

Polite Utterances in Balinese

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Abstract. Local languages play a very important strategy in developing local cultures. It is because the local languages are used as a means to develop cultures of the language speakers. Balinese language as one of the big life languages in Indonesia also has a great role in developing Balinese culture. Balinese language is spoken by approximately five million people living in Bali and beyond. Balinese language contains Balinese local wisdom used by the people as the basis of behaving in their daily lives. Balinese language as a part of Balinese culture also has important role in developing tourism business in Bali island. It could be said that Bali is famous in the world as a tourism area because of its culture and the people of Bali. To maintain the culture, Balinese language should be maintained as well. For this reason people of Bali should use Balinese in their daily lives especially due to their culture and tradition activities. However, today the young Balinese people have a problem in using Balinese language. Their daily communication is influenced by the use of Indonesian language as national language and foreign languages like English and Japanese. Bali as the most famous tourism area is visited by plenty of people from all over the world. For this problem, this paper tries to talk about the way to make polite utterances in Balinese language. This paper analysed data taken from informants living in Bali island. And based on the analysis it was found that exactly the speakers want to have smooth communication in Balinese language. However, they do not know how to use Balinese language in a good way. Then it was found that to make polite communication the speakers can consider the use of indirect speech and the polite forms of imperative in addition to formal language.

Keywords: Balinese language, communication, politeness, culture

1 Introduction

One of the big local languages in Indonesia is Balinese language. It is spoken by about five million people mostly living in Bali island. Balinese language plays an important strategy in developing Balinese culture. As a famous tourism area in the world Bali island is well-known because of its culture. The culture could be developed continuously depends on the role of Balinese language. Balinese language also contains the teaching and values of Hindu-Bali that is thought as the basis of Balinese people lives. One of the reasons why Balinese language could exist up to now is because this language is mostly used by the people in Bali in many different tradition and religion activities. For this reason, Balinese language takes some interests from

Balinese society and local government of Bali to make policy that this language should be maintained. The ways decided to maintain the language are: (1) the local government issued local decree stating that Balinese language should be preserved, (2) Balinese language is one of the local subjects that should be given to students in elementary schools., (3) Balinese language should be used in any traditional and culture activities. Thus, people are expected to convey ideas, opinions, and desires to other people in Balinese language in their daily lives.

The speakers of Balinese language choose the right words and the right way when they use their language to convey something during the conversation so that another purpose of communication like to build social relationships is achieved [1]. For this reason, the speakers of Balinese believe that the growth of the community depends on the intensity and role of the language in the society. When the language takes higher role in the social and cultural life of society, it means the growth of that language will be much better. Meanwhile, if the speakers of a language do not use their language anymore because of any reasons, it would be not strange if the language will die and become a frozen language. As a communication tool, a language is very potential to be used to achieve goals in human life. Using polite language and appropriate words in communication makes the communication run well, smoothly, and harmonically. The people involved in the communication would provide a positive response in any communication they make. Researches regarding politeness in communication has been often conducted.

In this part of paper it is proposed that polite communication has some impacts, such as (1) polite communication is one of the soft skills that is very important to enhance especially for the young generation, (2) the use of polite and appropriate language is very important in any kinds of jobs or professions, (3) the use of good and polite language is also necessary for the speakers to be able to work in a good team and provide good services to customers especially in tourism sector, (4) in a language teaching, politeness has become a priority focus in language development. To maintain effective classroom interaction, a polite communication is considered as one way to be conducted. In this case, teachers and students in classroom need to practice politeness as a way to create effective classroom interaction [2]. It means that in the education field, it is very important for every speaker of a particular language to master the language politeness system. Regarding to this point, speakers of Balinese language also have to study the way to communicate politely to make the communication harmony. This study is focused on polite speaking strategies in Balinese. This study would be very useful for the young Balinese speakers to improve their competence and understanding to make polite communication..

2 Method

This paper used data taken from observation and interview methods. The methods were completed with their appropriate techniques [9]. Techniques like recording technique and note-taking technique were applied to support the methods. The observation method was used

to observe the informant's language and the data from Balinese story books. Meanwhile, the interview to informants was applied to complete data taken from the observation.

The next step was the data analysis. The collected data was analysed based on the problems discussed in this paper. Data was analysed due to how the speakers use Balinese language to express polite utterances. Linguistic strategies applied to result in polite expression was also the focus of the analysis. Then, the result description of discussion was presented descriptively to make it easily understood.

3 Result and Discussion

3.1 The Use of Indirect Speech Act

As explained above, indirect speech is a speech expressed in a form or type of sentence and the meaning that the sentence contains is not in accordance with the type of the speech or sentence, but the meaning of the words composing the sentence is in accordance with what the speaker intends [10]. Such a sentence or utterance is often used in Balinese with the intention of making speech more polite, as can be seen in the following discussion.

3.1.1 Declarative sentence

Declarative sentence aims at expressing information to others. However, in fact the declarative sentences are often used to other intentions, such as command and requests. The followings are declarative sentences used to express other meaning or intention as mentioned before. The use of declarative for non-declarative meaning is a part of the indirect speech act. The indirect speech act is applied to make more polite expressions in order to keep the communication harmonically in Balinese. This is the way often done by Balinese people in their daily Balines language communication.

a. *Tu, ne sube peteng, sing pantes anak luh nu di sisi kali jani.*

Tu this already night, not good girl still out of home at this time

'Tu, It has been late at night, it is not good for the girl still outside at this time'

b. *I Bapa padidi jumah, tiang lakar luas ke kantor.*

DEF father alone at home, I will go to office

'Father is alone at home and I will go to office'

c. *De, cicinge konden ngamah kanti kali jani.*

De, dog-DEF has not eat until at time

'De, no one has fed the dog yet up to now'

In the example (1), the speaker wants to inform the hearer to go home immediately because it is already late at night. The declarative sentence above does not aim to tell the situation but it is rather used to request the hearer to go home immediately. In sentence (2) the speaker does not only want to inform the hearer about what the sentence means, but the speaker tends to tell the hearer to look after his father who is alone at home because the speaker will soon leave the house to go to the office. Furthermore, in sentence (3), the speaker

is not telling the hearer about the information that the sentence contains but in this case the speaker tends to tell the hearer to feed the dog soon. The three examples show that the declarative sentences are not used to provide information but they are rather used to request or command someone to do thing. Thus, the sense and meaning contained implicitly in the sentences is more referring to a command than to giving an information. The purpose of the declaratives is as a command or a request can be clearly seen if the sentences are completed with a response as shown in the following conversation (1a-3a).

- (1a) A: *Tu, ne sube peteng, sing pantes anak luh nu di sisi kali jani.*
 Tu this already night, not good girl still out of home at this time
 'Tu, It has been late at night, it is not good for the girl still outside at this time'
 B: *Nggih Bli, tiang sube lakar mulih jani.*
 Ok brother, i already will go home now
 'Okay brother I will go home now'
- (2a) A: *I Bapa padidi jumah, tiang lakar luas ke kantor.*
 DEF father alone at home, I will go to office
 'Father is alone at home and I will go to office'
 B: *Nah Mbok, kalahin sube*
 Okay sister, go please
 Okay sister, please you may leave home now'
- (3a) A: *De, cicinge kondem ngamah kanti kali jani.*
 De, dog-DEF has not eat until at time
 'De, no one has fed the dog yet up to now'
 B: *Nah bli, jani lakar bang.*
 Okay brother, right now I will give
 Okay brother, I will feed it now'

The conversations above show that the hearer (B) directly gets the point that declarative sentences used or uttered by the speaker (A) are not only as an information but the the meaning of the declaratives is more likely understood as a request or command. In this case, the hearer's response of the declaratives spoken by the speaker is the action due to what the speakers want the hearer to do. This is the implementation of indirect speech in Balinese. It means, Balinese speakers use declarative sentence for imperative meaning or sense.

3.1.2 Interrogative Sentence

Interrogative is commonly used to ask something or someone to hearers. However, interrogative is often used for another aims. In Balinese language, interrogative sentence is often used to make request or polite command. The examples can be seen in the followings.

- (1) *Sube nyambat di kamar ibune dek?*
 Already sweep in room mother dek-DEF dek?
 'Have you swept my bed room dek?'
- (2) *Bisa meliang ibu taluh jani dek?*
 Can buy mother egg now dek
 'Can you buy me egg right now dek?'

(3) *Adi konden kayeh Gus?*

Why not yet take shower gus

'Why haven't you taken shower yet son?

From the data above, it is known that interrogative sentences (1), (2), and (3) besides they have the meaning of a question, these three sentences also contain the meaning of a command or request and even the meaning of an indirect command dominates the meaning of the sentences. The meaning of the sentences is the speaker orders the hearer to sweep the speaker's bed room at (1) the speaker orders the hearer to buy the speaker eggs at (2), and the speaker orders the hearer to to take a shower soon at (3). This is a fact that the sentence used to command is an interrogative sentence. In this case the hearer can immediately understand that the interrogative sentence addressed to her means more of a command than just an asking. This is caused by contextual factors in which all speakers involved in communication already understand that the meaning of the interrogative sentence is more like a request or command than just an asking. To see more clearly that the speech means a command, pay attention to the answer given by the hearer in conversations below.

(1a) A: *Sube nyampat di kamar ibune dek?*

Already sweep in room mother dek-DEF dek?

'Have you swept my bed room dek?'

B: *Nggih, mangkin bu.*

Yes, now mom

'Yes, I am doing right now mom'

(2a) A: *Bisa meliang ibu taluh jani dek?*

Can buy mother egg now dek

'Can you buy me egg right now dek?'

B: *Nggih, akude meli bu?*

Yes, how many buy mom

'Yes, how many eggs should I buy mom?'

(3a) A: *Adi konden kayeh Gus?*

Why not yet take shower gus

'Why haven't you taken shower yet son?'

B: *Bin sep bu, nu panes*

Later mom, still hot

'Later on mom, I am feeling hot'

From the conversation above it is known that the hearer can directly catch the point that the speaker's interrogative is not to tell information but it is a kind of request and command. The hearer looks to do something ordered by the speaker as stated in the verb of the sentence. The meaning of request and command of the interrogative is still relevant with the literal meaning of the elements of the sentence so that it is often called as literal request. One of the features that the interrogative sentences tend to be a request and command is the hearer give a response to do the order of the speaker by saying *nggih* 'yes' in the beginning of the sentence.

3.2 The Use of Polite Imperative

In Balinese, imperative sentences are normally often used for request and command purposes. However, to make the imperative more polite, the syntactic marker *tulung* 'please/help' is needed before the verb with suffix *-ang/-in*. This can be seen in the following example

- (1) *Tulung jemakang bli tiyuk di paon!*
Help take-DEF brother knife in kitchen
'Please take me a knife in the kitchen!'
- (2) *Tulung gaenang meme banten pejati!*
Help make-DEF mother offering pejati
'Please make me an offering!'
- (3) *Tulung arahin I meme apang sing mailehan!*
Help tell-DEF DEF mother not PREF-go anywhere
'Please tell mother not to go anywhere!'

The three imperatives above are often used to make orders or command more polite. In the imperatives there is the syntactic marker *tulung* 'please/help' before the verb with the suffix *-ang* in (1) and (2) and the verb with the suffix *-in* in (3). However, the syntactic marker *tulung* 'please/help' in the three imperatives can be changed by adding the suffix *-in* into *tulungin* 'help' and followed by the object and verb with the prefix *N-* as in (4) and (5) and the verb with the affix *N-* and *-ang* if there are 2 objects in the sentence as in (6). These can be seen in the following examples.

- (4) *Tulungin bli nyemak tiyuk di paon!*
Help-SUF brother PREF-take knife in kitchen
'Please help me take a knife in the kitchen!'
- (5) *Tulungin meme ngae banten pejati!*
Help-SUF mother PREF-make offering pejati
'Please help mother make pejati offering!'
- (6) *Tulungin bli ngatehang mboke ke peken!*
Help-SUF brother PREF-drive sister to market
'Please help me drive my wife to the market!'

4 Conclusion

From the analysis carried out above several conclusions can be made as follows. First, every language speaker wants his communication with other parties to run smoothly and harmoniously. To create harmonious communication, politeness in speaking is needed. Second, several Balinese speakers, especially the young speakers find problem to speak in upper level Balinese so that they need to know other strategies for expressing politeness in Balinese communication. The last, some strategies for speaking politely in Balinese, apart from using upper level language, are using indirect speech and polite forms of imperative.

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