

Linguistic Politeness of Qatari Emir's Political Speech Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani

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Abstract

This research was based on Qatari Emir's speech, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani on July 21, 2017, that still preferred to use polite language, although Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt discontinued their diplomatic relations with Qatar and executed embargo it and on June 5, 2017. This research was aimed to analyze the language politeness in Qatari Emir's speech and reveal the intention of its use. The theory used in this research was Brown and Levinson's politeness theory (1987) which relates the speech politeness with face threatening act (FTA) and classifies them into four kinds namely strategy on record without redressive action-baldly, strategy on record with redressive action-positive politeness, strategy on record with redressive action-negative politeness, and strategy off record. The method used in this research was qualitative-descriptive. The data analyzed in this research was Qatari Emir's speech text on July 21, 2017 which officially sourced from the government of Qatar. Based on the findings of this research, the writer identified 26 politeness speech with 4 on record without redressive action-baldly strategy, 5 positive politeness strategy, 14 negative politeness strategy, and 3 off-record strategy. The numerous use of negative politeness compared with other strategies on Qatari Emir's speech showed that Qatari Emir responded the act of its four neighboring countries by negative attitudes and negative feelings such as rejection, anger and satire yet still maintaining the relationship. Besides, the number of positive politeness showed that Qatari Emir still considered the friendliness and closeness in its relationship with its four neighboring countries.

Keywords: Politeness, Qatari Emir, speech.

Introduction

This research was based on Qatari Emir's speech, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani on July 21, 2017, that still preferred to use polite language, although Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt discontinued their diplomatic relations with Qatar and executed embargo it and on June 5, 2017. The speech illustrated Qatari Emir's responses on accusation of terrorism involvement activities done by Qatar. Moreover, Qatari Emir tried to reveal how it has been feeling and entirely share its diplomatic relationship stories with its four neighboring countries. Certainly, it was impossible for Qatari Emir to deliver those two points bluntly. It was because there will be the increase of potential conflict if Qatari Emir's speech was not pleased its four

neighboring countries. Therefore, Qatari Emir chose to refine the speech as the strategy in delivering but still keeping the substance of its message.

In this research, the writer will explain and analyze speech politeness in Qatari Emir's speech, the contained message and intention. This research was also aimed to find Qatari Emir's responses after being embargoed and accused by its four neighboring countries in terrorism involvement.

Literature Review

The theory used in this research was politeness theory by Brown and Levinson (1987). Brown and Levinson's politeness theory focuses on 'face' concept which needed to be noticed and maintained by the speakers. According to the theory, the face might be threatened, maintained or increased in speech situation hence rational people will consider whom, what, and where they speak to for the sake of speaker's face as well as listener's (Brown & Levinson, 1987, p. 61).

In terms of face concept, Brown and Levinson divided into two kinds; positive face and negative face. Positive face is the willing of the speaker to be accepted, appreciated and honored by others. Meanwhile the negative face is the willing of the speaker to be appreciated by not to burden in doing something and give others freedom to act (Brown & Levinson, 1987, p. 62).

Brown and Levinson stated that the presence of those two faces can be threatened or disappeared if the participants declare something unpleasant. They called this as face threatening act (FTA). It means that this FTA is a speech which considered as impolite if it is delivered directly. Therefore, Brown and Levinson offered four strategies of politeness in doing, namely strategy on record without redressive action-baldly, strategy on record with redressive action-positive politeness, strategy on record with redressive action-negative politeness, and strategy off record. Each politeness offered has its delivering strategy except politeness on record without redressive action-baldly because this strategy focuses on advantages or truth given by the speaker to listener. There are strategies in doing FTA with positive politeness, namely (1) notice, attend to Hearer, (2) exaggerate, (3) use in-group identity markers, (4) joke, (5) offer, promise, (6) be optimistic, (7) give gifts to H (good, sympathy, understanding). Meanwhile, doing FTA with negative politeness strategy, namely (1) be conventionally indirect, (2) be pessimistic, (3) hedge, (4) minimize the imposition, (5) apologize (6) Nominalize, (7) state FTA as general rule. While off record strategy are (1) overstate, (2) use tautologies, (3) use contradictions, (4) be ironic, (5) use metaphor, (6) use rhetorical questions, (7) over-generalize.

Brown and Levinson stated that there are numerous advantages in doing Face-threatening Act (FTA). The advantage of using *on record without redressive-baldly* is the speaker can get an appreciation for his/her honesty as well as to avoid allegations as a manipulator in speaking. *Positive politeness* strategy can minimize the face-threatening aspect by showing similarities between the speaker and the listener. *Negative politeness* strategy can maintain social distance, so the speaker is able to gain good respect from the listener. Meanwhile, the advantage of using *off record* strategy is the speaker can obtain appreciation for his/her wisdom, avoid responsibilities for damaging the listener's image, and provoke the listener to show some respects to the speaker.

Research Method

This research applies qualitative descriptive methodology and used Qatari Emir's speech on July 21, 2017 as its data corpus. The data corpus was in form of Arabic speech text on pdf that officially sourced from the government of Qatar

<https://www.gco.gov.qa/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/خطاب-حضره-صاحب-السمو-الشيخ-تميم-بن-حمد-آل-ثاني-الموجه-الى-المواطنين-والمقيمين-على-ارض-قطر.pdf> by downloading it.

The data analysis process was started by translating them or Arabic to Indonesian to ease the identification process. In identification process, the writer analyzed discourse on this speech and classified it. From identification process, the writer found 26 politeness speech with 4 on record without redressive action-baldly strategy, 5 positive politeness strategy, 14 negative politeness strategy, and 3 off-record strategy. The entire findings, later on, was analyzed by Brown and Levinson's politeness theory. On the analysis phase, the writer analyzed those findings in accordance with politeness theory on speech by interpreting the intention of politeness strategy use.

Result and Discussion

Based on analysis results, the Qatari Emir's speech on 21 July 2017 consisted of 26 politeness speech with 4 on record without redressive action-baldly strategy, 5 positive politeness strategy, 14 negative politeness strategy, and 3 off-record strategy. The number of each politeness represents discourse strategy. Therefore, the writer classified the discourse strategy and its each kind of politeness as below

Table 1. Classification of the discourse strategy and its each kind of politeness

No	Model of Politeness	Strategy	Quantity
1	On record without redressive action-baldly (4)	-	4
		Be optimistic	1
		Use in-group identity markers	1
2	Positive politeness (5)	Offer or promise	1
		Give gift to Hearer (goods, sympathy, understanding)	2
		Be conventionally indirect	8
3	Negative politeness (14)	State FTA as general rule	2
		Nominalize	1
		Hedge	2
		be pessimistic	1
4	Off record (3)	Use rhetorical questions	2
		Use metaphor	1
Total			26

On Record without Redressive Action-Baldly

إن أي حل لهذه الأزمة في المستقبل يجب أن يشمل ترتيبات تضمن عدم العودة إلى هذا الأسلوب الانتقامي في التعامل مع المواطنين الأبرياء عند حدوث خلاف سياسي بين الحكومات.

*/inna ayya h}all lihaz\ihil azmah fi@I mustaqbal **yajib an yasymila tarti@ba@t tadmanu 'adamal 'awdah ila@ haz|a@I uslu@bil intiqa@mi@ fi@t ta'a@mul ma'al muwa@t}ini@nal abriya@ `inda h}udu@s|I khila@fi siya@si@ baynal h}uku@ma@t/***

"Any solution to this crisis in the future **must include arrangements to ensure that this retaliatory approach in dealing with innocent citizens will not be repeated** when there is a political dispute between governments."

The use of the politeness strategy in the Qatari Emir's statement above lies on the phrase *يجب أن يشمل ترتيبات /yajib an yasymila tarti@ba@t/* "must include arrangements," especially in the *يجب أن /yajib an/* "must" clause. The face threatening taken by the Qatari Emir against his counterpart is on the *يجب /yajib/* "must" verb which illustrates that the Qatari Emir demanded his four neighboring countries to do what he wished

to be /tarti@ba@t tadmanu 'adamal 'awdah ila@ haz|a@l uslu@bil intiq@mi@ fi@t ta'a@mul ma'al muwa@t}ini@nal abriya@/ "arrangements to ensure that this retaliatory approach in dealing with innocent citizens will not be repeated" in the solution of crisis settlement. That specific verb seems to make the Qatari Emir did not give them another choice, so the impact of using this verb is to position the four neighbors to have a sense of responsibility in the form of obligations to meet the demands of the Emir. This demanding statement is included in the direct speech strategy (*on record without redressive*), so the possibility of image loss from the four neighboring countries of Qatar is very large. However, the Qatari Emir dissembled the threatening phrase by inserting a particle أن /an/ after يجب /yajib/ "must" verb which serves as a softener to soften its claim in order to protect the image of the interlocutors.

In the sentence /'adamal 'awdah ila@ haz|a@l uslu@bil intiq@mi@ fi@t ta'a@mul ma'al muwa@t}ini@nal abriya@/ "no recurrence of retaliation in the case of innocent citizenship," there is a presupposition that explains the situation of public relations among the related countries in the association. The preliminary response is the reprisal of the citizens of Qatar to the citizens of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt in response to allegations made by their country to Qatar. Of course, the retaliatory action is motivated by the crisis of their country's diplomatic relations in accordance with what was conveyed by the Qatari Emir through the truthfulness of information about the situation of inter-state relations عند حدوث خلاف سياسي بين الحكومات /inda h}udu@s|i khila@fi siya@si@ baynal h}uku@ma@t/ "in the event of political disputes between governments." Hence, in order to prevent countermeasures among citizens, the Emir used the *on record* politeness strategy in his statement.

Positive Politeness

لا أريد أن أقلل من حجم الألم والمعاناة الذي سببه الحصار، وأمل أن ينقضي هذا الأسلوب في التعامل بين الأشقاء، وحل الخلافات بالحوار والتفاوض. فقد أساء هذا الأسلوب لجميع دول مجلس التعاون وصورتها في العالم، وقد أن الأوان لوقف تحميل الشعوب ثمن الخلافات السياسية بين الحكومات

/la@ uri@du an uqallil min h}ajamil alam wal mu'a@nat al laz|i@ sabbabaul h}is}a@r. wa a@mal an yanqad}iya haz|a@l uslu@b fi@t ta'a@mul baynal asyiqqa@ wa h}illul khila@fa@t bil h}iwa@r wat tafa@wud}. faqad asa@a haz|al uslu@b lijami@'I duwali majlisit ta'a@wun wa s}u@ratiha@ fi@l 'a@lam, wa qad a@nal awa@n liwaqfi tah}mi@lis syu'u@b s|amanal khila@fa@tis siya@siyyah baynal h}uku@ma@t/

"I do not want to underestimate the scale of suffering and pain caused by the siege, and **I hope that this malevolent approach in dealing among brothers will come to an end, and that differences may be resolved through dialogue and negotiation, for this approach has tarnished the image of all GCC countries in the eyes of the world.** It is high time to stop making the citizens of our countries pay the price of political differences among governments."

Be Optimistic

The optimism of the Qatari Emir on the restoration of inter-state relations is reflected through statements containing positive politeness /wa a@mal an yanqad}iya haz|a@l uslu@b fi@t ta'a@mul/ "I hope that this malevolent approach in dealing." Diction /al ta'a@mul/ "in dealing" which contains reciprocal meaning is a form of optimism of the Qatari Emir. This indicates that the Qatari Emir seeks to invite four neighboring countries to re-establish togetherness and harmony so that they will find a solution to end the crisis. The sign of brotherhood is visible from the use of الأشقاء /al asyiqqa@/ "brothers" diction to name the four neighboring countries of Qatar, namely Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt. It serves as a positive expression of politeness to illustrate how close Qatar's relationship with its four neighboring countries is. This diction is maintained in the

Qatari Emir's speech, even though in this case, Qatar is the ostracized state. Semantically, the diction الأشقاء */al asyiqqa@/* "brothers" is the plural form of the noun "siblings" (Wehr, 1976, p. 480). That being said, there is a common interest to be highlighted by the Qatari Emir, the fellow Arabs and Islam as the majority religion as a consideration of four neighboring countries to end their embargo against Qatar. In addition, the diction is also an indicator of Qatar's solidarity with its four neighbors.

Offer

The Qatari Emir's statement above begins with an expressive form which shows the form of his disillusionment with the embargo of his four neighboring countries with the phrase لا أريد أن أقل من حجم الألم والمعاناة */la@ uri@du an uqallil min h}ajamil alam wal mu'a@nat/* "I do not want to underestimate the scale of suffering and pain". In this case, the disclosure of his disappointment was frankly conveyed, given that an embargo by his four neighbors has made a bad impact on Qatar so that the aversion of the Qatari Emir towards the four-pronged countries is deemed necessary to be properly conveyed. However, in order to minimize the likelihood of threatening the faces of his interlocutors, the Qatari Emir proposed a suggestion to them to end the crisis with commissary statement وحل الخلافات بالحوار والتفاوض */wa h}illul khila@fa@t bil h}iwa@r wat tafa@wud/* "may be resolved through dialogue and negotiation." This commissary suggestion in addition to containing suggesting illocution also contains an offering illocution which, when associated with Brown and Levinson's politeness theory, belongs to a kind of positive politeness. The commissary statement actually deals with future action and benefits for the interlocutors (Leech, 2014, p. 180). Qatari Emir's offer to the four neighbors is not only to benefit the four neighbors as the interlocutors but also to benefit Qatar.

Give Gift to Hearer (Goods, Sympathy, Understanding)

The form of attentive expression from Qatari Emir towards Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain as members of the Gulf Cooperation Council are found in the statement فقد أساء هذا الأسلوب لجميع دول مجلس التعاون وصورتها في العالم */faqad asa@a haz|al uslu@b lijami@I duwali majlisit ta'a@wun wa s}u@ratiha@ fi@l 'a@lam/* "this approach has tarnished the image of all GCC countries in the eyes of the world." */duwali majlisit ta'a@ wun/* "GCC countries" diction is an indicator of the attentive expression from the Qatari Emir towards them. The indicator is evident that the Emir seeks to show common ground with other Gulf Cooperation Council member nations. The effort to build harmony between countries is related to positive politeness. Regardless of this form of concern, the Qatari Emir put in criticism of their pace in it. This criticism is then refined to minimize the threatening to them because of the connection as the member of the Gulf Cooperation Council so that the criticism is only implicitly seen.

Negative Politeness

العنصرية الهامشية في لقد اعتمدت الدول التي قامت بهذه الخطوات على مفعول تهمة الإرهاب في الغرب، وعلى تملق مشاعر بعض القوى لهم أن المجتمعات الغربية مثلنا، لا تقبل أن تطلق تهمة الإرهاب لمجرد الخلاف المجتمعات الغربية وأفكارها المسبقة. ولكن سرعان ما تبين السياسي، أو لأغراض مثل قمع التعددية في الداخل، أو لتشويه صورة دول أخرى وعزلها على الساحة الدولية. فهذا السلوك، عدا عن كونه ظلما، يلحق في النهاية ضررا بالحرب على الإرهاب

*/laqad I'tamadat duwalul lati@ qa@mat biha@z|i hil khut}wa@t 'ala@ maf'u@li tuhmatil irha@b fi@l garb, wa 'ala@ tamalluqi masya@'iri ba'd}il quwa@h 'uns}uriyyatil ha@misyyah fi@l mujtama'a@til garbiyyah wa afka@riha@ al musbiqah. **Wa lakin sur'a@n ma@ tabayyana lahum annal mujtama'a@t al garbiyyah mis|ana@, la@ taqbal an tut}laq tuhmatul irha@b limujarradil khila@fis siya@si@, aw li agra@d} mis}li qam'it ta'addudiyyah fi@d ad da@khil, aw litasywi@hi s}u@rati duwali ukhra@ wa 'azliha@ 'ala@s sa@h}atid dawliyyah. **Fa haz|as sulu@k, 'a@da@ 'an kawnihi z}ulma@n, yulh}a aqu fi@n niha@yah d}iraran bil h}arb 'ala@l irha@b/*****

"The States that have taken these steps have banked on the effect that terror-supporting charges would have in the West, while appealing to the sentiments and preconceived notions of some marginal discriminative forces in Western societies. **It soon became apparent to them that Western societies are like us, in that they do not accept levelling the accusation of terrorism** purely due to political dissension, or for purposes such as suppressing pluralism at home, or distorting the image of other countries and isolating them at the international level. **This behavior itself, although far from being just, ultimately inflicts damage on the war on terror.**"

State FTA as General Rule

The Qatari Emir's statement */wa lakin sur'ean ma tbiin lahum an mujtama'at al garbiyyah mis|lana@, la@ taqbal an tut}laq tuhmatul irha@b/* "it soon became apparent to them that Western societies are like us, in that they do not accept levelling the accusation of terrorism" are included in the kind of speech that contains negative politeness. The strategy of negative politeness was seen in the threatening actions of the Qatari Emir to the four neighboring countries with the prevailing rules, namely *أن المجتمعات الغربية مثلنا لا تقبل أن تطلق تهمة الإرهاب /annal mujtama'a@t al garbiyyah mis|lana@, la@ taqbal an tut}laq tuhmatul irha@b/* "that Western societies are like us, in that they do not accept levelling the accusation of terrorism". */al mujtama'a@t al garbiyyah/* "Western societies" diction is an indicator that the Qatari Emir makes comparisons with Western societies that are clearly very different from the Arabs. That is, the Qatari Emir asserted that in fact any nations or societies around the world will not accept if accused of or support terrorism. The purpose of this statement, therefore, is to reveal the form of the rejection of the Qatari Emir against the step of severing diplomatic relations and the embargo of the four neighboring countries.

Be Pessimistic

The Qatari Emir's criticism of his four neighboring countries' move is seen in the statement of *فهدا السلوك، عدا عن كونه ظلما، يلحق في النهاية ضررا بالحرب على الإرهاب /fa haz|as sulu@k, 'a@da@ 'an kawnihi z}ulma@n, yulh}aqu fi@n niha@yah d}iraran bil h}arb 'ala@/ irha@b/* "this behavior itself, although far from being just, ultimately inflicts damage on the war on terror." The criticism is concerned with the solidarity between countries which is now in question to fight against terrorism. In order not to look like a critic, the Qatari Emir delivered it in an assertive form and with a negative politeness strategy of being pessimistic. It is found in the */yulh}aqu fi@n niha@yah/* "ultimately inflicts" remarks that cast doubt on the Qatari Emir in the fight against terrorism because of the uncertainty of the four countries with the measures they took against Qatar.

Off Record

ألا نعلم أبناءنا منذ الصغر أن الوشاية والكذب هما رذيلتان من أسوأ الرذائل؟ أليس التشهير وتلطيخ السمعة جريمة يحاسب عليها القانون في جميع الدول المتحضرة؟

/ala@ nu'allim abna@ana@ munz|us} s}agar annal wusya@yah wal kaz|b huma@ raz|i@lata@n min aswa al raz|a@il? alaysa at tasyhi@r wa talt}i@khu sum'ah jari@matan yuh@asabu 'alayha@h qa@nu@n fi@ jami@'id duwalil mutah}ad}irah?/ "Do we not teach our children at a young age that lying and malicious snitching are two of the worst vices? Is slander and tarnishing a reputation not a crime punishable by law in all civilized countries?"

Use Rhetorical Questions

The Qatari Emir's questions above are in the form of a rhetorical question which belongs to the kind of *off record* politeness, since the Emir is seen to threaten the faces of four neighboring countries and does not want to take responsibility for such actions, so the Emir makes room for them to interpret the statement (Brown &

Levinson, 1987, p. 211). In the statement *أن الوشاية والكذب /anna1 wusya@yah wal kaz|b/* "that lying and malicious snitching," the Emir compares the moves which have been taken by the four countries, such as accusing Qatar of supporting terrorism and intervening in the domestic affairs of four neighboring countries, as slander and lies addressed to Qatar. Therefore, in response to these allegations, the Emir alluded to his four neighboring countries with criticism *ألا نعلم أبناءنا منذ الصغر أن الوشاية والكذب هما رذيلتان من أسوأ الرذائل؟ /ala@ nu'allim abna@ana@ munz|us} s}agar annal wusya@yah wal kaz|b huma@ raz|i@lata@n min aswa al raz|a@il?/* "do we not teach our children at a young age that lying and malicious snitching are two of the worst vices?" The interpretation of this Qatari Emir's criticism is that the four neighboring countries did not teach their children or their next generation of slander and lies, but they did what they did not teach to their children. The Qatari Emir's statement certainly has the potential to damage the images of his four neighboring countries, but with *off record* strategy that allows four neighboring countries to interpret, making the Emir of Qatar seems wiser to such threatening actions (Brown & Levinson, 1987, p. 71).

Another rhetorical question in the statement is *أليس التشهير وتلطيح السمعة جريمة يحاسب عليها القانون في جميع الدول المتحضرة؟ /alaysa at tasyhi@r wa talt}i@khu sum'ah jari@matan yuh@asabu 'alayha@h qa@nu@n fi@ jami@'id duwalil mutah}ad}irah?/* "Is slander and tarnishing a reputation not a crime punishable by law in all civilized countries?" also potentially damaging the image of the four neighbors. The statement with this *off record* strategy actually aims to criticize the four neighboring countries for their actions against Qatar. In the *القانون /yuh@asabu 'alayha@h qa@nu@n fi@ jami@'id duwalil mutah}ad}irah?/* "by law in all civilized countries?" the Emir made *القانون / qa@nu@n /* "law" in every country as the basis of his speech to threaten the images of his four neighboring countries. His goal is to reinforce the claim that the four neighboring countries' move towards Qatar is indeed a conflicting action.

Conclusion

The adjustment of discourse in Qatari Emir's speech is a verbal reality on how Qatar responded on accusations, diplomatic relation discontinuation and embargoing done by its four neighboring countries. Based on the writer's analysis results, negative politeness was found in most number which was 14 discourses. This proves that in the speech, Qatari Emir denied the terrorism involvement accusations done by its four neighboring countries, was furious of embargoing act as the penalty, criticized the solidarity among members of GCC and UEA and offended them for spreading defamation about Qatar. While the positive politeness found in 5 number showed that Qatari Emir maintained the friendliness and harmonious relationship as the effort reconciliation with its four neighboring countries.

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