

POLITENESS EXPRESSIONS IN PROPOSAL SEMINAR INTERACTION

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ABSTRACT

This qualitative research investigated the politeness strategy of the entire participant in Seminar Proposal of Applied Linguistics of UNIMED. The data were obtained from the recorded and then were transcribed. The data were the polite utterances. The data were identified, analyzed and categorized based on expressions are classified as formulaic expressions, semi-formulaic expressions based on Watts (2003), turn-taking based on Cameron (2001) and simultaneous feedback or backchannels based on Yule (2002). The findings of the study showed that there are some politeness evidence expressions which is used by all of the participants. They are 1) formulaic and semi formulaic expression, greetings and first name for formulaic expression, and used hedges (attitudinal predicates), boosters and solidarity for semi-formulaic expressions. 2) Turn taking processes, and 3) Simultaneous Feedback or Backchannels.

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1. Introduction

The establishment of good communication depends on the interaction between the speaker and the listener. They must ensure that the exchange of information, regulations and discussions is smooth and well. In addition, they also realize that their ability in answering well lies in the communication process, including their way in using the language. In other words, to convey the message in question and to see if the interaction can be well established between the speaker and the listener is very important in determining the nature and quality of the interaction. As participants in communication, we can see from the interaction of different expressions to build social and professional relationships.

This is supported by Yates (1996: 46) that in interaction, it does not only bringing social relations but also bringing the relationship between knowledge and the object being discussed. In addition, these distinct expressions include not only linguistic features, such as words, but also gestures, pauses and pitch. This was applied in the proposal seminar that there were participants who said "assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh. I think introduce myself, aaa, I would like to ask you one question, aaa why you choose aaaa transgender to be object of your research?. From the previous sentences, it can be seen that there are some of turn adjacency or turn naming in asking a question by saying aaaa, applied formulaic by saying greetings like assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, and semi formulaic expression by saying hedges like, I think. The previous sentences are a way in showing the deference or respect in a interaction. It means the speaker tried to apply politeness in the interaction. As stated by Grundy (1995) that by applying politeness strategies, it can be a way of encoding distance between speakers and their addressee.

Therefore, this study focused on finding out what types of politeness strategies are used by all of the participants of seminar proposal.

2. Research Methods

This study was a descriptive research design which analyzed politeness strategy of the entire participant in seminar proposal of Applied Linguistics of UNIMED. The data took when in the question and answer section in which the others participants could ask to the speaker and recorded their discussions and conversations during the seminar for a duration of an hour and a half. It was form the primary data to be analyzed in this study. The data consists of the conversation exchange among speaker, participants, reviewer, and moderator in a seminar proposal.

For the data analysis, the researchers listened to the recording in its entirety before a transcription of the interaction between speaker and participants were done, then identified, analyzed and discussed. These expressions are classified as formulaic expressions, semi-formulaic expressions based on Watts (2003), turn-taking based on Cameron (2001) and simultaneous feedback or backchannels based on Yule (2002).

3. Result And Discussion

3.1 Addressivity

For giving greetings to each other can be done by applying the use of first names. This is one of absolute way. If it cannot be applied in that way, it will only create uncertainty about who to address and who to respond to in the interaction. It can also be said that this is a social behavior that applies conventional conditions that should be done to interpret polite language and behavior.

- (1) Participant I : *yes sir*,
- (2) Moderator : Introduce
- (3) Participant I : *asssalammualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh...*
- (4) I think introduce myself, aaa, I would like to ask you one question
- (22) Moderator : *Ok..umm..i would like to invite prof. Amrin saragih to review.....*
- (23) Reviewer I : *Alright, I think you have a trouble here,,let me.....*
- (32) Moderator : *thank you very much ,,umm,, for the suggestion, next,, to*
- (33) *Pak Rahmat Husain or Siti Aisyah first.*
- (34) Reviewer II : *Ok,,Thank you Prof. Busmin,, yaa,, Bambang Nur Alamsyah*
- (35) *Lubis, Prof. Amrin has described the transgender language not.....*

In order to avoid discontinuity and ambiguity, the speakers must employ politeness strategies in their interaction. In this case the speaker must use the correct strategy, for instance in using greetings. As stated by Werry (1006: 52) that greeting for the speaker by using acceptable partials tends to communicate that compensation is a weakness between the sender and the receiver. We can see from the example above (1), the first participant uses the 'sir' to greet the moderator, then (22), (33), (34), and (35) used the reviewer's name to address the person.

3.2 Formulaic and Semi-Formulaic Expression

In this part, semi-formulaic was also applied in seminar proposal interaction. The participant uttered hedged (attitudinal predicates) as can be seen in the following section.

- (3) Participant I : *asssalammualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh....*
- (5) *I think introduce myself, aaa, I would like to ask you one question*
- (10) Speaker : *Actually code mixing,....thee..yahh,.....hahaha.....*
- (11) *let me explain about the example of transgender.....*
- (19) Speaker : *Actually, I wanna make a picture here what is .how .. what kind is*

- (22) Moderator : Ok..umm..i would like to invite prof. Amrin saragih to review
- (23) Reviewer I : Alright, I think you have a trouble here,,let me
- (24) simplifine your research I don't think you paid description about,,,
- (25) so you can think of these, the studying of transgender language
- (26) itself cannot be enough, I think you.....this one is a dialectical,
- (27) I mean,,,this is what we call as anti-society language.....So it's a
- (28) good idea if *you just concentrate* of the description.....
- (29) Let me see,,,,I mean... look at the mostly vocabulary.....
- (30) of course it's a good idea if you can describe.....of course you
- (31) choose the one the description of transgender or.....I think that's all.
- (32) Moderator : thank you very muchumm.....for the suggestion, next,, to
- (33) Pak Rahmat Husain or Siti Aisyah first.
- (34) Reviewer II : Ok,,Thank you Prof. Minda,, yaa. Bambang Nur Alamsyah
- (35) Lubis, Prof. Amrin has described the transgender language not
- (36) only dialecticis....or the,,so it is more difficult, aaa..I mean that
- (43) Reviewer II : oh yeah.....I mean that someone who can.....you know that I....
- (44) the collecting.....okee.....so of course, functional.....and
- (45) Aaaa.....so read the theories about thee.....aaa,.....so don't think

As this interaction is taking place the seminar proposal online, the speaker, reviewer, and moderator often used formulaic and semi formulaic expression. We can see from the utterances like in using greetings and first name for formulaic expression, in using hedges (attitudinal predicates), boosters and solidarity for semi-formulaic expressions. Like in formulaic expression especially in using greeting (3) 'assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh' and then in using first name like Pak Rahman Husein, Siti Aisyah, and Prof. Amrin. (22), (33), (34), (35). While for the semi formulaic expressions especially hedges (attitudinal predicates) like, *I think, I mean, I believe* in (5), (19), (23), (26), (27), (29), (31), (36) and (43). Then, in using boosters such as: *clearly, of course, alright, actually*. We can see from the utterances in (10), (19), (23), (30), and (44). Then, for solidarity markers such as: *you know* and are in (43).

3.3 Turn-Adjacency or Turn Taking

Some of turn-adjacency or turn taking include naming them (especially common in a classroom setting), asking them a question, sharply raising or lowering voice or even aligning body or gaze so that they are specifically addressing the next speaker. Expressions that are used to signal the end of a turn are for example: *y'know, uhm, kinda, I don't know* in (17), (24), (42), (43). In addition, speakers should make every effort not to pause at the end of sentences, but rather allow sentences to run on by using connectors such as 'and' 'then' 'so' and 'but' like in (9),(25), (27), (36), (37), (38), (39), (40), (42), (46), (48), (49), (50), . The speaker should pause at points where the message is clearly incomplete and 'fill' the pause with hesitation markers such as *er, em, uh, ah* (Yule, 1985:109). Some of these 'pause fillers' can be seen in sentences (4), (5), (6), (10), (13), (14), (20), (22), (32), (34), (36), (37), (38), (39), (40), (42), (43), (44), (45), (49), and (50).

- (3) Participant I: assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh....
- (4) I think introduce myself, aaa, I would like to ask you one question
- (5) aaa why you choose aaaa transgender to be object of the your
- (6) research about theeee.....
- (9) Participant I: So, transgender language mix with the Indonesian formal Language.
- (10) Speaker : Actually code mixing.....theee.....yahh,.....hahaha.....
- (12) Participant II : oke. my name is friska yanti simaremare, because your
- (13) research is about transgender, I would like to ask about...aa...what

- (14) is the motivation of aa the people transgender?
- (16) Speaker : haha..i have to do the research first
- (17) Participant II : oh...so you didn't...ok
- (18) Speaker : Actually, I wanna make a picture here what ishow.. what kind is
- (19) transgender, but it's impossible for meto show you, because
- (20) transgender identically with the sexy costum....umm....like dresses.
- (22) Moderator : Ok..umm..i would like to invite prof. Amrin saragih to review
- (23) Reviewer I : Alright, I think you have a trouble here,,let me.....
- (24) simplifine your research I don't think you paid description about....
- (25) so you can think of these, the studying of transgender language
- (26) itself cannot be enough, I think you,,,,,this one is a dialectical,
- (27) I mean,,this is what we call as anti-society language.....So it's a
- (32) Moderator : thank you very much...,umm...for the suggestion, next,, to
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- (34) Reviewer II : Ok,,Thank you Prof. Minda,, yaa Bambang Nur Alamsyah
- (35) Lubis, Prof. Amrin has described the transgender language not
- (36) only dialecticis,,,or the,,so it is more difficult, aaa..I mean that
- (37) more use but the,,many aaaa many,aaa,....They use unique
- (38) sentence when they choose,,,,,unit the word,,but,, thee...aaa...but
- (39) aaa, when I have experience about this, when around the town,
- (40) brother in law and sister.....yahh, so that's way....yaaa aaa,
- (41) always, to run town in the country.....
- (42) Speaker : so, you tell that....
- (43) Reviewer II : oh yeah.....I mean that someone who can.....you know that I
- (44) have some friends stayed in the,,, eee,, they can sell any
- (45) Perfumes.....yeah, you had told about your proposal....aaa....you
- (46) Explain.....but I would like to read,,,,,,It means,,,,,You should
- (47) more put this in the background. Oke, it's better for you to choose
- (48) the collecting,.....okee.....so of course, functional,,,,,,and
- (49) aaa.....so read the theories about thee.....aaa.....so don't think
- (50) that,, so it doesn't like aaa the four pages you do, you get
- (51) Something.....

3.4 Simultaneous Feedback or Backchannels

Politeness strategies can be showed in backchannels form. There are some different ways in indicating politeness strategies, for instance the listeners can show smile, gesture, nod, and facial expressions. Therefore, here the speaker, participants, the reviewers, and the moderator must rely on utterances. It will be explained below:

- (15) Other audience: hahaha (laugh)
- (16) Speaker : haha..i have to do the research first
- (17) Participant II : oh...so you didn't...ok
- (18) Audience : haha...(everbody laugh)
- (40) brother in law and sister.....yahh, so that's way....yaaa aaa
- (43) Reviewer II : oh yeah.....I mean that someone who can.....you know that I

In the example (15), (16), (18) above it provides feedback by saying hahaha (laugh), before expanding the utterance by adding further information. Then the participant knows that the message is received and give feedback oh and oh yeah in (17) and (43), then say yahh in (40).

4. Conclusion

After analyzing this study, it can be concluded that there are some politeness evidence strategies which is used by all of the participants. They are 1) formulaic and semi formulaic expression, greetings and first name for formulaic expression, and used hedges (attitudinal predicates), boosters and solidarity for semi-formulaic expressions. 2) Turn taking processes, and 3) Simultaneous Feedback or Backchannels.

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