

دراسة الاستراتيجيات الرفضية الغير مباشرة في رواية كاسبي العظيم

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The Study of Indirect Refusal Strategies In Great Gatsby

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Abstract

Refusals exist in all languages as the other speech acts . It traced to Austin and Searle's(1969) theory inside the frame of Brown and Levinson's politeness theory (1987). As for Searle (1969) illustrated that acts of promising, apologizing, refusing, offering, asking are all forms of communication. So many researchers have been interested in studying refusals.

The research falls into four sections; the first section is an introductory remarks about refusal , section two illustrates refusal classifications , refusal strategies and sequences. Data analysis tackled in section three. Section four ends with conclusions.

The current study surveys the refusal strategies that are employed in Great Gatsby by the researcher tries to pick up the indirect refusal strategies throughout the novel . Sometimes there is a disability in communicational process because of inappropriate way of using refusal strategies thus the researcher tries to illustrate the misunderstanding . The data were analyzed according to the taxonomy proposed by Beebe's et al (1990). The findings clarify that the characters differ in the way they use refusal strategies , [attempt to dissuades interlocutors] were preferred formula among other.

Key words : refusal , (in)direct refusal strategies.

المخلص

ان للرفض موجود في جميع لغات العالم مثل بقية الافعال الكلامية الاخرى . يرجح بان الرفض يعود الى نظرية اوستن و سيرال والتي تقع بدورها ضمن اطار نظرية براون و ليفنسن أصحاب نظرية الكياسة عام ١٩٨٧ . بالنسبة لسيرل عام (١٩٦٩) اوضح بأن التواصل اللغوي يستلزم بالنطق بالأفعال الكلامية كالعرض , الاعتذار , توجيه الاستئلة , قطع الوعود, او رفض شيء ما . لذا فان العديد من الباحثين قد اهتموا بدراسة الرفض .

يتضمن البحث أربعة فصول , يختص الفصل الاول بمقدمة عن مصطلح الرفض بينما يوضح الفصل الثاني أقسام الرفض : وهي استراتيجيات الرفض المباشر و الغير المباشر. أما الفصل الثالث فيعنى بتحليل البيانات . ينتهي البحث بالفصل الرابع الذي يتناول فيه الباحث ما تم التوصل اليه .

تستقضي الدراسة الحالية استراتيجيات الرفض الغير مباشرة التي وضفت في رواية كاسبي العظيم ؛ لذا يحاول الباحث تتبع تلك الاستراتيجيات خلال الرواية . قد يوجد هنالك خلل في عملية التواصل في بعض الاحيان و ذلك بسبب استخدام الطريقة الغير مناسبة للرفض لذا يحاول الباحث توضيح هذا الخلل او الالتباس .

تم تصنيف البيانات حسب تصنيف بيبي واخرون (١٩٩٠) لاستراتيجيات الرفض. أوضحت النتائج بان شخصيات الرواية تختلف في طريقة استخدامهم لاستراتيجيات الرفض. فقد تصدرت (attempt to dissuades interlocutors) في مقدمة الاستراتيجيات المستخدمة. الكلمات المفتاحية: الرفض , استراتيجيات الرفض , الرفض المباشر , الرفض الغير مباشر.

1.1 Introductory Remarks

The skill of using language among the interlocutors is the cornerstone of communication. So to achieve a successful communication , a wide set of speech acts used by speakers as stated by Searle (1969) such as : (*declaration, commissives, expressive, representative, and directives*) in addition to acts of apologizing, complaining, requesting, and refusing. (Kasper and Rose , 2001).

A refusal is defined as responding negatively to someone's invitation, offer, or suggestion. It is considered as an important act because of its usage within daily communication . In order to reject appropriately it involves linguistics and pragmatics knowledge (Abdul-Sattar et al, 2011:70).

What's more , to refuse or reject something , one should have repertoire of vocabularies, grammar , and word sounds to practice pragmatic in a better way .

Another key to remember that various cultures differ in the acts of communication. Each culture has its own rejection methods among the members of society and for these reasons misunderstanding may arise by other cultures and may lead to confusion in the social communicational process (Ibid) .

Referring to the views of Olshtain and Blum-Kulka (1985), humans' communication can be better understood through investigating , empirically, their linguistic behaviors including speech acts . Such investigation highlights similarity and difference in modes of interaction among individuals of various cultural communities. As a matter of fact, social factors , cultural standards, and individuals' beliefs all contribute to the realization of a speech act. (Schmidt , 1983 cited in Chunli & Nor 2016:244) .

2.1 Refusal

A refusal can be identified as unprefferable reply which contradicts the interlocutors' expectations ; subsequently the competence required to perform it in appropriate manner. (Kreishan, 2018 : 69) .

Refusal act is found almost in all languages. Searle and Vandervken (1985:195) view that refusal is the counterpart of acceptance and that individuals can equally accept or refuse an application, an invitation , and an offer in light of the relevant linguistic rules common in their cultural communities. Thus, in various languages uttering the word "NO" is very important than the answer itself. So, in order to transmit and receive a message of "NO" this requires a special skill to interact by depending on the most important things namely : ethnicity and cultural linguistic values (Abdul-Sattar et al 2011:70-71) moreover, the speaker should realize the appropriate forms and its function in order to be used successfully. To refuse someone's request , invitation or suggestion without hurting her/his feelings is extremely significant since the [inability to utter the word ' no ' made many non-native speakers to insult the other participants] Ramos, 1991, cited in Al-Kahtani, 2005) (Ibid).

Concerning the close relationship between culture and refusal strategies (Brown & Levinson, 1978) demonstrate that the refusal strategies can be considered a gate that illuminates data about cultural and social values of the natives of a language and their

social norms. Generally, the act of refusing is a functional unit in the context of communication. (Searle, 1969; Cohen, 1995, as cited in Nelson et al., 2002) (Brown & Levinson, 1978) (Al-Ghamdi and A-Qarni, 2019:66). Adul-Sattar et al(2011:71) add that refusals from sociolinguistic perspective are very important on account of they are sensitive to as they are responding to a number of invariables like age, social distance, gender, and education; each of which are socially determining factors.

for non-native speakers Beebe et al (1990) describe the term (refusals) as a prime ["**sticking point**"] and are described as a complicated issue in nature . According to Yamagashira (2001) characterized refusal speech acts (SAs) as a [" **sensitive pragmatic task**"] this is by performing refusals , participants of speech employ indirectness as a strategy to avoid offending each other. And in order to do what Yamagashira disputed , interlocutors may utilize, in the situation in which they are engaged in, various forms and contents . If the native speakers do not have that ability to perform the act of refusing in the target language, misunderstanding can be arisen especially when they resorted to their mother tongue whose strategies of producing and interpreting the act of refusal may not necessarily have direct equivalents to those of the target language (Al-Ghamdi & A-Qarni, 2019:66).

Refusal has been described as a complicated act as many researchers view such as Gass and Houck (1993) and Abdul Sattar et al (2011). They state that refusal is a complicated speech act because it needs not only lengthy preparation of negotiations and cooperations but also saving the hearer's face in order to change the rebellious nature of speech acts (Hedayatnegad & Rahbar , 2014 Cited in Solihah , 2019 :172) & (Abdul-Sattar et al, 2011:71).

It is possible to come across two terms that are contradictory : refusal and acceptance . The word refusal or rejection means censuring (**disapproval**) to the interlocutors' thoughts and this will lead to a threatening – face while acceptance, as a contrary term to refusal, used directly without mitigation, explanation or delay. The latter are inclined to be used as indirect language strategies. Delaying as a strategy of refusal ,for example; involve an adequate justification to reject to do something (Putri, 2010: 19).

2.1 .1 Refusal Classifications

Ueda (1972) appointed sixteen methods like (delaying an answer, keeping silent, or employing ambiguous no, etc.) to refuse without using the word 'No' . Then, Rubin (1983) proposed that speakers from different cultures can perform refusal by:

- a. being silent, showing hesitance or less enthusiasm.
- offering some alternative.b
- c. postponing
- d. blaming some person or something claimed to be out of one's control.
- . e. avoiding
- f. accepting an offer in general without giving any detail
- g.distracting the addressee
- accepting an offer generally with an excuse.h
- stating the inappropriateness of the offer.i

The aforementioned strategies paved the way for studying refusals by Beebe et al (1990) who categorized refusal in terms of its strategies into indirect and direct. The previous categories comprise of set of strategies . The refusal strategies can be clarified as the ways that are achieved by speaker when he accomplished the refusal actions in order to enhance his/her convincing reason (Jorda & Salazar , 2009:141) .

2.1.2 Beebe et al' s Taxonomy

Beebe , Takashi , and Uliss-Weltz (1990) developed a taxonomy of refusals which is the most important study on refusal. According to their findings , they elicit four types of refusal speech acts namely : ' **requests** ' , ' **invitations** ' , ' **offer** ' , and ' **suggestions** '. Beside, they designed a taxonomy or a formulae for refusal strategies where the latter can be either direct or indirect. This taxonomy also includes items each of which is not a refusal in itself but an adjunct to refusal. (Reichl , 2017 :254) .

A- Direct Refusals

A kind of refusal through which the addresser refuses the following acts such as :/ **request, offer, suggestion**/ of the speaker without concerning about his feelings Flexi-Brasdefer & Bardovi-Harlig (2010:164) describe direct refusal as short and clear (e.g. I can not\ I do not want) in English (Devi et al , 2014: 208) . Rahaya (2019:69) adds that the word '**No**' is uttered by a person who has a power or who has the authority upon the hearer who has a lower status .

For example : { "**I do not think so**"}. The speaker directly refuses without any delay.

B- Indirect Refusals

A form of refusals through which the speaker indirectly turns down the offer, request , or invitation (Ibid :210).

For example : { "**I appreciate that Tony , but I'm not involved with admissions "**}. In this example, the addressee indirectly refuses the addressor's request.

2.1.1.1 Refusal of Requests

An act of requesting can be divided into the act of asking for:

- a favour (to borrow something, or ask for help)-
- , agreement, acceptance.(e.g. Job application) permission-
- e.g.Information about a product) (advice or information -
- request to take an action.(e.g."**payment**") (Putri ,2010:20).

2.1.1.2 Refusals of Invitations

A verbal or a written invitation is an act which requires the addresses' going somewhere on a request from the speaker. An invitation act is classified into two kinds :

1- (**Ritual Invitation**) usually takes place at the end of human interaction . It plays a (**leave- taking act**) role among the participants . By using unspecified expressions of invitation , the inviter illustrates his desire to maintain the future relevance with the hearer.

E.g. [**come to have dinner with us**].

2- ("**Real Invitation**") this type shows the sincerity of speakers' intention to the listener about the invitation as for example [**Would you like to go to the movie with us?**].

2.1.1.3 Refusal of Offers

An offer means that the speaker initiates some act willingly and it involves offering:

- a gift
- a favour
- food or drink
- an opportunity e.g. (**promotion, job**) (Ibid).

2.1.1.4 Refusal of Suggestions

A suggestion act can be clarified as an idea brought up for consideration. Suggestion falls into types as it can be :

1- (**Solicited act of suggestion** : when the interlocutors ask for advice).

2- (**Unsolicited act of suggestion** : when the interlocutors give advice voluntarily).

a-[Personal suggestion] this suggestion is uttered by the speaker to the listener in order to maintain the relationship through:

* **Showing concern**

e.g. [- **It is getting hot. you'd better wear something light.**].

* **Developing a conversation:**

e.g. [**Its getting dark. Move inside as soon as you can.**].

* **Showing or establishing membership :**

e.g. [**I do concern about you, I suggest that you work harder**].

b-[Commercial suggestion] this type of suggestion is uttered to guide the participants' or customers' commercial manners and thoughts to purchase in response to salesmen's advertisements which calls agents to try their productions. (Ibid :21-22) .

In addition , Sahman and Javanmardi (2011:187-191) illustrate the aforementioned refusal kinds that are uttered by the participants and the majority of them use indirect refusal strategies which involve, for example; giving excuses, explanations or reasons to refuse invitations, requests, or suggestions whose realizations are accompanied by an expression of regret. The subsequent table illustrates the previous patterns with examples in addition to number of frequency in the novel .

Table No. (1) **Refusal classifications**

| Types of Refusal Classifications | Examples | Number of Frequency |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1-Refusal of request | ["You know we have employed some new employees ; so it's not possible for the time being"] | 16 |
| 2-Refusal of invitation | ["Thank you for your invitation but I was invited somewhere else so sorry , I have to go there "] | 3 |
| 3- Refusal of offer | ["Come on! No problem. Take it easy "] | 17 |
| 4-Refusal of suggestion | ["Kidding me ! I prefer stop breathing rather than going a diet"] | ٣ |

2.2 Refusal Strategies

There are eleven strategies of refusing as stated by Aziz (2000) , who takes the social matters into consideration as : age , gender , sitting , distance , ranking , power and the seriousness of losing face (Rahaya ,2019 :69) .A refusal be performed by:

1- [**Stating Regret**]

e.g. { I feel terrible,I am sorry }

2- [**Expressing a wish**]

e.g. {I wish to be there }

3- [Giving an Excuse , reason , or explanation] , these acts are achieved through giving excuses , reasons , or explanation in this way one can decline an offer of invitation.

E.g. { "I have got an important work tomorrow." } (Devi et al, 2014 :211) .
{ " I want to leave now. " } (Abdul-Sattar , 2011: 74).

4- [Stating an Alternative]

It involves making a request or giving a suggestion by a person in response to the requester 's offer and affords the latter the opportunity to choose , i.e. expanding the request or the offer to someone else:

E.g. { " Please say it to Tomba." } (Devi et al , 2014:212).

5- [Showing Restricted Acceptance]

In this state , the speaker accepts indirectly but he gives a condition which appears to some extent that it is declining .

E.g. { I do accept this but I've got a problem. }

6- [Promising of Acceptance]

In this condition, the speaker disapproves an offer by showing his/her it is currently rejected but acceptance can be a future action:

E.g. { I will definitely attend next time . }.

7- [Stating a Principle]

The addresser , in this strategy , illustrates his/her norm or rule towards the addressee or to the person whose is creating the suggestion; declaring to others that he/she is not that kind to agree such a suggestion or an offer.

E.g. { "I am not that type of person to ask favor to anyone." } (Ibid :211).

8-[Stating a Philosophy]

e.g. { " One cannot be too careful" }

9-Dissuading the hearer by:

(i) threatening or using utterance whose locution has negative impact on the requester :

e.g. { "I won't be any fun tonight ." } [refusing invitation]

(ii) {guilt tripping}

e.g. { "I cannot make a living off people who just order coffee ."}'

["In the previous sentence , the waitress talked to customer who wants to sit a while ."]

(iii) {criticizing the act of request or its performer by insulting ,attacking or showing negative opinion or feeling,.

e.g. { "Who do you think you are ?" }

{ "That's a terrible idea." } (Saud, 2019:99)

The previous sentences indicate that there are kinds of underestimation or attacks by the speaker to the recipient .

(iv) {requesting for empathy, help , , and assistance by holding or dropping the request }.

(v) { defending one's situation }

e.g. { "I 'm trying my best ." }

{ "I'm doing all I can ." } (Ibid)

10- Refusing through acceptance

In this strategy , the speaker declines by giving inaccurate or indirect answer.

E.g. { " I do not know when I will be able to do that ." }

(Devi et al , 2014 :215)

A: indefinite or unspecific reply

B: { showing less enthusiasms }

Here , the speaker does not pronounce his or her unwillingness directly so, he or she tries to play on words in order to keep his or her face (Rahaya , 2019 : 69).

E.g. { " I do not fed like doing it . " }

11- Avoidance

(i) { **Non-Verbal** } : Refusals get through body gestures as nodding head , eye movements , hesitation or by keeping silence .

(ii) { **Verbal** }

a. (**topic switch**): the addressee usually avert an offer or request by changing the topic .

E.g. { "Wait , how did it go about that previous thing ?" }

b. (**jock**) :considered as one kind of indirect refusal strategies . This kind fulfils when the responder tells a joke while the request is made .

c. (**repetition of the requested part**) : This statement happens when the speaker dissimulates that not to hear . It is also viewed as a kind of irony resulting from the offer or request .

E.g. { "What did you say , do a work together , huh ?" }

d- **postponement** :An offer or suggestion is rejected by means of delaying or stalling it by the speaker .

E.g. { " I will think on it . " } (Devi et al ,2014 :15)

e-**hedging** : a kind of indirect refusal strategy to save face because hedge is used as a form of politeness .

e.g. { " Gee , I don't know . " }

-Adjuncts to refusals

Adjuncts cannot be performed by themselves as a refusal. Since , they may appear either before the semantic formula [pre-refusal] or after it [post-refusal] as shown by Félix-Brasdefer's (2004) in addition to Beebe, Takahashi, and Uliss-Weltz's (1990) taxonomy has been adopted to analyze refusals in a great number of studies through the recent twenty years (Jorda & Salazar , 2009 :142).

a. (**Stating positive point of view / showing favorable feeling / or agreement**)

e.g. { "that's a good idea" ; "I'd love to..." }

b. (**Expressing empathy**)

e.g. ("I realize you are in a difficult situation.")

c. (**Using a Pause filler**)

e.g. { "uhh"; "well"; "oh"; "uhm" }

d. (**appreciation /Gratitude**) (Reichl , 2017:255).

2.1.2 Refusal Sequences

A refusal sequence according to (Flelix-Basdefer , 2008: 42) may include direct and indirect strategies. Beebe et al (1990) proclaim that refusals can be viewed as series of the following :

A. [**Pre-Refused Strategies**]: these strategies prepare the hearer for an imminent refusal .

B.[**Main Refusal Strategies**]: these strategies discern the main strategy .

C. [**Post- Refusal Strategies**]: these strategies are used for concluding or justifying the refusal response followed the main act of refusing or the so called ' head act' (Putri , 2010:27).

e.g. Boss : {*"I was wondering if you might be able to stay a bit late this evening, say, until about 9.00 p.m. or sor"* }.

Employee: {*"Uh, I'd really like to, but I cannot stay. I'm sorry . I have plans . I really cannot stay"* }.

The previous example shows refusal sequences through the conversation between the boss' request for the employee to stay overtime at work (Ibid).

Table No . (2) Refusal Sequences

| Refusal Sequences | Response |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| "Pre-refusal" | "Uh, I 'd really like you" |
| "Head act(main act)" | "But I cannot" |
| "Post-refusal" | "I' m sorry" |
| "Post-refusal" | "I have plans" |
| "Post-refusal" | "I really cannot stay" |

3.1 Data Analysis

The current study is mainly relied on Beebee's Taxonomy et al (1990) . The final outcomes of the conducted analysis is shown in the table below:

Indirect Refusal Categories) Table N0 (3

| Types of Indirect Refusal Strategies | Frequency |
|--|--|
| 1- Expressing regret | 8 |
| 2- Statting a wish | 1 |
| 3- Giving an excuse ,an explanation , or a reason | Excuse/ 2 Reason/ 0 Explanation/0 |
| 4-Providing an Alternative'] | 2 |
| 5- Conditioned agreement | 16 |
| 6- Promise to accept in future | 25 |
| 7- Stating Principles | 59 |
| 8- Stating a Philosophy | 50 |
| 9- Dissuading the Interlocutor by: a. threating or using utterance whose locution has negative impact on the hearer. b. guilt tripping c. <u>criticizing /attacking /insulting / giving opinion /showing feeling.</u> d. requesting for empathy, help , , and assistance by holding or dropping the request e. defending one's situation. | 140 4 Criticize /18 Attack / 2 Insult / 7 Opinion / 5 Feeling / 4 4 17 |

| | |
|--|--|
| 10 Acceptance Functioning as Refusal a. unspecific or indefinite response b. <i>Less enthusiasm</i> | 7 |
| 11-['Avoidance'] 1.['Non-verbal : a. <i>hesitation</i> b. <i>silence</i> c. <i>do nothing</i> d. <i>physical departure</i> 2- switching the topic b. ['jock c. <i>repeating part of the request</i> '] d. ['Postponing e. ['hedging'] | <i>Hesitation / 1</i> <i>silence/1</i> <i>Do nothing/ 0</i> <i>Physical departure / 1</i> <i>Jock/1</i> <i>Topic switch /1</i> <i>Repetition /8</i> <i>Hedging /53</i> <i>postponement /12</i> |

Conclusions

The researcher adopted the indirect refusal strategies in Great Gatsby's novel. Although both refusal is used in the novel at issue in its direct and indirect strategies, the investigation has approved that the indirect strategies of refusal are the extremely preferable strategies employed between the characters of the novel to minimize the threatening-face and softening the interlocutors' responses to refusals. Such preference can be due to cultural factors that affect the society to which the characters of the novel belong, the fear of employing improper ways of refusal by people in addition to various factors that are associated with set of elements such as : power, age, social distance as well as the subject of conversation.

On close analysis, indirect refusal strategies were verified in Great Gatsby's novel. The types of strategies used in various situations which were calculated as illustrated in the table No. (3). Some of these strategies are applied more than others. The study also shows among the indirect refusal strategies, threats and utterances of negative consequences are highly preferred in the novel. While there is no preference to the other strategies performed such as: explanation, reason and avoidance (do nothing). In addition to { adjuncts to refusals } which is not used by the interlocutors throughout the novel at all.

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