verb which can be used by a suffix *-en* can be replaced by a suffix *-no*, but not vice versa as demonstrated by data (3) in

- (3) Unggah-*no* (\*unggah-*en*)      sepedah iki      neng mobil! (Ng)  
 Raise-Imp                              bicycle this      to car  
 'Put this bicycle into the car.'

In terms of politeness, the requesting strategy of imperative mood as demonstrated by data (1), (2), and (3) is considered too direct in asking someone to do something because they deliver the speaker will explicitly. Consequently, this type of requesting strategy is only possible to address for the certain social contexts, such as the speaker is more powerful than the addressee (P: S > H), e.g., an employer to his employee, the speaker is much older than his speech partner (A: S > H), e.g. an older brother to his younger brother, or their social distance can be close, e.g. a parent to his son/daughter, or between an older brother to his younger brother.

#### Direct strategy

Linguistically, the direct strategy is marked by deleting the imperative suffixes (to be declarative moods), as demonstrated by an utterance (4). In the

- (4) Aku      ny-(s)ilih      dhuwit-e! (Ng)  
 you      Act.P-borrow      Motoro-this  
 'I want to borrow your money.'

- (5) Tulung      umbah-*no*      sepedah montor-ku      iki!(NP)  
 Help      wash-Imp      cycle motor-my      this  
 'Please wash my motorcycle!'

Pragmatically, data (4) and (5) are considered more appropriate than those of data (1) to (3) because the sentences deliver the speaker's will more indirectly. As for the social contexts of the tenors, this type of requesting strategy is not so far different from those of the most direct strategy. The only possible difference is the age of the tenors, in which the speaker's age is older or equal to the speech partner (A: S ≥ H).

- (6) **Opo sampeyan** (KM)      iso      m-bantu      mapak      adik-ku? (Ng)  
 QW      you      can      Act.P-help      pick up      younger-my  
 'Can you help (me) to pick up my younger brother/sister?'

- (7) **Opo aku**      oleh      ny-(s)ilih      dhuwit-e? (Ng)  
 QW      I      may      Act.P-borrow      money-the  
 'Can I borrow some of your money?'

- (8) **Kepriye saumpama**      **sampeyan**(KM)      ng-ubah      montor iki (Ng)?  
 QW      if      You      Act.P-clean      motor the  
 'What do you think if you wash this car?'

which an employer (the requester) asks his employee (the requestee) to do a service for him (the requester). In the utterance, the suffix *-en* does not work to replace the suffix *-no* (as indicated by the asterisk (\*)).

active declarative mood, the sentence is marked by the active prefix (Act.P) /N-/. This prefix always phonologically assimilates to the initial sound of the main verb into *ng-* or *ny-*, or any other forms. Following is the request made by close friends.

Really, it is still possible to use an imperative mood in the direct strategy, but the strategy is commonly preceded by an expression of *tulung* 'asking a help, or please' as demonstrated by the following data, in which an older sister asks his younger brother to wash his motorcycle.

Linguistically, the more appropriate way of utterance (5) can be examined from the disappearance of the imperative suffixes (such as *-en*, or *-no*) which change the imperative mood into the declarative one, data (4), or by appearing the expression of the word *tulung* 'asking a help' or 'please' data (5).

#### Less direct strategy

In this strategy, the second person *kowe* 'you' which is from Ng level is replaced by the more respected lexicon taken from the KM level, *sampeyan* to show the more respective feeling. Next, the implicitness of the speaker's request to his speech partner can be realised by the next linguistic devices: an interrogative mood (data 6, and 7), or the combination of both an interrogative mood and a supposition/condition (data 8 and 9).

- (9) a. Yen (sampeyan) ono, aku ny-(s)ilih dhuwit-e(Ng)?  
 if (you) have I Act.P-borrow money-the  
 'If you have some money, may I borrow some?'
- b. Kepriye yen aku ny-(s)ilih dhuwit-e, opo (sampeyan) duwe? (Ng)  
 how if I Act.P-borrow money-the QW (you) have  
 'Lit. What is your opinion if I want to borrow some money, do you have it?'

Linguistically, the more polite strategy of delivering requests in Javanese can be examined from the choice of the lexicon, and the change of the mood type (from declarative mood into interrogative one). In term of the degree of politeness, the second person pronoun *sampeyan* 'you' is more polite than the pronoun *kowe*. Syntactically, an interrogative mood can give a chance or a choice to the speech partner to respond (to reject) to the request. Further open options for responding the requests can be done by applying not only an interrogative mood but the use of a conditional form as well. Following Lakoff's rules of politeness, data (6) to (9) are considered to be more appropriate than data (4) and

(5) because the later styles which use interrogative moods (6) and (7), or an imperative mood and a supposition/condition, data (8) and (9), can be said that the requesting acts do not impose, because there is a more space for the addressees to refuse or to comply the requests.

A further linguistic device which can be used to improve the degree of politeness of delivering the request in Javanese is a passive voice form. There are two forms of passive voice. They are a passive voice with an overt agent construction and the one with an agentless construction, as demonstrated by the following data.

- (10) Kepriye saumpama Mobil iki Sampeyan-umbah?(Ng)  
 how if Car this you.Passive-cleaned  
 'Lit. What is your opinion If this car was washed by you?'
- (11) Kepriye saumpama Mobil iki di-umbah?(Ng)  
 how if Car this Passive-cleaned  
 'Lit. What is your opinion If this car was washed by you?'

The utterance (10) shows a passive sentence with an overt agent. The subject of the sentence is *mobil iki* 'this car' and the verb is *umbah* 'clean'. The agent of the verb *umbah* is the second person pronoun *sampeyan* 'you'. In this requesting act, it is clear that the speaker asks his speech partner to perform an action, *umbah* 'clean'. In contrast, the *di-verb* form (passive) construction, (11) does not display an overt agent. Consequently, the action of the verb *umbah* can be interpreted 'to be done by the addressee or someone else'. In this case, the context of the utterance will usually help us to determine who will do the action. As for the social contexts of the tenors, this type of requesting strategy is commonly used in the following social contexts. It is mostly addressed to someone whose social status

is equal (P: S = H), their social distance is close or middle, and their ages are older or equal (A: S ≥ H).

### Indirect Strategy

This indirect strategy is considered to be the most appropriate one in Javanese, and linguistically, this strategy is mostly marked by the use of KI speech level in which most of the lexicons are expressed in KI forms appropriately. Let us pay attention the following requesting act which was made by a cousin to his uncle who was studying in Melbourne, Australia. The social context is the speaker is much younger than the addressee (A: S < H), the speaker is less powerful (P: S < H), and their social distance is middle (SD: middle).

- (12) Menawi (KI) wonten (KI), kula (KI) Panjenengan beta'-aken (KI) jaket dingin  
 If available I You Pass-bring-Appl jacket cold  
 'If it is available, can you bring me a warm jacket?'

In term of speech level, the request of (12) is marked by the use of KI lexicons (e.g., *menawi* from *yen* 'if', *wonten* from *ono* 'available', *panjenengan* from *sampeyan* (KM) or *kowe* (Ng) 'you'. However, this requesting act is still considered less appropriate, and so is too direct pragmatically because the request is delivered to a person whose

status is higher than the speaker's. Although the requester and the requestee may socially be close (a cousin and his uncle), such a request can imply the cost of imposition which may cause the requestee losing his face (FTA). Consequently, it is very often that the speaker creates a situation (a supposition) which enables him to make a request more politely.

Thus, a supposition such as *mboten ngrepoti* ‘not making you any trouble’ and *sedoyo urusan sampun cekap* ‘everything has been fixed’ is often

introduced before he really delivers his request, as demonstrated by (13).

- (13) Menawi(KI)    mboten    ng-repoti    lan sedoyo(KI)    urusan sampun(KI)    cekap(KI),  
           if            no            Imp.P-trouble    and all            matters already    fixed
- kula    Panjenengan beta-aken    jaket dingin?  
   I        you-Pass-bring                jacket cold  
   ‘If it does not make any trouble and everything is fixed, please bring me a warm jacket?’

The degree of politeness of (13) is much better than of (15) which is indicated by the creating of a supposition: *menawai mboten ngrepoti* or a condition: *lan sedoyo urusan sampun cekap* prior to the request. Supposition, as well as condition, have really made the addressee feel good because he has got more chances to get free from the request compared to data (12). In data (12), the addressee has only got one chance *menawi wonten* ‘if it is available’ to reject the request and the reason of

rejecting is less reasonable since the warm jacket is really easy to find in a cold city like Melbourne.

In addition, the degree of politeness of (13) is still possible to be upgraded by two following linguistic devices (1) by deleting the agent *panjenengan* ‘you’ as required by the agentless passive construction, and (2) by changing the declarative mood of the main clause into an interrogative one, as demonstrated by (14).

- (14) Menawi(KI) Mboten(KI) ng-repoti    lan sedoyo(KI)    urusan sampun(KI)    cekap(KI),  
           if            No            Imp.P-trouble    and all            matters already    Fixed
- menopo(KI) saget(KI)    kula(KI)    dipun-beta-aken    jaket    dingin?  
   Whether can            I            Pass.P.-bring-Suf    jacket    Cold  
   ‘If it does not make any you trouble and everything is fixed, please bring me a warm jacket?’

Another possible context to use such an indirect strategy is the size of imposition. If a speaker makes a request for a big thing, such a new motorcycle, it is very possible to choose an indirect

strategy as shown by the following conversation between a son and his father. The speech level is KI (15a).

- (15) a. *Menawi sampun kagungan arto lan boten wonten keperluan lintunipun,*  
           if            already            have    money    and            no            needs            else
- menopo kepareng kula dipun-pundut-aken sepedah montor enggal?*  
   QW        allowed            I            Pass.P-buy-Appl            cycle            motor            New
- ‘If you have a lot of money, and have no other needs, can you buy me a new motorcycle?’
- b. Ya, Yen            Bapak wis            oleh            rezeki (Ng)  
   yes If            Father already            get            money  
   ‘It’s OK, when I have got much money.’

Both data (14) and (15a) are considered very polite (indirect strategy) which are marked by the following linguistic units: (1) interrogative mood, (2) agentless passive construction, (3) supposition and condition, and (4) KM level. The deletion of the agent in the request act can hide the requester because it does not appear clearly (or directly) in the utterance. In addition, this agentless passive construction enables the speaker to give an order without addressing it directly to the addressee. Accordingly, the deletion of the requester as well as the use of the question word-order *menopo saget* (14) and *menopo kepareng* (15a) meaning ‘could

you’ rather than a *direct order* make the requesting acts most polite among the request variants above. Like Mexican requests (Felix-Brasdefer, 2005), it is also found in Javanese that indirectness (linguistic markers) is closely related to politeness.

## CONCLUSION

This research set out to investigate the requesting utterances of Javanese spoken in Jember, East Java, Indonesia in various situations and purposes. According to the politeness patterns, there can be found four types of politeness strategies. They are

the most direct, direct, less direct, and indirect strategies. Each pattern of the politeness strategies is marked by the linguistic units such as sentence moods (imperatives, declaratives, and interrogatives), speech levels (Ng, KM, and KI), voices (active, and passive constructions), and supposition or condition. Next, the choice of the appropriate requesting strategies is determined by the social context of the tenors or interlocutors of the requesting utterances, including the social distance, age, social status or power, age, and the size of imposition. Finally, to be polite in delivering requests in Javanese, one must be able to choose the appropriate speech styles depending on the social relationship between the interlocutors, to make requests further from the speaker's view (e.g. using an interrogative form, creating a supposition or condition) which will make the addressee feel good, and to delete the recipient of the order from the request forms (e.g. by using the agentless passive construction). The combination of using interrogative forms, supposition/condition, as well as agentless passive forms makes the indirect or off-record requests become the most polite in delivering requests in Javanese. The interface between the politeness strategies and the linguistic units in Javanese can be concluded that the more indirect and complicated the linguistic units used, the more polite the requesting strategy will be.

These study's results may have come to this conclusion because it is only limited to Javanese spoken in Jember and applied only to a limited number of participants. It also might be useful for the future researchers to do the same research on large sample size both across different groups of Javanese which are spread in many different areas as well as using different research methodologies in order to be able to make generalization more precisely.

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