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VIOLATIONS OF APPROBATION MAXIM IN SELECTED MOVIES

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ABSTRACT

Giving compliments to each other is one of the ways people express themselves through language. However, as one of the characteristics of politeness is not obligatory it made room for a violation to happen, and instead of giving high value to Os qualities, the speaker giving an unfavorable value to O's qualities. The aim of the research were (1) to identify violation of approbation maxim in a direct conversation of characters in the selected movies, (2) to investigate types of violation, and (3) to explore how the use of taboo words influence politeness. The data were utterances from four selected movies, namely, Princess Diary 1, High School Musical 1, Wild Child, and The DUFF. The research used the qualitative research method. The result of the research show (1) there are 49 data of violations of the approbation maxim, (2) types of the violation based on Leech (2014) that occur in the selected movies were insulting, complaining, and telling off, (3) the use of taboo words or in other word swearing influence the rudeness of the utterances.

Keywords: Politeness, Approbation, Maxim, Violation.

1. INTRODUCTION

A language is the main tool for communication. People use language to talk to their family, friends, lover, even stranger. It is also used in thanking, complementing, joking, and showing other expressions. Communication includes speaker and hearer, where the speaker's utterance contains a certain goal while the hearer tries to interpret the goal (Hanafiah et al., 2022; Rahman & Weda, 2019; Sukmawaty et al., 2022). Moreover, language also has a friend called context. Where the meaning of the utterance does not interpret as the way it is but is influenced by the context around it. The field in linguistics that studies this is pragmatics. Yule (1996) explains pragmatics as the study of speaker meaning, the study of contextual meaning, the study of how more gets communicated than is said, and the study of the expression of relative distance.

As mentioned above, giving a compliment is one example of expressing feelings through language. Holmes in Leech (2014) defines a compliment as a speech act that explicitly or implicitly attributes credit to someone other than the speaker, usually, the person addressed, for some "good" (possession, characteristic, skill, etc.) which is positively valued by the speaker and the hearer.

By giving a compliment it means the speaker says something pleasant to the hearer and is polite. As Noviani (2014) said being linguistically polite involves speaking to people appropriately in the right place and at the right time. People must be aware of the context of speaking because politeness in a certain area is different from others. In pragmatics, politeness is a theory that studied the relationship between language use and social behavior (Said et al., 2021; Andini et al., 2021).

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Leech (1983,2014) defines politeness as 'communicative altruism' aiming primarily at saving the Other's face- although he makes clear that this altruistic gesture has an egoistic counterpart since it also reverberates positively on the Speaker's face, this seems to be a rather a side-effect of a first and foremost 'you-oriented' attitude: "in polite utterance, the other person is considered the beneficiary and the speaker is not". Leech (1983) divided politeness into six maxims.

- (I) TACT MAXIM minimize cost to other, [and maximize benefit to other]
- (II) GENEROSITY MAXIM: minimize benefit to self, [and maximize cost to self]
- (III) APPROBATION MAXIM: minimize dispraise of other, [and maximize praise of other]
- (IV) MODESTY MAXIM: minimize praise to self, [and maximize dispraise to other]
- (V) AGREEMENT MAXIM: minimize disagreement between self and other [and maximize agreement between self and other]
- (VI) SYMPATHY MAXIM: minimize antipathy between self and other [and maximize sympathy between self and other.

As the theory of politeness principle receipts some critics, Leech (2014) presents a revised version of the model, taking the criticisms into account.

Table 1. The Component Maxims of the General Strategy of Politeness

Maxims	Related pair	Label for this	Typical
(expressed in an	of	Maxim	speech event
imperative mood)	Maxims		type(s)
(M1) give a high	Generosity,	Generosity	Commissives
value to O's wants	Tact		
(M2) give a low		Tact	Directives
value to S's wants			
(M3) give a high	Approbation,	Approbation	Compliments
value to O's	Modesty		
qualities			
(M4) give a low		Modesty	Self-
value to S's			devaluation
qualities			
(M5) give a high	Obligation	Obligation (of S	Apologizing,
value to S's		to O)	thanking
obligation to O			
(M6) give a low		Obligation (of O	Responses
value to O's		to S)	to thanks and
obligation to S			apologies
(M7) give a high	Opinion	Agreement	Agreeing,
value to O's			disagreeing
opinions			
(M8) give a low		Opinion	Giving
value to S's		reticence	opinions
opinions			

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(M9) give a high value to O's	Feeling	Sympathy	Congratulatin
value to O's feelings			g, commiseratin
			g
(M10) give a		Feeling	Suppressing
low value to S's feelings		reticence	feelings

O other person or people, i.e., other than the speaker/writer

Source: Leech (2014)

Out of the ten maxims, this research will focus on a maxim that is related to giving a compliment to the hearer, the approbation maxim. In this maxim, the speaker is expected to give praises to the hearer or the other party. On the other hand, speakers tend to avoid saying unpleasant things about the hearer or the other party. This maxim is only applicable in illocutionary functions classified by Leech as 'expressive', e.g. thanking, congratulating, pardoning, blaming, praising, condoling, etc., and 'assertive', e.g. stating, boasting, complaining, claiming, re-porting, etc. (Noviani, 2014)

However, one of the characteristics of politeness is not obligatory. People can be nonpolite: they normally will not behave politely unless there is a reason to be polite (even if the reason is somewhat vague, such as the following convention) (Leech, 2014). That is why the approbation maxim can be violated by the speaker. Instead of giving a high value to O's qualities, the speaker gives an unfavorable value to O's qualities; it can express insulting, complaining, and telling-off.

The violation can be investigated by the context and also marked by the extra charge of rudeness. For example, taboo terms alluding to physical sex, bodily excretion, or other taboo topics can be found aplenty in spoken corpora and other sources. They extend from the milder end of the scale (piss, sh*t, bugger, balls, etc.) through moderately offensive items (like a bastard) to the more extreme end (f*cking, cunt, motherf*cker), the last group having the most aggravating effect. Such swear words are used (in certain social contexts) to express a range of negative emotions—anger, irritation, annoyance, etc.—and when added to pragmalinguistically impolite utterances. (Leech, 2014)

Another characteristic of politeness is a transaction of value between speaker and hearer and other parties (Leech, 2014). For example, in thanking, requesting, offering, giving a compliment, congratulating, etc. However, as politeness also is not obligatory some violations occurred in communication. Such as insulting, complaining, being rude, swearing, telling off, etc. These types of speech acts are related to the violation of the approbation maxim.

Furthermore, the researcher chooses movies as the media to analyze politeness. The researcher choose movies that have a similar setting that talks about teenagers and high school, they are The Princess Diaries about an ordinary teenager Mia Thermopolis, who turned out as the heir of the Genovia Kingdom. High School Musical 1 is about excellent student Gabriella and basketball team captain Troy who took part in their school musical and make division opinions of other students. Wild Child is about a naughty Poppy who is sent to boarding school in England from Malibu. The Duff is about the main character Bianca and the term Duff (Designated Ugly Fat Friend).

Therefore, the research aims to (1) to identify violation of approbation maxim in direct

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conversation of characters in the selected movies, (2) to investigate types of violation, and (3) to explore how the using of taboo words influnce politeness.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The first work is written by Rohmahwati & Yuliasri (2017), entitled, "Violation of Politeness Maxims in The Television Series The Big Bang Theory". The purposes of this research were to analyze what kind of politeness maxims had been violated by the speaker, as well as the purpose of the violation, and the effect of the use of the politeness principle itself. The research found the violation of the Tact Maxim, Generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, sympathy maxim, consideration maxim, and patience maxim, with 12 kinds of purposes of violation of the maxims, namely warning, advising, admonishing, requesting, suggesting, urging, offering, insisting, alleging, boasting, refusing, and condoling. Furthermore, the research analyzes the effects of the politeness principle that is divided into two, namely following the maxims and violating the maxims.

The second work was conducted by Fauzi, et. al (2020), entitled, "Violation of Politeness Principle On Students Speech In Multicultural Society: Sosiopragmatic Study". The research is conducted in a multicultural school where students get a moral lesson in class and ideally will follow the formula of the politeness principle. However, the researcher found students' utterances that violate the maxim. By using a pragmatic and descriptive qualitative approach and found violations in all of the maxims, namely tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim.

The next study was written by Novandini (2020), under the title "The Violation of Politeness Principles used by The Characters in Spongebob Squarepants Cartoon Animation". The research found tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim were violated by characters' utterances. Furthermore, the agreement maxim became the most violated maxim. The research also found the intention of violating the maxim, namely showing worry, disbelief, dislike, as well as vexation, and also joking, lying, and boasting.

The next study was conducted by Purwanti and Herbianto (2021), entitled "Politeness Principles Violation of "Mind Your Language" Comedy Series: A Pragmatic Analysis". The purposes of the research were to analyze types of politeness principle violations and the effects of the violation on the characters. The research found violations of the politeness principle in tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. Meanwhile, there are 14 effects of politeness principle violation that are felt by characters, namely curious, confused, trusted, angry, annoyed, shy, shocked, panicked, happy, bored, enthusiastic, laugh, disappointed, and strange.

The previous studies above present the violation of the Politeness Principle. The researcher assumed that the research is relevant to the topic that the researcher chooses because the research has the same focus on the same field, which is the analysis of violation of the politeness principle's maxims. The previous studies showed that there are various studies and researches carried out on the utterances that violate the formula of the maxims. Furthermore, it also shows that all of the maxims had been violated. Hence, it made the researcher interested to investigate more about one of the maxims, that has the desire to make a hearer happy, which is the approbation maxim in the selected movies.

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3. METHOD

This research uses the qualitative research method. According to Mayoux (2001), qualitative methods are usually understood to include qualitative interviews, direct observation, and cases studies. Direct observation includes participant and non-participant observation, ethnographic diaries, and more recently photography and video. Therefore, this research used selected movies as the source of data and analyzed it by using Leech's politeness theory (1983, 2014) The researcher used some techniques in collecting the data, starting with watching the movies one by one, using the note-taking technique to collect all utterances that portrait violation of approbation maxim and downloading the movie scripts from the internet. In analyzing the data the researcher uses four different steps; they are presenting the data, describing, interpreting, and concluding.

4. FINDINGS

The data findings on this research related to the violations of the approbation maxim. Based on the research that has been done thorough observation of the selected movies, The Princes Diary 1, High School Musical 1, Wild Child, and The DUFF the researcher found violations occur in direct conversation of some characters.

Table 2. Violations of Approbation in Selected Movies

N	Movie	D
0		ata
1	The Princess Diary (2001)	14
2	High School Musical 1	3
	(2006)	
3	Wild Child (2008)	12
4	The Duff (2015)	20
	Total	49

A. The Princess Diary (2001)

Data 1 (40:47)

Lily You look ridiculous. You should sue.

Mia Well, um...I know it's a little straighter and shorter-

Lily Weirder!

The conversation took place in the situation where Mia came to pick up Lily and his brother. However, while lily brother is wonderstruck by Mia's new look, on other hand Lily employed a violation of the approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's qualities by complaining about Mia's new hair by saying the word ridiculous and weirder also using an exclamation mark.

Data 2 (42:47)

Mia Just because your hair sucks, get off mine!

The utterance occurs around the school where Mia got angry with her best friend Lily who keeps complaining about her new look. Here Mia Lily employed violation of approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's qualities by using the word sucks and the exclamation mark to express Mia's anger towards Lily. Hence, it can conclude Mia violate the maxim to express her anger and as self-defense.

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Data 3 (01:28:07)

Lana

Listen, Jere. My friends and I were wondering. The sweater you're wearing was it designed for you... or did the knitting machine just blow up?

The utterances occur outside the school during the lunch break. While Mia sat next to Jeremiah Lana the speaker Lana give a question to Jeremiah and ask about his outfit. However, as she deliver her question Lana employed violation of the approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's qualities by delivering The sweater you're wearing was it designed for you... or did the knitting machine just blow up? with an annoying intonation to mocking Jeremiah's style and indicate that his sweater is not well-made.

Data 4 (01:28:52)

Mia

Yeah, I am, but you know what? Someday I might grow out of that... but you wiII never stop being a jerk.

The utterances occur where after what Lana did to Jeremiah in Data 3, Mia calls Lana and give a compliment to her cheerleader uniform and thinks something can complete her look. Then Mia soiled Lana's clothes with ice cream and employed violation of approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's qualities by saying the word jerk that can be marked as the extra charge of rudeness. However, like data 2 here Mia violated the maxim to oppose the bullying by Lana toward Jeremiah.

B. High School Musical 1 (2006) Data 5 (21:16)

Data 5 (21:16)

Coach Darbus, we are days away from our biggest

Bolton game of the year

Darbus

And we, Bolton, are in the midst of our auditions for our winter musicale as well! This school is about more than just young men in baggy shorts flinging balls for touchdowns!

Coach Baskets! They shoot baskets

Bolton

The conversation took place in front of the principal in the principal office where Ms. Darbus and Coach Bolton argue about the detention rule. While Coach Bolton complained that the detention that Ms. Darbus gave to Troy and Chad is interfering with the basketball team practice as they will have a big match, Ms. Darbus employed violation of the approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's qualities by referring to the basketball team as just young men in baggy shorts flinging balls for touchdowns and with an exclamation mark that expresses her anger and made Coach Bolton felt offensive.

Data 6 (29:55)

Darbus Well, that was just..... very disturbing, Go see a counselor, Uhh, Next!

The utterances occur in the situation where the school musical club was doing an audition for the next show. Two students sang the song with a style that made Ms. Darbus and other students confuse. Ms. Darbus employed violation of the approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's by giving bad feedback to the students and saying the word very that emphasize the word disturbing, also the interjection Uhh and exclamation mark.

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Data 7 (53:37)

Troy Dad, this is Gabriella Montez
Coach Ah, your detention buddy

Bolton

Gabrie I'll see you later, Troy, Nice meeting you,

lla Coach Bolton,

The conversation took place on the school's indoor basketball court, where Troy was practicing alone because he wasn't as focused on the team as he used to be, and he was responsible for the team as the team captain. Then Gabriella came to the basketball field to meet Troy, as they were playing Coach Bolton came does not happy with her presence. Coach Bolton employed violation of the approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's in response to Troy's utterance with the term detention buddy that offend Gabriella.

C. Wild Child (2008)

Data 8 (08:47)

Harriet Harriet. Head Girl. You shake the hand of the

HeadGirl out of respect.

Poppy When the Head Girl has earned my respect,

then I'll shake her hand, biatch.

The conversation took place in a situation where students came back to Abbey Mount after the holiday. Poppy came there for the first time and met the principal as well other students. Then, Harriet came to her and introduced herself as the Head Girl; however, Poppy did not care about it. Then, Harriet took her hand said that she need to respect the HeadGirl. However, Poppy employed violation of approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to other and also saying the word that has an impact as an extra charge of rudeness biatch to Harriet.

Data 9 (17:11)

Harriet We meet again. How sublime. Learn the rules.

When it comes to right of way, there is a hierarchy. Teachers, prefects, scholars, dogs,

vermin, Americans.

The utterances occur in the hallway where students just came back from their cafeteria. Harriet and her friends met again with Poppy and her roommate, as Poppy was the new student Harriet tells her there is a hierarchy in the school. Although the word American is generally not offensive, in this data Harriet employed violation of the approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's by putting someone nationality American in the lower level of hierarchy refers to Poppy herself is in the lower rank of the school.

Data 10 (27:32)

Ms. You might surprise yourself and actually enjoy

Kingsly it.

Poppy This is my punishment? This school is so

weird.

The conversation took place in the situation where Poppy went to Ms. Kingsley's office after her fight with Harriet. Miss Kingsley gave Alice in Wonderland novel to Poppy as punishment; however, Poppy employed violation of the approbation maxim by giving an

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unfavorable value to O's by saying This school is so weird, using the adverb so to emphasize the word weird to express her dislike of the school.

Data 11 (51:53)

Harriet

What are you doing? This is a themed costume

party, not a dwarf prostitutes' convention.

The utterances occur when the school was having a costume party. Harriet came in Elizabeth Bennet costume from Pride and Prejudice and call Freddie Mr. Darcy. Then Poppy came in a sexy outfit and Harriet complained about her choice of outfit. Harriet employed violation of approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's by referring to Poppy's outfit with a dwarf prostitutes' convention as she came quite inappropriately according to her.

D. The Duff (2015)

Data 12 (12:56)

Madison

This is why we are not dating, okay? Because you, my friend, are a juvenile dipsh*t. I could be dating college guys,

Wesley

Yeah.

The conversation happened while Madison was throwing a party and wanted to document everything because she wanted to be a reality TV star. However, her boyfriend Wesley did not like that idea and it made Madison mad. Madison employed violation of approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's by say a juvenile dipsh*t to insult Wesley. This word works as an extra charge of rudeness and milder end of the scale by using the word sh*t.

Data 13 (12:56)

Wesley

People ask you questions about them, right,

because that's your job as their DUFF.

Bianca

Sorry, as their what?

Wesley

DUFF. D-U-F-F. Designated Ugly Fat Friend.

Bianca

What did you just say to me?

Wesley

It's not like a big deal, okay? I mean, like, every group of friends has one. The one who doesn't look as good, thus making their friends look better. The one who's approachable and easy to talk to, because no one's trying to get in their pants. And if you don't know who it is, chances are it's you.

The conversation took place in a situation where Wesley and Bianca have a conversation at Madison's party, as they talk Wesley called Bianca the DUFF of her circle. Wesley employed violation of the approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's by saying the term DUFF to Bianca and made her offended.

Data 14 (23:57)

Bianca

I'm a free woman. And don't you dare be creeping on my Pinterest, whores

The utterances occur in the library and Bianca still thinking about what Wesley said to her. After thinking about the word DUFF and analyzing why people always look at Jess and Casey

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while she seems invisible around them. Bianca talk to Jess and Cassie and said that she is mad because she thought her best friends were duffing her and then they have debated and unfollowed each other. Bianca employed violation of the approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's data by using the swearing word whores to her best friends. This word works as the extra charge of rudeness and milder end of the scale to emphasize her feeling.

Data 15 (01:17:49)

Toby The song was mine.

Bianca Yeah. I'm not surprised, because it was

a piece of sh*t. And so are you. Have a nice

night.

The conversation took place in front of Toby's house after Bianca and he had dinner. However, as they talk, while Bianca thought it was a date, Toby thought Bianca will come with Jess and Casey because Tobby is interested in them, and it made Bianca offend because Tobby uses her as the Duff to get to know her cool best friends. Bianca employed violation of the approbation maxim by giving an unfavorable value to O's by saying swearing words that were moderately offensive a piece of sh*t to him.

Based on the data of the English language shown in the findings, here are the types of violations that occur in the selected movies:

Table 3. Types of Violation in Selected Movies

N	Movie	Types of Violation		
0		Insu	Complai	Telling
		lting	ning	-Off
1	The Princess Diary			
	(2001)			
2	High School Musical 1			-
	(2006)			
3	Wild Child (2008)			
4	The Duff (2015)			

The approbation maxim has a purpose to give a high value to O's qualities with the typical speech event type being compliments. On the other hand, the violation of the approbation maxim occurs when the speaker gives an unfavorable value to O's qualities with the typical speech event are insulting, complaining, and telling off. Based on Table 3 the speech event insulting and complaining are occur in all of the movies, while the speech event telling off occurs in every movie except for High School Musical 1. The movie High School Musical 1 has the lowest data out of four movies. The speech event that occurs is only insulting and complaining. These speech events express underestimating others, complaining about another club, and calling someone by another name. The speech event insulting expressed in body shaming others, making jokes about other styles, bullying, calling others other names, and taboo words. Complaining is expressed in giving critiques and blaming others.

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Table 4. The Use of Taboo Words

Movie			
The Princess Diary (2001)	High School Musical 1 (2006)	Wild Child (2008)	The Duff (2015)
Jerk	-	Biatch	Whore
		Bloody	Dipsh*t
		Horse Face	Man-
		Daft	Whore
		Bitch	The DUFF
		Utter	D*ck Face
		Moron	D*ck
			Piece of
			Sh*t

The use of taboo words helps in investigating which utterances that violate the General Strategy of Politeness's maxim or not. The use of taboo words usually will affect the quality of others, moreover, it also depends on the context, it can be considered polite or impolite. However, in this research, the researcher found the use of taboo words is offensive to the hearer. As shown in Table four taboo words occur in all movies except for High School Musical 1, although a kind of mean girl character exists in the movie. Meanwhile, The DUFF has the most taboo words where the protagonist also delivers the word. It shows that it doe not deepened on if there is a stereotypical mean character in the movie or not.

5. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, it was revealed that violation of the approbation maxim occurs in all selected movies. Leech (1983) described the purpose approbation of approbation maxim to maximize praise and minimize dispraise of others, then in Leech (2014) revised version of the model, taking the criticisms into account and presenting the component maxims of the General Strategy of Politeness. Here approbation maxim is explained as a maxim that gives a high value to O's qualities. However, if the speaker gives an unfavorable value to O's qualities, it means the speaker violates the approbation maxim. The violation can express in insulting, complaining, and telling off. Meanwhile, the use of taboo words helps to investigate the violation in utterances. Moreover, as the research focuses on the direct conversation of speaker and hearer, the researcher suggests for the future writer to look at the violation that include the third party. Thus, the result will be more in-depth and generated.

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