DIRECTIVE FORMS EXPRESSED BY MALE AND FEMALE RESPONDENTS IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONAL CONTEXTS

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ABSTRACT

This research intended to explore the relationship between language and gender by answering two research questions. First, it was how male and female respondents expressed directive forms. Second, it was what the social factors that influenced the choice of directive forms were. The two issues were considered urgent because gender was a variable that determined how people used language, including directive forms. Data were collected by distributing offline open-ended questionnaires to 18 students from the 2015-2017 batch of the English Language Education Study Program (ELESP) of Sanata Dharma University. The results show that to some extent females and males express directive forms differently. Men tend to be direct in expressing directive messages, while women use interrogative and declarative forms in delivering the messages since these forms are considered as more polite and less direct. Women tend to save their faces by using more indirect or polite forms because they avoid being considered impolite. Then, social class, the relationship between participants, and formality also influence the use of directive forms.

Keywords: directive forms, gender expression, situational contexts

INTRODUCTION

There are some beliefs about how men and women behave or should behave in terms of their psychology, physical dominance, and culture. One major behavior that is observable is the way men and women speak with their interlocutors. Holmes in Mustapha (2013) added that these differences encompassed the language dialect differences, uncertainty and politeness, conversational interaction, speech functions, attitudes to woman's talk, and sexist language. This result means that uttered languages by men and woman have some differences to the extent of the situational contexts.

The relationship between language and gender has been extensively explored by D'angelo (2008), Matei (2011), Seyyedrezaie and Vahedi (2017), Subon (2013), Waskita (2008), Yeganeh and Ghoreyshi (2015). Nemati and Bayer (2007) has focused on determining whether men and women are different in using intensifiers, hedges, and tag questions in English and Persian. The researchers adopt the difference theory and dominance theory to distinguish the social differences between men and women language. This research is a quantitative research, so there is a hypothesis formulation. The null hypotheses that the researchers formulated are: (1) There is no significant difference between the groups under study on the use of hedges, (2) There is no significant difference between the groups under study on the use of intensifiers, and (3) There is no significant difference between the groups under study on the use of tag questions. To carry out the observation, the researchers gather data from six English film scenarios: *Out of Sight, Taxi Driver, American Beauty, China Town, My Beautiful Launderette,* and *Blood Simple.* The Persian film scenarios are *From Karkheh to Rine, The Apple, Children of the Heaven, The Tenants, The Bus, Bread and Vase, The Wedding of the Nice People,* and *The Sable's Night.* The statistical analysis proves that none of the findings could reject the null hypotheses. It shows that there is no difference between English males and females in the use of the three linguistic categories (hedges, intensifiers, and tag questions).

Taking the degree of politeness into account means to take many aspects of linguistics forms including the directive forms. According to Shahidzade (2016), directives act as illocutionary acts which provide the hearers with a reason to act and bring about the truth of propositional contents. People often use many various strategies to give directives like using modals to soften the strength of the directive, hedged structures to make the statement less strong, and the pronoun 'we' instead of 'you' to soften the impact of the directive.

Directive forms are intended to soften the strength of the directive form itself. For example, it can be "what we might to do is sending down a confirmation note to our lecturer" instead of "send down a confirmation note!" Thus, directive forms also intend to make the statement less strong like "I wondered if you would not mind spending some of that time in contacting people for their interviews" and to soften the impact of the directive like "If we just tell them exactly where Simon is" rather than using "if you just….."

Basically, there are several types of directive forms, namely: imperative, interrogative, and declarative. An imperative sentence is the most, compared to declarative and interrogative, impolite form of directive forms. Usually, imperative sentences consist of verbs only. For example, there are "Sit down!", "Go!", or "Talk!" However, in some cases, the subject can be included in the sentence to clarify the direction. For example, it can be "You sit down!" An interrogative sentence is way more polite than imperatives. The characteristic of the interrogative sentence occurs in the punctuation.

Usually, the interrogative form of directives will end in a question mark. There are three types of interrogative sentences. First, it is the interrogative with the modal verb like "Could you sit down?" or "Can you do this?" Second, it is the interrogative with tag such as "Sit down, will you?" Last, it is the interrogative with negative modal like "Can't you do this for me?" or "Won't you sit down?" Declaratives are directive forms which are also considered more polite than the imperatives. The characteristic of declarative forms is its construction which looks like a common sentence. This kind of directive form has a clear and more complete subject compared to the imperative forms like "I want you to sit down." or "I want you to clear your table."

These examples show that the interactions of gender and the use of command or direction may cause women to be less direct and favor politeness more than men. Conrick (2000), Crosby (2000), Wallmann (2000) and Moore (2002) as cited in Shahidzade (2016) have reported that women tended to soften criticism and showed more gratitude. In short, gender does determine the speech forms in language usage. However, Pasaribu and Kadarisman (2016) and Nemati and Bayer (2007) have discussed that low status of women and the social pressure on them to talk like a lady, women use more hedges, intensifiers, super polite forms, and question intonations. On the other hand, men use rough language, less polite, and careless about question intonations. In short, gender to some extent does determine the speech forms in language usage (Pasaribu & Kadarisman, 2016). However, Tse and Hyland (2008) as cited in Pasaribu (2017) have pointed out that gender does not directly determine the linguistic features that male and female used. Seeing the gap in those studies whether gender has a direct influence over the use of language, further research on gender and language is required. Accordingly, this research explores the difference in the language usage between men and women in the boundary of politeness, primarily the directive forms in some situational contexts.

This research shares some similarities with the research on gender differences in speeches that have been conducted by Nemati and Bayer (2007). However, this research limits the discussion only on the directive forms of men and women in some situational contexts with two research questions. Those are (1) how do men and women of English Language Education Study Program Sanata Dharma University batch 2015-2017 express directive forms? (2) What are the social factors that influence the choice of directive forms? To answer these research questions, this research reviews some related research and theories.

METHODS

The researchers employ survey research to obtain men and women language usage in expressing directive forms. Survey research is used to gather information about the characteristics, actions, or opinions of a large group of people. It is suitable to use a survey because the researchers can elicit information which is difficult to measure using observation. Questionnaires are one of many major means of data collection in survey research. In this research, the researchers distribute open-ended questionnaires to the respondents because it allows them to give answers in their words. The respondents in this research are 18 students from English Language Education Study Program (ELESP) of Sanata Dharma University. They are from batch 2015-2017 because the researchers adopt the stratified random sampling, which means the research randomly involves three male students and three female students as the representatives from each batch. Questionnaires are directly administered to the subjects of the research because the researchers can present accurate instructions so that the researchers get high response rates.

The questionnaires are open-ended questionnaires. Open-ended questionnaires allow the respondents to answer from their frame of reference. Researchers highlight one single area where participants address their opinions using directive forms. The respondents fill out their opinions and attitudes using English and Indonesian based on the situational contexts provided in the questionnaires. The data are analyzed qualitatively based on the types of directive forms, namely imperative, you imperative, imperative with modal verb, interrogative with modal verb, interrogative with negative modal, interrogative with tag, and declarative (Holmes & Wilson, 2017) to portray how gender and other social factors influence directive expressions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The numerical data in Table 1 display types of directive forms expressed by male respondents. They are interpreted by considering other findings and other social factors. From the open-ended questionnaires, the researchers find that men use more imperative sentences to express directive forms.

Table 1 illustrates the results of how men of ELESP express directive forms. As shown in Table 1, seven items represent the directive forms. Men express the imperative sentences to express directive forms. In Figure 1, the biggest percentage is ranked by imperative expressions which are 58% of all the directive forms. From this result, it can be interpreted that men of ELESP use imperative to express the directive forms based on some situational contexts that are provided in the questionnaires (see the appendix). Compared to the results in Table 2 and Figure 2, women use less imperative than men. Based on Holmes and Wilson (2017), in a study involving doctors' use of imperatives, male doctors tend to use imperatives, while female doctors use less direct forms. Male respondents express imperative forms because it is assumed that there is a power relationship between men and their masculinities in

language usage (Lakoff in Hedenmalm, 2012). A possible reason why men are using imperatives dominantly as shown in Figure 1 is that they prefer to express straightforward message to the addressee.

Some expressions that are used by men in expressing imperatives are: "Heeeeey! Try to open it slowly!", "Hey! Knock first!" and "Oh god you are so disturbing, go away!" They are likely to be upfront on what addressees should do. It can be seen that the imperatives directly begin with verbs. For example, the words are "try", "knock", and "go".

The second largest data is imperative with modal verb sentences that are 22% from all directive forms expressed by men of ELESP batch 2015-2017. This number is smaller if the researchers compare it to the numbers used by women. Factors like the lack of politeness strategy may influence this phenomenon. The third place is ranked by

interrogative with modal verbs that are 10% of all directive forms expressed by men of ELESP batch 2015-2017. Then, declarative ranks fourth place with 8%, and you imperative ranked in fifth place with 2%. On the other hand, women use more varied directive forms as seen in Table 2.

Table 2 illustrates that women express various kinds of directive forms. Only one kind of directive forms is rarely used by women in ELESP Sanata Dharma University which is the you imperative. This may occur because the subject of the directive form is always the word "you" or the person who is listening. Therefore, the you imperative is not frequently used because the subject is considered clear. Mostly, women use directive form in imperative sentences with 51% or about 35 expressions from all. The second place is the interrogative with modal verb with 18 expressions or 26% from all the directive expressions. Then, it is followed

Table 1 How Men of ELESP Express Directive Forms

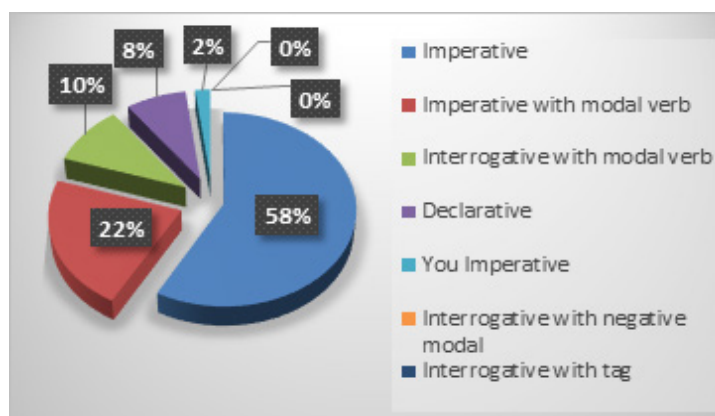|	Types of Directive Forms	Name									Total
		2015			2016			2017			
		Z	S	A	WA	AD	FJ	SD	NS	SA	
Men	Imperative	1	1	6	4	5	5	3	5	4	34
	You imperative	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Imperative with modal verb	6	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	3	13
	Interrogative with modal verb	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	6
	Interrogative with negative modal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Interrogative with tag	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	declarative	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	5

Figure 1 Percentage (Largest to Smallest) of How Men of ELESP Express Directive Forms

Table 2 How Women of ELESP Express Directive Forms

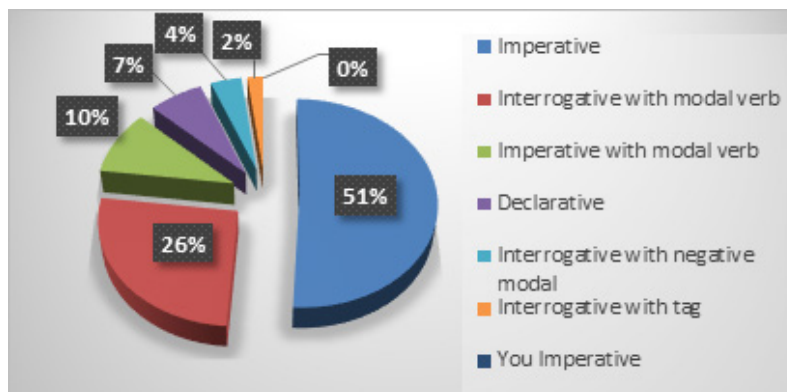|	Types of Directive Forms	Name									Total
		2015			2016			2017			
		C	D	N	C	YP	SRD	F	V	RSA	
Men	Imperative	5	3	4	7	6	3	1	3	3	35
	You imperative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Imperative with modal verb	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	7
	Interrogative with modal verb	2	4	6	1	0	2	2	1	0	18
	Interrogative with negative modal	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
	Interrogative with tag	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	declarative	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	5

Figure 2 Percentage (Largest to Smallest) of How Women of ELESP Express Directive Forms

by imperative with modal verb (10%), declarative (7%), interrogative with negative modal (4%), and interrogative with tag (2%).

Even though the imperative is the most widely used (51%), compared to men in Table 1 and Figure 1, this number is still 7% below men. This can be interpreted that women can be direct, although the data show that the occurrences are still less frequent than male respondents. According to Conrick (2000), Crosby (2000), Wallmann (2000) and Moore (2002) as cited in Shahidzade (2016), women use fewer imperative forms and more indirect directives. Moreover, Hill (2009) also found out that women tend to use more polite speech to allow them to save more face. This is strongly associated with the politeness strategy since women take the addressees' feeling into account more than men.

The most common expressions that women use to perform imperative based on some situational contexts from this research are the sentences like "Language please!" to direct students when the speaker pretends to be the teacher. Others are expressions like "Please, wait in line next time!" or "Safe your phone, please!" are also used to express imperatives with strangers. Women, when expressing imperatives, usually will also say the word "please". Lakoff in Hedenmalm (2012) stated that this "please" word made such non-masculine sound, so the data confirmed that women used this word more often than men.

Other factors may affect how people choose their directive forms. According to Holmes and Wilson (2017), factors like the social distance between participants, their relative status, and the formality of the context are three relevant conditions.

Table 3 displays that most used directive forms by respondents are imperatives. The imperative forms are mostly used for the situations (2), (3), (4), (6), (7), and (10). It can be seen that case 1 and 2 have a similar situation with different responses. The factor that probably affects the difference is the urgency of the situation. Situation (1) refers to someone's style, but situation (2) refers to someone's health. Situation (2) is considered more urgent than situation (1), so more imperative forms are used to respond to the latter situation. Situation (3) and situation (5) have almost similar social dimensions, but those have different responses. The differences may result from the intimacy of the speakers. Family members are considered closer, so the speakers may have more freedom in expressing imperatives. It is also interesting to compare situations (4), (9), and (10). These situations share similar social dimensions: same level of social class, distant relationship status, and informal setting.

The varied responses happen because of the respondents' perceptions of politeness. The respondents are disturbed when someone cuts the queue. Moreover, situations (7) and (8) show unusual findings. The respondents use imperative expressions to the addressee who is in the same level of social class (situation 7) and non-directive expressions to the addressee who is inferior (situation 8). The level of danger and the sense of urgency in the situation may also affect the language choice of the speakers. Finally, situation (6) shows that imperatives are dominant in teacher-student relationships. The power relationship and intimacy among them may cause respondents' tendency to use imperative expressions.

Moreover, when expressing directive forms, the respondents' answers in directing somebody may be triggered by their emotion. According to Culpeper (2011), anger is one frequent emotional reaction that may cause impoliteness. Besides addressee, social distance, relative status, and formality of the contexts, how people choose their directive forms is determined by their degree of anger as seen in situation 6, "You are a lecturer. Your class consists of various kinds of students. When you teach your students, there is one student (your opposite gender) who says something inappropriate to you. What will you say to your student in order to change him/her bad attitude?" (See appendix)

In this context, the respondents are annoyed by rude or inappropriate expressions stated by the students. It provokes emotion, so they express an imperative sentence. In addition, most of the respondents said that they will remain silent to those situational contexts (1, 5, 8, and 9). In this case, the reason why the respondents remain silent is because of three reasons. First, they do not really see the urgency of uttering the directive forms. For example, it is in situation (1). The situation is as follows:

> "You are meeting your old friend when you were in middle school. She does not change. She is still shabby. She cannot style up her fashion at all. When she was meeting you, she wore a baggy-torn shirt and tucked it into her oversized purple culottes. What will you suggest in order to change her appearance?" (See appendix)

In this situational context, the researchers barely see the urgency of whether people direct this particular someone or not. Even if the respondents express the directive forms, he/she will not be affected, or it will not violate any consequence. Therefore, some of them will remain silent

Table 3 Detail Information of the Situational Contexts in the Open-ended Questionnaire

Case	Addressee	Class	Relationship	Formality of Context	Highest Number of Responses
1	An old friend	Same level	Intimate	Informal	Imperative (8)
					Non-directive (8)
2	An old friend	Same level	Intimate	Informal	Imperative (10)
3	Older brother	Superior	Intimate	Informal	Imperative (9)
4	Stranger	Same level	Distant	Informal	Imperative (14)
5	Lover	Same level	Intimate	Informal	Non-directive (10)
6	Student	Inferior	Intimate	Formal	Imperative (15)
7	Stranger	Same level	Distant	Informal	Imperative (8)
8	Stranger	Inferior	Distant	Informal	Non-directive (8)
9	Stranger	Same level	Distant	Informal	Non-directive (9)
10	Stranger	Same level	Distant	Informal	Imperative (9)

towards the situational context. Second, another factor that may affect this silence is that the respondents think the addresses' behavior will not disturb them continuously. This reason is particularly suitable for the situation (5) and (9). The last reason is that the respondents fear of rejection. Rejection is one of the reasons why people remain silent and do not speak up. These social dimensions affect how the respondents react to the given situation.

CONCLUSIONS

The result shows that men and women who come from the same speech community with different social classes may use different linguistic forms in expressing directive messages. The data also suggest that men are more straightforward in delivering directive messages. Another noteworthy finding is that women dominantly express the use of interrogative and declarative forms. Interrogative and declarative forms are considered more polite and less direct. Women tend to save their faces by using more polite forms because they do not want to be considered impolite. This is strongly associated with politeness strategies which are mostly adopted by women than men. Different responses are grounded in social-cultural narratives involving different social variables such as social class, the relationship between participants, and formality.

More serious research should be conducted to analyze the link between language and other social dimensions because this research is limited to the small number of participants and contextual settings. The interested researcher can investigate the relationship between language and social variables through natural data in daily communication. Moreover, language users also need to be more aware of the significance of social dimensions and emotional feelings in communication.

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