

## IMPERATIVE POLITENESS OF STUDENTS IN SMA NURUL HASANAH MEDAN

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### *Abstract*

*Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that deals with language as a social and cultural phenomenon. This study focuses on the variety of utterances used by humans in interacting in social life. In interacting, humans must use polite language so that the other person feels valued and the message conveyed is also well received. Politeness connects language with social structure and behavior or ethics. The purposes of this research are to describe the form of politeness in imperative language in SMA Nurul Hasanah students in Medan and describe strategies that can be used as a marker of politeness in speech. The theory used is a sociolinguistic theory of language politeness. The method used is descriptive qualitative method and data obtained through questionnaires and observations. It can be concluded that students of grade XII SMA Nurul Hasanah Medan use imperative utterances in daily speech acts. This study uses six strategies out of eight strategies used as parameters. The six strategies include (1) use indirect speech, (2) show pessimism, (3) minimize coercion, (4) apologize, (5) use impersonal form, and (6) utter speech acts as politeness that is polite general. This strategy involves the speaker and the interlocutor in the activity.*

**Keywords:** *sociolinguistics, politeness, imperative*

## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a tool used by humans to communicate with others. In general, language functions as a tool for social interaction, namely to convey thoughts, ideas, concepts, or feelings. In language, there are people who act as speakers of the language, so sociolinguistics is one of the branches of linguistics that examines the relationship between language and society. Sociolinguistics does not only learn about language but also learn about aspects of the language used by society. So that, it can be concluded that sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary study of language in relation to the language used in a particular environment.

Humans cannot live alone and interact with each other in a social activity. A person's activities will depend on the use of the intended community language. Therefore, language cannot be separated from humans and follows every aspect of

human activity. In addition, language is a form of good and bad personality, and is also a sign of family or nation and a sign of humanity and social identity.

Politeness bridges language with various aspects of the social structure as well as rules of behavior or ethics. Politeness is the main condition when speaking that connects the speaker and the interlocutor, through this politeness will make the interlocutor feel respected so that harmonious relationships can be well established. Politeness can also be interpreted as a way of speaking with the aim of bringing social distance between speakers with the aim of bringing closer social distance between speakers. The concept of politeness is related to two things, namely language and one's behavior. The thoughts conveyed to the interlocutor are never separated from the issue of courtesy (Nisja, 2009: 478). This is done so that communication can run smoothly. With the principle of politeness, it is hoped that a person when speaking or

talking to others does not give negative effects from his speech, so as not to offend the person he is talking to. Maintaining politeness in language means maintaining harmonious communication (Mardalena, 2011: 12).

Language politeness occurs in everyday life, one of them is in the school environment. Schools are formal and informal institutions where the establishment is carried out by the state or the private sector which aims to teach, manage and educate students through guidance provided by educators or teachers. Many interactions occur between fellow students and teachers at school. This interaction uses utterances that contain the meaning contained in the sentence.

Politeness in language at this point is worrying. The patterns of speech and greeting between communities put forward, beat each other, and even control each other between speech participants in a community. There are several manners of spoken language, including a sense of tolerance, mutual respect, and not negating the face of the other person. The community should have done this spoken language so that good communication is established between the speaker and the interlocutor.

In language used sentences to communicate. This sentence is used to convey a certain meaning and purpose. The purpose of a speech can be conveyed well to the interlocutor depending on the use of the sentence in the speech. Sentence is a form of syntactic construction that can stand alone (Suhardi, 2008: 126). Formally based on the mode, sentences are divided into declarative sentences, interrogative sentences and imperative sentences (Wijana, 1996: 4).

Imperative sentences are sentences spoken by speakers in the hope that the interlocutor will react in the form of action (Chaer, 2010: 18). This sentence aims to give orders to others to do something. Furthermore, Alwi, et al. (2003: 354) states

that imperative sentences or sentences can be realized as (1) sentences consisting of predicates, basic verbal or adjectives, or only prepositional phrases that are intransitive in nature; (2) complete sentences predicated on intransitive or transitive verbal; and (3) sentences marked with various words of sentence modality assignments.

In giving orders, it is also necessary to pay attention to the politeness of language to express something, because courtesy is not only shown in actions, but also in the form of spoken sentences. Therefore, language politeness, especially in imperative sentences, is needed, especially in the school environment. Based on the description above, this research is needed to describe the imperative language politeness of students of SMA Nurul Hasanah Medan.

**1.2 Problem Identification and Formulation** Based on the description that has been stated above, there are several main problems that can be used as problem formulations, namely:

- 1) What is the form of imperative language politeness in SMA Nurul Hasanah Medan?
- 2) What are the strategies that can be used as a marker of modesty in speech?

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

Based on the description of the problem formulation that has been stated above, the objectives of this study are:

- 1) Describe the form of imperative language politeness in students of SMA Nurul Hasanah Medan.
- 2) Describe the strategies that can be used as a marker of modesty in speech.

## **2. METHODS**

### **2.1. Research Design**

The research design used is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive research is describing what a variable, symptom, or condition exists. According to Punaji (2010) descriptive research is

research whose purpose is to explain or describe an event, state, object whether people, or everything related to variables that can be explained using either numbers or words. What is meant by qualitative research is research that produces descriptive data in the form of words aimed at understanding social phenomena including linguistic phenomena (Mahsun, 2005: 233).

This type of qualitative descriptive research used in this study is intended to describe the form and strategy of imperative language politeness in students of SMA Nurul Hasanah Medan.

## **2.2. Sources of Data and Research Data**

The main data sources in this research are words and actions, and the next data is additional data such as interviews and other information. The source of data taken in this study was a questionnaire obtained from students at SMA Nurul Hasanah Medan.

The data were collected through a questionnaire which was conducted to students as imperative sentence users. The questionnaire will be distributed to students of grade XII SMA Nurul Hasanah Medan.

## **2.3. Place and Time of Research**

The place for conducting this research is at SMA Nurul Hasanah Medan. And this research activity starts from the legalization of the research proposal and research permit.

## **2.4. Method of Collecting Data**

The data collection method in this study is to use a questionnaire or questionnaire. This is a technique or way of collecting data indirectly. The data collection instrument or tool is also called a questionnaire containing a number of questions or statements that the respondent must answer or respond to.

In addition, the observation method is also used. According to Hasan (2002: 86) Observation is the selection,

modification, recording, and coding of a series of behaviors and conditions relating to the organization, in accordance with empirical goals. This observation is done by observing objects such as the use of imperative sentences in a school environment.

## **2.5. Data Analysis Technique**

In fulfilling the validity of this research data triangulation was carried out with the source. According to Patton, triangulation with sources means comparing and checking back the degree of confidence of information obtained through different time and tools in qualitative research (Moleong, 2007: 29). Triangulation with sources carried out in this study was to compare the results of the interviews with the contents of the related documents.

According to Patton (Moleong, 2001: 103), data analysis is the process of arranging data sequences, organizing them into patterns, categories and basic descriptions. The data analysis technique used in this study was to use the steps as proposed by Bungin (2003: 70).

### **1) Data Collection**

Data collection is an integral part of data analysis activities. Data collection activities in this study were to use questionnaires and observations.

### **2) Data Reduction**

Data reduction is a method used by researchers in carrying out analyzes to emphasize, shorten, focus, discard things that are not important and organize data in such a way that they can draw conclusions or obtain main findings.

### **3) Data Display**

In order to get a clear picture of the overall data, which in the end will be able to draw conclusions, the researcher tries to compile it into a good and clear presentation of the data so that it can be understood and understood.

### **4) Conclusion Drawing and Verification**

It is the final activity of data analysis. Drawing conclusions in the form of

interpretation activities, it means that finding the meaning of the data that has been presented. Data that has been analyzed, explained and interpreted in the form of words to describe the facts in the field, meaning or to answer research questions which are then taken the gist.

### 3. RESULT

Politeness is the most important aspect of language because it can facilitate communication interactions between individuals. In the world of sociolinguistics, politeness is related to 'politeness', 'respect', 'good attitude', or 'proper behavior'. In everyday life, the relationship between politeness and proper behavior implies that politeness is not only related to language, but also to non-verbal behavior. The resulting expressions also affect politeness, so to produce good communication it is hoped that it can give the right expression so that the speech partner does not respond wrongly to what is conveyed by the speaker.

The results showed that the students of grade XII SMA Nurul Hasanah Medan used imperative utterances by using six strategies out of eight strategies that were used as parameters. The six strategies are (1) use indirect speech, (2) show a pessimistic attitude, (3) minimize coercion, (4) apologize, (5) use an impersonal form, and (6) say the speech act as politeness general in nature. The strategy can be described in detail as follows:

#### 1) Use indirect speech

Language politeness greatly affects the speakers and speech partners of the language itself. Language spoken politely can make speakers and language partners feel calm when communicating. One of the strategies used is indirect speech. This speech is used by students when they want to ask their upperclassmen for help, contained in the sentence "Can I ask for help get the drinking place, Sis?" This sentence indicates that the speech used is indirect. The speech used is also polite because it tells seniors to want to help the

juniors to take the drinking space. To give the effect of politeness, the speaker uses an indirect interrogative sentence which begins with a politeness marker, namely a request that uses the word "please" and the word greeting "sis".

Another example is also found in the sentence "Can I ask for help bringing this book to class?", There is a request for a friend to bring a book to the class, this is expressed by female students to male students so that they can help them bring books to class. This utterance was delivered with an expression full of hope. This is done using indirect speech.

"Please get the eraser, bro", is an imperative sentence uttered by a speaker who intends to ask the speech partner to get the item desired by the speaker. Speakers say "bro" because the speaker's age is younger than the speech partner, this is done to respect the speech partner and can be said to be polite because speakers use the respectful greeting, namely "bro".

In the sentence "Can you borrow your pen?" Indirect speech is also used, because the speaker feels the need to speak politely and the expression used is hopeful so that his friend can lend him a pen.

Based on the data above, it can be seen that imperative sentences delivered using interrogative sentences will sound more polite. The interrogative sentence used by the speaker is a way for the speaker to protect his face if the speech partner does not fulfill the speaker's wish, then he is not too ashamed of his wish.

#### 2) Show a pessimistic attitude

"You want to ask for help, but are afraid that you will get angry", in this sentence there is a clear desire to ask, but by showing a pessimistic attitude which is intended so that the speech partner can respond positively to what is asked by the speaker. The use of the word "please" in the above utterance is a speaker's way of making the imperative level of the request more polite. The expressions that appear are expressions of hope, this is because speakers really expect their speech partners

to fulfill the wishes of the speakers. The sentence used is an imperative sentence which is a sentence that contains the intention of ordering or asking the speech partner to do something as desired by the speaker.

### 3) Minimizing coercion

In the sentence "Can you do this for a moment?" expressed by one of the students to his friend, stated that the request was to minimize coercion on his friend, in order to get a good response so that his friend could help him with the task.

Then the strategy of minimizing coercion is also found in the sentence "Can you hold this bag for a moment?", In that sentence the speaker asks the speech partner to hold the bag the speaker is holding because the speaker is going to the toilet and it is difficult to hold it.

### 4) Apologize

The next strategy is to ask for forgiveness, this is contained in the sentence "Previously I am sorry, but if this answer is the most appropriate, then we will write this one". This sentence came out during a group discussion discussing which answer was more appropriate to write. After going through a long discussion, one of the students said the sentence to ask his partner to write the most appropriate answer. To give the effect of politeness, the speaker uses an indirect declarative sentence which begins with a politeness marker, namely an apology that uses the word "sorry".

In the sentence "Sorry, can I come in?", This is an expression of apology when speaking is also a strategy to create polite communication because the speech partner will feel appreciated when the speaker uses apologies at the beginning.

"I'm sorry, I came late, ma'am," the use of the word sorry was spoken by students because they were late coming to school. Minimizing losses is done by speakers so that speech partners do not feel hurt because of the actions of speakers who are late arriving. The above shows

that the speech carried out by two people with different statuses, the teacher has a higher status while the student has a lower status in terms of age.

### 5) Use Impersonal Forms

The impersonal form is a form that does not mention the speaker or the interlocutor, for example in the sentence "It looks like this table has to be shifted". This sentence was thrown by a female student to a male student, this is so that the male student can move the table.

In addition, "It's hot during our class" is a sentence requesting to immediately turn on the fan because their classroom is hot.

One strategy to create polite communication in communicating activities is by not mentioning speakers and listeners. So, in the above sentence it can be seen that the speaker does not mention who he is speaking to in order to create the impression of polite communication.

"This class looks lonely", this statement was conveyed by the class leader because none of his friends entered the class. This language politeness is done by the speaker not mentioning who he is speaking to. So, it is hoped that speakers can maintain good relations with their speech partners and not neglect the principle of courtesy.

### 6) Say the speech act as general courtesy

As general courtesy, examples of speech acts are "smoke-free area", "no activation of cell phones", "no speaking during exams", "no cheating". This politeness is a direct but general submission of a speaker's request or desire so that the speech partner fulfills the speaker's request.

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

Politeness in language is an important thing needed in communicating, especially between a student and the teacher. For those who are educated, it is appropriate to apply the principle of politeness in everyday life because this is a

personal mirror in communicating with others, including politeness. Based on the results and discussion, it can be concluded that students of grade XII SMA Nurul Hasanah Medan use imperative speech in their daily speech acts. There are 6 (six) politeness strategies used. This study uses six strategies from eight strategies which are used as parameters. The six strategies include (1) using indirect speech, (2) showing a pessimistic attitude, (3) minimizing coercion, (4) apologizing, (5) using impersonal forms, and (6) uttering the speech act as politeness. general. This strategy involves speakers and interlocutors in activities.

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