

**AN ANALYSIS OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED BY THE MAIN
CHARACTERS (WESTERN AND CHINESE) IN *THE KARATE KID*
MOVIE BY HARALD ZWART**

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Abstract

This research observed the dialogue between the characters in The Karate Kid Movie which consists of characters from America (West) and China (East). It has purpose to find out the kinds of politeness strategies which are used by the main characters, and describe how and why they are used by the main characters. This research is qualitative research. The data are in the form of utterances. There are many politeness strategies which are used by the main characters. In the bald on record strategy, there are three utterances found. Then, there are twelve utterances that include positive politeness strategy, while there is one utterance that includes negative politeness strategy, and there is one utterance contains off record strategy. It can be concluded that the main characters often use positive politeness strategies in their conversation. The result of this study can be concluded that the politeness strategies are important to be used in life. It means that it can be used to avoid and minimize the Face Threatening Acts which a speaker makes. Besides, it can be used to avoid misunderstanding in the conversation of daily life.

Keywords: Illocutionary act, Politeness strategies.

In human life, language contributes very important role for people to communicate each other. It means that language is used by people to communicate an information. According to Gee (2005:1), language presents great functions, which are to give and get information. Based on those statements above, it can be concluded that language is the way for people to give and to get information to and from each other, which can make an activity that is called communication in daily life. Communication is an activity which uses language to get the point of what the people want. It means that language is very important in people life as social creature. According to Gamsriegler (2005:1), communication is a part of everyday life which is important at all times. It means that by communication, people may express their idea to each other. Besides, those can be concluded that language is a part which is used in communication, while communication is an activity which needs language. In addition, people who communicate to each other always expect some things such as feedback and redress or reaction.

This study investigates the meaning of utterances of two actors in the film by analyzing their politeness strategy that they use. The main characters in this movie are a child, Dre Parker who is enacted by Jaden Smith and a maintenance man acting as master of Kung Fu, named Mr. Han that is enacted by Jackie Chan. This movie is interesting because both actors come from opposite context culture countries, this study is aimed to find out how scenario dialogue used in this film, so that this film is in box-office film. Besides, both actors Jaden smith and Jackie Chan are the popular actors. Jaden Smith is the son of popular actor, Will Smith and Jackie Chan is Chinese popular actor in Kung Fu self defense.

This movie tells about a child, Dre and his mother that have to leave America because of his mother's career move and they have to live in China. Dre has a problem with the language and cultural differences, so Dre feels difficult to create a good communication and he feels that make a friendship is an impossible thing there. Because of those differences, the problem is happened. Dre makes a problem with a boy who is name Cheng. Cheng is a boy who is expert in Kung Fu. Cheng and his friends always bully him many times. In a day, Dre fights with them badly. Dre gets some pain and can not fight them again. Suddenly, there is a person who is known by him as a maintenance man who has name Mr. Han. Mr. Han helps him to get up and helps to fight them. Han is a master of

Kung Fu. So, Dre learns a real Kung Fu from him. In the process of learning, Dre gets much things. One of that things is politeness or good attitude. The moral values can be got by watching and analyzing this movie.

Defend the model

In the other hand, as far as the researcher's knowledge, the research that analyze the politeness strategies of the main characters in The Karate Kid movie in term of discourse analysis are still difficult to find. This research therefore is linguistically important in term of linguistics in general and discourse analysis in particular.

The researcher collects some utterances which contain illocutionary act to identify politeness strategies which are used by Dre and Mr. Han as the main characters in the movie. The researcher chooses to analyze the illocutionary act on this movie because the researcher wants to draw attention to the illocutionary occurring in the conversation of daily communication and to know how the illocutionary act worked. By analyzing speech act, especially the illocutionary act in The Karate Kid movie, the researcher can identify and analyze the utterances which have tendency into politeness strategies in different cultures. Those are the reason of the researcher uses theory of speech act and politeness strategies in different cultures to analyze the utterances.

Theoretical Overview

Paltridge (2006:2) states that discourse analysis means the relationships between speaker and hearer which influence to how the use of language as well as the effects of the language that is used has social identities and relations. Furthermore, McCarthy (1991:5) states that Discourse analysis means the study of relationship between language and the context in which it used all kinds of written text and spoken data from conversation to highly institutionalized form of talk.

According to Hymes in Brown and Yule (1983: 38), there are nine parts of contextual feature which are used in communication. Those parts are participants, topic, setting, channel, code, message form, event, key, and purpose. On the other hand, Paltridge (2006:3) states that pragmatics is about the meaning of what people say rather than what words in their most literal sense might mean by themselves.

Speech acts are the actions which are performed by people in saying something (Austin in Cutting, 2002:16). According to Cutting (2002:16), there are three levels or parts of speech acts, those are Locutionary Act, Illocutionary Act, and Perlocutionary Act.

According to Huang (2008: 97), politeness is a regardness as a restraint apart from being a means to an end, some kinds of social norms are imposed by the conventions of the community of which as members. He also adds that politeness is universal, it can be observed as a phenomenon in all cultures. On the other hand, different people hold different views about politeness. Politeness can be influenced by cultures, it means that every culture holds different views about politeness.

Brown and Levinson (1987:61) states that face is the public self image that every member wants to claim for himself. Brown and Levinson (1987:91) state that Politeness strategies are strategies that are used to minimize or avoid the Face Threatening Acts (FTAs) that a speaker makes. Brown and Levinson (1987:50) propose five politeness strategies, they are bald on record with two strategies, positive politeness with fifteen strategies, negative politeness with ten strategies, off record with fifteen strategies, and do not do FTA.

Method

The source of the data in this research is The Karate Kid the movies that was directed by Harald Zwart in 2010. It was in the form of transcript which was taken from the internet in <http://www.subscene.com/subtitles/the-karate-kid-aka-the-kung-fu-kid> in January 10th, 2014 and the movie was taken from the DVD. The data in this research are the utterances between the main characters Mr. Han and Dre. The data were selected those which consist of politeness strategy based on the theory of Brown and Levinson's theory (1987). The data selected were analyzed how the

strategies used and were described its possible reason by taking into account the Hymes' context theory

Analysis and Discussion

1.1 Kinds of Politeness Strategies

1.1.1 Bald on Record

5.1.1.1 Using strategy 1: Cases of non- minimization of the threat

Dialogue 3

- 1 Dre : What if I wanna avoid getting my ass kicked?
- 2 Mr. Han : Stop saying "ass"!
- 3 Dre : Sorry.

The conversation took place in Mr. Han's house. The participants who was involved in the conversation above was Mr. Han and Dre. The topic that was talked was about Kung Fu. Dre wanted to know about defense from somebody who wanted to kick him and Mr. Han stopped his question by saying "stop saying 'ass!'". The sentence (line 2) in the dialogue 3 "stop saying 'ass!'" involves the illocutionary of directive which follows the types of illocutionary act by Searle (1976:11). That utterance contains requesting to be polite which may be not to say a taboo word. Mr. Han expressed what he wants by commanding Dre to stop saying "ass".

Based on politeness strategy theory by Brown and Levinson (1987: 95), the utterance is called as bald on record, strategy 1 which is "cases of non- minimization of the threat". In the dialogue above, Mr. Han uses imperative which is said clearly and without soften words to Dre because he wants Dre to obtain what he wants. By using that utterance, Mr. Han does not want to minimize the threat of Dre. The dialogue, Dre said "ass" does not mean to mention a part of the body which brings tendency into taboo word, but it is possible to say that he wants to address himself. Meanwhile, Mr. Han as an Asian person who mostly include in high-context cultures thinks that it is a taboo word (Huang, 2008:100). By using that utterance (line 2), it is shown that Mr. Han does not like to hear Dre says "ass". Huang said that there are many taboos for Westeners, one of them is about sex (2008:100). Mr. Han thinks that it is a part of the body which is not suitable to be said as an American who is sensitive about sex. Mr. Han wants to give an advice to Dre. It is impolite word which was not suitable to be said in China. So, he does not want Dre to say "ass" again.

1.1.2 Positive Politeness

5.1.2.1 Using strategy 2: exaggerate (interest, approval, sympathy with hearer)

Dialogue 9

- 1 Mr. Han : Yes. I stood here with my father, when I was your age. He told
- 2 me that's the magic kungfu water. You drink and nothing can
- 3 defeat you.
- 4 Dre :It's the best water I've ever tasted.

The dialogue happened when Mr. Han and Dre arrived in the top montain that was called Dragon Well. Dre tried to drink the water which was believed as magic water. If he drinks that water, everybody can not defeat him. The utterance, "It's the best water I've ever tasted" (line 4) in dialogue 9 contains kinds of illocutionary act which is expressive that follows types of illocutionary act by Searle (1976:12). It means that the speaker expresses what he felt. He shows his pleasure because he can drink the water that is believed as magic water.

Based on theories of politeness strategy by Brown and Levinson (1987: 104), it can be stated that this utterance contains positive politeness strategy 2 which is "Exaggerate". In this dialogue, Dre used exaggerate sentence to give a clear statement to Mr. Han. Dre used "best water" there, it is included exaggerate sentence because in the other places, the water has a same taste. Besides, Dre used "I have ever tasted", it means that utterance includes exaggerate sentence because it has meaning that Dre drinks the water for the first time which show impossible thing because drink is the necessity in human daily activity. Dre chooses this strategy to express his pleasure and said that the water is the best water he has ever tasted. He uses that utterance with high intonation and stressing in that

utterance to make sure the hearer. This strategy is used by him to intensify his opinion about magic water and give a satisfaction to the hearer's positive face by showing a closeness between both of them. Besides, Dre also thought that Mr. Han and him have worked hardly to complete their journey in the top mountain, so Dre wanted to make Mr. Han felt good by saying that this utterance is used as a way to praise Mr. Han of the water.

1.1.3 Negative Politeness

5.1.3.1 Using strategy 6: Apologize

Dialogue 3

- 1 Dre : What if I wanna avoid getting my ass kicked?
- 2 Mr. Han : Stop saying "ass"!
- 3 Dre : Sorry.

The conversation took place in Mr. Han's house. The participants who was involved in the conversation above were Mr. Han and Dre. The topic was about talking Kung Fu. Dre wanted to know about defense from somebody who kick him. Dre said "ass" when talk with Mr. Han, and Mr. Han asked him to stop saying "ass". Then, he said "sorry" to Mr. Han.

The utterance (line 3) in the dialogue 3 "sorry" involves the illocutionary act of expressive on types of illocutionary act by Searle (1976:12). Dre expressed his guilty of what he said. According to politeness strategies theory by Brown and Levinson (1987:187), the utterance is called negative politeness strategy 6 which is "apologize" in admitting impingement. In the dialogue, Dre expressed an admitting of the guilty. Dre used statement which shows that he wanted to redress his guilty by saying "sorry" to Mr. Han. That utterance is used by him after Mr. Han gave a warning to Dre about saying of "ass". Dre said "ass" which did not mean to mention a part of the body which has tendency into bad words, but in the possible he wanted to say that adress to himself. In the dialogue, Dre says "sorry" to admit his guilty of saying "ass" because he realized that he is in China which immadiately include in high-context cultures. Mr. Han as Asian person who is included in high-context cultures thinks that it is a taboo word. Mr. Han shown that he did not like Dre to say "ass", because according to Mr. Han that it is a part of the body which is not suitable to be said as American who sensitive about sex. Mr. Han wanted to give an advice to Dre there. Then, Dresimplies that he is impinging on hearer's face, it means that he gave a respect to Mr. Han who had helped him. Paltridge (2006:59) said that American responsible for what has been done and actually said "I'm sorry". So, Dre as an American shows his responsibility for what has been done by saying "sorry" to rectify the situation and more helpful rather than "yes" or "no".

1.1.4 Off Record

5.1.4.1 Using strategy 3: Presuppose

Dialogue 6

- 1 Mr. Han : Take it down. Put in on, take it off.
- 2 Dre : I already did all of this.

The dialogue was done between Mr. Han and Dre that took place in Mr. Han's house. The dialogue happened when Dre got a training from Mr. Han at the first time. Mr. Han only asked Dre to do same activities for many times. So, Dre said to Mr. Han that he had already done that activities by saying "I already did all of this".

The utterance (line 2) in the dialogue 6 "I already did all of this" is contains a kind of illocutionary act which is called directive on types of illocutionary act by Searle (1976:11). The Speaker shows the aim by asking to the hearer. He used that utterance as a possible to ask Mr. Han to end his asking, because he felt tired of that activities by saying indirect statement. According to politeness strategies theory by Brown and Levinson (1987:189), the utterance that is used by the speaker is called off record, strategy 3 which is "presuppose". In the dialogue, the speaker presupposes that he has done all of the hearer wants before. The speaker uses a utterance which may contains a implicature a criticism. The speaker uses that utterance to show that he gives a criticism to the hearer indirectly than choosing to say "no" in refusing statement. The use of "I already did all of this" forces hearer to search for the relevance of the presupposed prior event, if it is relevant only on the assumption that speaker is counting the times doing the activities, then he appears a criticism in implicature. The speaker as an American who include in low-context culture, is a person who likes giving a criticism if there is a

something disturb him, although his utterance contains implicature. As an American who include in low-context culture who certainly also uses low-context communication, it is possible to show a meaning of his utterance directly to the hearer, so the hearer understand what he means.

Discussion

The researcher collects all of the findings after the researcher analyzes the data. The findings are collected by the researcher in bald on record strategy. The researcher found one kind of these strategies, it is strategy 1, which is cases of non-minimization of the threat. In the positive politeness strategy, the researcher found seven kinds, those are strategy 1 (Notice, attend to hearer's interests, wants, needs, and goods), strategy 2 (exaggerate interest with hearer), strategy 5 (seek agreement), strategy 6 (avoid disagreement), strategy 10 (promise), strategy 11 (be optimistic), and strategy 12 (include both speaker and hearer in the activity). Next, for the negative politeness strategy, there is one kind that is found by the researcher, this is strategy 6 (apologize). The last strategy is off record strategy. The researcher found a kind of off record strategies, this is strategy 3 (presuppose in may implicature a criticism).

In the dialogue between Dre and Mr. Han in *The Karate Kid* movie, Dre and Mr. Han often used positive politeness strategies. Dre uses eight utterances which contain positive politeness in the dialogue. Meanwhile, Mr. Han uses four utterances which also contain positive politeness. Those positive politeness can be concluded that between Dre and Mr. Han want to be closer and show their closeness of each other. Besides, they wanted to satisfy each other's positive face.

In those dialogues between Mr.Han and Dre, it can be seen that there are many misunderstandings between Dre and Mr. Han. Those can be happened because of different culture between both of them. It means that Dre as American who is included low-context culture and uses low-context communication, while Mr. Han comes from China who is included high-context culture country which uses high-context communication. Those dialogues show that every country has cultures differences which has tendency to politeness. It also means that different people hold different views about politeness. Based on Hall in Gamsriegler's statement (2005:3), there are communication differencess in culture, they are high-context communication and low-context communication. It means that politeness which is hold by Dre is not similar with politeness which is hold by Mr. Han because of different culture, but they can solve that problem. They can make a good relationship as a teacher and a student and sometimes can be friend. Mr. Han and Dre choose to use politeness strategies in their conversation to avoid and minimize the threat which immadiately uses positive politeness strategies that show a solidarity and closeness between both of them.

It can be discussed that politeness is needed in dealing with other people through communication. In dealing with people, it is important to maintain the relationship between ourselves and others. Politeness strategies have come as one way to maintain the relationship since those strategies aim to minimize threat to others's self-esteem or face. It is important to keep the self-esteem or face of each person safe in order to achieve a mutual relationship. Politeness strategies offer various actions to avoid offending other person, either in the form of bald on record, positive and negative politeness, and off record. In applying politeness strategies, people could implement those strategies either by performing actions, such as joking, or presenting expressions, such as praising. Every culture holds different views of politeness in communication hence the orientation of politeness is various. In this analysis, the researcher mentioned that there is high-context culture and low-context culture. It shows that people value politeness in different way. It can be stated that politeness appears in various form depending on the culture at which the politeness occurred.

Every differences culture certainly also has differences politeness strategies. Every country holds culture and politeness strategies which is not held by the other country. So, a knowledge about politeness strategies can make a person to be wise in dealing differences culture that is often found in daily life to minimize or avoid the problems with other people through communication.

Conclusion

The researcher gives a conclusion after the researcher analyzes the data. The data which is collected by the researcher are twelve data in dialogue form. In every dialogue there are some politeness strategies in kinds of every strategies. The researcher finds that the main characters in *The*

Karate Kid movie uses all of the strategies, but they do not use sub-strategy in every strategies. Based on the researcher's analysis, the strategies which are used by the main characters are bald on record with one strategy. It is strategy 1 "cases of non-minimization of the threat". She finds three utterances which are used by the main characters. Then, for the positive politeness, the researcher finds seven sub-strategies. They are strategy 1 (notice, attend to the hearer's interests, wants, needs goods) with one utterance that include of it. Then, strategy 2 (exaggerate) with two utterance that contains of it. Third, there are two utterances that include strategy 5 (seek agreement). Fourth, there are three utterances that include in strategy 6 (avoid disagreement). Fifth, strategy 10 (offer, promise) with one utterance that include of it. Sixth, there is a sentence that contain strategy 11 (be optimistic). The last, the sub-strategies of positive politeness which is used the main character is strategy 12 (include both speaker and hearer in the activity) with two utterances which have tendency contain of it. Moreover, for negative politeness strategy, the researcher finds only one utterance that include in strategy 6 (apologize). The last strategy is off record, for this strategy, the researcher finds only one sentence which contain strategy 3 (presuppose) in may implicature criticism.

According to the explanation above, the researcher can get a conclusion that the main characters in The Karate Kid movie by Harald Zwart mostly use positive politeness strategies at the time saying to each other. Totally, there are twelve utterances in every kinds of positive politeness which are used by Mr. Han and Dre as the main characters. By choosing those utterances which related to positive politeness, it shows that they prefer to satisfy each other's positive face and can keep a solidarity to each other. Besides, it can be concluded that between both of them have a closeness and try to be closer to each other.

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