

Javanese Gender Different Responses to Compliment in English Second Language Learners: Case Study Students of English Department Academic Year 2013 Faculty of Letters

(Perbedaan Gender Terhadap Respon Pujian Pada Pembelajar Bahasa Kedua yang Jawa: Studi Kasus Siswa Jurusan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Sastra Tahun Angkatan 2013)

Nihayatur Rohmah, Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A., Hari Supriono, S.S., MEIL
English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University
Jln. Kalimantan 37, Jember 68121
E-mail: harisupriono.sastra@unej.ac.id

Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas tentang strategy menerima pujian yang dilakukan oleh Siswa Jawa Angkatan 2013 sebagai pembelajar bahasa kedua di Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Universitas Jember. Sebagai pembelajar Bahasa Inggris, siswa Jawa mungkin terpengaruh oleh budaya Jawa ketika membuat respon pujian dalam Bahasa Inggris atau terpengaruh budaya Inggris. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengklasifikasikan strategi menerima pujian Siswa Jawa dan mencari faktor pembeda antara pola menerima pujian pria Jawa dan wanita Jawa. Kemudian mencari tahu apakah transfer pragmatik konsep kesopanan dalam bahasa Jawa tercermin dalam strategi menerima pujian tersebut. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian gabungan antara kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Peneliti menggunakan *discourse completion test* (DCT) untuk mengumpulkan data. (DCT) diberikan dalam bahasa Inggris yang terdiri dari sepuluh skenario yang memuat lima situasi untuk membuat respon pujian dan lima situasi untuk membuat respon dari beberapa jenis speech acts. Hal ini dilakukan agar menghindari pengkoleksian data yang monoton dalam pembuatan respon pujian. Data yang diperoleh diklasifikasikan menggunakan taksonomi strategi menerima pujian yang dikenalkan oleh Herbert (1986). Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori konsep kesopanan Brown & Levinson. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa *Agreement* adalah strategi menerima pujian yang paling banyak digunakan oleh partisipan dan konsep kesopanan Jawa dan Inggris tercermin di dalamnya dan memungkinkan timbulnya akulturasi dalam percakapan bikultural. Dalam hal lain partisipan pria Jawa dan Partisipan wanita Jawa membuat respon pujian yang sama yakni strategi *Agreement*.

Kata Kunci: transfer pragmatik, kesopanan, respon pujian

Abstract

This research investigates compliment response strategy produced by second language learners at English Department Faculty of Letters, Jember University academic years 2013. As a second language learners Javanese student might be influenced by Javanese or English culture while making compliment responses. Therefore, this research is aimed to classify the compliment response strategy and find the different type of strategies employed by male and female Javanese. Next, seeing the pragmatic transfer of Javanese culture politeness, whether or not Javanese culture politeness reflect to the way Javanese students produce compliment responses. This research uses mix methodology between Quantitative and Qualitative research methodology. Researchers use discourse completion test (DCT) to collect the data. In collecting the data, the DCT given consists of ten scenario consist of five five situation to respon compliments and five situation to respon other types of speech acts. It is done in order to avoid the similiarity of the data collected. The data gained are classified into Herbert's taxonomy of compliment response strategy. The teori applied in this research is politeness theory proposed by Brown & Levinson. The result of the study shows that Agreement is the most frequent strategy employed by Javanese students in responding to compliment and Javanese and English politeness culture is applied in the compliment strategies employed. This will lead into acculturation in the bicultural communication. In this case, male and female participants produce the sama strategy that is Agreement.

Keywords: pragmatics transfer, politeness, compliment responses

Introduction

This study deals with production of compliment response strategy by Javanese second language students of English department academic year 2013, Jember University. In this research, the participants are in the process of learning and interacting English as the second language as well as they interacting with their mother first language, Javanese. Therefore this study focusses on pragmatic. The researcher assumed there is pragmatic transfer in making compliment response strategy employed by Javanese students. Students may be influenced by first language culture or influenced by second language culture which can lead into misunderstanding in having conversation with different cultural background speakers. Therefore, this study tries to reveal how the Javanese learners of English produce compliment response strategy and how can the strategy employed by male and female Javanese different.

In accordance with those problems, this study tries to answer the following questions: 1. What are compliment response strategies uttered by Javanese students? 2. Are there any differences between male and female Javanese in responding to compliment? 3. Are the Javanese students compliment responses affected by cultural norms?

According to those questions, the study is designed to achieve some goals, they are: 1. To classify the compliment response strategies in English. 2. To figure out different production of compliment responses between male and female. 3. To see the pragmatic transfer in uttering compliment responses.

This research applies politeness theory and in analyzing the data collected from DCT, the researcher classifies the data using Herbert's taxonomy as follows.

Response Type	Example
A. Agreement	
I. Acceptances	
1. Appreciation token	Thanks; thank you; [smile]
2. Comment Acceptance	Thanks, it's my favourite too.
3. Praise Upgrade	Really brings out the blue in my eyes, doesn't it?
II. Comment History	I bought it for the trip to Arizona.
III. Transfers	
1. Reassignment	My brother gave it to me.
2. Return	So's yours.
B. Nonagreement	
I. Scale Down	It's really quite old.
II. Question	Do you really think so?
III. Nonacceptances	
1. Disagreement	I hate it.
2. Qualification	It's all right, but Len's is nicer.
IV. No Acknowledgement	[silence]

C. Other Interpretations	
1. Request	You wanna borrow this one too?

Research Methodology

The type of this research is mixed method research that combines quantitative research and qualitative research. "Quantitative research tends to be associated with numbers as the unit of analysis" (Denscombe, 2003:232). Denscombe (2007:254) further explained "they are associated primarily with strategies of research such as surveys and experiments, and with research methods such as questionnaires and observation".

Meanwhile, Mackey and Gass (2005:162) described qualitative research as "research that is based on descriptive data that doesn't make use of statistical procedures". Blaxter, Hughes and Thigh (2006:64) explained that "qualitative research, on the other hand, is concerned with collecting and analyzing information in as many forms, chiefly non-numeric, as possible". "The qualitative researcher doesn't want to verify or prove theories; what she/he attempts is to observe without bias or narrow perspectives" (Chaudron, as cited in Mackey and Gass, 2005:166). "During data processing most data are transformed into a textual form because most qualitative data analysis is done with words" (Dornyei, 2007:38).

Result

Based on the research problem, there are three questions to be answered in this study. The first is about the type of compliment response strategies produced by participants. By using the classification scheme of compliment responses by Herbert's taxonomy (1986), the data is classified in order to find compliment response strategies applied by participants. The result shows that 94.73% of the participants choose to use Agreement type of strategy. The second question is about the difference between male and female production of compliment responses. The result shows that male and female Javanese use the same macro strategy of Agreement but different micro strategy of Agreement. The third question is whether or not Javanese students are influenced by cultural norms. The result shows that there is influence in the production of compliment responses from both Javanese and English culture or there is pragmatic transfer in producing compliment responses.

Discussion

This part consists of three points to discuss. The first point will be discussed is, the occurrence of some compliment response strategies in Javanese students to compliment. It is aimed to answer the first question in this research question. The second point will be discussed is the difference in production of male and female language that will be observed in the form of their compliment responses.

The third point will be discussed is the cultural influences that motivates Javanese students to produce some utterances.

Concerning to the previous researches and survey that have been conducted, Rong Chen in his great scale of survey proposed that Western people most likely accept the compliment and Eastern people most likely reject the compliment. Research based on assumption was also done by Mukminatien and Patriana than Indonesian as one of country in Asia and belong to Eastern country will surely reject the compliment but the result shows differently. Indonesian people in the object of the study prefer to use some strategies that are found in English language culture rather than Indonesian culture. Some researches also be done in some Eastern countries especially Asian countries such as China and Korea. There are huge difference in uttering compliment responses depend on the language they are using and the value of the norms of each language. While China and Korea as part of the Eastern country they do not accept compliment. It does not mean that they do not follow the politeness conception to maintain social harmony but the system of politeness in can not be generalize since politeness depend on cultural norms of where a language from.

As the description data on table 1.4 it can be seen and summarize that Javanese students prefer Agreement compliment response strategies to other compliment response strategies. There are various type of micro compliment response strategies that occur. There are five macro compliment response strategies, they are Appreciation Token, Comment Acceptance, Comment History, Reassignment and Agreement Combination. Those strategies are more likely suitable to be utilized in conversation among Javanese students learning English at English Department Faculty of Letters, Jember University. Agreement Combination and Appreciation Token most regularly come than other strategies. It can also be inferred that there are some strategies that are not common to be used in Javanese interaction specifically in uttering compliment responses, namely Qualification and No Acknowledgement.

The percentage of agreement is nearly the whole data. It is found 94.73% of the data agree to compliment. There might be some factors Javanese students choose to use Agreement rather than Nonagreement. Soekarno (2010) in his study states Javanese people express politeness is also influenced by the Javanese culture. Javanese culture such as the language style, humbling oneself while exalting others and being able to catch the hidden meaning reflect to Javanese people behaviour. Meanwhile, Javanese students are also learning English as foreign language since they were at school. It can be inferred that there are two conception of cultures. The cultural influence is strongly be seen in the form of accepting agreement, Javanese students would rather use the English culture politeness by saying appreciation token thank you in every compliment given. The Javanese concept of politeness, humbling oneself while exalting others, does not applicable in this situation.

Interestingly, when looking at the micro strategies on compliment responses, Javanese students perform 57,89% agreement using Agreement Combination and followed by 39,89% of Appreciation Token and 3,39% other strategies. In Agreement Combination, Javanese students perform many

variations of respond to compliment. For example in this compliment response:

C : This soup is very delicious. I never know that you are really good at cooking.

R : Really? Thank you. You get more next time.

In this example of compliment response, Javanese student performs compliment response by asking question utilizing word "really?" it is purposed to ask the sincerity of the complimenter and reassuring the complimenter about the appropriateness of the compliment. This is also sometimes used to avoid embarrassment. Next compliment response is followed by appreciation token which is aimed to maintain the harmonious relation by giving appreciation for the complimentary force. Other more strategy used is request. Complimentee sees the compliment is not merely a compliment but the complimentee interprets the utterance as a request. It is interesting to note that Javanese complimentee combine two strategies that belong to both English and Javanese cultures. Appreciation token is aimed to apply politeness in English culture as well as request to maintain Javanese politeness that is being able to catch the hidden meaning in the utterance.

In uttering combination of compliment response strategies, the complimentee tries to be responsible to the use of both polite ways in responding complimentary force. This strategy also shows that there is cultural combination between Javanese and English cultures.

Combination strategies also shows that there is a pragmatic transfer. The action transferring one specific norms of culture in one language to other language. It can be stated that Javanese students in English Department are bicultural by applying both cultures. There are a lot of factors that supports the bicultural society. The first culture, Javanese, is their identity and it is well rooted since they were born and the second culture might be possessed since formally or naturally. English learners possess the culture formally in the formal study since English language is a subject that is taught since the first time of learning. They are taught at school how to be polite in answering compliment and the way to respond to it is by giving appreciation token, thank you. It has been the formulaic expression in responding to compliment. The other factor might influence English learners is the language it self. Since learning language means learning its culture too, so they perform the language culture in their speaking too. Some natural factors that influence bicultural society is the interaction that they experience. The interaction can be directly with the native English speaker. They can also be influenced by the film that they watch, the song that they hear and many more.

Acculturation through English language learning is not something impossible. The discussion of the findings in relation to acculturation can start from a closer look at the result of the high rate of using Combination strategy to consider both cultures. The Javanese learning English can not choose either to use Javanese culture or English culture patterns.

Conclusion

This research is focused on the compliment responses on the types of strategy according to Herbert's Taxonomy of compliment responses. A compliment is a speech act within explicitly and implicitly attributes credit to someone other than the speaker, usually the person addressed for some 'goods' (possession, skill, characteristics etc) which is positively valued by the speaker and hearer.

This study takes the fifth semester Javanese students in English Department Faculty of Letters, academic year of study 2013. The primary data used in this study is Javanese students responses to compliment that have been collected through DCT.

Based on the data that have been collected from DCT, it can be seen that first, majority of Javanese students in English department prefer respond the compliment using Agreement strategy. Javanese students accept the compliment in various ways using the macro and micro types of strategy. The result breaks the assumption that Javanese will likely disagree with the compliment responses because Javanese have got some concept of culture that might reflect to the way Javanese people behave. It takes almost of all the data (94,73) respond agree to compliment.

Second, the production of Javanese student compliment responses are influence by culture. Both cultures, Javanese cultures as their culture that shape their identity and English culture that they are learning play big roles in their language production. This influence brings them bicultural society that might lead into acculturation of the language.

Third, compliment responses from males and females are different from some point of view. From the data collected it can be seen that Javanese male are more likely give agreement answers toward compliment rather than female. From some of sample taken from collected data, 100% males accept compliment responses by applying some various strategy. Males language more direct, whereas females language more considerate and have some motives in it. Female language showing more effort to build intimacy, maintain solidarity from the utterance that are produce.

Due to the limited amount of data and range of participants, generalizing to all Javanese students learning English in complimenting and giving compliment response would be inappropriate and unwise. Furthermore, the scope of the study is very narrow. More extensive studies which includes forms, functions and topic of compliments uttered by Javanese, their preference strategy occurrence, and gender different in compliment interaction would be useful. Compliment responses may be problematic for English learners as second language. Most of the participant use formulaic expression thank you to respond to English compliment. This is appropriate response but "thanks" may unintentionally limit or even end an interaction between status equal, and deflecting compliments may serve to extend the interaction between interlocutors, which may lead to interlanguage development (Billmyer et al, 1998). It can be inferred that explaining the right way to respond to compliment by giving appreciation token "thank you" is not sufficient. Teacher or textbook should provide more strategies of responding to compliment to help learners to be

more elaborate in interacting with the native speakers. (Billner, 1990) as cited in Han, 1992.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Hairus Salikin, M.Ed., as the Dean of Faculty of Letters. Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A. as my first supervisor and Hari Supriyono, S.S., MEIL as my second supervisor.

Bibliography

- Blaxter, L. Hage, C. Tight, M (1996). *How to Research: third edition*. London: Open University Press.
- Denscombe, M. (2003). *The Good Research Guide: second edition*. Philadelphia: Open University Press.
- Brown, P., & Levinson, S. (1987). *Politeness: Some universal in language usage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Mackey, A., & Gass, M. S. (2005). *Second Language Research: Methodology and design*. London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Purwanti, Tri W. (2013). Request Strategies Employed by Male and Female Characters in the Devil Wears Prada.
- Soekarno. (2010). *The reflection of the Javanese cultural concepts in the politeness of Javanese*. K@ta. Vol.12. No. 1, pp. 59-71.
- Furko, Balin P., & Dudas, Eva. (2012). *Gender differences in complimenting strategies with special reference to the compliment response patterns of Hungarian undergraduate students*. pp. 136-157.
- Tabari, Shiva M., & Beuzeville, Louise D. (2012). *A contrastive study of compliment responses among Persian and Australian: The effect of exposure to a new speech community*. pp. 21-41.
- Yousevand, Zohreh. (2010). *Study of compliment speech act realization patterns across gender*. Arizona Working Papers in SLA & Teaching. Vol.17. pp 91-112.
- Haas, Adelaide. (1979). *Male and female spoken language differences: stereotypes and Evidence*. Psychological Bulletin. Vol.86. No. 3, pp. 616-626.
- Han, Chung-hye. (1992). *A comparative study of compliment responses: Korean females in Korean interactions and in English interaction*. WPEL. Vol.8. no. 2, pp.17-31.