Abstract


Keywords: politeness principle, maxims of politeness

Politeness principle concerns on a relationship between self and other. (Leech, 1983: 131). In conversation, self is identified as the speaker and other is the hearer. Politeness principle is minimizing the expression of impolite beliefs, and maximizing the expression of polite beliefs. The politeness principle is used to produce the polite utterances in conversation. The maxims that operate in politeness principle are tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim.

This research refers to the study of politeness maxims used in a talk show. The researcher used Leech’s theory for finding the types of politeness maxims and how the maxim used by the host and guest. In this research, the researcher used descriptive qualitative method for analyzing and describing maxims of politeness in Oprah Winfrey Talk Show: Michael Talks to Oprah.

This research explains that there are four types of politeness maxims found in Oprah Winfrey Talk Show. The researcher analyzed 29 data (2 data categorized as tact maxim, 16 data categorized as approbation maxim, 2 data as modesty maxim and 9 data categorized as agreement maxim) of politeness maxim found in Oprah Winfrey Talk Show: Michael Talks to Oprah. Furthermore, the result shows that the host and guest follow measurement of the pragmatic scales to express their politeness. Those pragmatic scales are the cost-benefit scale, the optionality scale, the indirectness scale, the power/authority scale, and the social distance scale.