

A Comparison between English and Makassarese Politeness System: A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to describe the dominant variable that affected in use of politeness systems and to analyse the process of native speakers of English and Makassar in using the politeness system through conversations. The method of this study was the quantitative method and used statistic frequency. In this study, there are two variables that affected politeness. These data were processed based on the identification, classification, description, grouping, and calculation. Yassi's theoretical framework found there are six politeness strategies. The strategies are deference in non-kinship, deference in kinship, intimacy in non-kinship, intimacy in kinship, hierarchy in non-kinship, and hierarchy in kinship. Based on his theory, age and seniority were the most affected in use politeness. The researcher found the difference in this study. The research finding indicates that the two variables do not affected the politeness systems of English but it is affected for Makassarese politeness systems. The English and Makassarese were different countries, so the politeness systems were also different. The English used FTA in doing communications and Makassarese has positive and negative politeness. The educational background is the dominant variable in use negative politeness and the age affect in use positive politeness for Makassarese.

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Politeness Systems, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness

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1. Introduction

A phenomenon in language is never end as long as humans continue to interact with each other. Human interaction cannot be separated from politeness both individually and in the group. Politeness can affect our speech whether or not it is readily accepted. Yule (1996:60) has said, "Politeness, in an interaction, can be defined as the means used to show awareness of person's face." Based on this opinion, politeness affects someone's interaction and response depending on politeness itself.

English as an international language also has politeness strategies that have differences from other countries such as Indonesia and Makassar. In English culture, there are no requirements of politeness regarding calling names. For example, when a child meets his father's colleague and greets him using that person's name, it does not mean the child is impolite. It looks normal because of the custom in that area *in Indonesia, particularly in Makassar, it will be considered impolite for children to address their elders by name. In Makassar, older people are commonly referred to as "brother, uncle, aunt, grandmother, and others."*

Concerning politeness in Makassar, there has been research about politeness strategies stated by Yassi (1996), where there are six politeness systems used in some local languages, especially in Makassar. As a known fact, Makassar is one of the cities in Indonesia located in South Sulawesi with an area of 175, 77 km with 1.5 million people. This city occupies the seventh position of the largest city in Indonesia. Some tribes live and stay in Makassar. They are Makassarese, Buginese, Torajanese, and Mandarese. Makassarese itself has some dialects that are different from one another. (Manyambeang, 1979) states that five dialects are spoken in Makassar and the surrounding area. Those are Lakiung, Turatea, Bantaeng, Konjo, and Selayar. Lakiung dialect is generally used in Makassar, Goa, Takalar, Jeneponto, Maros, and some places in Pangkep, (Saleh et al. 2021). The difference of those dialects is the place where the dialects are used. Furthermore, Turatea dialect is used in Jeneponto. On the other hand, Bantaeng dialect is used in Bantaeng. The other dialects like Konjo and Selayar are used in Bulukumba and Selayar respectively.

Lakiung dialect is chosen in this research to compare with English. As we know, based on previous research most of people are used Lakiung dialect. In the application of politeness by native speakers of Makassar, some people sometimes used positive politeness when talking to people whom older than them. For example, a sister uses positive politeness when talking to her brother, which is contrary to one part of Yassi's theories. In Yassi's theory, one of the parts is intimacy in kinship junior or younger siblings are used negative politeness when talking to older ones. Therefore, the researcher

tries to re-examine whether Yassi's theory is still valid in society or has changed. The researcher would research as a whole based on the six politeness strategies in both English and Makassar, then the researcher would also examine what factors cause changes in the use of the politeness system.

2. Literature Review

Politeness systems need to be known to build good communication. The use of politeness avoids the inadequate response of respondents. Politeness assists us in selecting solutions that adapt to different persons and situations. Some theories explain politeness in which each theory has its perspective about politeness. Those theories have been done in some researches in this world. A number of experts who has found politeness theories are Lakoff (1973), Leech (1983), Brown and Levinson (1987), Holmes (1995), Scollon and Scollon (1995), and Yassi (1996).

In the beginning, Lakoff (1973) discovered the principle of politeness. The principles are: don't force it, give the recipient a choice, and make the recipient feel comfortable. According to Lakoff (1975), "people develop politeness to reduce friction in personal interactions" (p. 64). In addition, Leech (1983) and Lakoff (1973) found similar politeness principle in doing interaction. They found six maxims in their principle of politeness: wisdom, generosity, approval, humility, approval, and sympathy. Subsequently, politeness conducted by Brown and Levinson (1987), had a face concept. The face concept aimed by Brown and Levinson has positive and negative aspects. Additionally, Brown and Levinson found the FTAs (face-threatening acts). FTAs are the speech act that can affect the interlocutor to obey what the speaker wants. The speaker prepares how to convey the speech. There are two kinds of FTAs—direct (on record) and indirect (off record). In on record FTAs, the speakers directly pronounces something without any action, while the speakers will give a speech with action in off record. Fourthly, politeness by Holmes (1995) was based on the theory from Brown and Levinson. He distinguished positive and negative faces by Brown and Levinson's theory in different kinds. He said that women would use more positive than negative politeness, and men would use negative rather than positive politeness. When talking, women would use a polite form, but men would use the impolite form. In addition, politeness which was conducted by Scollon & Scollon (1995), participants are considered to be equals or near equals but treat each other at a distance. According to his theory, this politeness included two variables. These variables determines the low value of the variable P and the high value of the variable D [-P, +D]. If the value is high, people will use a polite form, but if the value is low, they will use a simple form or combine it with a polite form. "P" means the power of the speakers with the interlocutor. Power itself means a relative authority level between the speakers and the interlocutor. "D" means a distance between the speakers and the interlocutor. If the speakers have a distance from the interlocutor, they will use the polite form to communicate. In the end, politeness regulated by Yassi's framework (1996), a theoretical framework adapted from Brown Levinson & Scollon Scollon, was six politeness systems used in some regions in South Sulawesi.

2.1 Symmetrical Relations

- a. Deference in non-kinship (-P,+D,-K), example; interaction among strangers, they are known one another. The strategies that use is negative politeness and also mix negative politeness with positive politeness.
- b. Deference in kinship (-P,+D,+K), example; interaction among distant relatives. The strategies that use are positive politeness and also mix between positive and negative politeness.
- c. Intimacy in non-kinship (-P,-D,-K), example; interaction among friends, colleagues, and close friends. This part, the strategy that use is included all of the strategies (Positive and negative politeness & mixed it).
- d. Intimacy in kinship (-P,-D,+K), example; interaction among family members. The senior like the older brother will use positive politeness and the young sister will use negative politeness.

2.2 Asymmetrical Relations

Hierarchy in non-kinship (+P,+D,-K), example; interaction between super ordinate and subordinate, seniors and juniors. This system use politeness strategy and mixed strategies if the older person talk to the younger. The other hand, the younger will use only negative politeness strategy.

Hierarchy in kinship (+P,-D,+K), example; interaction between parents and children, uncle/aunt and nephew/niece, grandparents and grandchildren, and the likes. This systems use all of the strategies. The older to the younger and also the younger to the older will use all of the strategies.

3. Methodology

This study used quantitative research. Quantitative research is an approach for testing objective theories by examining the relationship among variables. This quantitative method was used because the researcher has tested her hypothesis. The researcher hypothesized that educational background could affect someone in choosing politeness systems to communicate. The population of the data were the native speakers of Makassar and the sample of this research has taken 14 native speakers of Makassar, which divided into two criteria based on the age and educational background. The criteria are 7 young people at the age of under 22 years old (Senior High School) and 7 adult people at the age around 23 until 40 years old (Graduated).

The Makassarese data were analyzed in two ways. The first step was to distribute questionnaires to 14 Makassar native speakers. The second step was to observe. The researcher observed native Makassar speakers using Makassarese language to see how they used their language and what

kind of politeness system they used. The information was gathered by recording and taking notes. The researcher analyzed and found what politeness systems were still used by native speakers of Makassar and what factors affected someone using politeness systems.

4. Result

The data findings on this study related to the politeness system of English and Makassarese. The researcher found if the educational background can affect someone in use politeness system. Different with Makassarese, education is not affected for English person. This data completed by using questionnaires and analyze the movie for English data. To prove the data, the researcher collected the data also by use observation. By using observation, the researcher found if the person who has well educated will used negative politeness when they communicate. The other hand, someone has less educated usually used positive politeness when communicate. The finding of this thesis, the researcher showed the conversation.

The first is talk about English data. According to the data that has been taken from the movie, the researcher found some important thing. The English data is the conversations taken from the movie. After analyzing the conversations, the researcher found the different between English and Makassarese. Based on this movies, the politeness systems that used is almost same one another. There is no different politeness systems used by Englishmen when communicating. The politeness system used by the old man and the young man is the same way.

The factors influence in use politeness systems not same with Makassarese. If we see from the two variables on this research, no one can affect in use politeness systems. The age and educational background does not affect anything. The researcher only find on this movies, they will more polite if someone has a high level in work. Such as, the different level in job in an office. The one who has a well job positions in an office will be respected by the one who has a level of position under them. On the next page the researcher showed some conversations based on the sixth politeness systems by Yassi.

Next explanation is Makassarese data. The researcher showed the data by using the table. The data on the table is about the respond of the questionnaires. There are 14 respondent has been answer the questionnaires. The researcher input the data on the table to make the reader easy to understand. The researcher was used statistic frequency. Before explained more specifically about the data, the researcher showed the data on the table first.

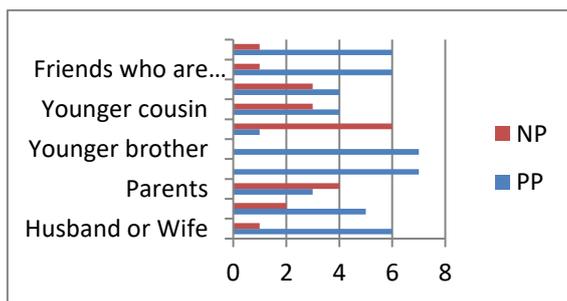


Figure 1 Politeness Systems by Less Educated Persons

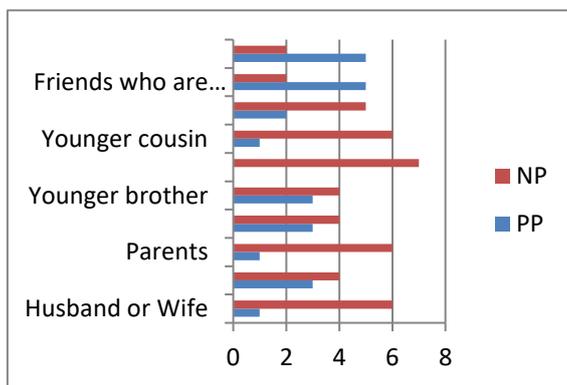


Figure 2. Politeness Systems by High Educated Persons

5. Discussion

Based on the two table graphic above, we may see the specifically difference between two tables. The first table showed the politeness systems by less educated most of used positive politeness. Only two parts on the first table showed most the respondent used negative politeness. The two are when respondent talked with their parents and also with their older cousins. The others mostly used positive politeness when talked. The second table

showed most of respondent used negative politeness. On this table there are two parts where the respondent used more positive politeness than negative politeness.

The two tables above we may see educational background has an effect to someone in used politeness systems. There are ten questions that the researcher gave to the respondent. For less educated, most of the respondent choose positive politeness when communicate with ten interlocutor. The other side, we might see the different with less educated. On high educated, most of the respondents choose negative politeness to communicate.

That is means educational background can affect someone in use politeness systems. For less educated person, they do not too focus with politeness systems that they used in daily live. Based on the table above negative politeness mostly used when someone communicate with their parents and older cousin. Beside the two interlocutor before, the respondent choose casual when communicate, except parents and older cousins. For the next data, the table showed the affect of the age background.

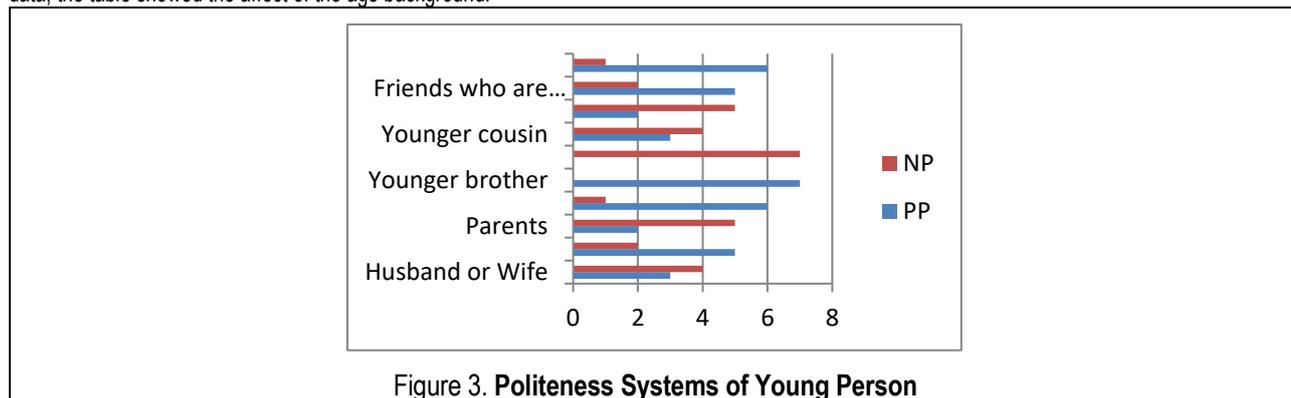


Figure 3. Politeness Systems of Young Person

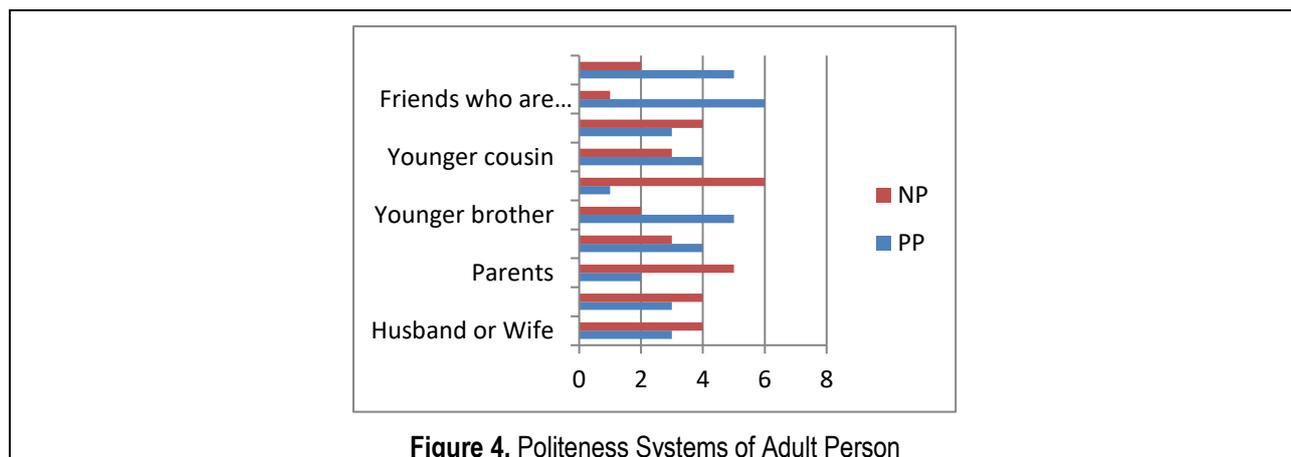


Figure 4. Politeness Systems of Adult Person

According to the graphic above, politeness systems that more used is almost same. The age is not thoroughly affected someone in use politeness systems. We might see from the data, the dominant person used negative politeness is used when talked with the older cousins. The others data is about the conversations. These conversations English and Makassarese have been taken by watching the movie and observation. In these conversations, the researcher was analyzing the politeness systems that the speakers used.

It is showed the most significant differences both languages. We see for the English side, the age and education was not effect in use politeness systems. For Makassarese showed the significant differences between both of variables. The education has 5 points in this part and the age only 1 points. It is means the people in Makassar especially native speakers that used Lakiung dialect more affected their politeness systems by educational background in communicate. So, between English and Makassarese the language that affected by the two variables is Makassarese.

6. Conclusion

After analyzing the English and Makassarese data, some conclusions the researcher will constructed as a result of this study. Here the researcher showed the conclusions of this study. The first is the English data. The politeness system they used is casual form. Based on the two variables on this study, no one can affect native speaker of English in used politeness systems. There is no the different politeness systems when talk between the old person and the young person. For educational background also does not affect their politeness system.

The second is Makassarese data. The politeness systems used by native speakers of Makassar is there are two. The two are negative politeness and positive politeness. Based on the two variables on this study, the two variables can affect someone in use politeness systems. For the age

background, it is affect someone in use positive politeness. Positive politeness means someone use casual form when talked with the others. For the educational background, it is affect someone in use negative politeness. Negative politeness means someone used more formal or polite form when talked with the others. So, from the two languages we might say if English does not affect by age and educational background and Makassarese is affected by the age and educational background. The most variable that affect in used politeness systems for the Makassarese data is the educational background.

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