CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I will present my conclusion based on my findings. I analyze 11 data from *Merlin* TV series seasons 1 to 5 which all involve conflicts due to the miscalculation of politeness strategy.

After conducting my analysis, I can conclude that the miscalculations of politeness strategy are mostly done by subordinates to their superiors. In my opinion, that happens because *Merlin* TV series is set in the olden days where there are kingdoms, so there is a gap between noble people and servants. The majority of the miscalculations occur due to the fact that the subordinates ignore the superiors' authority.

In terms of RDP, I will begin to explain the miscalculation in terms of power (P) first. The main source of conflict in my data is mostly in terms of power. It is mentioned above that *Merlin* TV series shows kingdom where there are lots of superiors, such as the kings and their royal family, and subordinates, such as servants and soldiers. Thus, if the power aspect is misused or ignored by the subordinates, the superiors will feel that the subordinates are disrespectful. Because of this, conflicts emerge.

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Miscalculation of the rate of imposition (R) is also quite dominant in my data. It is because if subordinates want to talk to their superiors, the rate of disapproval that the superiors will give is very high considering that the decisions that the superiors make are mostly not to be debated especially by the subordinates. If the subordinates ignore this aspect and speak directly about the matter to their superiors, the superiors will feel that the subordinates are impolite and challenging the superiors' opinion.

Another source of problem deals with the distance (D) aspect. This aspect is not dominant in my thesis because the subordinates rarely try to lower the distance with the superiors. However, if in some cases the subordinates perform such strategy, the superiors mostly agree to get close with the subordinates. The thing that creates the miscalculation is when the subordinates feel that they are already close with the superiors; thus, the subordinates will ignore the P and R aspects which can create conflicts. In conclusion, all the three RDP aspects cannot be separated from one another because they are to a certain extent connected and affect one another.

After doing the analysis and finding the miscalculation of RDP aspects, I also analyze the politeness strategies that create conflicts. I find that the **off record strategy** is used 7 times and the **bald-on-record strategy** is used 18 times in creating conflicts. Apparently, it turns out that **on record indicating negative and positive politeness** are never used in creating conflicts.

For the **off record strategy**, the reason subordinates use this strategy is because the atmosphere in the kingdom era is very rigid. This makes the subordinates do not want to directly utter their speech for they are afraid that they may threaten the superiors' faces. Apparently, because the subordinates do not utter the matter directly, the superiors feel that the subordinates are disrespectful because they indirectly

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challenge the superiors' opinions. This can be seen in data 4 where Gaius wants to persuade Arthur to become the King of Camelot. Gaius uses an **off record strategy** because he does not want to threaten Arthur's face by directly telling him to be the King of Camelot. Apparently, Gaius miscalculates the politeness strategy because Arthur does not like it when Gaius is indirectly telling Arthur to be the King of Camelot by mentioning that it is for the good of the kingdom. It is because Arthur believes that it is not Gaius' role to decide that because Arthur's father is only sick and not yet dead.

The **Bald-on-record strategy** is the most often used by the subordinates. They mostly perform such strategy when they get carried away by their emotion and want to directly utter their opinion because the superiors keep rejecting their ideas. Because of this, the superiors feel that the subordinates are impolite especially if the subordinates perform this strategy using a loud voice. An example of this is in my first data where Merlin is directly telling Uther that Aredian is a fraud. This is because Merlin loses his temper as Uther still insists on executing Gaius. Because Merlin performs this strategy and uses a loud voice, the politeness strategy is miscalculated, which results in Uther's being very upset for he thinks that Merlin is disrespectful for saying such things in that kind of way.

However, **on record indicating negative politeness** is never used in creating conflicts. The reason of this is because if the subordinates perform **negative politeness**, they will be polite in speaking and pay attention to the three RDP aspects. In my data, the miscalculation does not occur considering that the superiors do not feel that their face is threatened when the subordinates are using such strategies.

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In addition, **on record indicating positive politeness** is never used in creating conflicts. It is because when the subordinates try to get close to their superiors, their attempt is always successful. This makes the **positive politeness strategy** never create any conflict.

Overall, the conflicts mostly occur due to the fact that the superiors feel that the subordinates are offending them by using an **off record strategy**. Because the subordinates keep indirectly telling the matter to their superiors, the superiors feel that it is impolite to make the superiors guess about the actual matter that the subordinates want to say. In some cases, the superiors will also feel that the subordinates are challenging their authority by indirectly telling the superiors what to do.

The conflicts also occur because there is a competition of power provoked by the subordinates by using **bald-on-record**. By using this strategy, the subordinates ignore the P aspect and it makes the superiors feel that the subordinates are challenging their power. Because of this, I can conclude that this strategy is the most effective strategy to create conflicts due to the competition of power.

As we can see, I only analyze *Merlin* TV series Seasons 1 to 5 using politeness strategy theory. For further researchers, I really suggest analyzing this TV series using maxim theory for I believe that there are plenty of characters in this TV series who flout the maxims which can also create conflicts. Moreover, this TV series can also be analyzed using the theory of maxims to find the enhancement of tense atmosphere by analyzing the maxims that are violated.

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