

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

People are social beings who need to communicate with others in daily life. The ways we communicate with one another can be seen in our utterances. By producing an utterance, we are able to show our intention such as to command someone to do something. An utterance uttered in a polite way will be better accepted than in a rude way. Therefore, politeness has an important role in a social relationship interaction.

In order to know the meaning of what is said in an interaction, we have to look at various factors which relate to social distance or closeness. They typically involve the relative status of the participants, which is based on social values such as age and power. For example, speakers who regard themselves to have a lower status usually will consider themselves to have wide social distance between themselves and higher status speakers and also with strangers if they use address forms that include a title and last name. For instance: When communicating with a speaker of a higher status, we may call him by using his title or his last name like

Mr. Kennedy, Dr. Cameron, Mrs. Peterson, etcetera. Their purpose for doing that is actually to respect their status as well as to prevent them from losing their faces. Face means a self-image of a person that need to be appreciated.

The investigation of that impact is normally carried out by the term of politeness strategy. It is said by two linguists named Brown and Levinson. They find that politeness strategy is needed to preserve the stability in the relationship with others. Politeness, in an interaction, can then be defined as the means employed to show awareness of another person's face. (Yule 60). In this sense, politeness can be used in situations of social distance or closeness. Showing awareness of another person's face when that other seems socially distant is often described in terms of respect or deference. So, in order to avoid the threat to the addressee's face, one of the persons needs to apply the appropriate politeness strategy.

For that reason, I am interested to analyze further the appropriate politeness strategies chosen in order to reduce the possibility of damage to the hearer's face. If the speaker chooses an inappropriate politeness strategy to the hearer, the hearer will feel her face threatened so she may become angry. Actually, a wrong strategy may be chosen if the hearer is unaware of the Weightiness of the FTA. Disturbing one another's face within an utterance means threatening someone else's face. This is known as Face Threatening Act (FTA). The FTA is expressed by Weightiness (W) based on three parameters: the Rate of imposition (R), the social Distance (D) between the speaker and the person addressed, and Power (P). The three parameters are hereby formulated into: $W(\text{FTA}) = R + D + P$. These miscalculations of Weightiness of the FTA can be

solved by choosing an appropriate politeness strategy. Politeness strategy is needed to strive for stability in the relationship with others.

My topic belongs to Pragmatics, which means the study of speaker's meaning. It is concerned with the utterance produced by speaker and the interpretation of the utterance by the hearer. And my specific theory is politeness strategy, which means "the expression of the speakers' intention to reduce face threats carried by certain face threatening acts to another." The motives of politeness were in the consideration of "face". Face is viewed as a positive public self-image of a person. It refers to emotional and social sense of self that everyone has and expects everyone else to recognize. (Yule 60)

The source of data for my analysis is the miscalculation of utterances in Prison Break movie series. The series tells about rebellion and complicated life which occur in prison. It is usually done by the prisoners to the officers or between prisoners. I decide to take this movie series because it obviously shows the conversations that lead to the emergence of tense atmosphere. It is because most of the prisoners miscalculate the appropriate politeness strategy to be applied in this movie. For instance they often say directly to the officers or to the other prisoners, which makes them angry. I choose this movie series in order to be able to find conversations in which the speakers miscalculate the weightiness of the FTA.

The significance of my study is that it may help the readers will be more aware of using appropriate politeness strategy in order to avoid the emergence of tense atmosphere in conversations.

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Statement of the Problem

1. What is the speech event of the analyzed scene of the Prison Break movie series?
2. How does the miscalculation of the Weightiness of the FTA emerge between the characters in the speech event?
3. How does the miscalculation of the Weightiness of the FTA lead to the emergence of tense atmosphere in the story?

Purpose of the Study

1. To describe the speech event of the analyzed scene of the Prison Break movie series.
2. To expose how the miscalculation of the Weightiness of the FTA emerges between the characters in the speech event.
3. To show how the miscalculation of the Weightiness of the FTA lead to the emergence of tense atmosphere in the story.

Method of Research

In doing this analysis, the first step is I search and try to understand the general theory of politeness from Pragmatics book and other books source. The next step is I observe the movie series that contain of miscalculation of the FTA. Finally, I find Prison Break movie series as my appropriate data. When watching the series, I find out the utterances which contain miscalculation of the Weightiness of the FTA in the movie series and then I analyze it.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis contains four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. The second chapter is the theories used to analyze the data. The third chapter is the analysis of the data consists of the discussion of the Weightiness of the FTA. Finally the last chapter is the conclusion of the analysis. This thesis ends with the Bibliography, which is followed by the Appendix.