

## **POLITENESS STRATEGIES OF COMMANDS USED BY VANESSA KELLER AND DARIUS HAYES IN THE FIRST SEASON OF *THE LOTTERY TV SERIES***

Written by : Fajar Subekti Zulkarnain  
First Supervisor : Titik Sudartinah, S.S., M.A  
Second Supervisor : Nandy Intan Kurnia, S.S., M.Hum

English Language and Literature Study Program  
Faculty of Languages and Arts  
Yogyakarta State University  
[fajar.s.zulkarnain@gmail.com](mailto:fajar.s.zulkarnain@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

This research investigates the types, realizations and factor of politeness strategies of command performed by Vanessa Keller and Darius Hayes in the first season of *The Lottery TV Series*. Descriptive method qualitative with pragmatics analysis was applied as the approach to the sresearch. Moreover, the research uses the researcher as the main instrument and the data sheet as the secondary instrument. The data were in the form of utterances and the context of data was the dialogues which involve Vanessa and Darius. The source of data were five episodes of the first season of *The Lottery TV Series* and the transcript. Triangulation was used to obtain the credibility and the reliability of the data. The results of this reseach are stated as follows. (1) All types of politeness strategy of command are used by both Vanessa and Darius in *The Lottery TV Series*. They are bald on record, off record, positive politeness and negative politeness. on record politeness strategy becomes the most frequent strategy since the speakers get the advantages for being direct in giving commands. (2) There are only five out of nine realizations used by the characters to perform politeness strategies of command. These five realizations are non minimization, inviting conversational implicature, claiming for common ground, conveying that both participants are cooperators, and being direct. Vanessa mostly performs the utterances with non minimization by 11 data out of 20 utterances in order to serve three different purposes. It is used to threat the hearer, to warn the hearer and to avoid ambiguity in the utterances. On the other hand, Darius mostly realizes politeness strategies in the form of claiming for common ground by 4 data out of 10 utterances. (3) All three factors of politeness influence the speakers to perform certain strategies. These factors are social distance, relative power and ranking of imposition. Both Vanessa and Darius are mostly influenced by the relative power in uttering their command. It is because the characters mostly deliver their command to someone who works for them. Therefore, they need to show their power over the addressee.

Key words: politeness strategies, commands, *The Lottery TV Series*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Communication is an inseparable part of human's life. It is needed in order to achieve certain messages or goals. Moreover, the process of communication can be influenced by several elements. They are, language speaking society, the setting, social norms and the purpose of communication itself. Therefore, the

performance of politeness strategies are needed especially when the speaker performs a command in order to avoid clash in communication.

According to Searle (1979:3), command and request have the same illocutionary point or purpose. Both attempt to make someone do something. However, they differ in term of their illocutionary

force. When a speaker performs a command, he assumes that the hearer has the duty to carry out the command. Thus, it is important for the speaker to employ certain types of politeness strategies to redress the negative impact on the hearer.

Lakoff (in Watts 2003:50), define politeness as a set of values or rules in societies which is used to develop the social harmony in communications. Similarly, Leech (in Watts, 2003:50) states that politeness is a strategy to avoid any conflict in a process of communication. Moreover, Holmes (2006:711) argues that politeness is a matter of linguistic choices that can be used by the speaker to convey his needs or wants. Thus, it can be concluded that politeness is a linguistic strategy in communication which has two possible impacts on the hearer's face. First, it can be used to threaten the participant's face want. Second, it can also be used to minimize the threat on the participant's face want.

In relation to phenomena of commands and politeness, the researcher chooses the first season of *The Lottery TV Series* as the object of the study for some reasons. First, in the movie or TV series, the characters represent the use of language in daily life. Second, after watching all the episodes, the researcher found some linguistic phenomena in *The Lottery TV Series* related to the study of pragmatics and

sociolinguistics. Third, the prominent characters in the first season of *The Lottery TV Series* have significant political positions which make them have power to perform the speech act of commands.

Furthermore, this research focuses on two main characters, Vanessa Keller and Darius Hayes. In addition, this research has three objectives: (1) to investigate the types of politeness strategies of speech act of commands performed by both Vanessa Keller and Darius Hayes, (2) to describe the realization of politeness strategies used by Vanessa Keller and Darius Hayes to perform speech act of command, and (3) to reveal the possible factors which influence the speakers to perform certain politeness strategies in expressing speech acts of commands.

To analyze the data, the researcher employed the theory of politeness strategies proposed by Brown and Levinson (1978). According to Brown and Levinson (in Goody, 1978), they divide politeness strategy into four types; bald on record, off record, positive politeness, and negative politeness. Further, they also divide the realizations of politeness strategy into nine categories. They are; non minimization, inviting conversational implicature, being vague or ambiguous, claiming for common ground, conveying that both participants are cooperators, being direct and not assuming

or pressuming. Finally, based on the sociological variables they classify the factors of politeness into three classes; social distance, relative power, and ranking of imposition.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

In this research, descriptive qualitative method was applied by the researcher. As stated by Kothari (2004:2-3), qualitative research is a type of research which concerned with qualitative phenomenon such as investigating the reasons of certain human behavior. In addition, according to Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009:167), the purpose of qualitative research is more descriptive than predictive. It focuses on in depth understanding of the research participants' point of view. In addition, quantitative method was also used to measure the frequency of data occurrence. As stated by Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009:7), quantitative method used to specifies numerical assignment of certain phenomena in the research study. Moreover, pragmatics was used as the approach to analyze the data in this research.

The data in this research were in the form of utterances uttered by two main characters, Vanessa Keller and Darius Hayes in the first season of *The Lottery TV Series*. The context of data was the dialogues among the characters which contain

politeness and the performance of speech act of commands. The sources of the data were the transcripts of five beginning episodes of the first season of *The Lottery TV Series*, i.e. *Pilot*, *Rules of the Game*, *Greater Good*, *Genie* and *Crystal City*.

The researcher was the main instrument of this research. In addition, the data sheet was also used as the secondary instrument the research. Furthermore, the researcher took some steps during the process: watching the series, downloading its transcript, checking the accuracy of the transcript, marking the utterances indicating the politeness strategies, and classifying the utterances into the data sheet. Finally, in order to gain the reliability of the data, this research employed two types of triangulation; they are: investigator triangulation and theory triangulation.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings**

This research reveals 30 data based on the utterances of Vanessa and Darius. Vanessa performs 20 utterances and Darius performs 10 utterances. In relation to the first objective, this research reveals four types of politeness strategies. Vanessa dominantly performs bald on record politeness strategy by 11 data out of 20 utterances. On the other hand, Darius mostly

performs his utterance in the form of positive politeness strategy by 6 utterances out of 10 data.

Furthermore, in relation to the second objective, this research reveals five out of nine realizations of politeness strategy proposed by Brown and Levinson. They are, non minimization, inviting conversational implicature, claiming for common ground, conveying that both participants are cooperators, and being direct. Vanessa mostly realizes the politeness strategy with non minimization by 11 utterances and Darius mostly realizes the politeness strategy by claiming for common ground with 4 utterances.

In addition, related to the third objective, this research reveals all three factors of politeness strategy. Both Vanessa and Darius are mostly influenced by their relative power in making an utterances. Vanessa influenced by the relative power in her 12 utterances containing commands. On the other hand, Darius influenced by the relative power in his 9 utterances containing commands.

## **Discussion**

In this research, there are four types of politeness strategy, five types of realizations and three classes of factors influencing politeness strategy. A more detailed will be presented in the example below.

The first example is the conversation between Vanessa and her brother, Nick.

Vanessa : Counterfeit fertility drugs? Really? Do you have any idea?

Nick : I didn't know that they were fake.

Vanessa : **Shut up, Nick. Just shut your damn mouth and stop lying for once.**

(01\_1/BR/NM/D)

Vanessa performs bald on record politeness as she scolds at her brother. When she asks Nick if he has any idea about what he has done, he delivers an alibi by saying "I didn't know that they were fake". In response to her brother's utterance, she intentionally attacks his face by baldly saying "Shut up, Nick. Just shut your damn mouth and stop lying for once". Moreover, she realizes her utterances in the form of non minimization since she has no intention to redress the negative impact on the hearer's face. The most influential factor is the social distance among them. In this conversation, Vanessa goes baldly on record since they are siblings which makes their social distance relatively close.

The second example is the conversation between Vanessa and the staff in the White House.

Lips reader : 44 Doulan Avenue.

Vanessa : **Does that exist? Does that exist?**

A staff : Got it. It's a warehouse just outside of Shanghai.

(17\_3/OR/CI/P)

Vanessa performs a command in the form of off record politeness strategy by saying “Does that exist? Does that exist?” to the staff. The utterance is in the form of a question. However, it is not really a question but a command because Vanessa needs to confirm the existence of 44 Doulan Avenue itself. She performs the same utterance twice with different intonations to show the importance of the information. Vanessa uses a rhetorical question to invite the conversational implicature since the utterance of “Does that exist?” refers to a command to find 44 Doulan Avenue. What is more, the factor influencing the choice of the strategy is the relative power among the participants because they discuss the issue related to their job.

The third example is the conversation between Darius and Dr. Lennon.

Darius : That won't be necessary,  
Dr. Lennon.  
Dr. Lennon: excuse me?  
Darius : I appreciate your  
diligence, **but we'll  
taking the lead from  
this point going  
forward.**

(02\_1/PP/CG/P)

In this example, Darius performs positive politeness strategies by claiming for common ground. He tries to avoid any complaint from Dr. Lennon. Therefore, he tries to respect Dr. Lennon in order to fulfill

Dr. Lennon's positive face wants which are the wants to be respected and appreciated by others. In the first utterance, he says “I appreciate your diligence” in order to fulfill the addressee's wants to be recognized, respected, and appreciated. Moreover, in the second utterance, he performs the speech act of command indirectly by saying “but we'll take the lead from this point going forward”. This second utterance makes it possible to soften the face damage into a minimum. In short, Darius is powerful enough to fire Dr. Lennon for any reason but he respects her as one of his scientists. Thus the most influential factor is the relative power among the participants.

The fourth example is the conversation between Darius and Dr. Lennon.

Darius : Just so you know, Dr.  
Lennon, I didn't agree  
with this decision,  
having said that, I  
believe in second  
chances, **so please  
make the most of this  
opportunity.**  
Dr. Lennon : (Silent)  
Vanessa : Don't worry about him,  
stay focus, do your job.  
(07\_2/PP/PC/P)

Darius warns Dr. Lennon by giving a command that she has to use her second chance given by the government nicely. He tries to convey that in this particular context, both participants are cooperators. If Dr. Lennon follows his order, then she will get

the benefit for not being fired for the second time. Thus, it can be concluded that he performs positive politeness strategies by conveying that both participants are cooperators. Moreover, the most influential factor is the power among the addressee since Darius is Dr. Lennon's boss and they do not have any relationship except related to their job.

The last example is the conversation between Vanessa and the White House' staff.

Vanessa Keller : What's he doing?  
Staff of White House : What do you mean?  
Vanessa Keller : Nathan. **Can you blow it up and rewind the video feed?** Stop, there play it. He's saying something or mouthing something.  
(15\_3/NP/BD/P)

Vanessa performs negative politeness by being direct or conventionally indirect. She tries to respect the hearer's negative face wants by using modal auxiliary "can" in her utterance. In delivering the command, she uses her power since the setting is in the White House. In short, relative power is the most influential power behind the utterance. Finally, it can be said that both Vanessa and Darius perform a command with various politeness strategies. Moreover it also influenced by various factor based on their setting and the speaker's need.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

### Conclusion

In reference to the findings and discussion, this research reveals 4 types of politeness strategies. They are, bald on record, off record, positive politeness and negative politeness. Bald on record politeness strategy becomes the most frequent strategy to occur with 14 out of 30 data. The 11 data of this strategy are performed by Vanessa and the other 3 are performed by Darius. It is because both speakers get more advantages from the directness of bald on record politeness strategy.

However, there are only 5 out of 9 realizations of politeness strategies used by the characters. They are, non minimization, inviting conversational implicature, claiming for common ground, conveying that both participants are cooperators, and being direct. Vanessa mostly realizes her utterances with non minimization politeness strategy by 11 utterances out of 14 data. Since non minimization is the only way to realize bald on record politeness strategy, it is performed in the same situation for the same purpose as bald on record politeness. On the other hand, Darius mostly performs his utterances of command by claiming for common ground with 4 data. By doing this, he tries to seek for an agreement and common goal with the addressee. Thus, he

can redress the face damage on the addressee when he performs a command. Furthermore, the most dominant factor influencing the choice of politeness strategies is relative power with 21 data. Vanessa performs 12 utterances and Darius performs the other 9 utterances. This factor becomes dominant for two reasons. First, when Vanessa and Darius perform a command. Second, the speakers want to show their power over the addressees in order to make them follow the order.

### **Suggestions**

After conducting the research, the researcher proposed some suggestion for the following parties. First, to the students of English literature study program especially for those who are majoring in linguistics, they can conduct a research under the same field. Moreover, they can also use this research as reference to enrich their knowledge and understanding on politeness phenomena, especially in relation to politeness strategies and speech acts of command. Second, to other researcher, they can conduct a research under the issue of politeness with different objective and source of data.

### **REFERENCES**

Goody, E. N. 1978. *Questions and Politeness*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

- Holmes, J. 2006. "Politeness Strategies as Linguistic Variables". Mey, J. L. 2009. *Concise Encyclopedia of Pragmatics*. Oxford: Elsevier Ltd.
- Kothari, C. R. 2004. *Research Methodology Method and Techniques*. New Delhi: New Age International (P) Ltd.
- Searle, J. R. 1979. *Expression and Meaning Studies in the Theory of Speech Acts*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Vanderstoep, S. W., and Johnston, D. D. 2009. *Research Method for Everyday Life*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Watts, R. J. 2003. *Politeness*. New York: Cambridge University Press.