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A CORPUS-BASED RESEARCH ON LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS DENOTING POLITENESS IN AMERICAN AND BRITISH POLITICAL SPEECHES

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

The art of rhetoric is a long-life science and political speeches have been studied from different angles for a long time. The main goal of political speeches is to convince the listeners of the orator's opinions by choosing the most powerful linguistic devices.

To make successful speeches in general and political speeches in particular, the speaker has to make use of strategies in speech delivering to show his/her politeness and persuade hearers. As such, politeness plays an important role in the communicative process, especially in speech communication. Haugh (2004: 127) suggests that "*politeness involves speakers' showing what they think about themselves and others, and addressees' perceptions of those evaluations*". In recent years, the issue of politeness in speech delivering has become central to the discussions of the human interaction. Furthermore, it is also a matter of concern in situations when politicians with various ideologies and characters gather to negotiate with each other.

It is clear that the expression of politeness is one of the most important aspects of communication which writers or speakers dress up their language to make it more effective, and sometimes to emphasize the meanings they want to convey. In reality, in order to identify and comprehend politeness strategies in political speeches is not easy a task. Moreover, searching for linguistic expressions of politeness has to be conducted through large data under computer-assisted methods. For the reasons mentioned above, I decided to conduct ***"A corpus-based research on linguistic expressions denoting politeness in American and British political speeches"*** for

my thesis. It is hoped that the findings of the study could contribute to the community of discourse analysis through the analysis of politeness expressions and provide suggestions in the learning and teaching of English.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims

The aim of this study is to identify linguistic traits of politeness strategies used by American and British politicians. This study therefore explores how their language can incorporate both power and politeness in their political speeches. In other words, how politicians can manifest their power, capabilities, and policies to perform politeness in their speeches is intended to investigate. In short, this study is aimed at investigating expressions denoting politeness (EDP) in speech communication through speeches made by British and American politicians.

1.2.2. Objectives

The study is intended to…

- Classify and describe the semantic and pragmatic features of expressions denoting politeness in American and British political speeches.

- Identify the differences and similarities between the American and British politicians in their use of expressions denoting their politeness strategies.

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To achieve the aims and objectives claimed, the following research questions are to be answered:

1. What are the semantic and pragmatic features of expressions denoting politeness in American political speeches?

2. What are the semantic and pragmatic features of

expressions denoting politeness in British political speeches?

3. What differences and similarities in politeness strategies can be identified in American and British political speeches?

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study mainly concentrates on the analysis of the linguistic features of EDP strategies in American and British political speeches.

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This thesis has values in both theoretical and practical aspects. Theoretically, the study is expected to contribute to the theory of politeness and provide English learners with an essential reference for more targeted ways to express politeness in their communication. Practically, the findings of the study can be the potential source for the teaching and learning of politeness expressions in English.

It will be a contribution to improve language competence, which benefits not only learners but also translators of English.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

CHAPTER 2
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

The phenomenon of politeness has attracted a tremendous amount of linguistic interest, resulting in an explosion of publications and studies on politeness. Despite the volume of literature on politeness, researchers are still daunted by the difficulty in reaching a consensus in terms of politeness in general and linguistic politeness in particular. This section is a literature review of politeness in general and linguistic politeness in particular.

The term 'politeness' has been approached from a variety of perspectives. Consequently, the struggle over the reproduction and reorganisation of linguistic politeness has long been in progress. As such, Watts et al. (1992: 1) claim "questions about how politeness should be defined, the ways in which it is realised in different cultural frameworks and the validity of a universal theory of politeness are of interest to a wide range of social science researchers".

Politeness has been a major concern in pragmatics since Lakoff's (1973) work on "the logic of politeness". The issue has been developed into a theory and used as a framework for studies in pragmatics since Brown and Levinson's first publication in 1987. Brown and Levinson's (1987) view has been considered as the most influential publication on politeness and perhaps the most thorough concept of in the literature of politeness. Nguyen Quang (2003) applies Brown and Levinson's (1987) super strategies to a comparative analysis of politeness strategies in inter-cultural and

cross-cultural communication between English and Vietnamese.

As such, the literature review of research on politeness can be seen as the framework for a range of studies on politeness. However, there has been a large number of publications approaching the issue from different angles. All of these have their own contributions to politeness theory and propose changes, amendments or critiques. Therefore, the following section is an overview of major approaches to politeness as the theoretical background for this study.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. The Major Views to Politeness

a. The 'social norm' view

According to Fraser (1990) "the social norm view of politeness assumes that each society has a particular set of social norms consisting of more or less explicit rules that prescribe a certain behavior, a state of affairs, or a way of thinking in a context". Márquez (2000: 2) explains that "it is socially determined in the first place and it is geared towards the structuring of social interaction". That is to say the social-norm view to politeness shows the public's general understanding of the issue in terms of what is accepted by the society as the good behaviors.

b. The 'conversational maxim' view

The second politeness model, i.e. the conversational maxim view, relies principally on the work of Grice (1975). Grice bases the cooperative principle on four maxims, which he assumes speakers will follow. The maxims are termed, as reproduced in Lakoff (1977) as (1) maxim of quantity: say as much and no more than is necessary, (2) maxim of quality: say what is true, (3) maxim of relevance: say what is relevant, and (4) maxim of manner: say in a non-confusing way. These maxims can be stated differently by saying that one

should say the right thing, at the right time, with the right content and in the right way.

c. The 'face-saving' view

The most influential politeness model to date is the face-saving view proposed by Brown & Levinson (1987), Watts (1992), and Kasper (1998). This model is based on constructing a Model Person (MP) who is a fluent speaker of a natural language and equipped with two special characteristics, namely 'rationality' and 'face'. Rationality enables the MP to engage in means-ends analysis. By reasoning from ends to the means the MP satisfies his/her ends. Face, as the other endowment of the MP, is defined as the public self-image that the MP wants to gain. Brown & Levinson (1987) claims that face has two aspects:

Positive face is the positive consistent self-image or personality claimed by interactants (in other words, the desire to be approved of in certain respects).

Negative face is the 'basic claim to territorial personal preserves and rights to non-distraction' (in other words, the desire to be unimpeded by others).

d. The 'conversational-contract' view

Accordingly, Fraser (1990) regards politeness as "getting on with the task at hand in light of the terms and conditions of the CC". Conversational-Contract view is similar to Social Norm view in that politeness involves conforming to socially agreed codes of good behavior. It is different from Social Norm view because in Conversational-Contract view the rights and obligations are negotiable. He suggests four dimensions including: (1) the 'conventional' dimension, normally indicated by rules, i.e., turn-taking, levels of loudness or softness in speaking; (2) the

'institutional' dimension, imposed by institutions concerned with rights of speaking, i.e., in court or duties of maintaining silence e.g., in church; (3) the 'situational' dimension, determined by particular speech situation in terms of factors such as the power of the participants, the role of the speaker and the perception of hearers; and (4) the 'historical' dimension indicating that the conditions of any new interaction is determined by contracts established in the previous interaction.

Among the major theoretical approaches to politeness as presented above, it seems that the face-saving view proposed by Brown & Levinson (1987) has the most influential impacts on the analysis of politeness strategies. Therefore, this study will mainly rely on their model and the modifications by others to shed light on the analysis of politeness strategies in samples of British and American political speeches.

2.2.2. Positive and Negative Politeness Strategies

Brown and Levinson (1987) state that there are "super-strategies" of politeness including positive politeness, negative politeness and "off-record" strategies. In the case of the occurrence of any FTA in interaction, the speaker employs redressive actions to the FTA. Such actions, as Brown and Levinson (1987) distinguish are *positive politeness* and *negative politeness* redressing the hearer's *positive face* and *negative face*, respectively.

Positive politeness as Brown and Levinson (1987:70) state:

> […] is oriented towards the positive face of the hearer, the positive self-image that he claims for himself. Positive politeness is approach-based; it "anoints" the face of the addressee by indicating that in some respects, the speaker wants the hearer's wants (e.g. by treating him as a member

of an in-group, a friend, a person whose wants and personality traits are known and liked). (1987: 70)

Positive politeness can be interpreted as the strategies in which the speaker takes the hearer's wants into account, gets closer to hearers, and creates solidarity with hearers. Brown and Levinson (1987) have organized their fifteen positive politeness strategies into three broad mechanisms namely: (1) claiming common ground, (2) conveying that the speaker (S) and the hearer (H) are co-operators, and (3) fulfilling H's wants. Using these strategies, S expresses intimate politeness by showing that H's wants (i.e., interests, or goals) are also interesting to him/her.

Negative politeness as claimed by Brown and Levinson's (1987: 70)

[…] is oriented mainly toward partially satisfying (redressing) H's negative face, his basic want to maintain claims to territory, self-determination. Negative politeness, thus, is essentially avoidance-based, and realizations of negative politeness strategies consist in assurances that the speaker recognizes and respects the addressee's negative-face wants and will not (or will only minimally) interfere with the addressee's freedom of action.

As such, negative politeness can be understood to appear in speech acts of negative protocols in which the hearer expects to be "unimpeded". S has to pay attention to strategies of redressing FTAs such as apologizing, showing deference to H's wants, using hedges, and keeping a certain distance from H. Negative politeness strategies are ways of using devices that help to soften the speech act, and give H a face-saving feel of not being imposed upon or obligated.

2.3. POLITICAL SPEECHES

2.3.1. Definition of Political Speech

a. Definition of Speech

b. Definition of Political Speech

2.3.2. Features of Political Language

CHAPTER 3
RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

3.1.1. An Overview of Corpus Linguistics

Corpus linguistics is the study of language by means of naturally occurring language samples. This is an approach to language study by investigating authentic data of language use. Samples of texts selected for the subject matter of the research are compiled into a corpus or corpora. Corpus-based analyses are usually carried out with the use of specialized software programs and data of electronic format. Corpus linguistics is thus an approach to studying real-life language via a computerised collection of texts to obtain and analyze data quantitatively and qualitatively.

3.1.2. Corpus-based Methodology

With the effective of a corpus-based method and software packages of WordSmith 5.0, this research on markers used as speakers' politeness strategies in the discourse of political speeches is expected to reflect issues of attested language into the theories of politeness.

3.1.3. Collecting Political Speeches and Building the Research Corpora

The two research corpora are used to provide statistical data for quantitative analysis of the frequency use of politeness markers (PMs) in the politicians' speeches. The qualitative method will be used for the analysis of selected utterances from these research corpora. Tables 3.1 and 3.2 below show details of the two machine-readable text corpora used in this research.

Table 3.1. Data on the corpus of the US Presidents' speeches
(The USC)

Politician	Date range	No. of speeches	No. of words	% of words
US01	2001-2004	14	45,097	23.6%
US02	1993-1998	9	50,899	26.6%
US03	2005-2009	21	48,249	25,2%
US04	1981-1992	14	47,071	24,6%
Total		**58**	**191,316**	**100.00%**

Table 3.2. Data on the corpus of the UK Prime Ministers' speeches
(The UKC)

Politician	Date range	No. of speeches	No. of words	% of words
UK01	1999-2007	11	52,564	26.6 %
UK02	2005-2010	7	43,086	21.8%
UK03	2010-2011	10	46,532	23.6%
UK04	1975-1989	16	55,297	28%
Total		**44**	**197,479**	**100.00%**

In short, although the research corpora, the UKC and the USC, are small and the population of political speeches is not very large, the selected speeches made by British and American politicians are expected to be adequate for the research goals of investigating the semantic and pragmatic functions of PMs as the speakers' politeness expressions. The research corpora can be seen to cover the principal issues of corpus building and represent the genre of political speeches for analyses of PMs as politeness strategies.

3.2. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLES

There are 102 political speeches collected to serve the purpose of the research. There are 58 speeches made by American politicians such as Bush, Clinton, Obama and Reagan and 44 speeches made by British politicians such as Thatcher, Blair, Brown and Cameron. These speeches were delivered by the politicians from 1975 to 2011.

3.3. DATA ANALYSIS

First, the samples of politeness expressions will be qualitatively and quantitatively interpreted, and then classified, described and analyzed to find out linguistic features.

The frequencies and percentages help to find out the characteristics in linguistics of common-used politeness expressions in American and British political speeches.

3.4. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.5. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

CHAPTER 4
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN AMERICAN AND BRITISH POLITICAL SPEECHES
4.1.1. Positive Politeness Strategies in Political Speeches
a. Expressing Encouragement

There are instances of *You can, Please* followed by action verbs found in the research corpora expressing the speaker's encouragement and consultancy for hearers to perform the act suggested. For example:

[2] And I ask this Congress to do something else. ***Please*** help us make more of our clean energy technology available to the developing world. That will create cleaner growth abroad and a lot more new jobs here in the United States of America. [USC09]

b. Expressing Optimism

With PMs expressing optimism, the speaker simultaneously claims his common point of view with hearers and shows that hearers' needs will certainly be met. Examine these examples:

[8] We had an excellent meeting and ***I'm sure*** this will be the start of a very strong and positive partnership based on results and practical actions in the interests of our countries. [UKCA02]

c. Expressing Solidarity with Hearers

One of the patterns used to convey the sense of solidarity involving both the speaker and hearers in performing the event uttered is *"let's"* as in the following extract:

[9] ***Let's*** set high standards for ***our*** schools and give them the resources they need to succeed. ***Let's*** recruit a new army of teachers, and give them better pay and more support in exchange for more accountability. ***Let's*** make college more affordable, and ***let's*** invest in scientific research, and ***let's*** lay down broadband lines through the heart of inner cities and rural towns all across America. [USO07]

d. Expressing Strong Commitment

With these PMs of strong commitment the speaker attempts to persuade hearers, "*to stress his agreement with H and therefore to satisfy H's desire to be "right", or to be corroborated in his opinions*" (Brown and Levinson, 1987:112). Therefore, patterns of *intention will* combined with first person plural pronouns are categorized as PMs of positive politeness strategy. Examine these examples:

[13] The restoration of Britain's place in the world and of the West's confidence in its own destiny are two aspects of the same process. No doubt there will be unexpected twists in the road, but with wisdom and resolution we can reach our goal. ***I believe we will*** show the wisdom and you may be certain that ***we will*** show the resolution. [UKTH06]

e. Hedging to Address Hearers' Positive Face

Hedging is related to PMs to indicate that the speaker knows what hearers want and is willing to take their wants into account. As analyzed in the following extracts:

[14] We must offer both short-term help and long-term hope for our unemployed. ***I hope*** we can work together on this. ***I hope*** we can work together as we did last year in enacting the landmark Job Training Partnership Act. [USR04]

g. Paying Attention to Hearers

This strategy is normally displayed by PMs implying that the speaker shares the hearers' views, approves of hearers' desires and would like to establish a common ground with hearers. As shown in the following extracts:

[17] It's something, **as you know**, I care passionately about; it's something I would like to be one of the great legacies of this government: building the Big Society. Yes, we have to deal with the deficit; yes, we have to make sure we secure the future in Afghanistan and bring our troops home. [UKCA02]

4.1.2. Negative Politeness Strategies in Political Speeches

a. Attenuating the Force of an Assertion

With these PMs the level of assertion referring to the performance of the act uttered can be minimized, specifically when the speakers address sensitive issues involving critical comment or commitment in their speeches as in the following extracts:

[19] America, at its best, matches a commitment to principle with a concern for civility. A civil society demands from each of us good will and respect, fair dealing and forgiveness. Some **seem** to believe that our politics can afford to be petty because, in a time of peace, the stakes of our debates **appear** small. [USB01]

b. Expressing Humility

The pattern *"let me"* followed by an action verb is frequently used to express the speakers' humility. It is an indicator of the speaker's request for permission to present an opinion or to perform an act. As in the following extract:

[20] ***Let me*** begin by saying that we cannot ask Americans to be better citizens if we are not better servants. You made a good start by passing that law which applies to Congress all the laws you put on the private sector – and I was proud to sign it yesterday. [USC04]

c. Hedging on the Force of an FTA

Patterns with impersonal subjects *"it"* and *"there"* combined with a modal verb form are typically used to mitigate the negative effect of FTAs as in the following extracts:

[22] Let me be clear: ***There will be*** no new cuts in benefits from Medicare for beneficiaries. ***There will be*** cuts in payments to providers: doctors, hospitals, and labs, as a way of controlling health care costs. These cuts are only a stop-gap until we reform the whole health care system. [USC01]

[25] ***There should be*** a new UN Resolution following any conflict providing not just for humanitarian help but also for the administration and governance of Iraq. That must now be done under proper UN authorization. It should protect totally the territorial integrity of Iraq. [UKBL07]

d. Expressing a Hypothesis

Hypothetical *would* is used as a marker of politeness to compensate for the strong sense of a command included in the utterance and turn it into a suggestion as analyzed in the following extract:

[29] And let us make this reflection. A week ago, anyone suggesting terrorists ***would kill*** thousands of innocent people in downtown New York ***would*** have been dismissed as alarmist. It happened. We know that these

groups are fanatics, capable of killing without discrimination. [...] We know, that ***they would***, ***if they could,*** go further and use chemical or biological or even nuclear weapons of mass destruction. [UKBL04]

e. Minimizing Imposition on Hearers Through Indirectness

In the strategy of minimising imposition on hearers the speaker normally uses PMs as downtoners "to modulate the impact his utterance is likely to have" on hearers (House and Kasper, 1981: 167).

For example:

[31] ... and may I just say that every bit of show business instinct that is within me says that ***perhaps*** it would be better if the entertainment followed the speaker. You are a tough act to follow. [USR07]

[32] Pensions is ***probably*** the biggest current worry for the workforce. And transport ***probably*** the worst area of public services. [UKBL05]

4.2 A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF POLITENESS MARKERS IN AMERICAN AND BRITISH POLITICAL SPEECHES

The comparison is based on the account of PMs that the APs and the BPs produce to express politeness strategies. Table 4.12 shows the frequency use of PMs in the six positive politeness strategies and Table 4.13 those used in the five negative politeness strategies. The figures indicate the raw counts of PMs collected in the research corpora of political speeches.

Table 4.12. Distribution of PMs as positive politeness strategies

Positive politeness strategies	Politeness expressions	The USC	The UKC
1. Paying attention to hearers	*As you know, You know...*	81	60
2. Making commitment	*I will / we will*	443	382
3. Hedging on the positive FTA	*I hope / believe / think / expect that...*	175	140
4. Expressing solidarity with hearers	*Let's*	117	18
5. Expressing encouragement	*You can, Please*	48	34
6. Expressing optimism	*I am confident/hopeful/sure*	28	14
Total		**892**	**648**

Table 4.13. Distribution of PMs as negative politeness strategies

Negative politeness strategies	Politeness expressions	The USC	The UKC
1. Hedging on the negative FTA	*There may / should / will be* *It may / will be*	38	91
2. Expressing a hypothesis	*Would*	313	429
3. Attenuating the force of an assertion	*Seem* *Appear*	14	23
4. Expressing humility	*Let me*	53	120
5. Minimizing imposition on hearers through indirectness	*Perhaps, probably, Maybe*	32	49
Total		**450**	**712**

It can be seen that the APs use more PMs of positive politeness strategies than the BPs, accounting for 879 instances compared with 638 instances, respectively. The frequencies of PMs used as negative politeness strategies in the two research corpora

are in the reverse. The BPs use more PMs of negative politeness strategies, accounting for 695 instances, while the APs produce only 467 instances of PMs in these politeness strategies.

As such, it can be argued that the APs use more markers of positive politeness whereas the BPs are more interested in using markers of negative politeness.

4.3. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AMERICAN AND BRITISH POLITICIANS IN THE USE OF MODAL FORMS

It has been found from PMs occurring in the research corpora that particular modal forms are used in particular patterns of PMs to express specific politeness strategies. From the analyses of categories of politeness strategies above, three major categories of politeness markers used in the USC and UKC are found in terms of *strong committers, hedges* and *downtoners*. *Strong committers* are expressed through patterns of PMs with modal adjectives; *hedges* with modal lexical verbs and *downtoners* with modal adverbs. It could be argued that the APs and BPs are not different in their politeness strategies but they are strikingly different in using patterns of modal forms as politeness markers to express their politeness strategies.

Table 4.14. Patterns of modal forms used as major politeness markers in the research corpora

Politeness markers	Modal forms	Frequency use	
		The USC	The UKC
Committers	Modal adjectives	28 (11.92%)	14 (6.90%)
Hedges	Modal lexical verbs	175 (74.46%)	140 (68.96%)
Downtoners	Modal adverbs	32 (13.62%)	49 (24.14%)
Total		**235 (100%)**	**203 (100%)**

The comparative analysis of major categories of politeness markers found in political speeches as presented above shows that the differences between the APs and the BPs are not based on their politeness strategies but rather on the occurrence of different modal forms used in patterns of politeness markers and their frequency use of politeness markers in their political speeches. The APs use more patterns of markers with modal adjectives than the BPs do. These patterns of markers indicate that the APs undertake politeness strategies using more patterns of markers as *strong committers* and *hedges* than the BAs. The BPs, conversely, use more patterns of markers with modal adverbs in patterns of *downtoners* than the APs do.

Generally, the analysis of the differences between the APs and the BPs in the frequency use of politeness markers as presented above may reveal certain reasons for their difference. Although the analysis of the pragmatic functions of markers as politeness strategies in political speeches cannot reveal how different British and American politicians are in their culture, findings from the use of markers as politeness expressions reveal that the APs are more informal and personal in their politeness strategies while the BPs appear to be more formal and reserved. These may show a recognition in culture that the American politicians are more positive while the British politicians are more negative in expressing politeness strategies in their speech delivering.

CHAPTER 5
CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

From the results attained by a process of analyzing and examining data in foregoing Chapters, we would like to put forward some conclusions about the semantic and pragmatic features of expressions denoting politeness strategies in American and British political speeches, their main effects on listeners or readers in signaling affection. Then, also in this Chapter, we will mention limitations of the study; suggest implications and recommendations on learning as well as further study.

5.1. CONCLUSION

This study approached the semantic and pragmatic functions of politeness markers in American and British political speeches. The thesis also contributes to the theories of politeness with the comparative analyses of markers used as politeness strategies in British and American political speeches.

It is thought that Americans are more positive than British in communication (e.g. they slap the back or shoulder in interactions). However, there has been no research to support this. There has been no study on PMs between British and American discourse and, of course, no study between British and American political speeches either. Therefore, this research contributes to the practice of the discourse community with the analysis of PMs in the particular discourse of political speeches.

Findings in the research shows that American politicians are more personal and informal, whereas British politicians appear to be more tentative, cautious and formal in expressing their views through the use of politeness markers. In other words, it can be claimed from

this research that American politicians are more positive-oriented in the use of politeness expressions whereas British politicians are more negative-oriented in expressing their politeness strategies.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This thesis provides a new angle to the study of politeness markers used in English public speeches. It can also help the readers to appreciate the public speeches better. This study will certainly provide a meaningful aid to improving our communication in English. Just as one of the elderly educators once said, "The best way to learn the most concise, forceful and refined English is to study public speeches in English". Thus, this study may be beneficial to the teaching and learning of English.

In addition, this paper will serve as a reference for further studies and provide some instructional guidance for students of English. The readers will probably employ these same politeness strategies to strengthen their own communicative power and it also provides the learners with some useful techniques in making speeches. Basing on the results of the study, we would like to put forward a number of implications and recommendations.

For students of English, mastering the knowledge and then applying them to speaking or writing is indeed a challenge. From the findings of this thesis, it is hoped that students would appreciate the beauty of political language in famous speeches. It will not only help them get a better understanding of the political language but also provide them with some necessary strategies and techniques in using politeness markers in speech delivering for various real-life purposes.

Through political speeches containing politeness markers, teachers can help improve students' speaking skill to a great extent.

Students can learn how to use these strategies naturally and effectively in oral communication via their everyday conversations or their own presentations or speeches. Moreover, students can develop their reading skill, especially reading comprehension. They can interpret what they are reading better and as a result they can have a thorough grasp of the reading materials.

For the teaching of English, how to find out the most effective method for teachers of English to help their students speak naturally and effectively is still a big concern at the moment. This study would give a suggestion on teaching public speaking. The teacher should encourage his students to practice translating and writing political speeches, etc. As a teacher of English as a foreign language, I have noticed that teaching English through famous speeches is an interesting teaching style for the learners.

Moreover, teaching language through political speeches is desirable because of the authenticity of the material. Teachers can encourage students to use politeness markers in their speaking to express their thoughts and ideas more clearly, concisely and convincingly.

5.3. LIMITATIONS

Although we have tried our best in finding materials and investing our efforts, there are still shortcomings in this thesis due to the limited time, knowledge and references.

The study is expected to contribute useful knowledge to learners and translators, but it has not reached the expectation of the researcher as it should.

This research is on politeness strategies, it is central to investigating the pragmatic functions of markers in expressing the speakers' politeness strategies from the data source of British and

American political discourse rather than analysing the cultural distinctions between British and American politicians in expressing politeness strategies in their speech delivery.

5.4. SUGGESTIONS

This thesis is only conducted as an analysis of semantic and pragmatic features of expressions denoting politeness strategies in American and British political speeches. With the limitation of the thesis, the study still remains some aspects which can be dealt with in further study.

An investigation into the use of markers as politeness strategies in various genres of political speeches made by non-native English politicians in different countries will be more comparable. These variations of political speeches in English when collected and compiled into research corpora will provide more data for discussions on other issues which determine differences in patterns of politeness strategies in speech delivery. Moreover, with such an expansion of the data source the distinction between native English and non-native English politicians in both language use and culture would be made.

With those difficulties and limitation of personal ability, source of materials relating to the problem under investigation and outside factors, some weaknesses are inevitable. I would be very grateful to those that take interest in the topic and work. Any comment, advice, and adjustment will be highly appreciated and very valuable to make this paper clearer and more fulfilled.