

## Invitation Strategy and Learners' Controlled Politeness: A Case in Indonesian Students of EFL

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### Abstrak

*Strategi kesantunan dalam membuat undangan tampak beragam. Adanya strategi kesantunan dalam ajakan dalam berbagai bentuk yang dicakup oleh teori-teori ilmiah memunculkan pemikiran untuk penelitian lebih lanjut. Oleh karena itu penelitian ini menganalisis bagaimana pembelajar bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa asing (EFL) Indonesia melakukan strategi ajakan dan kesopanan terkendali. Partisipan penelitian ini adalah 244 pelajar bahasa Inggris EFL di pendidikan tinggi kejuruan di Bali, Indonesia. Datanya adalah realisasi semantik ajakan yang dilakukan oleh partisipan berdasarkan kartu penyelesaian wacana. Kartu role play berdasarkan data yang diambil dibagi menjadi dua pembagian, kartu role play untuk pendengar (Hs) dengan daya tinggi, jarak tinggi dan pangkat tinggi pemaksaan (P+D+R+) dan daya rendah, jarak rendah, dan penguasaan pangkat tinggi (P-D-R+). Data dianalisis secara kualitatif. Hasil analisis mengungkapkan bahwa ada sembilan strategi undangan baru. Penutur mengontrol kesantunan dengan beberapa strategi, seperti penggunaan kalimat bi-clause dan kalimat if-conditional, kalimat tidak langsung, kalimat pasif, kalimat formal dan penanda seperti *would, could, look forward, please, Mr, Mr. director, pak, ungkapan daerah baik adat maupun agama, tuturan meminta izin, tuturan ungkapan izin, ucapan terima kasih, permintaan maaf mengundang Hs dengan P+D+R+*. Untuk mengajak Hs dengan P-D-R+, S cenderung menggunakan *mono clause* dan kalimat sederhana, kalimat langsung, kalimat kurang formal seperti *do, want, are, want, can, don't*, kalimat sederhana, kalimat aktif, sapaan akrab seperti *hallo, teman, hai teman-teman, ungkapan saran informal, janji, kalimat imperatif, dan kalimat langsung kesediaan**

**Kata kunci:** Invitation strategy, politeness, control, Indonesian learners, EFL.

### Abstract

Politeness strategies in making invitations appear to vary. The fact that there are politeness strategies in invitations of different forms covered by scientific theories raises ideas for further research. Therefore this study analyze how Indonesian learners of English as a foreign language (EFL) performed invitation strategies and controlled politeness. The research participants were 244 Indonesian learners of EFL in vocational higher education in Bali, Indonesia. The data were semantic realization of invitation performed by participants pursuant to discourse completion cards. The role play cards based on which the data were taken were divided into two divisions, role play card for hearers (Hs) with high power, high distance and high rank of imposition (P+D+R+) and low power, low distance, and high rank of imposition (P-D-R+). Data were analysed qualitatively. Analysis result revealed that there were nine new strategies of invitation. Speakers controlled politeness by a number of strategi, such as using 'bi-clause sentences and if-conditional sentences, indirect sentences, passive sentences, formal sentences and markers such as *would, could, look forward, please, Mr, Mr. director, sir, local both traditional and religious expressions, utterances with asking for permission, utterances with expression of permission, appreciation, apology to invite Hs with P+D+R+*. In order to invite Hs with P-D-R+, S tended to use *mono clauses* and simple sentences, direct sentences, less formal sentences such as *do, want, are, want, can, don't*, simple sentence, active sentences, intimacy greeting such as *hallo, friends, hi guys*, informal expression of suggestion, promise, imperative sentences, and direct sentences of willingness.

**Keywords:** Invitation strategy, politeness, control, Indonesian learners, EFL.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Politeness is a way how speakers (Ss) can communicate appropriately with the hearers (Hs) in any speech acts (SA). In order to convey the information adequately to Hs and obtain Hs' responses sufficiently Ss have to do an endeavour to preserve Hs' social face but not harm their images, thus politeness shall be obeyed (Isabella et al., 2022; Rovita & Gulo, 2022; Sudarmawan et al., 2022). Politeness is associated to pragmatic competent which is

then divided into linguo-pragmatic. In correlation with it, previous study states that respect is opposed to politeness (Khusniati et al., 2017). Respect is built from the awareness that Hs have higher social status such as age, position, or caste, while language politeness regarded as the desire to 'please' speakers, addressee, and other audiences. In other words, respect deals with vertical and language politeness deals with horizontal relationship (Maharani, 2018; Mohammad et al., 2016; Rahmadani & Wahyuni, 2018).

The role of language politeness cannot be forced and it is dynamic pursuant to the speech event as it is definitely related to social aspect of Hs. For instance, a Ss consider it is polite to invite Hs with higher power (P+), big or farther distance (D+) and higher rank of imposition (R+) by uttering 'I would like to invite Mr. Director to attend my wedding reception' and inviting Hs with equal power (P-), equal distance (D-) and higher rank of imposition (R+) by saying 'Let's go to canteen, I wanna treat you'. Both utterances have similar objective i.e., to keep Hs' convenient feeling so that the Hs will be committed to filling what Ss intend (Brown & Levinson, 1978; Djafar et al., 2022; Kurdghelashvili, 2015). These utterances of performative strategy of invitation were both in purpose to please Hs feeling. The former used construction using 'would' as more formal and polite form of 'will' as the H is the superior whom is occupationally senior and more respectful of the S. The later used informal construction 'let's go...' and informal lexicon 'wanna'. These phrases were used by S as he/she invited H who is well acquainted with him/her. In this case, S wanted to serve H in order for him/her did not lose face (Adel et al., 2016; Togatorop, 2019).

There also seemed to be a tendency where Ss tried to seek for other new strategies apart from those of strategies for polite invitations (Al-Hamzi et al., 2020). In the case of inviting Hs with P+D+R+, Ss tended to include local wisdom (like religious respect or traditional practice) to create polite invitation, for instance 'Om swastyastu, I really hope that the Director is willing to attend my wedding, om shanti, shanti, shanti'. Conversely, when inviting Hs with P-D-R+, Ss used accommodative strategy such as 'Come to the canteen with me, I'll treat you to a cup of coffee'. The former indicates that Ss tried to be polite by using Hindu religious local traditional or religious greeting and ending 'Om swastyastu' meaning may God bless you and 'om shanti, shanti, shanti' meaning may you get peace. The latter used accommodation as one of Ss' polite strategies to minimize Hs' face threat. Ss' ideas of using such religious expressions in different speech situation are not covered by classification four polite pragma-linguistic strategies such as 'indirect speech acts, institutional personification, prioritizing of modality, and passive construction'.

Strategies (specifically politeness strategies) in performing invitation seemed to vary. Previous study stated that there are eight strategies in performing invitation all of which are classified into two main division, direct invitation and indirect invitation (Al-Hamzi et al., 2020). Direct invitation comprises five strategies such as 'declarative, performative, conditional, hoping, imperative' and Indirect invitation comprises three divisions such as 'wh-question, yes/no question, and willingness'. The facts about existence of politeness strategies in invitation which are different form that covered by scholarly theories brings about ideas to further investigation. This study aims to analyze how Indonesian learners of English as a foreign language (EFL) performed invitation strategies and controlled politeness. Thus, further investigation which may possibly be undertaken is concerning the strategies of politeness and syntactic structure used by the participants.

## **2. METHODS**

This is an inter-cultural pragmatic study investigating invitation strategies used by Indonesian students of English as a foreign language (EFL) (Lyon et al., 2021). This research is a qualitative one which analyses production of Indonesian student's English invitation. The

data of research was analysed in terms of pragmatic strategies used and semantic realization patterns to see their politeness strategies used. Research data were utterances of invitation produced by participants in the form of sentences. The utterances were obtained from students' production of invitation written in the task. Thus, students were given discourse completion task (DCT) formulized in two classifications, including DCT for H with high power, high distance, and high rank of imposition (P+D+R+) and DCT for H with low power, short distance, and high rank (P-D-R+).

All research participants (234 students from different classes, department and study program) were given the DCTs. On the next stage, those data were classified into a number of classifications based on what invitation strategies those utterances are. Apart from this classification, data determination was also undertaken. In this stage, other data which were excluded in those classifications were then classified into new data using code or name associated with their characteristics. Those stages were carried out to ease research when doing data analysis. Research data classification is shown in [Table 1](#).

**Table 1. Research Data Classification**

<b>Invitation Strategies</b>	
<b>P+D+R+</b>	<b>P-D-R+</b>
Performative	Performative
Declarative	Declarative
Willingness	Willingness
Imperative	Imperative
If-conditional	If-conditional
Hope	Hope
Yes/No question	Yes/No question
-	Wh-Question
Affirmative	Affirmative
Religious Respect	Enthusiasm
Permission	Promise
Appreciation	Accommodation
Apology	Suggestion

The research participants are Indonesian students of English as the foreign language (EFL). The participants who mainly from Bali, Indonesia share the same first language of Indonesian although most of them are from Bali who also speak Balinese and have Balinese culture. There were 224 research participants who were four-semester non-English students of vocational higher education institution in Bali, Indonesia. Specifically, they are grouped into three groups, i.e., 157 participants were from higher proficiency of English, 67 participants were from Engineering Department and 157 participants were from Commerce department. Research participant is shown in [Table 2](#).

**Table 2. Research Participants**

<b>Engineering Dept.</b>	<b>Commerce Dept.</b>
67	157
Total: 224	

The classified data were analysed to respond to the research questions. In order to obtain the pragmatic strategies used to invite Hs with high power (P+), farther distance (D+), and strong rank of imposition (R+) and Hs with equal or lower power (P-), equal or lower distance (D-), and high rank of imposition (R+), the data were compared with the

classification (Al-Hamzi et al., 2020). The invitation taxonomy determined in advance. The utterances which did not belong to any taxonomy were then given new code or name pursuant to their characteristic. Each strategy was affixed with some sample utterances or sentences. The sentences were analysed to see their linguistic features such as language function, words choices, clauses, modality, active and passive construction. The semantic realization patterns to see participants' politeness strategies were observed by investigating each sentence in each strategy classification. The utterances were intensively observed to see word choices, patterns, greeting pattern, construction and were compared to politeness theory to determine what strategies were used. The features of utterances excluded by theories proposed in advance were identified and determined and coded by using those beyond pragmatic theories.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Results

##### *Invitation Strategies*

Invitation strategies used by the students are classified into two parts, invitation strategies by S inviting H or interlocutor having high power (P+) and high or far social distance (D+) and high rank of imposition (R+). Explicitly, the Indonesian students of EFL as research participants uttered invitation to Hs whose social power was high and whose social distance were far, and which speech act was imposing the H. In other situation, the research participants also made invitation to interlocutors having low power (P-) and low or close social distance (D-) and which speech act was imposing the H. Basically, based on the analysis, both groups (P+D+R+ and P-D-R+) share similar kinds of invitation strategies.

Performativity invitation is classified into direct invitation as S directly expresses the speech act of invitation to H. Speakers (Ss) invited hearers (Hs) with high power, social distance, and strong imposition. As the Hs were suspected people, invitations were made with more formal utterances. The sentence *I would like to invite the director....*, and *If you don't mind, I would like to invite you....*, are both classified into performative strategy as both phrases preserves direct invitation. Ss intention by expressing both utterances could be easily comprehended without effort that Hs had to predict or translate them again. In line with this, the expressions *Let's eat at canteen* and *I wanna treat you* can be easily assumed that the Ss explicitly invite the Hs. It is obviously shown that the construction *Let's – VI* and *I wanna – VI* function as direct invitation and categorized as performative invitation. Social distance and with strong imposition. Different from performative invitation which used iconic words such as *I would like to invite....*, *I wanna to invite*, or *lets' eat at....*, declarative strategies used positive sentences or statements. However, the statements possess indicative words signaling that they are inviting interlocutor. The passive sentences *you are invited* and *I'd like to inform you that I'll be married....*, indicated that Ss wanted to invite Hs. Although, the sentences don't contain subject-focused invitation for instance *I would like to invite you* like in data 1 until data 4 in prior.

Willingness for Ss with P+D+R+ and P-D-R+ is also differed. Willingness as a part of indirect strategy of invitation performed by Ss to Hs with P+D+R+. Willingness in both utterances was rigidly displayed with *would you be willing to...* and *if you are willing....* Those clauses which, one of them, were affixed with the word *please* were also the markers for formal utterances, as the effect of speaking to Hs with higher power, farther social distance as well as imposing acts. Imperative strategy of invitation belongs to direct strategy. It is the act of getting interlocutor to do things. Imperative was used by Ss to invite Hs. In this case, formal and polite imperative was uttered by using construction *please be present....*, and *please consent here, I will invite....* as the Ss invited Hs with P+D+R+. Apart from it, Ss also

conveyed invitation to Hs whose power and social distance are similar or lower than them by using imposing speech act. Thus, they utilized formal words or phrases such as *let's go to..., come guys, don't forget to come..., see you in canteen* as displayed in data 15 – 18 beneath. All phrases used are embodiment of imperative. These phrases or clauses are differentiated with both have different interlocutor, i.e., Hs having different background of sociological aspects. If-conditional strategy belongs to direct invitation taxonomy. If-conditional was used to invite interlocutor. It can be merely seen that Ss used clauses *if you could attend my wedding party* and *if you could attend my wedding sir* to invite Hs. The clauses were chosen as Hs forwarded the invitation have higher power and social distance. In addition to this, the act to invite was an imposing act which sensitively threatens Hs face or image. The act of inviting was signaled with the expressed words of *could attend*.

Indirect invitation strategies using 'yes/no-question' were also used by Ss for both types of Hs (Hs with P+D+R+ and P-D-R+). Ss expressed the strategies by sentence structure initiated with modal verbs *would* and *could*. These structures as well those required responses of *yes* or *no*. The use of modal verbs *would* and *could* represented that such utterances were appropriately expressed to Hr having P+D+R+ since they are more formal. Requiring response *yes* and *no*, these sentences structured by fronting modal verb *can* and auxiliary *do*. The use of such modal verb and auxiliary indicated that these sentences are considered less formal. In addition, the Ss used in formal greeting system of *guys*. Such evidences strongly indicated that they mean to invite Hs with lower power and social distance (P-D-R+).

### ***New Invitation Strategies Found***

Upon the data analysis, apart from strategies of invitation a number of new strategy categories were found. The categories were coded in line with their specific characters and objectives they reserve. The new production of invitation categories fostered by participants for both schemes (P+D+R+ and P-D-R+) were mostly different one another. However, only 'affirmative' strategy was similarly produced in both schemes. Affirmative strategy of invitation was produced by Ss in both schemes of situations (P+D+R+ and P-D-R+). This strategy is classified as an indirect strategy as it does not convey an invitation explicitly. Utterances of both situations differed in terms of word choices and the way they were delivered. The utterances *I really look forward to your presence, I beg if you are willing to come, and We would be pleased to have you* were basically intended to affirm Hr to attend the Ss's wedding reception. The affirmation in this case was the Ss' request that Hs have to attend the event, thus they used the words *really, beg, be pleased*. Those invitation strategies were delivered to Hs with higher power and social distance (P+D+R+) as they used formal word or clause choices such as *I look forward, I beg, would be pleased*.

Religious respect seemed to be one of potential strategies used by Ss for Hs with high power and social distance. This is a direct type of invitation strategy as utterances used convey invitation explicitly. The phrases are very familiar in Balinese custom. The phrase *Om swastyastu* is normally expressed by Ss when opening speeches, welcoming someone both in a religious and formal speech situation or answering a phone. While *om shanti shanti shanti* is used by Ss when closing a speech, a direct or face to face talk or a phone talk. When in a public or a face-to-face talk, Ss will normally express these expressions while putting together their hands in front of their chest. This is the way how Balinese people show politeness in speaking. The expressions are considered polite and more formal therefor is appropriately used in more formal invitation, i.e., an imposing invitation delivered to Hs with higher power and social distance. Permission which was classified into direct invitation strategy was used for Hs with high power and social distance (P+D+R+). Ss used expression *Sorry in advance...* and *I beg permission ...* to ask for permission to Hs prior to inviting them. Explicitly, the words *sorry in advance, and I beg permission* fostered Ss' asking for

permission to Hs. Such expressions were only found in data of invitation strategies delivered by Hs to Hs with P+D+R+. As an indirect type of invitation strategy, ‘appreciation’ was only found in strategies the Ss used to invite Hs who was imposed and was with high power and social distance. Appreciation, the act of praising interlocutor, can be obviously observed on Ss’ utterances: *I am glad to see you...* and *It’s an honour for me*. The utterance displayed that S intended to convey an invitation, the invitation was conveyed implicitly by expressing S’s feeling if the H can attend the wedding reception.

The direct invitation strategy of ‘apology’ was used by Ss for inviting Hs with stronger power and social distance apart from imposing invitation (P+D+R+). The word *apologize* was merely used in the sentences. The apology is structured with form ‘S-apology-complement’. In this occasion, invitation was delivered. By expressing those sentences the S intended to invite the H to attend S’s wedding reception. Invitation was also rigidly expressed by emerging the phrases or clauses *to invite you to attend my wedding* and *we both invite you to come to our wedding*. These sentences were conveyed to Hs having higher power and social distance (P+D+R+) as they used formal type of sentence. Apart from formal words or phrases such as *apologize*, *intend to invite*, and *we both invite you*, the sentences were also constructed with bi-clause structure affixed with reason and detailed time. These are enough evidences to sum up that these sentences are formal and suitable for Hs with higher power and social distances.

Enthusiasm, classified into indirect category, is an expression indicating that S is highly motivated to do act as stated in his/her statement. As the statement implies an invitation, thus S is positively be committed to inviting the Hs. Enthusiasm is an invitation strategy classified into indirect strategy. Ss’ enthusiasm was fostered with expression of *Don’t worry*, *It’s all on me*, and *I feel very excited and happy*. By uttering *don’t worry*, he/she show his/her feeling of enthusiastic to welcome the Hs to come on the party. Since the enthusiasm was stated to H with lower power and social distance (P-D-R+). Such a colloquial invitation can be seen from the use of clauses *Don’t worry*, *it’s all one me* which is merely delivered to interlocutor whom the S well acquainted with.

Promise is classified into indirect strategy of invitation. The structure of promise beneath used modal verb *will* functioning to express an appointment or intention to help the interlocutor. It can be obviously seen that the utterances *I’ll pay it*, *I’ll treat*, and *I’ll treat all of you* served as promise. These utterances were also used as invitations as their context supported them so. As can be clearly seen, invitation-triggering utterances in the three data such as *because it’s my birthday*, *let’s eat at the canteen*, *since today is my birthday*, and *I’ll wait for you all of at the campus cafeteria* were obvious. These utterances could positively support that the three promises are totally considered invitation strategy. And utterances like *Hey guys*, *Hallo guys*, *hallo my friend*, *I’ll treat all of you* are less formal utterances which situationally meet the Hs with lower power and social distance.

Accommodation is the coverage of indirect strategy. Ss tended to invite Hs by accommodating Hs. Utterances *Whatever you want to buy, go ahead* and *Just go to canteen*. *Just take what you want as much as possible* implied invitation. The utterances do not explicitly display an invitation as they do not used rigid word like ‘*to invite*’. Ss wanted to invite Hs to go to canteen as the Ss wanted to treat them. *Whatever you want, go ahead* and *Just take what you want...* indicated that Ss intended to make a colloquial invitation. This invitation strategy was made as Hs low or similar power and social distance (P-D-R+). Choosing and using more formal utterances of accommodation to invite Hs will certainly sounds awkward and strange and will not be responded positively by Hs. Suggestion is also one of invitation strategies which is classified into indirect strategy. It was shown by the fact that both utterances do not include exact word for invitation ‘*to invite*’ thus they fostered implicit invitation. It can be clearly seen that utterance *Shall we eat at canteen* fostered a

suggestion. Modal verb *shall* in sentence structure *Shall – S – V1* like in *Shall we eat* is generally used to convey suggestion invitation or an offer. This utterance was used by Ss to invite Hs to attend his/her birthday party at canteen. In addition to this, utterance *We better stay silent in to fill your hungry stomach* implied a suggestion to Hs. The Ss intended to suggest that Hs had better go to canteen for a meal while waiting for the next class after break. Both of these sentences were forwarded in order to invite Hs thus ‘suggestion’ was put as an invitation strategy.

The finding was based on deep analysis and watch on characteristics of the utterances. The new invitation strategies were classified into two divisions, direct strategy (includes Religious Respect, Permission, and Apology) and indirect strategy (include Affirmative, Appreciation, Enthusiasm, Promise, Accommodation, and Suggestion). The taxonomy is displayed beneath is show in [Table 3](#).

**Table 3. Additional Invitation Strategies**

Direct Strategies	Indirect Strategies
Performative	Yes/no-question
Declarative	Wh-question
Hope	Willingness
Imperative	Affirmative*
Conditional	Appreciation*
Religious Respect*	Enthusiasm*
Permission*	Promise*
Apology*	Accommodation*
	Suggestion*

### ***Students' Politeness Strategy of Invitation***

There are a number of patterns how Indonesian students of EFL keep their utterances politely. There were two main classified ways how these research participants control their politeness. The classification was based on the Hs' sociological aspects, they are high power, distance and rank of imposition (P+D+R+) and the lower power, social distance and high rank of imposition (P-D-R+). There were a number of methods used by Ss to control their politeness when communicating with Hs with P+D+R+. Bi-clause sentences were used frequently by Ss when inviting Hs with P+D+R+. The use of complex sentences was affixed with the use of more formal sentences, such as *If you don't mind, I would like to invite you to come to my reception party, I would be delighted if you sir could come to our place to attend my wedding party, It's an honour for me if you are willing to attend my wedding, I really hope that you will be able to attend this event, I apologize for disturbing you but I must invite the director to my wedding*. Each utterance used two clauses which was connected with ‘connective’. Almost all invitation strategies used bi-clause sentences. The tendency supports the character of Indonesian culture in general who usually use long sentence to do speech acts in order for the intention is not straight forward. Indonesian usually use long winding words to express in intention which impose the interlocutor.

One of politeness strategies Indonesian learners of EFL in conveying invitation is passive sentence. Passive voice was used less frequently, however, it was used in some parts, specifically in declarative. It can be obviously observed in the utterances that Ss used passive sentences to deliver invitations. *You are invited to my wedding ceremony, please be present. Please be present along with your family, sir at 18.00 at the Hotel Ina Bali. Our beloved Director, you are invited to our wedding celebration. The honour of your company is requested in our wedding celebration* are using passive construction: O - Be - Past Participle - Complement. The use of formal utterances seemed to be the most common of all politeness

strategies of the Ss. Almost all invitation strategies of P+D+R+ involved the use of formal sentences. Formal sentence is the sentences which are involving some aspects, such as word choices, modal, structure, greeting system, subject and object of person involved, title and other aspects. Utterances beneath included aspects of politeness mentioned. It can be clearly seen that there were a lot of politeness markers in these utterances. The use of structure *would like to invite, intend to invite, I beg your arrival, my goal here is to inform you* indicated that they are formal utterances. These are written language as they use formal style of construction. The use of words *would, would like, could, my goal here is to inform, my presence here, sir, the director, look forward* are all markers for polite utterances. Written construction was frequently used in this regard, such as *I hereby..., I beg your arrival..., I look forward..., My presence here is..., I intend to invite..., Sorry in advance if... and Could you ...?.* Using formality was the way how Japanese act politely when inviting their superior at work.

Using traditional or religious expression was one of the strategies used by Ss. Although they spoke English when inviting Hs, they included local Balinese expressions of greeting and closing speech such as *om swastyastu* (may we all be happy) and *om shanti shanti shanti* (may we all be peaceful). In the following utterances those expressions were used by Hs in more complete sentences. *Om swastyastu, Mr. John. I mean here give you an invitation. Om swastyastu, I really hope that the director is willing to attend my wedding, om shanti-shanti-shanti.* The Ss code-switched by using Old Javanese and English language to convey the utterances. By mentioning so, the Hs wanted to be polite that the Hs accepted his/her intention. Using local or traditional expression seemed to enable the Ss to attract Hs attention and agreement on the invitation.

Apart from using explicit local expressions, adopting local practice or culture in delivering a speech act particularly 'invitation' was another way to be polite. The following utterances contain local way to express 'hope' in SA of invitation. *I am married. Please pray, by the God blessing and mercy, I would love to invite you to my wedding ceremony.* The Ss adopted the way Indonesian or Balinese usually express invitation by an opening speech 'please pray by the God blessing and mercy' which intended to get interlocutor to attention to pray for him/her.

'Asking for permission' was frequently done by Ss to initiate invitation utterances. The following are expressions used by Ss to ask for permission. *Sorry to disturb you here. I beg for your presence, thank you sir. I beg if you are willing to attend. Sorry for disturbing your time. Sorry to disturb your time. If you wish, I invite you to come to my wedding.* It can be clearly seen that the asking permission was used in the following utterance to initiate sentences. *Good morning, Mr..., sorry to disturb your time. On this occasion, I would like to convey that I will be holding my wedding and reception.* Although it is not the invitation head act, but the initiating sentences were used to furnish the invitation. The initiation was merely used get Hs commitment to accept the invitation.

Apart from 'asking permission', showing appreciation seemed to be frequently made to initiate the invitation. The following utterances show how Ss appreciate Hs in order for the Hs accept and agree on Ss invitation. *It will be great if you come. I would be happy if you could attend this event. I will be very happy to welcome your presence. Thank you. I would be delighted if you sir, could come to our place to attend my wedding party, please. If you attend to event, It's an honour for us. I'm glad to see you on my wedding, It's an honour for me. It's an honour for me if you be there.* Lastly, 'permission', 'apology' was used mostly to initiate the invitation the following expressions contain apology, such as *I apologize for disturbing you but I must invite the director to my wedding. I apologize in advance for conveying information via this short message system. Good morning, excuse me in advance. I apologize for disturbing your time for a while. Here I am conveying me wedding invitation to the*



director. *Om swastyastu, to all my friends. Before that I apologize for reporting happy news only through this short message. I intend to invite all my friends to attend my wedding which God willing will be held on Sunday.* The utterances of apology were used to initiate invitation. Ss in this case meant to beg that Hs would attend the his/her wedding.

### **Students' Controlled Politeness for P-D-R+**

Data analysis result also revealed that there are a number of strategies utilized by Ss when inviting Hs with low power, low social distance and high rank of imposition (P-D-R+) in order to control politeness. Basically, Hs tended to use less or informal utterances when making invitation in this situation. Using mono clause or simple sentences was one of strategies used to when Ss convey invitation to Hs with P-D-R+. The following utterances consisted of mono-clause sentences. *I'll treat you all. Let's go to canteen for lunch. I wanna treat you. Halo guys, today is my birthday. Will you come with me? Come on let's go to the canteen now. So, come on guys. I hope you all come. Do you want come or not? Don't worry, it's all on me. I'll treat you all.* Each declarative was generally built up of S (modal) – Verb – Complement. Interrogative sentences consist of Modal/Auxiliary – S – Verb – Complement.

The use of such strategy was in line with culture of Indonesian particularly Balinese people that when communicating to people with the same power and social distance, social status they tend to use less formal language and foster intimacy. The use of formal language to such interlocutor will even sound strange. The use of direct sentences is one of specific characters of invitation utterances of Ss to Hs having similar or lower power and social distance. The type of sentence was frequently used by express invitation and to be polite. The following utterances involved direct sentences. *I want to treat you guys at the canteen. Here I want to talk because today is my birthday. So, don't forget to buy your lunch and don't worry on my treat. Do you guys want to come? Come guys. Come to my house. I hope you all come. Don't worry, It's all on me. I'll pay. Who is with me? Let's go. I need you all to celebrate.*

As can be obviously seen, every single sentence of the above utterances contains direct type of sentence, The sentences were structured with patterns, namely S - V- to V – Complement; Don't – V1 – to V1-Complement; Do – S – V1 - complement?; V1-Complement; S – Modal – V1; Let's – V1, and other simple sentences. The sentences did not use bi-clause sentences affixed with opening clauses or with other embedded sentences to embody formality. The sentences used by Ss seemed to be compatible with Hs seeing from the sociological aspect of the Hs. The Hs may certainly feel inconvenient when the invitation forwarded to him/her used formal sentences one of which use indirect sentences.

Less formal sentences uttered by Ss to Hs with P-D-R+ are identified with the use of some words, such as *let's, do, want, are, can, don't, and will.* There are mostly used in simple sentences. The following are sentences in which those sentence components were used, they are *Let's eat at the canteen. Don't worry. I will pay it. I want to invite you to eat in the canteen. I wanna invite you to celebrate my birthday at canteen. Come to the canteen today because today is my birthday. Come guys. Want to go to the canteen to eat noodle? So we can go to canteen to celebrate my birthday. Don't forget to come guys.*

These types of sentences were mostly used by Ss to convey invitation to Hs with which Ss intended to be polite. The politeness made was in accordance with situation where the Hs had an intimate relationship with Ss. The use of *Don't worry, I will pay it, I want to or wanna, Come to canteen, Come guys, So we can go* and the liked merely could be comprehended by the Hs that the Ss intended to be relaxed, sociable, familiar to the Hs in order to enhance Hs face. In case of using their formal form, such as *Would you like to..., please, I would like to invite you to..., Would you please remember that..., I would like to treat you...,* the Hs would certainly feel in convenient. Such formal utterances would threaten their face or image instead. In the regard of politeness in inviting Hs with P-D-R+, Ss were

also committed to using active sentences. Unlike inviting Hs with P+D+R+ where Ss tended to use formal type of utterances, one of which is indirect sentences, Ss in this regard preferred to use active sentence. The following are active sentences used. *I want to take you to the canteen to buy food later. I'll treat you all to food. I will invite and treat all my friends to eat in the cafeteria as much as you like. I will pay for it. I will treat you guys. I wanna treat you to a meal. I intend to invite and treat all of you at the campus canteen.*

The type of passive sentences was an indication how Hs were invited with sense of intimacy. Ss seemed to use positive sentences classified into performative one structured S-Modal-V1-Complement to convey the invitations. These utterances were straightforward and were regarded as convenient and intimate which compatibly save Hs' face. These sentences contradicted their formal form used by Ss to Hs with P+D+R+, such as *You are invited to my wedding ceremony, please be present. Please be present along with your family, sir at 18.00 at the Hotel Ina Bali. Our beloved Director, you are invited to our wedding celebration. The honour of your company is requested in our wedding celebration.*

Intimacy is a politeness strategy for Hs whom were close with Ss. To show friendship, Ss tended to use greeting which could trigger Hs' feeling of intimate and friendship. Intimacy in the case of invitation to Hs with P-D-R+ were in the form of intimate terms of address "hallo friends, hi guys". The following utterances included intimate terms of address, such as *Hi guys today is my birthday. Hello guys. I have information for all of you. Cuz it's my birthday today. Don't forget to come guys. I want to treat you guys in the canteen later, we can go to the canteen together during the second break. Guys, today is my birthday and today I want to treat you to all you can eat at the canteen, let's go to the canteen guys. Halo guys, so today is my birthday. Hallo guys, today I'm very happy because it's my birthday. Hello, my best friend. I'm going to have a party to celebrate my birthday. Hallo friends, remember to come this afternoon because there is my birthday. Hi, everyone. Because today is my birthday. I want to invite and I will treat all of you to eat in the canteen.*

Unlike politeness strategies used to invite Hs with P+D+R+, Ss in inviting Hs with P-D-R+ implemented 'expression of suggestion, promise, imperative and willingness'. The 'expression of suggestion' was delivered with utterances "Shall we, we'd better..". These expressions were used in the following utterances, namely *Did the lecture in the second course come today? If not then we better stay silent in the canteen and you are free to take food you need to fill your hungry stomach. Shall we eat at canteen?* Both of the expressions were intended to suggest Hs. Implicitly, Ss merely intended to invite Hs to come to a birthday party. The expression of 'promise' as one of politeness strategies was expressed with the pattern: *I'll*. A number of expressions of promise can be seen beneath: *I'll pay, I'll treat" I'll treat you. I will treat you all in canteen, so don't forget to go to the canteen at the break time guys. Please put your wallet away. I'll pay for the meal. I intend to invite all of you to eat in the campus cafeteria during recess. I will treat all of you. I will wait for all of you in the campus cafeteria, see you all. I will treat you to a meal Ok. Guys, let's eat in canteen. I will pay because today is my birthday.* Promise was expressed by involving modal verb *will* with pattern S-Will-V1-Complement. *Will* is less formal form of *would* however, it was compatibly used to address Hs with P-D-R+. In other word, those expressions were polite for the Hs.

Imperative was also used to affix politeness strategy when inviting Hs with P-D-R+. The utterances 'Let's..., Come to..., Don't forget to..., So, come on guys' proved that imperative was determined as one of politeness strategies. The sentences beneath explicitly showed the implementation of imperative. *Let's celebrate this special day. Guys, let's eat in canteen. Let's eat at the canteen. Don't worry I will pay it. Let's celebrate in the canteen. I will pay for it. I will treat you guys in the canteen. So let's go. Come to the canteen with me. Let's go to canteen and go shopping as much as possible. Don't forget to come guys. Hey*

beb. Come to the canteen with me. So come on guys. These strategies were tried and felt to suit the Hs's feeling as they had close relation with Ss. Such politeness strategy was natural as both speech participants (Ss and Hs) share the same culture even though they were using other language.

Lastly, 'willingness' was also strategy used to preserve politeness. Willingness in this occasion was the less formal willingness strategy conveyed to Hs with P-D-R+ thus, it involved such expressions as *'Do you want..? Want..? and Will you...?'* Unlike that of formal speech situation which used modal verb *would, Would you like, and Would you want*, this less formal speech situation used colloquial varieties, such as *Do* and *Will*. Sentences beneath obviously exhibited willingness strategies politeness. *Hi Guys, today is my birthday. Want to go to the canteen to eat noodle? I want to treat you to a meal int the canteen. Do you guys want to one? Do you guys want to come? Halo guys, today is my birthday. Will you come with me?'* The utterances were used merely for the sake of being friendly and intimate. As the Ss and Hs share the same cultural background, using such expression will not threaten their face or image, yet enhanced them instead. The basic concept that can be drawn here is that to save the face of interlocutors, they have to use as natural as possible language. Controlled politeness by speakers in two speech situation is show in [Table 4](#).

**Table 4. Controlled Politeness by Speakers in two Speech Situation**

Situation of P+D+R+	Situation of P-D-R+
1. The use of bi-clause sentences and if-conditional	1. The use of mono clauses and simple sentences
2. The use of indirect sentences	2. The use of direct sentences
3. The use of passive sentences	3. The use of less formal sentences (do, want,
4. The use of formal sentences and markers 'would, could, look forward, please, Mr, Mr. director, sir'	are, want, can, don't, simple sentence: wait for me, don't forget to., do you want,
5. The use of local both traditional and religious expressions	can you come)
6. Initiate utterances with asking for permission	4. The use of active sentences
7. Initiate utterances with expression of 'appreciation'	5. The use of intimacy greeting "hallo friends, hi guys"
8. Initiate or end utterances with apology.	6. The use of informal expression of suggestion, promise, imperative sentences, and direct sentences of willingness

## Discussion

It can be clearly seen in this research that the Ss merely acted politely resulting that they really intended to please the speakers' feeling and did not threaten Hs' face. Although the Ss were mostly Balinese who have two concepts of politeness i.e., 'respect' and 'politeness' they did not make politeness on behalf of 'respect', i.e., a vertical relationship between Ss and Hs which relied on caste. Politeness was represented through linguistic forms and speech context. This does not coincide with previous study that Balinese tend to be polite as Hs reserve higher level ruled by caste system (Dewi et al., 2017; Putri & Nurita, 2021). Situational aspect of power, distance and rank of imposition (PDR) also played important role to consider politeness occurrence. Pursuant to situational or sociological aspects of power, distance, and rank of imposition (PDR) where research instrument of role play was formed into two divisions i.e., role play with P+D+R+ and role play with P-D-R+, invitation strategies were found various in number and characteristics (Brown & Levinson, 1978). In

term of indirect strategies, there were new invitation strategies found, such as ‘Affirmative, Appreciation, Enthusiasm, Promise, Accommodation, Suggestion’. Base on theory of previous study invitation strategies were proved to exist in this research. New invitation strategies were found. ‘Affirmative’ strategy was used for Hs with both P+D+R+ and P-D-R+ (Al-Hamzi et al., 2020). It happened as affirmative is considered to be general method in affixing an invitation. Almost all Ss in this research used affirmative sentence. However, it’s level of formality differs depending on to whom they delivered it.

The new strategies conveyed to Hs with P+D+R+ were ‘religious respect, permission, appreciation, and apology. All of these strategies fostered higher level of formality and sense of respect. ‘Religious respect’ which included Balinese Hindus greeting system *om swastyastu* and the closing such as *om shanti shanti shanti* are frequently used by Balinese when showing respect to interlocutor both in verbal and non-verbal interaction. As the high respectfulness level of these greeting system, Balinese use to greet people in Hindu religious ceremony, such as priest, leaders of village, region, governor and others. In addition, Balinese always put forward respect for elder and authority figure. This is as the result of the Hindu belief that Balinese rely very much on religion as a guide for good social behavior (Fatimah & Santiana, 2017; Hitchcock & Dann, 1998). Apart from using Balinese Hindus greeting system, invitation for Hs with P+D+R+ was furnished with the use of other respect-showing markers such as ‘permission, appreciation, and apology’. These strategies were formal type invitation strategies used as the speech event was formal. The ‘permission, appreciation, and apology’ were uttered to initiate expression of invitation. This is in accordance with Balinese or Indonesian concept that although it is a genuine invitation, it should be delivered in order for the Hs to be feeling save (Suandari et al., 2020). The three strategies were in purpose to mitigate Hs feeling of being threatened. Thus, it conversed the custom done by Jordanian speaker who usually make ostensible invitation when they mean to mitigate Hs threatened images in FTA situation (Hashim et al., 2018; Ouyang & Scharber, 2017). As Ss preferred invitation by expressing permission, appreciation or apology, thus invitation to Hs with P+D+R+ tended to be longer.

Using strategies of ‘enthusiasm, promise, accommodation, and suggestion’ also rely on a part of Balinese or Indonesian culture. As Ss considered saving Hs face or image as the most goal of the communication, they seek for strategies to reach the goal. In addition to this Balinese or Indonesian in general consider mutual goal is a lot more important than the individual goal (Grabe, 2014; Ratminingsih et al., 2018). They also focus on building relationship and connection therefore expressions of ‘enthusiasm, promise, accommodation, and suggestion’. Ss intentions were well-comprehensible for Hs as both interlocutors share the same cultural background (George & Mamidi, 2020; Purwanti et al., 2022). Differences in opting strategies to control politeness were resulted by the Hs sociological aspects and culture shared by both interlocutors. When inviting Hs with P+D+R+, Ss tended to use bi-clause sentences and if-conditional, indirect sentences, passive sentences, formal sentences and markers, such as ‘would, could, look forward, please, Mr, Mr. director, sir’, local both traditional and religious expressions, invitation-initiating utterances, such as permission, appreciation and apology (Efrianto & Afnita, 2019; Mahmud, 2019). The types of utterances and polite markers used were: mono clauses and simple sentences, direct sentences, less formal sentences using ‘do, want, are, want, can, don’t’, active sentences, intimacy greeting ‘hallo friends, hi guys’, informal expression of suggestion, promise, imperative sentences, and direct sentences of willingness (Guswita & Andriyanti, 2020; Nassar, 2021).

According to previous study Indonesian learners of EFL preferred to use indirect strategies such as ‘yes/no-question, Wh-question and asking willingness’ to foster politeness, conversely, Yemeni speakers tended to use direct strategy, thus ‘imperative’ was the politest strategy (Mahmud, 2019). In line with this, previous finding proved that ‘passive sentences,

the use of modality 'if...', personification, and indirect speech acts' were used to promote politeness (Montag, 2019). Previous study claim is opposed to this research result that direct and indirect strategy were both used by Ss to promote and control politeness when invite Hs with different sociological aspects (Mustafai et al., 2022).

The fact about invitation strategies and how Indonesian EFL learners control politeness to verbally interact with interlocutor with different sociological aspects seemed to give some further visible actions. First, the fact can be used as an issue for materials developing for the English learning at vocational higher education. The materials development which includes introduction to politeness strategies through presenting sample utterances or semantic realization of invitation will be effective for explicit learning of invitation speech acts, apart from the implicit learning i.e., exposing learners to invitation strategies by doing social interaction with speakers of the target language. Second, further research can be replicated to involving various kind and number of participants and variable to assure whether or not this finding consistently visible.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Speakers' politeness when communicating with Hs of the two groups was controlled by using a number of utterances with various types of sentences. In order to invite Hs with P+D+R+, Ss tended to use 'bi-clause sentences and if-conditional, indirect sentences, passive sentences, formal sentences and markers such as *would, could, look forward, please, Mr, Mr. director, sir*, local both traditional and religious expressions, utterances with asking for permission, utterances with expression of permission, appreciation, apology. In order to invite Hs with P-D-R+, Ss tended to use mono clauses and simple sentences, direct sentences, less formal sentences such as *do, want, are, want, can, don't*, simple sentence, active sentences, intimacy greeting such as *hallo, friends, hi guys*, informal expression of suggestion, promise, imperative sentences, and direct sentences of willingness. Basically, politeness was done as Ss wanted to save Hs' face not harm their images.

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