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A STUDY OF POWER AND STATUS IN REQUEST STRATEGIES USED BY PRE – UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS
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DECLARATION

I, **Nor Zainiyah Norita Bt Mokhtar**, matric number **TGB 98024** hereby declare that the work in this dissertation entitled: **A STUDY OF POWER AND STATUS IN REQUEST STRATEGIES USED BY PRE-UNIVERSITY STUDENTS,** is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

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Date : 31, October 2003

ABSTRACT

Acquiring pragmatic competence involves many different tasks. They range from learning new speech act categories to learning how principles off politeness operate in the target culture, as well as learning new procedures and means for speech act realization. The aim of this study is to examine the interlanguage behaviour of students from BAR and LAW program in the intermediate and advance level of proficiency in the Matriculation Center of International Islamic University Malaysia. It would also be focusing on the choices of their request strategies in the second language. The data comprises request realization under six different situation sets, collected by means of a discourse completion task designed to achieve systematic variation of the two social factors, which are social distance and dominance.

The overall distribution has proven that both programs do adopt the same request strategies but in different situations and at different levels. It also illustrated that the respondents do vary their choice of strategies according to the situational context. Finally, looking at the aspect of social distance and social dominance, it can be inferred that both of the variables are taken into consideration in the selection of choice, in making requests by the respondents.

The subjects' pragmatic competence in the foreign language is shown to increase with their linguistic ability. Thus, it is recommended that pragmatic competence be taught in the second language classes to raise students' pragmatic awareness.

ABSTRAK

Menguasai kecekapan pragmatik melibatkan pelbagai cara. Ini terdiri daripada mendalami kategori-kategori baru dalam gaya pertuturan sehinggalah mempelajari bagaimana prinsip kesopanan diterapkan di dalam budaya sasaran; di samping mempelajari cara dan prosedur baru untuk merealisasikan gaya pertuturan. Disertasi ini bertujuan menkaji peradaban jalinan bahasa/interlingual di kalangan pelajar jurusan Bahasa Arab dan Undang-undang di tahap tinggi dan pertengahan kemahiran Bahasa Inggeris di Pusat Matrik Universiti Islam Antarabangsa. Turut menjadi fokus ialah pemilihan strategi permintaan di dalam Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua. Data yang diperolehi merangkumi realisasi permintaan di dalam enam token situasi berlainan. Ia dihimpun melalui tugasan 'melengkapkan tek perbualan' untuk mencapai variasi yang sistematik berdasarkan dua faktor sosial iaitu status dan dominan.

Keseluruhannya, kajian telah membuktikan bahawa pelajar dan kedua-dua jurusan mengaplikasikan kaedah strategi permintaan yang sama. Namun, perbezaan tetap wujud bergantung kepada situasi dan tahap bahasa pelajar. Kajian ini juga menunjukan yang responden akan mempelbagaikan strategi mereka berdasarkan konteks atau situasi yang dihadapi. Akhir sekali, jika dilihat dari aspek status dan dominasi dari segi sosial, dapat disimpulkan yang kedua-dua variasi akan dipertimbangkan dahulu sebelum pelajar menetapkan pilihan dalam mengatur permintaan.

Kecekapan pragmatik pelajar di dalam bahasa asing ini didapati meningkat seiring dengan kemahiran bahasa mereka. Oleh demikian, adalah disarankan kecekapan pragmatik

dijadikan bahan pengajaran di dalam kelas bahasa kedua agar dapat meningkatkan kesedaran tentang aplikasi pragmatik di kalangan pelajar.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BAR	Bachelor of Arabic (Matriculation Program)
CCSARP	Cross-cultural Speech Act Realization Pattern Project
DCT	Discourse Completion Task
ESL	English as a Second Language
FTA	Face Threatening Act
ILP	Interlanguage Pragmatics
LAW	Bachelor of Laws (Matriculation Program)
L2	Second Language
MCIIUM	Matriculation Centre of International Islamic University Malaysia
SD	Social Distance
x = y	Equal Status
x > y	Speaker Dominant
x < y	Hearer Dominant