

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE FACE-THREATENING ACTS ON FAMILY AND SCHOOL INTERACTION OF “NO PLACE STRANGE” NOVEL BY DIANA FITZGERALD BRYDEN

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Abstract

A speech act is a variety of verbal communication and also a subdivision of pragmatics often takes place in verbal and nonverbal communication. The purposes of this research is to analyze Positive and Negative Face-Threatening Acts (FTAs) in Diana Fitzgerald Bryden novel entitled “No Place Strange”. The method used was qualitative descriptive. The researcher classified the kinds of Face Threatening Acts that were produced by characters in No Place Strange novel. This research applied descriptive qualitative where the data were analyzed by Brown and Levinson’s theory. Based on the analysis in this research, the researcher found Face Threatening Acts in the Novel No Place Strange that there are 17 utterances which showed 13 Negative face threatening acts and 4 Positive face threatening acts employed by the interaction in the family and school. Based on the finding above, the researcher concluded that the utterances are more dominant used in that novel are Negative face threatening acts than Positive face threatening acts.

Keywords — Politeness Strategies, No Place Strange Novel by Diana Fitzgerald Bryden

Introduction

Every culture is conscious of its "face" as it communicates. Even though talk participants may not be conscious of it, protecting one's face is essential to effectively communicating and interacting with others. A "face-threatening act" (FTA) is one that would make someone possibly lose face, or damage it in some way. FTAs, which occur regularly in everyday interaction, are often softened by means of politeness. Politeness can be expressed through "positive politeness" (e.g., "please", to try to make the other person like you) or "negative politeness" (e.g., "I know this is a terrible imposition", to try to give the other person some space and not impose).

Over the years, the study of politeness in different cultures has been extensively researched. Among these studies, Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson's theory of politeness has gained significant influence. While Brown and Levinson originally presented their model as universally applicable, it has faced criticism from other scholars regarding its cross-cultural relevance and different interpretations and conceptualizations of politeness *Watts et al (2005), Armansu (2012), (Mills, 2003), Eckert (2013)*.

Considering how difficult it is to be respectful in conversation, the speaker needs to keep the interlocutor in consideration. Being gracious is difficult for the speaker since it necessitates the understanding of the local language, social structure, and cultural traditions. Furthermore, one definition of politeness is the use of terms in conversation that fulfill diverse functions depending on the participant.



Politeness is a characteristic of language trait that is conveyed differently in different languages. appropriate linguistic and social actions in each speech group must adhere to approved communicative behavior guidelines (Nhat, 2019).

According to Brown and Levinson in Putri (Putri, 2013), Politeness strategies are formulated so as to protect the "face" of the hearers. An individual's face refers to their respect for themselves in public or in private. In general, people try to avoid making others uncomfortable or embarrassing them. Facing Threatening Acts (FTAs) are actions that interfere with the hearer's ability to retain self-respect and to be respected.

Brown and Levinson (Brown, 1987) state that there are five ways to commit polite in interaction with other people that then be known as five politeness strategies, such as; Bald-On Record, Off Record, using positive politeness strategies, using negative politeness strategies, and not doing the FTA. All those strategies are used to maintain the other's faces in the interaction and minimize the possibility of the appearance of Face Threatening Acts which lead people to lose faces. Face Threatening Acts are any acts that can cause a threat to the people's faces, whether it is positive or negative face.

Some research according to Lakoff, R. (1975), and Beeching, K. (2002) indicates that women tend to employ politeness strategies more frequently than men, although the specific variations are not well-defined. Recent studies have demonstrated that gender disparities in the use of politeness are intricate, Holmes, J. (1995). This is because there is a noticeable connection between societal expectations of politeness and the typical speech patterns attributed to middle-class white women, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States. Consequently, it is not surprising that women are commonly associated with politeness, and their language usage is evaluated based on these established norms of politeness.

In light of the background of the study above, the writer formulates the research question, which is "What kinds of the Positive and Negative Face-Threatening Acts that performed in the No Place Strange Novel By Diana Fitzgerald Bryden"

In this research, the writer focused on four kinds of Face Threatening Acts according to Brown and Levinson theory. The research used pragmatic analysis and also descriptive qualitative to answer the aim of study. The kinds of Face Threatening Acts that the writer means are negative face-threatening acts that threaten the hearer's face, negative face-threatening acts that threaten the speaker's face, positive face threatening acts that threatens the hearer's face, and positive face threatening acts that threaten the speaker's face in No Place Strange Novel By Diana Fitzgerald Bryden.

The procedure of data collecting that the researcher going to use in this research is divided into three steps. The first step the researcher read No Place Strange Novel By Diana Fitzgerald Bryden. In the second step the researcher looked for Face Threatening Acts in the novel and captured the expression. Third step the researcher classified the kinds of Face Threatening Acts according to Brown and Levinson's theory by marking them as followed positive face and negative face. After data were found the researcher classified and transcribed the data according to Brown and Levinson's theory.

Literature Review

A review of related literature is a detailed review of existing literature related to the topic of this journal.

Speech Acts

Speech acts are linguistic representations of the purpose served by created utterances. One can act through communicating. By employing simple words and phrases, the speaker can portray physical activity through speech actions. 2016 (Hidayat) A person's speech act is anything they say that not only provides information but also performs an action. The politeness values present in each



utterance are determined by studying the speech data classified as forceful speech acts using a pragmatic method. To establish politeness values in each speech, the writer must first identify the modes of communication (taifik, 2008).

Politeness Strategies

Politeness is first and foremost a question of what is spoken, not what is thought or believed (Cruse, 2006: 362). Besides out from cooperative principles, politesse is another degree of conversational contact. Some specialists have proposed the theory of politeness, including R. Lakoff (1973), Brown and Levinson (1978), P. H. Grice (1975), and Leech (1977). (1983). Brown and Levinson's notion of politeness methodologies will be used in this research. Brown and Levinson (1987: 91) identified four basic strategies for politeness concerning FTAs: bald on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record.

Summary of The novel "No Place Strange" by Diana Fitzgerald Bryden

The novel "No Place Strange" by Diana Fitzgerald Bryden takes place in London and Beirut during different time periods. The story revolves around two main characters: Lydia, an eight-year-old girl in London, and Mouna, a schoolgirl in Beirut, *The Globe and Mail* (May 21, 2016).

In 1970, Lydia becomes fascinated by a young woman named Rafa Ahmed, who is captured after hijacking a plane. Lydia's father, a journalist, tries to explain the complexities of the situation to her, while her mother expresses contempt for the terrorists. In Beirut, Mouna also develops an obsession with Rafa and imagines similarities between their lives. Both Lydia and Mouna face their own family tensions, with Mouna eventually being sent to live with her aunt and uncle.

Lydia's father is assigned to interview Rafa in jail, and her release leads to the freedom of hostages in Jordan. Meanwhile, Mouna accompanies her aunt to her university office, where she meets Rafa, who is now a student. Despite their differences in views on violence, they both share a belief in the return of Palestine to its people.

The story then jumps to 1986, where Lydia and Mouna, now in their twenties, have moved on with their lives. Lydia has relocated to Canada with her family, while Mouna works with the UN in war-torn Beirut. Lydia travels to Greece to escape her pain and encounters Farid, Mouna's cousin, who is on a temporary break from the chaos in Beirut. The novel skillfully weaves the paths of Lydia and Farid together, connecting their two worlds.

The narration in the novel remains distant, focusing on four main characters: Lydia, Mouna, Farid, and Mouna's aunt, Miriam. The author creates a bird's-eye view of the interconnected stories, providing a clear perspective on the various plotlines.

Throughout the book, Bryden offers poignant glimpses into daily life in a war zone, capturing the emotions and struggles faced by the characters. Lydia's journey to Greece becomes a quest to understand her father's death, and she develops a romantic relationship with Farid, despite their cultural differences.

"No Place Strange" is a highly ambitious debut novel that explores themes of grief, love, and the roots of terror. Despite occasional distractions with mundane details, the author masterfully delves into the lives of diverse characters and leaves readers with a sense of fragile hope in the midst of chaos.

Research Method

As part of this research, the researcher used a qualitative as research design. The descriptive method, on the other hand, was related to the qualitative method, which was defined by Bogdan and Taylor (in Moleong, 2001) as research that supplied descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words of persons and conduct that was seen.

By observing and describing the field conditions, the researcher meaningful understanding of the situation. The objective of qualitative research was to explore the behavior of natural systems as they usually occur in the field (Creswell, 2015). The instruments used were the researcher herself and a document of the Novel entitled "*No Place Strange*" by Diana Fitzgerald Bryden

The procedure of analysis of the data collection that the researcher used in this research was divided into three steps. The first step the researcher read *No Place Strange* Novel by Diana Fitzgerald Bryden. In the second step, the researcher looked for Face Threatening Acts in the novel and captured the expression. Third step the researcher classified the kinds of Face Threatening Acts according to Brown and Levinson's theory by marking them as followed positive face and negative face. After data were found the researcher classified and transcribed the data according to Brown and Levinson's theory

Results and Discussion

In this part the researcher presents the data that have been collected from *No Place Strange* Novel By Diana Fitzgerald Bryden. (Bryden, 2004)

1. Negative face threatening acts

In the case of negative face, someone's behavior can disrupt their interlocutor's freedom to act on their own. This can force them to give up their right to pursue their own ends. When negative face is threatened, freedom of choice and action is impeded.

A positive or negative act can damage a hearer's negative image if it creates pressure on the hearer to either perform or not perform that act. According to Brown and Levinson (1987: 65-66), the Face Threatening Acts that can threaten the hearer's negative faces are :

a. Reminding

The Acts that can cause the hearer to agree or reject doing something. It include reminding. The act of reminding someone of something they may have forgotten

Extract 1

Lydia : "What if she hangs up again?"

Francine : "**Don't be a wimp. Call back.**" (p.151)

But this time, as the operator had warned Lydia, she couldn't get through at all.

b. Order

Order is one of the acts that can threaten the hearer's negative face. By giving order, speaker indicates that he wants the hearers to do something.

Extract 2

Umma : "Shall I get you a book?" She smiled, teasing. "I forgot you don't like to read."

Mariam : "**Can I look out the window please, Umma?**"

Umma : "**Of course! But in case you change your mind....**" (P.26)

c. Sugesstion

Giving suggestion can cause damage to the listener's negative face. It is because by giving suggestion, the speaker gives some pressure to the listener to do



or refrain from doing the act. It is not appropriate with the personal preserves of the listener about freedom of action. The researcher shown the data that has done collected below:

Extract 3

Mouna : "I don't know. But...." She blushed more deeply. "I know that Palestine should be returned to its people."

Rafa : "Ecafekeh. Fantastic. **Tell your auntie that, habibti.**"

Mouna : "**I don't disagree. We differ on the means, that's all. Yalla, Mouna, I'll work another day. Let's find your cousin and we'll go to the beach.**" (p.28).

d. Anger

The acts that express the desire of the speaker to do something to the hearer or something that the hearer own. It includes compliments or congratulating, hatred, **anger**, or lust. Here the conversation that find by the researcher below :

Extract 4

On the way home Mouna was lit up, jittery with excitement.

Mouna : "That was Rafa Ahmed. You taught Rafa Ahmed!"

Mariam : "**What Rafa did was wrong, Mouna. She could have killed innocent people.**" Mariam took the little girl's hand. (p.28)

e. Offer

Offer is a kind of expression that can cause damage to the listener's negative face. This expression predicates some future acts of the speaker towards the listener and gives some pressure to the listener on whether to accept it or reject it. The researcher found the kind of expression below:

Extract 5

Phil : "Time for bed, Lydie." Phil pushed her gently off his knee.

Lydia : "**Will you come and tuck me in?**"

Phil : "I'll be up after dinner, honeybun." (p.12)

f. Expressing thanks

By expressing thanks to the other person, the second speaker amplifies his chances of accepting what the other individual might ask him to do in the future, thus contradicting his negative posture.

Extract 6

Nadim : "I think there's still some available. I'll set up a meeting with he scholarship committee."

Tom : "**Great. Thank you. I knew you'd.... Thanks.** Would you like something to eat?" (p.132).

g. Unwilling promises

A speaker may also damage his own face by giving unwilling promises. By expressing an unwilling promise, the speaker commits himself to undertake some future actions even though he does not want to, which is contradictory with his own face. This is an example of an unwilling promise.

Extract 7

("She's not my auntie," Mouna had said to Basmat "She is, habibti." "Why can't I live with you?" "Mish mnecha, I suitable.

"No grenades," he muttered. He flapped his hand to indicate he wanted her to lean closer so he could tell her. "Hashish. For the boys."

"OK, give it to me. I promise to take care of it for you. We may have to cut your pant leg." He was still uncertain and they were running out of time. "It's safe with me, bou ee dik. They don't let me smoke, it makes me paranoid." He didn't smile. "OK? Then the doctors can look at your leg and you can get your medicine." He started to nod, slowly. "OK.

h. Excuses

An excuse is something we use to deflect blame..An excuse is used to avoid responsibility. The risk of shifting the blame is that we avoid responsibility for a failure, as well as learning from that failure.

Extract 8

Francine : "You must have been cut off."

Lydia : "I don't think so... she sounded so strange."

Francine : **"Strange how? Angry? Upset?"**

Lydia : **"I'm not sure. She was speaking Arabic, so I couldn't understand."** (p.151)

i. Acceptance of offer

By accepting the offer, the speaker has just damaged his own negative image. The speaker indicates by accepting an offer that he is constrained to accept a debt and a possible future order from the listener. From the novel the researcher found:

Extract 9

Mother: What do you think? **Would you like to come to the univ with me this morning?"**

Lydia : "OK." Her narrow face wasn't giving anything away.

Mother: "We can all go swimming later."

Lydia : "OK."

Mother: "Everything is OK, really?"

Lydia : "Yes, Umma."

Mother: **"Hurry up and dress, then."**

Lydia : "Yes, Umma." (p.24)

Extract 10

Francine : "Something must have happened. **Try later.**"

Lydia : **"Yeah... I will. But it doesn't sound like he's there."** "Well she must know where he is. She's his mother, for god's sake." (p.151)

j. Acceptance of Compliment

Extract 11

Farid : "Felix, has your mother told you anything about me?"

Felix : "You used to live in Greece, is it hot there?"

Faid : "sometimes."



Felix : “ **She said you’re a good swimmer.**”

Farid : “ **Yes**”? He glanced her way. (p.310).

k. Confessions

This conversations contain Confession that can threaten negative face in No Place Strange. Confessions is a statement made by a person or by a group of persons acknowledging some personal fact that the person (or the group) would ostensibly prefer to keep hidden or the act of admitting that you have done something wrong.

Extract 12

Mouna : "La, Walid, my brother who moved away."

Rafa : "Hello, Mouna. I'm Rafa."

Mariam : "**One of my favourite students,**" Mariam said, smiling.

Mouna : "**One of your most disappointing, you mean.**"

Mouna could tell this was one of those adult conversations where everything important was hidden behind the words. (p.27)

l. self-contradicting

Extract 13

Phil : "She's one of the hijackers." Elise had raised the paper again, but she was listening, Lydia could tell. The edges of her paper were too still.

Lydia : "**Why did she do it? A woman! How could a woman, any woman, be so fearless? What kind of person was she? Why would she risk her life, threaten the lives of strangers?**"

(Lydia's question could hardly convey all that she meant, or wanted to know)

Phil : "The usual. Freedom. Land." He drew her back onto his knee again.

Lydia : "**Freedom for who?**"

Elise : "Whom," Elise said crisply, "Free dom for whom?"

Lydia : is, for terrorists." The ice in her glass cracked loudly. (p.12)

2. Positive face threatening acts

The positive face might be threatened when the speaker or audience fails to include personal reflection. An individual can be forced to be separated from others when the person does not care about the other person's feelings, wants, or does not want what the other wants. This can threaten positive identity.

The acts can damage the hearer's positive face if those acts express a negative assessment of the hearer's positive face. According to Brown and Levinson (in Amarah, 2010: 17), the Face Threatening Acts that can threaten the speaker's positive faces are:

a. Bringing a bad news

Extract 14

Mouna : “ Not yet. I don’t want to confuse him before they meet.”

Felix : “ who does he think his father is?”

Mouna : “ **I’ve told him that it’s someone I knew for a short time, that he had to go away before either of us knew I was going to have a baby, but that I’m going to try and find him.**”

Felix : “ True, more or less. (p303).

Extract 15



Francine: "**I have news. Are you ready? Lydia already knew, from the energy that was flying off her like**". Francine seemed distracted, hyped up.

b. Apologies

Extract 16

Grandma : "I just wanted to see if everything was all right." "What if your brother had fallen and hit his head while I was out?" Matthew giggled.

(Lydia opened her eyes wide to stop herself from laughing too).

Lydia : "**I'm sorry, Grandma.**" (p.21)

Extract 17

Lydia : "...Nope, **sorry, can't say I saw anyone.** If they show up what should I tell them?"

Cydra : "**Never mind.**" It was a non-starter anyway, she should have known. "See you." (p.146)

Conclusion

Based on the analysis in this research, the researcher found Face Threatening Acts in the Novel **No Place Strange** that there are 17 utterances which showed 13 Negative face threatening acts and 4 Positive face threatening acts employed by the interaction in the family and school. Based on the finding above, the researcher concluded that the utterances were more dominant used in that novel are Negative face threatening acts than Positive face threatening acts.

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