POLITENESS STRATEGIES OF REQUEST UTTERANCES IN
ROMANTIC MOVIE SCRIPT

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POLITENESS STRATEGIES OF REQUEST UTTERANCES IN
ROMANTIC MOVIE SCRIPT

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Abstract

The aims of this research are to describe the types of request used in romantic movie script, to describe the pramalinguistic forms of request used in romantic movie script and to determine types of politeness strategy used in request in romantic movie script. The type of this research is descriptive qualitative research. The researcher uses romantic movie script, they are Dear John, The Vow, and Letter to Juliet as the data source. The researcher employs documentation and observation as the method of collecting data with the techniques: watching, reading and identifying, classifying, coding, and categorizing the data. In analyzing the data, the writer describes the type of request strategy, describes pragmalinguistics form of request using Trosborg theory (1995) and describes politeness strategies using Brown and Levinson’s theory (1987). The result of this research shows that there are many types of request strategies from sixty three data (100%) found in this movie. They are Hints (7,94%), Ability Willingness and Permission (38,10%), Suggestory Formulae (1,59%), Wishes (3,17%), Desires/Needs (6,35%), Obligation and Necessity (1,59%) and Imperative (41,27%). The writer did not find the request type in performative. The pragmalinguistic form of strategies include Syntactic Downgrades, Lexical/Phrasal Downgrades, Supporting Reasons. Politeness strategies are Bald On Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off Record.

Keyword: Request Strategy, Pragmalinguistics Form, Politeness strategy
A. Introduction

In personal communication people have to consider politeness principle, that is a set or system in conversation when utter the speech. The principle is to maintain or consider the feeling of the hearer. In this case the politeness is needed to reduce the risk of conflict or Face Threat (Brown Levinson, 1987). Polite utterances are often used in asking (requesting), offering, complaining, apologizing because those request tend to threat to other’s face. Politeness in pragmatics is proposed by some experts, they are: Leech (1983), Lakoff (1967) and Brown and Levinson (1987). According to Brown and Levinson (1987), politeness can be defined as a desire to protect self image. A speaker must show awareness of the hearer’s face and self image through various strategies. To be successful in interaction, one has to follow some important strategies to be polite. People usually expect their face is respected in social interaction. On this basis, there are four main strategies for performing Face Threatening Acts (FTA) are as follows: Bald on Record, Positive Politeness, Of Record, and Negative Politeness.

Request is a type of speech act where the speaker (requester) demands from the hearer (requestee) to perform an act which is for the benefit of the requester at the cost of the request. Request is one of classifications of speech act that concern of asking for something or getting someone to do something. According to Trosborg (1995: 187), there are three types of request: the request as an impositive act, the request as a face-threatening act, and the request as distinguished from other impositive speech act. Trosborg (1995: 192) classifies four categories and eight strategies, they are: 1) indirect request: hints, 2) conventionally indirect (hearer-oriented condition): ability/willingness/permission and suggestory formulae, 3) conventionally indirect (speaker-based conditions): wishes and desired/needs, and 4) direct request: obligation, performatives and imperatives. According to
Trosborg (1995: 209) there are two pragmalinguistics form of request, they are 1) internal modification (Syntactic downgrader, Lexical/phrasal downgraders, upgraders), 2) External modification (preparators, disarmer, sweeteners, supportive reason, cost minimizing, promise of a rewards). During this time there have been many studies on politeness. There are the examples of politeness study; First study was conducted by Irragiliati (2006) study of politeness forms of address and communication. Second study was conducted by Wijayanto (2009) study on politeness principle in the expressive act in the movie of Pearl Harbor. The next the study was conducted by Brown (2010) study of politeness and second language learning. The other study was conducted by Solikhah (2011) study on politeness in the main Character in Persuasion Movie. But there has never been study on politeness used in request utterances in romantic movies script. Thus this study is to fill in this gap. So, the writer is interested to analyze the act of request in romantic movie script. The request expression in this movie can be analyzed in relation to politeness strategy.

B. Literary Review

Pragmatics is the study of emphasis of the meaning and language use that are dependent on the speaker to the addressee (listener) of the context. According to Levinson (1983: 5) pragmatics is the study of language usage. Levinson (1983: 9) says that pragmatics is the study of those relations between language and context that are grammaticalized or encoded in the structure of language. So, the writer concludes that pragmatics is the study of emphasis of the meaning and language use that are dependent on the speaker to the addressee (listener) of the context.
1. Request Strategy

According to Trosborg (1995: 187) argues that Request is an illocutionary act whereby a speaker (requester) conveys to a hearer (requestee) that he/she wants the requestee to perform an act which is for the benefit of the speaker. In the same mood, other linguist state that request is act of politely asking for something (Manser, 1995: 352). According to Trosborg (1995: 192), there are four categories and eight strategies of request strategies, they are hints, ability willingness and permission, suggestory formulae, wishes, desires/needs, obligation and necessity, performative, imperative.

Hint is the speaker does not want to state his impostive intent explicitly or uses hinting strategy. Ability willingness and permission is the speaker says her aims to the hearer alluding explicitly. The requester makes the hearer doing what the speaker wants. Suggestory formulae is the speaker does not question any specific hearer-based condition, but the speaker more press to the cooperation with the hearer to do the speaker’s request. Wishes is when the speaker speaks, the speaker only just focuses in the speaker’s condition. So, it makes the hearer desires become the main point in the interaction. Desires/needs is when the speaker speaks, she only just focuses in the speaker’s condition. So, it makes the hearer desires become the main point in the interaction. Obligation and necessity is the speaker exerts the hearer to do what the speaker want by the speaker own power. Performative is directly, the speaker asks the hearer to do what the speaker wants by impolite. Imperative is the speaker commands the hearer to do something and it should be obeyed by the hearer because the speaker has power over the hearer.
2. Pragmalinguistic Form

There are two pragmalinguistics form of Request based on Trosborg (209: 1995), they are internal and external modification. There are three types of internal modification, they are 1) syntactic downgraders (question, past tense/negotiation, tag question, conditional clause, embedding, ing-form, modals). 2) lexical/phrasal downgraders (politeness marker, consultative device, downtoner, understatement, hedge, hesitator, interpersonal marker). 3) upgrader (adverbial intensifier, commitment upgrader, lexical intensification).

There are some types of syntactic downgraders, they are question is the requester asks the hearer to do something and the requester assumes that the hearer can and willing to do something for her. The speaker uses question type to more polite the request. Past tense is the inclusion of past tense and/or negation further downtones the expectations to the fulfilment of the request. Tag question is the requester can appeal to the hearer’s consent by adding a tag question to a (fairly) direct request, thereby softening the impact considerably. Conditional clause is the requester can distance hi/her request further from reality by adding a conditional clause. Embedding is the requester can pre-face his/her request with a clause in which the request is embedded (hence ‘embedding clause”) conveying his/her attitude to the request. Ing-form is by selecting the continuous aspect, instead of the simple present/past tense, the requester emphasizes the meaning expressed by the embedding clause. Modal is A modal verb can be used to convey tentativeness.

There are some types of lexical/phrasal downgrader, they are Politeness marker is in order to signal politeness the requester can add elements of deference to the request. Consultative device is consulting the hearer is another way of asking for the hearer
consent. Ritualized formulae of the kind *would you mind*, as well as other expressions can be used. Down-toner is a number of modal sentence adverbials and modal particles can be used to down-tone the impositive force of the request. Typical modifiers are *just, simply, perhaps, possibly, rather, etc.* Understatement is a way of decreasing the imposition forced on the hearer is to understate or in some way minimize some aspects of the desire act. Hedge is by hedging the propositional content the requester can be intentionally vague about certain aspects of the act to be carried out, thereby giving the requestee the option of specifying it him/herself. A “hedge” is a particle, word or phrase that modifies the degree of membership of a predicate of a noun phrase in a set. Adverbial like *kind of, sort of, somehow, and so on, more or less, etc.* Hesitator is by hesitating before uttering a request the requester can convey to the requestee that he/she has certain qualms about asking him/her about the matter. Interpersonal marker is some expressions have as their sole function on the role of establishing and maintaining a good and amiable interpersonal relationship. Phrase such as *you know, you see, I mean, etc.* referred to as *cajolers*, help to attract the hearer’s attention, interest, understanding, etc. and by using appealers, such as *right?, okay?, etc.*

There are some types of upgrader, they are adverbial intensifier is the requester’s choice of lexical items reveals his/her attitude. The speaker gives negative impact for the hearer by using curse words. It caused the hearer feels threatened and do the request as soon as possible. Commitment upgrader is The requester can add a sentence modifier that increases his/her commitment towards the proposition like *I’m sure, I’m certain, I’m positive, it’s obvious, surely, certainly, positively, obviously, unfortunately, etc.* Lexical intensification is the requester’s choice of lexical items reveals his/her attitude. The speaker gives negative impact for the
hearer by using curse words. It caused the hearer feels threatened and do the request as soon as possible.

There are six type of external modification, they are 1) preparators is It’s important in the first place that the requester prepares his/her request carefully. Disarmer is in order to “soften” the requestee’s attitude and make him/her favourably disposed towards the requester, the latter can make use of disarming statements. Sweeteners is if you want somebody to do something for you, a possible strategy is to flatter the requestee accordingly. Supportive reason is it is important that he requester gives his/her specific reasons for making the request. Cost minimizing is in order to persuade the requestee to comply, the requester can point to factors that will minimize any possible costs to the requestee. Promise of a reward is the requester can offer the requestee a reward in order to make the request more attractive to him/her and thus increase the possibility of compliance.

3. Politeness Strategy

Politeness is the way to convey the speaker’s wants by using the so special way that is seldom used in daily language. In Brown and Levinson (1987), there are four highest-level strategies named super strategies. They are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record.

In bald-on-record, the maximum efficiency is more important than face redress. People use bald-on-record strategy in some reasons like in the urgency context, task oriented, difficult to exerting communication with maximum efficiency, and S more powerful than H. There are. Urgency context needs more efficiency than face. Here, no face redress is necessary. For example when S is in dangerous situation S will use Help! Than uses Could you help me, please!.
Positive politeness is used less directly to the addressee’s positive face. Positive politeness is usually said by less directly way. There are fifteen strategies of politeness: Notice, attending to hearer, exaggerating, intensifying interest to hearer, using in-group identity markers, seeking agreement, avoiding disagreement, presupposing; joking, asserting speaker’s knowledge of and concern for hearer’s wants, offering, being optimistic, including S and H in the activity, giving (or ask for) reasoning, assuming or asserting reciprocity and give gift to H.

In Brown and Levinson (1987: 129) “negative politeness is used to preserve the addressee’s negative face: the addressee wants to be freedom of action, his action not to be disturbed by speaker’s want. There are ten strategies of negative politeness, that is be conventionally indirect, question and hedge, be pessimistic, minimize the imposition, give deference, apologize, impersonalize S and H, state the FTA as general rule, nominalize, go on record as incurring a debt or as not in debt to H.

The last strategy is off record. Brown and Levinson (1978: 211) state “A communicative act is done off record if it is done in such a way that it is not possible to attribute only one clear communicative intention to the act”. There are fifteen strategies of off record, give hints, give association clues, presuppose, understate, overstate, use tautologies, use contradictions, be ironic, use metaphors, use rhetorical questions, be ambiguous, be vague, over generalize, displace H, and be incomplete/ use ellipsis.

C. Research Method

The type of this research is descriptive research. According to Moleong (1995: 2) qualitative research is a type of research, which does not include any calculation or numbering. In this research the writer
intents to describe politeness strategy, then describe the type of request utterance in romantic movie script and describe the linguistic form of request in romantic movie script. The researcher collect the data, analysis them and conclude them. The object of research is politeness strategies are used in request in Dear John, The Vow, and Letter to Juliet movie script. The data of this research are politeness of request utterance. The researcher employs documentation and observati as the method of collecting data with the techniques: watching, reading and identifying, classifying, coding, and categorizing the data. In analyzing the data, the writer describes the type of request strategy, describes pragmalinguistics form of request using Trosborg theory (1995) and describes politeness strategies using Brown and Levinson’s theory (1987).

D. Research Finding and Discussion

1. Type of Request Strategy

The writer found the types of request strategy were used in this movie. They are Hints, Ability Willingness and Permission, Suggestory Formulae, Wishes, Desires/Needs, Obligation and Necessity and Imperative. The writer is not found request type of performative in this movie.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request Strategies</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obligation</td>
<td>1.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suggestory Formulae</td>
<td>1.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wishes</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire/Need</td>
<td>6.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hints</td>
<td>7.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability, Willingness, Permission</td>
<td>38.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperative</td>
<td>41.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There were many types of request strategies from sixty three data (100%) found in this movie. They are Hints have 5 data (7.94%), Ability Willingness and Permission have 24 data (38.10%), Suggestory Formulae 1 data (1.59%), Wishes have 2 data (3.17%), Desires/Needs have 4 data (6.35%), Obligation and Necessity 1 data (1.59%) and Imperative have 26 data (41.27%). The writer is not found request type of performative in this movie.

Chart 1 above shows that imperative was the most frequent strategy used by the characters in Romantic Movie. The second most frequent was ability willingness and permission, the third common strategy was hints and the fourth was desire/need. Suggestory formulae and obligation/necessity was same percentages. The writer not found performative strategy in this movie.

The example of request strategy analysis:

**TV/DATA /01/MH**

**Leo** : Wow, it was barely an inch when we went in.
**Paige** : It’s so beautiful.
**Leo** : (Clean the snow on the car glass)
**Paige** : It’s good, it’s good, and it’s good.
**Leo** : (Come into the car)
**Paige** : I can’t feel my fingers
**Leo** : (Give a warm to Paige’s fingers)
**Paige** : Thank you

The context of the utterance above can be seen from the scene, Paige was Leo’s wife. In the winter, Paige and Leo checked out of the restaurant. They saw the cars parked outside the restaurant and all of cars filled of snow looked so beautiful. They came into their car. Paige came into the car firstly while Leo cleaned the glass of the car before drove the car, then Leo followed Paige to the car after it. Paige felt so cold because the weather was winter. Indirectly, Paige uttered “I can’t feel my finger”.
Paige’s utterance “I can’t feel my fingers” belongs to the first strategy of request, hint. This belonged to Mild Hints. When Leo came into the car, Paige stated her reason in making an implicit request. The speaker wanted to ask the hearer to give warmth to her fingers without using a clear request. The hearer understood the speaker’s request. In this case, Leo gave a warm to Paige’s fingers.

2. Type of Pragmalinguistics Form

The researcher found there are three types of pragmalinguistics strategy in this movie. They are Syntactic Downgrades, Lexical/Phrasal Downgrades, Supportive Reasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pragmalinguistic Forms</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syntactic Downgrades</td>
<td>56.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexical/Phrasal Downgrades</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supportive Reasons</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were many types of pragmalinguistic form from 63 data (100%) found in this movie, they are Syntactic downgrades (56,60%), Lexical downgrades (33,33%) and Supportive reason (10%).

Chart 2 above shows that syntactic downgrader was the most frequent strategy used by the characters in Romantic Movie. The second most frequent was Lexical/phrasal downgrader, and the
third common strategy was Supportive Reasons, the lowest percentages (10%).

The example of pragmalinguistic form analysis:

**DJ/ DATA/IM/SD1**
John  : Oh, shit, Tim.
        Jesus, I'm sorry, man.
Tim   : Hey, I like it. I think it makes me look pretty tough.
John  : I just... I had no idea it was you back there.
Tim   : Hey, it was my fault. I don't know what I was thinking, sneaking up behind a green beret.
John  : Hey, if you see her...can you give her a message for me?
Tim   : Yeah...
John  : Just tell her I came by...and that I...
Tim   : You wanna write it down?
John  : Yeah...
Tim   : I'll make sure she gets it.
John  : Thank you.

The utterance above belongs to syntactic downgraders of pragmalinguistic form. This belonged to question type because the requester asked the hearer to do something and the requester assumed that the hearer can and willing to do something for him. In this case, John said “**Hey, if you see her...can you give her a message for me?**” to Tim. John made a question to ask Tim to give the message for Savannah. The question made by John to make his request more polite. Tim has a freedom to grant John’s request or not to done. If the request was not fulfilled, John would not lose his face because he used indirectly request.
3. Politeness Strategy

The researcher found all the politeness strategy, they are Bald On Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, Off Record used in Romantic movie.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Politeness Strategy</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off Record</td>
<td>6.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Politeness</td>
<td>36.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
<td>18.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bald on Record</td>
<td>38.46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were four type of politeness strategy of request utterances from 63 data (100%) found in this movie, they are Bald on record 38.46%, Positive Politeness 18.84%, Negative Politeness 36.92% and Off record 6.15%.

The chart 3 above shows that Bald on Record strategy was the most frequent strategy used in Romantic Movie. The second was negative politeness strategy, and the third was Positive Politeness strategy. The other strategy was off record, it was lower percentages (6, 15%).

The example of the politeness strategy analysis:

**TV/DATA/15/BOR**
Mrs. Thornton: I’m so happy to have you back.
In honor of Paige being home, I made your favorite dinner.

Mrs. Thornton: *Oh, please, please.*

**Sit down.**

Paige: Okay….

Mrs. Thornton: Before we start. I think this evening deserves a toast.

The utterance *“Oh, please, please. Sit down”* belongs to bald on record strategy of politeness because the speaker has more power than the speaker. In this case, Mr. Thornton uttered her request directly. Mr. Thornton has higher authority than all because as the mother and the older people. She has a power to order, ask, command to their children. Mrs. Thornton used the identity marker *“Please”* to soften her request. She asked Leo and Paige to sit down and enjoyed the food.

**E. Conclusion**

Based on the research finding, the researcher draws the following conclusion. Firstly, the types of request used in romantic movie script are some types of request strategy, are hints, questioning hearer’s ability/willingness, suggestory formulae, statement of speaker’s wishes and desires, statements of speaker’s need and demand, statement of obligations and necessity, and imperatives. The researcher not found the request type of performative in this movie. The most frequently used of request strategy in Romantic Movie is imperatives (41, 2%). The second most frequent was ability willingness and permission (38, 09%), Suggestory formulae and obligation/necessity was same percentages (1, 59%). The writer not found Performative strategy in this movie. So, from the data it can be concluded that imperative strategies is the mostly used in Romantic Movie because the requester in this movie commonly have power/ authority over than the hearer. Although it is Romantic Movie but, the situation not always good, it’s often occurred debate or disputed.
Secondly, the types of pragmalinguistic form that used in Romantic movie. The researcher found there are three types of pragmalinguistics strategy in this movie. They are Syntactic Downgrades, Lexical/Phrasal Downgrades, Supportive Reasons. The most dominant type of pragmalinguistic form used by the characters in Romantic Movie is syntactic downgrader (56, 6%). The second most frequent was Lexical/phrasal downgrader (33,33), and the third common strategy was Supportive Reasons, the lowest percentages (10%). So, it can be concluded that pragmalinguistics form that most dominant used in romantic movie script is Syntactic Downgraders. There many utterances that make to increase politeness of his/her request in many situation.

Thirdly, the types of Politeness strategy of request that used in Romantic Movie Script. The researcher found all the politeness strategy, they are Bald On Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, Off Record used in Romantic movie. Bald on Record strategy was the most frequent strategy used in Romantic Movie (38, 46). The second was negative politeness strategy, and the third was Positive Politeness strategy. The other strategy was Off Record, it was lower percentages (6, 15%). The speaker used bald on record strategy because has some reasons such as the urgency context, difficult to exerting communication with maximum efficiency, and S is more powerful than H. In this movie, the speaker is more powerful than the hearer and the situation is urgency.


