

# REQUEST STRATEGIES IN PRIDE AND PREJUDICE MOVIE

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## Abstract

*This research explored request strategies by character in Pride and Prejudice movie which was released in 2005. The data were request utterances shown by main and supporting characters in the movie. In collecting data, writer used observation method by using non-participant observation technique. Method used in analyzing data was pragmatic identity and in presenting the result of analysis was formal and informal method. Based on the result of analysis there were seven strategies found, such as strong hint (6), preparatory (5), mood derivable (5), want statements (5), mild hints (3), hedged performative (1), and locution derivable (1). The strategy which not appeared were suggestory formula and explicit performative. The most strategy used was strong hint strategy.*

**Keywords:** contexts, request, strategy.

## Abstrak

*Penelitian ini menjabarkan tentang penggunaan strategi meminta(request strategy) oleh karakter dalam film Pride and Prejudice yang dirilis pada tahun 2005. Data berasal dari ujaran ujaran yang mengandung maksud meminta baik oleh pemain utama ataupun pemain pendukung. Pada pengumpulan data, penulis menggunakan metode simak dengan teknik simak bebas libat cakap. Metode yang digunakan dalam analisis data adalah metode padan pragmatik dan dalam penyajian data digunakan metode formal dan informal. Hasil analisis menunjukkan ada 7 strategi yang digunakan dengan rincian strong hint (6), preparatory (5), mood derivable (5), want statements (5), mild hints (3), hedgedperformative (1), locution derivable (1). Strategi yang tidak digunakan yaitu: suggestory formula dan explicit performative. Strategi yang paling banyak digunakan adalah strong hint. Hal ini mencerminkan budaya orang Inggris pada waktu itu yang memelihara norma kesopanan dalam berbahasa.*

**Keywords:** kontek, meminta, strategi.

## INTRODUCTION

In fulfilling their needs, people need to communicate each other by means language. It is used for giving commands, making requests, expressing apologizes and refusing. Request as a type of acts is included in directive category because the speaker tries to get the hearer to do something. Anna Wierzbicka (1991) states that request are used in some conditions where the speaker wants to get the addressee to do something. It means request is an imposition to the hearer.

In this study, the writer refers to the similar concept of request strategies proposed by Blum-Kulka (1982) and House, Kasper (1981). They classified request into nine types: mood derivable, explicit performative, hedged performative, locution derivable, want statement, suggestory formula, preparatory, strong hint, and mild hint. These types of request strategies can be performed in many ways depending on the context of situation the speaker involves. Context is the key in order the hearer may understand the speaker's meaning. The importance of context in language can be seen from the opinion of Levinson ((1983: 24) who says that "Pragmatics is the study of ability of language users to pain sentence with the context in which they would be

appropriate”. Context is a relevant aspect of physical or social setting of an utterance. It is the background knowledge shared by a speaker in understanding their utterances. It has an important role in determining the language meaning. The roles are limiting the range of context in interpreting and also supporting the intended interpretation (Levinson 1983: 26).

Malinowski (1923) states that there are two kinds of context, they are context of situation and context of culture. Both of them have essential roles in interpreting meaning. Context of situation is the inner context, environment of the text and the outer context around a text is called context of culture. In order to understand the meaning of any utterance, the cultural background of the language should be known. It includes participants or people who are involved in speech, time, place, social environment, political condition.

The request theories are going to be applied in a discussion of the utterances used by the characters in *Pride and Prejudice* movie which was released in 2005. The story is based on Jane Austen novel. The unpublished manuscript was first written in 1796-1797 entitled “*First Impression*”. Then, Jane Austen, the author made some revisions and renamed it with *Pride and Prejudice* in 1811 and 1812. The result was very surprising; it has become the most popular novels with over 20 million copies sold and has been translated into many languages. Either in the novel or the movie Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* is fulfilled with British culture of the eighteenth century. There are some specific descriptions to the British culture at that time which are reflected from their fashions, their vehicles, their tradition and their ethics. For example their habit in doing a ball where the women usually draw their gown by using their hand and bend down to man before doing dance. The habit of the British during that time, as described in the movie is one of interesting point for the writer chooses this movie as a source of data.

## **REQUEST STRATEGY THEORY**

According to an Oxford dictionary (1995:352) request is act of politely asking for something. In fact, some linguists may have different definitions of request. A request strategy is the obligatory choice of the level of directness by which the request is realized. Request theories proposed by some linguist they are: Austin (1962) and Searle (1969), Kulka, House and Kasper (1987), and Trosborg (1994).

In this study, the writer chooses the theory of Kulka, House and Kasper (1987). This theory is suitable with the analyzing of the writer because it classifies the requests based on their shape. By using this theory the writer find many strategies of request, it can be identifies based on its characters. Even though Kulka’s study is the result of a cross cultural pragmatic analysis, it is still applicable to the researcher’s study because it classified request generally. Blum-Kulka, House and Kasper classified the request into nine aspects:

### **a. Mood Derivable**

The grammatical mood of the locution conventionally determines its illocutionary force as a request. It means that the verb in request can described the mood of requester directly.

For example:

*Leave me alone*

*Clean up the kitchen*

From the examples above, it is known that the verb “leave” can be understood as a request of the speaker to the hearer to go away from him/her. Verb “clean up” in second example is a direct request of the speaker. Here, clearly seen the motive of the speaker that is to clean the kitchen.

**b. Explicit Performative**

The illocutionary intent is explicitly named by the speaker by using a relevant illocutionary verb. The request is described in direct way and it is clear by using the word request itself, such as *ask*.

For example:

*I am asking you to move your car*

In the sentence above, the speaker straightly say his willingness, he uses the word “ask”. The speaker wants to ask the hearer to move a car directly.

**c. Hedged Performative**

The illocutionary verb denoting the requestive intent is modified, such as by using modal verbs or verbs expressing intention.

For example:

*I must/have to ask you to clean the kitchen right now.*

In the sentence above, the speaker delivers a request by using a modal verb, so it will be more polite. By adding this modal verb, the power of request will be reduced.

**d. Locution Derivable**

The illocutionary intent is directly derivable from the semantic meaning of the locution.

For example:

*Madam you'll have to/should/must/ought to move your car*

The speaker uses a locution derivable strategy in doing his request. It seems from the use of modal “have to, should to “in the sentence. The function is to create politeness and derive the semantic meaning of request.

**e. Want Statement**

The utterance expresses the speaker’s desire that the event denoted in the proposition come about. The speaker described his willingness about thing in request.

For example:

*I'd like to borrow your notes for a little while.*

In this strategy the speaker delivers his desire by using word “like” which appears before request word “borrow”. It makes sense the speaker use a polite request.

**f. Suggestory Formula**

This is the utterances that contain suggestion to do something. The speaker asks the hearer by the suggestion meaning.

For example:

*How about cleaning up the kitchen*

Suggestory formula strategy reveals the request by giving suggestion. It has a minimal power of request, so the hearer does not do it forcedly.

**g. Preparatory**

The utterance contains reference to a preparatory condition for the feasibility of the request, typically one of ability, willingness, or possibility, as conventionalized in the given language. It means the speaker makes a preparation to do the request, preparing for the hearer to response his requesting.

For example:

*Can I borrow your notes?*

Example above shows us the speaker give a time for hearer to accept her request. The speaker proposes his request by interrogative sentence. They use modal to begin his question.

#### **h. Strong Hint**

The illocutionary intent is not immediately derivable from the locution; however, the locution refers to relevant elements of the intended illocutionary and/or propositional act. In this type the speaker do the request directly.

For example:

*Will you be going home now?*

(Intent: getting a lift home)

The example above shows us the speaker hint his motive. He wants the speaker to go home soon, but he does not force it, so he chooses strong hint strategy.

#### **i. Mild Hint**

The utterance is not put the obligation to do something but the context will strengthen the demand. The requesting in this type is said implicitly.

For example:

*You've been busy here, haven't you?*

(Intent: getting hearer to clean the kitchen)

In example above the speaker do a request by asking the hearer previously. The hearer hides his motive to the hearer, so it will reduce the power of request. It seem from the sentence, the speaker uses question tag to convince the hearer.

### **METHOD OF THE RESEARCH**

The data were taken from the script of *Pride and Prejudice* movie. The object of research is the utterances which contain requests strategy. In collecting data, the writer applied observation method and non-participant observation technique. In observation method, the writer observed the language used in the movie. The writer identified the utterance in the movie which contains request strategies. The technique was non participant observation; it mean the writer did not involved in communication. There were many step that writer done, they were: Firstly, the writer watched the movie for several times, in order to understand the movie. Secondly, the writer took movie script and some notes of request utterances which were appeared in the movie. Thirdly the writer classified the request based on their shapes. The data were analyzed based on request strategy theories by using pragmatic identity method (Sudaryanto 1993). It mean the speaker analyzed the text not only based on inside meaning but also the context around it .To add the information speaker used speaking Hymes theory (Oktavianus 2006) also used to explore the data.

Meanwhile, the result of analysis was presented by using informal and formal method (Sudaryanto 1993). Informal method is the way of presenting the result of analysis in the form of descriptive texts, reporting the result in the form of sentences, while formal method used table

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Here are some request strategy types which are found in the research:

### a. Preparatory

Datum 1

Jane : **Can I take the carriage?**

Mrs Bennet : Certainly not. She'll go on horseback

This dialogue occurred in Mr. Bennet's family dining room. While they are eating, a letter comes from Caroline Bingley. She invites Jane to have dinner in her house. They have known each other. The distance between their houses are far, therefore she asks her mother to take the carriage. In that era, early of nineteenth century there are riding habits to reach a distance place. To express her request, Jane proposes a question: "Can I take the carriage?"

Looking at the way she asks, the question included in type of preparatory strategy. The speaker seems to ask the hearer on her availability. Jane attempts to save the face and feeling of her mother by setting the word she performs. Therefore she will be ready with her mother's answer whether it is going to be approved or rejected. On sides of her mother, the request will also reduce her guilty if she has to rejected. In requesting the relationship should be considered. Because of Jane was asking something to her mother for each older than her, she is expected to use polite utterances. The other characteristic of preparatory is the using of modal in the question. In this conversation the modal "can" is used. The modal is used to ask permission, as shown in the above dialogue. Jane asks her mother's permission to take the transportation.

### b. Locution derivable

Datum 2

Mr. Bennet : that is his design in settling here?

Mrs Bennet : **You must go and visit him at once**

Mr. Bennet : good heavens. People

Mrs Bennet : for we may not visit if you do not, as you well know, Mr Bennet  
Are you listening? You never listen

Lydia : **you must, Papa! At once**

Mrs Bennet heard that there is a man who comes from the North. His name is Bingley. He is handsome, rich and single. Mrs. Bennet is a wealth-desirous person. Thus that is a chance for her to make her daughters a Mr. Bingley couple. She asks her husband to visit him. In this dialogue Lydia also does the same, she asks her father to allow them to meet him. In this conversation, Mrs. Bennet and Lydia uses a direct request. Blum Kulka, House and Kasper classified it into locution derivable.

Related to the context, the participant here are wife and husband, father and daughter. It means they have close relationship. Therefore, they do not need to be courteous. Looking to the emotion, Mrs. Bennet and Lydia are very surprised with the arrival of Mr. Bingley. They expect that the chance will give good future for them; Mr Bingley will marry one of them. From her expression, it is clearly seen that Mrs. Bennet eagerly comes to this meeting. She speaks with a clear tone, face-hoping and explicit sentence. They use a word "must".

### c. Mild Hint

Datum 3

Elizabeth : **Do you dance, Mr. Darcy?**

Darcy : not if I can help it

Darcy and Elizabeth meet in the ball which is held to welcome him. Darcy is a Bingley's friend. That is the first time they know each other. Elizabeth likes a dance and she asks Darcy to dance with her.

Elizabeth performs her request by an utterance "do you dance, Mr. Darcy?" Based on Blum Kulka, House and Kasper theories it is classified into mild hint strategy. It is an eagerness of speaker to ask something but not explicitly. In this utterance, the speaker request Darcy with implicit language. Seemingly, she just asks if he wants to dance or not? But the intention language is she wants to invite Darcy to dance with her. Elizabeth sees Darcy still stand alone and he does not dance as other do. It takes Jane's attention to ask him, but he does not reply it. Look at the Elizabeth condition, it is reflected that she comes from middle class and she uses an ugly gown with a dark color.

d. Strong Hint

Datum 4

Elizabeth : **Wait, Mr Collins can have nothing to say to me that anybody need not hear**

Mrs. Bennet : I desire you will stay where you are. Everyone else to the drawing room.

Elizabeth is very surprised hears the Collins's demand to talk with her privately. Since in a ball Collins pays more attention to her, this condition makes her uncomfortable. When Collins comes, she will take a breakfast with her family. Finally, the people go out and she dislikes with this situation. She asks the entire people to keep staying in their places by delivering an utterance: "Wait, Mr. Collins can have nothing to say to me that anybody need not hear". This utterance means that Elizabeth does not want both she and Collins talk privately.

Actually, she will say that she does not want it, but she cannot reject it directly. Elizabeth asks his eagerness in strong demand. It can be seen from her utterance to Jane and her father. She asks her sister and father; the people close with her to stay in. she asks in strong emotional and expecting expression.

e. Mood Derivable

Datum 5

Lydia : **Lizzie, lend me some money**

Elizabeth : you already owe me a fortune

Lydia and her sister go to look for a ribbon; they also want to meet with the soldier. In that place they are introduced with Wickham, one of an armed military unit. To buy the ribbon, Lydia asks money to Elizabeth, but she does not approve it, because Lydia has bring much money which is enough to buy it.

Lydia uses mood derivable strategy in delivering her willingness, where the speaker speaks directly about her desire. Lydia straightforwardly asks money to Elizabeth. Verb in this sentence is imperative meaning. She says "lend", it means she wants to borrow some money. Related to the context, the participant has close relationship; sisterhood. Hence, they use an informal sentence and direct language. The situation is also informal.

f. Hedged Performative

Datum 6

Elizabeth : **I must ask you to leave immediately**

Good night

Lady Catherine: I have never been thus treated in my entire life!

This dialogue is between Elizabeth and Lady Catherine. In one room, Lady Catherine scolds Elizabeth rudely. The conversation takes a long time; Elizabeth tries to face it while Lady Catherine does not stop and increase it. As a girl with strong emotion, Elizabeth cannot let it happen. Finally, Elizabeth asks her to go and leave her. In delivering her request, Elizabeth uses hedged performative strategy.

As seen in this dialogue, Elizabeth performs her request by using modal “must”. The modal and verb “ask” indicate that the request is included in hedged performative strategy. Related to the context, the speaker speaks in angry and sad tone. She hates to hear Lady Catherine words. So, the speaker says her desire explicitly.

g. Want Statement

Datum 7

Mrs Bennet : **I do hope you intend to stay here, Mr. Bingley**

Bingley : absolutely, I find the country very diverting. Don't you agree, Darcy?

Bingley and Darcy visit Mrs Bennett's house. They want to meet with Jane. Being separated several time, makes Bingley realize about his feeling to Jane. He loves her too much and wants to propose for marriage. At the first time, they just say that they will go hunting, he is nervous to say it. Seeing their coming, Bennett's family is very happy.

In this sentence it can be seen that the requester in this dialogue uses want statement strategy, where the speaker says her feeling and desired directly but not in imperative type. The verb “hope” indicates that the speaker wants the hearer to approve her desired. This type of request strategy is directly but does not have an explicit meaning. Looking at participant, Mr. Bingley is high upper class while Mrs. Bennet is lower class, so Mrs Bennet cannot force him. In this situation the requester is offering.

## CONCLUSION

Having analyzed this movie, the writer found that almost all strategies applied by the characters in their communication. Only two strategies which are not applied they are suggestory formula and explicit performative. From the result in can be concluded that British prefer to use hint strategy to deliver their willingness. The purpose is keeping politeness. The choosing of request is surely influenced by the context of participant whether culture or background.

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