The Politeness Strategy of the Main Character of the Short Story "Abu Sir wa Abu Qir": Brown Levinson

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Abstract-This study aims to analyze the politeness strategies of the main character in the short story "Abu Sir wa Abu Qir" by Kamil Kaylani using Brown and Levinson's theoretical framework. This research focuses on the politeness strategies used by the main characters in the short story Abu Sir wa Abu Qir to maintain their social face in various interaction situations. This research uses descriptive qualitative approach with reading and note-taking method. The data sources used are dialog excerpts in the short story Abu Sir wa Abu Qir. And the data analysis is done by identifying and classifying the speech of the two main characters based on the types of positive and negative politeness strategies used. The results of this study show the existence of positive politeness strategies in the form of offering or promising something, giving attention, giving praise to the interlocutor. Meanwhile, negative politeness strategies in this short story are in the form of indirect expressions & question expressions. In this short story, politeness strategies reflect the values and cultural norms of society, showing that politeness not only functions as manners, to maintain social harmony.

Keywords: Abu Sir wa Abu Qir, Brown Levinson, Negative Face, Positive Face, Politeness Strategy.

I. INTRODUCTION

Language politeness is an important component in human social communication. Brown Levinson in (Mawaddah & Fitriani, 2021), suggest that language politeness is a strategy to convey an utterance as politely as possible in order to minimize gaps with others. This strategy is used to reduce the unpleasant consequences of the speakers speech on the interlocutor (Kusumaswarih, 2018). The use politeness in language not only reflects one's ethics, but also affects the effectiveness of interactions between individuals (Mailani et al., 2022). In various conditions, both official or unoffial, politeness plays a very important role in

creating and maintaining the harmony of a social relationship. Brown Levinson in (Aryani, 2019), states that therre is an action called face-threaning actions (FTA), namely actions that if carried out will threaten the positive or negative face of others (Aryani, 2019). To achieve polite communication, efforts are needed to understand the ideal communication standards that apply in the community (Faisal & Nurliza, 2018).

In the world of literature, short stories, which are one of the most popular forms of work, often represent the society and culture im which they were created. One of the interesting short stories to be studied with laguage politeness strategies is the short story Abu Sir wa Abu Qir

by Kamil Kaylani. This short story tells the story of a pair of friends named Abu Sir wa Abu Qir. Abu Sir is known as a kind-hearted person, reliable and always ready to help. Meanwhile, Abu Qir has a mysterious aura behind his friendly demeanor. However, this friendship hides a bitter reality. Abu Qir used Abu Sir's kindness for personal gain. Their relationship is like a cat and mouse game, which ends with Abu Qir's secret being revealed through a major event. This short story gives researches the opportunity to find and analyze various language politeness strategies in a particular socio-cultural context through the characters and conversations presented. Research studies related to politeness have been the concern of linguists for decades. Various theories and models have been developed to explain how politeness functions in various cultures and communication contexts. For example, the theory of politeness in this study is using Brown Levinson's perspective.

Brown and Levinson's perspective politeness strategy consist of 4 kinds. First, bald on recor strategy, which is when speakers speak directly and openly without preamble. This strategy is often used in urgent situations or between speakers and listeners who have a close relationship, such as friends or family, usually through direct imperative sentences (Ningsih, 2016). Second, positive politeness strategy, aims to reduce social distance and create familiarity between speakers and interlocutors. With this strategy, the speaker tries to build a positive self-image in front of the interlocutor (Septiani & Sofyan, 2022). Third, negative politeness strategy, an effort to maintain the feelings of the interlocutor by avoiding actions that can cause burden or pressure. Speakers choose more subtle words to respect the freedom of the interlocutor in responding (Normalita, 2021). Fourth, off record strategy (indirect strategy), aims to protect the face of the interlocutor by conveying the intention implicitly. Brown Levinson call this strategy the safest because the greater the potential threat to one's face., the higher the level of caution in speech (Mulyana et al., 2019). This strategy uses various forms of indirect language , such as clues, associations, suppositions, irony, metaphors, rhetorical questions, ambiguity, and ellipsis (Tahang, 2019).

Although there are 4 kinds of politeness strategies as explained above, this study will only discuss two politeness strategies, namely positive politeness and negative politeness strategies. Brown Levinson divides positive politeness strategies into 15 forms which include focusing attention on the interlocutor, showing signs of group solidarity, fostering an optimistic attitude, involving the interlocutor in the speakers activities, offering or promising something, avoiding incompatibility, exaggering interest, intensifying a sense of interest, giving compliments to the interlocutor, equalizing indentity, showing approval, using jokes, understanding wishes, asking for consideration, and returning kindness (Wiranty & Ramaniyar, 2023). Meanwhile, negative politeness strategy in (Wiranty & Ramaniyar, 2023), Brown Levinson divides them into 10 forms in the form of indirect expressions, being pessimistic, reducing the burden, expressing apologies, using plurals, expressing questions, using passive form, personalizing speakers and speech partners, general provisions, and normalization.

In the last ten years, studies on language politeness strategies have been conducted by many researches. At least the author found 7 kinds of studies related to this topic. The first is the study of politeness strategies in movie objects (Candra et al., 2024; Mawaddah & Fitriani, 2021; Rizki et al., 2023; Setiyono et al., 2021; Wulansafitri & Syaifudin, 2020), study of politeness strategies in novel objects (Afiska & Prabawa, 2019; Alviah, 2014; Amelia et al., 2020; Anggraini et al., 2023; Gaol et al., 2023; Muassomah et al., 2023), politeness strategies in serialized story objects (Hikmah et al., 2022), politeness strategies of game players in YouTube channels (Nurhawara et al., 2022), politeness strategies in live video objects (Insani, 2023), politeness strategies in anecdotal texts (Mulyana et al., 2019), and politeness strategies in written oral interaction (Budiarti, 2022).

This research has similarities and differences with previous studies. The similarity lies in the strategies used. Some previous studies also used language politeness strategies, among others: Analysis of Language Politeness in the Novel "Pulang" by Tere Liye (Amelia et al., 2020), Language Politeness Strategy in the Film "Assalamualaikum Calon Imam" (Setiyono et al., 2021), Langiage Politeness in Serial Stories "Mikul Dhuwur Mendhem Jero by Tiyasti in Djaka Lodang Magazine in 2017 (Hikmah et al., 2022), Brown-Levinson Model of Politeness in the Movie "Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijk" Author of Prof Dr. H. Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah (Rizki et al., 2023).

As for the difference between this research and the previous ine, namely the cultural context

used. This research focuses on how the culture of Abu Sir's character who still maintains a polite attitude despite being often betrayed by Abu Qir shows the importance of maintaining social harmony and politeness in communication. Although Abu Qir repeatedly made mistakes, Abu Sir did not immediately express his anger openly, but chose to convey criticism or feelings of dissatisfaction in a subtle and indirect way. This reflects how the Arab culture of maintaining politeness and avoiding direct confrontation is highly valued, especially in close social relationships, such as between friends or family. While the research conducted by (Muassomah et al., 2023), focused more on identifying politeness strategies in novels with a more general social approach, without delving deeply into the influence of Arabic culture on the formation of these strategies. Therefore, this study provides a deeper understanding of how culture affects communication patterns in literature, which distinguishes it from other studies that are broader in nature.

This research intends to conduct a study of politeness strategies in Arabic short story onjects to expand the study of politeness strategies, so that it is not only applied to the objects as the author has mentioned, but extends to the study of Arabic short stories. So that this study can enrich the scientific treasure in the topic of politeness strategies, but with a broader view, especially when it is related to the culture and interaction of Arab society. And because of the uniqueness of the characters and the moral message contained in it, the short story "Abu Sir wa Abu Qir" is considered worthy of research. The absence of previous research on this short story is a motivation to further explore the values contained in it. Therefore, this research is positioned to add to the findings of politeness strategies in the short story "Abu Sir wa Abu Qir". This research was conducted to analyze the positive and negative politeness srategies carried out by the main character in the short story "Abu Sir wa Abu Qir" based on Brown Levinson's perspective.

II. METHODS

This study uses a descriptive qualitative, because it focuses on short stories that contain conversations and social interactions between characters. Descriptive qualitative is an approach based on the philosophy of positivism, used to research on natural object conditions where researchers are useful as the main instrument in research (Sugiyono, 2022). Moleong in

(Zulfirman, 2022) suggests that desciptive qualitative is a type of approach that aims to find the truth of an object in natural conditions. This research describes and explains objectively the facts, properties, characteristics, and relationships between one element and another. The data collected in the form of dialogue quotations along with the context of their use, which are more appropriately analyzed descriptively and interpretatively rather than quantitatively. Through this approach, the research can also explore the application of politeness strategies by the main characters, their influence on the storyline, as well as their relation to social values and the dynamics of relationships between characters.

The data sourced in this study consist of primary data sources and secondary data sources. Primary data sources are the main source of research, while secondary data sources are references used to strengthen, compare, or verify the research results. In the analysis of politeness strategies, this source has a crucial role in developing a theoretical framework, supporting arguments, and connecting research with broader studies. As theoretical support, secondary sources are often utilized to elaborate fundamental concepts that are the main foothold in the research. The primary data source used in the research is the short story Abu Sir wa Abu Qir which describes the life of a pair of friends living in Egypt. Meanwhile, the secondary data sources are supporting references from books, articles, journals, and the like that are relevant to this research (Sugiyono, 2016).

The data collection method in this study was carried out by reading the short story thoroughly and repeatedly to understand the dialogue and interaction of the main characters (Abu Sir and Abu Qir). Then, the relevant dialogues were identified and categorized based on the politeness strategies used. The steps in the research include data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This short story tells an interesting comparison of a pair of best friens who have different personalities. Abu Sir, a figure known for his good character, likes to help others, is honest, not arrogant, and always prejudiced. Abu Qir, on the other hand, was cunning, arrogant, and often lied. He likes to steal and is always looking for personal gain. This short story shows that Abu Qir's goodness still brings him to a

good end, despite the various obstacles he faces. Meanwhile, Abu Qir's evil, although wrapped in sweetness, still brings him to a bad end (Kaylani, 2017). The following will present the result of the analysis and discussion related to the politeness strategies of positive face and negative face in the short story Abu Sir wa Abu Qir by Kamil Kaylani based on Brown Levinson's perspective.

Positive politeness strategy

Positive politeness strategy is defined as the sastisfaction of the interlocutor. In positive politeness, the speaker tries to convey good and polite attitudes and speech so that the interlocutor feels satisfied and appreciated. Positive politeness is a strategy used to show a familiar attitude towards the interlocutor, even though the interlocutor is not someone close to the speaker (Wiranty & Ramaniyar, 2023). There are three forms of positive politeness strategies in Abu Sir wa Abu Qir's short story, including paying attention to the interlocutor, offering of promising something, giving praise to the interlocutor.

Offering or promising something
Data 1

أَبُوْ قِيْر : "أَلَيْسَ خَيْرًا لَنَا أَنْ نُسَافِرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ آخَرَ، عَلَّنَا نَجِدُ رِزْقًا أَحْسَنَ مِمَّا وَجَدْنَاهُ فِيْ هَذَا الْبَلَدِ؟"

Data 1 occured when Abu Qir went bankrupt after his dye shop was shut down by a government judge. He went bankrupt because of his evil behavior that always deceived each of his customers. Then, he has an idea to move abroad, and offers the idea to his friend (Abu Sir) to come with him abroad. Data 1 shows the positive politeness strategy of offering something.

Data 2

فَقَالَ (أَبُوْ قِيْر) لَهُ (أَبُوْ صِيْر) : "عَاهِدْنِيْ إِذَنْ عَلَى أَنْ نَعْمَلَ بِجِدٍّ، وَنَقْسِمُ بَيْنَنَا كُلَّ مَا نُصِيْبُ مِنَ الرِّزْقِ بِالسَّوِيَّةِ"

Data 2 is an incident when Abu Qir invites Abu Sir to promise each other that when they are abroad, both of them willwork earnestly and share equally the wages fairly. Data 2 shows a positive politeness strategy of promising something.

Giving praise to interlocutor
Data 3

فَقَالَ (أَبُوْ قِيْر) لَهُ (أَبُوْ صِيْر) : "أَنْتَ حَلَّاقٌ ذَكِيٌّ مَاهِرٌ فِيْ صِنَاعَتِكَ. فَلَوْ حَلَقْتَ لِلْمَلِكِ حِيْنَ يَزُوْرُ حَمَّامَكَ لَزَادَ بِذَلِكَ سُرُوْرُهُ مِنْكَ"

Data 3 is Abu Qir's speech towards Abu Sir which contains praise. Abu Qir told Abu Sir that he (Abu Sir) was a barber who was very good at his job. The copliment was spoken with the aim that he (Abu Sir) shaved the king's hair when visiting his bath, while the king at that time had been persuades by Abu Qir, that Abu Sir wanted to kill him when he would shave hid hair.

Paying attention to interlocutor
Data 4

فَقَالَ (أَبُوْ قِيْر) لَهُ (مَلِك) : "إِنِّيْ أَعْرِفُ هَذَا الرَّجُلَ، وَقَدْ أَخْبَرَنِي أَنَّ مَلِكَ الْجَزَائِرَ الَّذِيْ انْتَصَرْتَ عَلَيْهِ فِيْ الْعَامِ الْمَاضِيْ وَقَهَرْتَهُ أَوْفَدَهُ إِلَى مَدِيْنَتِكَ لِيَحْتَالَ لِقَتْلِكَ، وَوَعَدَهُ بِمُكَافَأَةٍ عَظِيْمَةٍ إِذَا نَجَحَ فِيْ مَكِيْدَتِهِ. فَاحْذَرْهُ يَا مَوْلَايَ وَاحْمَدِ اللهَ عَلَى نَجَاتِكَ مِنْ شَرِّهِ فِى الْمَرَّةِ الأُوْلَى "

Data 4 is a dialog between Abu Qir and the king. This happened when Abu Qir pitted the king against Abu Sir. In this expression, Abu Qir behaves as if he is paying attention o yhe king, even though this attitude is done with the aim of launching his game plan. The sentences above is a form of positive politeness strategy because it contains an expression of attention to the interlocutor.

Negative politeness strategy
Negative politeness strategy is a type of politeness that deals with the negative face of the interlocutor. This politeness is related to rewarding behavior. In doing this strategy, the speaker wants to emphasize the relative strength of the interlocutor (Aryani, 2019). There are two forms of negative politeness strategies in the following explanation, namely indirect expression and question expression.

Indirect expression
Data 5

فَعَاهَدَهُ أَبُوْ صِيْر عَلَى ذَلِكَ، وَبَاعَ دُكَّانَهُ، وَاسْتَعَدَّ لِلسَّفَرِ مَعَهُ بِأَوَّلِ سَفِيْنَةٍ تَقُوْمُ مِنَ الْإِسْكَنْدَرِيَّةِ.

Data 5 is Abu Sir's answer when invited by Abu Qir to promise each other that the results of their work will always be divided fairly. And

finally the two of them moved together abroad and looked for work there. The sentence is included in the negative politeness strategy because it is an indirect expression.

Data 6

فَعَظُمَتْ دَهْشَةُ (أَبِيْ قِيْر)، وَعَرَضَ عَلَيهِ أَنْ يَقْبَلَهُ أَجِيْرًا عِنْدَهُ لِيُعَلِّمَهُ كَيْفَ يَصْبُغُ بِالْأَلْوَانِ الْمُخْتَلِفَةِ الْأُخْرَى.

Data 6 occurs when Abu Qir felt very surprised when he was looking at a clothing store in which there were only blue and white colors. When he found out about it, he took out his white handkerchief and begged the shop employee to paint the clothes there in red. Then the employee told him that they only knew the color blue. Abu Qir was even more surprised to hear this. Finally he begged, so that he could be accepted as an employee in the shop with the aim of teaching other employees how to dye clothes in different colors. However, Abu Qir's request was rejected by the shop owner. The sentence above is a form of negative politeness strategy because it is an indirect expression.

Data 7

... وَبَسَطَ لَهُ شَأْنَهُ فَسُرَّ الْمَلِكُ مِنْ فِكْرَتِهِ وَأَمَرَ بِبِنَاءِ مَصْبَغَةٍ كَبِيْرَةٍ لَهُ فِيْ أَحْسَنِ شَوَارِعِ الْمَدِيْنَةِ وَفْقَ مَا يَشْتَهِيْ.

Data 7 occurs when Abu Qir goes to see the king to complain that he has been refused a job at a clothing dye shop in the city. Not only did he complain, he also conveyed his brilliant idea about his ability in textiles. The king was pleased, and finally he ordered the construction of a large textile for him according to what Abu Qir wanted. The sentence is included in the negative politeness strategy because it is an indirect expression.

Data 8

وَشَفَعَ فِيْهِ (أَبُوْ صِيْر) فَلَمْ يَقْبَلِ الْمَلِكُ شَفَاعَتَهُ.

Data 8 describes the incident when Abu Sir told the story of his life with Abu Qir. Hearing Abu Sir's story, the king furious and ordered that Abu Qir be put in a sack and thrown into the sea. Knowing this, Abu Sir spontaneously begged the king not to punish Abu Qir, but the king did not comply with the request. The sentence above is included in the negative politeness strategy because it is an indirect expression.

Question expression
Data 9

أَبُوْ قِيْر : أَلَا تَزَالُ ـ أَيُّهَا اللِّصُّ الْخَبِيْثُ ـ تَتَسَلَّلُ إِلَى مَصْبَغَتِيْ لِتَسْرِقَ الثِّيَابَ مِنْهَا؟ أَلَمْ يَكْفِكَ مَا سَرَقْتَهُ مِنِّيْ فِيْ الْمَرَّاتِ السَّابِقَةِ؟

Data 9 occured when Abu Sir was visiting Abu Qir's dye shop. And when Abu Sir entered the dye shop, Abu Qir pretended not to recognize him and accused Abu Sir of being a sneaky person who tried to steal clothes in his shop (Abu Qir). The expression above is included in the negative politeness strategy because it is in the form of a question expression.

Data 10

أَبُوْ صِيْر : وَمَا هُوَ؟

Data 10 is an expression of Abu Sir's question to Abu Qir when Abu Qir tries to launch his plan to pit Abu Sir against the king. Abu Qir pretended as if he was giving a brilliant idea was about. The sentence is a form of negative politeness strategy because it is a question expression.

This study analyze the positive politeness strategies and negative politeness strategies used by two main characters in the short story "Abu Sir wa Abu Qir" by Kamil Kaylani based on Brown Levinson's perspective. In the research, 3 forms of politeness strategies were found which include offering or promising something, giving praise to the interlocutor, and giving attention to the interlocutor. In addition, 2 forms of negative politeness strategies were found which include indirect expressions and question expression. Meanwhile, in another study conducted by Muassomah and the team (2023) which analyzed the positive and negative politeness strategies in the Novel "Tahajjud Cinta Rania" with Erfin Goffman's perspective found 10 forms of positive politeness strategies which include attention, solidarity, friendship, giving questions, asking for approval, giving offers, asking for reasons, jokes, optimistic, giving gifts, and 4 forms of negative politeness strategies which include anger, apologizing, giving respect, and using general provisions (Muassomah et al., 2023).

Meanwhile, in another study conducted by Intan (2019) which analyzed the politeness

strategies used by American and Indonesian presenters in a talkshow found 5 forms of positive politeness strategies which included showing approval, offering or promising something, paying attention to the interlocutor, intensifying a sense of onterest, using jokes, and 1 form of negative politeness strategy in the form of indirect expression (Aryani, 2019).

In addition, in a study conducted by Dian (2022) which analyzed the politeness strategies of students in written oral interactions showed 2 forms of negative politeness in the form of expressions of apology and avoiding incompatibility, and 2 forms of positive politeness in the form of intensifying a sense of interest and offering or promising something (Budiarti, 2022).

IV. CONCLUSION

In the short story Abu Sir wa Abu Qir, positive politeness strategies can be recognized through intercations between characters that show efforts in building social relationships and creating intimacy. Positive politeness in this short story is found in the form of offering or promising something, paying attention to the interlocutor, and giving praise to the interlocutor. One form of this strategy is seen in the action when Abu Qir praises Abu Sir's skill in shaving, even though he does it to further his plan to pit Abu Sir and the king against each other. Meanwhile, negative politeness strategies are founs in indirect speech and questioning speech. Through these strategies, the short story "Abu Sir wa Abu Qir" illustrates how politeness is used in social interactions to maintain good relations and manage conflicts subtly.

This research has important implications in understanding the politeness of communication between individuals. Practically, this research is expected to increase everyone's awareness to be more careful in choosing words, both in formal and informal situations. Self-control in speaking is very important because inappropriate speech can damage the self-image of speakers and interlocutors, and affect interpersonal relationships. With this research, it is also hoped that everyone can be wiser in communication, create more harmonious interactions, and respect each other.

For future research, the researcher recommends expanding the study on positive and negative politeness strategies in other literary objects. This includes using studies on the application and violation of the principle of cooperation with a pragmatic approach. In addition, to deepen the study of the short story "Abu Sir wa Abu Qir", the sociology of literature approach can also be used to study this short story, especially in the study of social conflicts associated with the sociological character of society in Egypt and the Arab world in general.

Literary sociology and pragmatics are relevant in analyzing this short story because it not only displays personal conflicts, but also reflects the social and cultural values of Arab society. The conflict of good and evil in this short story illustrates social dynamics, such as injustice and society's response to honest versus opportunistic individuals. These two approaches allow researchers to explore social norms, moral concepts, character stratification, as well as the way the characters communicate based on the application of politeness strategies in their interactions. Thus, sociology of literature provides a broader context, making politeness strategies not only a means of communication, but also a reflection of culture and social structure.

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