

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF JAVANESE AND ENGLISH
REFUSALS TO INVITATIONS USED BY JAVANESE
LEARNERS OF ENGLISH**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department**

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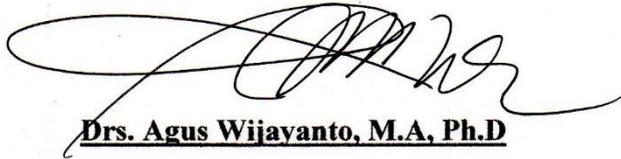
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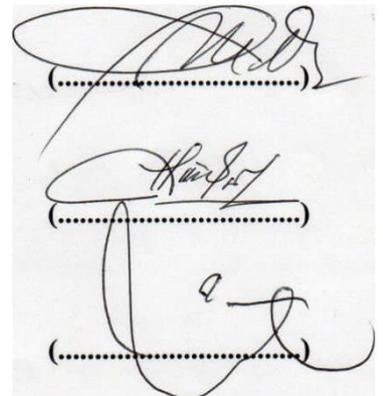
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TESTIMONY

Here, the writer declares that there is no proposed work before in this study to get Bachelor degree in certain university and as long as the writer knows that there is also no work and idea that has ever written or published by other people, except referred written in this study paper and mentioned in bibliography.

If it is provided that there is mistake in the study's statement above later in the future, she will be totally responsible for that.

Surakarta, August 2019

The writer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mira Veronika', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini mendeskripsikan penggunaan strategi kesantunan dalam penolakan bahasa Jawa dan bahasa Inggris terhadap undangan / ajakan pelajar Jawa pembelajar bahasa Inggris di Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Dalam penelitian ini diikuti oleh empat puluh pelajar Jawa pembelajar bahasa Inggris di semester pertama pada jurusan Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta dengan latar belakang Jawa. Data diperoleh dari bentuk ucapan lisan, dengan strategi penolakan yang diperoleh melalui skenario DCT (Discourse Completion Task) lisan. Subyek penelitian diambil dengan teknik proportional random sampling yang terdiri dari dua puluh laki-laki dan dua puluh wanita pelajar Jawa pembelajar bahasa Inggris penulis menganalisis data strategi penolakan berdasarkan Beebe dkk. (1990), sedangkan strategi kesopanan dianalisis berdasarkan Brown dan Levinson (1987). Temuan menunjukkan bahwa ada persamaan dan perbedaan di antara penolakan Jawa dan Inggris. Kedua kelompok lebih suka menggunakan strategi penolakan langsung. Para peserta antara Jawa dan Inggris umumnya menggunakan urutan sekuensial yang sama, meskipun perbedaan ditemukan karena variasi rumus semantik dan tambahan yang terutama digunakan untuk mengekspresikan kesopanan.

Kata kunci: Pelajar Jawa pembelajar bahasa Inggris, Strategi kesopanan, Strategi penolakan

Abstract

This research describes the use of politeness strategies in Javanese and English refusal to invitations by Javanese learners of English in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. This research is descriptive qualitative research. In this research participated by forty Javanese learners of English at first semester at English department, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta with Javanese background. The data were spoken utterances, of refusal strategies obtained through oral DCT (Discourse Completion Task) scenarios. The subjects of the research were taken using proportional random sampling technique consisting twenty males and twenty females of Javanese learners of English participants. The writer analyzed the data of refusal strategies based on Beebe et al. (1990), while that of politeness were analyzed based on Brown and Levinson (1987). The findings indicate that there are similarities and differences among the Javanese and English refusals. Both groups preferred using direct refusal strategies. The participants between those Javanese and English generally used similar sequential orders, although differences were

found due the variations of semantic formula and adjunct which were particularly used to express politeness.

Keywords: Javanese learners of English, Politeness strategies, Refusal strategies

1. INTRODUCTION

According to Al-Eryani (2007: 21) Refusal is a response negatively to an offer, request, invitation, and suggestion. Refusal as all the other speech acts occurs in all language. Refusals in Javanese are unique and complex. Javanese people commonly use the sequential orders of refusal strategies appropriate with status level (higher, equal, lower) for the reason at politeness, and they are reluctant to decline others invitation. Wijayanto (2011: 190-193) reported that refusals in Javanese tend to vary the sequential orders according to different status levels. Native speakers of Javanese use apology/regret when they decline an invitation to those of unequal (lower and higher). While, they decline those of equal status, they commonly use direct strategies more often than indirect ones. By contrast refusals in English include apology/regret followed by explanation to show politeness. Native speakers of English mostly use apology/regret to decline an invitation to a collocutor of unequal status (higher and lower status). It is initiated by using positive opinion and which is often concluded refusals with good luck (Wijayanto, 2011). The present research focuses the discussion on the pragmalinguistic forms of refusals to invitations used by Javanese learners of English (JLE). The participants answered the DCT scenarios, and they produce two refusals in Javanese and English.

There have been growing research on refusal strategies for example Kuncoro (2011), Prawito (2007), Nelson, Gayle L, Carson, Joan, AlBatal, Mahmoud and El Bakary, Waguida (2002), Al-Eryani (2007), Kwon (2004), etc. However, studies comparing refusal in Javanese and English have been very limited

to Wijayanto's (2011). So, this research is to extend further study about refusal strategies in Javanese and English used by Javanese learners of English with a focus on refusal to invitations.

The study raised the following questions: 1) Are there any similarities and differences of refusals to invitations in Javanese and English?, 2) What are the politeness strategies used in Javanese and English refusals to invitations? Therefore, these study are aimed to: 1) describe the similarities and differences of refusals to invitations in Javanese and English, 2) examines the different politeness strategies used in Javanese and English refusal to an invitation.

2. METHOD

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. By using descriptive method, the study describes to facts about the object of this research. The subjects of this research were forty Indonesian EFL learners who were at the first semester of English department, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, with Javanese background. The objects of the research refusals strategies to invitation and the politeness used in the refusals used by Javanese learners of English viewed from the social distance. Proporsional random sampling was involved in this research. The data were in the form of refusal strategies elicited from nine DCT (Discourse Completion Tasks) scenarios (see appendix). The data of refusal strategiest were analyzed based on Beebe and Uliss-Weltz (1990) and politeness strategiest based on Brown and Levinson (1987).

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Refusals Strategies

The participants used head acts in various, such as: apology, inability, excuse, direct No, and promise of future acceptance. While, for adjuncts, they used three types of adjunct, there were gratitude, fillers, and positive opinion. It means that the refusal strategies used by the participants in this reserach were more various.

3.1.1 The Sequential Orders Used to Decline an Invitation across Status Level.

To decline an invitation to a collocutor of higher status, the participants tended to use similar sequential orders. As they used direct strategies, they used (adjunct

+apology+inability+excuse), while they expressed indirect refusal strategies, they commonly used (adjunct+apology+excuse).

When the participants used Javanese and English to decline an invitation to a collocutor of equal status by using direct strategies, they tended to use different sequential orders, (adjunct +apology +inability +excuse ±future acceptance) was frequently used by participants in English and (adjunct + inability + excuse) was generally used by participants in Javanese. While they used indirect strategies, they also tended to use similar ones: they commonly used (adjunct+ apology + excuse ± future acceptance).

To decline an invitation to a collocutor of lower status by using direct strategies, they used similar sequential order (adjunct + apology + inability +excuse ± future acceptance) or (adjunct + inability + excuse ± future acceptance), while they used indirect strategies, they tended to use similar ones (±adjunct + apology + excuse ± future acceptance).

3.1.2 The Types and Frequencies of Semantic Formulae and Adjunct Used in Refusals to an Invitation

When the participants used English to decline an invitation to a collocutor of equal status, they applied direct refusal strategy more often than that indirect strategy. Similar when using Javanese, they used direct strategy more frequently than that indirect strategy.

When the participants used English, they commonly used inability more often than direct No. Inability was used in English more frequently than in Javanese. Excuse and apology were employed in English and Javanese very commonly. Future acceptance was used in English and Javanese with no significant differences. As for adjuncts, when the participants used English, they used gratitude in English more frequently than in Javanese. Positive opinion was often expressed by the participants in English, but it was not used by the participants in Javanese. For fillers, they often used Fillers in Javanese more frequently than in English.

To decline an invitation to a collocutor of equal status by using indirect strategies, the participants used excuse more frequently in Javanese than in English. Apology was used by the participants in English more frequently than in Javanese.

Future acceptance was often expressed by both the participants in English and Javanese, with no significant differences. As for adjuncts, fillers was the most extensive adjunct expressed by the participants in Javanese. Positive opinion was used in English and Javanese more or less equally. For gratitude, the participants used it in English, more frequently than in Javanese.

To decline an invitation to a collocutor of higher status, the participants in English and Javanese applied direct refusal strategy more often than that indirect strategy. The participants used inability and apology more frequently in English than in Javanese. Excuse was used by the participants in Javanese more often than in English. Future acceptance was often expressed by the participants used Javanese, but it was not used by the participants in English. As to adjuncts, positive opinion was made only by the participants in English. Gratitude was by the participants in English significantly more often than it was by the participants in Javanese. Fillers were used by the participants in English and Javanese with no difference in frequencies.

The frequencies of semantic formulae and adjuncts used in the indirect strategies show that excuse was commonly expressed by the participants in Javanese than in English. Apology was used by the participants in English more frequently than in Javanese. Future acceptance was used by the participants in Javanese more or less equally with the participants in English. As to adjuncts, all types of adjuncts were expressed by the participants in English more often than those of the Javanese

When the participants used English to decline an invitation to a collocutor of lower status, they applied direct refusal strategy more often than that indirect strategy. Similar when using Javanese, they used direct strategy more frequently than that indirect strategy.

The frequencies of semantic formulae and adjuncts used in the direct refusal strategies show that inability, apology, and excuse were the most common semantic formulae used by the participants in English and Javanese. Of these, inability and apology were used by the participants in English significantly more often than it were by the participants in Javanese. Excuse was used by the participants in English

more or less equally with the participants in Javanese. While, direct No was often expressed by the participants in Javanese, but it was not used by the participants in English. Future acceptance was used by the participants in English more frequently than in Javanese. Regarding for adjunct, fillers was used by the participants in English more often than it was by the participants in Javanese.

The frequencies of semantic formulae and adjuncts used in the indirect refusal strategies show that apology and excuse were the most common semantic formulae used by the participants in English and Javanese. Of these, apology was used by the participants in English significantly more often than in Javanese. Excuse and future acceptance were used by the participants in Javanese more frequently than in English. Regarding adjuncts, fillers were used by the participants in English more or less similarly. Positive opinion was used only by the participants in Javanese.

The result of this study indicated that the majority of refusals are in the form of direct strategies. The participants generally used similar sequential orders in English and Javanese, although differences were found due the variations of semantic formula and adjuncts to express politeness.

Javanese refusals were very unique and complex, to express future acceptance they employed a short form of Javanese “next time” (*sesuk, suk, mengko*), these short forms commonly used to show consideration to addressees, it was mostly followed by a particle *ae* or *wae*, for example: *suk kapan-kapan wae yo, mengko ae yo*. These function to redress the negative implication in the use of the short forms. While, the participants used English to express future acceptance generally used the short form “next time” which was often mitigated with *maybeto* express tentativeness, for example: *maybe next time*.

When the participants used Javanese inability or excuse, the writer found they used short forms of inability along with the Javanese particles (*e, je, or ki*). According to Widhyasmaramurti (in Wijayanto, 2012) particles are commonly used to emphasize the accuracy of the information being stated. They often used to redress inability so as to sound less forceful, for example: *aku ra isa'e, mboten saget'e, ga' isa je, aku iseh enek kuliah ki dik, gaweanku akeh'e*.

The writer found when the participants expressed direct No, they used various of say “No”. They mostly used blunt forms such as: ora, (e)moh, and (we)gah/gah and sometimes these also occurred with a mitigating particle (ah, wae, lah), e.g: ora wae, wegah ah, and emoh lah.

3.2 Politeness Strategies

The participants used politeness strategies in various, such as: PP (Positive Politeness), NP (Negative Politeness), and BOR (Bald on Record). It means that the politeness strategies used by the participants in this reserach were more various.

NP (Negative Politeness) was politeness strategy mostly used by participants to refuse in familiar-higher status prrsons. When the participants used Javanese, they used NP more frequently than PP. By contrast, when using English they used PP more often than that of NP. When using Javanese to those of familiar-equal, they used PP the highest. The second high was BOR, and the last high was NP. When they used English, they used NP was the highest. The second high was BOR, and then the last was PP. Refusing those of familiar-lower using Javanese, they used PP more often than did NP. While, when using English, they used NP more frequently than did PP.

When refusing those of close-higher, they employed PP the highest. The second high was NP. By contrast, when they used English, they used NP the highest. The second high was PP, and then the last strategy was BOR. When refusing those of close-lower status in Javanese, they used PP the highest. The second high was NP, and the last strategy was BOR. By contrast, when using English, they used NP the highest. The second high was PP. PP was politeness strategy mostly used by participants to those of close-equal status. When they used Javanese, they used PP the highest. The second high was BOR, and the last high was NP. While, the participants used English PP was the highest, and the last was NP.

NP was politeness strategy mostly used by participants to those of unfamiliar-higher status. They used NP in Javanese more often than in English. To those of unfamiliar-equal, the participants used PP more often than NP when they refused invitation in Javanese. By contrast, when they refused invitation in English, they used NP more often than PP.

3.3 Discussion

There were several strategies used by the participants in expressing refusals. They were strategies based on Beebe et.al theory such as apology, excuse, inability and etc. Besides that, the writer found the strategies vary depending on the different social distance and status level. It was also shown in the result of Wijayanto (2011) that the learners mostly could use different refusal strategies according to different social distance and status level. This study found some similarities and differences with Wijayanto (2011), the writer found that the participants in English, they used both direct and indirect strategies tended to use a similar sequential order across the refusals to a collocutor of higher, equal, and lower status. This result also found in Wijayanto's study, JLE tended to use the same sequential order (higher, equal, and lower). To expressed direct strategies, they commonly used adjunct+apology+inability+excuse. While, they used adjunct+apology+excuse to expressed indirect strategies.

When, the participants in Javanese to decline an invitation to a collocutor of equal status by using direct strategies, they tended to use different sequential order (adjunct+inability+excuse). While, to decline an invitation to a collocutor of unequal status (higher and lower), they used similar sequential order. However, the participants used indirect strategies they tended to use a similar sequential order. By contrast, in Wijayanto's NJ declined an invitation by using indirect strategies, they tended to vary their sequential orders across the three collocutor's status levels, however while they used direct strategies, they varied their sequential orders to those of equal status level on the one hand and to those of unequal status (lower and higher) level on the other hand.

The Javanese learners of English in Wijayanto's (2011) study applied direct refusal strategies more often than indirect ones (in higher, equal, and lower). Similar to Wijayanto's, the participants in this study applied direct refusal strategy more often than that indirect strategy across the refusals to a collocutor of higher, equal, and lower status. By contrast, when the participants used Javanese, they used direct strategies more often than that indirect strategies across the refusals to a collocutor of higher, equal, and lower status.

This study found some similarities and differences with Al-Eryani (2011). When, the participants of YELs to decline an invitation in higher status by using indirect strategies they tended to use regret, excuse, future acceptance. Sometimes the participants used adjuncts. Similar to Al-Eryani's, to expressed indirect strategies the participants used adjunct, apology/regret and excuse. However, in this study to decline a collocutor in higher status, none participants used future acceptance strategy. While, to expressed direct strategies, the participants of YELs used "no" or can't in the first position followed by excuse and future acceptance. Unlike Al-Eryani's, the participants commonly used adjunct, apology, inability, and excuse to decline an invitation by using direct strategies. In equal status, the participants of YELs tended to use indirect strategies. They commonly used adjunct, apology/regret, and excuse. Like as Al-Eryani's, the participants used adjunct, apology/regret, and excuse to expressed indirect strategies. In this study also found that the participants used direct strategies. They commonly used adjunct, apology, inability and excuse, sometimes concluded by future acceptance.

There were some similarities and differences with Sattar et al. (2011) study. In Sattar's the participants preferred using indirect strategies. In higher status, the participants commonly used regret, excuse, and alternative to expressed indirect strategies. By contrast, the participants in this study used adjunct, apology, and excuse. While, to expressed direct strategies, they commonly used adjunct, apology, inability, and excuse. Almost similar, the participants of Malay used regret, negative ability, and alternative. When the participants of Malay to decline an invitation in equal status by using indirect strategies, they commonly used regret, excuse/explanation, and alternative. While, to expressed direct strategies, they used regret in the first position, excuse in the second, and alternative in the third position. Moreover, they also used combinations of direct no and explanation. Almost like Sattar's, when the participants used indirect strategies, they tended to use adjunct, apology, and excuse. Whereas, to decline an invitation by using direct strategies, they used adjunct, apology, inability, excuse, and sometimes concluded by future acceptance. In lower status, the participants of Malay used regret, explanation/excuse, and alternative to expressed indirect strategies. They also used

combinations of regret and future acceptance. Unlike Sattar's, the participants in this study tended to use adjunct, apology, excuse, and future acceptance. While, to express direct strategies they commonly used adjunct, apology, inability, excuse, and sometimes concluded by future acceptance. The participants also used combinations of adjunct, inability, excuse, and future acceptance. By contrast, in Sattar's study the participants used regret, followed by negative ability, excuse, and future acceptance. They also used regret, negative ability, and alternative. Alternative are always used by Malay refusal strategies.

4. CONCLUSION

There were found some similarities in the use of refusal strategies according to differences of social distance between Javanese and English. In refusal to those of familiar, close, and unfamiliar distance relations, the head act of refusal strategies that mostly used were apology, excuse, and inability. For adjunct, the writer found similarities and differences in the use of refusal strategies between Javanese and English. In refusals to those of familiar distance relation the strategy that frequently used were filler and positive opinion, although the frequency used in Javanese was not significant. All types of adjuncts in English were used more often than those of the Javanese.

There were also found differences politeness strategies used in Javanese and English refusal to an invitation. The participants used politeness strategies in various, such as: PP (Positive Politeness), NP (Negative Politeness), and BOR (Bald on Record). When the participants used English, they used negative politeness more frequently. By contrast, when the participants used Javanese, they used positive politeness the highest.

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