



Politeness Principle Used in The Edge of Seventeen Movie

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Abstract

This research aimed to analyze the politeness principle by Geoffrey Leech in a coming-of-age movie The Edge of Seventeen and found the dominant maxim out of six Leech's maxims, namely Tact, Generosity, Approbation, Modesty, Agreement, and Sympathy maxim. The research applied the descriptive method in analyzing the data. The data were utterances uttered by characters in the movie. The data were collected through watching the movie and reading the moving script repeatedly, screenshotting the scene, coding the data, and the last classifying the data. The result of this research is described as follows: First, the researcher found the use of the politeness principle contained utterances that obey and disobey the maxims. Second, found that the Approbation maxim is the dominant one in the movie with a total of 12 pieces of data.

Key words: Maxim, politeness principle, pragmatics.

Introduction

Human being use language to express goals. By using language, human can express various expressions that contain meaning behind them. It can be clear and also ambiguous according to the context. Behind it there is a study about the way humans use their language in communication [1], where context must be taken into account [2] and concerned with the meaning as communicated by a speaker (writer) and interpreted by listener (reader) [3].

In pragmatics, the branch of the study that talked about language and the connection between it and culture is politeness. Politeness was put forward by P. Brown and S. Levinson as a complex system for softening face threats [4] and then was specified by G. Leech. The functions of the Politeness Principle lie in it prompts speaker to express himself politely, honestly, makes the two sides feel respected, and gets a good impression from the other [5]. Politeness also can be as a notion developed by societies in order to reduce friction in personal communication [6]. Furthermore politeness arises when an action is in congruence with the norm, impoliteness equals with rudeness) when action is to the contrary. [7] However, not all impoliteness is intentional; it will be explain more in the finding section [8].

Furthermore, politeness principle is consists of six maxims, where some of them are speaker-oriented, while others are hearer-oriented [9]. For Leech's maxim Tact and Generosity are maxim come into pair, as Tact focuses on minimizing cost and maximizing benefit to hearer, while Generosity focus to minimise benefit and maximizing cost to self. The next pair of maxims is Approbation and Modesty. Approbation has the formula to maximize praise and minimize dispraise of hearer, while Modesty formula is minimizing praise and maximize dispraise of self. Agreement maxim has aims to maximize agreement and minimize disagreement between self and other. The Sympathy maxim has aims to maximize sympathy and minimize antipathy towards hearer. As mentioned above that politeness can be

formed as speaker-oriented or self-centered and hearer-oriented or other-centered. The Tact, Approbation, and Sympathy are hearer-oriented, while Generosity and Modesty are speaker-oriented.

In this research, the researcher chose to analyze the Politeness Principle in *The Edge of Seventeen* Movie and focuses on two research questions that how is the maxim of politeness principle used in the movie as well as what is the dominant maxim that applies in it. Since there are many aspects of politeness that had been obeyed and violated in the movie. Such as the way the character praise each other, and then how Nadine communicates with his teacher, she did not hesitate about the words that she chooses. Therefore the attitude when she texts message her crush and the diction she uses when she praises other people can turn the situation become awkward around them.

Some researchers also use Politeness theory in doing the research. Nurdianingsih [10] with her research entitled "An Analysis of Tact and Approbation Maxims Based on Leech's Politeness Principles in the Movie "Maid in Manhattan (A Pragmatics Study)". As explained before politeness principle has six maxims, in this study the researcher focus on two out of six, which are tact and approbation maxim. Besides, the study also has a problem about what aspects make the utterances of the participants less or more polite concerning Leech's politeness principles. In this study, the researcher use socio-pragmatics approach to analyze Leech's maxim.

Afiyati [11] in her research entitled "Politeness Principle as Seen in the Dialogue between Characters on "Karate Kid" Movie". The research problem of this study is about what are the types of intrinsic elements used in the "Karate Kid" movie and the politeness maxim conveyed in the dialogue in the movie. The study has aims to explain those two problems by using the descriptive qualitative method. Besides the title that focuses on the politeness side, this study first explains the intrinsic type such as plot and structure, character and characterization, setting, point of view, and theme. Moreover, this study has found that there are six politeness principles maxims in whole dialogue, and as the researcher explains in her study the characterization that conveys six politeness maxims are loving care, friendly, humble, ambitious, caring of a friend, speechless and cheer.

Habibah [12] with her research entitled "An Analysis of Politeness Principles in *The Last Witch Hunter* Movie by Breck Eisner" has the aim to know types of politeness principles that exist in *The Last Witch Hunter* movie and describe the character's utterances violated the politeness principles. The study uses qualitative data analysis and the result turns out to have 22 data that consist of 11 data that portrait the politeness principle in the movie and the other 11 data are violating the politeness principle. Furthermore, this study also explains the reason why the characters' utterance violates the maxims because it did not follow the rules of the maxims themselves. The similarity is the use of politeness principle theory by Geoffrey Leech, while the differences are the object and another aim to find the dominant maxim in the movie.

The purposes of this research are to analyze the politeness principle by Geoffrey Leech in a coming-of-age movie *The Edge of Seventeen* and found the dominant maxim out of six Leech's maxims. This research also could be a reference to the other researcher as secondary reference investigation of pragmatic studies that related to politeness principle

Methodology

In conducting the data researcher use the qualitative research method. The method is excellent for studying context and elucidating the connection between the contextual events and casual process [13]. Moreover, this method is especially effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, behaviors, and social context of particular populations [14]. Hence, the researcher uses this method by observing the utterances and the context. Moreover, the source of data is the utterances uttered by characters in the movie [15] that apply politeness principle. Furthermore, in collecting the data researcher used a note-taking approach, as well as some steps such as watching the movie and reading the moving script repeatedly, screenshotting the scene, coding the data, and the last classifying the data. Meanwhile, in terms of the technique of analyzing the data, there are four steps that researcher use, presenting, describing, interpreting, and concluding.

Findings and Discussion

Findings

Tact Maxim

Darian : *Hey, can you give her a ride home, please?* Thanks.

The conversation occurs between Darian and Mr. Bruner. This scene happens when Darian comes to pick up Nadine from Mr. Bruner, but they end up not going home together. So, Darian asks Mr. Bruner if he can give Nadine a ride home.

In utterance "Can you give her a ride home, please?" that says by Darian is included in competitive illocutionary, because here he asks Mr. Bruner if he can give a ride to Nadine. Furthermore, this utterance obeys tact maxim because here Darian maximizes the benefit to the hearer and minimizes cost to the hearer. So, this utterance gives

benefit to Mr. Bruner because he has a choice to say yes or no. In this case, Mr. Bruner says yes by nodding his head. Then after that Darian says thanks to him because he says yes. Hence, this utterance obeys tact maxim.

Generosity Maxim

In this analysis, the authors found that in Morten Tyldum's *The Imitation Game* movie, the main character Turing did not have a good partnership during his life. Turing was bullied by his classmates because he was different. He did not make conversation to other and preferred being alone. Turing thought all of his friends were jealous because he was smarter than them and he did not want to care about people who did not like him. He always had his own world. The relationship that Turing had with his surroundings, with his classmates, is the other reason why he became homosexuality. The authors believed that Turing must be felt so special when Christopher helped him and wanted to be his one and only friend. Lively stated that children are often feel deeply traumatized by sexual abuse and this trauma often results in the adoption of a homosexual lifestyle as an adult, and this is what happened to Turing [11].

Mona : Very funny. I'm gonna be back on Sunday. Okay. Just in time to surprise you. I tried to call Darian, but he must be in his AP study group.
Nadine : Uh, I can... I'll tell him.

The conversation occurs between Nadine and her mother Mona. Mona will go on a blind date with a dentist, but she can't tell Darian because he didn't pick up his phone, so Nadine says that she is the one who will call Darian.

In this data, Nadine minimizes benefit and maximizes cost to herself by says "*I can... I'll tell him*". This utterance includes commissives illocutionary because the speaker is offering something to the hearer. Here Nadine is offering to call Darian because her mom will go and she can call him. Hence, this utterance obeys the generosity maxim.

Approbation Maxim

Erwin : I like your sweatshirt today. It's nice.
Nadine : Thank you

she then takes a sit when Erwin Kim says hi to her. Then Erwin builds the conversation with the topic of Nadine's sweatshirt and tells her he likes it.

In this dialogue, Erwin maximizes praise of the hearer and minimizes dispraise of the hearer. He says two sentences that include in expressive illocutionary "*I like your sweatshirt today*" and "It's nice" that show that he praising Nadine's outfit. Approbation maxim has the aim to avoid saying unpleasant things toward the hearer. Hence, these utterances obey the approbation maxim.

Drunken Girl : Hey, aren't you Darian Franklin's sister?
Nadine : Yep.
Drunken Girl : Do you watch tbs ever?
Nadine : Sometimes.
Drunken Girl : There's this old movie that always playing on there. It's got Arnold Schwarzenegger and the little bald guy from it's always sunny? Yeah, they played twin brothers, only Arnold's all talland buff.
Nadine : And the other guy's like little and funny-looking?
Drunken Girl : Yes.
Nadine : God. Um,twins
Drunken Girl : Yes.
Nadine : I love that movie. It's so good. Love that movie.
Drunken Girl : You and your brother kind of remind me of that.

The conversation occurs between Nadine and one of Darian's friends at the party. Nadine tries to communicate and join with a group of people at the party, but it didn't turn well, she can't socialize with others. So she decided to go out of the house and finally meet someone to talk to. At first, they have a good conversation by talking about an old movie, but it turns out bad for Nadine because that person equalizes Nadine and Darian's situation with the characters in the movie.

The utterance "*You and your brother kind of remind me of that*" is included in assertive illocutionary, here the speaker stating about the condition of Nadine and Darian. In this data, the utterance is considered impolite, because here the speaker maximizes dispraise and minimize praise of hearer. The hearer is Nadine and after she heard about that statement it makes her feel unpleasant and can be seen in her facial expression, then the action is she go out from the party. Hence, this data violate the approbation maxim.

Modesty Maxim

Darian: *I don't give a sh*t about you. I'm only here for me, and my life is f**king incredible. ... "because who know what'll happen in that house if I'm not around to fix it".*

The conversation occurs between Nadine and Darian at Mr. Bruner's house. Because Nadine didn't want to go home with him and Krista, he then comes to tell his feeling towards Nadine.

In this dialogue, Darian maximizes praise and minimizes dispraise of self. It shows in the utterance "*I don't give a sh*t about you. I'm only here for me, and my life is f**king incredible. I love it*". This statement shows that Darian didn't care about Nadine and he just cares about himself. He also praises himself by saying "*because who knows what'll happen in that house if I'm not around to fix it*". Here Darian wants to show Nadine that he is superior to her, like their mother, who needs him to fix the problem at the home and he now has someone he loves Krista. Those utterances are included in assertive illocutionary because in this data Darian is boasting about himself. Hence, this data is violated the modesty maxim.

Mr. Bruner: *Look, I'm not very good at this kind of thing.*

The conversation occurs between Nadine and Mr. Bruner. This scene happens in Mr. Bruner's car in front of Nadine's house. Mr. Bruner gives a ride to Nadine because she didn't want to go home with Darian and Krista.

In this data, Mr. Bruner as the speaker maximizes dispraise and minimizes praise of self. The utterance "*Look, I'm not very good at this kind of thing*" is included in assertive illocutionary, because he is stating about his capability in that kind of situation. Here Mr. Bruner didn't brag himself, but he was modest by saying this utterance. Hence, this utterance obeys the modesty maxim.

Agreement Maxim

- Darian : Get in the car. Let's go
 Nadine : No, mom's picking me up.
 Darian : No, she's not. Get in the car
 Nadine : Well, I don't feel like getting in the car with you and her.

The conversation occurs between Nadine and Darian in front of Mr. Bruner's house. Darian has to look for Nadine because she goes out of home after making her house a mess. Here Darian asks Nadine to go home because her mother wouldn't pick her up, so Nadine has to go home with him. But she refuses because she sees Krista in the car.

In this data, Nadine maximizes disagreement and minimizes disagreement between self and other. She didn't agree to go home with Darian because she thinks that her mom will be picking her up, this shows in the utterance "*No, mom's picking me up*". After knowing that her mom will not pick her up she refuses to go home because there is Krista in the car and say "*Well, I don't feel like getting in the car with you and her*". She still can't accept that her best friend is has something with her brother. Hence, this data violates the agreement maxim.

- Krista : That was good
 Darian : Mm-hmm.
 Krista : Right?
 Darian : That was so good.

The conversation occurs between Krista and Darian. Last night Nadine has cried in front of Darian and felt guilty about the mess that she made. So, in the morning when Nadine wants to go to SFF, they say have a great day to each other. Meanwhile, Krista asks Nadine if she can call her later and Nadine agrees with that. So, it looks like they start to have a good relationship like before.

In this data, Darian maximizes agreement and minimizes disagreement between self and other. He agrees with Krista's statement that the situation between her and Nadine starts to become better after Krista asks Nadine if she can call her. Darian here first answer with humming "*Mm-hmm*" and then "*That was so good*". Darian's dialogues are included in assertive illocutionary because he states that he agrees with Krista's statement. Hence, this data obeys the agreement maxim.

Sympathy Maxim

Mr. Bruner: *Wow. This is, uh, a lot to take in, Nadine. I... I wish I knew what to say. Well, I was actually just drafting my own suicide note just now.*

The conversation occurs between Nadine and Mr. Bruner. This is the beginning of the movie, where Nadine suddenly comes to the classroom and tells Mr. Bruner that she want to do suicide, and thinks that someone has to know it. Here Mr. Bruner gives an unpleasant response, and how he didn't take seriously about it.

In this data, Mr. Bruner maximizes antipathy and minimizes sympathy towards the hearer. Nadine tells him that she wants to kill herself and express her plan about it. Here rather than give a positive response which sympathy

towards his student Mr. Bruner start to read his suicide note. With his smiling face she read and it makes Nadine confused about what her teacher did. The keyword of this data is "Well, I was actually just drafting my own suicide note just now". Because it portrait Mr. Bruner's reaction towards Nadine, and the next utterance explains more about his feeling of her student confession. This utterance is the example of Mr. Bruner's dialogue in the movie that shows antipathy for Nadine, then this utterance is included in assertive illocutionary. Hence, this utterance violates the sympathy maxim.

Erwin: *I'm sorry you're going through stuff.*

The conversation occurs between Nadine and Erwin at Tim's Theme Park. Erwin apologizes for his behavior at Ferris wheel, because he wants to kiss her but Nadine refuses it and the condition become awkward. Then they play mini-golf while Nadine says that she has a problem these days and Erwin sympathizes with her condition right now.

In this utterance, Erwin maximizes sympathy and minimizes antipathy towards the hearer. After hearing that Nadine has gone through some problems these days, he then says "*I'm sorry you're going through stuff*". It shows that Erwin feels bad for Nadine although he didn't know her problem. Hence, this data obeys the sympathy maxim.

Discussion

In this section, the researcher explains the discussion that expects to answer research questions in the background. First about how the maxim of politeness principle is applied in the movie. Based on the findings above there are six maxims of the politeness principle that use in *The Edge of Seventeen* movie script. They are tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy maxim. The 24 data has been analyzed and 17 data obey the maxims and 7 data that violate the maxims. Utterances that obey the maxims consist of tact maxim 1 data, generosity maxim 1 data, approbation 8 data, modesty maxim 2 data, agreement maxim 2 data, and sympathy 3 data. Meanwhile for utterances that violate the maxim consist of approbation maxim 4 data, modesty maxim 1 data, agreement maxim in 1 data, and sympathy maxim 1 data. The benchmark of whether the utterance is obeying or violating the maxim is from the formula of each maxim. If the utterance did something opposite of the formula then it considers violating and being impolite.

For the second research question about the dominant maxim in the movie script, based on the finding and table 1 shows that the approbation maxim has the most data compare to other maxims. Approbation maxim exists with a total of 12 data and consists of 8 data that obey the maxim and 4 data that disobey the maxim. The least data come from Tact and Generosity maxim with 1 data, and in this data, there are only utterances that obey the maxim.

Approbation maxim is a pair of modesty maxims. This maxim is hearer-oriented, which means in this maxim the speaker has the purpose to make the hearer happy and feel pleasant. This shows in 8 data in the finding above. Meanwhile, the other 4 data that consider impolite and violate the maxim exist because the speaker says unpleasant things towards the hearer.

The formula of approbation maxim is to maximize praise and minimize dispraise of the hearer. In the findings, most data is about praising hearer appearance or outfit. It shows speakers give a compliment to the hearer, and each utterance happens in a different situation. Besides approbation maxim also shows when a speaker gives credit towards the hearer's talent for something and gives a compliment about the characters of the hearer. Meanwhile, praise also can go wrong, when the speaker wants to give a compliment however sometimes the speaker chooses ambiguous words and it can make the situation a little bit awkward and can confuse the hearer to interpret it as a compliment or not.

The Edge of Seventeen is about high school students, not just Nadine but that are Krista, Darian, Nick, Erwin, and other characters. For some people, high school can be a problem and they have to deal with it, this condition usually appears as a theme of a movie. How the characters interact with each other and based on the movie reviews the researcher concludes that this movie is quite relatable with real life, because it portraits how people communicate with each other, how they give praise and this situation appear most in the movie. Besides in real live people sometimes judge each other, speaking impolite towards someone, using bad words, etc. This becomes a reason why the approbation maxim is the dominant one besides the amount of data. In conclusion, the approbation maxim exists with a total of 14 data out of 24 data in the findings that make it as the dominant Leech's maxims that exit in *The Edge of Seventeen* movie.

Conclusion

Based on the discussion from the previous chapter, the authors concluded that Morten Tyldum's *The Imitation Game* movie released in 2013 is a movie that reflected the biography of Alan Turing, computer scientist, cyptanalyst, mathematician, who was a very important person during World War II. The story based on the story of how Alan Turing and his team broke *The Enigma*, German Nazi codes.

In Morten Tyldum's *The Imitation Game* movie depicted about the struggle, the story how Turing broke the *Enigma*, and also implicitly depicted about Turing's homosexuality. The main reason of his homosexuality most

Table 1. Politeness Principle Maxim in The Edge of Seventeen Movie

Theory	The Use of Politeness Principle (Obey and Disobey)	Data		
		Obey the Maxim	Disobey the Maxim	Total of Each Maxim
Politeness Principle	Tact Maxim	1	-	1
	Generository Maxim	1	-	1
	Approbation Maxim	8	4	12
	Modesty Maxim	2	1	3
	Agreement Maxim	2	1	3
	Sympathy Maxim	3	1	4
	Total	17	7	24

likely because of the failure of his Oedipus phase, also because other factors such as psychodynamic factor and environmental factor which make him even had greater chance to grow as a homosexual.

Furthermore, Homosexuality during World War II or around 1950s were forbidden and considered as a crime. Turing was convicted by the government because of his homosexuality which turned Turing to end his life at the end.

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