

POLITENESS PRINCIPLES IN *KARATE KID* MOVIE

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Abstrak: Kesopanan merupakan nilai penting dalam perilaku manusia, termasuk dalam berkomunikasi. Dalam proses komunikasi diperlukan kesopanan untuk memiliki hubungan yang baik satu sama lain. Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis Prinsip Kesopanan dalam film *Karate Kid* oleh Harald Zwart berdasarkan teori Leech. Desain penelitian ini adalah deskripsi kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan melalui teknik dokumentasi. Penulis menggunakan analisis deskriptif kualitatif. Analisis yang digunakan adalah analisis induktif oleh Miles dan Huberman, termasuk tampilan data, pengurangan dan verifikasi. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa ada 20 data yang ditemukan sebagai berikut: dua maksim kebijaksanaan, tujuh maksim kedermawanan, tiga maksim penghargaan, satu maksim kesederhana, tiga maksim persetujuan, dan lima maksim simpati. Ada enam jenis maksim dalam film *Karate Kid* dan maksim kemurahan hati merupakan maksim yang dominan digunakan oleh karakter dalam film *Karate Kid*. Dengan belajar dan memahami prinsip kesatuan, penulis mengharapkan pembaca akan lebih mengerti karena mereka telah mengerti bagaimana membuat komunikasi menjadi nyaman.

Kata kunci: Prinsip Kesopanan; Maksim Leech; Film

Abstract: Politeness is an important value in human behavior, including in communication. In It requires politeness to have a good relationship with each other. This research was aimed at analyzing the Politeness Principle based on Leech's theory in *Karate Kid* movie by Harald Zwart. The design of the research was descriptive qualitative. The data were collected through documentation technique. The writer used descriptive qualitative analysis by Miles and Huberman. It included data display, reduction and verification. The results of analysis showed that there were 20 data as follows: two tact maxims, seven generosity maxims, three approbation maxim, one modesty maxim, two agreement maxims, and five sympathy maxim. There were six maxims in *Karate Kid* movie and generosity maxim was the dominant maxims used by the character in *Karate Kid* movie. By learning and understanding about politeness principles, the writer expects the reader will be more understand how to communicate to other people in their communication process because they have understood how to make communication comfortable.

Keywords: Politeness Principles; Leech's Maxims; Movie

INTRODUCTION

Language is a set of form, meaning and function that realizing speaker's way of thinking (Arifin, 2018). Language has an important role as human interaction system in the society. Human are used language as a tool of communication. Sometimes, people communicate through the

conversation to convey the message that realized in their utterances. In practice, people's utterance is not always same as what they mean when they communicate. Utterances in conversation whether spoken or written highly depend on context.

Politeness is an important value in human life and behavior. In the communication process, it requires politeness to have a good relationship

with other speakers. Yule (1996:60) argued that politeness in an interaction functioned as the means employed to show awareness of another person's face. In addition, Arifin & Suprayitno (2015) stated that people mutually engaged in conversation will share common principles of conversation that lead them to interpret each other's utterance as the contribution in conversation.

The politeness strategy in conversation varies in accordance to the given context. Therefore, every country has different cultures in their politeness. According to Matsumoto (2007), culture, in turn, emerges from the interaction of basic human nature with specific ecological contexts in which groups exist through process of environmental adaptation. In Indonesian context, Indonesians are famous with their hospitality and friendly attitude. Even Putra et al (2020) labeled them as tolerant and humble people. When they meet new or older people they always say "hello", "how are you?", and etc. They are also known as generous people. Setiawan (2018) points out that politeness is a part of culture's identity. Kartika et al (2020) argued that the use of language shows the speaker cultural background.

According to Randy (2014:2), humans are complex beings and have so many different need to survive. They are free to do what they want such as sharing their ideas, feeling, and creativity. While human must remember that human is social creatures. As a social creature, human cannot live without other. They need to have interaction to other by using language as tool for communication. In communicating information and ideas to listener, a speaker must pay a serious attention to the context of situation in conversation. Sometimes the speaker uses politeness to avoid an offense from hearer. Politeness features do not only happen in real life or society, but also in many media such as movie.

Movie as the representation of social life and creativity of its maker often display the life values, such as cultural, humanism, education, and even

moral (see Puspitasari et al, 2021; Hidayati et al, 2022; Prastyaningsih & Harida, 2021). One of the movies that represent the moral and humanism value is *Karate Kid*. This movie shows how to behave as the equal humans, ignore the race and skin color. In this way, the writer intentionally chose *Karate Kid* movie as the object of research because it explicitly told about friendship of different culture and race. The difference cultures appeared among the characters who originally came from different country, America and China.

In this research, the writer analyzed the politeness principles as proposed by Leech (1983). It has six maxims that explain how politeness operates conversational exchange as tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. By applying Leech's theory, the writer wanted to reveal the politeness maxim in the conversations of the characters in *Karate Kid* movie. The characters include: Dre Parker, Mr. Han, Mei Ying, Sherry Parker, and Cheng.

METHOD

The design of the research was descriptive qualitative. The writer used descriptive qualitative as the method because the researcher wanted to get the brief description about the phenomena related to the maxims of politeness principles were used by the character in *Karate Kid* movie. The objects of this research were utterances of the character in *Karate Kid* movie. The data were taken from script of the *Karate Kid* movie by Harald Zwart. Specifically, the writer analyzed maxims of politeness principles by Geoffrey Leech theory. It has six maxims, such as Tact Maxim, Generosity Maxim, Approbation Maxim, Modesty Maxim, Agreement Maxim, and Sympathy Maxim.

This research used documentation technique. The writer used some steps to collect the data. The first, the writer watched movie repeatedly. The second, the writer wrote and collected the

data from the character's utterances. The third, the writer analyzed maxim of politeness principles from the data by used Leech's theory. The last, the writer made the conclusion of the analysis. The writer used descriptive qualitative analysis to answer the problem of the research.

Related to the movie, *Karate Kid* was directed by Harald Zwart, a Norwegian film director. He was born on July 1, 1965. Zwart has directed the films *Hamilton* (1998), *One Night at McCool's* (2001), *Agent Cody Banks* (2003), *Lange Flate Ballær 2* (2008), and *The Pink Panther 2* (2009). He was also the co-director and producer of the first *Long Flat Balls*, a Norwegian film about soccer fans from the city of Fredrikstad, Norway. This movie, often described as *The Full Monty* with more laughs, became a huge hit in Norway. Zwart's largest grossing film to date is *The Karate Kid* (2010), film starring Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan.

The *Karate Kid* movie is basically released on June^{11th} 2010. This movie is based on screenplay by Christopher Murphey, and directed by Harald Zwart. It told story about a twelve-year-old Dre Parker from Detroit whose mother latest career landed him in China. Dre Parker immediately fell for his classmate, Mei Ying and feeling was mutual but the cultural differences made such a friendship impossible. Even worse, Dre's feelings made him bullied by a kung fu prodigy, Cheng. With no friend in a strange land, Dre Parker had now here to turn but to maintenance man named Mr. Han, who is secretly Master the kung fu. As Mr. Han taught Dre Parker not only about parries and punches, but also calmness and maturity. Dre Parker realized that facing down the bullies would be the fight of his life.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

There were six maxims of politeness principles in *Karate Kid* movie: tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim.

Tact Maxim

The utterances of someone to others who intend to minimize harm to others and maximize benefits for others. There were some data which were classified into this maxim.

Datum 1

Dre : No man. It's yours.

His friend : **Come on Dre, just take it.**

Dre : Thanks, man!

This utterance was classified as tact maxim based on Leech's theory. In this dialogue, Dre's friend is really maximizing the advantage for Dre by saying "*Come on Dre, just take it*".

Datum 2

Women : Ok, this is your rental agreement in English. So the landlady is Mrs. Wong. Her English is not good. But if something goes wrong you to Mr. Han. His English is very good.

Mrs. Parker : Okay.

This utterance was classified as tact maxim based on Leech's theory. In this dialogue a women gave suggestion to Mrs. Packer by saying:

"So the landlady is Mrs. Wong. Her English is not good. But if something goes wrong you to Mr. Han. His English is very good".

Generosity Maxim

The utterances of someone to others who intend to minimize benefit to self and maximize cost to self. There were some data which were classified into this maxim.

Datum 3

Dre : Hey, What's up? I'm Dre.

Harry : Here. Let me help you?

Dre : Thanks, man.

The utterance was categorized as generosity maxim because in this dialogue, Harry said, "*Here. Let me help you?*" These implied the benefit to Dre and implied the cost to the Harry. From the dialogue, Harry maximized the cost to himself

because he had lived long in that area and was familiar with that place.

Datum 4

Dre : Yeah.

Yeah, let me help you.

Mrs. Parker : They have your favorite cereal here, I found.

The utterance was categorized as generosity maxim because in this dialogue, Dre said, “*Yeah, let me help you*”. These implied the benefit to Mrs. Parker and implied the cost to Dre. Dre maximized the cost to himself because he respects his mother.

Approbation Maxim

The utterances of someone to others who intend to minimize dispraise of other and maximize praise of other. There were some data which was classified into this maxim.

Datum 5

Mr. Han : You’ve taught me a very important lesson, Shao Dre. Life will knock us down, but we can chose, whether or not to get back up.

Dre : You’re the best friend I’ve ever had, Mr. Han.

Mr. Han : Okay.

The utterance was categorized as approbation maxim because Dre complimented Mr. Han. “*You’re the best friend I’ve ever had, Mr. Han.*” It is related with leech’s theory about approbation maxim.

Datum 6

Harry : **He is really good. I’ve never seen him lose to anybody.**

Dre : Yeah.

The utterance was categorized as approbation maxim because Harry complimented Dre. “*He is really good. I’ve never seen him lose to anybody.*” It is related with Leech’s theory about approbation maxim.

Modesty Maxim

The utterances of someone to others who intend to minimize praise of self and maximize dispraise of self.

Datum 7

Mrs. Pong : Hello. We only wear uniforms on Uniform day.

Mrs. Parker : **Oh, that’s my fault.** I don’t have a chance to read the school pack sent to me. Will be better tomorrow.

It is related with modesty maxim because Mrs. Parker said “*Oh, that’s my fault.*” From the dialogue Mrs. Parker maximized dispraise to self about her fault.

Agreement Maxim

The utterances of someone to others who intend to minimize antipathy between self and other, maximize sympathy between self and other.

Datum 8

Women : Look! There is Omatek village, isn’t it beautiful?

Mrs. Parker : **Yes, I guess there’s nothing old in China.**

From the dialogue Mrs. Parker agreed with women’s opinion. So, she repeated the women’s opinion. “*Yes, I guess there’s nothing old in China.*” It is related with agreement maxim by Leech’s theory.

Datum 9

Meiying : Go to the Shaolin theater.

Dre : Okay. You want me to meet you? Oh, so like Shaolin theater, okay, cool. When is it again?

Meiying : Tomorrow. The show starts at seven.

Dre : **Okay. So tomorrow, Shaolin theater. Shi-shi festival at seven.**

Meiying : See you tomorrow.

From the dialogue Dre agreed with Meiying’s opinion. So, he repeated Meiying’s opinion. “*Okay.*”

So tomorrow, Shaolin theater. Shi-shi festival at seven". It is related with agreement maxim by Leech's theory.

Sympathy Maxim

The utterances of someone to others who intend to minimize antipathy between self and other, maximize sympathy between self and other.

Datum 10

Mrs. Parker : **Dre, what happened?**

Dre : Nothing happened.

From this dialogue, Mrs. Parker said "*Dre, what happened?*" She maximized sympathy to Dre because she cared about her son and she tried to ask Dre. It is related with sympathy maxim by Leech's theory.

Datum 11

Dre : **Are you okay?**

Meiying : My audition is tomorrow at a six.

Dre : Isn't it what you have been practicing for?

Meiying : Yes, of course.

Dre : Don't worry, you got it.

From this dialogue the Dre said "*Are you okay?*" He maximized sympathy to Meiying because he cared about his friend and he tried to ask Meiying. It is related with sympathy maxim by Leech's theory.

CONCLUSION

After identifying analyzing the data, the writers made conclusion about what maxims of politeness principles was used by the character in *Karate Kid* movie. The researchers found out the dominant maxims of politeness principles. From the data analysis, the writer found six types of politeness principles with 20 findings, as follows: tact maxim (2 data), generosity maxim (7 data), approbation maxim (3 data), modesty maxim (1 datum), agreement maxim (2 data), and sympathy

maxim (5 data). The generosity maxim was the dominant maxim that used by the characters in *Karate Kid* movie. By learning and understanding politeness principles, the writer expects the reader will be more able to communicate with other people by considering culture and politeness strategy.

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