Gender-Based Choice of Politeness Strategies in Interviews by Desi Anwar with Queen of Denmark Margrethe II and President Erdogan

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ABSTRACT

Politeness strategies are a crucial element in conversations. Choosing the appropriate politeness strategies would lead to a smooth talk between the Speaker (S) and the Hearer (H). Preferred politeness strategies are different among different racial groups and also genders. In the case of an interview, the interviewer needs to suit his/her choice of politeness strategies to the interviewee's preference so that the interviewee would feel comfortable in answering the interview questions. Thus, this current study aims to (1) examine the politeness strategies used by Desi Anwar in the interviews with Queen of Denmark Margrethe II and President Erdogan; (2) examine whether or not the choices of politeness strategies follow the preferred politeness strategies for men and women. The research questions are 1) What politeness strategies are used by Desi Anwar in the interviews with Queen of Denmark Margrethe II and President Erdogan? (2) Do the choices of politeness strategies follow the preferred strategies for men and women? The findings show that in interviewing Queen Margrethe II, Desi Anwar used to notice H, including both S and H, seeking agreement, being optimistic, and giving compliments as the politeness sub-strategies; one of them, i.e., compliment, is in line with females' preferred politeness sub-strategies. However, in interviewing President Erdogan, Desi Anwar does not give any politeness sub-strategies preferred by males. It shows that it is easier for Desi Anwar to choose the appropriate politeness sub-strategies when she has an interviewee of the same gender.
Keywords: *Politeness Strategies; Desi Anwar, Gender.*

INTRODUCTION

Men and women have distinct conversational goals, which can cause misunderstandings or breakdowns in communication since women are more concerned with building rapport among group members and ensuring that the conversation runs well (rapport talk). Men are concerned with establishing their position in the hierarchy and use the creation of information as a means of doing so (report talk) (Mills, 2003). Also, according to Holmes (2013), men and women use language differently, which is where the difference in politeness can be observed. Most women enjoy the talk and regard talking as an essential means of keeping in touch, especially with friends and intimates. They use language to establish, nurture and develop a personal relationship. Men tend to use language as a tool for obtaining and conveying information. Therefore, there often needs to be more understanding between men and women in conversation.

The problem of this study covers the area of pragmatics, particularly politeness strategies. Politeness strategies are important to be included in interviews to avoid misunderstanding. Men and women have different favour of politeness strategies. Unfortunately, this understanding has only sometimes been possessed by every interviewer. Giving the appropriate politeness strategies according to the gender of the interviewee might increase the sense of comfort during the interview sessions. This would likely decrease the tense during the interview, especially when the interview has a political topic/issue.

Politeness strategies are divided into four types. They are bald-on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record. According to Brown and Levinson (as cited in Servitia, 2019), a bald-on record is when Speaker (S) does not do anything to minimize the FTA given to Hearer (H). For example, *pass the salt*!

Meanwhile, positive politeness is the one aimed to save the hearer's positive face. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), there are fifteen sub-strategies for positive politeness which include noticing/attending to H, exaggerating, intensifying interest in H, using in-group identity markers, seeking agreement, avoiding disagreement, presupposing common ground, joking, asserting knowledge, offering/promising, being optimistic, including both S and H, giving/asking for reasons, assuming reciprocity, and giving gifts to H.

Furthermore, negative politeness is the one directed to fulfilling the hearer's negative face wants. Brown and Levinson (1987) explained that negative politeness includes being conventionally indirect, questioning/hedging, being pessimistic, minimizing the imposition, giving deference, apologizing, impersonalizing S and H, stating the FTA as a general rule, nominalizing, and going on record as incurring debt or as not indebting H.

The last type of politeness strategy is a bald-off record. Brown and Levinson (as cited in Servitia, 2019) explained that the bald-off record strategy is when S does not tell explicitly what he/she wants. For example, being vague is one way to do this: *'Look like some is having so much work to do.'* The speaker says this to implicitly state that the hearer is being idle.

According to Hobbs (2003), women tend to use positive politeness strategies, such as compliments and softening criticism, while the negative politeness that women mostly use includes apologies and expressing gratitude. It is supported by Holmes (1993) who stated that apologies (negative politeness) and compliments (positive politeness) are two politeness strategies frequently used by women. According to Sofiana (2019), females tend to use off-record strategy by being vague, while males often use jokes in their positive politeness. Moreover, she states that females also often use promises for their negative politeness.

Furthermore, Sofiana (2019) states that males mostly prefer to give positive politeness by giving understanding to the hearer. According to her another sub-strategies used are intensifying interest in the hearer, using in-group identity markers, giving jokes, and giving or asking for reasons. She further explains that the negative politeness used

by males is mostly using a question or hedge. Furthermore, being conventionally indirect is another sub-strategy preferred by males.

To sum up, below are the preference of different politeness sub-strategies done by men and women.

Table 1.1 Choice of Politeness Sub-Strategies Based on Gender

	Males	Females
Positive Politeness	Giving gifts (understanding) to H	Compliments
	Intensifying interest in H	Promise
	Using in-group identity marker	
	Giving or asking for reasons	
	Jokes	
Negative Politeness	A question or hedge	Apologies
	Being conventionally indirect	
Off record	-	Being vague

The table shows that there are politeness sub-strategies that are the same between males and females, however, mostly, the choice of politeness sub-strategies is different between men and women. This study attempts to determine whether Desi Anwar has given her interviewees the appropriate gender-based politeness strategies.

The research questions of this study include: (1) What politeness strategies are used by Desi Anwar in the interviews with Queen of Denmark Margrethe II and President Erdogan? (2) Do the choices of politeness strategies follow the preferred politeness strategies for men and women? Therefore, this study aims to: (1) examine the politeness strategies used by Desi Anwar in the interviews with Queen of Denmark Margrethe II and President Erdogan, and (2) examine whether or not the choices of politeness strategies follow the preferred politeness strategies for men and women.

Some previous studies on Desi Anwar's interviews have been conducted. Tresnasih (2018) found that Margarethe II used mostly Positive Politeness Strategies in her interview with Desi Anwar, which was due to Margarethe II's higher status than Desi Anwar. Moreover, Karmila (2021), also found that bald on record, positive politeness, and negative politeness are the strategies used in the Face to Face with Desi Anwar Program, with Positive Politeness dominating other strategies. Ihsan (2020) stated that in the interview between Desi Anwar and Dalai lama in 'Face to Face with Desi Anwar', Desi Anwar used mostly falling-rising intonation, while Dalai Lama gave mostly falling intonation.

From the previous studies above, it can be seen that studies on Desi Anwar's interviews have been carried out before. However, none has investigated the different choices of politeness strategies given by Desi Anwar in her interviews with Queen of Denmark Margrethe II and President Erdogan. This is the gap fulfilled by this current study.

This current study is expected to give a new insight into the different choices of politeness strategies that are addressed to interviewees of different genders. An

interviewer needs to deliver the appropriate gender-based politeness strategies to create a comfortable atmosphere for the interviewees. Therefore, the flow of the interview is expected to run more smoothly.
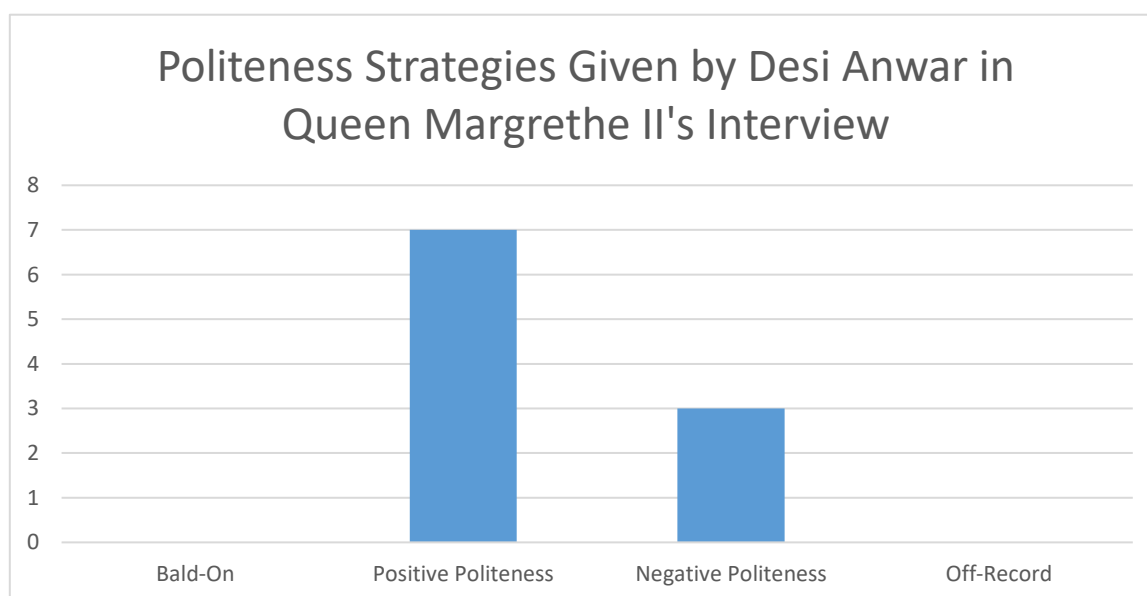
METHOD

This research is carried out using the descriptive qualitative method. The goal of descriptive research is to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics. This research is more concerned with what rather than how or why something has happened (Nassaji, 2015). The technique of data collection in this study is analyzing the interview transcription. First, the interview sessions between Desi Anwar and Queen of Denmark Margrethe II and also the interview between Desi Anwar and President Erdogan were transcribed. The transcription was then analyzed to find the politeness strategies and sub-strategies used by Desi Anwar in each interview session. The politeness strategies and sub-strategies were then labeled according to their names. The data were then described descriptively in Ms. Word's file under some headings which were: Queen Margrethe II and President Erdogan. Sub-headings were also created under each heading: Bald-On Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off-Record.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

From the data analyzed, it is found that Desi Anwar gave both positive and negative politeness in her interview with Queen Margrethe II, as can be shown below.
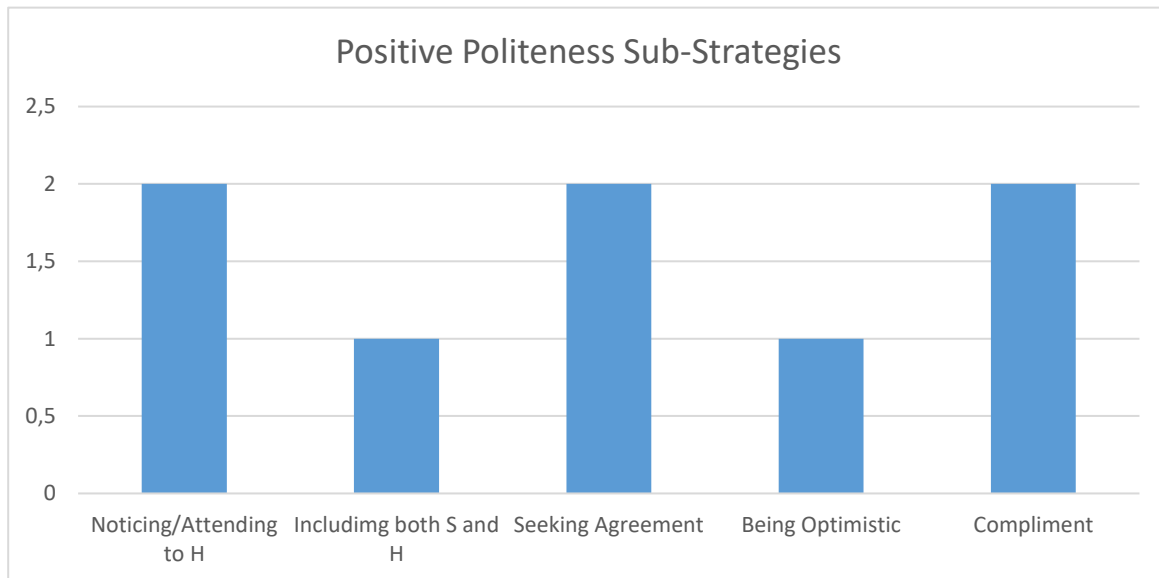
Figure 1.1 Politeness Strategies in Queen Margrethe II's Interview

Overall, the interview contained 7 positive politeness strategies and 3 negative politeness strategies.
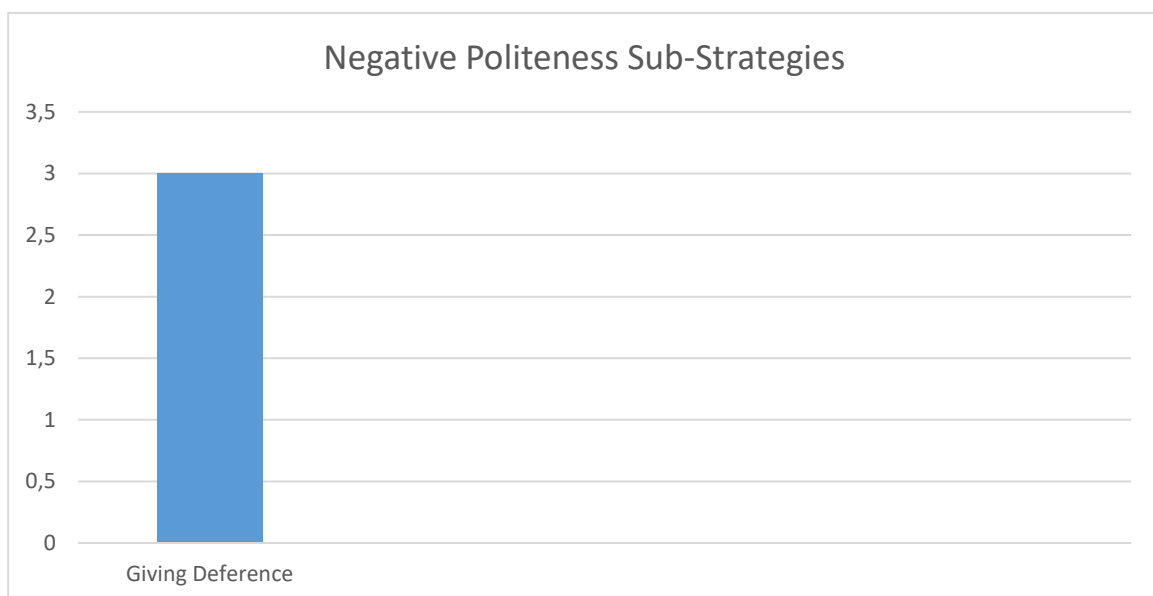
Furthermore, there were five positive politeness sub-strategies used during the interview which were noticing H, including both S and H, seeking agreement, being optimistic, and giving compliments.

Figure 1.2 Positive Politeness Sub-Strategies in Queen Margrethe II's Interview

Overall, there were eight positive politeness sub-strategies contained in the interview. Meanwhile, there was only one negative politeness sub-strategy used in the interview, which was given deference, as shown below.
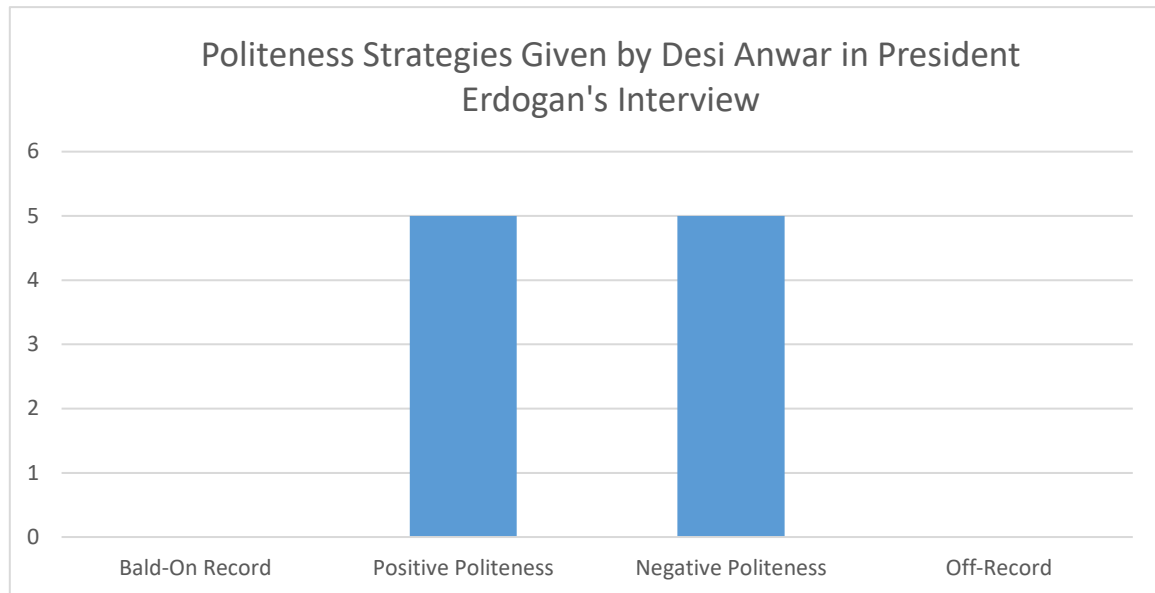
Figure 1.3 Negative Politeness Sub-Strategies in Queen Margrethe II's Interview

It can be seen that giving deference was the only negative politeness sub-strategy used in the interview between Desi Anwar and Queen Margrethe II.

In the interview with President Erdogan, Desi Anwar gave equal numbers of positive and negative politeness strategies, as can be seen below.
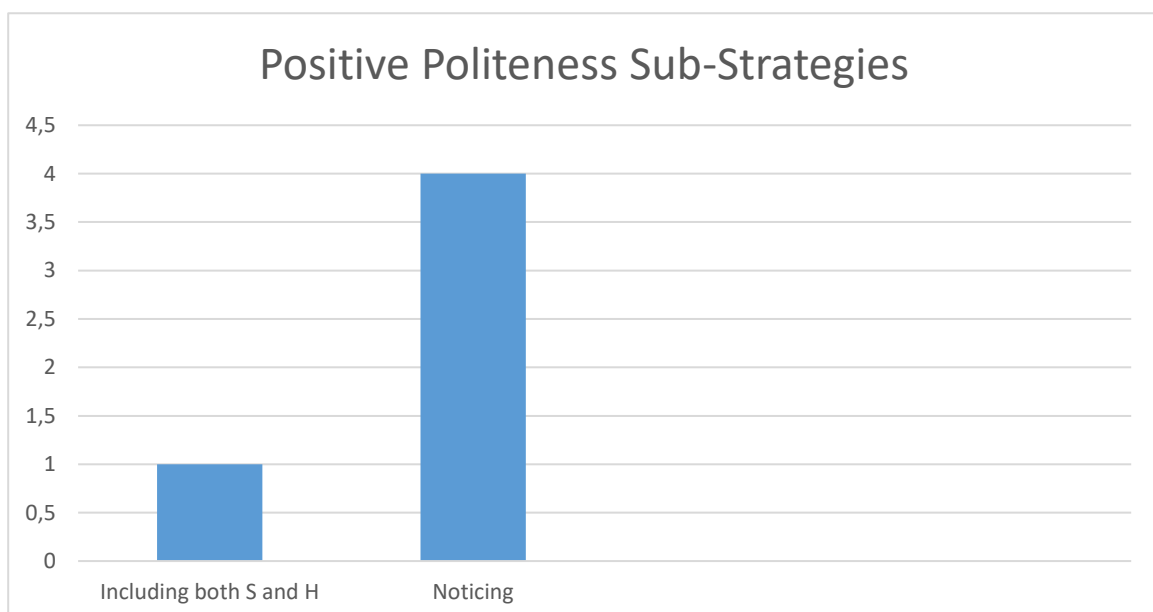
Figure 1.4 Politeness Strategies in President Erdogan's Interview

The chart shows that there were five positive politeness strategies and five negative politeness strategies used in the interview between Desi Anwar and President Erdogan.

Moreover, there were only three negative politeness sub-strategies found in the interview which were asserting or presupposing, including both S and H, and noticing.
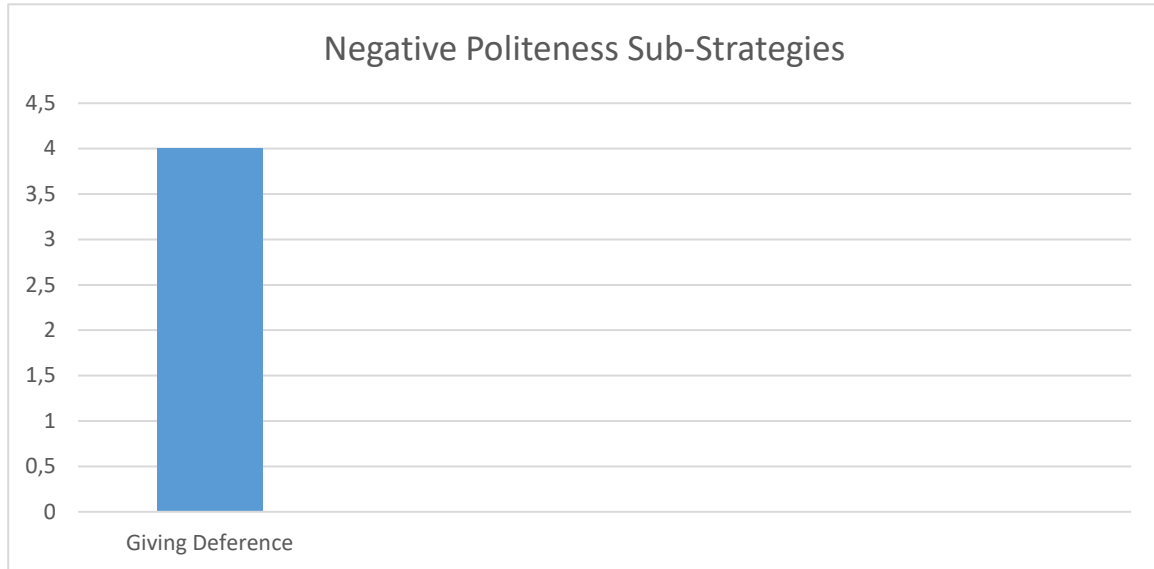
Figure 1.5 Positive Politeness Sub-Strategies in President Erdogan's Interview

The chart illustrates that there were two positive politeness sub-strategies contained in the interview, which were including both S and H and also noticing.

The same as the negative politeness found in the interview between Desi Anwar and Queen Margrethe II, the negative politeness sub-strategy found in the interview between Desi Anwar and President Erdogan was also only giving deference.

Figure 1.6 Negative Politeness Sub-Strategies in President Erdogan's Interview

Overall, it can be seen that Desi Anwar gave ten politeness strategies in each interview. The Discussion part will discuss each sub-strategy used in each interview.

Discussion

Politeness in Queen Margrethe II's Interview

Positive Politeness

Five positive politeness sub-strategies are described below. They include noticing, including both S and H, seeking agreement, being optimistic, and giving compliments.

Excerpt 1 Noticing

The first sub-strategy discussed is noticing. According to Norra (2015), noticing refers to S's utterances that show his/her care for H's noticeable changes/conditions/remarkable possessions

No.	Utterance
1.	Desi: Your Majesty, **you visited Pelindo and you also visited safe house, and you've also sampled some of our cuisines, you've seen wayang show,** …
2.	Desi: Yes and actually for Indonesia perhaps when **we refer to Denmark is always with the stereotypical you know the Danish pastries and Danish cookies and badminton there's also you know the Danish cartoon.**

In the first utterance above, it can be seen that, as the interviewer, Desi Anwar showed her understanding of Queen Margrethe II's activities in Indonesia. It showed that Desi Anwar had done some research on her interviewee before the interview was conducted. It would fulfill the interviewee's positive face want since she would feel appreciated. Furthermore, the second utterance also shows that Desi gave an attempt to fulfill the interviewee's positive face by telling her what Denmark was popular for. The interviewee would then feel that her country was appreciated, which would then increase her positive face.

Excerpt 2 Including both S and H

According to Norra (2015), the use of 'we' instead of 'you' and 'me' is a way S includes H in the conversation. The example is shown below.

No.	Utterance
1.	Desi: I know Indonesia and Denmark **we're** very far away

In the excerpt above, Desi Anwar included 'we' in her utterance to refer to Indonesia and Denmark. This shows that Desi attempted to make her interviewee feel included and close to her. Instead of using 'Indonesia and Denmark', 'we' is used there to show the closeness between the two countries.

Excerpt 3 Seeking agreement

According to Brown and Levinson (as cited in Dowlatabadi, Mehri, and Tajabadi, 2014), seeking agreement can be done by raising safe topics and repeating S's utterance. 'Yes,' or 'yeah' can also be added to emphasize agreement.

No.	Utterance
1.	Queen Margrethe II: .. because in Denmark we will tend to think that nature is something that is pretty to watch and not too interfering, but of course, we do live in a very special part of the world where earthquakes don't seem to happen Desi: **Yeah** actually Indonesia we are home to a lot of natural disasters
2.	Queen Margrethe II: it's amusing when you think of the distance between the two countries and how very different we are, I mean you are millions and millions and we're just five and a half. Desi: **Yes** and actually for Indonesia perhaps when we refer to Denmark is always with the stereotypical you know the Danish pastries and Danish cookies and badminton there's also you know the Danish cartoon.

In the excerpt above, Desi shows agreement to the interviewee's utterance by saying 'Yes' and 'Yeah'. This would fulfill the interviewee's positive face since she would feel approved and accepted. Since the interview was about the collaboration between Denmark and Indonesia, there seems to be no urgency to show any kind of disagreement. Therefore, showing agreement is seen as the best way to enhance the idea of collaborating between the two countries.

Excerpt 4 Being optimistic

According to Archia (2014), positive politeness can be shown by being optimistic, as shown below.

No.	Utterance
1.	Desi: Thank you very much for your time and **I hope** you **enjoy** the rest of this visit. I **hope** you can **bring wonderful memories and wonderful souvenirs** from your trip.

In the utterance above, Desi showed that she wanted the best for her interviewee. She was optimistic that Queen Margrethe II would get a wonderful visit to Indonesia. It fulfilled the interviewee's willingness to be approved and appreciated.

Excerpt 5 Compliment

According to Peng et al. (2014), compliment has great importance to maintain interpersonal relationships. Below are the examples of compliments given by Desi Anwar to fulfill the interviewee's positive face.

No.	Utterance
1.	Desi: Desi: Indonesia is quite good with badminton but **now Denmark has completely beaten us**.
2.	Desi: It's clear that **Denmark is much better.**

In the excerpt above, Desi gave compliments to Denmark's badminton team. She fulfilled the interviewee's wants to be appreciated and approved by saying that Queen Margrethe II's country had a great badminton team. That way, the interviewee would feel that her country's achievement was approved.

Negative Politeness

There is only one type of negative politeness sub-strategy found, which is giving deference. Three utterances are using this sub-strategy, as shown below.

Excerpt 6 Giving Deference

According to Ramdhani et al. (2014), giving deference can be done by using honorific expressions such as *Sir*.

No.	Utterance
1.	Desi: **Your Majesty,** …
2.	Desi: **Your Majesty**, you visited Pelindo and you also visited safe house, and you've also sampled some of our cuisines, you've seen wayang show, …
3.	Desi: What would you like… What does **the majesty** like to see done more between the two countries?

The excerpt shows that Desi gave deference to her interviewee by saying, *Your Majesty*. It shows that Desi tried to emphasize the status gap between her and Queen Margrethe II to make the President feel that he had the freedom to answer or not to

answer Desi's question. Here, Desi was protecting Queen Margrethe II's negative face, i.e., freedom from imposition.

Politeness Strategies in President Erdogan's Interview

Positive Politeness

Two positive politeness sub-strategies are being used in this interview, namely including both S and H and also noticing.

Excerpt 1 Including both S and H

The use of 'we' instead of 'you' and 'me' is one indication that S is trying to make H feel comfortable and included. The example is shown below.

No.	Utterance
1.	Turkey and Indonesia **we** have both large moslem populations, what can be done?

Here, Desi Anwar used the word 'we' to show the friendship between Turkey and Indonesia. Besides, it was also used to show the similarity between the two, i.e., both are moslem countries.

Excerpt 2 Noticing

As has been explained in the previous part that noticing refers to S' attempt to notice H's possessions or appearance or condition to fulfill his/her positive face want. Noticing H's utterances would make H feel comfortable and appreciated. Besides, by noticing what H is saying, H would feel that his/her talk is being paid attention to. The examples are shown below.

No.	Utterance
1.	And also given the conflicts in the neighboring country, **you mentioned** Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen.
2.	President, **you mentioned** the European Union and you also mentioned China.
3.	Before you visited Indonesia, **you also visited** China.
4.	I **know this is your 4ᵗʰ time** in Indonesia, this time you come here as a president.

Utterances 1 and 2 show that Desi paid attention to what her interviewee said. It would make the interviewee feel appreciated. Moreover, utterances 3 and 4 also show that Desi knew her interviewee's condition, i.e., about the interviewee's visit to China and about the number of times the interviewee has visited Indonesia, therefore, the interviewee would feel appreciated.

Negative Politeness

Giving deference is the only negative politeness sub-strategy included in this interview, the explanation is presented below.

Excerpt 4 Giving Deference

Giving deference would fulfill H's want to be free from imposition. The examples are shown below.

No.	Utterance
1.	**Mr. President,** welcome to Indonesia …
2.	**Mr. President,** how optimistic are you …?
3.	**President**, you mentioned the European Union and you also mentioned China.
4.	**Mr. President**, thank you very much.

The utterances show that Desi emphasized the status gap between her and President Erdogan by saying, *Mr. President*. This way, President Erdogan would feel that his freedom from imposition was protected and he had the choice of either to answer or not to answer Desi's next question.

CONCLUSION

As can be seen in the Findings and Discussion Part, it can be seen that Desi Anwar follows the gender-based politeness strategies in interviewing Queen Margrethe II. In this interview, Desi uses Compliments in her positive politeness strategies. It is in line with females' preferred sub- politeness strategies described in the Introduction Part. However, Desi does not seem to apply the same rule in interviewing President Erdogan. In this interview, Desi does not use any males' preferred sub-politeness strategies, as can be seen in the table below.

Table 1.2 Females' Preferred Politeness Sub-Strategies Used by Desi Anwar to Queen Margrethe II

	Females' Preferred Politeness Sub-Strategies	Politeness Sub-Strategies Used by Desi Anwar to Queen Margrethe II
Positive Politeness	Compliments	Compliments
	Promise	Including both S and H
	Using in-group identity marker	Seeking Agreement
	Giving or asking for reasons	Being Optimistic
	Jokes	Noticing/Attending to H
Negative Politeness	Apologies	Giving Deference
Off-Record	Being vague	-

Table 1.3 Males' Preferred Politeness Sub-Strategies Politeness Sub-Strategies Used by Desi Anwar to President Erdogan

	Males' Preferred Politeness Sub-Strategies	Politeness Sub-Strategies Used by Desi Anwar to President Erdogan
Positive Politeness	Giving gifts (understanding) to H	Asserting or presupposing the speaker's knowledge of and concern for the hearer's wants
	Intensifying interest in H	Including both S and H

	Using in-group identity marker	Noticing
	Giving or asking for reasons	
	Jokes	
Negative Politeness	A question or hedge	Giving Deference
	Being conventionally indirect	

It might imply that Desi does not tailor her choice of politeness sub-strategies in interviewing her male interviewee. On the contrary, she tailors her choice of politeness sub-strategies in interviewing her female guest. It shows that gender similarity between her and the guest has helped Desi to choose the appropriate politeness sub-strategies in the interview. Since this study includes three research objects from different cultural backgrounds which are Indonesia, Denmark, and Indonesia; it is recommended that future researchers conduct a similar study within the same culture to see further findings.

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