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The Politeness Strategy in Compliment in Pursuit of Happyness Movie

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ABSTRACT

Politeness Strategies is one of topic discussed in pragmatics. The politeness principle is a set of maxims that describe the way in which politeness operates in a conversational exchange. This study focused on compliments and the responses. The theory of politeness strategies can be applied into media entertainment such as in a movie. This study examined the types of Politeness strategies in compliments and the responses in *The Pursuits of Happyness* movie that uttered by all characters and the types that frequently appears in the movie. This study was conducted by using descriptive qualitative method as the data were derived from the movie script of *The Pursuits of Happyness* by downloading from the internet. The result shows that there are 19 data of compliments and 5 data of compliment response. There are 9 data categorized into *generosity maxim* type, 3 data categorized into *modesty maxim* type, 3 data categorized into *sympathy maxim* type, 2 data categorized into *agreement maxim* type, and 2 data of approbation maxim. It can be concluded that generosity is the most frequently used by the characters in *The Pursuits of Happyness* movie. The use of those findings in education will explore the theory of politeness strategies that are learned by EFL English to develop their ability to succeed in academic or social communication and it becomes a value-added treasure of scientific knowledge in the field of education in linguistics.

Keywords: Politeness Strategies, Compliment Response, Movie, The Pursuits of Happyness

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Introduction

The main function of language is to communicate. Language is essentially a means of interaction among the members of society and also allows people to communicate with precision. Language and communication study how people use language in specific discourse contexts, and share information with others. Since language as the means of communication, the language user should always obey cooperative principles so as to avoid misunderstanding or communication breakdown. In social relationship, we should consider to the politeness strategy.

To begin with, compliment has the structure of an adjacency pair operation or action chain event (Herbert, 1998:53). It means that compliment and the response cannot be parted. Compliment and the response are mostly arranged by modesty, politeness, and the preservation of face. Therefore, one should think over the social factors that will impact how they express their compliment and the response. Thus, politeness can be defined as a means of showing awareness of another person's face (Yule, 1996: 60). Politeness is one from many social factors that will impact in the use of compliment.

Politeness includes talking to someone appropriately about their relationship. Then, at the point make choices about what is or is not considered polite in doing conversation, therefore involves considering social relationships along the elements of social distance or status, solidarity, function, formality are things to be considered in applying politeness strategy. Besides, the social context about who is speaking and who are they speaking to are also considered. Therefore, politeness strategy is important to be used in analyzing compliment and the response.

Leech (1983) divides politeness strategies into several maxims such as tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. Maxim is a rule in lingual interaction. This rule regulates the action, use, interpretation of the actions and utterances of the opposite communication. In addition, maxim is also referred to as a form of pragmatics based on the principle of cooperation and the principle of politeness. This maxim implies that it is imperative to express speech politely and avoid rude speech. These maxims are included in the category of politeness strategy principles.

Some research about politeness strategy has been conducted in various kind of situation. One of the research projects is the research from Rosita & Elin (2021) that analyzed

on politeness strategies and describe the relation of politeness strategy and pragmatics competence. The result shows that bald on and record strategy becomes the most frequently used strategy compared to the others. The second study is by Azwan from English Department of Letters Faculty of Iqra Buru University (2021). He carried out research about the politeness strategies used by Ambonese and Americans in refusing requests. The study focused the effects of social relationship used theory by Yassi and Brown & Levinson about the effects of social relationship. The result of his study in politeness strategies shows that in interactions between strangers, Ambonese people more often to use a bald on record strategy which is often combined with a negative politeness strategy.

Another similar research was conducted by Rahayu (2009) entitled "Politeness Strategies in Giving and Responding to Compliments: A Socio-pragmatics Study of Compliments in The Devil Wears Prada. This research analyzed the way the characters employ compliment also compliment responses and the politeness strategies delivered by the characters in giving and responding to compliment in the movie with title The Devil Wears Prada. Five major theories used are Holmes's Social Dimensions of Communication, Hymes' speaking theory, Chaika's theory of kinesics, and Herbert's theory of compliment responses, and Brown and Levinson's theory of politeness strategies. This research applies a socio-pragmatic approach as the way of analysis.

However, this research will examine politeness strategy in compliments and compliment responses, conversation between the characters in the film *The pursuit of Happyness* are the actual data. Meanwhile, a film also can be used as the source of data as it is a slice of life as in the real life and as a representation of reality. Allen and Gomery state that movies are social representation. That is, they derive their images and sounds, themes, and stories ultimately from their social environment (1993: 158). Besides, film can be arranged as a significant promising source for research on discourse and conversational analysis. For that reason, the researcher uses a film based on true story of someone else entitled *The pursuit of Happyness* as the source of data.

The pursuit of Happyness is a movie inspired by a true story of someone life that has many of moral values, the man who struggles to get a success, how much a father loves his son, and the meaning of true Happyness in his life. This movie has good 5 influences for everyone who watches the movie, and this movie was nominated in Phoenix Film Critics

Society Award 2006, MTV Movie & TV Award 2007, NAACP Image Award 2007, Teen Choice Award 2007, and ASCAP Film and Television Music Award 2007. For this reason, this movie is one of interesting topics to be analyzed then through this movie, the researcher attempts to find the politeness strategy used in the compliment and the response of utterance from the movie The Pursuit of Happyness.

Methods

This research is designed to apply qualitative method. Qualitative method can be defined as a descriptive data whether written or oral which can be used or observed in this research. The goal of descriptive research is to describe the phenomenon and its characteristic in life (Hossein Nassaji, 2015: 129). This research will take *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie as the object of analysis; thus, the descriptive data would be the oral conversation which can be observed in this research. Moreover, in particular this research will observe the politeness strategies in responding to compliments at the *Pursuit of Happyness* movie which further this data will be qualitatively analyzed and described in form of words or sentences, and not in the form of numbers.

In additional, the researcher is the main instrument who uses data sheets to note the data which is related to the objectives of the study. The observation is done either in the movie or in the script of the movie. After comprehending either the movie or the script, then the researcher discovered the utterances that contained the politeness strategies during responding to compliment. This way to ensure the researcher about the accuracy of the transcription, the researcher compared the transcription and the actual dialogue of the movie. Besides, the data is also verified by another researcher to maintain the validity of the data. Then, the researcher identified and selected every part of utterances by the main characters and categorizes them into some maxim.

Result and Discussion

The data founds in the utterances were presented by the characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie. Politeness Strategies that are employed in compliments in the movie entitled "The Pursuit of Happyness"**.** According to Holmes (1988), a compliment is a speech act which explicitly attributes to someone other than the speaker, usually the person

addressed, for some goods (possession, characteristic, skill etc.) which is positively valued by the speaker and the hearer. In building a good relationship with people, compliment is one of ways to everyone seems love to be praised. Compliment is not only about look and physical appearance of someone, but also at something which cannot be seen inside.

Politeness is essential while conversing in a society with rules and values. People utilize politeness strategies in their interactions in specific contexts, including knowing what to say, when to say it, how to say it, and how to communicate with others. People should be polite and respectful when the speaker addresses them in order to create a situation that is friendly and conducive to dialogue.

The politeness strategies offered by Leech, on the other hand, are divided into several maxims. Maxim is a rule in linguistic interaction that regulates how the other party acts, uses, and interprets the other party's actions and utterances. To add to that, maxims are also known as pragmatics since they are founded on the principles of collaboration and decency. This proverb implies that using polite speech and avoiding insults is absolutely necessary. In the category of politeness strategy principles, these maxims may be found.

The politeness strategies employed in compliments in the movie entitled "The Pursuit of Happyness". The maxims contained 9 found generosity maxim, 3 found modesty maxim, 2 found approbation maxim, 2 agreement maxim and 2 found sympathy maxim discovered within the movie.

Table 1. Compliment in The Movie entitled "The Pursuit of Happyness"

No	Compliment	Frequency
1.	Generosity maxim	9
2.	Modesty maxim	3
3.	Approbation maxim	2
4.	Sympathy maxim	3
5.	Agreement maxim	2
	Total	**19**

Based on the data presented, the movie entitled "The Pursuit of Happyness" had compliments as the application of politeness strategies, such as generosity maxim, modesty maxim, approbation maxim, and sympathy maxim, and agreement maxim as found in the movie. In addition, generosity maxim had the highest frequency (7 generosity maxims), which

could be interpreted as a tool to find conformity and maximize the benefit to others because the maxim of generosity implies doing what the speaker wants. The modesty maxim had 3 frequencies. In addition, the modesty maxim is about praise of self and should be minimize expressions of self. Speakers are expected to be humble by reducing praise for themselves. The approbation maxim had 2 frequencies. It means that the speaker in the movie tried to minimize expression which dispraise people and maximize praise others. While, the sympathy maxim had 3 frequencies which mean to reduce antipathy between speaker and hearer and increase sympathy between oneself and others are also used to represent recognized connections between sentences. Furthermore, agreement maxim had 2 frequencies.

1. Generosity Maxim

The fundamental premise of the generosity maxim is placing others ahead of oneself and minimizing personal benefit. It serves as a strategy to achieve compliance and maximize the benefit to others. Because the principle includes fulfilling the speaker's desires.

Finding 1 (3:49 - 3:51)

Christopher Gardner Jr	Yeah, I know. Just to look at and study so I can choose better.
Chris Gardner	Okay, well, **that's smart**. Yeah, make a list.

This is about Christropher Gardner Jr wanted to assets to the Christopher about the spirit of choosing a couple things to make a list for his birthday gifts. By the statement "*Okay, well, **that's smart**. Yeah, you make a list.*", Chis Gardner burned his son's spirit. The compliment about the son and the father in this scene is addressed to the love to be praised and to direct the listener (Christopher Gardner Jr) feel good. In this section, the father (Chis Gardner) spread his love to his son by giving compliment. He thinks his compliment are a simple and effective way to tell his son that he was great, special or excel in preparing his birthday lists in that scene. This action includes in *generosity maxim*.

2. Modesty maxim

The principle of the modesty maxim is to praise oneself as little as possible. Since it is about identity, self-expressions should be minimized. Speakers are required to be modest by minimizing self- praise.

Finding 10 (5:45 - 5:5:52)

Chris Gardner	**Thank you for the opportunity to discuss it with you. I appreciate it.**
The Doctor	We just don't need it, Chris. It's unnecessary and expensive
Chris Gardner	Well, maybe next...
	Thank you.

The conversation took place in the hospital after Chris Gardner had a conversation with a doctor. He had a machine which previously the strange guy on the street claimed it as a time machine. Actually, it was a medical device he sold for a living.

By having a conversation about the machine with the doctor in the hospital, Chis Gardner closed the conversation by the compliment statement "***Thank you for the opportunity to discuss with you. I appreciate it***". It seems obvious that receiving a compliment would make someone feel better. Chris shared desire to give more compliments to make the doctor feel appreciated and valued. Even though the doctor refused to buy Chris's product (the machine). This action includes in *modesty maxim*.

3. Approbation maxim

The purpose of the approbation maxim is to limit criticism expressions and maximize praise expressions. The most important aspect of the approbation maxim is avoiding conversational actions that displease others, particularly with regard to the speaker.

Finding 13 (13:59 – 14:10)

HRD of the stockbroker office	Normally I have a resume sheet, but I can't seem to find it anywhere. We...
Chris Gardner	**Thank you very much.** I need to go. I'll bring this back. **Thank you.**
HRD of the stockbroker office	Okay.

In the middle of HRD's explanation, Chris cut his speaking by saying "***Thank you very much***. *I need to go. I'll bring this back.* ***Thank you***". During the conversation, he saw the street musician brought his machine which previously he trusted to her. He needed to run soon to get the machine back. In addition, he appreciates and gave the compliment to the HRD for his very long and clear explanation about the job. This action includes in *approbation maxim*.

4. Sympathy Maxim

The principle of the maxim of sympathy, which is to reduce antipathy between speaker and hearer and increase sympathy between oneself and others. Essentially, it is not showing hate or anger against others while considering how to enhance sympathy for those in a difficult situation.

Finding 15 (50:01-50:58)

Chris	So the truth is... ...I was arrested for failure to pay parking tickets.
Old HRD	Parking tickets?
Chris	And I ran all the way here from the Polk Station, the police station.
Old HRD	What were you doing before you were arrested?
Chris	I was painting my apartment.
Old HRD	**Is it dry now?**
Chris	I hope so.
Old HRD	**Jay says you're pretty determined.** He's been waiting outside the front of the building... ...with some 40-pound gizmo for over a month.

Old HRD	**He said you're smart.**
Chris	Well, I like to think so.
HRD	And you want to learn this business?
Chris	Yes, sir, I wanna learn.

A kind, genuine, thoughtful compliment is like a form of magic. it has the power to turn someone's day around in an instant and make them feel appreciated. The compliments can be given through some form, such as giving question. The question "***Is it dry now?***" was actually out of the interview discussion. However, the old HRD in the conversation tried to warm the situation. In addition, he also gave 2 compliments to Chris that he was smart. Actually, there is nothing wrong with telling the untruth situation in the first meeting to melt the cold atmosphere. Giving a compliment is really an opportunity to go deeper and strengthen a situation bond with the person. This action includes in *sympathy maxim*.

5. Agreement maxim

In the maxim of agreement, it is trying to minimize disagreements and maximize agreements between the speaker and the hearer. It is often more a case of really emphasizing the fact that you are agreeing with something rather than totally avoiding disagreements.

Finding 18 (58-52-29)

Secretary	(on call) Dean Witter.
Chris	Yes, hi. Yes, I'd like to leave a message for Mr. Jay Twistle.
Secretary	Your name?
Chris	Yeah, my name is Chris Gardner. The message is: **Thank you very much for inviting me into the program. I really appreciate it and I'd be very pleased to accept your invitation.**
Secretary	Is that all?
Chris	Yes, that's it.
Secretary	Okay.

Compliment is an emotion similar to appreciation, and positive energy. On call, Chris tried to express the compliment of job offer by the statement "***Thank you very much for inviting me into the program. I really appreciate it and I'd be very pleased to accept your invitation***". It directed Jay (the HRD) to be valued.

In addition, Chris also expressed his thank for his life and acceptance in Jay's office. This action includes in *agreement maxim*.

Compliment and its responses cannot be separated, Herbert states that compliment has the structure of an adjacency pair operation or action event (1998: 53). When someone is given a compliment, she/he will give a response towards it. The movie entitled "The Pursuit of Happyness" had 3 types of compliment response, such as appreciation token, comment acceptance, return, and scale down. The type of compliment can be listed as the table follows:

Table 2. Responding to The Compliments in The Movie entitled "The Pursuit of Happyness"

No.	Responding to compliment	Frequency
1.	Appreciation token	1
2.	Comment acceptance	2
3.	Return	1
4.	Scale down	1
	Total	5

1. Appreciation token

This response shows an acceptance towards the given compliment verbally or non-verbally.

1. Finding 1 (13:59 – 14:10)

HRD of the stockbroker office	Normally I have a resume sheet, but I can't seem to find it anywhere. We...
Chris Gardner	Thank you very much. I need to go. I'll bring this back. Thank you.
HRD of the stockbroker office	**Okay.**

This strategy is a part of acceptance. Responding compliments with acceptance is a strategy provided by receiving the compliments given by the interlocutor. This strategy occurred when Chris gave a praise to the HRD of the stockbroker office because of the opportunity while he

must go soon because his machine was stollen. The responding of the compliment said by the HRD as the interlocutor in this case is "***Okay***".

2. Comment acceptance

The addressee shows acceptance and adds some relevant comments towards it. This type of response can be found in the datum below:

Finding 2: The addresser is 56:47-46:59

Chris	**Thank you very much, Sir**.
Doctor	Yes, sir

Here in the datum, Chris as the addressee accepts the complimentary by the doctor because the doctor gave him a chance to present his machine and offers a relevant comment on the appreciated topic such as "***Thank you very much, Sir***".

3. Return

The addressee accepts the compliment then returns it to the addresser. Here is one of example of compliment response style.

Finding 4 (19:58 – 20:01)

HRD of the stockbroker office	We'll start with this, and we'll call you if we wanna sit down.
Chris Gardner	Yes, sir. You have a great day.
HRD of the stockbroker office	**You too.**

As with reassignment except that the praise is returned to the first speaker such as "***You too***"

4. Scale down

The addressee doesn't agree with the compliment by mentioning some flaws of the complimented object. The addressee also thinks that the compliment is overstated. Here is the example of this kind of style.

Finding 5 (1:11:05-1:11:30)

Chris	Mr. Ribbon.
Christopher	Yes?
Chris	How are you, Sir? Chris Gardner. Dean Witter.

Mr. Ribbon.	Oh,hi. Hi.
Chris	This is my son, Christopher.
Christopher	Hi.
Mr. Ribbon.	Hey, Christopher.
Mr. Ribbon.	What are you doing up here?
Chris	I came to apologize... ...for missing our appointment.
Mr. Ribbon.	You didn't need to come up.
Chris	We were in the neighborhood visiting a very close friend... ...and I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for your time. I know you probably waited for me.

Addressee disagreeing with the complimentary force, pointing to some flaw in the object or claiming that the praise is overstated.

From the finding that has been displayed, there are politeness strategies are employed in compliments in the movie entitled "The Pursuit of Happyness" Movie. Some are the politeness strategies employed in responding to the compliments in the movie entitled "The Pursuit of Happyness" Movie. The findings showed that compliment is the expressing of a good attitude toward a referent ascribed to the addressee by the speakers.

The compliments, which belong to a broader category of supporting behaviors, are one technique through which speakers might praise a receiver (other methods of praise delivery include congratulating, appreciating, and crediting). Compliments are essential to human sociality because they are the primary means through which a participant in an encounter may express explicit approbation of another person, so contributing to the formation or maintenance of social cohesion. Although compliments are a noun in the title of this article, in the LSI area this phrase often refers to complimenting sequences in

interaction, comprising both the social acts of complimenting and replying to compliments. Responses to compliment that are complimentary are arranged into "response pairs" (Heritage, 1984; Schegloff & Sacks, 1973).

Pomerantz's (1978) pioneering examination of compliment replies in American English telephone conversation, the majority of complimenting sequence research focuses on how speakers reply to compliments. Complimenting initial pair-parts, according to Pomerantz, places recipients in an interactional double bind. A portion of this dilemma derives from the fact that compliments are frequently delivered through statements that evaluate the intended receivers.

This research focuses on the object of the research and the theory used as the main core of the research. This research looks at the politeness strategies in responding to compliments in The Pursuit of Happyness movie, this movie talks about a little ordinary family that struggle to face the world, there are many struggles faced during the novel but they tend to be harmony hold onto such a polite principle. This research uses the theory of Leech politeness strategies which are generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim found in this movie. Therefore, this research significantly contributes to education and teaching English in the scope of school from linguistics aspect.

Linguistic makes contributions for teachers, students, and readers such as providing guidelines in daily life communication it includes the structure and meaning of speech, and written languages as well as an understanding of the context in which certain words are used. Furthermore, linguistic helps students understand regional dialects and colloquialisms, identify the origins of sayings and phrase that meaning contemporary society. Besides, linguistic contributes to teaching of English as teaching material in the 10th grade of Senior High School in semester 1. The example as follows:

> KD 3.4. *Menganalisis fungsi sosial, struktur teks, dan unsur kebahasaan beberapa teks deskriptif lisan dan tulis dengan memberi dan meminta informasi pendek dan sederhana terkait orang, benda dan tempat sesuai dengan konteks penggunaannya.*

The example of KD presents that it engages two elements of social and linguistics as basic of sociolinguistics. It is shown by write a narrative essay as a practical of linguistics and conducting interaction is part of social.

Conclusion

The researcher focuses on compliment response with regard to politeness strategies delivered by characters in The Pursuit of Happyness movie. There are politeness strategies are employed in compliments in the movie entitled "The Pursuit of Happyness" Movie. The findings revealed that there were 19 compliments in the movie as the application of politeness strategies. They were 9 generosity maxim, 3 modesty maxim, 2 approbation maxim, 3 sympathy maxim, and 2 agreement maxims. It shows that a compliment is the statements of a positive attitude toward a referent that the speaker attributes to the addressee. Compliments are crucial to human sociality because they are the primary mechanism through which an individual may express unambiguous approval of another individual. Complementary initial pair-parts place recipients in a double-bind interactional. Compliment and its responses cannot be separated; Herbert states that compliment has the structure of an adjacency pair operation or action event (1998: 53). When someone is given a compliment, she/he will give a response towards it.

The findings of this research regarded to the movie is that there were some respond to the compliment. They were 1 appreciation token, 2 comment acceptance, 1 return, and 1 scale down. Following Pomerantz's (1978) seminal analysis of compliment responses in American English telephone conversation, the majority of research on complimenting responds focuses on how speakers respond to compliments. According to Pomerantz, complementing initial pair parts places recipients in an interactional double bind. A piece of this problem stems from the fact that praises are typically provided in the form of evaluative comments in the movie entitled "The Pursuit of Happyness".

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