

ABSTRACT

Acquiring pragmatic competence involves many different tasks. They range from learning new speech act categories to learning how principles of 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 mengkaji 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 dihipunkan melalui tugas 'melengkapkan teks 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 menunjukkan 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 kesadaran tentang aplikasi pragmatik di kalangan pelajar.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deepest thanks and gratitude to my supervisor, Associate Professor Dr. Hajjah Jariah Mohd. Jan, for her support, patience and invaluable guidance in helping me complete my dissertation. My heartfelt thanks as well, to Dr. Imran Ho Abdullah (UKM) for helping me with my proposal.

My deepest love and life of indebtedness to my dearest husband, Badrulhisyam bin Othman for your support and patience for without you I would never be able to accomplish this. My children, Muhd. Nasrul Iman, Muhd. Aiman Shahiran and Muhd. Ikhwan Muslimin, you are my motivation and I would never have achieved this without the three of you.

Last but not least, to my colleagues, thank you for your help. Your guidance and vote of confidence gave me the motivation to work on this arduous research and to complete it even though it took me quite a while to do so.

Nor Zainiyah Norita Bt Mokhtar

October 2003