

Wai Yan Min Oo (ELTE): Evaluations of (Im)politeness in Intercultural and Intracultural Communications in the Context of Myanmar

This paper aims to investigate the variability of perceptions of politeness in intercultural communication in comparison with those in intracultural communication via the speech act of request. The underlying theoretical background is perceptual politeness, which is the hearer's judgments of the speakers' speech polite or impolite, by Eelen (2001). Haugh and Chang (2019) advocate the need to study perceptual politeness rather than conceptualization and production of politeness.

The rating scale questionnaire was employed to collect data on perceptual politeness from native and non-native speakers of Burmese (Myanmar). In Myanmar, the Burmese (Myanmar) language is the Lingua Franca of the country. The communication between native speakers and non-native speakers of Burmese (Myanmar) is regarded here as intercultural communication. The perceptual politeness data obtained from non-native speakers of the Burmese (Myanmar) language is considered as the politeness data for intercultural communication. This data is to be compared with that of native speakers. Moreover, the correlation between the perceptions of (im)politeness and contextual variables, including the (in)sincerity of the apology and the offense's severity will be investigated.

To administer the data collection, the questionnaire was distributed through Google Forms. To find out the participants' perceptions of politeness, the sincerity of the request, and the severity of the offenses in four naturally occurring requests, three 5-point Likert scales were designed for each of the requests. The requests were issued in non-institutional contexts, social distance and status were fixed. To guarantee the reliability and internal consistency of the survey, Cronback's alpha will be used to measure the quality of the survey.

Around 70 participants of native and non-native speakers of Myanmar, who are university students, responded to the questionnaires. Descriptive statistics (frequency and percentage) and correlation method (Spearman correlation test) will be utilized for the data analysis. As for the findings, it is projected that the participants' evaluations of politeness of four requests will diverge between the perception of politeness of intercultural communication and intracultural communication. The correlation between politeness perceptions, (in)sincerity, and offense severity will also be investigated in both cultural settings. It is hoped that, as for the contribution to the field, the present research could contribute novel findings to fill the gaps of politeness literature in intercultural communication from the context of Myanmar. Another significant contribution is that the findings indicate the adequacy of the discursive approach by Eelen (2001) to study intercultural (im)politeness.

Keywords: Intercultural communication, Intracultural communication, Perceptual politeness, (Im)politeness, Request

References

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