

EnJourMe Politeness BB 21 Jun

by Tiwi Tiwi

Submission date: 21-Jun-2021 05:40PM (UTC+0700)

Submission ID: 1610025059

File name: Tiwi_Barli_EnJourMe_21_Jun_2021.doc (207.5K)

Word count: 3401

Character count: 19375



EnJourMe (English Journal of Merdeka) :

Culture, Language, and Teaching of English

Journal homepage: <http://jurnal.unmer.ac.id/index.php/enjourme/index>

Interruptions and politeness in David Letterman show “my guest no need introduction” Shah Rukh Khan episode

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history: **(by editor)**

Reviewed date month year

Received in revised from date month year

Accepted date month year

Available online date month year

Keywords:

cross-culture, David Letterman, interruption, politeness

DOI: (by editor)

How to cite this article:

(by editor)

ABSTRACT

This paper analyzed interruptions and politeness in the David Letterman Show. The data were collected from the show “My Guest No Need Introduction”. The study was qualitative research and the data were analyzed and then classified into types of interruptions. Results showed that there were 32 interruptions in the conversation uttered by two speakers in the show, more specifically 26 times of overlap interruptions, 3 times of simple interruptions, twice of silent interruptions, and once of butting-in interruption. It can be concluded that, first, the appropriate interruptions display positive strategies of politeness in the David Letterman Show. Interruptions could be done for a specific purpose to strengthen the bond between two speakers and to avoid misunderstanding. Second, the interruptions show politeness in conversation. Politeness appears to clarify statements to avoid misunderstanding between cultures.

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1. Introduction

The 21st century era is the new era of teaching, learning, and communication. People live in the global world and work together. Communication is the bridge between people around the world to share their ideas. People gather in the workplace, education field, and community. People work and share their ideas when they enjoy the environment and understand the art of work. People meet one another on social platforms; they have different backgrounds, religions, and interest. Once again, communication is the way to understand and enhance people in their communal pattern.

Communication has many elements, including the speech act to express their will

through language. The understanding speech act is a must for foreign language learners because every culture in the world has its value. Politeness becomes an issue, and it can cause misunderstanding between speakers.

Politeness has two dimensions; positive and negative politeness. Positive politeness explains the value and shares the solidarity oriented. Meanwhile, negative politeness is a tendency when people try to avoid interrupting people (Holmes, 2017). In the context of the conversation between two speakers from different regions and cultures, people have to know about the politeness strategy. When people are unconsciously transforming positive politeness into a negative one, it leads to misunderstanding. Holmes (2017) also states that people from different cultural backgrounds have different rules of interaction, and it causes different speech acts expression.

Recent research on politeness notes that taking into account the emotions of people means exploring ways and taking into account how people frame their actions and utterances. (Morand, 2003; Fukada, 2004; Eslami, 2013; Brown., 2015; Maha, 2014; Cafaro, 2016; Purwanto, 2020). This research analyzed the interruption and cross-cultural communication differences between two public figures. The researchers will analyze David Letterman Show 'My Guest no Need Introduction' Shah Rukh Khan Episode.

The researchers have three reasons for choosing the data. The main reason is the influence of two public figures. David Letterman is a well-known host in the USA. He starts his shows in the early 90s. Now, he is in his 70s but he is still active in the television broadcast. David Letterman's show is one of the greatest late-night shows in the USA. Meanwhile, Shah Rukh Khan (SRK) is a superstar from Bollywood. His work and superstardom influence many people. He has millions of fans and it is a chance to know the world from the perspective of celebrities. Later, students will not only learn about the way to speak in the public or formal show, but the show will give a new perspective to see the world.

Second, David letterman represents a native English speaker and Shah Rukh Khan represents a second language speaker. They represent two different cultures and perspectives. Those are the reason that makes the show is the best chance to promote English learning.

This study aims to show the positive interruptions and how to face cross-cultural differences. The analysis on the David Letterman Show will help English learners to act wisely when they speak with a native speaker. It also shows the best manner of conversation in the public context.

The researchers gathered data by exploring the conversation in the show. Kiellman (2012) states that the natures of quantitative research are interpretive and reflexive therefore it aims to explore the behavior of the natural setting. The research questions were formulated as follows. Firstly, how do interruptions display in the cross-cultural communication context? Secondly, how does politeness on speech act appear in the David Letterman Show?

2. Method

The researchers used the Qualitative research method. The researchers explored the conversation between speakers in the talk show. The data of this research was a video entitled David Letterman, My guest, no need introduction with Shah Rukh Khan.

The researchers analyzed the collected data by watching the video several times and noting the cross-cultural communication. The researchers also noted the important notions between the two speakers and analyzed the cultural meaning behind it. The researchers

noted the interruptions and analyzed them by referring to Tao's (2018) theory about interruption, clarification and affirmation (Tannen 1983; Schegloff 2000; Kurtić, 2013) 3). The researchers then classified the interruptions into groups and presented them in tables.

3. Results and discussion

Interruptions were the indicators to display powers and casual conversation. A previous study discussed interruptions on multiple occasions. Interruption happened in courtroom study (Liao, 2009; 2013), phone talks (Hutchby, 1992; Lee, 2013), interviews (Azarez, 2013; Hutzby, 2013; Lundell, 2009; Song, 2016; Thornborrow, 2007), and conversations (Hilton, 2018; Noels, 2015; Okamoto, 2002).

Ferguson (1977) categorizes interruption into four types; 1) Simple Interruption; 2) Overlap Interruptions; 3) Butting-In interruption; 4) Silent Interruptions (Anindaya, 2014). The table below shows the frequency of interruptions in the David Letterman Show.

Table 1. Types of Interruptions

No	Interruptions	David Letterman	Shah Rukh Khan
1	Simple Interruptions	1	2
2	Overlap Interruptions	20	6
3	Butting-In Interruptions	1	-
4	Silent Interruptions	1	1

Table 1 showed that there were 32 interruptions on the conversation uttered by two speakers in the show. Four types of interruptions appeared in the show; Simple Interruption, Overlap Interruptions, Butting-In Interruption, and Silent Interruption. The highest interruption that appeared in the show was Overlap Interruption. This interruption occurred 26 times in the show. Then, the second-highest interruption was Simple interruption which occurred 3 times. The third-highest interruption was Silent Interruption which occurred twice in the show. The lowest frequency was butting-In Interruption uttered by David Letterman.

3.1 Simple Interruptions

Simple interruption happens when the second speaker succeeds in interrupts the first speaker's sentence, and the first speaker does not have a chance to continue his or her sentences (Tao, 2018). The following is an example of the Simple Interruption in the show:

David: You live in your grandmother

SRK: Ya, ya in Banglore..
(20.32- 20.37)

The first interruption was done by Shah Rukh Khan when David wanted to know about Shah Rukh Khan's adoption story. It is discussed in the dialogue that when Shah Rukh Khan was a baby, his mother gave him to his grandmother. Shah Rukh Khan uttered the explanation that he lived with his grandmother in Bangalore, and he told David about the story. Shah Rukh Khan began to interrupt while David hesitated and said the words 'grandmother', Shah Rukh Khan agreed with the word "yes" and could take David to turn to explain the phenomena. David Letterman performed the second simple interruption; examples of the Simple Interruption in the show included the following.

SRK: keep moving, we just you know

David: but that know, inappropriate for me to pause, but
(58-05-58.30)

The dialogue above discussed the reasons why do Indians always dancing in Bollywood Movies. Shah Rukh Khan explained that everybody in India naturally loved to dance. The interruption happened when David interrupted Shah Rukh Khan while explaining about the dance. David noted that it was inappropriate for him to interrupt, but he had to do that. The reason is about the limitless of time, they almost came to the end of the show, and David wanted Shah Rukh Khan to teach him how to dance. That's the reason David does the interruption. Meanwhile, Shah Rukh Khan did not have a chance to continue his explanation.

3.2 Overlap Interruptions

Ferguson states that Overlap interruptions happen when the second speaker interrupts the conversation, but the first speaker can continue his or her sentences. (Tao, 2018). Overlap interruptions were the highest interruptions that occurred in the show. It appeared 26 times. David has done 20 times interruptions in the show. Meanwhile, Shah Rukh Khan interrupted David's conversation only 6 times in the show.

The following were the examples of the Overlap interruptions done by David during the one-hour show.

SRK: I don't want to be in that position
David: well, you set the bar kind of high
SRK: No, I don't..
(11.19-11.27)

In this conversation, David asked about wheatear Shah Rukh Khan's sons wanted to be an actor just like his father. Then, Shah Rukh Khan explained that his son did not want to be the one because he did not want to be compared with Shah Rukh Khan. When Shah Rukh Khan still explained the interruption that happened when David told his opinion by saying 'well,' he intended to add some jokes in the conversation, not means to disagree with that. Then, Shah Rukh Khan continued modestly disagree when he said: "No, I don't."

SRK: They adopted me for 5 years
David: No, no, I mean what is that
SRK: It wasn't any legal or religious
process.
(19.35-19.45)

The conversation above discussed Shah Rukh Khan's adoption when he was a baby. Shah Rukh Khan explained that her mother gave him to her grandmother, and he was adopted for 5 years. David interrupted the conversation while Shah Rukh still explained about the year. David said 'No, no...' it expressed his surprise about that event because that thing did not happen in America. Shah Rukh Khan answered that the event was not legal and it was not a part of the religious process.

SRK: He wasn't very successful
 David: Freedom fighter against the
 SRK: Against the British
 (21.22-21.30)

This conversation discussed Shah Rukh Khan's father that ⁹ is a freedom fighter. David was quite surprised and reassured about the explanation of Shah Rukh Khan that Shah Rukh Khan's father was a freedom fighter against the British. David interrupted Shah Rukh Khan and reassured and said, "Freedom fighter," and then Shah Rukh Khan continued David's sentence, "Against the British."

3.3 Butting-in Interruptions

Butting in Interruption happens when the second speaker intends to interrupt the conversation but does not succeed (Tao, 2018). There was only one Butting-In interruption during the show. The following was the Butting-In Interruption.

SRK: That kind of
 David: is it real
 SRK: encourage me to become an actor
 (4.99.5.03)

David failed to do the interruption when he wanted to interrupt then Shah Rukh Khan continued his explanation about the play that he was doing.

3.4 Silent Interruptions

Silent interruption happens when the first speaker seeks help from the second speaker and allows the second speaker to do interruptions. (Tao, 2018). Both David and Shah Rukh Khan said one silent interruption during the show. The following were the interruptions:

SRK: What do you say when people are not too well mannered
 David: they frank...
 (19.06-19.13)

⁸
 The conversation discussed Shah Rukh Khan's youngest son. Shah Rukh Khan asked help from David to find the correct term for the behavior. David successfully interrupted when he said, "They frank."

David: DDJL... this is
 SRK: DDLJ

The conversation above discussed one of Shah Rukh Khan's greatest hit movie Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ). David forgot about the abbreviation and asked help for Shah Rukh Khan, Shah Rukh Khan interrupted and said 'DDLJ.'

Interruptions happen in everyday life. People do interrupt friends and colleagues. It can happen in formal and informal meetings. People need to differentiate and decide the best time to interrupt. The interruption has significant functions. There are two types of interruptions strategies; disruptive and cooperative interruption. Those two kinds of

interruptions affect the engagement between two speakers. It represents interaction and cooperation (Kollock, Schwartz 1985; Blumstein, Stets, and Burke, 1996). On the other hand, interruptions represent a battle of dominance and turn-taking control (Kollock et al. 1985; Octigan and Niederman 1979; West 1979; West and Zimmerman 1983)

Cooperative interruptions appeared in the David Letterman Shows. The interruptions strategies that appeared were agreement, assistance, and clarification. These notions are supported by other experts that categorized cooperative interruption into 3 sub-categories; agreement, assistance, and clarification (Kennedy & Camden, 1983; Li, 2001).

Table 2. Cooperative Interruptions

Cooperative Interruptions	David	Shah Rukh Khan
Agreement	10	2
Assistance	1	1
Clarification	12	6

Table 2 showed that David and Shah Rukh Khan were doing positive interruptions strategies during the TV Shows. There were 3 types of interruption that happened in the Show: Agreement, Assistance, and Clarification.

3.5 Clarification

The highest frequency of interruption has appeared for clarification. David did 12 interruptions, and Shah Rukh Khan did 6 times. Clarification occurred in the Show because of cross-cultural communication. The clarification is mostly uttered in the overlapping interruption in the show.

The overlapping speech and interruptions involve collaborative action which involves clarification and affirmation (Tannen 1983; Schegloff 2000; Kurtić, 2013). The examples of interruption for asking clarification were; 1) Shah Rukh Khan mentioned adoption and to clarify that David interrupted the conversation. Then, Shah Rukh Khan explained that the process is neither traditional nor religious process. His mother gave him to his grandmother just because his grandmother wanted a son. Shah Rukh Khan mentioned that in India, the people were so close to each other, therefore the adoption happened. 2) Shah Rukh Khan mentioned the C gang. David interrupted to clarify the term gang that Shah Rukh Khan has mentioned. Shah Rukh Khan explained that the gang was just got together for fun, nothing criminal. 3) Shah Rukh Khan also interrupted to ask for clarity from David. David was sharing about his experience of losing his mother. Shah Rukh Khan clarified whether David has experienced it when he was young, and David said so.

3.6 Agreement

The second-highest strategies that appeared in the show were interruption for asking agreement. David did asking agreement 10 times, and Shah Rukh Khan did two times. The agreement happened in the conversation after Shah Rukh Khan and David stated their opinion or clarified something. For example, When Shah Rukh Khan said that he had a gang behavior, he and his friend had an illuminated batch and started to walk and imitated the gang member, and David said it was indeed a gang behavior. Shah Rukh Khan agreed about that and interrupted the conversation. Shah Rukh Khan also told a story about behavior that he did when he was a kid and David agree about that.

3.7 Assistance

In the show, interruption also happened to assist other speakers. This interruption has the lowest frequency in the show. Shah Rukh Khan did one interruption to assist David. It was when David forgot about the term of DDLJ, one of Shah Rukh Khan's hit movies. Shah Rukh Khan interrupted to assist David about the real meaning behind the DDLJ acronym. David also showed one assistance when SRK forgot the term of the specific behavior that was shown by his kid, Abram. David interrupted and defined the term. All of the interruptions in the David Letterman TV Show had a significant purpose and the interruptions are done politely to avoid misunderstanding.

4. Conclusion and Suggestions

The analysis of the David Letterman Show reveals that the understanding of interruption could be done for a specific purpose to strengthen the bond between two speakers and to avoid misunderstanding. Interruption shows positives strategies such as agreement, clarification, and assistance. During the TV shows and within the interaction, politeness appears when placing the required interruption techniques in position. More frequently, since he is the host, David interrupts the discussion, and it is done to explain the conversation and state his opinions. No propensity occurs to overwhelm other speakers.

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