

LANGUAGE INVESTIGATION ON IMPOLITENESS SERVED AT 'INDONESIA LAWYERS CLUB' TALK SHOW

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Abstract

Impoliteness lately becomes a common habit occurring in people interaction. It is not only revealed at informal, but also formal circumstances. What are the forms and strategies of impoliteness appearing at formal conversations? This question is discussed through this research explanation. This paper is an attempt to investigate the impoliteness implementation uttered by speakers of the "Indonesia Lawyers Club" show—a popular program that presents a dialogue on issues of law and politic. As the consequence, the data sources were conversations uttered by ILC speakers involving impoliteness. This descriptive qualitative study applied the concept of Culpeper (1996) to gain deep comprehending on impoliteness in public usage. The result shows that there were four impoliteness strategies at the show, including bald on record impoliteness, positive impoliteness, negative impoliteness, as well as mock impoliteness.

Keywords: Online, Learning, Technology

Introduction

Impoliteness in language has turned into general habit in everyday conversation. Speaking impolitely is not the same as speaking harshly. It aims to disrupt or even embarrass the interlocutor's face. On the other side, speaking harshly does not always aim to damage people's face, but it may demonstrate familiarity between the two speakers. Bousfield and Lakoff (2008: 3) defined it as, "Impoliteness is behavior that is face-aggravating in a particular context".

When does impoliteness occur? According to Culpeper (2005a:38) "impoliteness comes about when: (1) the speaker communicates face-attack intentionally, or (2) the hearer perceives and / or constructs behavior as intentionally face-attacking, or a combination of circumstance (1) and (2)". Impoliteness in language is not only seen through what is said, but also needed to consider the context as well as situation of the speech. Therefore, the researchers applied a pragmatic approach in analyzing impoliteness case. Thomas (1995:1) defines pragmatics as

"meaning in use or meaning in context". This means that the meaning in pragmatic investigation is always tied to the speech context.

Impoliteness, in a number of decades, occurs at informal conversations. Yet, it lately also enables to be discovered at formal conversations, such Indonesia Lawyers Club (ILC)—an Indonesian popular television channel which had won five awards from the Panasonic Global Award. ILC is a talk show program that features in-depth discussions about issues currently happening in Indonesia. Upon having the show, it invites and presents numerous experts on discussed topic to share their point of views.

The phenomena of impoliteness in language expressed by the speakers of ILC talk show is an interesting issue to be considered. This statement is due to two fundamental reason (1) this Indonesian popular channel is widely watched by Indonesian and (2) the invited speakers portray people who are well-known as well

as experts at particular fields. The language implemented, consequently, will be the representation of how Indonesian societies are. Research on impoliteness is still rarely conducted, especially those using original conversation as their data sources. Mostly studies utilize data sources taken from actor interactions on films. For example, Wijayanto (2014), Shofyah (2015), Mirhosseini (2017), Chintiabela (2017), Gunawan (2017), and Permatasari (2019) examined impoliteness by using conversations adapted from film and soap opera as their primary data sources. This indicates diversity between this current study and previous studies.

The theory of impoliteness is often considered as the opposite of politeness theory. However, impoliteness is not a simple reflection of politeness theory. Politeness first appeared in the 1970s through the work of Lakoff (1973), Leech (1977) and Brown and Levinson (1978) who were interested in how strategies in using language to maintain social relations and avoid conflict. If politeness theory aims to maintain social relations and avoid conflict, then the impoliteness theory has the opposite purpose. The theory of impoliteness actually examines the use of language that creates conflict and disrupt social relationship.

Culpeper (1996) develops impoliteness theory into five strategies which are being the contrary of Brown and Levinson's (1987) framework. Culpeper's theory involves:

1. Bald on-record impoliteness

It is impoliteness strategy expressed by speakers to their interlocutors directly, clearly, and succinctly. This strategy creates a situation where speaker has no intention of saving interlocutors' faces or does not want to maintain a good relationship with interlocutors.

2. Positive impoliteness

Positive impoliteness is a strategy used by speakers to destroy the positive face of interlocutors. Positive face is a person's desire to be accepted, respected, needed,

treated equally, and respected for what he or she believes. This sample includes ignoring others, isolating, leaving interlocutors, showing disinterest, using derogatory nicknames, and using taboo words.

3. Negative impoliteness

Negative impoliteness aims to threaten the negative face of interlocutors. Negative face means an individual desire to be independent, have freedom of activity, without being restrained, and without coercion from anywhere. Actions of threatening the interlocutor's negative face include disturbing interlocutor's freedom or one's desire not to be disturbed. For examples are the act of scaring, ridiculing, insulting, belittling, invading personal space, associating interlocutor with negative aspects, and making other people seem indebted.

4. Sarcasm or mock politeness

Some named this strategy as pseudo impoliteness. This strategy is expressed with politeness, so that it is as if the utterance spoken is polite even though it means the opposite. The politeness that is expressed actually has other purposes, such as making fun of and so on. Speaking are uttering mock politeness for social disharmony.

5. Withhold impoliteness

Withhold politeness is impoliteness that occurs due to the speaker's negligence or intentionally not to use the politeness as what should be done. For instance, people who have been assisted do not say 'thank you' or they do not utter any permission sentences upon borrowing other people's stuffs.

By contributing a new insight concerning on how educated people speak in public, this study examined to what extent the implementation of impoliteness in language occurs in Indonesia Lawyers Club show can be analyzed by Culpeper's framework.

Methodology

This paper is classified as a qualitative descriptive study by applying

pragmatic approach. It seeks to understand the meaning of phenomena, events, and their relation to society being studied in their context of real-life situation. The data of this study were dialogues containing impoliteness in language on the ILC show episode “Reklamasi Ancol, Anies Ingkar Janji?” posting on July 14, 2020. It was in the form of video recording which was downloaded via YouTube.

The data were collected using the observation method. This approach was done by listening carefully to the language use in ILC talk show. The listening method used in this study was *simak bebas libat cakap*. Meaning that the researchers did not engage in dialogue, did not participate in the conversation process, and only acted as observers who listened to what were spoken (1993: 134).

Furthermore, the researchers implemented equivalent as data analysis method. Sudaryanto (1993: 13) opined “this is a data analysis method in which the determining tool is outside or not part of the language being investigated”. The equivalent method used in this research was referential equivalent method. It meant an equivalent method in which the determining tool was in the form of a language reference.

Findings and Discussion

After having in depth observation, the researchers discovered four types of impoliteness strategies based on the Culpeper’s classification found at the ILC show entitled “Reklamasi Ancol, Anies Ingkar Janji?” The findings of impoliteness strategies usage are described in the following table:

Table 1.
 Impoliteness Strategi on Indonesia Lawyers Club TV Show

Indonesia Lawyers Club (ILC) <i>Reklamasi Ancol, Anies Ingkar Janji?</i>	Impoliteness Strategies				Total
	Bald On Record	Positive Impoliteness	Negative Impoliteness	Mock Politeness	
	23	24	58	19	124

Based on table 1, there were 124 data of impoliteness on the ILC talk show. Mostly strategy was in the form of negative impoliteness which owned 58 data. It was followed by 24 data of positive impoliteness, 23 data of bald on record impoliteness, and finally mock politeness which had 19 data of utterances.

a) Negative Impoliteness

Context: This interaction involved Zaenuddin who was the General Chair of the Betawi Tribe Consultative Community. In his speech, Zaenuddin underestimated the success of the DKI Jakarta government in handling the reclamation project.

(1) Zaenuddin: Belum beres. Kalau itu diambil dari sedimentasi lumpur-lumpur sungai yang 13 itu, nggak akan mungkin. Saya berpikir ini hanya SK Gub main-main karena jangkanya 3 tahun. 3 tahun saya sih

pastiin aja ini nggak akan berhasil, nggak akan tuntas, ya.

: (It hasn’t been solved. If it is taken from the sedimentation of the river muds, it will not be possible. I think it is just a craftiness of governor since it takes 3 years. In 3 years, I can guarantee this won’t work, it won’t finish.)

The above speech event occurred in the ILC talk show involving Zaenuddin who tried to speak up in criticizing public services. The utterances “In 3 years, I can guarantee this won’t work, it won’t finish.” portrayed an act to redress the interlocutors’ negative face to illustrate the incapability of Jakarta government to handle the reclamation project

b) Positive Impoliteness

Context: The speech event occurred in the ILC talk show involving Geisz as Commissioner of Ancol. During this speech, Geisz showed an attitude of indifference to the comments expressed by his interlocutors.

(2) Geisz: “..... ketika muncul kasus ini, ah nyatai-nyantai aja lah. Anies sudah menjelaskan dengan bagus persoalan-persoalan itu.”

: (.... when this case rises, just take it easy. Anies has explained the issues well)

Geisz, who take a side with Anies, showed an attitude of indifference to the opinions of his interlocutors by stating “just take it easy”. Geisz reveals that he ignores what people’s assumptions are inasmuch as Anies has done what he needs to do. The form of Geisz expression intends to threaten the positive face of his interlocutors, especially to people who oppose to Anies.

c) Bald on Record

Context: The speech incident occurred in the ILC talk show involving Rian as a representative of the Indonesian Solidarity Party. At this event, Rian directly and firmly stated that Anies was not transparent.

Rian: “Poin kedua, kami melihat Gubernur Anies ini tidak transparan, dalam hal pengambilan kebijakan reklamasi Ancol ini.”

: (For the second point, we see Governor Anies has not been transparent in terms of adopting this Ancol reclamation policy)

The conversation involved Rian as a representative of Indonesian Solidarity Party. In this case, Rian opposed with Anies by uttering firmly that Anies was a non-transparent governor. He expressed directly, clearly, and attacked the interlocutor face without preamble through bald on record strategy of impoliteness.

d) Mock Politeness

Context: The speech event occurred in the ILC talk show involving Geisz as

Commissioner of Ancol. He uttered satire towards his speech addressee.

Geisz: “...ini transparan nggak seperti KTP yang ngumpet-ngumpet itu loh, kita nggak main KTP yang ngumpet-ngumpet, kita tebuka.”

(.... It’s clearly transparent. It is not like the ‘hide-and-see’ of ID issue. We don’t play as sneaky as they do. We are open.)

Geisz expressed satire utterances regarding the electronic identity project. Geisz’s satire expression is deliberately utilized to threaten as well as damage his interlocutor’s face with a mock politeness strategy.

Based on the gained data containing impoliteness at the ILC talk show, it described that the most dominant strategy used was negative impoliteness strategies. This negative is a strategy used to damage the negative face of interlocutors. Speakers attempted to disturb interlocutors’ desire to act, free from distractions, and obligation to do something. Moreover, each speaker had strong arguments and statements about what they believed. People owning diverse perspective would automatically attack another by arguing. This kind of utterance is what leads to actions of blaming, frightening, humiliating, ridiculing, and demeaning interlocutors. The phenomena of arguing with each other insolently pioneered speakers’ self-interest. They were more concerned with their negative faces, involving the desire not to be disturbed, obstructed or criticized. The domination of, therefore, negative impoliteness in ILC talk shows was a normal as the ILC was designed as a debate show, in which the fundamental objective of the program is to defend individual or even group arguments.

Conclusion

To construct appropriate summary, this study reveals that impoliteness in language is not only found in informal conversations, but in formal conversations. The language usage phenomena at the talk

show of Indonesia Lawyers Club is an example of impoliteness that appears in formal circumstance. What we need to underline is that impoliteness is not indicated by harsh expressions or curses as always. This research findings constitute that impoliteness is even shown through simple but meaningful expressions beyond their surface utterances. Impoliteness at the ILC talk show is dominated by negative impoliteness strategies. These findings differ from previous research directed by Wijayanto (2014), Shofyah (2015), Mirhosseini (2017), Chintiabela (2017), Gunawan (2017), and Permatasari (2019). This diversity comes up because speakers, at the show, tend to prioritize their negative faces—self-desire not to be disturbed, obstructed, or criticized.

From 124 data on impoliteness in language obtained in this study, it separates into four categories. 58 data belonged to negative impoliteness strategies, while positive impoliteness strategies acquired 24 amount of impoliteness data. Speakers implemented bald on record strategy in 23 data and 19 data was in the form of mock politeness strategy.

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