POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN CONVERSATION CLOSING DISPLAYED ON A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL’S ENGLISH TEXT BOOK ENTITLED “ENGLISH FOR SMK 1”

a final project
submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana Pendidikan in English

by
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2012
ABSTRACT

Sari, Astri W. 2012. Politeness Strategies in Conversational Closing Displayed on a Vocational School’s English Text Book Entitled “English for SMK 1”. Final project. English Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Semarang State University. First advisor: Prof. Dr. Dwi Rukmini, Second Advisor: Dr. Dwi Anggani L.B., M.Pd.

Key Word : politeness strategy, closing strategy, conversational text, English text book, qualitative research

This study concerns with the use of closing strategy and also politeness strategy in the conversational closing of conversational text. The objectives of this study are to find out whether the conversation closings of the conversational texts from a vocational school’s English text book entitled English for SMK 1 published by Pusat Perbukuan Departemen Pendidikan Nasional in 2008 applied any closing strategy and what kind of politeness strategy realized in the closing moves.

To conduct the study, I adopted a qualitative research design. I took the 10th grade of vocational school’s English text book entitled English for SMK 1 as the subject of the study. In analyzing the closing moves, I used the closing strategy theory offered by Schegloff and Sacks as quoted by Coppock (2005) in her journal about politeness strategy in conversation closing. For the politeness strategy, I referred to Brown and Levinson (1978) theory.

The closing strategies that were applied in the closing moves which including three kinds of closing strategies; positive face-saving strategies, combined positive and negative politeness strategies, and solidarity strategies; each of them is divided into smaller parts. I also observed the usage of politeness strategies. They are including three big parts; positive politeness, negative politeness, and also off record; each of them divided into smaller parts which are more detailed and specific.

The results of this study revealed that all of the conversation closing taken from the text book applied both closing strategies and also politeness strategies. Surprisingly, it is possible for the closing moves which applied the same closing strategy to have different politeness strategies. It is because politeness strategy theory had more detail and specific parts than the closing strategy theory. The results showed that the mostly used closing strategies are the imperative to end strategy, the expression of thanks for the conversation strategy, and the plan strategy (18.87%). While the politeness strategy which is mostly used in the closing moves is the offer and promise strategy (18%).

According to the results above, it can be concluded that the closing strategy and also the politeness strategy are realized and applied properly in the text book. The use of proper closing strategy and politeness strategy are really beneficial in the daily conversations, so it is important for the English teacher to pay more attention when teaching conversational text, so that they can teach how to use closing and politeness strategy properly in closing a conversation.