

POSITIVE POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN “THE KARATE KID” MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This research entitled “Positive Politeness Strategies in The Karate Kid Movie” aims at identifying the types of positive politeness strategies used in The Karate Kid movie and analyzing the response occurred to the realization of positive politeness strategies in The Karate Kid movie. The data of this research were taken from the transcript of the conversation in the movie. The data were in the form of words, phrases, and sentences of the characters. The method and technique to collect the data was documentation and supported by note-taking technique. The method and technique of analyzing the data was qualitative method and supported by triangulation technique. The method and technique of presenting analysis was informal method and supported by descriptive technique. The theory of Brown and Levinson’s (1987) was used to analyze the types of positive politeness strategies and Levinson’s (1983) theory was used to analyze the types of response occurred to the realization of positive politeness strategies. The results found there were 9 types of positive politeness strategies which used by the characters in The Karate Kid movie namely, strategy 1 Notice, attend to H (his/her interests, wants, needs, goods), strategy 2 Exaggerate (interest, approval, sympathy with H), strategy 4 Use in group identity markers, strategy 5 Seek agreement, strategy 9 Asserting/presupposing S’s knowledge of and concern for H’s wants, strategy 10 Offer, promise, strategy 11 Be optimistic, strategy 12 Include both S and H in the activity, and strategy 13 Give (or ask for) reasons. Regarding to the response occurred to the realization of positive politeness strategies both preferred response and dispreferred response were used by the characters to the realization of positive politeness strategies in The Karate Kid movie.

Keywords: Positive Politeness Strategies, Politeness Strategies, The Karate Kid

INTRODUCTION

Politeness is a way of showing how good our ethics and manners are as humans. In this case, the use of language is an important factor that have to be understood, the main issue that causes the use of politeness because the presence of one of the participants feels aware or threatened in a conversation. Therefore, the term politeness emerged to minimize the occurrence of discomfort, impoliteness and offense between the speaker and the listener in a conversation, in addition,

politeness is also a way to show our appreciation to others. With politeness, other people will feel comfortable when interacting with the speaker so that social interactions will become more harmonious.

In communication, politeness is an important aspect in life to create good communication between speakers and interlocutors. Politeness strategies are used to better respect others and themselves. In everyday communication, speakers cannot convey speech in a polite manner at all times, likely to hurt the hearer's feelings. Speakers use politeness strategies to avoid threats to the other person's face, stated by Brown and Levinson (1987:60). It is called FTAs (Face Threatening Acts) which could maintain the "face" of the hearer's in the conversation. There are two different types of face, namely negative face and positive face. This thesis will be focused on the positive politeness. Without knowing it, Positive politeness often occurs in communication, not only with people in the real world, but also in conversations between characters in a movie, which people rarely know and understand, that they are using positive politeness.

There are many studies investigating about this positive politeness. Three of them are written by Wijayanti (2019) were investigating the types of positive politeness strategies and the factors that influence the use of positive politeness strategies in *Beauty and the Beast* movie. The other research was coming from Nurani *et al* (2020) who focused to find the types of positive politeness strategies and the reasons that influence the characters employed the strategies in the *Wild* movie. Another research which rise this topic is Permadi (2018:38-52) was also investigated the types of positive politeness strategies and the reasons that influence the use the strategies in the *Midnight in Paris* movie. From those studies, it can see that positive politeness is still crucial to analyze since the communication is always doing in the society.

Positive politeness is interesting to be discussed because contain of fifteen strategies that used to minimize the awareness and threat between speaker and hearer in a communication. The reason of positive politeness was chosen over the other politeness strategies because it is more difficult to analyze, and many people will learn from this thesis that positive politeness is divided into fifteen types with different strategies. It becomes the reason for this research that the data concerned to the words, phrases, and sentences spoken by the characters in the movie later on.

Furthermore, this topic is relevant to be discussed because in the society when interact with other people, it needs to be polite and using the politeness strategies to communicate. In line with that, this research also has an impact for the society because this topic is related to the society, especially in terms of interacting with other people. As a human, it always needs to be polite. Therefore, this thesis formulates two problems, those are what are the types of positive politeness strategies used in "*The Karate Kid*" movie and the types of response occurred to the realization of positive politeness strategies in "*The Karate Kid*" movie. This research aims at identifying the types of positive politeness strategies in "*The Karate Kid*" movie and to analyzing the response occurred to the realization of positive politeness strategies in "*The Karate Kid*" movie.

Based on the explanation above, this research chose positive politeness strategies in martial arts movie as the main discussion, while response as a supporting discussion of positive politeness strategies.

DATA SOURCE

The data used in this research was in the form of qualitative data. This kind of data is based on non-numerical data. The data of this research was taken from an English movie entitled *The Karate Kid* (2010) directed by Harald Zwart. This movie ever won a category of favorite movie in “2011 Kids’ Choice awards”. The unit of the data extracted was the types of positive politeness strategies and the responses occurred to the realization of positive politeness strategies in the form of words, phrases, and sentences.

This martial arts movie tells about the life of a teenager young man named Dre Parker and how he overcomes school, bullies, and those who try to change him. This movie is 140 minutes long and taken from the Netflix application which can be accessed via smartphone and computer. The *Karate Kid* movie was selected as the data source since there are crucial issues namely face threatening acts (FTAs) in communication in which politeness strategies and the responses usually occurred.

METHODS

The documentation method was used to collect data for this research. Seeing the data source of this thesis was movie that investigated about positive politeness strategies thus the most appropriate method to collect the data was documentation method. The technique used to support the documentation method was note-taking. There were several steps that used to collect the data. First, downloading the transcript of *The Karate Kid* movie from the internet, then watching while reading the transcript of the movie. Second, highlighting the characters’ utterances which related to positive politeness strategies. The analysis of utterances was those which considered to positive politeness strategies and the response occurred to the realization of positive politeness strategies. Lastly, the data which obtained from the movie were sorted categorically based on the positive politeness strategies and two types of response, namely preferred response and dispreferred response.

The method applied in analysing the data was qualitative. According to Bogdan and Taylor in Widyaningsih (2018:55) qualitative method is one of the research procedures that produces descriptive data in the form of speech or writing and the behaviour of the people who being observed. The technique used to analyse the data was triangulation technique. The function of triangulation technique was to verify the accuracy of the data on positive politeness strategies and response occurred to the realization of positive politeness strategies. Furthermore, there were four steps of analysing the data collected. Those steps are as follows.

1. Identifying

The data obtained from the movie entitled *The Karate Kid*. The identification of data means recognizing and revealing the features of the data obtained, which has the types of positive politeness strategies and preferred or dispreferred response. Therefore, the data that has been recognized and known for its types facilitate the classification of the data in further.

2. Classifying

The further step after the data obtained was identify it. the data classified according to the same types, namely positive politeness strategies and preferred and dispreferred response. Furthermore, the data which have been classified through the triangulation technique, namely check, re-check, and cross-check. First, checking all data that have been collected into the types of positive politeness strategies and preferred and dispreferred response. Second, re-checking the data that have been classified and choose the utterances that belongs to each theory. Lastly, cross-checking the data that have been check and re-check in order to get the meaningful data.

3. Describing

The data was explained in depth regarding to the theory. The data was explained in detail based on the theory used. The data was described clearly and precisely with the purpose of the readers can comprehend the content.

4. Interpreting

To interpret the data, the types of positive politeness strategies, preferred response, and dispreferred response were discovered in *The Karate Kid* movie during this process. Following that, the data was described descriptively in the form of sentences and paragraphs.

The method used to present the analysis of this research was informal method since the data was in the form of words and sentences. In order to make the clear presentation, the collected findings presented by using descriptive technique. The step to presenting the data were, the data in the form characters' utterances presented based on the types of positive politeness along with detailed explanations regarding to their behavior and response when experiencing positive politeness in the situations of conversation. Then, the data categorized based on the types of preferred response and dispreferred response which shows their behavior when faced with positive politeness strategies in terms of context of situation.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

In this research, to answer the first research problem, the positive politeness strategy theory proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987) was used. Brown and Levinson stated politeness is related to the concept of people who have an image and self-esteem in social environment. In addition, they stated that the purpose of a politeness strategy is as a method or strategy used to minimize face-threatening acts (FTAs) in conversation. There are 15 types of strategies in positive politeness strategies according to Brown and Levinson; those are strategy 1 notice, attend to H (his/her interests, wants, needs, goods), strategy 2 exaggerate (interest, approval, sympathy with H), strategy 3 intensify interest to H, strategy 4 use in-group identity markers, strategy 5 seek agreement, strategy 6 avoid disagreement, strategy 7 Presuppose/raise/assert common ground, strategy 8 joke, strategy 9 asserting/presupposing S's knowledge of and concern for H's wants, strategy 10 offer and promise, strategy 11 be optimistic, strategy 12 include both S and H in the activity, strategy 13 give (or ask for) reasons, strategy 14 assume or assert reciprocity, strategy 15 give gifts to H (goods, sympathy, understanding, cooperation).

Furthermore, to answer the second research problem, the theory of preferred and dispreferred response proposed by Levinson (1983) was used. Preferred response has a meaning of acceptance the first part of the pair. As stated by Levinson (1983), in general, preferred response is done in the simple way. In addition, it also delivered in the “normal” way which has a meaning it comes right away after the first part of the pair. While, Dispreferred responses, it is dissimilar with preferred responses, because this type is more complex, furthermore, it includes delays, prefaces, accounts, and declination component.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part shows and discusses the data of positive politeness strategies, as well as the reaction to the realization of positive politeness strategies in *The Karate Kid* movie. There are eleven sections divided into two different parts; the first section explains the different types of positive politeness strategies in *The Karate Kid* movie, and the second section explains the different types of responses that occurred to the realization of positive politeness strategies in *The Karate Kid* movie.

1. The Types of Positive Politeness Strategies in “*The Karate Kid*” Movie

1.1 Strategy 1: Notice, Attend to H

Dre : Hey that was fantastic. You played beautifully.

Mei Ying : We can no longer be friends. You’re bad for my life.

[01:32:14-01:32:20]

The underline utterance can be stated as the positive politeness strategy 1 which is notice, attend to H. The utterance *Hey that was fantastic, you played beautifully* shows that Dre is interested in aspects of Mei Ying’s condition (noticeable changes, notable possessions, anything that appears to be something H would want S to notice and approve of). In this case, Dre’s utterance demonstrates the method of keeping Mei Ying’s positive face and satisfying Mei Ying’s wants or interests. In that situation, Mei Ying should appreciate Dre’s compliment by saying the proper response and should will comfortable talk to Dre.

1.2 Strategy 2: Exaggerate

Mr. Han : I stood here with my father when I was your age. He told me it’s magic Kung Fu water.
You drink, and nothing can defeat you.

Dre : It’s the best water I’ve ever tasted.

[01:10:40-01:11:12]

The underlined utterance contains positive politeness strategy 2: exaggerate. Dre used the exaggerate sentence in this conversation to emphasize the statement to Mr. Han. Dre used the best water there; this is an exaggerated sentence because the water tastes the same everywhere else. Furthermore, Dre used *I’ve ever tasted*, which indicates that the utterance includes an exaggerated sentence because it implies that Dre is drinking water for the first time, which shows an impossible thought because drink is a necessity in human daily activity (life).

Dre uses this strategy to express his delight, claiming that the water is the best he has ever tasted. He used that utterance with high intonation and emphasis to ensure that the hearer's positive face was safe. He employs this strategy to amplify his feelings about magical water and to satisfy the listener's positive face by demonstrating their closeness. Furthermore, Dre believed that Mr. Han and him had worked extremely hard to complete their journey to the top mountain, so Dre wanted to make Mr. Han feel good by saying that the utterance is a way to praise Mr. Han of the water.

1.3 Strategy 4: Use In-Group Identity Markers

Harry : Dude, are you gonna talk to her or what?

Dre : To who?

Harry : To her.

Harry : The girl you've been staring at.

Dre : I wasn't staring at her, dude.

Harry : Yeah, you were.

[00:13:19-00:12:35]

Strategy 4 was applied by Harry and Dre marked by the use of the word *dude*. In this case, the used of the word *dude* refers to the close relationship within the speaker and the listener. In addition, it indicates the speaker's and hearer's group membership. By employing Strategy 4, both Harry and Dre expressed his solidarity to the others member to show his friendliness and firm attitude.

1.4 Strategy 5: Seek Agreement

Dre : So, what are you listening to?

Mei Ying : Bach.

Dre : Bach? I listen to them all the time.

[00:13:20-00:13:24]

In the utterance, *Bach? I listen to them all the time.* demonstrates Dre's use of positive politeness strategy 5, namely seeking agreement and repetition. In that utterance, Dre was repeated what Mei Ying had said, and Dre demonstrated his attitude by agreeing emotionally with the words he considered. Dre requested agreement in his honor as a friend by repeating the phrase *Bach?* It has the potential to shorten their distance. As a result of their more intimate relationships, they can become closer.

1.5 Strategy 9: Asserting/Presupposing S's Knowledge of and Concern for H's Wants

Sherry : Okay, come on, I'm waiting for you.

Dre : You know, you don't have to comin'. I mean, I can handle it.

Sherry : Dre, don't be silly. It's your first day. Plus, we both have to meet the assistant principal, Mrs. Po.

Dre : I can find her.

[00:16:24-00:19:06]

The underlined utterance above indicates as strategy 9, namely asserting/presupposing S's knowledge of and concern for H's desires because Dre is attempting to minimize the FTA by assuring his mother (Sherry) that he will be fine on his first day of school. Dre uses this strategy is also to show his respect to his mother (Sherry) because his mother was willing to leave her job to take Dre on his first day of school.

1.6 Strategy 10: Offer, Promise

Mr. Han : I will teach you real Kung Fu.

Dre : Yes!

[00:46:16-00:46:24]

The utterance *I will teach you real Kung Fu* is indicated as the positive politeness strategy 10 which is belonging to promise. The sign that the utterance above is a promise is the use of the auxiliary verb *will* which indicates that the activity is likely to be fulfilled by the speaker. In this context, Mr. Han will teach Dre Kung Fu because he sees the excitement of wanting to learn from Dre Parker. Therefore, to keep the hearer's positive face, which is Dre, Mr. Han was using this strategy.

1.7 Strategy 11: Be Optimistic

Harry : So, I guess I'll see you later, then?

Dre : Maybe

Harry : Okay, cool. See ya.

[00:06:45-00:06:47]

The underlined utterance means that Harry optimistically said that he would see Dre again. Harry employs this positive politeness strategy to show his appreciation to Dre because he believes he can be a friend. It demonstrates Harry's admiration for Dre. In addition, He also believes that he will become best friends with Dre and will help each other there. Therefore, Harry implicitly conveyed that he wanted to get closer to Dre.

1.8 Strategy 12: Include Both S and H in the Activity

Dre : Mom, Mom, come on, let's go.

Sherry : What? What? Dre, we just got here.

[00:28:41-00:28:43]

The underlined phrase indicates the use of inclusive form *we*. The speaker can rely on cooperative assumptions or it used to emphasize the speaker's cooperative actions. In this context, to act with his mom, Dre as the speaker uses this strategy. It aims to Sherry follow his action to come near to see people practicing Kung Fu. Dre applies the strategy 12 because he wants Sherry doing that activity together.

1.9 Strategy 13: Give (or Ask for) Reasons

Dre : Mr. Han? Why do you have a car in your living room?

Mr. Han : No street parking.

[00:50:48-00:50:53]

The underlined utterance above belongs to the positive politeness strategy 13 because it indicates that Dre wishes to minimize the FTA by demonstrating that he shares Mr. Han's viewpoint and wishes to satisfy Mr. Han. Furthermore, Dre and Mr. Han's relationship at the time is very close because they practice Kung Fu together because Mr. Han is Dre's Kung Fu teacher. However, instead of directly offending Mr. Han, Dre employs this strategy to preserve Mr. Han's positive face.

2. The Types of Response Occurred to the Realization of Positive Politeness Strategies

2.1 Preferred Response

Sherry : And you have your uniform on, right?

Dre : Yes, Mom.

[00:21:20-00:21:29]

In terms of positive politeness strategies, Sherry's question indicates the positive politeness strategy 5, which is seek agreement. The utterance is *and you have your uniform on, right?* The word *right* belongs to types of strategy 5 and it indicated as the use of safe topic technique. In the utterance, *Yes, Mom* said by Dre indicated as the types of preferred response. It is because he chose the response that showed he agree with his mother. In addition, he also responded to his mother by listening and noticing his mother's statement. Dre showed that there was no problem with his mother's statement. In this case, Dre applied preferred response directly without delay and he did not hesitate to saying it.

It is in line with Levinson's (1983) theory that indicated preferred response is unmarked because it happened on a straightforward turn. It is different from dispreferred response, in preferred response the answer or the response is more direct. Therefore, the preferred response is more expected in the communication and discussion.

2.2 Dispreferred Response

Harry : Dude, are you gonna talk to her or what?

Dre : To who?

Harry : To her.

Harry : The girl you've been staring at.

Dre : I wasn't staring at her, dude.

Harry : Yeah, you were.

[00:13:19-00:13:35]

The underlined utterance belongs to strategy 4. The use of the word *dude* in the utterance is a sign of positive politeness strategy 4. The use of the word *dude* in this context denotes a close relationship and group membership of the speaker and hearer. By employing strategy 4, both Harry

and Dre consider each other has the same thought and expressed his solidarity to the others member to show his friendliness and firm attitude.

Regarding to the types of response occurred to the realization of positive politeness itself, in the underlined utterance, Dre indicated use the dispreferred response because he showed the disagreement about Harry statement and assessment that said Dre is staring at Mei Ying by saying he was not staring at her, then continue to play basketball. In Levinson (1983) theory, he stated that dispreferred response also indicated by the use of disagreement in the communication.

CONCLUSION

The above results and discussions show that character of The Karate Kid movie applied nine positive politeness strategies as proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987), namely strategy 1 Notice, attend to H, strategy 2 Exaggerate, strategy 4 Use in group identity markers, strategy 5 Seek agreement, strategy 9 Asserting/presupposing S's knowledge of and concern for H's wants, strategy 10 Offer, promise, strategy 11 Be optimistic, strategy 12 Include both S and H in the activity, and strategy 13 Give (or ask for) reasons.

Regarding to the types of response that occurred to the realization of positive politeness strategies, in this case, not all utterances in conversations that use positive politeness strategies apply preferred response or dispreferred response. However, in the realization of positive politeness strategies itself both types of response were still used. The preferred response that used was agreement and dispreferred response was disagreement.

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