



Positive Politeness In “On the Basis of Sex” Movie

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at analyzing the types of positive politeness strategy of the main character which represented in *On the Basis of Sex* movie. The descriptive qualitative method used to gain the findings of the data. The video recording used to gain transcription from the movie was the source of the data. From that findings, the data found were 90 utterances spoken by Ruth as the main character of the movie. And from those utterances, 29 represented as Positive Politeness which was 32,2%. The forms of positive politeness, Ruth represented 27

forms of positive politeness, with *Question* was the most dominant type of all with 8 amounts (29%), followed by *Request* 7 (26%), *Disagreement* with 6 (22%), *Suggestion* with 4 (15%) amount, and *Rejection* and *Chastisement* shared 1 (4%). Thus, the writer found that positive politeness in the movie often emerged because the theme was about law school, court room, and national administration.

Keywords:

Politeness Strategy, Positive Politeness, Forms of Positive Politeness

INTRODUCTION

This study of language that is concerned with meaning of utterances is pragmatics. As Yule (1996) states that pragmatics is the study of what speakers mean, or 'speaker meaning', is called Pragmatics. It is one of the branches of linguistics. By studying meaning of a word, phrase, sentences. We can get the intention of one interaction other than to interpret its meaning.

Further study by Kamlasi (2017) divides the forms of politeness into 6 types. They are Question, Request, Suggestion, Rejection, Chastisement, and Disagreement. He also states that in formal condition, speaker should speak more polite to show his or her respect to the hearer. This supports more about positive politeness in daily activity.

The film entitled *On the Basis of Sex* tells about the journey of Ruth Bader Ginsburg from a student in Harvard to Supreme Justice. The making of this film is to depict what she did in the story of her as a lawyer. The film puts the situation most house where they lived, school, and courtroom, where the different statuses such as parents, friends, colleague, boss or the superior, lawyer, and interact as the result there are many politeness strategy employed in this movie. Since there are many employment of positive politeness strategy found in the dialogue in the film entitled *On the Basis of Sex*. To clarify the study background, the following example will give clear understanding about it.

Ruth : May it please the court. Your honors and may it please the court... May it please the court.

The example above is one of the positive politeness, Ruth as the main character is trying to be polite in the court room instead of being impolite, considering the hearer are Judge, Government, etc. This indicates that the strategy works for Ruth as the single speaker in the room. This also indicated that Ruth as the main character used her positive politeness in the *Request* type of all six types of politeness.

Politeness Strategy

According to Brown and Levinson (1987), politeness strategies are developed in order to save the hearer feeling. Feeling refers to the respect an individual face and maintaining self-confidence in public or in a private situation. Usually, a person tries to avoid embarrassing to another person or making him feel uncomfortable. In Brown and Levinson (1987) analysis, politeness involves us showing awareness of other face want in the interaction between speaker keeps and cooperate to respect face themselves. That concept will be different from one culture to another.

Yule (1996) adds that politeness is an instruction can be defined as the means employed to show awareness of another person's face. Furthermore he says showing awareness for another person's face when that order socially distant is often described in terms of respect or deference.

Brown & Levinson's outline four main types of politeness strategies are

Bald on Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off Record Strategy. The detail explanation will be described as following.

a. Bald on-Record Strategy

Brown and Levinson (1987) say the term “Bald on record” is used when an expression has “one unambiguously attributable intention with which witnesses would concur”. They also state that Bald on record is a direct politeness strategy which contains no repressive particle to soften the Face greatingening Act (FTA).

a. Positive Politeness Strategy

Brown & Levinson (1987) state that Positive Politeness Strategy is a strategy of speaking which is used less intimacy statement by extend metaphorical implications. This strategy occurs between strangers to start a conversation, exchange informations and interaction. It is also used to get closer to the hearer. In other words, positive politeness is used as a kind of social acceleration.

b. Negative Politeness Strategy

According to Brown & Levinson (1987), Negative Politeness Strategy is a kind of strategy which pressing action addressed to the addressee, meaning he or she wants to have his/her freedom of action unbounded.

c. Off-Record Strategy

Off record is a communicative act that is done by unclear speaker’s communicative intention in order to give an impression that he did not do

something or to avoid the responsibility for doing it and letting the hearer decide how to interpret it.

The Forms of Positive Politeness

The forms of positive politeness classification usually occurred in spoken or written language, not gestures. Kamlasi (2017) states that to have a polite conversation the speaker will choose appropriate strategies. It means politeness involves taking account of the other's feeling and being polite person means that he should make others feel comfortable. Wardhaugh (2006) highlights that, in conversation speaker must constantly make choices of many different kinds: what the speaker wants to say, how to say it, and the specific sentence types, words, and sounds that best unite the what with the how. The way of looking at this relationship is to examine a few specific aspects of communication: namely, pronominal choice forms in languages that require a choice, the use of naming and address terms, and the employment of politeness markers. Below are the forms of positive politeness explained by Kamlasi (2017).

a. Question

Question is a part of conversation. In any kind of situation; when the speakers are having conversation they must use questions. The speakers use question in order to get more information. The questions which are used by the speakers in data above mean to know or even get information; such as "What subject do you like?"

b. Request

In the conversation; the speakers may involve in using request to ask something politely. The speakers tend to use polite strategy in the conversation.

b. Suggestion

Suggestion indicates that utterances show how the speakers care about the situation of the hearers have, therefore they need to suggest them as the strategy in politeness.

c. Rejection

Rejection means that the speaker refuses in formal ways. As another solution, one offers "how about tomorrow or call you later" are the simple example of polite rejection. In this way, the speaker save his or her face in refusing something.

d. Chastisement

This positive politeness deals with judging to what hearer's situation. The implementation slightly determines the hearer's future. For example, "I'm not worry about you, but you'll be alone tomorrow". This also indicates the guilty of the speaker if the hearer doesn't hear his or her warning.

e. Disagreement

These is a disagreement on hearer's statement. The denial must be polite in every situation. The word like "I'm sorry but I don't agree with you", or "With all due respect, I think your opinion needs addition". These

utterances clearly similar with Objection and Contradiction.

METHOD

This study focused on positive politeness strategies used by the main character. This study conducted and described by the way of descriptive qualitative. A descriptive qualitative method is used qualitative method means that all data has been analyzed in the form of sentences and words. The source of the data was *On the Basis of Sex* movie which premiered in 2018. Directed by Mimi Leder and written by Daniel Stiepleman. The data was the utterances of Ruth as the main character. Thus, from the utterances, positive politeness gained throughout the indication from Brown and Levinson (1987) theory and the forms has been classified from Kamlasi (2017) classifications. The technique of analyzing data used by the writer as follows.

1. Identifying the positive politeness strategy found in *On The Basis of Sex* movie, the main character's positive politeness toward it and the scene or statement that support the positive politeness in the movie.
2. Classifying the positive politeness strategy as found in the movie with title *On the Basis of Sex* and their positive politeness toward it.
3. Analyzing about the main character's positive politeness toward gender discrimination in *On the Basis of Sex* movie which viewed from the positive politeness strategy that relate with the theory.

4. Concluding the character's positive politeness based on the positive politeness strategy.

RESULTS

In collecting the data from the source of data, it was found that there were 90 utterances in total and 29 utterances spoken by Ruth as the main character which indicated the positive politeness strategy.

The Main Character's Forms of Positive Politeness from *On the Basis of Sex*

Movie

Ruth as the main character showed 29 utterances from 90 utterances in total of the dialogue. And from that 29 utterances indicated positive politeness, there were 27 forms of politeness gained by viewing from Kalmasi (2017) theory.

Table 4.1. Amounts and Percentages of Forms in Positive Politeness

Number of Positive Politenesses	Amounts and Percentages of Forms in Positive Politeness					
	Question	Request	Suggestion	Rejection	Chastisement	Disagreement
29 Positive Politenesses	8 (29%)	7 (26%)	4 (15%)	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	6 (22%)
Total of Forms of Positive Politeness Strategy : 27						

Ruth to Martin : You barely touched your tuna casserole. I put onions in.

They help, right?

This dialogue was taken when Ruth asked her husband about the food.

The word "***They help, right?***" showed and this is the *Request* form.

Ruth to Martin : (At the Kitchen) A Court ought not be affected by the weather of the day, but will be by the climate of the era.

This happened when Ruth spoke with her wife. While she denied that ***a court decision wasn't affected by the weather but the era*** clearly showed that she disagreed with Martin when speaking in the kitchen discussed about the Court. This is the *Dissagrement* form.

*Marty could relapse! The doctors say at any time. He puts a good face on it, but I can see it. He's scared. Dean Griswold, **this is my family.***

When Ruth denied that Prof. Griswold wanted to be present at court room. By saying "***this is my family***", she rejected the Professor's request.

This is the *Rejection* form.

DISCUSSIONS

The study was aimed to find out the positive politeness strategy of Ruth as the main character of *On the Basis of Sex* movie. The realization centered from Ruth's utterances during the movie scenes. The positive politeness was the main object in this study. While the politeness strategy as the main theory involved to her, there were 90 utterances spoken, and from that 90 amounts, 29 utterances represented as positive politeness, which would be 32,2 %. The forms of positive politeness, Ruth represented 27 forms of positive politeness, with *Question* was the most dominant type of all with 8

amounts (29%)

CONCLUSIONS

After the data of positive politeness strategy in *On the Basis of Sex* movie had been analyzed, conclusion were described as follow. The data found were 90 utterances spoken by Ruth as the main character of the movie. And from those utterances, 29 represented as Positive Politeness which was 32,2%. The forms of positive politeness, Ruth represented 27 forms of positive politeness, with *Question* was the most dominant type of all with 8 amounts (29%), followed by Request 7 (26%), Disagreement with 6 (22%), Suggestion with 4 (15%) amount, and Rejection and Chasetisement shared 1 (4%). Therefore, the positive politeness spoken by Ruth filtered by using the collective method from the dialogue of the movie, which has been analyzed to gained the number effectively.

There are several suggestions that the writer could offer to reader towards politeness strategy learning, they were.

1. It is suggested to the next writer who want to make wider exploration on politeness strategy especially positive politeness which was important on analyzing words that came up with the ownself conclusion in the beginning until the end of the study. It is also important that data of the next study could be convert into other sources of data, like important events, novel, drama, etc.

2. For anyone who read this study, especially student, it is suggested to increase and develop. Because there were still many aspects that can be studied about the characteristics of politeness. And for the sustainability for this study, it was hoped that the other writers collected more resources like articles, books, and journals about politeness strategy.

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