

POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED BY JO AND AMY MARCH ON *LITTLE WOMEN*

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Abstract: This study aims to determine the identity captured from the politeness strategies used by Jo and Amy March on *Little Women* movie. To analyze the description of politeness strategies used by Jo and Amy March as the main characters in the film, the researcher used the theory of Leech on maxim politeness. Then, this study is using a qualitative descriptive method. Based on the results that have found from Jo and Amy March's dialogue, they are dominant using agreement maxim because of a close relationship between their family, and also they have close relation and intensiveness with their sisters.

Keywords: *Politeness, Maxim, little women*

INTRODUCTION

Linguistic is the study of language, the terms of function or use in composing interpreting when communicating with other people. Therefore, the language calls human communication tool. How people arrange words and make meanings in order to understand what people say or what we say to others (Setyawati & Rahayu, 2020). So with the notion of language, we can express our idea, think, feeling and emotion that are within us, where it can be realized or given by human thought orally (Laili, 2017).

In terms of using language in communication called pragmatics. Pragmatics is a way of how language uses by speakers and the interpretation of the listener according to the intended meaning. Pragmatics also involves expression. According to Siddiqui (2018) pragmatic is not only a significant meaning, but also relate to hidden meanings. In general, pragmatics discusses the context which language applies and social goals and beliefs (Setyawati & Rahayu, 2020).

Language is not about understanding in context, but also involves attitudes, both unfavorably and well. However, research focus on a good attitude or what calls

politeness. According to *George Yule*, mostly in general related to being wise, humble, and kind to others. Regarding to linguistic politeness, the most relevant concept is “face” (Yule, 2020).

Politeness is not a natural fact that explain and judge scientifically, as are natural phenomena. However, politeness is the result of the interaction between people and cultures (Reither, 2000), politeness also acquired over time trough coexistence or by socializing with one another. The function of this politeness is to be able to establish good relationships and produce good communication as well. It can also say to minimize excessive speech acts that can go overboard (Hutheifa Y Al-duleimi, 2016).

Looking at the object to be studied is Little Women movie, the researcher focus on politeness strategies used by Jo’s and Amy’s March dialogues. There are some differences that previous research and this research. Rosyidha, Afdiyani, Fatimah, and Nisa, (2019) examined the on “Politeness Principle in Kung Fu Panda 1 the Movie”, an analysis of how the characters in the fil Kung Fu Panda 1 use the principle of politeness in communication. Sources of data were taken from videos downloaded from YouTube, then the researchers conducted observations and transcript analysis and used quantitative analysis. This study uses (Leech Geoffrey, 2014).

Another study was done by Mujiono and Afil Lailatul Ula (2020) by researching the “Sociopragmatics Analysis of Politeness Strategy of the Main Character’s Dialogues of Tinker Bell in Secret of the Wings Movie”. This study focuses on examining the types and function of the politeness strategies used by the character leader Tinker Bell in the film Secret of the Wings. This research is a descriptive qualitative approach and the research instrument is document analysis. This study uses the theory of (Brown & Levinson, 1987)

Anisa and Silpia (2020) researched the “Analysis of the Politeness in Harry Potter Chapter 1 Movie”. This article discusses how to analyze politeness in the film of Harry Potter Chapter 1 using theory (Leech, 1983). The author conducted research on negative faces and positive faces in the dialogue of this film.

After looking at previous studies, there are some researchers who have conducted research on politeness strategies and some have researched the politeness principle. There have been many researched this theory, and among previous researchers, they have also examined a variety of different objects. The researcher chose

the object of the film “Little Women”, apart from no one has researched it, this film has also just been released in 2019. This film is one of the favorite Box Office films liked by many people. Based on the bestselling novel with the same title, namely “Little Women” researchers are interested in researching the film because it has a lot of viewers, which has earned it a rating of 7.8/10 on YouTube (Hanafi, 2020).

Thus, the researcher analyses “Little Women” movie because this film is very inspiring and motivating for those who watch it. And the character of this movie used the polite language, especially Jo and Amy, they are unique. Even though they always wrangle, but they care and respect each other. So that is why the researcher interested to analyze the politeness strategies used by Jo and Amy March in this film. This study aim is to describe politeness strategies used by Jo’s and Amy’s character in *Little Women*.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Maxim of Politeness

Maxims of Politeness presented in Leech. The maxims as expressed there in such words as “Maximize the cost to S,” “Minimize the cost to H,” etc., could easily be misconstrued, but we can still think of maxims in the sense described above as factors influencing communicative behavior and bringing about default interpretations—that is, unless overridden by some other maxim(s) or contextual factor(s). There is less risk of misunderstanding if we conceive of pragmatic maxims of politeness just as more specific realizations of the GSP (Leech Geoffrey, 2014).

The component maxims of the General Strategy of Politeness:

1. Generosity maxim

(M1) give a high value to O’s wants

For example, offers, invitations, and promises are (in default terms) “generous”.

2. Tact maxim

(M2) give a low value to S’s wants

For example, requests are often indirect, preliminary, with the option to decline and also mitigate or mitigate the imposition of S to H.

3. Approbation, Modesty

- a. Approbation maxim

(M3) give a high value to O’s qualities

For example, we like to congratulate (and get paid) when it seems appropriate.

b. Modesty maxim

(M4) give a value to S's qualities

Self-deprecation (if sincere, even if exaggerated) is often felt to be polite.

4. Obligation

a. Obligation of S to O maxim

(M5) give a high value to S's obligation to O

Apologies for some insults from S to H are examples of polite speech acts that emphasize S's guilt and obligation to O.

b. Obligation of O to S maxim

(M6) give a low value to O's obligation to S

On the other hand, responses to apologies often downplay the error: It's ok. Don't worry. It was nothing.

5. Opinion

a. Agreement maxim

(M7) give a high value to O's opinions

When responding to the opinions or judgements of others.

b. Opinion-reticence maxim

(M8) give a low value to S's opinions

People often mitigate the power of their own opinions by using propositional safeguards, as I think, I guess, I don't suppose, it could be...

6. Feeling

a. Sympathy maxim

(M9) give a high value on O's feelings

A limitation on sympathy (or emotional concern) is needed to explain why we value other people's feeling in speech acts like congratulations and condolences.

b. Feelings-reticence maxim

(M10) give a low value to S's feelings

The corresponding negative-politeness compulsion places little value on one's feelings.

Text, co-text and context

1. Text

Defines a lexical word or term. More precisely, text is a unit of language in the form of written language or spoken language resulting from human interaction or communication. (Ridge, 2012)

2. Co-text

Co-text is a text accompanying other text and having linkages and parallels with the text accompanied it. And how to link previous or current texts follow it can be concluded that the co-text is a sentence that accompanies the text after. (Melby & Foster, 2010)

3. Context

A concept that continuous to exist alongside. The aim here is not to define it, but rather to ask what the term “works” is used in contemporary HCI research. Context as something that is in outside the text, which contains meaning and the purpose behind the occurrence of speech one person to another, and things outside the text the effect the text production process so that clarify the meaning of the text itself (Melby & Foster, 2010).

METHOD

Research design

The research used in this case is descriptive qualitative method. The reason is the data obtain in Jo and Amy March’s words as the main character in film *Little Women* was more prominent in the form of words and sentences. Nor did it formulate a hypothesis at the beginning of the study because it only described the politeness used by Jo and Amy March in the film *Little Women*. To obtain information, this study had designed in terms of the phenomenon of politeness. And the researcher’s study in Jo and Amy’s dialogue used Leech theory (Creswell, 2002).

Data source

Regarding the film that is the object of the researcher, the source of the data taken was from YouTube, then the source of the data obtained by the researcher was the film entitled “Little Women” about all the definitions of the main character Jo March and Amy March. And about the script movie with entitled English was taken through subtitle in www.subscene.com.

Research instrument

In qualitative research, the instrument was the researcher herself. Researcher is as an active respondent in the research process and we can mention that the human being as the instrument. It is because human beings are able to sense subtle cues in the environment to which they naturally know how to respond (Peredaryenko & Krauss, 2013).

Data collection

Data collection had done by researcher with the documentation and observation. Which the researcher used the five sense to see by watching the film and hearing the conversation used by Jo and Amy March as the main characters based on maxim of politeness (Leech Geoffrey, 2014).

Data analysis

Based on the object of the film research, the researcher began to record some of the topics that considered by the researcher, conducted data observations to find politeness strategies, note the parts of the politeness strategy that found, categorize the conversation of the main characters’ Jo and Amy recording, analyze the data based on maxim of politeness by (Leech Geoffrey, 2014) theory, and conclude from all of Jo and Amy’s conversations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Findings

Politeness strategies used by Jo and Amy based on maxim of politeness

Data 1

- Amy : *Come to the New Year's Eve party. (1.1)*
Everyone will be there, including Fred.
Pick me up at the hotel at the 8, the Chavain.
Oh...
Oh, and Laurie, dress for festivities!
Top hats and silk!
- Laurie : *I will. I'll wear my best silk.*

In this context, the words of the speaker (Amy) tried to invite the hearer (Laurie) to come to the New Year's Eve party. The speaker uses *Generosity maxim* because her speech focuses on herself and says that listener should be put first instead of herself.

Data 2

- Jo : *Amy.*
- Meg : *What about your music, Queen Beth, huh?*
- Beth : *I do that for us. I don't need anyone else to hear it.*
- Amy : *You must not limit yourself. (2.1)*

In this context, the words of the speaker (Amy) gave opinion about the skill that belongs by listener (Beth). It is also the speaker give support to her sister. The speaker uses *Agreement maxim* because she refers to maximize the expression of agreement between herself and listener. Moreover, to allots meaning if the speaker gives a high value to the listener.

Data 3

- Hannah : *I know you don't care what I think, but you don't want your mother to find you like this, do you?*
- Meg : *We care what your mother to find you like this, do you?*
- Jo : *Wicked old Aunt March. (3.1)*

In this context, the dialogue of the speaker (Jo) showed a constraint of sympathy to the listener (Hannah) or gives a high value, so that the listener didn't feel bad. The speaker uses *Sympathy maxim* because she minimizes antipathy on herself and maximize sympathy to listener. Moreover, the listener must be appreciated by the speaker.

Data 4

Meg : *I don't want to.*

Beth : *You have to. And I think Meg should be the director the director.*

Jo : *So I think that she'll need to kneel... (4.1)*

Amy : *But it's so our scene.*

In this context, the words of the speaker (Jo) shows a tolerance of opinionated behavior, where the speaker gives maximize good income to listener. The speaker uses *Opinion-reticence maxim* because she minimizes the expression of disagreement between herself and listener. Furthermore, the disagreement of the speaker is expressed by partial agreement.

Data 5

Marmee: *Why don't we put some firewood?*

Amy : *It's good, isn't it? (5.1)*

Beth : *That's nice, hh ...*

In this context, the dialogue of the speaker (Amy) showed a respond the words of the listener (Marmee). And the listener (Beth) gave good agreement what did the speaker say was right. The speaker uses Agreement maxim because the dialogue of the speaker indicates good respond that make positive FTA of the listener. And absolutely maximize the expression of agreement between herself and listener.

Data 6

Meg : *Marmee, we d]on't need our toes.*

Marmee: *I think I've lost one.*

Jo : *Has anyone else lost their toe? (6.1)*

In this context, the words of the speaker (Jo) gave meaning that the speaker indicates a question for requests indirectly to listener. The speaker uses *Tact maxim*

because she minimizes the cost and maximizes the benefit to listener. And giving an opportunity to listener without evoke a negative FTA of listener.

Data 7

Amy : But I thought he was a mean old man. (7.1)

Marmee: It's so generous of him.

In this context, the utterance of the speaker (Amy) had a purpose to express what she thought about him. Then the speaker told to listener. The speaker uses *Opinion-reticence maxim* because she refers to maximize her expression than listener and minimize the expression of listener. And as if her opinions matter more than others'.

Data 8

*Amy : But doesn't Laurie just seem so romantic? He's half Italian.
(8.1)*

Beth : What do you know?

You've barely spoken to him. Ow!

In this context, the expression of the speaker (Amy) indicates that the man was so low in her eyes. But, the listener gave the respond, she looked disagreement what the speaker said. The speaker uses *Opinion-reticence maxim* because she looks very clear to maximize her expression and make negative FTA's listener.

Data 9

Meg : Jo! Don't say such despicable things.

Jo : I like good, strong words that mean something. (9.1)

In this context, the expression of the speaker (Jo) indicates that she liked the respond of the strong word. Where we can say the speaker likes to pay a compliment. The speaker uses *Approbation maxim* because she minimizes dispraise of listener and to avoid saying unpleasant things about her family or herself, especially to the listener.

Data 10

Amy : I have to go back to school, and I don't have any limes. (10.1)

Meg : Limes?

Amy : All the girls are trading pickled limes, and I'm in debt. I owe over so many limes.

In this context, the speaker's purpose said in datum (10.1) was the speaker had to do as soon as possible. It means the speaker must go to school right away. The speaker uses *Feelings-reticence maxim* because she minimizes antipathy between herself and listener. And the speaker wants to listener worry about her.

Data 11

Aunt : Is there a reason you stopped march reading Belsham?

Jo : I'm sorry. (11.1)

In this context, the listener (Aunt March) gave a question that the listener didn't like if the speaker (Jo) always read a book. The speaker uses *Obligation of S to O maxim* because she gives high prominence and hopes sympathy's listener to maximize the expression.

Data 12

Marmee: Well, it's possible to be right and foolish. .

Jo : Well, I don't think so. (12.1)

In this context, the speaker (Jo) got recognition from her mother (Marmee) about her real mother. Then the speaker was not believed what her mother said. The speaker uses *Opinion-reticence maxim* because she prefers to disagreement expression between herself and others.

Data 13

Marmee: So how would you like to be person I take?

Jo : I'd like that more than anything. (13.1)

In this context, the speaker (Jo) obtains a question from her mother about her future partner, and the speaker answer with confidence. The speaker uses *Opinion-reticence maxim* because she shows the disagreement is usually expressed by partial agreement. And supposed greater understanding.

Data 14

laurie : Yes, Mr. Brooke, there is a girl.

Amy : No, there's not.

I'll get to go home again. (14.1)

In this context, the speaker (Amy) needs help to someone where no one saw her. Then, the listener (Laurie) looked her from his window, and he scream to the speaker. The speaker uses *Feelings-reticence maxim* because she gives a purpose that the speaker constraints places a low value on one's own feelings with the negative FTA's the speaker.

Data 15

Jo : *Yes! Beth would adore the piano. (15.1)*

Mr. Laurence : *Is the quite one?*

Meg : *Yes, that's our Beth.*

In this context, the speaker (Jo) granted avowal to the listener (Mr. Laurence) about her young sister. Then the listener asked her to make sure what the speaker said is true. And her older sister said yes also. The speaker uses *Approbation maxim* because she maximizes praise to others with the purpose she wants maximize FTA of the listener.

Data 16

Amy : *Can I come look at the paintings? (16.1)*

Laurie: *Yes.*

In this context, the speaker (Amy) asked a question that made her happy on basic to comply with his will and the listener only saying yes without said anymore. The speaker uses *Tact maxim* because she maximizes the benefit to others. And the speaker gives meaning that the speaker said a familiar aspect of politeness that creates the listener can't move slightly.

Discussions

In the discussion explain the data has been found and analyzed by the researcher in the previous chapter. The answers are about describing politeness strategies used by Jo's and Amy's character based on maxim of politeness. After commit the analysis, researcher found several types of maxim politeness and different maxim politeness used by Jo's and Amy's character in *Little Women* movie.

Jo and Amy characters have a different type of maxim politeness in the expression of the politeness strategies they used. Regarding politeness, the component that going to in Jo and Amy characters can be seen from how are the politeness strategies used by Jo and Amy characters based on six parts of maxim politeness. In between, how did a wise to grant high value to the other person. Then, how to give sincere commendation, and their way when do apologies to other's people. When they are sympathetic, and give their opinions well. And the thing that stands out the most among the six parts of the maxim of politeness is that they use the *Agreement Maxim* more often.

The difference between previous research and current research is that relatively few researchers use the maxim of politeness theory by (Leech Geoffrey, 2014), and it can be said that researchers rarely use the maxim of politeness theory in film research. Therefore, apart from being interested in the story of Little Women movie, the researcher is also interested in examining the language style used by the two actors, namely Jo and Amy March on Little Women movie.

The similarities of this study with previous researcher uses maxim politeness strategies theory by (Leech Geoffrey, 2014) for playing character in movie. Moreover, the difference from this study with the previous subject of this study is the object, because no one analyzed before about Little Women movie and just chose two characters of the main character in the movie as a subject while the previous study chose thesis acknowledgment. The main character in the movie is more chosen because it is more prominent in the film and has their own unique character. In addition, another reason is why taking this research is because we as human who take the example in a movie can know the importance of politeness strategies that can be applied in social life or social interaction.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

We have already known that the use of language in communication is called pragmatics, where pragmatics involves the expression of someone in conveying a message or someone who hears the message. For this reason, researcher has found expressions that have been used by Jo and Amy March on Little Women movie based on the maxim of politeness theory by (Leech Geoffrey, 2014).

Little Women movie is a historical genre film that tells of four sisters take care and love of each other, which of course every speech when Jo and Amy characters interact will reflect a prominent ethics and commitment identity in that environment.

According the data and based on Leech's theory, the maxim of politeness often used by Jo and Amy March is the *Agreement Maxim* because of a close relationship between their families, and also they have close relation and intensiveness with their sisters.

From the previous study just more focused in politeness strategies, whereas the present of the study just more focused he expression used by Jo and Amy based on maxims of politeness to help the student understand about maxim of politeness that can be practiced in social interactions so that their interaction run smoothly.

From the perspective of the data object, the next researcher can use theory maxim of politeness by other characters. For reason that other actors in this film or others films may have different characteristics. Therefore, from the words they can see based on pragmatic views and reflected identity will have different characteristics. Thus, data selected from other characters or other films will potentially be investigated for further study.

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