

POLITENESS MAXIM OF CHARACTER'S UTTERANCES IN WUTHERING HEIGHTS NOVEL BY EMILY BRONTHE

Amallyanna Ramadhini

Prof. Dr. Zainuddin, DIP.TEFL., M.Hum.

Universitas Negeri Medan

Abstract

This study was aimed at identifying the types and the dominant type of the Politeness Maxim of Character's Utterances in *Wuthering Heights* Novel by Emily Bronthe and the reason why it used in the novel. This study was conducted by applying descriptive qualitative method. The source of data was taken from a novel written by Emily Bronthe entitled *Wuthering Heights*. The results showed that there are 6 types of politeness maxim namely tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim and sympathy maxim totalling 64 utterances with the dominant type is agreement maxim totalling 22 utterances (34,37%). There was only 1 type of politeness maxim that not used in the novel which is modesty maxim. The reason why politeness maxim used by the main character was that to politely express his message and intimate the relation to other characters.

Keywords: *Politeness, Politeness Maxim, Utterances, Novel.*

A. Introduction

In daily life, during the process of communication, people think of polite or impolite words to use either in spoken or even in written. In this case, people who tend to use appropriate language will be considered as a good and well-mannered people, example like in different social situations, when we are with a friend and we can easily say, "*Give me that glass!*", however, with a group of adult, we must say, "*Could you please bring me a glass of water, if you don't mind?*". The example above states that people should consider about politeness especially in communication.

Related to politeness, there is one of the pragmatic experts, he is Geoffrey Leech. Leech (2003:104) states that politeness is situated in the field of sociopragmatics, because that research is geared towards "explaining communicative behavior". It means politeness concern a relationship between two participants whom we may self and other. Leech concludes the theory politeness into maxims, they are tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. Cruse in Cutting (2012:51) he points out that politeness maxim as the bright side of life because by using politeness maxim can be softening painful, distressing, embarrassing, shocking event, so we need to learn about politeness to make other people feel at ease when talked to us. It

can also decrease some problems or conflicts in communication such as misunderstanding.

This study tends to analyze the politeness maxims theory by Leech that is used by the main character between other character in the novel entitled *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte. Because, politeness occurred not only in the daily communication, but also found in the novel. According to the previous study (Lian, 2018), the conclusion of politeness principle analysis in novel entitled *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte puts forward that the character always violates the Leech's politeness principle and their implied meanings in their speech communication.

In this research, the researcher wants to expose polite utterance by the main character in the novel by finding the types and dominant type of politeness maxim found also the reason of the use politeness maxim in the novel, because utterances in the novel are quite same as our daily conversation, so the result can be used to help people in understanding politeness theory.

B. Theoretical Framework

Being polite in social interaction and communication within a particular culture is an important thing. This is related to an appropriate social behavior and good respect of others. In communication, politeness can be defined as the means to show awareness of another person's face. Some people attempt to be polite in their social interaction such as being generous, modest, and sympathetic with others. Some might categorize a polite person, as always being considerate towards other people.

Politeness firstly formulated in 1978 by Brown and Levinson, where the theory of politeness is a concept of *face* as proposed by Goffman (1967). Brown and Levinson (1987:1) maintains that politeness presuppose a potential for aggression as it takes to disarm it and make possible communication between potentially aggressive partners. From the definition, politeness is one of the basic social guidelines for human interaction that showed in a good manner and consideration for others.

Based on Leech theory (2014:81), politeness is about the concept of *cost and benefit*. In communication with other, the speaker should determine which behavior or utterance that they used to make the addressee feel at ease. Leech in his book *The Pragmatic of Politeness (2014)* proposed a theory of politeness namely politeness principle. This theory will be politeness principle might be formulated as minimizes the expression of impolite beliefs and maximizes the expression of polite beliefs. Politeness principle is divided into six maxims, such as the generosity maxim, the tact maxim, the approbation maxim, the modesty maxim, the agreement maxim, and the sympathy maxim.

1) Tact Maxim

Aloy: Please, have a dinner first! We already had dinner.

Adrianto: Thank you, by the way.

The conversation above explains the example of tact maxim that shown Aloy's minimize cost to other and maximize benefit to other by ask Adrianto to have a dinner. In this maxim, the speaker minimizes the cost and correspondingly maximizes the benefit to listener.

2) Generosity Maxim

Adelia: Sister, let me do your laundry because I need to do my laundry too!

Fairuz: It's okay. I am planning to do my laundry too this afternoon.

The conversation above clearly explains the generosity maxim. Adelia's trying to minimize benefits to self and maximize cost to self. It is shown that Adelia ask to laundry Fairuz's clothes. The generosity maxim requires us to be generous to others. This maxim is self-oriented while tact maxim is directed to other (focuses on the speaker and says that others should be put first instead of the self).

3) Approbation maxim

Teacher: Sir, I have been started my first teaching class.

Headmaster: Oh, yes I heard it. Your English and your explanation was so good.

The example above is explaining about the approbation maxim. It is shown when teacher told about his/her first teaching class to the headmaster and the headmaster responds superb with compliment to the teacher. Approbation maxim refers to minimize dispraise of others and maximize praise of others. This maxim is used to avoid saying unpleasant things about others, especially to the hearer.

4) Modesty Maxim

Headmaster: Miss, I would like you to open this seminar.

Teacher: OMG... I'll be so nervous.

The conversation above is explaining the modesty maxim. The example shown that the headmaster wants the teacher to open the seminar and actually the teacher is not respond it with "Yes, I can do that" even though s/he can but the teacher said different. Because the teacher minimizes praise of self and maximize dispraise of self. Both approbation maxim and modesty maxim concern with the degree of good or bad evaluation of other or self that is performed by speaker. However, this maxim usually occurs in apologizing something.

5) Agreement Maxim

Aloy: It is quite hot in here; don't you think?

Eka: Yes, it is. I wonder where the AC's remote is.

The example above is explaining the agreement maxim. It can be seen that Aloy and Eka are having the same opinion about the room. Eka confirm that the room is hot and he need to find the AC's remote. The agreement

maxim refers to minimize the expression of disagreement between self and other and maximize the expression of agreement between self and other.

6) Sympathy Maxim

Adrianto: Yesterday, I fell off the bicycle and hurt my leg.

Eka: I'm sorry to hear that, are you all right now?

The example above is explaining the last maxim that refers to minimizing antipathy between self and other. It can be seen when Eka feel sympathy toward Adrianto's condition. This utterance seems care about the hearer and shows the sympathy of the speaker to the hearer.

C. Wuthering

Heights

Novel

This novel was the only novel Emily Bronte has written. It was published in 1847 after she written this novel between October 1845 and June 1846. This novel categorized as a classic literary work in Victorian era.

Wuthering Heights, the name of a house that witnessed all the tragic stories that happened. A home in the highlands that must be prepare to face the storm anytime are witnesses to the cruelty of a revenge.

Little Heathcliff begin living in that place after being picked up by Mr. Earnshaw at Liverpool. Heatcliff, who was dark-skinned and like a gypsy boy, was not liked by Mrs. Earnshaw and Hindley, eldest son of the family. Even so, Heatcliff was very loved by Mr. Earnshaw and immediately appointed as a child. Heatcliff, the quiet boy became Mr. Earnshaw's favorite child especially after Mrs. Earnshaw died. While Hindley grew resentful because he was treated unfairly. To avoid a fight with Heatcliff and change his behavior, Hindley was sent out to attend school. Hindley just came home when Mr. Earnshaw died. His return brought its own excitement because he brought a woman he called his wife. From that moment Heatcliff's life changed. Hindley is now free to take revenge on Heatcliff by often acting unfairly on her and Catherine (Cathy) her sister who is familiar with Heatcliff. Worse, Hindley treated Heatcliff like a maid. Cathy herself grows wild because she doesn't get attention from her brother.

One night, due to a small accident, Heatcliff came home without Cathy. For five weeks since the accident, Cathy was treated at Thrushcross Grange, the Linton family home. There he was educated to be a real woman. When he finally returned to Wuthering Heights, there was no longer the impression of a wild boy who used to make Hindley punish him. While changes of Cathy were greeted cheerfully by Hindley, not so with Heatcliff. With the intention of embarrassing Heatcliff, Hindley told Cathy to meet him in the kitchen. Heatcliff is neglected, which does not take days to bathe, and looks very bad as the maid feels humiliated. In addition, he felt that his good friend and loved one, Cathy, had been deprived of his life. That's how Heatcliff went from Wuthering Heights with revenge and hoped that someday he would return to being a rich man and avenge him.

From the beginning of Heatcliff's return to Wuthering Heights, he had devised a plan of revenge. The first was to destroy Hindley Earnshaw by making his son Hareton Earnshaw obey him. That method was successful because at that time Hindley was in a bad condition after his wife died. His emotions are often uncontrolled and always wreaked on Hareton. Seeing Heatcliff's kindness, Hareton became obedient and considered him a pleasant friend. His second revenge was to destroy the Linton family. At that time, Cathy was married to Edgar Linton. By making Isabella, Linton's sister, fall in love with him, Heatcliff began to destroy the family slowly. Heatcliff then disappears by taking away Isabella. While Cathy finally died after giving birth to her daughter who was also named Catherine.

Heatcliff returned a few years later with Linton, his son. Whereas Isabella also died. His revenge continued, now by utilizing Linton. Heatcliff who has taken over Wuthering Heights, cunningly made little Cathy fall in love with her own brother, Linton. By all means, Heatcliff was able to ensnare Cathy to make Edgar Linton sick and eventually die miserably. To achieve his goal, Cathy was married to Linton. Caused by a disease that never healed, Linton finally died. Automatically, all of Linton's family assets fell into his hands. Wuthering Heights belonging to the Earnshaw family and the Linton family Thrushcross Grange officially belonged to him. That's how Heatcliff took revenge.

D. Research

Methodology

This study focuses its attention on politeness maxim used in character's utterances. This study is conducted and described by the way of descriptive qualitative. The sources of data were taken from the story of *Wuthering Heights* novel by Emily Bronte. There are 34 chapters of the novel; 14 chapters in volume 1 and 20 chapters in volume 2. The data are the main character's utterances that contains of the politeness maxim.

The technique of collecting data are the researcher observes the main data by reading intensively *Wuthering Heights* novel, the researcher marks the important utterances from the character's conversation, the researcher takes note on the character's utterances related to the analysis. When the data were collected, they were analyzed by using the descriptive technique related to Leech's theory. The data would be analyzed based on the following steps, first, identifying the character's utterances through the dialogues, second, classifying the character's utterances and categorizing them into six maxims of politeness principle by Leech: Generosity, Tact, Approbation, Modesty, Agreement, and Sympathy, analyzing the character's utterances found into types of politeness maxim based on Leech's theory, determining the most dominant type by using this formula:

$$X = \frac{F}{Nx} \times 100\%$$

Where:

X = the percentage of the types of politeness maxim

F = frequency of the politeness maxim

N = total number of the politeness maxim

Finding out the dominant type of politeness maxim used in the utterances of *Wuthering Heights* Novel, describing the reason of the use politeness maxim in the utterances of *Wuthering Heights* novel, and the last is describing the results and findings of the study.

E. Findings

The data analysis shows that not all types of politeness maxim is found in *Wuthering Heights* novel. To see the occurrences of politeness maxim in *Wuthering Heights* novel can be seen in the table below

No	Types of Politeness Maxim	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Tact Maxim	16	25
2	Generosity Maxim	4	6,25
3	Approbation Maxim	8	12,50
4	Modesty Maxim	0	0
5	Agreement Maxim	22	34,37
6	Sympathy Maxim	14	21,88
Total		64	100%

Based on the research, there are 6 types of politeness maxim in *Wuthering Heights* novel; they are tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim and sympathy maxim. Based on the table 4.1 it can be seen that the dominant types of politeness maxim used is agreement maxim which reach percentage 34,37%. And the least types of politeness maxim in *Wuthering Heights* novel is modesty maxim with the percentage 0%.

a. Agreement Maxim

There are 22 data from the main character's utterances typed as agreement maxim. It takes the biggest amount of all types of maxim from the utterances, which is 34, 37%. The type of agreement maxim is described as follow.

Data 1:

“Are you going to make the tea?” (Page 15, chapter 2)

Data 1 shows the maxim of Agreement. It is the Heathcliff's utterances which show that Heathcliff minimizes the expression of disagreement between self and other and maximizes the expression of agreement between self and other.

Data 2:

“Cathy, are you busy this afternoon?” asked Heathcliff. “Are you going anywhere?” (Page 86, chapter 8)

Data 2 shows the maxim of Agreement. It is the Heathcliff's utterances which show that Heathcliff minimizes the expression of disagreement between

self and other and maximizes the expression of agreement between self and other.

b. Tact Maxim

There are 16 data from the main character's utterances typed as agreement maxim. It takes 25% from the amount of all types of maxim from the utterances. The type of tact maxim is described as follow.

Data 1:

Joseph, take Mr. Lockwood's horse; and bring up some wine. (page 4, chapter 1)

Data 1 shows the maxim of Tact. It is the Heathcliff's utterances which show that Heathcliff minimizes the cost and correspondingly maximizes the benefit to listener. Heathcliff wants to treat Joseph by asking him to bring some wine which means he minimizes cost to Joseph and maximizes the benefit to Joseph.

Data 2:

'You'd better let the dog alone,' (page 7, chapter 1)

Data 2 shows the maxim of Tact. It is the Heathcliff's utterances which show that Heathcliff minimizes the cost and correspondingly maximizes the benefit to listener.

c. Sympathy Maxim

There are 14 data from the main character's utterances typed as agreement maxim. It takes 21, 88% from the amount of all types of maxim from the utterances. The type of tact maxim is described as follow.

Data 1:

'What is the matter?' (page 8, chapter 1)

Data 1 shows the maxim of Tact. It is the Heathcliff's utterances which show that Heathcliff minimizes antipathy between himself and other character and maximizes sympathy between himself and other character. Kami performs the use of sympathy maxim because he pays attention by asking about the situation.

Data 2:

'Did she say she was grieved? (page 70, chapter 4)

Data 2 shows the maxim of Tact. It is the Heathcliff's utterances which show that Heathcliff minimizes antipathy between himself and other character and maximizes sympathy between himself and other character.

d. Approbation Maxim

There are 8 data from the main character's utterances typed as agreement maxim. It takes 12, 50% from the amount of all types of maxim from the utterances. The type of tact maxim is described as follow.

Data 1:

'My amiable lady! 'Where is she my amiable lady?' (page 16, chapter 2)

Data 1 shows the maxim of Tact. It is the Heathcliff's utterances which show that Heathcliff minimizes dispraise of others and maximizes praise of others. It

shows that the main character avoids saying unpleasant things about others, especially to the hearer.

Data 2:

Frances is quite right: she'll be perfectly well by this time next week. (page 81, chapter 8)

Data 2 shows the maxim of Tact. In the Heathcliff's utterance above, he says good thing and avoids saying unpleasant thing. It is the Heathcliff's utterances which show that Heathcliff minimizes dispraise of others and maximizes praise of others.

e. Generosity Maxim

There are 4 data from the main character's utterances typed as agreement maxim. It takes 6, 25% from the amount of all types of maxim from the utterances. The type of tact maxim is described as follow.

Data 1:

'Thruscross Grange is my own, sir,' he interrupted, wincing. 'I should not allow anyone to inconvenience me, if I could hinder it walk in!' (page 3, chapter 1)

Data 1 shows the maxim of Tact. It is the Heathcliff's utterances which show that Heathcliff minimizes benefits to himself and maximizes cost to himself.

Data 2:

'In other words, I must wish for Edgar Linton's great blue eyes and even forehead. (page 71, chapter 7)

Data 2 shows the maxim of Tact. It is the Heathcliff's utterances which show that Heathcliff minimizes benefits to himself and maximizes cost to himself.

The dominant types of politeness maxim in Wuthering Heights novel is Agreement Maxim 34, 37% from the amount of all types of maxim from the utterances. The rest follow with 25% of tact maxim, 21, 88% of sympathy maxim, 12, 50% of approbation maxim, and 6, 25% of generosity maxim.

The reason of the use of politeness maxim in Wuthering Heights novel is that the researcher tends to use the aspect of formality of both (+) formal and mostly (-) formal of how formal or casual the interactions are, and also the aspect of affection of the (+) interpersonal continuum which indicates the emotional aspect of the character. The researcher also tended to use the aspect of contact, which indicates the frequency of interaction of some characters. Based on the analysis, the researcher found that the aspect of contact lies in the (+) frequent which is shown by the way the character addressing other characters.

F. Conclusion

Based on the reasearch findings found after analyzing the utterances of character in Wuthering Heights novel, the conclusion of this research are the total numbers of politeness maxim in Wuthering Heights novel are 64 which are found in Wuthering Heights, Heathcliff's character. There are five types politeness maxim that used in

Wuthering Heights novel, consisting Tact Maxim, Generosity Maxim, Approbation Maxim, Agreement Maxim and Sympathy Maxim. While there is a type of politeness maxim that is not used in Wuthering Heights novel that have been selected, it is Modesty Maxim. The dominant types of politeness maxim in Wuthering Heights novel is Agreement Maxim 34, 37% from the amount of all types of maxim from the utterances. The rest follow with 25% of tact maxim, 21, 88% of sympathy maxim, 12, 50% of approbation maxim, and 6, 25% of generosity maxim. Based on the analysis, the researcher found that the aspect of contact lies in the (+) frequent which is shown by the way the character addressing other characters.

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