

An Analysis of Politeness Strategies Used By Characters in Victoria and Abdul Movie 2017

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Abstract –Numerous Studies Have Found That Movie Is Beneficial To Be Used In English Learning. It Can Easily Motivate The Students Acquiring The Language. Since The Movie Contains Utterances By The Characters In It, There Must Be Speech Acts Exist In The Movie. One Of Speech Act May Be Used Is In The Form Of Request. In Requesting Something, Someone May Use Politeness Strategies Depend On Whom They Want To Speak. Thus, This Present Research Aims To Find Out (1) Whether The Types Of Politeness Strategies In Victoria And Abdul Movie Are In Accordance With Politeness Strategies Proposed By Brown And Levinson (1987) Or Not, (2) What Type Of Politeness Strategies Most Frequently Appeared In Victoria And Abdul Movie, And (3) Which Character(S) Use Politeness Strategies Most Frequently Than The Others. The Research Design Of The Study Is Descriptive Qualitative. The Data Are The Utterances In Conversation Of Victoria And Abdul. The Result Shows That (1) The Types Of Politeness Strategies In Victoria And Abdul Movie Are In Accordance With Politeness Strategies Proposed By Brown And Levinson (1987); (2) Bald On Record Is The Most Frequent Politeness Strategies Appeared In Victoria And Abdul Movie; And (3) There Are Five Characters Who Used Politeness Strategies More Frequently In Requesting Something, They Are Queen Victoria, Abdul, Berite, Dr. Reid, And Alice Yorke. It Can Be Indicated That Bald On Record Is Mostly Used By The Characters Because There Is A Power, Social Status, Or Close Relationship Among The Characters, Which Made The Speaker Provided No Effort To The Listener In Requesting.

Keywords – Politeness Strategies, Request, Victoria And Abdul Movie

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I. INTRODUCTION

There Are A Lot Of studies shown That Watching Movie Is Beneficial To Improve Language Competence Of English (Kalean, 2013; Ismaili, 2013; Putriani, 2014). Besides, Some Researchers Also Have Found That Films Catch The Learners' Interest And It Can Positively Affect Their Motivation To Learn (Xhemaili 2013). Since Several Studies Have Proved The Benefit Of Using Movie In The Classroom, Many English Teachers Use The Movie To Motivate Their Students And Make The Learning Process More Enjoyable.

There Are Many Advantages By Using Movie As A Learning Media. Arsyad, (2013: 50) Mentions That There Are Seven Major Advantages Of The Movie As Learning Media, Such As:

- Movie Can Make Students Engage Directly When They Read, Discuss, And Practiced. It Can Obviously Seen By The Students.
- Movie Can Show An Exact Process Which Can Be Repeated If It Is Necessary.
- Besides Enhancing Students' Motivation, Movie Can Nurture The Students In Building The Characters.
- Movie Which Contains Educative Norms Can Invite The Students' Thought And Can Be Brought Into The Class.

Based On The Advantages Above, It Can Be Said That Movie Is Appropriate To Be Taught In The Classroom. There Are Many Types Of Movies Around Such As Horror Movies, Comedy Movies, Drama, Thriller, Cartoon, And Biography. Several English Teachers Use Biography Movie To Teach Their English Learners, Especially For Teaching Intermediate Or Advanced Level. It Is Derived From The Assumption That Biography Movie Can Be Easily Understood By Such Kind Of Level. However, There Might Be Inappropriate Movie To Be Taught In The Classroom, Eventhough The Target Learners Are Teenagers Or Adults.

Since Victoria And Abdul Is One Of Biography Movies Which Has Been Released Recently (2017), There Is A Huge Possibility That It Is Watched By Teenagers Or Adults Either In English Classroom Or Outside Of Classroom. **Victoria & Abdul** Is A 2017 British Biographical Comedy-Drama Film Directed By Stephen Frears And Written By Lee Hall. The Film Is Based On The Book Of Same Name By Shrabani Basu, About The Real-Life Relationship Between Queen Victoria Of The United Kingdom And Her Indian

Muslim Servant Abdul Karim. The Different Social Power And Relationship Among The Characters In The Movie May Affect Their Way To Request Something Each Other.

Based On This Consideration, The Researcher In This Study Intends To Find Out Whether Utterances Used In Victoria And Abdul Are Polite, Especially When The Characters Request Something. It Is Hoped That The Students Will Know Better How To Addressee Or Request Someone To Do Something Both Directly And Indirectly By Watching Victoria And Abdul Movie. Besides, The Students Will Also Know Which Appropriate Strategies They Should Use When Speaking To Different People.

Since This Study Concerns To The Politeness Strategies Used By The Characters In Requesting Something, Thus This Research Will Use Brown And Levinson In Yule (1996) Classification Of Politeness Strategies Which Have Five Types I.E. Say Nothing, Bald On Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, And Off Record. In Other Words, The Objectives Of Conducting This Present Study Is To Find Out :

- (1) Whether The Types Of Politeness Strategies In Victoria And Abdul Movie Are In Accordance With Politeness Strategies Proposed By Brown And Levinson (1987) Or Not,
- (2) What Type Of Politeness Strategies Most Frequently Used By The Characters In Victoria And Abdul Movie, And
- (3) Which Character(S) Use Politeness Strategies Most Frequently Than The Others.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This Study Used Descriptive Qualitative Design. The Source Of This Study Was The Movie And The Script Of Victoria And Abdul Written By Lee Hall. The Researcher Watched The Movie For Many Times And Saw The Script As Well In Order To Be Sure Towards The Data Obtained. The Researcher Also Underlined The Characters' Utterances That Include To Politeness Strategies. The Data Of This Research Were Words, Phrases, And Sentences Uttered By The Characters In Victoria And Abdul Movie. The Data Were Coded By Number And Classified Based On Five Strategies Of Politeness Theory Proposed By Brown And Levinson (1987).

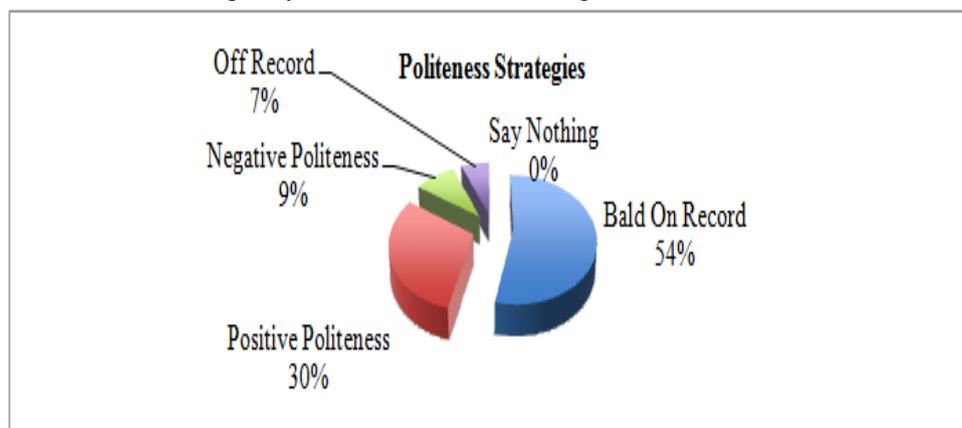
Procedure Methodology

The First Step Conducted Is The Researcher Watched The Movie For Several Times In Order To Understand The Story Clearly. The Next Step Is The Researcher Looked At The Script As Well And Compared It To The Movie In Order To Be Sure Towards The Data Obtained. The Researcher Also Underlined The Characters' Utterances That Include To Politeness Strategies. The Next Step In Collecting The Data Is By Giving Code To Each Type Of Datum. The Coding Of The Datum In This Research Is As Follows: (1) The Number Of The Datum; (2) The Title Of The Movie; (3) The Types Of Politeness Strategies Based On Brown And Levinson's Theory.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Having Analyzed The Politeness Strategies Used From The Utterances In Victoria And Abdul Movie, The Researcher Found Out The Result To Answer The Research Questions. It Was Presented As In The Following Chart.

Chart1. The Frequency Of Each Politeness Strategies Used In Victoria And Abdul



There Are 138 Utterances Which Belongs To The Classification Of Politeness Strategies Proposed By Brown And Levinson. From Those Requests, There Are 74 Data Belongs To Bald On Record Strategy (54%), 42 Data Belongs To Positive Politeness Strategy (30%), 13 Data Of Negative Politeness Strategy (9%), 9 Data Of Off Record Strategy (7%), And 0 Data From Say Nothing Strategy. This Result Indicates That The Type Of Politeness Strategies Exist In Victoria And Abdul Movie Are In Accordance With The Classification Of Politeness Strategies Proposed By Brown And Levinson. The Chart Above Also Can Answer The Second Question Which Concerns To Find Out What Type Of Politeness Strategies Most Frequently Appeared In Victoria And Abdul Movie. As We Can See On The Chart, Bald On Record Strategy Is In The Highest Percentage Among Others (54%). Thus, It Indicates That The Characters In Victoria And Abdul Movie More Frequently Use Bald On Strategy Than The Others. This Happens Because Of The Close Relationship And Social Power Which The Character(S) Have. Particularly, Bald On Record Was Used More Frequently By The Queen Victoria When She Requested Something To Abdul Or Others Characters. Her Close Relationship To Abdul And Her Social Power As The Queen Of England Affects Her Utterances In Request Something. She Gave No Effort To Minimize Threats To The One(S) She Speaks. The Followings Are The Analysis For Each Politeness Strategies Used By The Characters In Victoria And Abdul Movie.

The Examples Of Say Something Off Record:

1. The Queen Victoria Had Just Had Her Breakfast With The Guests In The Ballroom. As Usual She Must Eat Some Kinds Of Similar Appetizers, Main, And Dessert Menu. She Looked Very Bored Doing The Same Things Everyday.

Queen Victoria : **“Are We Done?”**

Ponsonby: “We Still Have Coffee, You Majesty.”

In This Scene, Queen Victoria Was Tired And Bored And Wanted To Have A Break. She Wanted Something Different. However, She Had To Follow The Tradition In The Kingdom. Thus, He Requested To Finish It Soon Indirectly To Ponsonby. She Used “Hint” To Ponsonby. However, Ponsonby Didn’t Get The Point And He Responded It Negatively. From The Example, It Is Clear That Off Record Strategy Can Get Positive Response Or Negative Response. The Listener Can Make The Speaker’s Wish Comes True Or Can Reject The Request. The Following Is The Example Of Off Record Strategy Which Succeed And Was Accepted By The Listener.

2. Queen Victoria: “ Oh Abdul, I Am So Glad You Are Back – It Really Has Been Dreadfully Dull Without You. And I Am So Glad To Meet Mrs Karim. There’s Just One Thing I’ve Been Curious About This Whole Afternoon.**What Does Mrs Karim Look Like Behind Her Veil?**”

Abdul : “Behind Her Veil? You Must See Her.”

The Example 2 Above Shows That Queen Victoria Indirectly Request Abdul To See Mrs. Karim Without Veil. But She Didn’t Ask It Directly. She Made A “Hint” To Abdul. However, Abdul Could Understand What The Queen Wanted Because He Understood And Cared Of The Queen.

The Other Examples Of Bald On Record Strategy Are:

1. **“Now. Repeat After Me. I Will Be Courteous To The Munshi.”**
2. **“Look At The Seize Of Him.”**
3. **“Bring Her The Munshi!”**

The Three Examples Above Are Uttered By The Character Who Has Higher Social Power Or Siblings To The Listener. The First Example Is A Command From The Queen Victoria To Her Private Secretary, Ponsonby. The Second Example Is A Command From Lady Churchill To His Brother, Bertie. Since They Are Siblings, They No Need Effort To Avoid The Face Threatening Act. The Third Example Is From Bertie (Queen’s Son) Which Has Higher Social Power To Ponsonby.

These Examples Are In Accordance With The Theory Of Politeness Strategy Proposed By Brown And Levinson Who Said That Bald On Record Strategy Is Associated With Imperative And With Speech Events Where The Speaker Assumes That He Or She Has Power Over The Other And Can Control The Other’s Behavior With Words.

The Examples Of Positive Politeness Strategy:

1. **“Oh, These Are Famous Stories In Uttar Pradesh.You Should Go There.”**
2. **“Perhaps Your Majesty Will Sing Us A Song?”**

The First And Second Examples Above Are Uttered By Abdul To Queen Victoria. Since They Had Unlikely Friendship And Were Very Close; Even Though Abdul Had Lower Social Power, He Asked The Queen To See Uttar Pradesh Someday Without Forcing Her. The Second Examples Also Shows That Abdul Tried To Ask The Queen To Dance With Him In Polite Way Because It’s The First Time For Abdul To Have A Dance With Someone Who Has Higher Social Power. Eventhough Abdul Knew The Queen Fairy Well, He Still Used More Polite Way To Ask The Queen In This Situation.

The Examples Of Negative Politeness Strategy:

1. “Will You Stop Doing That?”
2. “So Mr Abdul. May I Ask You Which Part Of India Are You From?”
3. “Let’s Give Her The Medal And Get The Hell Back Home.”

Negative Politeness Strategy Is Used When The Speaker Wants To Express Feeling In A Very Polite Way. In The First Example, Although It Is Dedicated To A Friend But Because Mohammed Respects The Interlocutor (Abdul) And Wanted To Be Really Polite, He Used Modal Will. In The Second Example, Because The Queen Wanted To Respect Abdul Because It’s The First Time Abdul Came To Her Room,She Used The Expression “So Mr Abdul. May I Ask You Which Part Of India Are You From?” Instead Of “Where Are You From?”. The Last Example Was Addressed By Mohammed To Abdul Who Really Wanted To Get Home Soon. The Use Of “Let’s..” Means That Mohammed Wanted Abdul And He To Give The Medal To The Queen Soon So That They Could Finish Their Duty And Come Back To Agra.

This Present Study Also Shows That Each Character In The Movie Used Different Politeness Strategy To Different People He Or She Spoke To Request Something. There Are Nineteen Characters In Victoria And Abdul Movie. Some Characters Used All The Types Of Politeness Strategies, Some Just Use One Or Two Types. The Following Table Is The Frequency Of Each Character To Use Politeness Strategies In The Movie.

Table 1. The Politeness Strategies Used By Each Character In Victoria And Abdul Movie.

	Bald On Record	Positive Politeness	Negative Politeness	Off Record	TOTAL
Queen Victoria	25	23	5	7	60
Abdul	5	1	2	1	9
Bertie	5	2	1	1	9
Ponsonby	3	-	1	-	4
Dr. Reid	4	4	1	-	9
Bigge	6	1	-	-	7
Alice Yorke	11	-	-	-	11
Tyler	1	-	1	-	2
Mohammed	2	3	1	-	6
Tailor	1	-	-	-	1
Lady Churcil	3	3	-	-	6
Mrs. Tuck	2	1	-	-	3
Guard	1	-	-	-	1
Beggar	1	-	-	-	1
Mrs. Phipps	-	3	-	-	3
Chef	2	-	-	-	2
Little Boy	1	-	-	-	1
Ahmed	-	-	1	-	1
Lord Salisbury	1	1	-	-	2
TOTAL	74	42	13	9	138

Based On The Table Above, There Are Five Characters Who Used Politeness Strategies More Frequently In Requesting Something, They Are Queen Victoria, Abdul, And Bertie Who Used Four Types Of Politeness Strategies, Dr. Reid Who Used Bald On Strategies, Positive Politeness, And Negative Politeness, And Alice Yorke Who Only Used Bald On Record Strategy.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based On The Learners’ Dictionary By Merriam Webster, Polite Means Having Or Showing Good Manners Or Respect For Other People. It Deals With Who Speaks To Whom. In Other Words, There Will Be Differences On The Strategies Used By The Speaker Depend On With Whom The Speaker Speaks. As Long As The Interlocutor Feels Fine With The Statements, They Will Be Considered As Polite Statements.

In Victoria And Abdul Movie, It Was Evidenced In This Research That There Are Several Politeness Strategies Used By The Characters. The Result And Findings On This Study Are Merely Hoped To Have Positive Contribution To The English Teachers And Learners, Especially In Indonesia So That They Can Have A Lot Of Exposures On How To Use English Politely. To Sum Up, Victoria And Abdul Movie Is Appropriate To Be Used By The Teacher As A Learning Media In Teaching English.

It Also Aims To Contribute Positively To The Academic Discussion In Order To Inform People From Different Cultural Backgrounds So As To They Are Properly Informed About What Is Considered To Be Socially Polite Or Impolite In The Indonesian's Settings.

This Present Research Only Focuson The Politeness Strategies Used In Victoria And Abdul Movie. While There Might Be Many Pragmatics Aspects Can Be Researched In This Movie. Moreover, It Is Also Suggested That Further Researcher Might Conduct Other Biography Movies And Find Out The Types Of Politeness Strategies In That Movie So That It Can Contribute To English Teachers To Use The Movie(S) As Learning Media In The Classroom. However, The Appropriateness Of This Movie Is Simply The Opinion Of The Researcher Based On Politeness Strategies Proposed By Brown And Levinson. For Further Research, A Massive Indonesians' Perspective Might Be Sought Out To Figure Out Whether Certain Movie Is Considered To Be Polite Or Can Be Accepted To Be Played In Classroom.

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