AN ANALYSIS OF NEGATIVE POLITENESS STRATEGIES AS FOUND IN TITANIC MOVIE

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Abstract

The aim in this research is to describe about negative politeness strategies based on theory proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). Politeness strategies are used to formulate messages to save the hearers face when face threatening acts are inevitable or desire. This research discuss about what are the strategies used by the actors to express negative politeness in Titanic movie and what are the markers used to reflect the negative politeness strategies in Titanic movie. Data were taken from Titanic movie. From the data, the writer find six strategies of negative politeness. They are (1) be conventionally indirect, (2) question hedge, (3) give deference, (4) apologize, (5) minimize imposition, and (6) general rule. The writer also find the markers used to reflect the negative politeness strategies in Titanic movie. There are will you, please, can, sorry. The writer used descriptive qualitative method. All of the findings will be discussed in this thesis.

Keywords: politeness strategies, context, negative politeness strategies

Introduction

Communication is one ways to interaction in each other. It is refers to, process social interaction between speakers and hearers. In communication, the speaker should give clear information to the hearer. It means, the communication must have characteristic to make hearer’s attention what the speaker said. To communicate efficiently, there are some strategies, such as: good manners, politeness etc.

Politeness is one of social rules in the social relationship. In society, people try to use polite language to make other feels comfortable. Politeness as a system of interpersonal relations designed to facilitate interaction by minimizing the potential for conflict and confrontation inherent in all human interchange (Lakoff, 1990).

According to Brown and Levinson (1987), politeness used main strategies in communications. Politeness strategies are used to formulate messages to save the hearers face when face threatening acts (FTAs) are inevitable or desire. Politeness strategies have four kinds, there are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and bald off record. In addition, face consists of two kinds of positive face and negative face. The expression of solidarity, attending to the hearer’s positive face called positive politeness. The
expression of restraint, attending to the hearer’s negative face called negative politeness. Between positive politeness and negative politeness have some of different strategies.

Politeness strategies also have something to do with face threatening acts (FTAs). According to Brown and Levinson (1987) when face threatening acts (FTAs) are unavoidable, speakers can redress the threat with negative politeness that respects the hearer’s negative face, the need to be independent, have freedom of action. They can also redress the face threatening acts (FTAs) with positive politeness that attends the positive face the need to be accepted and liked by others (Cutting, Joan: 2002).

In this research, the writer only focuses on analyzing the negative politeness strategies according to Brown and Levinson (1987). Negative politeness is expression from the speakers to the hearers with minimizing of imposition. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), there are ten strategies of negative politeness. They are be conventionally indirect, question hedge, be pessimistic, minimize imposition, give deference, apologize, impersonalize things (Speaker and Hearer), state the FTA as a general rule, go on record, and nominalization. Here some examples to make understand about negative politeness:

(1) a. I couldn’t borrow $30, could I, if you don’t need it right now?

b. Could I borrow $30?

From the example (1) it can describe that example (a) is more polite than (b) because in example (a) the speaker’s negative question ‘I couldn’t borrow $30, couldn’t I’, which seems to anticipate a refusal, follows the negative politeness strategy that Brown and Levinson call ‘be pessimistic’.

The reason why the writer chooses negative politeness to be analyzed in the Titanic is the movie shows all events in communication. This movie also displayed how someone’s status affects their way to communicate. This is one of the phenomena’s which happen in social relationship. This is related with the writer’s topic about negative politeness strategies.

In this research, the writer focuses on analyzing about negative politeness. The writer finds strategies and markers of negative politeness used in Titanic movie.

**Research Methodology**

In this research, the writer used Sudaryanto (1993), Miles and Huberman (1994) as Method of the Research.

In this research, the writer used descriptive qualitative research to analyze. Qualitative research is procedure to get the
descriptive data after spoken and written data analysis in language society.

The data for the research is taken from the movie. The source of the data is download the movie from internet. Movie that will be used as research is Titanic movie. Titanic is a movie about ship tragic was happened in United Stated. This movie produced in 1997 and directed by James Cameron. From the Titanic movie as the data in this research, the writer only focuses on analyzing about negative politeness strategies from utterences in Titanic movie. Data of this research is all of utterances used include negative politeness; there are words, sentence and phrase.

The writer has two steps to collect the data. They are re-watching the movie and note taking. During the writer watching the movie, the writer also did note taking to take all about utterances, words and phrase from the Titanic movie which includes to negative politeness.

The writer will analyze data from movie with technique by Miles and Huberman (1994). They are: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.

There are two methods of representing data. They are informal and formal methods. The formal method is analysis the data by using symbols, or figures. Although informal method is analysis data by using words. In this research using informal method to analyze the data which is include negative politeness strategies. The writer used this method because the data in this research explained by dialogs from the movie.

**Findings and Discussion**

The writer found that there are only six strategies from ten strategies is used by the actors to express of negative politeness in Titanic movie and the writer found a number of marker used in the conversation of negative politeness strategies in Titanic movie.

**Six Strategies of Negative Politeness**

From the data analysis, the writer found there are six strategies of negative politeness used by the characters in the Titanic movie. There are (1) be conventionally indirect, (2) give deference (3) question hedge, (4) apologize, (5) minimize imposition, and (6) state the FTA as a general rule

1. **Be conventionally indirect**

   In this strategy a speaker is faced with opposing tensions: the desire to give the hearer “out” by being indirect, and the desire to go on record. Even though the messages from the speaker’s not tells directly, but the meaning of messages will be understand by the hearer’s.

   Rose : Mr. Andrews. I saw the iceberg. And I see it in your eyes. Please tell me the truth.
Mr. Andrews: The ship will sink.

From the example, it can be seen as conventionally indirect, because the speaker said “please”.

From the utterance, the speaker says “please tell me the truth”, because this utterance refers to directly but give space to hearer to answer the question. Rose only said “please”, then Mr. Andrews can know what she want to know by saying it. Rose indirectly asked him to explain about the panic situation which happened. The context in this dialogue is physical context.

2. Give deference

There are two sides to the coin in the realization of deference: one in which speaker humbles and abases himself. And another where the speaker raises the hearer (pays him positive face of a particular kind, namely that which satisfies hearers want to be treated as superior).

Captain: Yes. Sir, it’s my pleasure, sir. If I can do anything at all

From the example, it can be seen give deference intonation and used phrase “its my pleasure sir”. Its used sir in repetition. When captain said to Cal, he said used word “sir”. The speaker said if i can do anything at all, which is the hearer feels superior. In this conversation looks like the speaker avoid negative face. Context in this dialogue is social context. This situation happens in the harbor.

3. Question, hedge

This strategy is not focus to presume if, face threatening acts (FTAs) will be acceptedance by the hearer. A ‘hedge’ is a particle, word, or phrase that modifies the degree of membership of a predicate or noun phrase in a set; it says of that membership that it is partial, or true only in certain respects, or that it is more true and complete than perhaps might be expected.

Old man: “Perhaps a little something for the boy?”

Cal: “Of course, Mr. Lovejoy I think a 20 should do it.

From the example, it can be seen question, hedge intonation that statement “perhaps”. The dialog can be seen when the old man ask questions to Cal with used “perhaps” to ask question. And “perhaps” is the marker of question, hedge. Then Cal answers ‘of course” as agreement. Context in this dialogs is physical context. This dialog happens in boat deck

4. Minimize imposition

The choice of a strategy is don’t coerce the hearer. This strategy used to minimize face threatening act. In commonly used word “just”. “Just” conveys both its literal meaning of ‘exactly’, only, which narrowly
delimits the extent of the face threatening acts (FTAs), and its conventional implicature ‘merely’.

Old rose: “I was just wondering if you had found, the “Heart of the Ocean” yet. Mr. Lovett”

Lovett: “All right, you have my attention, Rose.

From the example, it can be seen minimize imposition intonation that statements ‘just wondering if you’, because this sentence showing how the speaker request and without coerce the hearer. The hearer feel not impose, and accept the request from the speaker. The speaker says ‘Just if you’, this is marker from minimize imposition and minimize threat to the hearer. This is used epistemic context. This situation happens by phone.

5. State the FTA as a general rule

One way of dissociating speaker and hearer from the particular imposition in the face threatening acts (FTAs), and hence a way of communicating that speaker doesn’t want to impinge but is merely forced to by circumstances, is to state the face threatening acts (FTAs) as an instance of some general social rule, regulation, or obligation.

Captain 2: Ladies and gentlemen, attention, please! Step this way please.

That’s right. Come towards me. Thank you.

From the example, it can be seen general rule intonation that statement “attention, please!” This situation seen how Captain 2 asked to the passengers to do what he asks. It also looks more polite because captain 2 used word please, and thank you. This is the obligation idea from Captain 2, and then agreement by Captain 1 to better get women and children first into boat. Context in this dialogue is physical context. This situation happens in the boat.

6. Apologize

By apologizing for doing an face threatening acts (FTAs) the speaker can indicate his reluctance to impinge on Hearer’s negative face and thereby partially redress that impingement

Cal: I said, not now!

Officer : I’m sorry, Mr. Hockley, but it’s Captain’s orders. Now please dress warmly, it is quite cold out tonight.

From the example, it can be seen intonation apologize intonation when officer of the Titanic ship said to Cal, to use warm dress. Cal looks like fed up, But the officer said “I’m sorry” before he tells a reason why he ask to Cal to do it. And then Cal does what the officer wants. And a marker of this
dialogs is “I’m sorry” as apologize. This context is social context. This dialogs happen in Rose rooms.

**The Markers Used to Reflect the Negative Politeness Strategies**


**Discussion**

After the writer analyzing data of negative politeness from *Titanic* movie, the writer had been result of this research. There are only six of negative politeness strategies used in *Titanic* movie. There are, be conventionally indirect, give deference, question hedge, minimize imposition, state the FTA as a general rule and apologize. The writer also found the marker used the negative politeness strategies in *Titanic* movie. There are three forms of markers/hedges, they are; word, sentence and phrase.

**Conclusion**

After the writer has analyzed the data, the writer found six strategies of negative politeness and the markers used the negative politeness strategies from the *Titanic* movie. The six strategies of negative politeness have been analyzed from the data there are: be conventionally indirect, give deference, question hedge, minimize imposition, state the FTA as a general rule and apologize. All of these strategies are dominant in this movie. The markers of negative politeness are dominant in this movie such as: sir, miss, sorry, perhaps, I think.

The writer chose *Titanic* movie as the data because, the writer assume this movie have many of sentences using about negative politeness. According to Brown and Levinson (1987) used in this research, the writer has proved the data with this theory about negative politeness strategies.

To conclude of this research, movie is one of media have many study can be analyze include about politeness, especially negative politeness. It is not only about politeness context, but this is also about how language used and utterances from some movie. And finally, movie not only to watch by the people, but movie has many of meaning, and movie also can make interest the people to review more about language.

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