



An Analysis of Politenes Sisters Sibling in "Ipar adalah Maut" Movie

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Abstrak: This study examines the application of politeness strategies in the film *Ipar adalah Maut*, focusing on sibling interactions as portrayed by the main characters, Rani and Nisa. Using Brown and Levinson's politeness theory, the research identifies four primary strategies: bald-on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record communication. A qualitative descriptive method is employed to analyze dialogue, exploring how cultural norms, emotional dynamics, and hierarchical relationships shape language use. The findings reveal that politeness strategies are not only tools for mitigating face-threatening acts but also reflect familial tensions and societal expectations. These results contribute to a deeper understanding of politeness in familial interactions and underscore its significance in navigating complex relational dynamics.

Keyword: Politeness strategies, sibling interaction, Brown and Levinson, familial dynamics, qualitative descriptive method.



INTRODUCTION

Humans are social entities that constantly interact with one another through various modes of communication. To communicate, people require a tool termed language. According to Hornby (2000), language is a system of spoken and written communication used by people in a particular country. Language serves as a means of communication and interaction, playing a significant role in shaping daily social interactions.

Language not only functions as a medium to convey messages but also plays a vital role in maintaining social bonds. Lakoff (1973) stated that politeness is a system of interpersonal relations designed to minimize conflict in interactions. Being polite involves being mindful of others' feelings. Politeness in language means using appropriate speech at the right time and place (Johnson et al., 1988).

The usefulness of politeness strategies is the basic skill of a person in being polite because the characteristics of a person can be seen and judged by their politeness. Being one of the branches of pragmatics, the main function of politeness strategies is to analyze meaning in the context of speech. Politeness, as discussed by Brown and Levinson (1978), is a fundamental aspect of effective communication that helps individuals navigate complex social interactions. Politeness minimizes conflicts and promotes harmony, reflecting respect for the emotions, perspectives, and social expectations of the listener. This underscores the importance of employing appropriate communication strategies to foster mutual respect and strengthen social relationships.

Politeness manifests in various social contexts through actions that consider others' feelings, including age, education, social background, and hierarchy. For example, in the workplace, formal language is deemed appropriate due to its formal nature (Wright, 2004). Conversely, an informal approach is often preferred in casual conversations with friends.

This study examines how a movie promotes the concept of workplace etiquette. A movie was selected because it serves as a powerful medium to convey knowledge, including the strategies of politeness. As stated by Farady (2016), a movie is a form of mass communication that provides both entertainment and educational or persuasive information.

Politeness serves as a foundation for human relationships and the construction of social order. Murliati (2013) highlighted that politeness is an essential aspect of communication that demonstrates the speaker's effort to respect the listener's feelings.

In conclusion, politeness strategies are indispensable for fostering effective communication and maintaining harmony in interactions. Brown and Levinson (1987) argued that politeness is reflected in language and identified four main strategies: bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. This study leverages the medium of film to analyze these strategies, offering insights into their practical applications in navigating workplace interactions and broader societal dynamics. Descriptive analytic techniques were employed to explore how individuals maintain facial expressions during social interactions. These strategies highlight the importance of politeness in preserving interpersonal relationships and social harmony.

METHODS

This research employs a qualitative descriptive method to analyze politeness strategies in the sibling interactions depicted in the film *Ipar adalah Maut*. The qualitative descriptive approach is chosen for its capacity to explore social and linguistic phenomena in depth, focusing on the contextual meanings and implications of spoken language (Taguchi, 2018). Guided by Brown and Levinson's (1987) framework, the study categorizes politeness strategies into four types: bald-on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record communication. These strategies are analyzed in the film's dialogues, with a focus on the interactions between Rani and Nisa, to uncover how familial roles, emotional intensity, and hierarchical relationships influence linguistic choices.

Data collection involved transcribing and categorizing dialogue that illustrated these politeness strategies, particularly scenes where Nisa asserted authority or provided emotional support to Rani. This analysis aligns with Cresswell's (2014) assertion that qualitative research is

well-suited for studying human behavior and communication in natural contexts. Following the transcription, dialogue was identified and grouped according to the four strategies, then interpreted within the context of the characters' social roles and relational dynamics.

Contextual factors such as power dynamics, urgency, and cultural expectations were carefully considered to understand the interplay between language and relationship. As emphasized by Sari et al. (2022), politeness strategies are influenced by the social distance, power relations, and imposition levels present in the interaction.

The research process was further informed by scholarly perspectives; for example, Brown and Levinson (1987) argue that politeness strategies manage face-threatening acts and reflect respect for social expectations, while Leech (1983) highlights their role in mirroring cultural values and norms. By applying these theoretical insights, the study elucidates how politeness strategies mediate sibling interactions and reflect broader cultural and familial dynamics.

DISCUSSION

The analysis shows that the film *Ipar adalah Maut* displays various politeness strategies that highlight the intricacies of sibling dynamics. Brown and Levinson (1978) emphasize that politeness strategies are universal in managing interactions across different cultures and social structures, albeit with variations in their application based on specific societal norms. This universality underscores their relevance in both interpersonal and cultural contexts, as seen in the sibling dynamics depicted in the film. The usage of politeness tactics is heavily influenced by contextual aspects such as power dynamics, emotional intensity, and amount of imposition, which reflect the characters' societal roles and interpersonal relationships. For example, when Nisa employs the bald-on-record tactic during a conversation with Rani, it represents her position as the older sister with more authority. This method is used to stress urgency, such as giving specific instructions on time limits. This is consistent with Brown and Levinson's thesis, which claims that using bald-on-record is helpful in situations requiring clarity without regard for dangers to the interlocutor's "face".

Bald-on-Record Strategy

The bald on record approach involves straightforward and explicit communication, where the speaker expresses their intent clearly without attempting to moderate the tone or reduce the impact on the recipient. This method is commonly employed in scenarios where politeness is secondary to urgency or efficiency, and there is minimal concern about causing a face-threatening situation. (Brown and Levinson (1987) argued that bald on record is used when the speaker assumes their utterance will not be offensive due to the context, relationship, or situation.

| DATA 1 |
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| Context: In the morning, on the first day of going to Rani's college, Nisa, an older sister of the younger sister named Rani, hurried Rani to leave immediately so that she would not be late to the campus. |
| DIALOG |
| Nisa: Loh dek, udah jam 06.00 lho. Bukannya kamu harus sampai kampus jam 07.00? (<i>It's already 6am. Don't you have to be on campus by 7 am?</i>) |
| Rani: Santai, Mbak, namanya juga ospek. Orientasi pengenalan kampus. Paling juga pengenalan, dosen, jurusan, begitu toh? (<i>Relax, it's also called ospek. Campus introduction orientation. Mostly an introduction, lecturers, majors, right?</i>) |

This was seen in straightforward commands or direct statements, like when Nisa pointed out the time limits to Rani (*It's already 6am. Don't you have to be on campus by 7am?*). This straightforwardness emphasizes urgency and control, showcasing Nisa's position as the older sister.

| DATA 2 |
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| Context: This conversation took place when Nisa came to her mother's house and Rani, who was at home, was surprised by her sister's arrival and then notified her that her sister's leg had a large bandage wound. |
| DIALOG |
| Rani: Lho kaki mba, kenapa? (<i>what happened to your feet?</i>) |
| Nisa: aku terima kamu di rumahku. Aku izinin kamu masuk ke hidup aku. Ini balasan kamu? Salah apa aku sama kamu? Jawab. Itu suami aku. Ayahnya Raya. Kakak ipar kamu!. Udah berapa kali kamu lakuin itu? (<i>I welcome you into my home. I let you into my life. Is this your reply? What did I do wrong to you? Answer. That's my husband. Raya's father. Your brother-in-law! How many times have you done that?</i>) |
| Nisa: (Menunjukkan gelang dzikir yg diberikan ke Rani) Ada di tempat tidurku. Sudah berapa kali kamu lakuin itu? Jawab! Udah berapa kali Ran? (<i>showing the dhizkr bracelet given to Rani</i>) <i>It's on my bed. How many times have you done that? Answer. How many times have you done it Ran?</i>) |

This dialogue employs the bald on record strategy, as Nisa directly expresses her anger and demands an explanation from Rani without moderating her tone or reducing emotional intensity. Statements like, "What wrong have I done to you? Answer me!" demonstrate an urgent and unfiltered form of communication.

Positive Politeness Strategy

Positive politeness seeks to bridge the social gap between the speaker and the listener by fostering a sense of camaraderie, warmth, and inclusion. It involves addressing the listener's desire to feel appreciated and respected, emphasizing friendliness and mutual connection. (According to Brown and Levinson (1987), this strategy is typically employed to make the listener feel appreciated and to foster mutual understanding. It is particularly common in informal or social contexts)

| DATA 1 |
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| Context: When Rani was getting ready to leave for college, suddenly her sister Nisa pulled Rani's hand to give her a dhizkr bracelet so that Rani would always remember and be under the protection of ALLAH. |
| DIALOG |
| Nisa: Kamu itu meremehkan sekali sih. Sini tanganmu. (Memberikan gelang dzikir) (<i>You're so dismissive. Here's your hand. (Giving the dhikr bracelet)</i>) |
| Rani: Kalung apa ini mbak? (<i>What is this necklace?</i>) |
| Nisa: Buat kamu dzikir. Biar kamu selalu dalam lindungan Allah ya. (<i>For you to make dhikr. Let you always be protected by Allah</i>) |
| Nisa: Nggak ada yang ketinggalan, kan? (<i>There's nothing missing, right?</i>) |
| Rani: Nggak mba. (<i>Nothing, Mba</i>) |
| Nisa: oke hati-hati. (<i>Okay, take care</i>) |
| Rani: Iya Mbak, terima kasih. (<i>Allright Mba, thank you</i>) |

This approach is clear when Nisa seeks to reduce social distance by showing concern and support, like gifting Rani a prayer bracelet for her well-being. This demonstrates the affectionate and safeguarding quality of the sibling relationship.

Negative Politeness Strategy

Negative politeness focuses on demonstrating respect and acknowledging the listener's independence. It seeks to minimize any sense of imposition by using indirect communication, cautious phrasing, or formal language to convey deference and consideration. (Levinson (1987) noted that negative politeness often occurs in contexts where social hierarchy and formal relationships exist. The speaker uses strategies such as apologies, indirect speech, and respectful language to minimize face-threatening acts).

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| DATA 1 |
| Context: This conversation took place when Nisa said goodbye to Rani about going out of town on a business trip, as well as her husband and daughter Raya. |
| DIALOG |
| Nisa: Dek, tolong layani mas-mu, ya. (<i>Dek, please treat your brother in law, please</i>) |
| Rani: iya mbak. (<i>Allright Mba</i>) |
| Nisa: Assalamualaikum (Nisa melangkah menuju mobil). (<i>Assalamualaikum</i>) (<i>Nisa steps towards the car</i>) |
| Rani: Wa'alaikumsalam. (<i>Wa'alaikumsalam</i>) |

This strategy is evident when formalities and social distance are preserved, especially during stressful situations, such as when Nisa tells Rani to look after her husband while she is away ("Dek, tolong layani mas-mu, ya"). The courtesy eases the demand while preserving authority. This strategy represents an attempt to maintain social distance while still maintaining a harmonious relationship. This approach is particularly relevant in the context of relationships that involve different roles or responsibilities, such as sisters sibling in a family.

Off-Record Strategy

Off-record communication relies on subtlety, with the speaker hinting at their intention instead of articulating it outright. This approach encourages interpretation, giving the listener the freedom to deduce the message without experiencing direct pressure. (According to Brown and Levinson (1987), off record strategies rely heavily on context and shared understanding between the speaker and listener. This approach is often used in sensitive situations to preserve relationships while conveying the intended message indirectly)

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| DATA 1 |
| Context: Rani was surprised when her sister Nisa came into the house suddenly where Rani knew her sister was busy working. |
| DIALOG |
| Nisa: Assalamualaikum. (<i>Assalamualaikum</i>) |
| Rani: waalaikumsalam, lho mbak? Kangen juga ya sama Ibu? Tapi ibu lagi pergi Mba. (<i>waalaikumsalam, lho Mbak? Do you miss mom too? But mom is leaving</i>) |

The off record strategy refers to a form of indirect communication in which the speaker implies a message without stating it explicitly, allowing the listener to interpret its meaning. This strategy is particularly useful in situations where the speaker wishes to avoid direct confrontation,

reduce the intensity of their message, or provide the listener with the flexibility to respond without feeling obligated.

The research also emphasizes the importance of context in influencing levels of politeness. Emotional intensity, particularly in confrontations, caused a collapse of politeness, demonstrating how emotional stakes affect language usage. This dynamic highlights the dual nature of sibling relationships, in which both care and conflict exist alongside each other, mirroring genuine family interactions. These results correspond with Brown and Levinson's model and illustrate how politeness strategies appear in sibling dynamics characterized by authority, care, and conflict.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals that the film *Ipar adalah Maut* intricately portrays politeness strategies as a central element of sibling interaction. Utilizing Brown and Levinson's framework, the research identifies how bald-on-record strategies are employed to assert authority, positive politeness strategies to foster closeness, negative politeness to demonstrate respect, and off-record strategies to mitigate confrontational situations.

The findings illustrate that politeness strategies are shaped by contextual factors such as power dynamics, emotional intensity, and societal norms. For example, Nisa's use of bald-on-record strategies underscores her authoritative role as the older sibling, while her moments of positive politeness reflect care and familial bonds. On the other hand, off-record strategies serve to maintain harmony in tense situations, highlighting the nuanced interplay of language and emotion in sibling relationships.

This research underscores the importance of politeness strategies in fostering effective communication and maintaining relational harmony. By reflecting cultural values and familial dynamics, these strategies provide insight into how language functions as a tool for navigating complex interpersonal relationships. The study contributes to the broader understanding of pragmatics and sociolinguistics, emphasizing the dynamic role of politeness in both maintaining social order and addressing relational conflicts.

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