Politeness Strategies On Apologizing Expression Of "The Princess Diaries"

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the politeness methods used by the characters in their apology expressions. The study was designed as a descriptive and qualitative research. The data were examined using descriptive techniques, applying various politeness methods suggested by Brown and Levinson (1987) to identify different types of politeness tactics. The Princess Diaries, an American romantic-comedy movie released in 2001, provided the statistical data. Using Brown and Levinson's Politeness Strategies (1987), the analysis findings show that 10 utterances can be categorized as expressions of regret. According to Brown and Levinson's politeness theory, negative politeness is used to show respect so as not to offend the interlocutor, while positive politeness occurs among a group of friends and family members who have a close relationship with the interlocutor. Therefore, it can be said that all the characters in the movie who use positive politeness to show regret are female, and positive politeness is the politeness technique they use most often.

Keywords: Politeness Strategies; Apologizing Expression; Discourse Analysis.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk meneliti metode kesopanan yang digunakan oleh para karakter dalam ekspresi permintaan maaf mereka. Penelitian ini dirancang sebagai penelitian deskriptif dan kualitatif. Data diperiksa dengan menggunakan teknik deskriptif, dengan menerapkan berbagai metode kesopanan yang disarankan oleh Brown dan Levinson (1987) untuk mengidentifikasi berbagai jenis taktik kesopanan. The Princess Diaries, sebuah film komedi-romantis Amerika yang dirilis pada tahun 2001, menyediakan data statistik. Dengan menggunakan Strategi Kesopanan Brown dan Levinson (1987), temuan analisis menunjukkan bahwa 10 ujaran dapat dikategorikan sebagai ekspresi penyesalan. Menurut teori kesantunan Brown dan Levinson, kesantunan negatif digunakan untuk menunjukkan rasa hormat agar tidak menyinggung perasaan lawan tutur, sedangkan kesantunan positif terjadi di antara sekelompok teman dan anggota keluarga yang memiliki hubungan dekat dengan lawan tutur. Oleh karena itu, dapat dikatakan bahwa semua karakter dalam film yang menggunakan kesopanan positif untuk menunjukkan penyesalan adalah perempuan, dan kesopanan positif adalah teknik kesopanan yang paling sering mereka gunakan.

Kata Kunci: Strategi Kesopanan; Ekspresi Meminta Maaf; Analisis Wacana.

1. Introduction

People communicate with one other in daily life to establish relationships for a variety of reasons, and the level of intimacy or familiarity we have with the speaker or listener affects the way we communicate. That much of what we say, and a great deal of what we communicate, are determined by our social relationships (Yule 1996: 59). It implies that in order to convey our objective, we carefully consider the language we use, the dictions we select, and the attitude we embed (for example, through example spelling). For instance, in Javanese culture, we speak to elderly people with grace, and to those of the same age, we speak casually. This situation pertains to the concept of politeness. In order to reduce confrontation with others, politeness as defined by Brown and Levinson (1987) is the means of conveying the message in the most polite manner feasible. Apology is one of the ways that one might communicate civility. Apologies are among the most often used and courteous forms of communication. Since polite words are frequently employed in asking (requesting), offering, complaining, and apologizing, politeness and apology go hand in hand.

When making a request that is somewhat bigger, one uses the language of formal politeness (the conventionalized indirect speech acts, hedges, apologies for intrusion, etc.). According to Brown and Levinson (1987: 57) formal politeness language is frequently employed in conventionalized indirect speech acts, hedges, and requests for forgiveness for intrusion. Smith (2008) argues that although saying "sorry" is one of many attempts to simplify a complex transaction, apologies actually involve complex exchanges. We need to use specific tactics if we want our aim to be well received. We must be able to communicate in a variety of ways in order to meet this demand, particularly when learning a foreign language that differs from our home tongue both linguistically and culturally.

Smith pointed out that an apology goes beyond apologies. Taking this into account, junior high school students who study how to apologize as part of the K13 Curriculum will encounter a variety of apologizing expressions. But the examples of typical apologetic expressions in the textbook and LKS (Students Worksheet) are limited to basic terms like "sorry," "forgive," and "apologize," which are somewhat monotonous. Put another way, pupils are still not learning enough from the examples provided in the textbook and LKS. A number of researchers with varying specializations have already studied politeness. Abedi et al. (2016) sought to characterize the ways in which the characters in the film offer their apologies as well as look into the kind of offenses that push the characters to do so.

The study made use of Holmes' ethnography of communication with the SPEAKING formula, Trosborg's apologetic techniques, and the social elements of communication and types of offenses. Only one politeness tactic—negative politeness—was the subject of this investigation. Results indicate that the following types of transgressions were the catalyst for the characters in the film to apologize: violations of private property, rights to speak, time, space, and social behavior. The movie's characters apologized in a variety of ways, and every apology was a form of defensive politeness.

In order to better understand how gender and instructors' use of politeness methods affect student-teacher interaction patterns and the learning process in Iranian EFL classrooms, Monsefi, M., & Hadidi, Y. (2015) focused on this topic. Positive politeness techniques are favored over negative ones, according to the findings positive politeness stresses the importance of relationships between teachers and students and is focused on enhancing an individual's positive self-image. The female

teachers hope to lessen the threat posed by FTAs and close the gap in distance between themselves and the kids by implementing more constructive tactics. Two significant findings emerge from this study: first, there is a clear correlation between the use of more courteous tactics and the learning process as well as teacher-student contact; second, there are differences in the conversational qualities of male and female teachers.

The goal of Chojimah, N. (2015) was to look into the ways in which Indonesian students turn down offers, invitations, and recommendations from people in different socioeconomic classes. The study focused on politeness and refusal techniques. The social status expressed in connections between people with lower to higher social status (LHSS), higher to lower social status (HLSS), and equal social status (ESS) was the social variable examined in this study. A discourse completion exam (DCT) that was given to 161 students was used to collect the data. This study demonstrated that while social position influences the choice of politeness methods, it has less of an impact on the choice of rejection approach.

The purpose of Ryabova, M. (2015)'s paper is to examine how several models of English speech etiquette are used, particularly how politeness forms that are common in English are used. The article's conclusion demonstrated how English speech behavior norms regarding etiquette are a distinctive aspect of their communicative culture. These norms influence the formulas and models that they choose for everyday communication, revealing their social status and class while adhering to the politeness strategy of socio-pragmatic circumstances.

Nonetheless, there hasn't been much research done on the topic of politeness strategy, which focuses on pedagogical implications. Therefore, the researcher who was interested in doing a study on evaluated the apologetic expressions in the 2001 film The Princess Diaries utilized Politeness techniques in order to explore the use of different sorts of apology and the politeness approach used by the speakers. The analysis's outcome helps the (trainee) teacher change how many expressions they employ while apologizing in context. Additionally, the movie's dialogue offers plenty of realistic examples of apology that students can utilize in their everyday talks. This indicates that the movie can be used as an alternate teaching resource to textbooks and LKS in.

2. Literature Review

According to (Brown & Levinson, 1987) there are types of politeness strategies:

a) Bald On-Record

This strategy involves speaking in a direct, clear, and unambiguous way, without any attempt to minimize the FTA. It is typically used when the speaker does not care about the listener's face or in situations where efficiency is more important than politeness.

When it's used:

• In emergencies or urgent situations

• When the speaker has power over the listener

• When there's a close relationship between the speaker and listener, and politeness is not necessary.

Example: "Pass me the salt.", "Come here now."

b) Positive Politeness

Positive politeness strategies aim to minimize the threat to the listener's positive face, showing that the speaker values the listener's desires, interests, or social approval. The goal is to show friendliness, solidarity, and familiarity.

When it's used:

• When the speaker wants to be seen as friendly or maintain closeness with the listener.

• When the speaker wants to affirm the listener's positive face and make them feel appreciated or included.

c) Negative Politeness

Negative politeness strategies are used to minimize the threat to the listener's negative face, or their desire to be free from imposition or obligation. This strategy involves being indirect, showing deference, and giving the listener options to avoid making them feel pressured.

When it's used:

• When the speaker is imposing on the listener (e.g., making a request, asking for a favor).

• When there's a social distance between the speaker and listener, or when the listener has higher status or power.

d) Off-Record

Off-record politeness strategies are highly indirect and leave much of the interpretation up to the listener. The speaker hints or implies what they want, without making an explicit request or statement. This allows the speaker to avoid responsibility for the FTA, giving the listener the opportunity to interpret it as a non-request if they prefer.

When it's used:

• When the speaker wants to avoid direct confrontation or imposition.

• In situations where the speaker doesn't want to be held accountable for making a direct request.

3. Research Method

This study's descriptive-qualitative methodology concentrated on document or content analysis, including the analysis of words and images. Based on Brown and Levinson's politeness techniques from the 2001 film The Princess Diaries, the goal of this research was to examine the politeness methods used by the characters in their expressions of apology. The goal of qualitative research is to gather and examine data in as many different formats as it can, mostly non-numerical. Additionally, descriptive qualitative research is written using words or sentences as opposed to numbers.

Based on Brown and Levinson's politeness methods in the film, the analysis of the characters' apologies was the main goal of this study. The Princess Diaries, an American comedy-romance film released in 2001, provided the statistics. The process of gathering data involved searching through every character's voicemail to find statements pertaining to Brown and Levinson's techniques of politeness and expressions of regret. The information was displayed as a table with 15 utterances. After then, descriptive analysis has to be used for data analysis. The politeness methods suggested by Brown and Levinson (1987) were used to the data analysis utilizing a descriptive manner in order to determine the types of politeness strategies.

4. Finding and Discusssion

Based on theory Brown and Levinson's (1987) Politeness Strategies, the analysis's findings indicated that 15 utterances may be categorized as expressions of regret. Eleven of those fifteen utterances were classified as positive politeness and four as negative politeness.

Utterances 1

Mia : "I deeply apologize for any inconvenience I may have caused"

Analysis: Mia uses this more formal expression in more official situations, for example when she is talking to someone of higher social status, such as her grandmother, Queen Clarisse. This apology shows respect and a desire not to annoy others.

Utterances 2

Mia : "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to embarrass you"

Analysis: Mia apologizes for embarrassing someone unintentionally, showing that she cares about the person's feelings. This is an example of positive politeness where Mia is trying to maintain good relationships with others.

Utterances 3

Mia : "Oh no, I didn't mean it that way, I'm really sorry!"

Analysis: Mia often apologizes quickly when she accidentally hurts someone's feelings, especially when she speaks too spontaneously. She tries to maintain social relationships by admitting mistakes and apologizing immediately.

Utterances 4

Lilly : "You're still you, Mia. You're still the same person, no matter what"

Analysis: This utterance contains a positive element where Lilly tries to emphasize their positive relationship and avoid Mia feeling isolated.

Utterances 5

Mia : I don't mean to be rude, Ma'am, but... are you really my grandmother?

Analysis: This utterance shows negative politeness because Mia is trying not to appear rude or too urgent even though she is expressing her curiosity.

Utterances 6

Mia : "Maybe I'm not cut out for this... I'm not sure if I can do it"

Analysis: This utterance is a form of off-record politeness, where Mia does not say explicitly that she does not want to be a princess, but indicates her hesitation in a subtle way.

Utterances 7

Clarrise : "You are the Princess of Genovia"

Analysis: This utterance is an example of bald on record where Clarisse conveys the message directly without softening or disguising it.

Utterances 8

Mia : "Well, I guess I could try, but I'm not sure I'm ready..."

Analysis: Mia uses a hedging strategy by adding the phrases "I guess" and "I'm not sure", which shows that she is not too urgent and leaves room for her grandmother to interpret her intentions.

Utterances 9

Joe : "Is there anything I can help you with, Princess?"

Analysis: This question shows positive politeness where Joe is trying to support Mia, reduce anxiety, and create a comfortable atmosphere.

Utterances 10

Lilly : "Just think, in a couple of years, you'll be ruling an entire country! No pressure"

Analysis: This humor functions as positive politeness, where Lilly makes Mia feel more relaxed about a stressful situation.

5. Conclusion

The discussion reveals that the most common form of politeness tactics in the film is positive politeness. In accordance with the politeness methods proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987), positive politeness tactics are favored over negative ones. As is well known, good politeness highlights the necessity of a relationship between the Speaker and the Hearer and is geared toward a person's positive self-image. This tactic is typically employed by friends or those who are well acquainted. According to the discussion, the speaker was in tight relationships with a group of friends and family members when much of the chat took place.

The research's distinctive finding is that every character that used the positive politeness method was a woman. The female characters intend to lessen the threat of FTAs and close the gap with the Hearer by implementing more constructive tactics. Female characters were observed using a variety of apology expressions to realize positive politeness in their attempts to establish common ground through seeking agreement, sharing interests, and treating the hearer as a friend and member of the in-group.

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