

## POLITENESS PRINCIPLES USED IN OEDIPUS REX IMAGINATIVE RECREATION (2012)

Kresnathan Theo Indrajaya, Sri Mulatsih

Universitas Dian Nuswantoro

Semarang

[311201801861@mhs.dinus.ac.id](mailto:311201801861@mhs.dinus.ac.id)

**Abstract:** Drama is the portrayal of fictional or non-fictional events through the performance of written dialogue (either prose or poetry). Drama can be performed on stage, on film, or the radio. In drama, the characters also use politeness principles in conversing with others. The aims of this study is to identify the politeness principles of drama text by using theories of politeness principles. To get the relevant data, this study is employed one method, namely; library study. In this paper, the writer used theories of politeness principles by Leech. The result showed that in this drama text, there are utilizing several types of politeness principles in conversation. They are 16 utterances of Politeness Principle in Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation, there are 3 utterances (18,75%) of tact maxim, 2 utterances (12,5%) of generosity maxim, 2 utterances (12,5%) of approbation maxim, 3 utterances (18,75%) of modesty maxim, 2 utterances (12,5%) of agreement maxim and 4 utterances (25%) of sympathy maxim. From this results it can be implied that drama is a play that can grant the audience, it is not only entertain, but also to comprehend politeness principles.

**Keywords:** drama, politeness principle, and theories, utterances

**Abstrak:** Drama adalah gambaran kejadian-kejadian fiksi atau non-fiksi melalui pertunjukan dari percakapan tertulis (baik itu prosa atau puisi). Drama dapat ditampilkan melalui panggung, film atau radio. Tujuan dari penelitian adalah untuk mengidentifikasi prinsip kesopanan dari teks drama menggunakan teori-teori prinsip kesopanan. Untuk mendapatkan data yang relevan, penelitian ini menggunakan satu teknik, yaitu; studi kepustakaan. Dalam tulisan ini, penulis menggunakan teori-teori prinsip kesopanan dari Leech. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa dalam teks drama ini, beberapa memakai beberapa tipe-tipe prinsip kesopanan dalam percakapan. Terdapat 16 ungkapan prinsip-prinsip kesopanan dalam teks rekreasi imajinatif Oedipus Rex, ada 3 ungkapan maksim kebijaksanaan (18,75%), 2 ungkapan maksim kemurahhatian (12,5%), 2 ungkapan maksim keperkenaan (12,5%), 3 ungkapan maksim kerendahhatian (18,75%), 2 ungkapan maksim kesetujuan (12,5%) dan 4 ungkapan maksim kesimpatian (25%). Dari hasil ini dapat disimpulkan bahwa drama adalah sebuah pertunjukan yang memberi penonton, tidak hanya hiburan, tetapi juga untuk memahami prinsip-prinsip kesopanan.

**Kata kunci:** drama, prinsip-prinsip kesopanan dan teori-teori, ungkapan-ungkapan

## RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Language is a way to convey our thoughts. According to Harimurti Kirdalaksana (1993:21), language is a symbol system sounds an arbitrary language that allows people to work together, interact and identify. This is why language is important especially for us.

The specific study which studied about language called Linguistics. There are various types of Linguistics. Those are Micro Linguistics and Macro Linguistics. In Micro Linguistics, it consists of Phonetic and Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Pragmatics, and Semantics. In Macro Linguistics, it consists of Psycholinguistics, Sociolinguistic and Anthro-po-linguistics. All of those branches have specific field to be studied. The branches which studied about speaker's meaning called Pragmatics

According to Levinson (1983: 5), Pragmatics is the study of language use, that is the study of relation between language and context which is basic to an account of language understanding which involves the making of inferences which will connect what is said to what is mutually assumed or what has been said before. Pragmatics can also solve the problem between the speaker and the hearer, especially the problem about point of view. In society, we need to be polite using the language to communicate. The part of pragmatics which focuses on studying about politeness called Politeness Principle. Cruse (2006: 131), politeness, as linguistic behavior, is a matter of minimizing the negative effects of what one says on the feelings of others and maximizing the positive effects. Politeness principle usually used in a work place between manager and workers, between King and his citizens, between the older and the younger and so on.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Pragmatics is a systematic way of explaining the language use in context. It seeks to explain aspects of meaning which cannot be found in the plain sense of words or structures, as explained by semantics. (Moore, 2003).

Leech (1983, p.11) explains that general pragmatics is abstraction between the study of language in total abstraction from the situation, and the study of more socially specialized uses of language. Hence, it is clear that pragmatics is the study about the relation between language and context that are used in the community.

*From the definition above, it can be concluded that pragmatics is a field linguistics study which does not only explain about language but also explain how to produce and understand the language use in our real life following the factors that influence the language choice. It teaches us how to apply it in our daily life.*

### Politeness Principle

The politeness principle is a series of maxims, which Geoff Leech has proposed as a way of explaining how politeness operates in conversational exchanges. Leech defines politeness as forms of behavior that establish and maintain comity. That is the ability of participants in a social interaction to engage in interaction in an atmosphere of relative harmony. In stating his maxims Leech uses his own terms for two kinds of illocutionary acts. He calls *representatives* "assertives", and calls *directives* "impositives".

- Each maxim is accompanied by a sub-maxim (between square brackets), which is of less importance. These support the idea that negative politeness (avoidance of discord) is more important than positive politeness (seeking concord)
- Not all of the maxims are equally important. For instance, *tact* influences what we say more powerfully than does *generosity*, while *approbation* is more important than modesty.
- Note also that speakers may adhere to more than one maxim of politeness at the same time. Often one maxim is on the forefront of the utterance, with a second maxim being invoked by implication.
- If politeness is not communicated, we can assume that the politeness attitude is absent. Leech proposed six types of Politeness Principle, such as tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim and sympathy maxim, which as follows:
  1. Tact Maxim (A1)
    - ❖ Minimize cost to other.
    - ❖ Maximize benefit to other.
  2. Generosity Maxim (A2)
    - ❖ Minimize benefit to self.
    - ❖ Maximize cost to self.
  3. Approbation Maxim (A3)
    - ❖ Minimize dispraise of other.
    - ❖ Maximize praise of other.
  4. Modesty Maxim (A4)
    - ❖ Minimize praise of self.
    - ❖ Maximize dispraise of self.
  5. Agreement Maxim (A5)
    - ❖ Minimize disagreement between self and other.
    - ❖ Maximize agreement between self and other.
  6. Sympathy Maxim (A6)
    - ❖ Minimize antipathy between self and other.
    - ❖ Maximize sympathy between self and other.

Indeed, after reading the drama text *Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation*, the writer found phenomena about the use of politeness principle in kingdom's circumstance. It makes the writer is interested in knowing more about politeness principle used in the drama text *Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation* and knowing more about the applying of each politeness principle in conversations. Therefore, the writes conduct some research questions as follows:

1. What is the type politeness principle used in the drama text *Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation*?
2. What is the most and the least maxim usually used in the drama text *Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation*?

How do the figures in the drama text *Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation* use politeness principle in the communication.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The approach for studying *Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation* is a descriptive qualitative method. It's because a qualitative approach is a research procedure that produces the descriptive data in the form of written words. The data source in this study are the utterances

in drama text Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation which is downloaded from Kulino. Furthermore, the writer make a field note so that it could be easier to analyze the Politeness Principle found in the drama text. In this case, the researcher conducted observation and transcript analysis. In addition, to know the frequency of the most and the least politeness principle used in the drama text, the writer used quantitative analysis.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Result

The data was the drama text of Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation which analyzed by Politeness Principle in detail. This research discovered that all types of maxims were obeyed and they were shown in percentage in the following table.

The percentage overview of Politeness Principle found in Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation as follows:

No	Kind of maxim	Symbol	Frequency	$X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$
1.	Tact Maxim	A1	3	18,75 %
2.	Generosity Maxim	A2	2	12,5 %
3.	Approbation Maxim	A3	2	12,5 %
4.	Modesty Maxim	A4	3	18,75 %
5.	Agreement Maxim	A5	2	12,5 %
6.	Sympathy Maxim	A6	4	25 %
Total			16	100 %

Table above shows that there are 16 utterances of Politeness Principle in Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation, there are 3 utterances (18,75%) of tact maxim. Second there are 2 utterances (12,5%) of generosity maxim. Third, there are 2 utterances (12,5%) of approbation maxim. Fourth, there are 3 utterances (18,75%) of modesty maxim. Fifth, there are 2 utterances (12,5%) of agreement maxim. Sixth, there are 4 utterances (25%) of sympathy maxim.

The most or the first maxim which is usually used in Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation is sympathy maxim which is up to 4 utterances (25%). Here, it showed that the figures in the drama text maximize sympathy between self and other. Besides, the figures also minimize disagreement between self and other. It also shows that in our culture, when our friends or

neighbors tell their problem and express their feeling to us, we often give them our sympathy words. In other words, it also applies the politeness between the king, his servants and citizens.

The least maxim which is rarely used in Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation is generosity maxim, approbation maxim, and agreement maxim. Generosity maxim used to minimize benefits to self and maximize cost to self. Approbation maxim used to minimize dispraise of other and maximize praise of other. Agreement maxim used to minimize disagreement between self and other and maximize agreement between self and other.

## Discussion

After discussing about the frequency of the most and the least maxim used in Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation, here are some of the finding's example of politeness maxim found in the drama text Oedipus Rex Imaginative Recreation.

### 1. Tact Maxim

#### Example 1:

Creon: [to Oedipus] In the name of Thebes, I will find it. (A1)

#### Analysis:

In that utterance, Oedipus gave order to Creon, Iokaste older brother, for looking someone who murder Lauis, the previous king before Oedipus in order to resolve the plague that happened in their city. In that utterance, Creon maximized the benefit of his King in order to calm of his King. Therefore, it included in Tact Maxim.

### 2. Generosity Maxim

#### Example 2:

Vero: Can you solve it like you solved Sphinx's Puzzle?

Niken: Hey, ve, your question is like you doubting our king.

Oedipus: Behold my people. I will solving it. Trust my word, this plague will be the end. (A2)

#### Analysis:

In that utterance, Oedipus make promise to his citizens that he will ensure the safety of City. In that utterance, Oedipus maximized cost the self in order to bring back to the city in normal condition.

### 3. Approbation Maxim

#### Example 1:

Watik: We just talking about how clever are you my king to solve the sphinx puzzle. (A3)

#### Analysis:

In that utterance, Watik talked to king when they were met each other. She amazed how smart of his king when Sphinx attacked whoever person who couldn't answer his riddle question. Oedipus could answer it swiftly, then the Sphinx had committed suicide. That is why Watik praise the smart of his King. Because here Watik maximize praise to another, it includes in Approbation Maxim.

### 4. Modesty Maxim

#### Example 1:

Oedipus: Oh what an adorable kitty. Don't adore me but adore our God. (A4)

#### Analysis:

In that utterance, Oedipus responded the compliment by Vero. Therefore, Oedipus didn't brag

about his achievement. He minimized praise of self by telling not delirious on his King. He maximized dispraise of himself by telling they should adore God rather than himself. Indeed, it included in Modesty Maxim

## 5. Agreement Maxim

### Example 1:

**Vero:** Am I wrong? He is the one who could solved sphinx puzzle. The puzzle is really hard you know. Nobody can do it except our king!

**Watik :** Oh stop it, you are being overreacted, Vero. I know he is so smart, but he is kind of fragile. You know, his swollen foot. (A5)

### Analysis:

In that utterance, Watik replied Vero about the greatness of his king, Watik agreed that their king is smart to solve the sphinx puzzle. She maximize agreement between self and other by accepting Vero's statement. In other hand, she minimized disagreement between self and other by criticizing his swollen foot. Therefore, it includes in Agreement Maxim.

## 6. Sympathy Maxim

### Example 1:

**Laios:** How is the baby? Is it boy or girl?

**Mistress:** I'm sorry my king. But, the baby is a boy. (A6)

### Analysis:

In that utterance, Mistess answered the question with mournfulness face expression. She had aware the situation what happened if the born child is a boy. Then, she felt sorry about the circumstance turn into real problem. Therefore it included Sympathy Maxim.

### Example 2:

**Shepherd:** I can't do it. I can't kill this baby. This baby doesn't have a sin and he is still nonsense. Why should I kill him? Maybe the prophecy is all wrong. But if my king found out that I'm not killing and know that the baby is still alive, I also will dead by the king. (A6)

### Analysis:

In that utterance, the shepherd felt puzzled, whether he must obey king's order or his rightful heart. Even though, it will prevent the disaster. He couldn't do it. He showed his sympathy to the innocent child. Therefore it included Sympathy Maxim.

## CONCLUSION

Pragmatics is the study of language use, that is the study of relation between language and context which is basic to an account of language understanding which involves the making of inferences which will connect what is said to what is mutually assumed or what has been said before. Pragmatics can also solve the problem between the speaker and the hearer, especially the problem about point of view. A specific study in pragmatics, which discusses about form of politeness of behavior, called Politeness Principle. There are six types of politeness maxim proposed by Leech, such as tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. The result of the study shows that all politeness maxim is used in the drama text with the frequency tact maxim 3 utterances (18,75%), generosity maxim 2 utterances (12,5%), approbation maxim 2 utterances (12,5%), modesty maxim 3 utterances (18,75%), agreement maxim 2 utterances (12,5%), and sympathy maxim 4 utterances (25%).

According to the data, the frequency of the most used maxim in the drama text is sympathy maxim which is up to 4 utterances (25%). It also shows that in our culture, when our friends or neighbors tell their problem and express their feeling to us, we often give them our

sympathy words. In other words, it also applies the politeness between the king, his servants and citizens.

The frequency of the least maxim used in the movie is generosity maxim, approbation maxim and agreement maxim in 2 utterances (12, 5%). All of them rarely used in the drama text.

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