INTERLANGUAGE PRAGMATICS OF DISAGREEMENT
BY INDONESIAN EFL LEARNERS

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Abstract

The research paper studies about disagreement strategies, gender difference, and politeness strategies by Indonesian EFL Learners. The study aims at describing disagreement strategies used by Indonesian EFL Learners and describing the gender difference influence on disagreement strategies and determining the politeness strategy used in disagreement by Indonesian EFL Learners.

The research paper is a descriptive qualitative research. The data are sentences containing disagreement strategies in the data source which is disagreement. The data sources are from Discourse Completion Task (DCT) and its responds. The data are collected from 20 male 20 female students of Department of English Education. The researcher applies comparison in analyzing the data of the study then review the raters.

The results of the research show that: out of 360 data using disagreement strategies, the use combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims 304 data or 84,45%, Counterclaims 46 data or 12,78%, Contradictions 3 data or 0,83%, Challenges 1 data or 0,27%, the combination of Counterclaims and Contradictions 3 data or 0,83%, the combination of Challenges and Counterclaims 3 data or 0,83%, the combination of Challenges, Contradictions and Counterclaims 1 data or 0,27%.
The gender difference use in combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims female 142 data or 39,3%, male 162 data or 44,95%, contradictions, male 3 data or 0,83%, Counterclaims female 33 data or 9,1%, male 12 data or 3,27%, Challenges male 1 data or 0,27%, combination of Challenges, Contradictions and Counterclaims female 1 data 0,27%, combination of Counterclaims and Contradictions female 2 data or 0,56%, male 1 data or 0,27%, combination of Challenges and Counterclaims female 2 data or 0,56%, male 1 data or 0,27%. The use of politeness strategies Bald on record 238 data or 66,11%, Negative Politeness 94 data or 26,11%, Positive Politeness 9 data or 2,5%, Off record 19 data or 5,27%. From these percentage, it can be concluded that the participants used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims more oftenly. The gender difference influence that Male more often used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims that did female. The participants more often used Bald on record that did Positive Politeness.

Keywords: disagreement, interlanguage pragmatics, politeness
A. Introduction

Mastering the second language (L2) is not easy especially if L2 is studied not in the country where L2 comes from like Indonesian learner who study English at Indonesia. Interlanguage is the product of mastering target language. This term was first used by Slinker (in Fauziati 2009: 165) to describe the linguistic stage second language learners go through during the process of mastering the target language. Actually, if the learner has problem in the mastering L2, an erroneous will be produced. Disagreement is a form of communication. Disagreement is defined as a speech activity in which the interlocutors try to keep their own positions by opposing each other. In addition, disagreement by its nature is a face threatening act which threatens the solidarity between the speaker and the addressee. In verbal communication, expression of disagreement seen as a communicative act, is employed when the speaker has different attitudes from his/her interlocutor. To achieve that goal the writer use interlanguage pragmatics of disagreement to prevent misunderstanding. There are various types of disagreement which may be used by many people when they want to realize disagreement. Muntigl and Turnbull (1998: 229-231) identify four types of disagreements, namely irrelevancy claims (IC), challenges (CH), contradictions (CT), and counterclaims (CC). Politeness is interpreted as a strategy employed by a speaker to achieve a variety of goals. One of the speaker goals is to get hearer to do an act which the speaker’s wants. In order to get the hearer to do our intention, the speaker needs to choose linguistic form of disagreement which are suitable with the relationship between the speaker and the hearer, and the seriousness of the disagreement. The speaker also needs to employ politeness strategy. According to Ariel (2008: 158) politeness intervene to prevent us from expressing things “as they really are” (in reality or in our mind). So, it is necessary for us to know how to make a good communication in interlanguage process used disagreement. To achieve that goal the writer use Indonesian EFL Learners as a object of research.

There are a lot of disagreement made by Indonesian EFL Learners students. For example:
Your close friend said that Mathematics is easy subject in high school. You disagree with this opinion. The sentence that you say to your friend:

(1) I disagree with you, because I hate Mathematics.

(2) I don’t think so, it’s hard for me.

From the data above, these sentences used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims strategies. These utterances are affected by the social distances and status levels between the speaker and listener. These sentences used Bald on record. It can be showed that whenever speaker wants to do face threatening acts with maximum efficiency more than he/she wants to satisfy hearer’s face, even to any degree. Bald on record directly address others as a means of expressing the speaker needs. The other example is as follows:

Your sister/brother said that handphone is very important in this period. You disagree with this opinion. The sentence that you say to your sister/brother:

(1) I disagree with you. We control the using of handphone not handphone control us.

(2) Handphone isn’t really important, there’s a laptop that I can use to communicate.

In that data, sentence 1 used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims strategies different with sentence 2. Sentence 2 used Counterclaims strategies. The speakers show their politeness strategy. Sentence 1 showed that speaker used Bald on record strategy because using “I disagree”, the speaker wants to do face threatening acts with maximum efficiency more than their want to satisfy hearer’s face. Sentence 2 used Off record strategy. The strategy is give hints. It means that speaker says something that is not explicitly relevant, speaker invites hearer to search for an interpretation of the possible relevance.

The aims of this study are (1) to describe disagreement strategies used by Indonesian EFL Learners (2) to describe the gender difference influence disagreement strategies (3) to determine the politeness strategy used in disagreement by Indonesian EFL Learners.
To prove the originality of this study, the writer will show some previous studies that have been done. It is conducted by Sofwan and Suwigno (2011) in their research entitled *The Realization of Disagreement Strategies By Non Native Speakers of English* investigates the realization of disagreement strategies by non-native speakers of English by eliciting data through DCT and role plays from two groups of students: first year students and third year students of English Department. The result showed that most students realized disagreement through contradiction, counterclaim, irrelevancy claim, contradiction and counterclaim, and challenges related to personal involvement and non-personal involvement issues in different social status. The contradiction strategy was dominantly used by the students. Some students realized disagreement through the combination of counterclaim and challenge strategy in equal and high-low status related to personal involvement, and equal and low-high status related to non-personal involvement. In this case, students didn’t only disagree by producing counterclaim response but also challenged the previous speaker to provide more evidence related to his/her statement. The other previous study is done by Wijayanto. Et. al (2013) in their research entitled *Politeness in Interlanguage Pragmatics of Complains by Indonesian Learners of English* investigates politeness strategies involved in complains relating to different social status levels and social distances. The results of their study revealed that different status levels and social distances induced different frequencies of politeness strategies rather than different types of politeness. Bald on record and positive politeness were the most pervasive strategies used by the research participants. Both politeness strategies were used significantly different when interlocutors had familiar and unfamiliar relationships and they had different status levels (lower and higher). Negative politeness also occurred commonly but it was used less often than it was Bald on record and Positive politeness. It was used significantly different when interlocutors had close and familiar relationships. Off-record was employed the least often. Their study provided a better understanding of foreign language learners’ pragmatic competence regarding the use of politeness strategies. However, since the strategies were elicited mainly through ODCT, they might not truly reflect the complexities of politeness strategies in their natural setting. Although ODCT could generate spontaneous responses,
participants only interacted with unreal interlocutors therefore they might lack accountability for what they said. There are similarities between the previous study and this research. First, the study uses DCT to make the data. Second, the study is about disagreement and politeness. But the result of the study is different because the object and subject are different where the writer describes the use of disagreement too.

To measure this study, there are several theories relate to this study. There are various types of disagreement which may be used by many people when they want to realize disagreement. Muntigl and Turnbull (1998: 229-231) identify four types of disagreements, namely irrelevancy claims (IC), challenges (CH), contradictions (CT), and counterclaims (CC).

Irrelevancy Claims are meta-dispute-acts that comment on the conversational interactions. They show that a previous claim is not relevant to the discussion of the topic at hand. These are marked by words and expressions, like it doesn't matter, You're staying off the topic, and it is nothing to do with it. Challenges are preceded by reluctance markes that display disagreement with prior turn and typically have the syntactic form of interrogative with question particles such as when, what, who, why, where and how. This type does not make a specific claim (e.g why or like who); it implicates that the addressee cannot provide evidence for his claim (Muntigl and Turnbull, 1998: 230). Challenges implicate that the addressee cannot, in fact, provide evidence for his/her claim. Contradictions are often marked by negative particles like “no” or “not” i.e (No, I don’t), indicating that the contradiction of the prior claim is true. A speaker contradicts by uttering the negated proposition expressed by the previous claim. Counterclaims tend to be preceded by pauses, prefaces, and mitigating devices. With contradictions, speakers propose an alternative claim that does not directly contradict or challenge others’ claim. They allow further negotiation of the previous claim.

Related to this object of the study, Peccei (1999: 64) politeness involves to show an aswereness of other people’s face wants. As used by these authors, face refers to our public self-image. Within the framework from Peccei, the writer carries out experiments of politeness strategies and it has gender difference influence disagreement strategies by Indonesian EFL learners. According to Brown and Levinson (1987: 5) politeness is terms of conflict avoidance. The central themes are face, which are claimed to be universal features, i.e. possessed by all speakers and
hearers. face refers to an individual’s feeling of self-worth or self-image, reputation or good names that every one has and expects every one else to recognize. Brown and Levinson assume that every individual has two types of face or want: negative and positive. An individual positive face is reflected in his desire to be liked, approved of, respected and appreciated by others. An individual negative face is reflected in his desire not to be impeded or put upon, to have the freedom to act as one chooses. Politeness as the strategies to use in this research very important to be discussed in this chapter because the politeness as science involve many “strategies to be considered. Brown and Levinson, 1992; Thomas : 1997: 170) calculated lead to the decision which results in five possible communication choice. The five strategies for performing face threatening acts (FTA) are Bald on record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, Off record of inviting conversational implicature and Off record be vague or ambiguous.

B. Research Method

This study uses descriptive qualitative research method in purpose to describe the disagreement strategies and gender difference influence by Indonesian EFL Learners and also to determine the politeness strategies used in disagreement by Indonesian EFL Learners. The object of study are disagreement found in all of responds in the DCT Scenarios. In this study, the writer uses Discourse Completion Task (DCT) as the processing of method of collecting data after that make a situational context in indonesian language to ask the learners by using DCT, the learners response using disagreement in english. Then, the writer makes their response to analyzing the data.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

From the analysis data, the writer gets 360 data using disagreement. It can be explained below:

1. Disagreement Strategies and Gender Difference Influence used by Indonesian EFL Learners

They are divided into 7 types of disagreement strategies, then it is elaborated as follows:
1.1 Combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims (CT+CC)

The use of combination between Contradictions+Counterclaims (CT+CC) gets 304 data or 84.45%. The gender difference use this strategies, for female 142 data or 39.3% and male 162 data or 44.95%. For example:
Female: I don’t think so, it’s hard for me.
Male: I disagree with you, because Mathematic is complicated subject.

1.2 Counterclaims (CC)

The use of Counterclaims (CC) gets 46 data or 12.78%. The gender difference use this strategies, for female 33 data or 9.1% and male 12 data or 3.27%. For example:
Female: Handphone isn’t really important, there’s laptop that I can use to communicate.
Male: That is your opinion, but that is only an opinion not the fact.

1.3 Contradictions (CT)

The use of Contradictions (CT) gets 3 data or 0.83%. The gender difference use this strategies, for male 3 data or 0.83% but no female use this. For example:
Male: I don’t think so.

1.4 Combination of Counterclaims and Contradictions (CC+CT)

The use of combination between Counterclaims+Contradictions (CC+CT) gets 3 data or 0.83%. The gender difference use this strategies, for female 2 data or 0.56% and male 1 data or 0.27%. For example:
Female: Join organization will create a new experience in our life. You can improve your skill that you can shows in college in organization. So, I disagree with you.
Male: Come on sister, let’s join organization. Because with join organization can explore our potential and get more experience. So, I don’t agree with you.
1.5 Combination of Challenges and Counterclaims (CH+CC)

The use of combination between Challenges+Counterclaims (CH+CC) gets 3 data or 0,83%. The gender difference use this strategies, for female 2 data or 0,56% and male 1 data or 0,27%. For example:

Female: Are you sure boy? You must join it first, then you can give comment. There are lot of advantages for us.

1.6 Challenges (CH)

The use of Challenges (CH) gets 1 data or 0,27%. The gender difference use this strategies, for male 1 data or 0,27% but no female use this. For example:

Male: Excuse me sir, What is the reason? And what for?

1.7 Combination of Challenges, Contradictions and Counterclaims (CH+CT+CC)

The use of combination between Challenges+Contradictions+Counterclaims (CH+CT+CC) gets 1 data or 0,27%. The gender difference use this strategies, for female 1 data or 0,27% but no male use this. For example:

Female: What did you mean? I don’t think so, discipline is very important because we will respect time and can manage time well.

2. Politeness Strategies used in Disagreement by Indonesian EFL Learners

They are divided into 4 types of politeness strategies, then it is elaborated as follows:

2.1 Bald on record (BOR)

Bald on record is politeness strategies that can directly address others as a means of expressing your needs (Yule, 1996: 63). The prime reason for bald on record usage may be stated simply: in general, whenever speaker wants to do FTA with maximum efficiency more than
he wants to satisfy H’s face, even to any degree, he will choose the bald on record strategy (Brown and Levinson, 1987: 95).

The use of Bald on record (BOR) gets 238 data or 66,11%. For example: I really don’t agree with you, you must study hard.

I don’t think so. Because handphone make you lazy to study.

2.2 Positive Politeness (PP)

Positive politeness is redress directed to the addressee’s positive face, his perennial desire that his wants for the actions/acquisitions/values resulting from them should be thought of as desirable (Brown and Levinson, 1987: 101).

The use of Positive Politeness (PP) gets 9 data or 2,5%. For example: Yes, but it is an effective transportation too.

Why not? Some people may fall in love just right after they saw someone and interested with that one.

2.3 Negative Politeness (NP)

Negative Politeness is redressive action addresses to the addressee’s negative face: the want to have freedom of action unhindered and their attention unimpeded (Brown and Levinson, 1987: 129). Negative politeness is specific and focused which functions to minimize the particular imposition that FTA unavoidably effects (Brown and Levinson, 1987: 129).

The use of Negative Politeness (NP) gets 94 data or 26,11%. For example:

I am sorry dad, I disagree with you. Motorcycle is very important, because I’m in campus until night.

I am sorry sir, in my opinion high education is only one of the factors of success, there are many factors to be success like hard work.

2.4 Off record (ORA)

Off record statement may or may not succeed, but if it does, it will be because more has been communicated than was said (Yule, 1996: 3).
A communicative act is done by using 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 (Brown and Levinson, 1987: 211). Off record utterances are essentially indirect uses of language. To construct an off-record utterance one says something that is either more general or actually different from what one means (intends to be understood).

The use of Off record (ORA) gets 19 data or 5.27%.

For example:

You are a child, having cell phone is not important for this time.

No sis, handphone make us looks life individually, because we only focus on our handphone.

3. Discussion

The writer found the different phenomena in in the disagreement strategies used by Indonesian EFL Learners. From DCT 1 showed that combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims as the highest position. In the gender deference used in disagreement male and female used the combination of Contradictions and counterclaims were similar. Bald on record as the highest strategies that used in Politeness strategies. The less frequently was Off record (Give association clues).

DCT 2 indicated the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims as the highest position. the second as the less frequently was Counterclaims. The gender difference used in disagreement, male and female used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims differently: Females is more frequently that did Male. The use of Politeness strategies was Bald on record as the highest position.

DCT 3 explained the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims as the highest position in the use of disagreement. Male and female used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims differently: Male is more often that did Female. The use of Politeness strategies was Negative Politeness as the highest position. The second high was Bald on record, it means that the data differently with Table 2.
DCT 4 demonstrated the highest position it was combination of Contradictions and Counterclaim. The less frequently was Contradictions. Male and female used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims differently: Female is more frequently that did Male. The use of politenesss strategies demonstrated that Bald on record as the highest position. Possitive Politeness and Off record as the less frequently.

DCT 5 asserted the highest position was combination of Contradictions and counterclaims. The writer found different phenomena, the less frequently was combination of three strategies, there are Challenges, Contradictions and Counterclaims. Male and Female used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims differently: Female is more frequently that did Male. The writer asserted the gender difference in new phenomena that Male and Female used the combination of Challenges, Contradictions and Counterclaims differently: Female is more often that did Male.

DCT 6 clarified the highest position was combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims. The second as less frequently was Counterclaims. Based on table 6 the gender difference used in disagreement clarified that Male and Female used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims differently: Female used it more often that did Male. Besides that, Male and Female used Counterclaims differently: Female used it more frequently that did Male. The politeness strategies used Negative Politeness was the highest position, it means that the data analysis different with previously phenomena.

DCT 7 showed the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims as the highest position. The less frequently was Contradictions. In the gender difference used disagreement, between Male and Female used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims were similar. The politeness strategies was Bald on record as the highest position the less frequently was Off record.

DCT 8 illustrates the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims as the highest position. But, the gender difference used in disagreement showed that Male and Female used the combination of Contradictions and
Counterclaims differently: Female used it more frequently that did Male. Because Female was more polite that did Male when they responded. The use of Politeness Strategies illustrated Bald on record as the highest position. The less frequently was Off record.

DCT 9 displayed the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims as the highest position. Male and Female used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims differently: Female used it more frequently that did Male. The politeness strategies displayed that Negative Politeness as the highest position. the less frequently was Positive Politeness.

The writer concluded that the most students are more easier when they used the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims that did Challenges and Irrelevancy Claims. Male students used Contradictions strategy more often that did Female. Because the male students said directly clear without good manners. Different from the female students, they are more polite that did male.

The writer found that many students used Bald on record, because the students want to threaten the hearer by doing face threatening acts. But there are some students doing stereotype positive and stereotype negative because they often seen from the English people or watching the movie when they responded the Discourse Completion Task (DCT). And the less students did not know the politeness strategies when they are doing learning process. So, the students have to study Pragmatics especially politeness strategies to prove their politeness ability.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

1. Conclusion

This research concerned in three cases, there are the used of disagreement strategies, the gender difference influence in disagreement strategies and politeness strategies used in disagreement. Based on the data analysis the combination of Contradictions and Counterclaims was often used by Indonesian EFL Learners. In this case, students did not only disagree by
producing contradictions response but also counterclaims to provide more evidence related to his/ her statements.

The finding of this study showed that male and female students were different when they made the Discourse Completion Task (DCT). In this case, the male students deliver their responded clearly and conventionally different with female students. Nevertheless, female students more polite when they delivered their respond.

This research found that Bald on record was the most pervasive strategies used by the research participants. This politeness strategies was used significantly different when interlocutors had familiar and unfamiliar relationships and they had different status levels (lower and higher). Positive Politeness was employed the least often. This study provided a better understanding of foreign language learners’ pragmatic competence regarding the use of politeness strategies.

2. Suggestion

2.1 Next researcher

The writer hopes this research can give motivation and reference that pragmatics is easier to study, especially interlanguage. This research can be developed by other researcher dealing with Interlanguage pragmatics of disagreement in different perspective. The next researcher can investigate employing hedging/mitigate in disagreement, the different competency with strategy of disagreement, and background of Jawa and Batak using politeness strategies.

2.2 For students

The result of this study can contribute the students to get many information and knowledge in this research of pragmatics especially strategy of disagreement and politeness because politeness is more important than grammar.

2.3 For teacher

The result of this study can be used in developing teaching matter for speech act, politeness and strategy of disagreement.
E. Reference


