

ABSTRACT

Hannibal is an American psychological thriller television series that centres on dr. Hannibal Lecter, a respected psychiatrist and a cannibalistic serial killer. In his interaction with his clients, face-threatening acts frequently occur and politeness strategies are necessary to mitigate them. This study aims to identify the types of strategies Hannibal employs in his interactions with his clients, as well as the power dynamics reflected in these strategic patterns. It also seeks to examine the extent to which these politeness strategy patterns contribute to the character of Hannibal. This study employs an observation method to collect the data and qualitative descriptive method to explain the findings. The research found that Hannibal utilises four types of politeness strategies in his assertive and directive speech acts, each with different aims. The use of those strategies reflect the power dynamics between Hannibal and his clients during interactions, as well as his characterisation, which can be observed through the patterns of these strategies and the purposes for which they are employed. The conclusion of this study is that power relations, as reflected through politeness strategies in an interaction, are not always fixed but can change depending on the context of the interaction.

Keywords: politeness strategies, speech acts, face-threatening acts, power relations, characterization, Hannibal Lecter