

**AN ANALYSIS OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN DIRECTIVE
SPEECH ACT USED BY MAIN CHARACTER IN GREEN BOOK MOVIE**

Thesis

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain
Strata One (S1) Degree*



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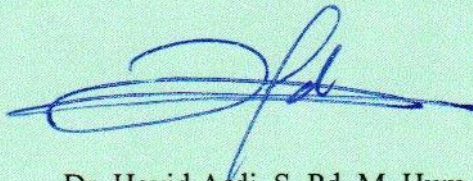
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
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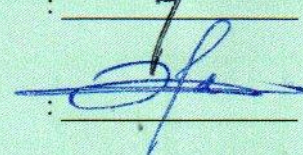
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ABSTRACT

Restuadi, Yohan. 2021. *An Analysis of Politeness Strategies in Directive Speech Act Used by Main Character in Green Book Movie*. Thesis. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

This research aims at examining the types of directive speech act in the Green Book movie, and politeness strategies employed by the main characters. The purpose of this research is to find out the type of directive speech act used by main characters and what the types of politeness strategies used in directive speech acts as function in Green Book movie. The data were directive utterance that uttered by Tony Vallelonga and Dr. Donald Shirley and the source of the main data in this study was Green Book movie and its script. This research belonged to a descriptive-qualitative method. The results of the study show that there were five kinds of directive speech act and four types of politeness strategies. The amount totals of data are 163. The findings of the analysis reveal that there are 39 data of commanding, 36 data of requesting, 56 data of questioning, 24 data of suggesting, and 8 data of forbidding. While in politeness strategies, there are bald-on record 77 data, positive politeness 71 data, negative politeness 13 data and bald-off record 2 data. Directive speech act in the form questioning is commonly used by main character and bald on record is the mostly used in politeness strategy which is a strategy where the utterances are uttered clearly and concisely.

Key Words: Speech Act, Directive, Politeness Strategies

ABSTRAK

Restuadi, Yohan. 2021. *An Analysis of Politeness Strategies in Directive Speech Act Used by Main Character in Green Book Movie*. Thesis.

**Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni.
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Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji jenis-jenis tindak tutur direktif dalam film *Green Book*, dan strategi kesantunan yang digunakan oleh para tokoh utama. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis tindak tutur direktif yang digunakan oleh tokoh utama dan jenis strategi kesantunan apa yang digunakan dalam tindak tutur direktif sebagai fungsi dalam film *Green Book*. Datanya adalah tuturan direktif yang diucapkan oleh Tony Vallelonga dan Dr. Donald Shirley dan sumber data utama dalam penelitian ini adalah film *Green Book* dan naskahnya. Penelitian ini termasuk dalam metode deskriptif-kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada lima jenis tindak tutur direktif dan empat jenis strategi kesantunan. Jumlah total data adalah 163. Hasil analisis mengungkapkan bahwa ada 39 data memerintah, 36 data meminta, 56 data bertanya, 24 data menyarankan, dan 8 melarang. Sedangkan pada strategi kesantunan terdapat data bald-on record 77 data, kesantunan positif 71 data, kesantunan negatif 13 data dan bald-off record 2 data. Tindak tutur direktif berupa Tanya jawab biasa digunakan oleh tokoh utama dan bald on record paling banyak digunakan dalam strategi kesantunan yang merupakan strategi di mana tuturan diucapkan dengan jelas dan ringkas.

Kata kunci: tindak tutur, direktif, strategi kesantunan

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

S: Speaker

H: Hearer

C: Commanding

R: Requesting

Q: Questioning

S: Suggesting

F: Forbidding

BO: Bald on Record

PP: Positive Politeness

NP: Negative Politeness

OR: Off Record

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research Problem

Pragmatics is considered to be subject matter in daily communication. It might be because pragmatics is closely related to human's interaction. In communication, everyone tries to understand the intended meaning of the word said by partner of speech and relates it with context situation.

According to Yule (1998:3) pragmatic is the study of meaning as communicate by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). That is concerned with analyzing what speakers mean with their utterance and involves the interpretation of what people said in a particular context so they can decide the appropriate way and language to convey messages.

The ways speakers convey utterances as well as meanings will certainly differ from one another. Education background, ethnicity, age, power, gender, context, and many other aspects may influence the ways of speaking. Indeed, various social situations the speakers and the hearers possess may influence the speakers' utterances. Speakers should be able to choose appropriate language choice, in which the meanings will be successfully delivered and to choose appropriate ways to do so. "Being polite is trying to determine what the appropriate things to say to someone else are and what ones are not to." (Holmes, 1992: 296-297). Thus, appropriate language choice is closely related to politeness.

In pragmatics, politeness is one of central concept. Politeness is an important subject matter in a conversation. Politeness concerns a relationship

between two participants whom we may call self (speaker) and other (hearer). (Leech, 1983: 131). According to Yule, “politeness is a system of interpersonal relations designed to facilitate interaction by human interaction by minimizing the potential for conflict and confrontation inherent in all human interchange” (1996: 106). Brown and Levinson argue that “politeness is rational behavior to all humans and that everyone has a positive and negative face.” (1987: 61). Politeness relates to someone’s behavior in an interaction. Yule states that “face means public self-image of a person. It refers to that emotional and social sense of self that everyone has and expects everyone else to recognize.” (1996: 60).

According to Brown and Levinson (1987:68), politeness strategies are developed in order to save the hearer’s “face”. Face refers to the respect that an individual has for him or herself, and maintaining that “self-esteem” in public or in private situations (Brown and Levinson, 1987: 61). In some cases, we are supposed to avoid embarrassing the other person, or making them feel uncomfortable. Utterance or action to reduce the threat of another person's face is called a Face-saving action, while the threat given to another's self-image is called the Face-Threatening Act or FTA (Yule, 1998). Face threatening Acts (FTA’s) are acts that infringe on the hearer’s need to maintain his/her self-esteem, and be respected.

Brown and Levinson proposed a theory that is widely recognized and remains relevant as universal theory of politeness. It means they considered that every society has same sort of norms for the appropriate behavior, though these norms are varied. Brown and Levinson introduce five main politeness strategies (1) Bald on Record, (2) Positive Politeness, (3) Negative Politeness, (4) Off

Record, and (5) Don't Do the FTA. They are chosen depending on how risky the hearer's face in conversation is. These strategies are important to act speech politely.

Searle (1969:21) stated that speech act is the basic communication in the study of language. He classifies speech act into five types. They are representative, directive, commissive, declarative, and expressive. This study focuses on one type of speech act as stated by Searle above, which is directive speech act. Directives are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something. They express what the speaker wants (Yule, 1996: 54). In directive speech act, there are several objects that can be explored such as requesting, commanding, asking, ordering, and suggesting.

Research about politeness has been done by some researchers. They conducted in various areas such as in talk show (Ruansyah and Rukmini, 2018; Theresa, 2020; Hayati, 2015), in teaching (Reswari, 2013; Mahmud, 2019) in Novel (Ningsih, 2012; Radhiah, 2013; Rahayu, 2015) and in a Movie (Prameswari, 2015; Nur, 2019; Alfandy, 2020). Those studies above observed politeness strategies and directive speech act with different focus and object of the research.

Politeness is a wide area to investigate. Therefore, there have been some researchers who had previously conducted some studies concerning politeness with different focuses. Yunisaa Ammaida (2018) was analyzed politeness strategies employed by the users to give comment toward Donald Trump's Instagram post on International Women's Day and to explain the factors that

influence the users to use the strategies. In this research, the researcher found positive politeness strategy is the highest strategy with total 276 (53%) data out of 525 data used by the users to give the comment toward Donald Trump's Instagram post on International Women's Day. The researcher also found social distance factor which factor is mostly influence the users used politeness strategy. Then, Nur (2019) also did a research on politeness in Big Hero 6 Movies. This research focused on the politeness strategies in directive expression uttered by all characters in this animation kids & family movie. The findings of this research are there four kinds of directive speech acts uttered in Big Hero 6 movie, they are ordering, requesting, asking, and suggesting. While in the politeness strategy, there are five politeness strategies which are found in this movie, they are positive politeness, bald on record, negative politeness, off record, and not do the FTA. Recently, Angela (2020) did a research about politeness strategies in directive speech act by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in *super soul Sunday talk* show. Based on the analysis, both Oprah and Michelle did not apply off-record strategy, negative politeness strategy was absent in Michelle's utterances, and the most used strategy is positive politeness strategy. Furthermore, the sociological variables illustrated in each politeness strategy showed in communicating with people who have a higher power, the speaker has a tendency to use negative politeness strategy. Meanwhile, when the speaker and the hearer were familiar with each other, they tend to use the least polite strategy in their conversation as in positive politeness strategy and bald on record strategy.

Based on the previous study, some studies provide sufficient information and references on politeness strategies. As a result, those studies lead the writer

into a complete understanding in classifying utterances concerning politeness. However, this research is different from those studies as, in this research, *Green Book* movie is chosen to be analyzed by using directive speech act theory and politeness strategies. This movie was written by Farrelly, Brian Hayes Currie and Vallelonga's son, Nick Vallelonga. The writer chooses this movie as object of the study because academically, this movie contains a rich amount of directive speech act and politeness strategies. This movie also has received numerous award nominations and recognized as one of the best films in 2018. In addition, there is no other researcher yet that conducted studies about American biographical comedy-drama movie and based on true story. The movie is about a working-class Italian-American bouncer, who hardly enthused at working for a black man, becomes the driver of an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South. Therefore, this research aims at examining the types of directive speech act in the *Green Book* movie, and the politeness strategies employed by the characters.

B. Identification of the Research Problem

Based on background of the research, the study can be studied in a number of linguistic aspects, for instances through; sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and pragmatics. In sociolinguistics, movies can be studied to know how characters portrayed the social condition presented in the movie. In psycholinguistics, movies can be used, for instance, to analyze characters' language disorder. This study, however, is focus on pragmatics which deals with meaning base on its social context. Pragmatics has many aspects; implicature, politeness, deixis, speech act, and other. This study will focus on speech act and politeness.

C. Limitation of the Research Problem

This study is limited to the use of politeness strategies of the two main characters of *Green Book* movie. The writer only focused on those two main characters because mostly those two main characters certainly have more portions in the conversations than other characters done. The utterances dealing with directive speech act obtained from the movie script, then, politeness strategies are analyzed by using Brown and Levinson's politeness theory (1987). Thus, the study is done by analyzing the *Green Book* movie script.

D. Formulation of the Research Problem

Based on the formulation of the research, the researcher proposed the main problem as follow:

1. What are types of directive speech act used by main characters in *Green Book* movie?
2. What kind of politeness strategies were employed in directive speech act as being used by main character in *Green Book* movie?

E. Purpose of the Research

In relation with research question, the purpose of this research were:

1. To find out the type of directive speech act used by main characters in the *Green Book* movie.
2. To find out the types of politeness strategies used in directive speech acts as function in *Green Book* movie.

F. Significance of the Research

This research had two basic significances beside its role in enriching stock of knowledge. Theoretically, this analysis contributes in first, providing a reference or a comparable study in linguistic fields notably the politeness strategies; second, it will provide information about how people show politeness in directive speech act. Practically, this research was expected to be useful for the readers in order to enrich their understanding about directive speech acts and how politeness strategies in the directive speech acts are reflected in the movie such as *Green Book* movie. The writer will conduct a further study related to politeness strategies in directive speech acts as found in *Green Book* movie to answer the problem of the study and help the readers to know about the directive speech act.

G. Definition of the Key Terms

1. **Pragmatics:** the branch of linguistics dealing with language in use and the context in which it is used, including such matters as deixis, the taking of turns in conversation, text organization, presupposition, and implicature.
2. **Speech act:** is something expressed by an individual that not only presents information, but perform an action as well.
3. **Directive speech act:** is the study of meaning and function of an utterance. It is the utterance by desiring something and the aim is to make someone else to do something that the speaker desire.
4. **Politeness strategy:** Brown and Levinson (1987:62) stated that politeness strategies are developed to save the listener's face.

5. **Face Threatening Act:** Face Threatening Act is the threats generally require a mitigating statement or some verbal repair (politeness).
6. **Green Book:** is a 2018 American biographical comedy-drama road film directed by Peter Farrelly. Set in 1962, the film is inspired by the true story of a tour of the Deep South by African American classical and jazz pianist Don Shirley and Italian American bouncer Frank "Tony Lip" Vallelonga who served as Shirley's driver and bodyguard.
7. **Movie:** also known as film is a type of visual communication which uses moving pictures and sound to tell stories or inform (help people to learn).