Research Article

Section: Literature, Linguistics & Criticism

Investigating the implementation of politeness strategies in conveying of God's word from the Bible

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Abstract
This study analyzes the utilization of politeness strategies in conveying the message of God from the Bible. Utilizing a qualitative research design, this study examines the delivery of God's message as a crucial aspect of religious practice that necessitates special attention to the communication strategies employed. People carrying out spoken communication tend to avoid rude, offensive, harsh, or impolite words, phrases, and apply polite behavior such as using polite expressions in communication. The use of linguistic means of a polite nature becomes important not only for foreign speakers of the language, familiarization with the information necessary for studying the language can only be presented in a dialectical contradiction. In this regard, the use of politeness strategies proves to be an essential factor that influences how religious messages are received and comprehended by the congregation. This article endeavors to examine the application of politeness strategies in conveying God's message, focusing on the principles of positive and negative politeness in religious communication. Ultimately, implementing politeness strategies in conveying God's message not only ensures effective communication but also fosters a friendly and accepting environment for the congregation. Therefore, the use of politeness strategies plays a vital role in fortifying the connection between individuals and God and enhancing the significance of religious messages in everyday life.

Keywords: Politeness Strategy, God's word, Bible, religion, sociolinguistics

Public Interest Statement

The results and discussions in this paper underline the importance of using politeness strategies when missionaries are conveying God's word from the Bible to outsiders. Politeness strategies are important to maintain the value of politeness, to avoid misunderstanding and hostility, and to build a positive relationship by creating a peaceful society. Otherwise, if politeness strategies are ignored by using the impoliteness language form, social aggression may occur between several religions and non-religions in society. Information about politeness strategies can be beneficial to the Department of Language and the Committee of Translation of the Bible by providing knowledge about politeness strategies in any style of daily language to make different versions of the Bible, while it creates the polite language in conveying the word of God from the Bible, including in terms of advising the polite term in any cultures in society.

Introduction

Politeness strategies are a set of sociocultural norms, which becomes one of the topics of sociolinguistics, pragmatics, and conversation analysis (Purba et al., 2024). The reason is the increasing number of linguistic phenomena that cannot be adequately covered by grammar rules and lexical meanings. The lexicon and the grammar can only explain our linguistic knowledge system at a very abstract level. There are many things within the ways we use language which require more specialized bases than the lexicon and the grammar. Politeness is one of the fields of linguistic study that addresses the way we use language on a social level. We use language to perform many different types of acts. At the most basic level, we exchange and subtly manipulate linguistic forms to express our thoughts and ideas to people who do not know them. At a second level, we use linguistic forms that perform a variety of conventionalized speech acts, like making requests, offers, compliments, and many others.

For many years, the core problem for expressing conciseness about the meaning in the context of politeness is the use of the address form and the basic role of 'speaker' and 'addressee' as a locator of the participants. Describing such meaning is definitely important since there is a strong connection between politeness, politeness strategy, and the language of belief as one of the linguistic study branches that explores the linguistic manifestation related to the phenomenon called belief in an individual and usually experienced on a daily basis. Different languages have different sets of politeness strategies, and their reliance on different strategies can be closely connected to the level of power within society. English is traditionally described as a language that places a high premium on face consideration. There are many more formulas for hedging, qualifying statements, and other features of what is called indirectness in English than in some other languages

Politeness strategies are a crucial foundation in human interaction, particularly in the context of communication. These strategies involve conveying messages effectively while also adhering to social norms and ethical standards that are prevalent in a particular culture. However, the concept of politeness in the delivery of God's Word from the Bible is an intriguing topic that warrants further exploration.

The Bible, as a sacred text that is highly regarded and serves as a guide for believers, conveys divine messages using various styles and strategies. Therefore, analyzing the application of politeness strategies in the delivery of God's Word not only provides insights into how these messages were received by the community at that time but also has relevance in understanding how these messages can be applied in modern life.

The significance of exploring the politeness strategy in the delivery of God's Word lies in gaining a deeper understanding of the dynamics of communication between humans and the Divine. By examining how politeness strategies are manifested in sacred texts, we can appreciate the complexity and richness of the messages being conveyed and develop a better understanding of how to convey and apply these messages in everyday life.

In this research, an in-depth examination was conducted to the application of politeness strategies in delivering the Word of God from the Bible. We will explore specific examples of Bible texts and analyze

how the politeness strategy is executed in the delivery of the divine messages. Our aim is to provide a fresh perspective on how we can more effectively and meaningfully comprehend and apply the teachings of the Bible in our daily lives.

Furthermore, through this analysis, we can also identify intriguing phenomena that may arise in the process of delivering and comprehending God's Word. There may be variations in how different social groups interpret and respond to these sacred messages, or there may be changes in the use of politeness strategies alongside the development of culture and society. By recognizing these phenomena, we can gain a deeper understanding of the relevance and applicability of the Bible teachings in a contemporary context.

Thus, this research will not only provide academic insight into the concept of politeness in a religious context, but also offer a more in-depth appreciation of the richness and complexity of the messages contained in the Word of God. By conducting research on politeness strategies in the delivery of God's Word from the Bible, practitioners can gain a deeper understanding of the delivery of religious messages, enhance the effectiveness of communication, and adjust messages for various groups of people.

THEORETICAL BASIS
Comprehending Politeness
Politeness is a set of rules and norms that govern social interaction and communication between individuals or groups. It encompasses how we speak, act, and respond to others, demonstrating appreciation, respect, and consideration for their feelings and needs. The notion of politeness also involves the use of polite language and avoiding behavior that is disruptive or offensive (Santoso, 2020).

Politeness can differ across cultures and is shaped by factors such as tradition, social values, and ethical norms that prevail in a particular society. In the context of communication, the practice of politeness plays a crucial role in fostering positive relationships and ensuring that messages are well-received by the recipient.

Principles of Politeness
Politeness principles are cultural norms that dictate appropriate behavior and interaction in various social settings. These principles can differ across cultures, but some common elements are typically present, as per research conducted by Bauto (2014).

a. Respect

The fundamental principle of politeness is to show respect for others by demonstrating attentiveness, gratitude, and kindness. This involves demonstrating a considerate attitude towards individual rights and taking into account the feelings and requirements of others.

b. Openness

Politeness encompasses the ability to actively listen and comprehend the viewpoints of others. This involves being receptive to input, demonstrating respect for differences, and engaging in honest and transparent communication

c. Empathy

The essence of politeness is the capacity to recognize and comprehend the emotions of others. This calls for the capability to empathize with the situations and experiences of others, and to express genuine interest and comprehension.

d. Caution

Politeness involves demonstrating consideration in both behavior and communication, which comprises employing respectful language, evaluating situations accurately, and refraining from engaging in behavior that is disruptive or offensive.

e. Conformity of context

The tenet of politeness mandates that individuals take into consideration and show deference to the customs and conventions of cultural and situational relevance. This encompasses a comprehension of what is acceptable in a variety of social settings, and making modifications to one's conduct and communication based on the environment.

Adherence to these principles of politeness lays the groundwork for positive and collaborative social exchanges, and significantly contributes to fostering empathy and synergy among individuals and communities in today's world.

Politeness Strategies

The politeness strategy in communication refers to the way we interact with others with respect and pay attention to the applicable social norms. According to Brown and Levinson (as cited in Nurazizah, et al, 2024), this involves the selection of words and actions that are not only communicatively effective, but also take into account the feelings and needs of others. There are two main aspects of the politeness strategy: positive politeness, where we declare goodness or agreement, and negative politeness, where we avoid causing discomfort or offense to others. Examples of positive politeness include using expressions of gratitude, giving praise, or expressing requests politely, while negative politeness involves being polite in our speech, avoiding imposing on others, and being considerate of their feelings.

This politeness strategy is important in building harmonious relationships and avoiding conflicts in social interaction.

a. Positive Politeness Strategy.
    This approach entails using language that demonstrates respect and consideration for others. It involves expressing gratitude, offering praise, or engaging in other courteous acts that are intended to foster better interpersonal connections and convey politeness.
b. Negative Politeness Strategy
    This approach entails employing language that aims to prevent inconvenience or discomfort to others. This encompasses the utilization of apologies, requests for authorization, or other communications that show consideration for the personal boundaries or preferences of others.
c. Bald on Record Strategy
    The objective of this strategy is to communicate candidly and openly, without any inhibitions. This approach is typically employed in scenarios where the interpersonal connections between individuals are already established or in situations where the context demands prioritizing substance over etiquette.
d. Off-record strategy
    This strategy entails conveying information discreetly, frequently through subtle hints or indirect suggestions, with the aim of sidestepping potential disagreements or unease. This can involve the utilization of humor, irony, or nonverbal cues to express ideas without explicitly stating them.
e. Considerate Strategy.
    The aim of this strategy is to consider the emotions and requirements of others during communication. This entails using empathetic language and being attentive to the context and the impact of the message on the recipient.
f. Indirectness Strategy
    This strategy entails the utilization of indirect or vague language to convey messages, which is frequently employed in situations where straightforward honesty might lead to discomfort or disagreement.

The effectiveness of politeness strategies is context-dependent and can vary depending on the relationship between the communicator and the audience. Being knowledgeable about these strategies can enable individuals to select the most fitting approach for different communication scenarios.

RESEARCH METHODS

A. Research Design

According to Silaen in Putri (2022), research design involves planning and implementing the entire research process. In this study, the researcher utilized exploratory and descriptive research methods. As per Sugiyono (2017), exploratory and descriptive research is a method used to describe research results, but the findings cannot be used to make broader conclusions (Ansari et al., 2023). On the other hand, Arikunto (2016) suggests that exploratory research is conducted to explore the reasons behind a particular phenomenon.

The research method used in this study is a descriptive approach or qualitative study (Darmalaksana, 2020; Sutrisno et al., 2023; Herman et al., 2024). The study's findings were based on literature reviews of books, journal articles, and other sources. In general, research methods, as previously discussed, can be classified into two types: qualitative research (Gunawan, 2013; Herman, Purba and Saputra, 2023) and quantitative research (Abdussamad, 2021). Qualitative research, as per Abdussamad (2021), involves examining natural phenomena in their real-life settings, where researchers play a crucial role in data collection and analysis (Purba et al., 2024). The data collection techniques used in qualitative research include triangulation, inductive data analysis, and the results are more focused on meaning than generalization. Social research methods can also be approached in various ways (Suyanto, 2015).

B. Instruments of Data Collection

1. Literature Study

    Literature studies are conducted to enhance understanding of various concepts that serve as a foundation or guideline for the research process. Additionally, researchers utilize literature studies in the collection of data. In this context, literature study is a form of secondary data that assists in the research process by gathering information from sources such as newspaper articles, books, and previous scientific studies. The goal of literature study is to uncover facts and comprehend the methodology employed (Darmalaksana, 2020).

    In literature studies, researchers employ data collection techniques that involve reading and recording articles about research implementation procedures found in books and documents.

2. Documentation

    As per Sugiyono's research on quantitative, qualitative, and R&D research methods (2016), it is stated that "Documents are essentially records of past events. They can take various forms, such as written texts, images, or tangible creations (Purba et al., 2023; Andayani et al., 2023; Rony et al., 2024). These documents serve as evidence of the outcomes of verbal and non-verbal communication, as well as the obstacles faced by the author during their study."

C. Technique of Data Analysis

1. *Data Reduction*

    Data reduction is a process that entails simplification, abstraction, and initial data transformation, which is derived from written records in a specific field (Herman et al., 2024). This process takes place continuously during qualitative research. One of the subsequent stages in the data reduction process is categorizing data, which involves grouping similar units of data together. Data interpretation, on the other hand, is a broader process that involves searching for and providing a detailed explanation of the true meaning of analyzed data. In this study, the researcher selected and classified the data obtained from their research on librarians' perceptions.

2. *Data Display*

    At this point in the research process, scientists devise a summary of information that allows them to draw conclusions and take action. The organization of data often employed in this study is known as narrative text. This particular form of text aims to provide a description of the information that has been previously classified regarding the perception of librarian performance, which then

serves as the basis for drawing conclusions (Purba et al., 2023; Niswa et al., 2023). Lastly, these conclusions are presented in a narrative format.

3. *Conclusion/Verifying*

Researchers aim to draw conclusions and verify them by examining the meaning of every symptom they gather from the field, taking note of any patterns or configurations that may exist, and understanding the causality of phenomena and their proportions. At this stage, the author derives conclusions from the data that has been collected earlier and then matches the records and observations made by the author during the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of Politeness Strategies in conveying the God's Word from the Bible

In the context of delivering God's Word, it is essential to recognize the concept of politeness in various narratives, teachings, and moral teachings in the Bible. This includes understanding how religious messages are conveyed by adhering to the norms of politeness. Examples of applications can be found in the style of language used, respect for divine authority, and efforts to avoid unnecessary conflicts or conflicts (Yetik, et al., 2022).

For instance, in the Books of Old Testament, the prophets choose their words wisely when delivering God's messages to the people of Israel. They not only use firm and authoritative language to convey punishment for sin, but also show mercy and hope for the repentance of the people. The application of politeness strategies in this case helps maintain a balance between divine truth and God's grace.

In the New Testament, the use of politeness strategies can also be found in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Although often conveying a firm and challenging message, Jesus also uses loving language and understanding of human conditions. This is reflected in the use of parables and analogy to communicate spiritual truth in a way that can be understood by various levels of society (Irawati, 2023).

The application of politeness strategies in the delivery of God's Word not only helps ensure that religious messages are well received by the listener, but also reflect the wisdom and love that radiates from God. By understanding and implementing a politeness strategy in preaching or teaching the word of God, religious practitioners can help build a better relationship between the congregation and God and strengthen the meaning and relevance of religious messages in daily life.

The practical Application of Politeness Strategy in conveying the God's Word from the Bible

The delivery of the Bible is of utmost importance, and it requires the implementation of politeness strategies. This is because the Bible is not only a sacred text, but it is also a divine message that guides and influences people. According to Brown and Levinson in (Nurazizah, et al, 2024), the following principles should be considered when implementing a politeness strategy in the delivery of the Bible:

1. Positive Politeness

When delivering the Bible, it is important to show appreciation and attention to the congregation. Expressing gratitude for their presence, praising their kindness, and recognizing their dedication in studying God's Word are examples of positive politeness strategies that can be employed.

2. Negative Politeness

Respecting the diversity of opinions and spiritual personal space of each individual is crucial. Avoiding direct assessments that demean or criticize is important. Instead, offering views with language that respects and shows understanding of their perspective is essential.

3. Bald on Record

Using clear and direct language in conveying the teachings of the Bible is important. However, it is also crucial to convey messages gently and lovingly, especially when facing sensitive or difficult topics.

4. Off-record

When handling sensitive or controversial issues, indirect language can be used to open discussions or deliver messages gently. This approach provides space for listeners to reflect on messages without feeling attacked or confronted directly.

5. Indirectness

When delivering difficult or challenging messages, sensitive language and attention to the situation are important. Using parables, analogy, or stories to convey spiritual truth indirectly, especially if the topic is sensitive or can cause conflict, can be an effective approach. Using politeness strategies when delivering the Bible can help preachers or religious teachers convey God's Word with respect, tenderness, and sensitivity towards the congregation's needs and emotions. This approach allows the message to resonate more effectively with the listeners, potentially strengthening their relationship with God.

Challenges and Controversies

As could be elaborated above, linguistic choices in conveying communicative events are very influenced by contextual aspects of communication, such as norms, manners, or politeness principles that mutualize the talk. The case of imbuing conveyance of God's word with politeness (without ignorance of the core of the message) is an interesting issue for investigation. The investigation will discuss the application of politeness strategies in conveying messages or sermons. The idea of utilizing religious discussion for examining politeness principles was encountered several years ago when discussing with siblings about brunch presented by church boards. Whether the menu had been ordered by inviting (religious) sermon deliverer, or at least was delivered by the church's chairperson in inviting someone whom they had selected, this issue could possibly be discussed by including househelpers.

First, those who follow sermons in church are those who are already inhabitants in the waiting lists of heaven, as it is mandatory to believe in the teachings or messages from the Bible. The only objective to follow sermons is to recall and reconfirm the nice teachings from the Bible, the ones that can only lead to the true interpretation that would ensure them to be welcomed at the heaven's gate. It is also important to remember that terminology or the notion used to name the use of politeness principles is cross-culturally very context-sensitive. Hence, even in the same language, the same principle can become a very sensitive issue. It became a very sensitive issue since most church services are recorded and videographed, and the sermons are uploaded and can be downloaded. These sermons are downloaded mostly not only to be watched once by new people or "prospective inhabitants" to be converted, but also several more times by the same people as the teachings sometimes triggered them.

A problem with politeness that is frequently marked as controversial is the sense of it as more than one metaproblem talked about. That politeness principles are not just optional, while faith is trumped if the two principles do not come to reconcile. The question for politeness might be more tension reading. We don't tend to see tension in metadiscussion as offering separate sets of ground rules of talk for participants of disagreement, criticism, and disagreements, and rules of politeness that govern ordinary talk.

Interpretation and Contextual Understanding

This study basically discusses how the translation implements politeness strategies to maintain face and how these translations help in conveying the message of truth, which is to bring righteousness to readers. Strategy Modification compiled by Grundstrom provides some reference for the translators' efforts to adjust its strategy in conveying the message of truth. These two dimensions, which are important in the conveyance of messages, must be translated properly and accurately according to the source text and able to convey and maintain both of those dimensions for target readers from different culture and background within each civilization. These two aspects are indeed created by the Biblical characters in real life, but they also originate from the different cultural background of Biblical authors who are inspired and influenced by the Holy Spirit.

Understand and interpret the Bible, people rely on some specific methods such as exegesis, hermeneutics, and other Bible-based methods. By using these methods, people can derive many interpretations and explain the biblical texts. These interpretations are varied because those are adjusted to the first context of the text by taking into account linguistic characteristics, historical, geographical, social, culture, and religious background. These context variations guide to different interpretation results from various scholars. As decades leads to centuries, those interpretations and explanations of the biblical texts will also become essential keys in deciphering the literal meaning of the biblical text and guiding people to have the best possible interpretation and understanding. However, interpreting and understanding text based on a particular viewpoint can lead to an inaccuracy.

Balancing Politeness with Doctrinal Fidelity

The question that comes to mind is how to balance politeness with doctrinal fidelity. In the context of semantically and discursively/pragmatically oriented translation, how can relevant implicatures be transmitted not only in terms of what to say, but also how to say it? In other words, what linguistic strategies can be used in translation to communicate the tone of a biblical warning, exhortation, or consolation? The idea that the translator has the authority to make decisions on the basis of his assessment of the text's user requirements as well as the inferences they are likely to be making has some prima facie merits. According to many advocates of cognitive translation at least, inclusion of the reader's viewpoint in the process of literary translation clearly reflects the principle of contemplated end-use of the translation.

There will be occasions, however, when the circle of inferences to be communicated is tightly 'buttoned down' in the Christian tradition: divine commands, for instance, should be capable of very little latitude in the inferences they are to be inferred to represent. Apostolic guilt pushers like Paul sometimes create an "imperfect prodding finger" when they seek to trigger the "required" effect of guilt. They would regard the reader's inferring will "against conscience" as a sign of deafness, indeed as a "profound and ultimately dangerous" failure to infer or refusal to. Such considerations may make it apparent that any notion of "reflected" reader-determined implications in translation is bound to be something of a misnomer in practice; the reader is under "no necessity to become entangled any further in the inference game" in many cases. Although readers are clearly not "stopped from" considering (what they may infer in respect of) an apostle's communication, they are generally expected to familiarize themselves with how Paul had expressed himself directly.

Conclusion

The effective use of politeness strategies in delivering the Word of God from the Bible plays a crucial role in fostering a healthy relationship between preachers or religious teachers and their congregation. By adhering to the principles of positive and negative politeness, preachers can convey God's message with full tenderness, respect, and consideration for the congregation's feelings and needs. For instance, using language that shows appreciation, employing parables or analogy to convey sensitive messages, and avoiding direct confrontation that could cause discomfort are all effective politeness strategies in this context. Furthermore, the use of politeness strategies also contributes to creating a positive impression of the church or religious community, fostering a friendly and acceptable environment for the congregation. By recognizing and appreciating the diversity of individual opinions and spiritual experiences, preachers can create space for deeper reflection, discussion, and spiritual growth for the congregation. Thus, the application of politeness strategies in delivering the Word of God not only guarantees that religious messages are conveyed clearly and effectively, but also reflects the love and mercy that underlies the teachings of these religions. This reinforces the relationship between individuals and God and deepens the significance and relevance of religious messages in everyday life. Therefore, it is essential for preachers and religious teachers to continue to consider the application of politeness strategies when delivering religious messages, in order to ensure that God's Word can touch the hearts and minds of the church with tenderness, understanding, and deep

respect.

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