REFUSAL STRATEGIES USED BY DRE IN “THE KARATE KID” MOVIE

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This thesis is entitled Refusal Strategies Used by Dre in The Karate Kid Movie. It has an objective: to describe the refusal strategies used by the main character, Dre, in The Karate Kid movie. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the framework proposed by Beebe et al. (in Muhammed (2012:46-47)). While the steps in analyzing the data are as follows: First, identifying the utterances which are delivered by Dre Parker in the movie transcript. Second, coding the refusal strategies which have been identified. Third, categorizing the refusal strategies based on classification by Beebe et al. (in Muhammed 2012:46-47). It is found there are 2 refusal strategies found in the data. They are the indirect strategies (59) which are use more than direct strategies (9). It happens because Dre Parker adjusts with Chinese’s culture. He has taught by Mr. Han about how to behave. In the end, it influences his life and it is reflected how he refuses requests. He becomes politer than before. In contrast, the direct strategies become the least number because Dre Parker is still influenced with US culture. Even with the older people, he refuses directly. These strategies appear in the beginning turns before he met Mr. Han.

**Keywords:** character, Dre, movie, refusal strategies, pragmatics

**INTRODUCTION**

In this day, speech acts in linguistics has been studied in the world. A speaker uses many speech acts in delivering an idea, a message and an intention to the others. One kind of speech acts is refusal. According to Searle (1969), all linguistic communication involves the production of speech acts, such as offering apologies, asking questions, making promises, or refusing. A refusal is a negative response to an offer, request, invitation and suggestion. It becomes important because sometimes the speaker cannot always agree or must give positive response to the hearer. However, it is often difficult to reject requests.

In daily life, people refuse request with different style. It needs a good way to reject the requests, so the speaker will not hurt the interlocutor. Rejecting requests not only need linguistic knowledge, but also pragmatic knowledge and grammatical knowledge. Misunderstandings still can happen, if someone does not apply pragmatic knowledge in the right way. However, in many countries people have different cultures to deliver their refusals. Every culture has different ways of refusing requests. It can influence someone in rejecting requests because culture can create habit.

Different refusal cultures can show many speaking styles because it can give different choice for speech act behaviors. Yamagashira (2001: 260) describes the speech
acts of refusals as a "sensitive pragmatic task" simply because interlocutors, in performing refusals, use indirect strategies in order not to offend each other. The example of this refusal strategies is people from different cultural backgrounds perform refusals differently even they use English. It may cause misunderstanding when people from different cultures interact with one another. So, lack of knowledge of speech act realization patterns and strategies between cultures may create different understanding.

Another statement of Yamagashira states that interlocutors may use different forms and contents in the situation they are involved in. Misunderstanding may happen if non-native speakers fail to perform a refusal in the foreign language, such as English because they will use their native language strategies which may be different from English. In the refusal strategies, every country has different in pattern.

Refusal strategies are not only found in the society, but also it can be learned from language product such as movie. The researcher takes one box office movie entitled Karate Kid. This movie tells about Dre, an African American, moves from U.S to China with his mother. He has to go to a common school there. In fact, he cannot speak Chinese like the other students. He makes friend with a girl in the school. Unfortunately, there is a bad boy that always disturbs him. However, Dre is always helped by a janitor in his school that is acted by Jacky Chan. The janitor teaches him Kung fu. One day, when Dre is attacked by the bad boy, the janitor helps Dre and says that the problem will be solving in Karate Championship.

In this story, Dre as the main character makes interaction with Chinese. It is clear that in the interaction Dre has a different culture from them. Because of that reason, the researcher is interested in finding out the refusal strategies used by the main character, Dre, in The Karate Kid movie. This different culture will show different pattern because the culture relates with politeness strategy. Beside that, Dre also makes interaction with older people such as his mother and the janitor. The example can be seen as follow:

Mom : Dre, put your jacket.
Dre : Mom, I’m tired okay?
(www.indowebster.com)

From the example above, it can be seen that Dre refuses his mother’s command. The refusal strategies can be seen as ‘excuse’. It is shown that Dre addresses his mother first using intimate addressing. Then, he makes excuse to refuse.

The researcher also has another reason why she conducts this research. The data also show relation between the main character and the other characters. This movie shows different power of both characters. Dre, as the main character, makes adjustment when he talks other character which are in the same age and older than him. The solidarity can be shown when he talks with the same age characters. As the result, the researcher wants to find out the refusal strategies used by Dre as the main character. Based on the phenomena above the researcher tries to conduct a research entitled, “Refusal Strategy Used by Dre in The Karate Kid movie.”

RESEARCH METHOD

Data and subject
The data of this study were refusal strategies used by Dre in “The Karate Kid” Movie as the subject of the study.
Unit of Analysis

In this research, the researcher focused on utterance which is delivered by Dre as the main character in *The Karate Kid* movie and analyzed refusal strategies.

Technique of Data Collection and Analysis

In this research, the data that were analyzed are qualitative data, taken from *The Karate Kid* movie. The data were taken from the movie transcript. There were some steps used in collecting the data. First, watching the movie. Second, downloading *The Karate Kid* at [www.indowebster.com](http://www.indowebster.com) the movie downloaded in 20th May 2014. Third, Browsing the transcript of the movie [www.subtitleseeker.com](http://www.subtitleseeker.com). And the last, rechecking the transcript and the scene.

Data analysis is a process of gathering, modeling, and transforming data with the goal of highlighting useful information, suggesting conclusions, and supporting decision making. The researcher focused on refusal strategies and The steps of data analysis were first, identifying the utterances which are delivered by Dre Parker in the movie transcript. Second, categorizing the refusal strategies based on refusal strategies classification by Beebe et al. (in Muhammed 2012:46-47). Third, interpreting the data. And the last, drawing conclusion.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Findings

To answer the statement of the problem, the researcher tries to classify the refusals using Beebe et al.’s classification in Muhammed (2012:46-47). There are 68 utterances as the refusals. The distribution is provided in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Type of Refusal Strategy</th>
<th>( f_x )</th>
<th>( f% )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Indirect Strategies</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>86,76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Direct Strategies</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13,24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Sigma )</td>
<td></td>
<td>68</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table above, it is concluded that the indirect strategies (59) are used more than direct strategies (9). It happens because Dre Parker adjusts with Chinese’s culture. He has been taught by Mr. Han about how to behave. In the end, it influences his life and it is reflected from how he refuses requests. He becomes more polite than before. In contrast, the direct strategies become the least number because Dre Parker is still influenced with US’ culture. Even with the older people, he refuses directly. These strategies appear in the beginning turns before he met Mr. Han.

After knowing the finding, the researcher tries to explain further about the results. The researcher only used some data as the samples. The detailed analysis is provided as follows:

In this time, the researcher divides the analysis into types of refusal strategies and the refusal strategies patterns. The analysis is presented below:
Indirect Refusal Strategies

There are 59 utterances found in Dre utterances. They are categorized as indirect refusal strategies. There are 11 indirect strategies provided by Beebe et al. in Muhammed (2012:46-47). The distribution is seen as follows:

**Table Distribution of Indirect Refusal Strategies used by Dre Parker in ‘The Karate Kid 5’ movie**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Type of Indirect Refusal Strategies</th>
<th>Fx</th>
<th>f%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Excuse/Reason/Explanation</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Adjunct to Refusal Statement of positive opinion/feeling/agreement</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gratitude/appreciation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Attempt to dissuade interlocutor Criticizes the request/the requester, etc</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Threat/statement of negative consequences to the requester</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Set condition for future or past acceptance</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Promise of future acceptance</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Statement of principle</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Statement of alternative</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Statement of philosophy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Statement of regret</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Avoidance Repetition of part request</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Σ                                                                 | 59 | 100% |

The table above shows that excuse/reason/explanation becomes the first category in the data. There are 17 utterances recognized as this indirect strategies. It becomes the dominant because Dre is still influenced with both US’ culture and Chinese’s culture. In US’ society, if someone refuses something; he must give reason and explain. In addition, Chinese’s culture teaches to excuse if someone refuses. The second category is adjunct to refusal with 14 utterances. They are divided into 3 categories: statement of positive opinion/feeling/agreement, statement of sympathy and gratitude. In this time, statement of sympathy is not found because the genre of the story is action. As the result, Dre never shows his sympathy after refuses the request. The statement of positive opinion/feeling/agreement is 13 utterances and gratitude is only a utterance.

The third category is attempt to dissuade interlocutor. There are 3 types of this type: threat/statement of negative consequences to the requester (9); criticizes the request/the requester, etc (3); and let the interlocutor off the hook (0). The last type is not found in the data. It happened because Dre is younger than the other characters; so, he usually must follow Mr. Han and his mother requests. However, he also has lower position with his friends because Cheng is jealous with him. Further, he influences his friends to hate Dre. So, the interlocutors never want to accept his refusal easier.

The fourth category is set condition for future or past acceptance with 4 utterances. The fifth category is promise of future acceptance and statement of principle with each 3 utterances. The seventh category is statement of alternative and statement of philosophy with each 2 utterances. The last is statement of regret and avoidance with each 1 utterance. It becomes the least because Dre usually regrets after he knows that he is
wrong. In addition, this regret is to explain why he refuses to tell what happened with him. Moreover, he refuses using avoidance only once time. It is not only to refuse but also to make sure what is the request.

Moreover, wish is not found in the data. It happened because Dre never wishes to have something in the future to accept the other requests from the interlocutors.

Discussion

According to the finding, the discussion shows the refusal strategies used by Dre in “The Karate Kid” movie. There are 59 utterances found in Dre utterances. They are categorized as indirect refusal strategies. There are 11 indirect strategies provided by Beebe et al. in Mohammed (2012:46-47).

Excuse/Reason/Explanation

There are 17 utterances categorized as excuse/reason/explanation. Some examples of this refusal strategies are:

Excerpt 1:
00:17:26,962 --> 00:19:29,792
(After fighting with Cheng)
130. Cheng’s friends: Go get him. Go, go, go!
131. Cheng’s friends: Yeah!
132. Cheng: Still want to fight?
133. Mei Ying: Are you okay? Let me help.
134. Dre: Just leave me alone. I’m fine.

The excerpt above shows when after Dre and Cheng fighting in the park. Dre has conversation by Mei Ying. Mei Ying wants to help Dre after attacked by Cheng. He is jealous because Dre is very close with Mei Ying. In the end, he attacks Dre to show that he is superior than Dre. After that, Mei Ying feels pity of Dre’s condition. However, Dre refuses her help by giving positive opinion and reason for Mei Ying to leave him alone. He explains that he is in the good condition by saying, I’m fine. Dre said like that because he does not want Mei Ying feeling pity to him. Besides, he wants to show that he is strong. Because of that reason, this utterance is categorized as excuse/reason/explanation.

Adjunct to Refusal

There are 14 utterances found. This strategy has 2 types found in the data. They are statement of positive opinion/feeling/agreement with 13 utterances and gratitude with only a utterance. Some of the examples are seen below:

1. Positive Opinion/Feeling/Agreement

There are 13 utterances found in the data. The examples are:

Excerpt 2:
(Mr. Han’s home)
01:10:07,828 --> 01:11:32,704
470. Dre: So, what are we doing today?
471. Mr. Han: Same.
472. Dre: You know, Mr. Han, I told you. I get it, okay? Be respectful. I got it. I put my jacket on a thousand times, I took it off a
thousand times! Okay? **This is stupid. I'm done.** They can beat me up if they want to. And you know why you only have one student? 'Cause you don't know kung fu.

Excerpt 2 shows that Dre refuses to do the same thing that puts the jackets on and out. The semantic formulaic of the refusal is attempt to dissuade interlocutor + explanation + adjunct to refusal + reason. Dre feels boring with the activity on his training only by putting on and off the jacket. For the first time, he refuses by using attempt to dissuade interlocutor by saying, ‘You know, Mr. Han. I told you. I get it, okay?’ Then, he gives additional refusal to make it stronger by explaining, ‘...Be respectful. I got it. I put my jacket on a thousand times, I took it off a thousand times!...' In this time, the adjunct of refusal is shown by saying. ‘**This is stupid. I'm done**’ This statement show his feeling that he is dissapointed. Even the statement is in the positive form, but the meaning is negative. It shows that Dre does not want to do the same again because he thinks that it is fool and. Based on the explanation above, it is categorized as statement of positive opinion/feeling/agreement.

2. **Gratitude**

There is only one gratitude in this data. It is provide as follow:

Excerpt 3:
(After come in the Kung Fu Class)
00:54:14,918 -- 00:54:29,139

347. Mr. Han: Tournament. You'll fight them all one-on-one.
348. Dre: So the bad news is now they get to beat me up in public.
349. Mr. Han: Yes
350. Dre: **Great. Thanks. Thanks a lot.** They're gonna kill me. You saw their kung fu.
351. Mr. Han: That's not kung fu. That's a bad man teach them very bad things.
352. Dre: Well, that bad man teaching very bad things hurt. A lot.

From the example above, it is seen that Dre does not want to fight with Chen. Mr. Han tells Dre that there are two informations for him, the good one and the bad one. The good news is he will not be disturbed by Chen. The bad news is he must fight with Chen in Kung Fu competition. Mr. Han said “Yes” it means Dre have to fight with Cheng in the Kung Fu competition. Dre refuses to join the competition by giving gratitude, **Great. Thanks. Thanks a lot.** 'This utterance means that he does not want to have fighting with Chen, because he does not believe if he can win the competition. So, he refuses by gratituting and it is like a sarcasm.

**Attempt to dissuade interlocutor**

There are 12 utterances found as attempt to dissuade interlocutor. It becomes third category in the data. There are 2 types found: threat/statement of negative consequences to the requester (3); criticizes the request/the requester, etc (9). Some of the analysis are provided as follows:
1. **Criticizes the request/the requester, etc.**

There are 9 utterances found in the data. This is used to criticizes the requests which from someone which Dre thinks that they are too much. Some of the examples are:

Excerpt 4:
(First Day School)
00:20:43,325 --> 00:21:09,183
143. Dre : **You know, you don't have to come in. I mean, I can handle it.**
144. Mom : Dre, don't be silly. It's your first day. Plus, we both have to meet the assistant principal, Mrs. Po.
145. Dre : I can find her. And you need to get to work, right?

The dialogue above shows that Dre’s mother asks him to be faster. In the previous turn, it is seen that Dre’s mother wants to accompany him to find the principal and the classroom. However, Dre tries to reject it. He criticizes his mother request by saying, **'You know, you don't have to come in. I mean, I can handle it.'** He says it to comment Mrs. Parker’s request. He wants to show that he can do by himself. As the result, it is categorized criticizes the request/the requester.

2. **Threat or Statement of Negative Consequences to the Requester**

There are 3 utterances found in the data. It is used when Dre thinks that the request will give impact from the requests’ consequences. The examples are seen as follows:

Excerpt 5:
(After come in the Kung Fu Class)
00:54:14,918 --> 00:54:39,942
347. Mr. Han : Tournament. You'll fight them all one-on-one.
348. Dre : So the bad news is now they get to beat me up in public.
349. Mr. Han : Yes.
350. Dre : Great. Thanks. Thanks a lot. **They're gonna kill me. You saw their kung fu.**
351. Mr. Han : That's not kung fu. That's a bad man teach them very bad things.
352. Dre : Well, that bad man teaching very bad things hurt. A lot.

The example above shows that Mr. Han tells Dre that he will be fighting in the Kungfu competition and one by one fighting. In the turn 349, Mr. Han said “Yes” it means Dre have to fight with Cheng in the Kung Fu competition. Dre tries to refuse it firstly by saying, **'Great. Thanks. Thanks a lot.'** Then, he says the negative consequences to Mr. Han by saying, **'...They're gonna kill me. You saw their kung fu.'** It shows that if Dre fights with Cheng’s gank, he will be die because they are mastering Kung Fu. On the other hand, Dre has no any ability to fight. So, his statement is categorized as threat or statement of negative consequences to the requester.

**Set condition for future or past acceptance**

There are 4 utterances categorized as set condition for future or past acceptance. It is used to comply. The example is shown as follow:

Excerpt 6:
(Mr. Han’s home)
01:10:07,828 --> 01:11:32,704
470. Dre: So, what are we doing today?
471. Mr. Han: Same.
472. Dre: You know, Mr. Han, I told you. I get it, okay? Be respectful. I got it. I put my jacket on a thousand times, I took it off a thousand times! Okay? This is stupid. I'm done. **They can beat me up if they want to.** And you know why you only have one student? 'Cause you don't know kung fu.
473. Mr. Han: Xiao Dre!
474. Dre: What?
475. Mr. Han: Come here! Jacket on

The last example is seen in dialogues 470-475. Dre wants to practice Kung Fu at that time. He asks Mr. Han what kind of practice that they will do. He is very excited. Unfortunately, Mr. Han asks him to practice like the previous day. Dre refuses it. He shows his reaction by saying, “...**They can beat me up if they want to.** And you know why you only have one student? ‘Cause you don’t know kung fu.” The italic bold utterance is categorized as set condition for future. Dre predicts that if he always practices with similar method he will be easily beat up in the tournament. He does not want to hit by the other participants especially Cheng. So, he refuses Mr. Han’s request.

**Promise of future acceptance**

There are 3 utterances found in the data. This strategy is used to show that the speaker refuses at that time, but he will be accept the request in the future. The example is:

Excerpt 7:
(At apartment; Dre have just arrived)
00:08:19,123 --> 00:08:23,293
65. Harry: So I guess I'll see you later, then?
66. Dre: *Maybe.*
68. The woman: Okay, this is your rental agreement in English. So the land lady is Mrs. Wang. Her English is not good. But if something goes wrong, you go to Mr. Han. His English is very good.

The conversation above happened after Dre has just arrived at the apartment. He gets a new friend named Harry. Then, Harry invites him to go playing together in the park as stated in the previous turn. Dre cannot accept it at that time because he must put his luggage first and clean his new home. So, he says ‘*Maybe*’ to made future plans to see Harry. Because of that, it is categorized as promise of future acceptance.

**Statement of principle**

There are also 3 utterances found in the data. It has similar number with promise of future acceptance. An example of the analysis is seen below:

Excerpt 8:
(In medical room, Dre is injured)
02:03:26,399 --> 02:06:19,696
638. Mr. Han: Because I cannot watch you get hurt anymore.
639. Dre: Please, Mr. Han. Please.
640. Mr. Han: Just tell me, Xiao Dre, why? Why you need to go back out there so badly?
Dre: Because I'm still scared. No matter what happens, tonight, when I leave, I don't want to be scared anymore.

The last example shows that Dre refuses Mr. Han's request to stop fighting. However, Dre refuses by saying, "Because I'm still scared. No matter what happens, tonight, when I leave, I don't want to be scared anymore." It is categorized as statement of principle. That utterance shows that he wants to prove that he does not scared of everything including Cheng. He wants to finish the tournament no matter what. He wants to prove that he is brave and he can conquer his feeling.

Statement of alternative

There are 2 statement of alternative found in the data. It is used to give another alternative to the requester if Dre cannot accept the request. The example is seen below:

Excerpt 9:
(Dre fighting with Cheng in the park)
00:18:13,342 --> 00:19:35,798
130. Cheng's friends: Go get him. Go, go, go!
131. Cheng's friends: Yeah!
132. Cheng: Still want to fight?
133. Mei Ying: Are you okay? Let me help.
134. Dre: Just leave me alone. I'm fine.
135. Harry: Dre (give his hand)
136. Dre: Dude, leave me alone.

In this time, Dre is fighting with Cheng because Cheng thinks that Dre disturbs Mei Ying when she practices violin. Dre is lost and he gets black eyed. Then, Mei Ying tries to help him. Dre refuses him by saying, "Just leave me alone. I'm fine." It shows that Dre does not want Mei Ying help him. He gives an alternative for her to leave him alone. He just needs to be alone. Then, he adds more by giving reason that he is fine. So, this utterance is categorized as statement of alternative.

Statement of philosophy

There are 2 statements of philosophy found in the data. The researcher only gives an example of it. It is:
Excerpt 10:
(At apartment, Saturday morning, Dre will go to have Kung Fu exercise)
00:55:12,309 --> 00:55:03,340
354. Dre: Yes! See you later, Mom.
355. Mom: Hey, wait. This is early for you for a Saturday.
356. Dre: Mr. Han's teaching me kung fu.
357. Mom: The maintenance man?
359. Mom: Dre, you know how I feel about you fighting.
360. Dre: Kung fu is not about fighting, Mom. It's about making peace with your enemies.

In this time, Dre is asking permission to go earlier. His mother a little bit confuse because actually that is the day off school. Then, Dre explains that he wants to practice Kung Fu. Her mother requests him to stop because her mother does not like fighting. However, Dre tries to refuse it. He uses philosophical statement to give understanding to Mrs. Parker. He says, 'Kung fu is not about fighting, Mom. It's about making peace with
your enemies.’ He can explain like that because Mr. Han already teaches him about Kungfu’s philosophy. As the result, his mom can accept his refusal.

Statement of regret

There is only one statement of regret in this data. The analysis is as follow:

Excerpt 11:
(In the street)
00:35:44,100 --> 00:36:08,874
271. Mom : We've been here less than a weekend I feel...
272. Dre : I feel like it's a year! I hate it here!
273. Mom : Dre, please let me help you. I can't help you if you don't tell me, what's wrong, so please...
274. Dre : You don't care what's wrong! All you care about is "how happy I am" and "how great the ice cream is"! Well, I'm not happy! I hate it here! I wanna go home!
275. Mom : Dre, we can't go home. Okay? There is nothing left for us in Detroit. This is what we got. This is home. Okay?

From the dialogue above, Dre refuses to tell what happens with him. He uses some refusal strategies; those are: Performative + Adjunct to refusal + Regret. The regret is used to emphasize that he regrets to not answer his mother question and he wants to back to America. The conversation above happens when he feels not comfort lives in China. Even, there is no any words who says direct regret such as I'm sorry, but it shows Dre’s regret to live there. Based on the brief explanation, it is categorized as statement of regret.

Avoidance

There is only an avoidance in the data. It is repetition of part request. It is seen as follow:

Excerpt 12:
(In the park)
00:16:47,756 --> 00:16:54,679
120. Mei Ying : May I touch your hair?
121. Dre : You wanna touch my hair? [shrink his forehead]
(Mei Ying noded)

From the dialogue above happens in the park, it is clear that Dre is repeated the question to refuse for the first time. He repeats the request and he shrinks his forehead. This non verbal shows that he refuses. Besides that, he wants to build communication between them. However, in the end, Dre allows Mei Ying to touch his hair after Mei Ying responses his repetition. As the result it is categorized as avoidance with repetition of part request.

Direct Strategies

There are 9 direct strategies found in the data. It consists of two types of direct strategies: non-performative and performative. In this time, there is only non-performative refusal. Performative is not found in the data because Dre tends to say that he says ‘no’ directly than using mitigated refusal. Furthermore, the analysis is provided as follow:
Non-Performative Refusal

There are 9 utterances found as non-performative refusal. It is the most dominant direct strategies. The explanation is as follow:

Excerpt 13:
(When Dre will be leaves China)
00:02:09,420 --> 00:02:34,820
15. Dre’s friend : Bye, guys. We're gonna miss you.
(Dre’s friend gives skateboard)
16. Dre : Naw, man, it's yours.
17. Dre’s friend : Come on, Dre, just take it.
18. Dre : Thanks, man.

The excerpt above shows when Dre says goodbye to his neighbor. His friend gives him a skateboard. Dre refuses his friend request by saying, "Naw, man, it's yours." The word ‘Naw’ is a slang form of 'no'. It is commonly used by Afro-American in US. Dre is directly refused his friend request. It shows his negative willingness to accept the skateboard. As the result, it is concluded as non-performative.

Performative

There are three performative found in the data. It is the second direct refusal. The form is usually with linking verb + not. The example is seen below:

Excerpt 14:
(First day school)
00:21:51,685 --> 00:21:54,937
159. Principal : Fighting's not tolerated here.
160. Mom : You heard him, he ran into a pole. Come here, Dre.
161. Dre : Mom, don't start.
162. Mom : Who did it?
163. Dre : Nobody, Mom. I ran into a pole. And I didn't tell you 'cause I knew, you would act like this.

The excerpt above shows that Mrs. Parker is really worried about Dre. The principal warns her that fighting is prohibited at that school. Then, she explains that Dre’s bruise is gotten because he ran to the pole. To prove it, she calls Dre to explain it. However, Dre does not want to explain it to his mother because he knows that if he tells it, she will be over react. He refuses her mother request by saying, “Mom, don't start.” It is categorized as performative refusal. It happens because Dre refuses it by saying negative clauses. Even though it is not directly refuse, but that utterance means that Dre wants her mother to stop over worried about him. Beside that, he does not want to tell everything to his mother.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, there are 68 refusal strategies found in the data. It can be seen that the indirect strategies (59) are used more than direct strategies (9). It happens because Dre Parker adjusts with Chinese’s culture. He had been taught by Mr. Han about how to behave. In the end, it influences his life and it is reflected how he refuses requests. He becomes politer than before. In contrast, the direct strategies become the least number because Dre Parker is still influenced with US’ culture. Even with the older people, he refuses directly. These strategies appear in the beginning turns before he met Mr. Han.
Moreover, excuse/reason/explanation becomes the first category in the data. There are 17 utterances recognized as this indirect strategy. It becomes the dominant because Dre is still influenced by both US’ culture and Chinese’s culture. In US’ society, if someone refuses something; he must give reason and explain. In addition, Chinese’s culture teaches to excuse if someone refuses.

The last indirect refusal strategies classification which uses few more than excuse/reason/explanation is statement of regret and avoidance with each 1 utterance. It becomes the least because Dre usually regrets after he knows that he is wrong. In addition, this regret is to explain why he refuses to tell what happened with him. Moreover, he refuses using avoidance only one time. It is not only to refuse but also to make sure what is the request. As the result, if we cannot agree with interlocutor’s request, we can use indirect refusal strategies to be more polite and avoid misunderstanding.

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