

**POLITENESS STRATEGY USED IN CONVERSATIONAL VERSES OF SURAH *AL-  
A'RAAF***

**THESIS**

**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Bachelor Degree of**

**English Department Faculty of Arts and Humanities**

**UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya**



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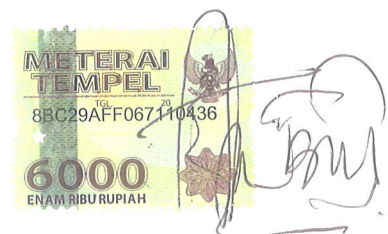
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**This is to certify that the thesis entitled "Politeness Strategy Used in Conversational Verses of Surah *al-A'raaf*" written by Dewi Sekarwangi (A73214076) has been approved by the thesis advisor to be examined**

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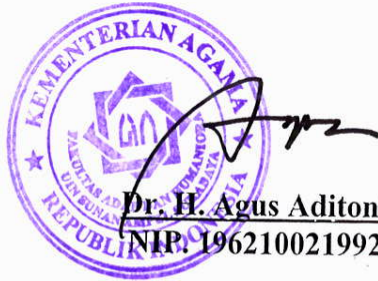
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This thesis has been approved and accepted by the Board of Examiners, English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya, on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2018

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The previous research which combining two focuses of politeness strategies has been done with title “Face Threatening Acts and Politeness Strategies in Summer School Application Calls” (Josip Juraj Strossmayer University, 2013) written by Ana Kedveš. This research aims to explore the pragmatic aspects of summer school application calls in the framework of Brown and Levinson’s (1987) politeness theory. This research focuses on the content of calls. The result of this study revealed that FTAs and adherent politeness strategy utterances are very likely to appear in summer school CFAs. Substantial majority of FTAs are directed towards the hearer and threaten one’s negative face.

The next previous research which focusing on a sub-politeness strategy is “The Negative Politeness Strategies Used by The Manchester United Fans Club to Gives Comments in Social Media” (UIN Sunan Ampel, 2016) written by M. Mafazy. This research focuses on the utterances, the form of sentences, words and phrases used by users of the social media, especially, for the Manchester United fans. The result of this study showed that Manchester United fans apply seven negative politeness strategies. Those strategies are; be conventionally indirect, question and hedges, be pessimistic, give deference, minimize the imposition, apologize, and impersonalize. The fans use those strategies as a means to maintain close relationship and show their respect to their interlocutors.

The previous research which analyzing all kinds of the politeness is “Politeness Strategies Used by George Milton in John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men*” (UIN Sunan Kalijaga, 2013) written by Yuni Murliati. This research aims to describe how politeness strategies are used by George Milton, the main character in John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men* through his directive utterances (command, requests, and suggestions) and to elaborate the reasons why certain strategies are used. The results of this study showed that George gives command more than request and suggestions (35 commands, 25 requests, and 5 suggestions).

Based on previous studies above, most of them were analyzing politeness strategies and its sub strategies expressed by characters. It is different with Kedveš and Mafazy’s research. However, this present study is different from the previous studies in term of object of the research. In this study, the researcher interests to analyze the politeness strategies in conversational verses of Surah *al-A’raaf*. This present study becomes something advantage for the researcher to fill the gap, since there is no researcher whom take the Holy Qur’an as their object. Here, the researcher uses all kinds of the politeness strategies because for the result, the researcher speculates that the conversations in Surah *al-A’raaf* containing various kinds of politeness strategies. The researcher takes the data from the Holy Qur’an and its English translation as





























- b. Pseudo-agreement. The speaker uses *then* a conclusory marker. It make becomes an indication that the speaker drawing a conclusion to a line of reasoning carried out cooperatively with the addressee (Brown and Levinson, 1987:115). For example: I'll meet you in front of the theatre just before 8, then.
- c. White lies. A further output of positive politeness desire to avoid disagreement is the social "white lie". Brown and Levinson stated that white lies ways happen when a speaker confronted with the necessity to state an opinion, wants to lie rather than to damage the hearer's positive face. This strategy also used to avoid confrontation when refusing a request by lying, pretending there are reasons why one cannot comply (1987:115). For example: Oh, I can't. The batteries are dead (116)
- d. Hedging opinion. Brown and Levinson said that this hedging opinion occurs when the speaker may choose to be vague about his own opinions, so as not to be seen to disagree (1987:116). The unclear opinion of the speaker is marked by *sort of, kind of, like, or in a way*. For example: It's really beautiful, in a way (116)
7. Presuppose/ Raise/ Assert Common Ground. This strategy includes three ways among them are gossip or small talk, point of view operations and presupposition manipulation.

- a. Gossip or small talk. Speaker is talking about unrelated topics to show that speaker is interested in hearer as the mark of friendship and does not come only to impose him. This way gives rise to the strategy of redressing FTAs by talking for a while about unrelated topic before leads to the real topic (Brown and Levinson, 1987:117)
  - b. Point-of-view operations. This way is by mean of deixis. It is used for reducing the distance between the speaker and the hearer's point of view. Speaker speaks as if hearer were speaker, or hearer's knowledge were equal to speaker's knowledge (Brown and Levinson, 1987:119)
  - c. Presupposition manipulation. It means that the speaker presupposes something that is mutually taken for granted (Brown and Levinson, 1987:122)
8. Jokes. Since jokes are based on mutual shared background knowledge and values, jokes can be used to stress that shared background or values. The strategy of joking may be useful in diminishing the social distance between speaker and hearer. For example: How about lending me this old heap of junk? (Brown and Levinson, 1987:124)
  9. Assert or Presuppose Speaker's Knowledge of and Concerns for Hearer's wants. Brown and Levinson stated that to indicate the speaker and hearer are cooperation is by putting pressure on the hearer. Speaker wants to assert and imply knowledge of hearer's wants and willingness to fit one's own













3. Presuppose. In this strategy, S implicating something in order to make H looking for the presupposed prior event. For example: I washed the car again today (S presupposed that he has done it before. The use of “again” forces H to look for the relevance of the presupposed prior event).
4. Understate. S is inevitably saying something less than or something different from what he actually intended. The use of less (providing less information) than or more than are required, S invites H to consider why. For example: how do you like Adele’s car? – it’s OK (I don’t particularly)
5. Overstate. Speaker says ‘more’ than is necessary, thus violating the Quantity Maxim in another way, he may also convey implicatures. S may do this by the inverse of the understatement principle that is by exaggerating or choosing a point on a scale which is higher than actual state of affairs. For example: there were a million people in the Co-op tonight!
6. Use tautologies. S uses repeating previous utterance without any further explanation to make the H look for an informative interpretation of the non-informative utterance. For example: war is war
7. Use contradiction. Because S cannot be telling the truth, S stating two things that contradict each other. He thus encourages H to look for an interpretation that reconciles the two contradictory propositions. For example: are you upset about that? – Well, I’m not, and I’m not

8. Be ironic. In this strategy, S gives clues that his intended meaning is being conveyed indirectly by saying opposite of what he means. For example:  
lovely neighborhood, eh? (In a slum)
9. Use metaphor. Like the name of this sub strategy, the speaker uses metaphor and leaves it to H to interpret his intended meaning. For example:  
Harry is a real fish (he drinks like a fish)
10. Use rhetorical question. In this strategy, S asks a question with no answer needed in order to make H provide him the indicated information. For example: how was I to know? (I wasn't)
11. Be ambiguous. By using this strategy, S utters with not always clear exactly which of the connotations of a metaphor are intended to be invoked. For example: John's a pretty sharp cookie.
12. Be vague. Speaker goes off record with a FTA by being vague about the object of the FTA is or what the offence is. For example: perhaps someone did something naughty.
13. Over generalize. In this strategy, S leaves H to have a choice of deciding whether applies the general rule to him, by utters a rule of instantiation. For example: The lawn has got to be mown.
14. Displace hearer. In this strategy, S may address another person who is impossibly received that kind of utterances as the object and hope the real target will see that the FTA is aimed at him.





- Positive politeness: a speaker can minimize the face-threatening aspects of an act by assuring the addressee that S considers himself to be 'of the same kind', that he likes him and wants his wants. The other advantages of payoff in this strategy is that S can avoid or minimize the debt implications of the FTAs such as request and offers, whether by referring to the reciprocity and on-going relationship between them, or by including the addressee and himself equally as participants in or as benefiter from the request or offers.
- Negative strategy: the speaker can get any advantages, such as he can pay respect, deference, to the addressee in return for the FTA, and can avoid incurring (or thereby lessen) a future debt, he can maintain social distance, and avoid threat of advancing familiarity towards the addressee, he can give a real 'out' to the addressee, and he can give conventional 'outs' to the addressee as opposed to real 'outs'. In this strategy, the aim is to satisfy H's negative face, to some degree.
- Off record: the speaker can get any advantages, such as he can get credit for being tactful (non-coercive), he can avoid the risk of his act entering the 'gossip biography' that others keep of him, and he can avoid responsibility for the potentially face-damaging interpretation. Furthermore, he can give (non-overtly) the addressee an opportunity to be seen to care for S (and thus he can test H's feelings toward him).



























































































































	Bald off Record	75, 140 and 166	3
<b>Total</b>			41
<b>Social Distance</b>	Close	11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 24, 59, 65, 114, 117, 123, 124, 128, 140, 142, 143, 144, 145, 150, 151, 155, 160, and 189	24
	Average	39, 44, 50, 80, 85, 88, 127, 158, and 164	9
	Far	29, 38, 43, 53, 75, 105, 134, and 166	8
<b>Total</b>			41
<b>Relative Power</b>	Higher	11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 24, 29, 59, 65, 80, 85, 88, 114, 117, 123, 124, 128, 140, 144, 145, 158, 160, and 166	23
	Equal	39, 44, 50, 75, 105, 142, 150, and 164	8
	Lower	16, 38, 43, 53, 127, 134, 143, 151, 155, and 189	10
<b>Total</b>			41
<b>Absolute Ranking of Imposition</b>	High	13, 16, 18, 24, 38, 50, 53, 88, 114, 117, 123, 124, 127, 140, 142, 150, 151, 155, 160, and 166	20
	Average	12, 29, 39, 59, 65, 80, 85, 128, 134, and 158	10
	Low	11, 15, 43, 44, 75, 105, 143, 144, 145, 164, and 189	11















































divided into ten sub-strategies, include; maximum efficiency, metaphorical urgency for emphasis, metaphorical urgency for high valuation of H's friendship, task oriented/ paradigmatic form of instruction, power relation between S and H, sympathetic advice or warnings, permission that H has requested, greeting and farewell, offers, and others. The second is positive politeness strategy divided into fifteen sub-strategies, include; notice, attend to H, exaggerate, intensify interest to H, use in-group identity markers, seek agreement, avoid disagreement, presuppose/ raise/ assert common ground, jokes, assert/ presuppose S's knowledge of and concerns for H's wants, offers or promise, be optimistic, include both S and H in the activity, give (or ask for) reasons, assume or assert reciprocity, and give gift to H. Third is about negative politeness which is divided into ten sub-strategies, include; be conventionally indirect, question, hedge, be pessimistic, minimize the imposition, give deference, apologize, impersonalize, state the FTA as a general rule, nominalize, and go on record as incurring a debt, or not indebting H. And the last is about bald-on-record strategy divided into fifteen sub-strategies, include; give hints, give association clues, presuppose, understate, overstate, use tautologies, use contradictions, be ironic, use metaphors, use rhetorical questions, be ambiguous, be vague, over-generalize, displace H, and be incomplete, use ellipsis. Based on those variations of politeness strategies, not all of them were found in conversational verses of Surah *al-A'raaf*. Several





















