

Politeness Maxims by The Students of Mechanical Engineering State Polytechnic of Bali

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Abstract—This research aims at analyzing the application and the violation of politeness maxims by the students' utterances of Mechanical Engineering Bali State Polytechnic whether the students are polite or not and at identifying which utterances are consider polite and which ones are not based on the six maxim of politeness. This research used descriptive qualitative method. It is important to maintain a good relationship between speaker and hearer to avoid hurting each other's feelings. The results show that the language used by students in communicating with their friends are considered polite where the amount of politeness maxims application is much higher when compared to the violation of the maxims. The violations are only found in the tact maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, and agreement maxim. The context of speech is also very helpful for students to speak politely for example, most of the contexts indicate that the students contact their friends because there is a need or interest they should discuss with their friends related to their social or educational communication matters.

Keywords—politeness maxim, maxim violated, utterances

I. INTRODUCTION

In daily communication, politeness is an important aspect. It is performed to enhance an interpersonal relationship and communication between addressers and addressees [1]. Enhancing an interpersonal relationship and communication means that the addressers need to reduce the conflict happened in performing the communication or to maintain each other's feelings [2]. The intention of using politeness is that the communication is needed to be as peaceful and comfortable as possible to both the addressers and the addressees. Politeness usually covers such a variety of phenomena that no consistent characterization seems to be within reach [3].

In a specific language environment, an university is one of the environments to performs any interaction. The addresser and address are performed by the students in their interactions. As one of the language environment, an interaction needs to be facilitated and mediated appropriately. Between their friends the speakers need to pay attention in delivering their utterance when conveying the information or message [4].

The violation of politeness principles often happen in the process of communication both in a formal situation or informal situation. University as a formal institution in which between the students should use polite conversation in their interaction, usually use impolite language in some situation especially when students talk to their close friends. This situation is not really important because we talk with our close friend; however we need to keep others feeling due to language plays a fundamental role in establishing harmonious relationship between people [5]. Thus this is an ideal strategy to use when the speaker wants to avoid responsibility for doing a Face Threatening Act [6].

This research focused on the use of politeness maxims uttered by the students of Mechanical Engineering, State Polytechnic of Bali. The research focused on analyzing the politeness maxims by giving the students role play card and then they utter their utterances after reading the card that they chosen randomly. Talking about politeness, Leech [7] states that politeness principle basically has to pay attention to the six maxims of politeness; those are Tact maxim, Generosity maxim, Approbation maxim, Modesty maxim, Agreement maxim, and Sympathy maxim. This research aims at analyzing the application of politeness maxims used by the students of Mechanical Engineering, State Polytechnic of Bali and counting the percentages of politeness maxims which are polite and violate by the students when they utter their utterances. To sum up, politeness can at once be understood as a social phenomenon, a means to achieve good personal relationship, and a norm imposed by social convention [7].

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The subject of the research were the students of Mechanical Engineering on the second semester specifically on D4 TRU. The method used in this research was descriptive qualitative method [8]. The data were in the form of spoken text and directly transform into written text by transcription. After the students take the randomly card and read the content in the card, they immediately make the suitable responses based on the card given. There were some steps done in conducting this research. Firstly, identifying utterances related to the obedience and the violation of politeness maxims.

Second, codifying the data by refers to the types of maxim, tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. Third, analyzing the obedience and violation of the politeness maxims. Finally, drawing the conclusion.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are 27 data in this research. From the data, there only 6 students which violate the maxim of politeness, 4 data were considered very polite in maxim of politeness and 17 data were considered polite. Therefore in this case, Table I and Table II show that the students of Mechanical Engineering State Polytechnic of Bali considered to be polite.

TABLE I. SCALE OF POLITENESS

No.	Scale	Note
1	11	S
2	12	S
3	8	TS
4	10	S
5	10	S
6	12	S
7	10	S
8	5	TS
9	11	S
10	14	SS
11	13	SS
12	8	TS
13	11	S
14	11	S
15	11	S
16	6	TS
17	11	S
18	16	SS
19	11	S
20	7	TS
21	8	TS
22	11	S
23	12	S
25	12	S
26	11	S
27	11	S

Politeness Strategies used

Notes:

1. SS = Very polite
2. S = Polite
3. TS = Not polite
4. STS = Very not polite

TABLE II. THE PERCENTAGE OF POLITENESS

	SS	S	TS	STS	Total
Amount	4	17	6	-	27
%	14.82	62.96	22.22	-	100

The percentage of Politeness Maxims

A. Tact Maxim

The tact maxim states that minimize the expression of beliefs which imply cost to other and maximize the expression of beliefs which imply benefit to other. The paradox of politeness functions as an antidote to a more dangerous kind of paradox. This more dangerous paradox is a violation of the logic of goal-oriented action; that is, a state in which two individuals, A and B have incompatible goals.

A: *Can you buy me a bottle of aqua?*
B: *Of course I will help you.*

In the conversation, the situation happened when the teacher A asked to the B to request his friend for helping him buy an aqua and his friend said of course, it means that the opponent of speaker agreed for the request of the speaker. The B fulfilled the tact maxim because he maximized benefits to the other. He made his friend helpful and gave benefit to the speaker.

B. Generosity Maxim

The generosity maxim states that minimize the expression of benefit to self and maximize the benefit of cost to self. Unlike the tact maxim, the generosity maxim focuses on the speaker and says that others should be put first instead of the self.

S: *I will buy this jacket, oh no! My wallet left at home.*
W: *Just use my money first.*

In the conversation above, it seems that S was left the wallet and wants to buy a jacket, however W gives the benefit to borrow his money first. It is clear that the W is minimized the benefits to his self and maximized cost to his self with sacrificing his money first to pay S jacket.

C. Approbation Maxim

The approbation maxim states that minimize the expression of beliefs which express dispraise of other and maximize the expression of beliefs which express approval of other. This maxim is used in an utterance that expresses the speaker's feeling. The first part of the maxim is to avoid disagreement; the second part intends to make other people feel good by showing solidarity.

B: *Wow! Congratulation on your victory!*
S: *Thank you very much.*

In the conversation shows that B says congratulation to S, in this context S won the badminton's competition and got gold medal. When B congratulate his friend, he gave the compliment to his opponent of speaker with saying "wow! Congratulation on your victory". The speaker's compliment

given could be categorized as the fulfillment of approbation maxim with maximizing praise to the other.

D. Modesty Maxim

The modesty maxim states minimize the expression of praise of self and maximize the expression of dispraise of self. The modesty maxim sometimes comes into conflict with some other maxim or in asymmetry, in which case we have to allow one maxim to take priority over the other.

D: *I heard you got the highest IP in the class.*
W: *Yes, I don't think I got the highest IP in the class.*

In the conversation above, D make sure to W that he got the highest IP in the class, however W replied by saying I don't think I got the highest IP in the class, it could be indicated as the fulfillment of modesty maxim. The opponent of speaker maximized dispraise to his self by saying that he did not know about his self as the highest IP score in his class even though he had been already known.

E. Agreement Maxim

The agreement maxim runs as minimize the expression of disagreement between self and other, maximizing the expression of agreement between self and other. It is simply observed that they are much more direct in expression agreement, rather than disagreement.

R: *I think we should give a jacket because he often rides a motorcycle.*
M: *Hmmm... Okay then I agree, let's buy him a jacket today after school.*

From the foregoing data above, it shows that the opponent of the speaker agree with the speaker's options to give a jacket with the reason because "he" someone which is talks by them often rides a motorcycle.

F. Sympathy Maxim

The sympathy maxim states that minimize antipathy between self and others maximize sympathy between self and other. This maxim is usually used in representative utterances and includes in a small group of speech acts such as congratulations, commiseration, and expressing condolences.

A: *Hello Darma and Yoga, thank you for coming.*
D: *Ardi... I am really sorry to hear that, May your Grandma get a beautiful place up there. I am so sad by the news of your Grandma passed away.*

In the conversation above, the A said thank you for coming to his friends who came to his house, because they want to asked the condition of A after his grand mother passed away. Then D said I am really sorry to hear that. In this case, it seems that D could be categorized as the fulfillment of sympathy maxim.

IV. CONCLUSION

From the analysis it can be concluded that the students of Mechanical Engineering when conducting the politeness maxim were mostly polite. It shows that the percentage of politeness utterances more higher than violated utterances. Role play cards as the media to test their ability to speak polite or not in accordance with the scenario in the role play were effective to used. After they choosing the random card they immediately think with his partner to play as the scenario ordered. In this research, the percentage of very polite utterances as much as 14.82%, the percentage of polite utterances as much as 62.96% and the percentage of violated utterances as much as 22.22%. For the percentage shown that students of Mechanical Engineering are considered to be polite. According to Aydioglu [9], the main triggers of politeness are disputes, disagreement, disapproval, sorrow, helplessness, disappointment and anger.

From the findings, the researcher makes some suggestions. First, the application of teaching about politeness language is considered necessary to improve their self quality and as a development of character education. In addition, the teachers must also have attitudes and polite speech before teaching their students, because the teacher is a reflection of their students due to the teachers will be imitated by the students. The serious problem faced by Indonesian currently is the humanitarian crisis, this kind of problem must be taken seriously due if it ignore, will be fatal for the notion [10].

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