

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter revisits the three research questions of this study and gives an overview of the findings. The final part of the chapter presents the implications of the findings and gives suggestions for future work.

5.1 Research Question Revisited

The research questions given in chapter one are listed as a guide to sum up the findings of this study.

Question 1: What kinds of politeness strategies are employed in economic texts?

This study found that positive politeness as well as negative politeness, bald-on-record and off record politeness strategies were employed by JWs of both local and international economic journals. However, the pattern of use reflects the preference of certain politeness strategies over others. Quantitatively, EG JWs employed more politeness strategies (n = 591, 54.97 %) compared to MJES JWs (n= 484, 45.03 %).

For each of the strategies, different tactics were used. The findings show that JWS employed (8) eight tactics for positive politeness with *by using in-group identity marker* (62, 13.6%) as the most frequently used tactic by EG JWs and *by informing readers about the research* (48, 10.59%). As for negative politeness strategies, it was recorded that (5) five tactics were used by MJES JWs and (4) four by EG JWs. The most frequently used tactic was *hedging*. For bald-on-record and off-record strategies, this

study found only (2) two tactics used by JWS for each tactic. Overall, politeness has been generally seen as a strategy used to show solidarity and respect also to bring about the element of closeness between JWs and audiences.

Question 2: How are politeness strategies distributed in the different sections of economic journal articles?

This study found that the politeness strategies were distributed in all of the different sections of economic journal articles. The data recorded (43) tactics employed in the section of Abstract, (21) tactics found used by JWS of MJES and (22) tactics used by JWS of EG. In the section of Introduction, (357) tactics was found employed by JWS of MJES (156) and JWS of EG (201). Moreover, in the section of Methodology, (180) tactics was found distributed both in MJES (65) and EG (116). In the section of Results (233) tactics found used by JWS of MJES (109) and JWS of EG (204). While, in the section of Discussions, it was found (167) tactics employed by JWS of MJES (85) and JWS of EG (82) and in the section of conclusions, this study recorded (95) tactics was found distributed in MJES articles (48) and EG articles (47).

The data revealed (1075) tactics were used in total and indicated as bald-on-record, positive, negative and off-record politeness strategies both in MJES and EG. ***Negative politeness*** with (463) tactics was the most frequently used strategy compared to the others. This study recorded (214) tactics were found in MJES and (249) in EG. This was followed by ***positive politeness*** strategy with (453) number of tactics found in MJES (195) and EG (258). ***bald-on record*** politeness strategy with (106) tactics were found both MJES (48) and EG (56). ***off-record*** politeness strategies also with (55) tactics were found in MJES (27) and EG (28).

Question 3: In what ways are the politeness strategies found to be similar or different in local or international economic journals?

This study shows a high frequency of similarities among the tactics used for the different types of politeness strategies used by JWs of both journals. The data showed similarities in the use of politeness strategies between JWs of MJES and EG. The analysis of politeness strategies in economic journals found that JWs used four (4) strategies and many tactics, which at a glance appear to be objective and impersonal. First, all four types were employed, namely, *positive politeness*, *negative politeness*, *bald-on-record*, and *off-record politeness strategies*.

Only a small number of differences in the tactics used as well as the production of politeness strategies between MJES and EG. This study found that JWs of MJES and EG explicitly used similarly eight (8) tactics for positive politeness strategies. However, for negative politeness strategies JWs of MJES employed more tactics (5) than JWs of EG (4). For Bald-on- record and off-record strategy, the JWs of MJES and EG used the same two tactics.

Furthermore, this study also found in section positive politeness, JWs of EG shown that they are more sensitive in the area of politeness. This study highlights it as JWS of EG appeared to be more professional in their writing. While in section negative politeness, this study found that both JWs employed tactic using *by hedging* but only MJES JWs used the conditional ‘if’ in hedging. Further, the data also revealed in the section of negative politeness, only MJES JWs who used the tactic of “nominalization” to make the sentences “wordy”.

Moreover, in the section bald-on-record, found not too popular for both JWs compared other strategies. This study recorded there was a very little difference in the amount of this strategies in both journals. However it is important to note that this strategy still effective to use as to create direct and efficient sentences in the journals. Similarly this study also found that off-record also unpopular strategy used by JWs in economic journals. However, this strategy still effective to create a friendly atmosphere and to mitigate the impact of imposition in both economic journals.

Finally, this section leads to highlights from the findings that EG leads in terms of frequency and number of tactics used. However, the result of the present study as mention above also showed that there are only small differences in the use and production of politeness strategies between the Malaysian Journal of Economic Study (MJES) and The Economic Growth (EG).

5.2 Implications of the Study

It must be mentioned at the outset that any implications drawn from the findings of this investigation are made in the light of some limitations as discussed in the preceding section. This study has examined two published journals within a span of six (6) years latest from the field of economies.

Since, there is dearth of information on politeness strategies in economic journals. Its hoped this study has contributed to a better understanding of many ways that the economists use language to express themselves in a polite manner and to help the readers understand the politeness tactics and strategies in economic journals. In other words knowledge of politeness strategies in journals can help a reader, writer or learner understand the text better and to function more effectively.

This study of politeness strategies in economic journals is important to professionals and people who involved in economic community as understanding the details and knowing how economic journals employed, interpreted and awarded make understanding the articles or journals better. In addition, it also hopes that some of the findings will prove to be applicable to the development of a range of teaching material in academic journals. The discourse structures and language analysis should help economic journals are read, interpreted and written. The findings may be able to raise the level of understanding and reading of economic journals as they are importance for reference of economist or students in their activities related to economic field.

5.3 Future Work and Consideration

As mentioned in the previous chapter, this study is a modest attempt to look for universal politeness pattern in journal writers-audience relationship or interaction. It is modest due to the small sample size of this large discourse community and the generalizations made in this study under certain limitations. Only the linguistic pattern was observed in the use of politeness strategies in the economic journals both from local and international publication. Sex and specific authors' background have not been highlighted nor the gap between JWs and readers has been fully discussed.

The motivation behind this study was to investigate something related with economic field in the discourse context. For further study this present study suggests to investigate something that would be real use related with economic field, such as company letters, annual report or authentic industrial material from overseas company and compare it with the local one.

5.3 SUMMARY

The corpus of the present study comprised articles from the *Malaysian Journal of Economic Study* published by Malaysian Economic Association and *The Economic Growth* published by American Economic Association. An in-depth analysis of the politeness strategies revealed that writers of the international journal generally seem to employ more of the politeness strategies in comparison to writers of the Malaysian economic journal. In conclusion, the present study was able to answer all research questions posed. It is hoped that the findings of the study contribute towards academic writing in the field of economics.