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‘Being Polite when Being Violated’: The Analysis of Perlocutionary Act of The Victims of Domestic Violence

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Abstract

Being polite is a choice because some people prefer being impolite in one condition and being polite about other conditions. Even in communication, when what people said insulted the hearer. That hearer might be provoked and get emotion. Commonly, such a situation can bring about anger. Anger is in line with being polite. However, there are still some people who are still polite even though they were being violated. The research focuses on the use of the perlocutionary act of violated women. The object of this article is to identify the types of politeness used. The data were taken in Sumatera Barat by using having an interview, note-taking, and recording. There were around ten women as informants. These women were the victims of domestic violence. The analysis is done by using the concept of a perlocutionary act [1] [2]. The analysis is done using descriptive analysis. There are three types of politeness strategies used as the perlocutionary act, including bald on record, negative politeness, and don't do FTA.

Keywords: perlocutionary act, politeness, violence, women.

INTRODUCTION

When saying something, one is of great possibility to insult others. It is because, as a means of communication, language is not only used to inform but also to express [3]. When expressing something, the language and strategies used must be different from those in a normal situation. It may lead to inconveniences of the hearer. Even, when the utterances are regarded as violating, the response of the hearer can be rough or impolite.

It is what commonly occurs. Bad utterance may be chided in badly as well. When quarreling or fighting, impolite utterances are possibly chosen by both participants. However, there were still some people that politely respond to an utterance even though they were violated.

As the study of speakers' intention, Pragmatics deals with context. It is impossible to get the meaning of one's utterance if there is no context. By Pragmatic concept, what people intended to when saying something can be identified.

One concept in Pragmatics is speech act. Speech act is defined as performing via language. That when saying something, actually someone is doing something [4] [5]. Performance via language [6] [3]–[6]. In speech act, when saying something, the speaker is also doing something.

There are three pillars of speech act, locutionary act (the act of saying something), illocutionary act (the act of doing something), and perlocutionary act (the act of responding something or the effect of the utterance) [3] [1] [6].

- 1) You are very beautiful.
- 2) Can we go now?
- 3) I like that program, but I have another program. Thank you.

These three utterances 1 -3 contain the three pillars of speech act. The elocutionary acts are the utterances themselves? **You are very beautiful; Can we go now?; and I like that program, but I have another program. Thank you.** There contains action within the utterances: 1) to praise; 2) to ask; and 3) to refuse. The effects of the utterances can be 1) saying thank you because of that praise; 2) accepting or refusing; and 3) keep asking and persuading the hearer.

The perlocutionary act of each utterance 1-3 can be different depending on the context and the understanding of the hearer. Hearer might differently understand the speaker means. If there is no shared knowledge or common ground of the participants [9], the communication can be failed [10].

Such failure of communication can be identified when the participants are in anger. An impolite utterance often expresses anger. It is what is commonly found in the violation of women.

The writing, then, is trying to describe how the perlocutionary act of the victims of domestic violence reacts politely. What kind of politeness is used to respond to the violation becomes the focus in this article?

METHODS

The research was conducted in Sumatera Barat. There were three areas for collecting data, Padang, Tanah Datar, and Lima Puluh Kota. There were around ten women as the victims of domestic violence, giving the data. The data were collected by doing some kinds of open-ended interviews, note-taking, recording, and focus group discussion.

The concept of politeness [11][12] was used to analyze the data. Besides, the perlocutionary act of the utterance became the data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Violence Against Women, Perlocutionary Act, and Being Polite

Violence against women is defined as kind of activity in which there is an act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life [13][14]. There are four types of violence. They are 1) physical, 2) psychological, 3) sexual, and 4) economical.

The violence against women is like an iceberg [15][16] in which the occurrence gets bigger and bigger from time to time but only small-seen. Thus, society regards that the number of violence is not significant. Factually, 348.446 women become victims of violence [17]. Mostly, the perpetrators are special boyfriend and the biological father [17][18]. This is very ironical.

Some of the victims reacted by resisting and rebelling. However, some others are reacted positively and still keep being nice to the perpetrator. These reactions are called a perlocutionary act [19] [7].

Perlocutionary act is the act or reaction toward an utterance or action [20]. Even though the action is verbally done, the reaction can be various. It can also be verbally done or in the form of action. It fully depends on the context. Context is regarded as a speech container. What we say and we react must be based on the context. Sometimes, we can get angry toward

utterances that are insulting or even we smile and keep being patient toward that hurt. The anger can be expressed politely or impolitely.

Politeness is in line with one's face. The utterances regarded as polite when there is no threatening inside [21]. When an utterance can keep one's face save, it is categorized polite. Thus, the indicator of politeness is whether the hearer is insulted, threatened, or not [22].

There are two general types of politeness: 1) General politeness and 2) Do not do FTA FTA [22] [23]. The first type comprises a) bald on record; b) positive politeness; c) negative politeness; and d) off record. In perlocutionary act of the victims of the violence against women in Sumatera Barat, there are five types of politeness. They are a) bald on record; b) positive politeness; c) negative politeness; d) off record; and e) don't do FTA.

4) A: *Dasar urang kampung! Ndak tau diuntuang. Angkek kaki kau dari siko!*

'You're just an uninformed village girl. Do not realize who you are. Leave this home!'

B: *Maaf, Da.*

'I am sorry, My husband.'

In utterance 4, the speaker (A) seemed very angry. He humiliated the more here by saying that she opposed but asking for sorry. As the wife, B did not resist her husband. She tried to do what her husband wanted, even though it was violating her.

B still behaves politely and responding to what A said in a good way. Such a kind of politeness is categorized as negative politeness [24]. Negative politeness means the speaker tries to impose the hearer to do what she said. A, in this case, tried to ask for forgiveness. She apologized to her husband even though what she did was not wrong. Since the husband is a temperamental person, she tried to be patient and spoke politely.

5) A: *Ndak bisa kau maaja anak? Manga se kau di rumah? Mangangak se karajo kau?*

'Can't you educate the children? What are you doing at home? Do't you do anything?'

B: *Awak mangarajoan nan Uda suruah tadi.*

'I do what you ordered.'

A got angry because he thought that his wife could not do her role as he expected to. His anger was expressed in utterance 5 A. This utterance is categorized as the violence since it can insult the wife. However, the wife tried not to fight back. Explaining what her husband wanted her to do is the reaction *Awak mangarajoan nan Uda suruah tadi*. Even though A did not care with what B said, what B did is a kind of politeness with the type bald on record [22]. Bald on record means the speaker is saying something in line with what she means. *Awak mangarajoan nan Uda suruah tadi* is informing that she could not keep eyes on children fully because she had to do the order of A.

- 6) A: *Kalera kau mah. Manyasa den kawin jo kau!*
 ‘What a bad woman. I regret getting married with you’
 B: *...(just silent)*

What B did in utterance 6 is a do't do FTA. Don't do FTA means that the speaker said nothing. Being silent is regarded as the wisest way to save one's face [21] [22]. By saying nothing, the speaker may avoid the threatening of hearer's face [23].

The politeness used by the victims of domestic violence toward women is variously done. However, among the three 1) bald on record; 2) negative politeness; and 3) don't do FTA. Among the three, the perlocutionary act of the victims of domestic violence is don't do FTA. It is due to the consideration that being silent is the safest way to control the situation of the husband, who is in high emotion. The occurrence of each type of politeness can be seen in the following chart.

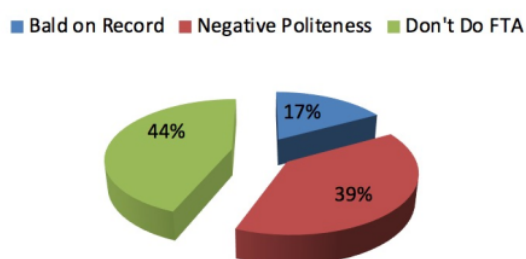


Fig 1. The Cooccurrence of Politeness

The chart 1 clearly shows that *Don't do FTA* becomes the choice of the victims of the domestic violence most. There is about 44% of the victims put *don't do FTA* as the reaction of the violence. It is contradictory with the *bald on record*, which occurs at the least, around 17% followed by negative politeness, 39%. It is in line with the consideration that when the victims give a verbal response, the perpetrators may react brutally. It will be dangerous for the victims. She might be killed [25][10]. So, being silent or do not do FTA is regarded as the wisest and the safest perlocutionary of the violence experienced by women domestically.

CONCLUSION

Whatever the reason, being polite must be on the priority. Being polite never puts someone in a low position. Even being polite creates respect from others. Violation against women is often found in society. Even though some people regard the violence under the domestic domain, it can be allowed. In the sense that nobody may do violations toward whoever. Women are the creatures to be loved and cared not to ber insulted of hurt physically and psychologically.

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