

POLITENESS MAXIM FOUND IN THE CHARACTERS' CONVERSATION IN *RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON* MOVIE

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Abstract

This research is focused on the politeness expression performed by the characters in the movie. It aims at identifying the types of politeness maxim used in the conversation between characters in the movie. The research also analyses the speech function of politeness maxim occurred in the conversation between the characters. It applied observation method in collecting the data. Descriptive qualitative was utilized in analyzing the politeness maxim by elaborating each type of them. It used the theory from Leech (1983) was used to analyze it. The data were taken from the new released Disney Movie, *Raya and the Last Dragon* (2021). In addition, the speech functions were also examined using the theory proposed by Holmes (2013) to find out clear explanation on which speech function categorized from the utterances. The research concluded that there were politeness maxim used in the conversation of the characters in the movie and they have different speech function in order to deliver speaker's intention.

Keywords – politeness maxim, characters, conversation, movie

Introduction

Language can be considered as form of communication in which the idea and feeling can be symbolized in order to communicate. According to Halliday (1973) language is required to serve in the establishment and maintenance of all human relationships. In order to maintain the relationship, human needs to make smooth and successful communication in which the study of this phenomenon called as politeness. Politeness is the way to avoid the conflict between the speaker and the hearer. Brown and Levinson (1987) state politeness is comprehend need in the terms of conflict prevention or avoidance. Politeness strategy has sub part that called politeness maxim which are needed by people as the politeness strategy. Politeness maxims used as the topic of this research because it can be used to avoid the conflict between the speaker and the hearer while doing a communication according to Leech (1983). *Raya and the Last Dragon* movie was chosen as data source in this study because even though this movie is cartoon

movie, which generally proposed for children, but in this cartoon movie we can learn how to communicate based on role of politeness. Besides, the politeness not only can apply by the children but for the adult as well as the society. It can be used to communicate with parents, friends or through the strangers. Politeness maxims could be the tool that used by people in daily life, like social interaction.

The researchers interested to analyze the politeness maxim in *Raya and the Last Dragon* movie since this movie is in English subtitled and this movie tells the story of Raya, a lone warrior on a quest to bring back the last dragon, so that she can save her homeland of Kumandra from the sinister Druun. Since, this movie is family movie, it is consider will have a conversation in the different level. For example the way of delivering the messages from one character to another character like how the character communicate with elder will be different with friends, and it will be possible politeness are applied in the conversation. This movie is a latest Disney

movie and it has been famous since its first release in 2021. It has grossed over \$121 million worldwide and received positive reviews from critics. The movie has been winning the Golden Globe Awards' best motion picture.

Considering the politeness maxim in the characters' conversation of the movie, thus this research was attempted to; (1) find out the types of politeness maxim used in the conversation between the characters in *Raya and the Last Dragon* movie.

Methodology

This study focused on the conversation between the characters in *Raya and the Last Dragon* movie as the data source. This data provided the conversation using politeness maxim as expected. This movie was directed by Don Hall and Carlos Lopez Estrada. The screenplay was written by [Qui Nguyen](#) and [Adele Lim](#), based on traditional Southeast Asian cultures. The film follows a warrior princess who seeks out the fabled last dragon, with hopes of restoring the dragon gem that would once again banish the plague Druun and reunite the tribes together as Kumandra. *Raya and the Last Dragon* was theatrically released in the United States on March 5, 2021, by [Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures](#). It has grossed over \$121 million worldwide and received positive reviews from critics. The movie has been winning the Golden Globe Awards' best motion picture.

In case of data collection, the researcher used an observation method and note taking technique. In this case, the writer did several steps as follows:

8. Choosing a movie. It was aimed to get which movie is suitable to be

analyzed, when the researcher found out the title which consists of politeness maxim and function of speech, it can be the data source of this study.

9. Downloading the movie from the *daily motion* website address and the movie script from the *Fandon* website address.
10. Watching the movie and read the script.
11. Noticing and listing the utterance which categorized as politeness maxim.

The data were analyzed using descriptive qualitative method. The data were identified from the dialogue of the character that has politeness maxim used Leech's theory (1983) about politeness maxim into some types of politeness maxim. The theory was supported by theory context of situation from Halliday (1989).

Finding and Discussion

In this current study, there were six kinds of politeness maxim that used in the conversation between characters which help them to communicate during their situation along the journey to the fire mountain. There were tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim

Tact Maxim

Tact maxim defined as the maxim which minimizes the expression of beliefs which imply the cost to other, and maximize the expression of beliefs which give the benefit to other.

Data 1

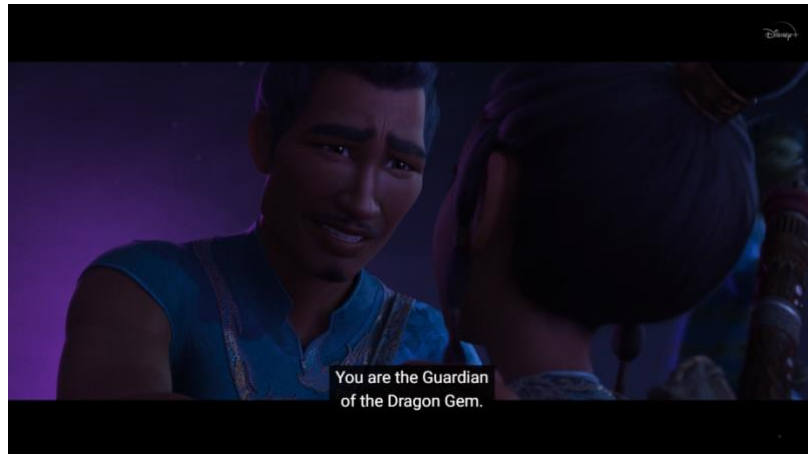


Figure 1. Ba sacrifice himself and told Raya to bring the Kumandra back

Ba : “Raya, you have to listen. **You are the Guardian of the Dragon Gem.**”

Raya : “Ba, why are you saying this?”

Ba : “There’s still light in this. There’s still hope.”

(Raya and the Last Dragon, 2021: 00:19:17)

The utterance produced by Ba above came after the Dragon gem was broken into pieces. It made the Drunn came back and turned the people into stone. In this scene, Ba sacrificed himself and pushed Raya into the river to save her. Then, he turned into stone with the other people. Before pushing into the river, he told her that now she is the guardian of the Dragon Gem. He wanted Raya to collect the pieces of dragon gem and bring the Kumandra back. According to the analysis, the sentence spoken by Ba is a polite sentence, where Ba positions himself as a parent who is asking for his daughter to continue the mission to bring the Kumandra back. In politeness, Ba's sentence categorized as Tact Maxim, because based on that utterance, Ba maximized benefit to Raya, because when he asked Raya to continue the mission, he is not directly tell Raya to collect the Dragon Gem pices and

continue the mission, but asked her in polite way by encouraging Raya that she is now the guardian of dragon gem and there is still hope to collect the pieces and bring the magic dragon back. This utterance minimized cost to Ba, because instead of collecting the pieces of dragon gem by himself, he can order Raya to continue the mission.

Generosity Maxim

Generosity maxim is maxim that requires the participant need to minimize benefit to self and maximize cost to self, similar like tact maxim, this maxim also expressed the action by directive/impossitive and commissive utterances. Besides, generosity and tact maxim has different center, where generosity maxim is self-centered and tact maxim is other-centered

Data 2



Figure 2. Boun wanted to help Raya bring everyone back

Boun : “Youre gonna bring everyone back? I wanna help.”

Raya : “**I’m sorry, I can’t let you do that. It’s too dangerous.**”

(Raya and the Last Dragon, 2021, 01:02:10)

In this scene, Boun had just realized that Raya was not alone. She was with the divine water Dragon, Sisú. He asked her confirmation about why she was with Sisú. Then she told him that she was going to save the world and bring everyone back. Hearing that answer, Boun got excited and offered his help. But, Raya suddenly said “**I’m sorry, I can’t let you do that. It’s too dangerous.**”, based on the data analysis, Raya’s utterance shows about generosity maxim, because she maximized cost herself, that she will go to save the world and bring everyone back with Sisú. In other side, she minimized benefit to herself because she said politely to Boun for not coming with her to continue the mission because it’s very dangerous out there, and

Boun as hearer will felt how Raya cares for him and do not let him to follow her.

Approbation Maxim

According to Leech (1983), the approbation maxim requires the speaker to minimize dispraise to others and the speaker should maximize praise to others. In this maxim, the speakers are requires to avoid utterances for hurting someone or others, especially the addressee. This maxim is expressed by expressive utterance also the assertive utterances. Besides, the expressive utterance is the function to express the speaker’s attitude towards the situation, for example expressing thankfulness, congratulation, welcoming, apologizing, or praising.

Data 3

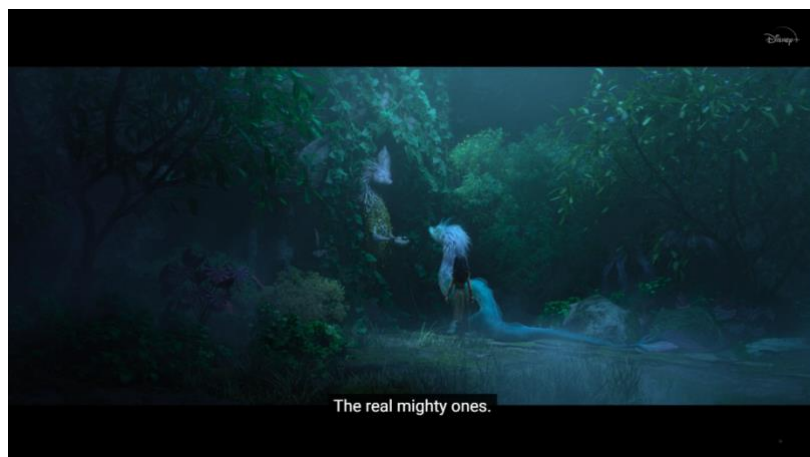


Figure 3. Sisu showed Raya her family, The Las Dragons.

Sisu : “I want you to meet my brothers and sisters. **The real mighty ones.**”

Raya : “I never knew they were here.”

(Raya and the Last Dragon, 2021, 01:08:01)

This scene happened when Sisu took Raya to Heart region. Raya was confused why did Sisu took her back to the place that reminds her about Ba, her only family. Then Sisu showed her family, her brothers and sisters, the last dragons. Sisu said “**The real mighty ones**”. Her utterances referred to her brothers and sisters who created the dragon gem. Her utterance can be considered as polite because she is showing excitement while saying it. Moreover, this utterance is polite because the speaker intended to praise the last dragons for their might. In this situation, the speaker and the hearer are acquainted and they are talking to each other in an informal setting. According to the data analysis, it is categorized as approbation maxim, because in her utterance she shows how might the

last dragons were. Sisu told Raya about how amazing the last dragons fight with the Drunn and created the dragon gem to save people. In this case, Sisu maximized praise of the last dragons about how might they were, and she minimized praise of self because she knows without her brothers and sisters she didn’t know, what will be happen to her.

Modesty Maxim

Leech (1983) stated that modesty maxim, is maxim that requires the speakers to minimize praise of self, while they have to maximize praise of others. Like generosity maxim, this maxim also expressed expressive and assertive utterances.

Data 4