



Abstract

This research focuses on request strategies found in Sherlock Holmes season 1 which consists of 3 movies with different stories. This British movie tells the story about mysterious murder cases solved by a detective and his partner who is a military doctor. The data comprise 410 requests along with the context that have been collected from the subtitles of the movies. This study aims to classify and analyze the request head acts and external modification. In addition, it aims to find out the most preferred request strategy and external modification as seen in the movie. The request head acts are classified based on the theory of request head act proposed by Blum-Kulka and Olsthain (1984): direct strategies which consist of mood derivable, explicit performatives, hedged performatives, obligation statement, and want statement. Indirect strategies consist of suggestory formulae and query preparatory. Non-conventional indirect strategies consist of strong hints and mild hints. The external modifications are classified based on the theory of external modifications proposed by Blum-Kulka, House, and Kasper (1981): preparatory, grounder, disarmer, sweetener, cost minimizer, and promise of reward. Based on the classification, it can be seen that mood derivable is the most preferred strategy with 228 occurrences (55,61%) and grounder as the most preferred strategy in modifying request with 60 occurrences (60%). The high frequency of mood derivable is caused by the close relationship between characters in the story and the high frequency of grounder is caused by the easiness of using it to modify requests.

Keywords: request, head act, external modification