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AN ANALYSIS OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN *ACTORS ON ACTROS* PROGRAM ON *VARIETY'S* YOUTUBE CHANNEL

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Abstract

This research aims to identify the types of politeness strategies in the *Actors on Actors* program on *Variety's* YouTube channel. The research data were from the *Actors on Actors* program on *Variety's* YouTube channel. The writer applied Leech's (1983) theory to classify politeness strategies. There are six types of politeness strategies. They are the approbation maxim, agreement maxim, modesty maxim, sympathy maxim, tact maxim, and generosity maxim. This research was qualitative. This study reveals that all types of politeness strategies according to Leech (1983) were found in the *Actors on Actors* program on *Variety's* YouTube channel. The types are approbation maxim, agreement maxim, modesty maxim, sympathy maxim, tact maxim, and generosity maxim. From all types of politeness strategies, it was found that the most common politeness strategy was the approbation maxim. In conclusion, it can be said that the *Actors on Actors* program used all types of politeness strategies in the *Variety's* YouTube channel.

Keywords: Politeness strategies, *Actors on Actors* program, *Variety's* YouTube channel

I. INTRODUCTION

Politeness is essential because it helps build and maintain positive relationships, encompassing deep emotions, thoughts, speech, and interpersonal interactions. Politeness involves a set of social behaviors and attitudes that demonstrate respect, consideration, and care for others' feelings and needs. According to Yule (1996, p.60), politeness is used to show awareness of each other's faces during conversations. This means that politeness strategies are employed to maintain positive and respectful interactions, taking into account the social and emotional needs of others.

In the current situation, any source can be used for communication, not only in direct conversation but also from the internet or social media platforms, including YouTube. YouTube allows people to learn about different cultures and their different ways of showing politeness, which can help them navigate interactions more effectively. Actors on Actors program in Variety's YouTube channel is an American entertainment talk show. It is a program available on the YouTube channel Variety. The program features interviews between actors and actresses working in the entertainment industry, focusing on their work experiences.

The writers chose the "Actors on Actors" program on Variety's YouTube channel because it provides a variety of conversations between actors, which showcase different ways of using politeness. Since famous actors often communicate carefully to maintain good relationships, their interactions are a good example of studying politeness. The consistent setting of celebrity interviews allows for a clear analysis of how politeness strategies are used. Additionally, the program's focus on entertainment media aligns well with the research goal of examining politeness in professional but informal settings. For these reasons, the writer observed the politeness strategies used by the speakers in the 'Actors on Actors' program on Variety's YouTube channel.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Politeness is having or showing behavior that is respectful and considerate of other people, (Oxford Dictionary). It means politeness is a behavior or respect and concern for other people. Hill et al. (1986), explain that politeness is one of the constraints of human interaction; the aim is to respect other people's feelings and develop levels of mutual comfort. It means, in communication, politeness

serves as a guideline to keep interactions harmonious and not offend others. By applying the principles of politeness, such as speaking respectfully and considering the feelings of the other person, we can create a comfortable atmosphere for both parties. This helps build better relationships and reduces the possibility of conflict or tension in communication.

Politeness is what we believe is expected in particular situations to establish and maintain positive social interactions with others (Lakoff 1972, p.910). Politeness is a social norm that we follow to ensure good communication and social relationships are maintained. Meanwhile, Goffman (1955, p.213) defines politeness strategies relating to face as a person's good public image developed via social interactions. This concept encompasses how individuals present themselves to others, manage their self-image, and navigate the complexities of social relationships to maintain a positive reputation in the eyes of society.

In this research, the writer utilizes Leech's (1983) theory to analyze and classify the types of politeness strategies that exist on the *Actors on Actors* program on Variety's YouTube channel. The writer chose this theory because it outlines various types of politeness strategies in detail. Leech's theory has a

comprehensive classification system, which simplifies the organization and analysis of the data.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

The research is qualitative. In this research. This type of descriptive research is intended to investigate circumstances, conditions, or other things that have been mentioned, the results of which are presented in the form of a research report Arikunto, (2014, p.3). In addition, Sudaryanto (2015, p.15) explains that the qualitative method is a research method that is only based on facts or phenomena that are lived experiences of the speaker so that everything produced or recorded is data as it is. This research used a descriptive qualitative method to research the problem because this research has the purpose of describing and analyzing the types of politeness strategies on *Actors on Actors* program in *Variety's* YouTube channel. This research is conducted by formulating the problem, collecting data, classifying data, and analyzing data.

The source of the data used in this research were videos on *Variety's* YouTube channel *Actors on Actors* program. *Variety's* YouTube channel is an American entertainment talk show

with premiere series like *Actors on Actors* access to the most influential events, and top movie festivals. Each episode brings together multiple pairs of actors engaging in intimate one on one discussions about their acting craft and work. This YouTube channel has approximately 1.46 million subscribers. The content is well-produced, informative and engaging, making it enjoyable for viewers.

The program features conversations between famous actors in a relatively informal but professional context. They appreciate each other's work. It provides data on how actors use strategies such as the approbation maxim to support positive statements. The writer chose two videos. The first video is "*Cillian Murphy & Margot Robby – Actors on Actors*" launched on Dec 5th, 2023 with a duration of 48 minutes 27 seconds. This video features a conversation between Cillian Murphy and Margot Robbie. Cillian Murphy and Margot Robbie talk about their careers, their creative process, and the

challenges they face in the film industry. They also discuss their recent roles and how they prepared for them. Cillian Murphy and Margot Robbie are fellow actors in the film industry. While they may not have worked together on a film project, they respect and admire each other's work. The Second is "*Emily Blunt*

& Anne Hathaway – actors on actors" launched in August 5th, 2023 with duration of 15 minutes 37 second. This video features Anne Hathaway and Emily Reunited for an episode of "Actors on Actors". Emily Blunt and Anne Hathaway share insights into their careers, and the challenges they face as actresses.

The writer used Sudaryanto's observation methods for collecting data, where the writers only observed and did not take part in the conversations. First, the writers accessed YouTube and reviewed several channels to find relevant content, and chose the *Actors on Actors* program from the Variety channel as it was suitable for analyzing politeness strategies based on Leech's (1983) theory. The writers selected two videos from this program that were considered to have rich conversations featuring politeness strategies. The writer watched the selected videos carefully, using observation methods to observe the interactions and the use of politeness strategies. After observing the writers downloaded the video transcripts, checked them to ensure the writers matched the spoken content, and marked parts that showed politeness strategies for further analysis. This method helped the writers systematically gather and analyze data

for the study of politeness strategies.

After collecting the data, the next step was to analyze it. The writers used the referential method for this analysis. This method involves observing and breaking down the data to address specific issues and identify the politeness strategies used by speakers from the listener's perspective. The analysis process included several steps: First, the writers classified the data according to the types of politeness strategies proposed by Leech (1983).

The writers matched the video data with Leech's theory and organized the information into a table. Second, the writer described each type of politeness strategy found in the two videos from the Actors on Actors program on Variety's YouTube channel. This description was detailed in chapter four of their report. Finally, the writer drew conclusions based on the findings and the discussion and summarized the key insights from the analysis.

IV. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

According to Leech's (1983) theory of politeness maxim, there are six types of politeness strategies. The six types are the approbation maxim, agreement maxim, modesty maxim, sympathy maxim, tact maxim, and generosity maxim. The writers found fifty-seven

politeness strategies on the *Actors on Actors* program on *Variety's* YouTube channel. It was classified into forty approbation maxims, five agreement maxims, four modesty maxims, three sympathy maxims, three tact maxims, and two generosity maxims on *Actors on Actors* in *Variety's* YouTube channel.

4.1 Approbation Maxim

According to Leech (1983, p.132) approbation maxim minimizes the expression of beliefs that express dispraise of others and maximizes the expression of beliefs that express approval of others. This maxim is used to praise other people as much as possible and express admiration and appreciation for the actions, qualities, or achievements of others.

(1) Cillian Murphy:
Well

congratulations on your reasonably successful film.

Margot Robby:
"Congratulations to you, You're a producer on the movie as well"

(Video 1: duration: 0:33 – 0:39)

In the first video, Cillian Murphy and Margot Robbie engage in a conversation where they praise each other's achievements. This exchange is classified as an approbation maxim because they both offer compliments. Cillian praises Margot for her successful film, while Margot acknowledges Cillian's role as a producer.

Their direct praise helps build positive relationships and highlights each other's accomplishments.

- (2) Margot Robby: The story has a quality of, you know, you not getting too far ahead of it. Because they didn't know where it was gonna end up really. Cillian Murphy: Yeah
Margot Robby: So, it was *fascinating* to kinda watch their process. And I think the movie is so, you know, *amazing and original* because of that process.
(Video 1: duration: 04:14 - 04:27)

From the example above, Margot Robbie praises the filmmaking process of *Oppenheimer*, noting its innovative approach and dynamic narrative. She emphasizes the creativity involved in the film's production. Cillian Murphy agrees, expressing his own appreciation for how the process contributed to the film's success. Their exchange is an example of the approbation maxim, as they both give direct praise to the film and its creative process, demonstrating their admiration.

4.1 Agreement Maxim

The agreement maxim involves strategies that ensure mutual understanding and consensus in communication. It means people aim to speak in a way that others can understand and expect consistent, agreeable responses. This strategies helps keep conversations smooth and

fosters better understanding between participants.

- (3) Cillian Murphy: I think. I mean, I don't know if the audience knows on a kind of a conscious level.
Margot Robby: Yeah.
Cillian Murphy: But I really believe that they experience on a subliminal level.
Margot Robby: *I think you're right. People were like itching for the next Chris Nolan film and itching for the next Greta Gerwig film.*
(Video 1: duration: 40:12 – 40:23)

In the conversation between Cillian Murphy and Margot Robbie, the agreement maxim is shown through their mutual understanding. When Murphy expressed his views, Robbie agreed with a simple "Yeah," indicating she shared his opinion. Robbie then supported Murphy by saying, "I think you're right," and connected it to audience excitement for well-known directors' films. This agreement and added comment helped of them build understanding and keep the conversation flowing smoothly.

- (4) Anne Hathaway: He's there freezing with you and he's just watching you and he's leaning into you, you know? And it's all about the work. Emily Blunt: *Yeah. Completely.* (Video 2: duration: 06:16 – 06:19)

In the conversation between Anne

Hathaway and Emily Blunt, the agreement maxim is shown through their mutual support and agreement. Hathaway describes a situation where someone is intensely involved in the work process. Blunt agrees with a simple "Yeah. Completely," showing she shares Hathaway's view. Their brief yet affirming responses demonstrate their agreement and validate each other's experiences, creating a sense of harmony in their discussion.

4.3 Modesty Maxim

Modesty Maxim emphasizes that one should not praise oneself excessively. This includes rejecting compliments or giving compliments to others. The modesty maxim is used to minimize praise to self and maximize dispraise of self.

(5) Margot Robby: I remember I started prepping one role and then COVID happened. And *so, I ended up prepping the one role for like a year. And it was, I was like losing my mind by the end of it.*

(Video 1: duration: 21:01 – 21:06)

The Modesty Maxim highlights humility in communication. Margot Robbie exemplifies this by focusing on her challenges rather than praising herself. When she says, "I ended up prepping the one role for like a year. And it was, I was like losing my mind by the end of it," she downplays her achievements and admits to difficulties and exhaustion. Instead of

boasting about her strength or success, she expresses self-doubt and acknowledges the struggle she faced during preparation.

(6) Anne Hathaway: Because I found the more nervous you get the funnier you are. (both laugh cheerfully)

Emily Blunt: *Yeah, that's how I get myself in trouble. I make stupid jokes.*

(Video 2: duration: 03:16 – 03:22) In the conversation, Emily Blunt and

Anne Hathaway exemplify the modesty maxim by openly acknowledging their shortcomings in humor. Emily Blunt's admission about making "stupid jokes" reflects her humility and willingness to admit imperfections, which makes her relatable. Rather than positioning herself as a master of comedy, Hathaway notes that she becomes funnier when nervous, reflecting self-awareness without overstating her comedic skills. Their exchanges create a playful tone while showcasing vulnerability, fostering genuine connection and engaging the audience in a lighthearted way.

4.4 Sympathy Maxim

The sympathy maxim encourages people to enhance feelings of sympathy and reduce feelings of antipathy in conversation. It promotes politeness and is especially important when someone is expressing sadness or disappointment. Responses that follow this maxim

acknowledge and validate those emotions, fostering trust and connection between speaker and listener. This approach creates safe space for sharing personal experiences without fear of judgment.

(7) Emily Blunt: *I understood the anger so much* and the resentment at her lot in life, you know?"

(Video 2: duration: 10:50 – 10:52)

The statement "I understood the anger so much" illustrates the sympathy maxim in communication. The speaker expresses deep understanding of the other person's anger and dissatisfaction, show respect for their feelings. By acknowledging these emotions, the speaker fosters empathy and connection, demonstrating a willingness to recognize and validate the other person's experiences. This maxim helps convey solidarity and understanding in the conversation.

(8) Emily Blunt: He's just, he's wonderful. I get lost for words about it. *I mean we all felt that way and we're all so proud to be in it.*

(Video 2: duration: 08:26– 08:31)

In her statement, Emily Blunt expresses admiration by calling someone "wonderful," reflecting the sympathy maxim. Her difficulty in finding the right words shows her genuine inspiration. Blunt not only appreciates the subject personally but also demonstrates sensitivity to its uniqueness. Blunt

acknowledges and empathizes with others, showing respect for their shared experiences and the significance of their involvement.

4.5 Tact Maxim

The tact maxim emphasizes speaking sensitively and politely while considering others' feelings. It involves choosing words carefully to avoid causing hurt or conflict. The goal is to maximize benefits for others and minimize any difficulties they might face due to communication. By following this principle, we can maintain polite interactions, respect others' needs, and strengthen social relationships, enhancing both the emotional and practical aspects of communication.

(9) Emily Blunt: I remember when I first met Robert Downey Jr., I said, "You're gonna just love it so much and the screws are gonna get tightened on you so much, *and it's just the most focused wonderful unchaotic set.*" I said, "But you're going to get some very British compliments.

(Video 2: duration: 22:32 - 22:34)

In her statement about meeting Robert

Downey Jr., Emily Blunt describes the film set as "focused," "beautiful," and "unchaotic," highlighting its professionalism and organization. She acknowledges

the pressure but frames it as part of a positive and productive process, helping Downey Jr. prepare for an intense yet enjoyable work atmosphere. Blunt's approach reflects the tact maxim, as she minimizes discomfort and maximizes his comfort by keeping the interaction positive and avoiding unnecessary tension.

(10) Margot Robby: Now people on the street say, "Hi Barbie" a lot. I like it. ***I'd rather people be shouting that at me than other things. I'll take it.***

(Video 1: duration: 07:31 - 07:32)

The statement above is in the second video, a conversation between Margot Robby and Cillian Murphy. Margot Robby tells Cillian that people be shouting at her which is her role in a film, and Margot Robbie acknowledges that while the greeting "Hi Barbie" may seem simple or even refer to her as a fictional character, she prefers it, indicating that she prefers situations where social interactions take place in a way that is not hurtful or offensive.

4.6 Generosity Maxim

Generosity maxim means showing a minimized self-benefit and maximizing the benefit to others, in this maxim others must be prioritized over self. it means the self-increase the burden on itself by offering help to others. actions such as helping, offering help, and giving things

considered polite and kind.

(11) Margot Robby: You write the script that you wanna write. You and Noah write it. ***"And if you think I'm the right actor for it, great. "And if you don't like, let's go get the best actor for it.***

(Video 1: duration: 12:39 – 12:45)

In her statement about the film industry, Margot Robbie discusses her experience with the scriptwriter and director, highlighting their freedom to create and cast as they see fit. By supporting their creative process, she reflects the generosity maxim, prioritizing the needs of others over her own. Robbie expresses a willingness to step aside for another actor if it benefits the project, demonstrating a generous attitude and commitment to the film's quality. This shows her understanding that casting decisions should serve the overall success of the project.

(12) Cillian Murphy: So, I think it's a sensible choice, actually. And prepping for the role, what's your prep process like?

Margot: ***I'll take as much as I can get. With this one, it was six months from when he called me to when we started shooting. And I would've taken another six months.***

(Video 1: duration: 02:46 – 02:57)

(13)

In their conversation, Cillian Murphy asks Margot Robbie about her preparation process for her roles. Robbie

explains that she takes as much time as needed, stating she had six months to prepare and would welcome an extra six months.

By emphasizing the importance of preparation, she reflects the generosity maxim, demonstrating her commitment to quality and the interests of the creative team. Her willingness to invest time shows appreciation for the preparation process and a generous attitude toward achieving the best results.

V. CONCLUSION

Politeness involves social behaviors and attitudes that demonstrate respect, consideration, and care for others' feelings and needs. Politeness strategies are crucial for maintaining positive and respectful interactions, addressing both social and emotional needs. An analysis of the "Actors on Actors" program on Variety's YouTube channel identified six politeness strategies: approbation maxim, agreement maxim, modesty maxim, sympathy maxim, tact maxim, and generosity maxim. The study reveals 57 instances analyzed, there were 40 instances of approbation maxims, 5 agreement maxims, 4 modesty maxims, 3 sympathy maxims, 3 tact maxims, and the last, 2 generosity maxims.

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