

**ANALYSIS OF COMPLIMENT AND ITS RESPONSE IN
MOVIE MANUSCRIPT: *BRATZ* AND *FUNNY PEOPLE*
(PRAGMATIC APPROACH)**

RESEARCH PAPER



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People as human being always communicate with other people in daily activities. With communication ones have saved their relationship. But in communication ones have considered the ways to express their ideas, in order to harmonize among them.

Speaking seems to be a very instrumental act. Speakers talk in order to have some effects on their listeners. They talk for certain purposes such are, to assert beliefs, to request help, to promise actions, to express congratulation, to ask question, to ask for information, and so forth. Speakers begin with an intention to give effect on their listeners, and then they select and utter a particular sentence which will bring about the effect. In addition most obvious way to express something is by conversation or by uttering something. In conversation, ones have many ways to express their feeling. Usually they give praise to someone because there is a difference of them, and also they give appropriate response to make a harmony of relationship. They utter something deals with the topic, and complimenting is one of way to express it.

Complimenting is a language function that is often used to encourage or reinforce one's desired behavior. It is often given to a person who has a pleasing appearance or performance or also even substitutes for them. Thus, a

compliment is likely to be given to a person who is wearing a nice-looking dress or a person who has done a good job, for instance.

People often like being complimented, but there is a problem of how to pay an appropriate response by addresser. It happens because the recipient of the compliment may tend to minimize it or to show modesty.

Compliments and its response are a kind of speech act that has main function to keep solidarity and harmony between the addresser and addressee. Wolfson maintain that the major function of a compliment is “to create or maintain solidarity between interlocutors” by expressing admiration or approval (1983:89). Because with accepting the compliment (based on west culture), people have made politeness for other people. Viewed from pragmatics, in compliment response a receiver has two options: accepting or rejecting compliment. It means to avoid arrogant. In this condition, receiver with accepting compliment has a conflict. When accepting the compliment, supposed that they are arrogant, while if rejecting a compliment is a something seems impolite, because it doesn't respect with addresser. Ones can maintain this conflict and give response by saying “thanks” because addressee doesn't make ambiguity with a compliment response and also can be avoided from arrogant.

Below is an example of compliments focusing on something directly attributable to the person addressed.

Example:

INT. LAURA'S RANCH - CONTINUOUS 114

George and Ira enter. Laura hugs George.

LAURA : “I’m so glad you guys came. Laura gives Ira a hug he wasn’t expecting. She leads them through the living room.”

CONTINUED

GEORGE : “*This is a beautiful house.*”

LAURA : “*Thank you.*”

From the dialogues above, George says to Laura “*this is a beautiful house*”, From this utterance, it seems that George wants to give compliment to Laura and her utterances is accepted because it is proved that Laura gives some feedback to George by answering, “*Thank you.*”. Those are a kind of compliments and the response. The compliments are not always accepted because of various reasons. Matreyek (1997: 2) describes the answer of accepting a compliment such as: thank you; oh, it was nothing; do you think so? You’re just flattering me; etc. He also describes the answers of rejecting a compliment such as: don’t give me that; don’t try and flatter me; I don’t like flatterers; nonsense; you’re full of baloney; etc

There are so many ways to give a compliment. From the example above, we know that the addresser makes a compliment because the addressee looks something different in his or her performance, and the addressee gives appropriate responses. In giving a response of compliment exactly each person has different ways. They can accept the compliment with thanks or just silent without any comment. Based on those phenomena the writer will analyze both of compliment and its response taken from movie manuscript. This research is important for the student to learn more about compliment and its response that difficult to acquire.

B. Previous Studies

The first previous study is done by Pomerantz (1978) who conducted a research entitled *maxims of speech behavior conflict to a compliment*. She claimed that two general maxims of speech behavior conflict with each other when responding to a compliment. These conflicting maxims are “agree with the speaker” and “avoid self-praise”. Recipients of compliments use various solutions to solve this conflict, such as praise downgrade and return it. Thus, although prescriptive norms of American speech behavior state that the appropriate response to a compliment is to say “thank you”, speakers will often downgrade the compliment or return it to the addresser.

The second previous study is done by Holmes (1995) at her research entitled *complimenting – A positive politeness strategy*. Holmes observed the differences of the complimenting strategy done by both male and female. Her analysis is to receive significantly more compliments than male speakers. This confirmed research carried out in USA and elsewhere. In her research, Holmes argued that it may be the case that female perceives compliment as positive politeness strategies while male are more ambivalent about the meaning of compliments and sometimes interpret them as face-threatening acts.

The third previous study is done by Dwi Tungga Ariati (2007) at her research entitled *A Study on the Compliment and Its Response in Movie Manuscript: Pretty Woman and 10 Things I Hate about You*. She discusses the compliment response in movie manuscripts. She finds that the forms of

sentences are declarative sentence, imperative sentence and exclamatory sentence. Related to the intention, she gets six kinds are to insult, to tease, to inform, to thank, and to motivate. The types of compliment response are appreciation token, comment acceptance single, praise upgrade, comment history, return, question, disagreement and no-acknowledgment.

The first previous study which is conducted by Pomerant is about maxims of speech behavior to a compliment. In her research there are two kinds of conflicting maxims, agree with the speaker and avoid self-praise, then second previous study which is conducted by Herbert is about a large number of compliments and compliment responses in American English and compares his results with similar research around the worlds, and the last previous study which is conducted by Dwi Tungga Ariati observed the compliments and its responses in movie manuscripts *pretty woman* and *10 things I hate about you*.

Different from the previous researches, who have described about compliment, the writer was interested to analyze not only compliment but also its response in other data from movie manuscripts as the data source with adding some theories dealing with the problem statements. The data are taken from movie manuscript *Bratz* and *Funny People*.

C. Problem Statement

1. What are the forms of compliments found in *Bratz* and *Funny People* movie manuscript?

2. What are the intentions of compliments found in *Bratz* and *Funny People* movie manuscripts?
3. What are the types of compliment response found in *Bratz* and *Funny People* movie manuscript?

D. Objective of the Study

1. Describing the forms of compliment in *Bratz* and *Funny People* movie manuscript.
2. Describing the intentions of compliments in *Bratz* and *Funny People* movie manuscripts.
3. Clarifying the types of compliment response in *Bratz* and *Funny People* movie manuscript.

E. Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the study on the use of compliment and its responses viewed from pragmatics as it occurs in movie manuscripts entitled *Bratz* and *Funny People*.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes that the research would be useful for the reader and for himself, and hope that the research gives several benefits:

1. Practical Benefit

The study is intended to help the readers to understand more about the compliment and its response and also give benefits for the readers in understanding the intention of responding compliment when they use it.

2. Theoretical Benefit

Through his study, the writer wants to give a different perspective toward the compliments and its response to other researchers. Besides, it also gives more understanding for the reader about the kinds of compliments response and the meaning beyond them.

G. Research Paper Organization

The writer arranges this research paper into five chapters. They are arranged as introduction, underlying theories, research method, research result, and conclusion and suggestion.

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of the study, previous studies, problem statement, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, limitation of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory. It consists of the notion of compliment, pragmatics, and speech act theory.

Chapter III is research method. It consists of type of research, objective of the research, data and data source, method of data collection, technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV is analysis and discussion.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. It consists of conclusion and suggestion of the finding. This last chapter is followed by appendix.