

Politeness Strategies in Interrogation Speech Acts: A Translation Case Study of *A Murder Is Announced*

Dede Irawan

Doctorate Program in Linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

M. R. Nababan

Doctorate Program in Linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

Riyadi Santosa

Doctorate Program in Linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

Djatkika

Doctorate Program in Linguistics, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia

Abstract—This study investigated the translation of illocutionary acts and politeness strategies within interrogation speech events. It uses Agatha Christie's novel *A Murder Is Announced* and its Indonesian translation as a case study. The research addresses a gap in existing literature, which primarily focuses on politeness in formulaic language and lacks a detailed analysis of more complex, context-driven speech acts like interrogations. Employing a qualitative descriptive method, the study utilizes document analysis and focus group discussions to examine how speech acts are used and how politeness strategies are maintained or shifted in translation. The research assesses translation quality based on accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The findings reveal that the most frequent interrogation purpose is confirming questions, statements, and evidence, followed by obtaining information. The dominant speech act is the representative, while the directive speech act, with commands, asking, and advice, is primarily used for suppressing suspects. Across most speech events, the bald-on-record politeness strategy is dominant, reflecting a preference for direct communication. The study also found that while many illocutionary acts and politeness strategies are preserved, some shifts occur, particularly from negative politeness to bald-on-record, due to cultural differences. These shifts, often caused by discursive creation and reduction techniques, can negatively impact translation quality by reducing accuracy and acceptability.

Index Terms—illocutionary acts, politeness strategies, interrogation speech events, quality translation, pragmatics

I. INTRODUCTION

When interrogating criminals, police officers or detectives use their power to obtain information needed for the investigation. Here, language becomes a strategic weapon shaped by intention, psychological pressure, and most importantly, politeness. As Brown and Levinson (1987) argue, politeness is a universal phenomenon embedded in every interaction, helping speakers navigate social hierarchies, save face, and negotiate relationships where information must be extracted without triggering resistance. Therefore, politeness strategies aim to maintain the face of the interlocutors and compliance, truth-telling, and cooperation.

However, when it comes to translation, translators do not only convert one language to another, but they also bridge two different cultures so that they are understandable to the target readers. Their task is to bridge communication gaps and ensure that the intended meaning of the original message resonates with target readers. As Catford (1965) posited, translation is the replacement of textual material in one language by equivalent textual material in another language; achieving this equivalence beyond surface-level substitution demands a deep understanding, especially when dealing with interrogation. These cultural issues give rise to linguistic phenomena in politeness strategy translation concerning the social norms and structure. Thus, to effectively maintain politeness, speakers must possess the ability to utilize appropriate politeness strategies.

Brown and Levinson (1987) maintain that politeness is a fundamental aspect of pragmatics, as it is a universal phenomenon in language use within social contexts. Gudjonsson (2003) states that interrogation, when applied in the context of police investigations, inherently involves various forms of questioning directed at witnesses, victims, informants, or suspects of a crime. From this perspective, an interrogation speech event can be defined as a communicative act to obtain information through questions and/or confirmations. These events often show the speaker's domination over

the interlocutors. Interrogative speech events follow stages showing the process of how information is gathered. These can also be found in literary works, particularly in crime novels.

Agatha Christie is a renowned author who has published at least 78 crime novels, many of which have become legendary over time. Her works are frequently reprinted in new editions and have been adapted into highly successful films. As literary works, novels present storylines and characters whose interactions form the backbone of the narrative. Therefore, it is interesting to investigate Christie's books since they show the presence of interrogation speech events to gather information and solve criminal cases. Of course, these interrogations are crucial since they reflect the storyline of how a mystery is solved. Within these interrogation events, the characters often employ politeness strategies to maintain social norms while eliciting necessary information. When such speech events are translated from English into Indonesian, they offer a fascinating study area due to differences in language, culture, and the target audience's interpretation compared to the source language. In the narrative structure of a novel, every utterance made by the characters is always embedded within a specific context that determines its meaning. Consequently, speech acts within interrogation events cannot be seen in isolation but must be understood in their contextual framework.

A considerable body of research has examined the translation of politeness strategies across languages and cultures, reflecting the growing interest in how linguistic politeness is conveyed, adapted, or shifted in translation. Some researchers, like Jakobsson (2016) and Aapakallio (2021), have investigated the use of politeness markers in honorific speech, particularly in translating Japanese into English and Finnish. The result shows notable differences in how politeness is realized across these three languages, especially given Japanese's deeply ingrained system of honorifics. Similarly, Ethelb (2015) and Chunli et al. (2021) examined the translation of politeness in greetings. These studies are valuable in understanding how conventional expressions of politeness are rendered in different cultural contexts. However, these studies are limited to comparing politeness markers between the source and target language without exploring their function. Their focuses are primarily on formulaic language and do not explore more complex or context-driven speech acts such as interrogations.

Further research by Moradi and Jabbari (2015), Sembiring (2016), Afzali (2017), Akbari and Shahnazari (2017), Alavidze (2018), Abudayeh and Dubbati (2020), and Sariaslan and İşısağ (2020) investigated the translation of politeness strategies across various cultures, including English, Italian, and Middle Eastern (particularly Saudi Arabian) contexts. Moreover, these studies examined the reflected politeness strategies in international media. They showed the way Donald Trump's speeches are reported to Middle Eastern audiences. The findings highlight the importance of cultural sensitivity and the need to adapt politeness norms to align with the expectations of the target language audience. Meanwhile, research by Mubin (2015), Ardi et al. (2016), Alooja et al. (2018), Sukaesih et al. (2019), Havid et al. (2020), Sariaslan and İşısağ (2020), Lestari and Nababan (2021), Puruhito et al. (2022), and Ismiyati et al. (2024) focused on the translation of politeness strategies within specific speech events, such as prohibition, suggestion, invitation, and commands. Although these studies contribute to our understanding of how politeness is realized in particular social contexts, they do not address the translation of illocutionary acts in more nuanced or layered dialogue structures. Additionally, they have yet to explore the patterns of translation relationships in speech events, such as interrogations, that have a significant potential to influence how politeness strategies are interpreted and rendered in the target language. However, after reviewing all of these studies, some gaps still remain.

Distinguished from other studies, this research is a holistic investigation of politeness strategies used in interrogation speech events and how they are translated into Indonesian by analyzing translation techniques. By examining selected dialogues from both the source and target texts, this research also investigates the shifts in politeness strategies and their impact on translation quality in the forms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability. Exploring this phenomenon, the study investigates politeness strategy translation on interrogative speech events done by the speakers. Moreover, interrogation is not limited to questioning. It often includes confirmations, clarifications, and instructions by or to participants to gather information. By situating the analysis within these rich and complex speech events, this study offers insights into the pragmatic shifts that occur in translation and the translation quality.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Utterances spoken by a speaker express a specific intention understood by the listener. These are called speech acts, and they form a fundamental component of speech events within broader speech situations. Each speech event is governed by social and linguistic norms that guide the speaker's behavior and the listener's interpretation of the utterance. According to Austin (1962), speech acts are not merely statements but performative actions. In speaking, the speaker is simultaneously doing something. Austin categorizes speech acts into three types: (1) locutionary acts, which involve producing a meaningful utterance; (2) illocutionary acts, where the speaker aims to make the listener do or understand something, such as asserting, questioning, or requesting; and (3) perlocutionary acts, which refer to the effect or response that the speaker's utterance has on the listener. Austin's foundational theory was later expanded by Searle (1976), who refined the classification of speech acts into five categories: representatives (asserting or describing a state of affairs), directives (attempting to get the listener to do something), commissives (committing the speaker to a future action), expressives (expressing psychological states or emotions), and declaratives (utterances that bring about a change in reality, such as resigning or declaring war).

Chaer and Leonie (1995) define a speech event as a linguistic interaction that occurs through one or more forms of speech between two parties—the speaker and the interlocutor—pursuing a single communicative purpose within a specific time, place, and context. Within this framework, interrogation can be understood as a specialized form of speech event. Interrogation, according to Soesilo (1984), refers to obtaining information from individuals, such as suspects or witnesses, to solve a criminal case within formal legal settings. From these perspectives, an interrogative speech event can be defined as a structured interaction between investigators and related parties—such as suspects, witnesses, and victims—to gather clues, information, and evidence related to a criminal case. In the present study, various types of interrogation speech events have been identified, including (1) eliciting information, (2) confirming questions or answers, (3) presenting statements by all parties involved, (4) asking about the situation or sequence of events, (5) confirming suspicions, accusations, or legal violations, (6) providing additional information, (7) applying pressure to the interlocutor, and (8) issuing denials.

When obtaining such information, some strategies are implied to do it well. One of them is politeness. Politeness strategies are used to demonstrate respect to the interlocutor. Brown and Levinson proposed the most influential politeness theories centered on face, or an individual's public self-image. Their theory is grounded in the principles of rationality and face-saving, where speakers strategically manage interactions to maintain social harmony and avoid conflict. Brown and Levinson (1987) propose four main politeness strategies: (1) bald-on-record, used to deliver a direct message without mitigation; (2) positive politeness, which appeals to the hearer's desire for approval and inclusion; (3) negative politeness, which shows deference and respects the hearer's wish not to be imposed upon; and (4) off-record, where the speaker's intention is implied rather than explicitly stated, allowing room for interpretation. These strategies are often employed in interrogative contexts, where maintaining cooperation while avoiding face-threatening acts is crucial.

In translation studies, the application of politeness strategies becomes particularly significant, as translators must navigate both linguistic and cultural nuances to preserve the originality of the source text. Some translation scholars have defined other perspectives and definitions regarding the nature and process of translation, reflecting a range of theoretical orientations. Catford (1965) defines translation as "the replacement of textual material in one language by equivalent textual material in another language." He highlights a formalist approach, emphasizing the substitution of linguistic forms between the source and target languages to achieve textual equivalence.

Nida and Taber (1982) offer a more dynamic view, stating that "translation consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalence of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style." This definition highlights the importance of conveying the meaning of the source text as naturally and accurately as possible in the target language, with attention to both semantic content and stylistic form. Larson (1984) defines translation as the process of converting meaning from one form into another, whether from the source language into the target language or vice versa. This approach stresses the transformation of meaning over the preservation of specific linguistic structures. Newmark (1988) frames translation as the act of conveying the message of the source text into the target language by the original author's intent. His emphasis is on fidelity to the message and communicative purpose behind the text. Finally, Baker (2018) describes translation as "a process of intercultural communication, whose product is a text which is capable of functioning appropriately in specific situations and contexts of use." This view highlights the functional and cultural dimensions of translation, stressing that a successful translation must not only be accurate but also contextually appropriate for its intended audience. Together, these perspectives provide a comprehensive foundation for understanding the theoretical basis of translation, particularly in contexts where cultural and pragmatic factors such as politeness strategies play a significant role in shaping meaning across languages. For that reason, the way to know whether a translation is good or bad is by assessing the translation quality.

Nababan et al. (2012) have proposed an instrument to assess the translation quality regarding accuracy, acceptability, and readability. Their instrument assesses each indicator with three parameters: a value of three stands for the high level, two stands for the middle level, and one stands for the lowest level. The translation is evaluated by investigating each sentence's accuracy, acceptability, and readability. Each sentence must be analyzed by examining the translation techniques when assessing the translation quality. After revisiting the definition of translation techniques from several scholars, Molina and Albir (2002) state that strategies are how the translator deals with the translation process, and translation techniques affect the results. In other words, translation techniques reflect the decision made by a translator. Translation techniques can be analyzed by comparing the translation with the original. A technique can only be judged by evaluating particular contexts (Molina & Albir, 2002).

There are 18 translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002): established equivalence, adaptation, amplification (addition, explicitation, footnotes), borrowing, calque, compensation, description, discursive creation, generalization, linguistic amplification, linguistic compression, literal translation, modulation, particularization, reduction, substitution, transposition, and variation. However, when the translation process is done, the translation can sometimes shift forms and meaning when seeking equivalence. As Baker (2018) states, equivalence works from the word level, above the word level, at the grammatical level, at the textual level, and beyond equivalence. A translation shifts since a form, sentence, or expression is hard to transfer to the source text. However, rather than shifting the grammatical level, which must shift because of the adjustment to Indonesian grammatical rules, shifting in politeness strategy translation deals with shifting meaning.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study applied a qualitative-descriptive research design, employing a purposive sampling technique. This type of sampling technique aims to determine data and data sources based on specific criteria aligned with the research objectives (Santosa, 2021). Therefore, in selecting the document as one of the data sources, that is, Agatha Christie's novel *A Murder Is Announced*, the researchers referred to the following criteria: (1) it features a storyline involving the interrogation of various individuals (e.g., witnesses and suspects) to gather investigative information; (2) it is authored by a well-known and widely recognized writer in the crime fiction genre; and (3) it enjoys popularity among target language readers. The second data source comprises raters or evaluators selected based on the conditions that they are linguists, that they have expertise in translation studies, and that they are willing to participate in the study.

The data examined in this research are divided into two categories: linguistic data and translation data. The linguistic data consist of all instances of politeness strategies identified in interrogation speech events. The translation data, on the other hand, involves the translation techniques by Molina and Albir (2002), shifts, and translation quality in terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The instrument used to assess the translation quality is proposed by Nababan et al. (2012). Data collection was conducted through document analysis and focus group discussions (FGDs). Document analysis focused on extracting relevant politeness strategies and their translations from the selected text. After document analysis was done, FGDs were conducted with three raters and the researchers to classify the politeness strategy used in both the source text and the target text to investigate the shift. According to Santosa (2021), engaging with informants in discussions serves as a means to construct meaningful interpretations of the phenomena under investigation.

The data were analyzed using four levels of analysis as outlined by Spradley (1980) and Santosa (2017), namely (1) Domain Analysis, which involved classifying the politeness strategies and their translation based on the staging and translation technique analysis; (2) Taxonomic Analysis, which focused on translation shifts and the translation quality in terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability; (3) Componential Analysis, which combined the findings of domain and taxonomic analyses to uncover emerging patterns in the data; and (4) Cultural Theme Analysis, which contextualized these patterns within broader cultural and communicative phenomena.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

After analyzing and drawing patterns from the componential analysis, researchers found several results regarding interrogation speech events, politeness strategies, translation techniques, shifts, and translation quality in terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The result shows seven purposes in interrogation by the character in *A Murder Is Announced*, as illustrated in Figure 1.

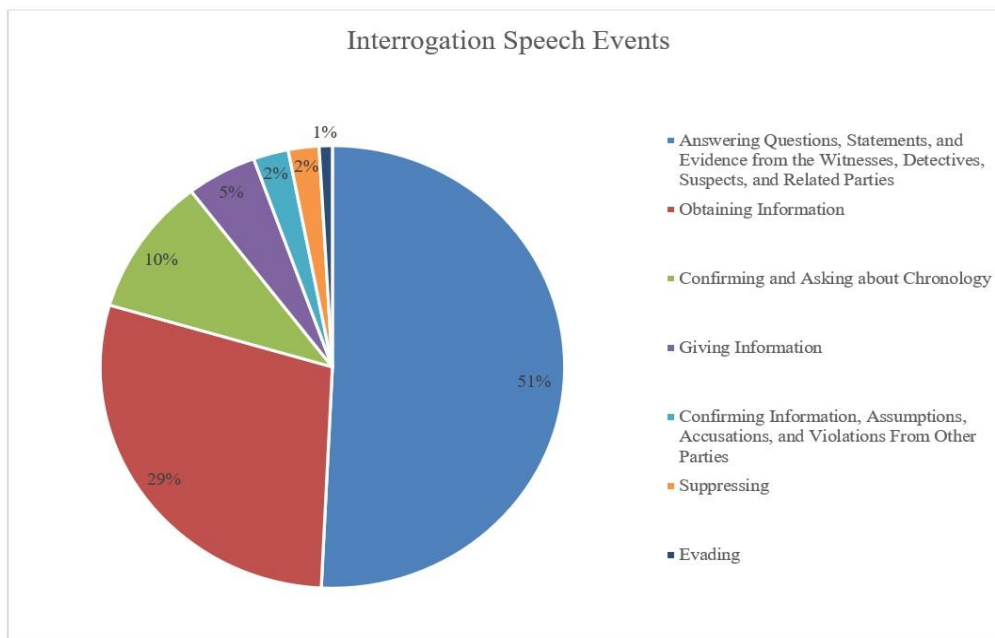


Figure 1. Interrogation Speech Events

Based on 327 data points found through this research, as illustrated in the diagram, interrogation was primarily used to confirm questions, statements, and evidence from witnesses, detectives, suspects, and other parties, followed by the collection of additional information. Soesilo (1984) states that interrogation is an act of investigating a case by gathering information from others. That is the reason why confirming statements and evidence is what mostly happened in *A Murder Is Announced*. In addition, each interrogation speech event is expressed through different politeness strategies, translation techniques, shifts, and translation quality, as explained below.

A. Answering Questions, Statements, and Evidence From the Witnesses, Detectives, Suspects, and Related Parties

The pattern shows that this speech event mostly happened when interrogation was conducted. Based on the results, the most often used speech act in this speech event was representative speech acts with statement as a specific function. This is followed by directive speech acts with specific sub-functions: asking (the dominant one), requesting, and commanding, as well as expressive speech acts with anger and thanking functions. Representative speech acts played a significant role since the suspects and witnesses intend to describe people or events or verify the question asked by the detectives. Representative speech acts (or, here, assertive speech acts) are used to utter facts, describe or report something, and so on. However, the directive speech acts used by the speaker in this novel aim to obtain verbal information from the witnesses and suspects, and the number of expressive speech acts with anger and thanking functions found in these speech events reflect the emotions of both the witnesses and the suspects while they are being interrogated.

A number of studies have explored the contribution of speech acts in various circumstances. In legal and investigative contexts, Cotterill (2003) found that assertive and directive (asking) speech acts dominate mostly. Directive speech acts, particularly asking functions, used by lawyers, judges, and detectives, aim to control the flow of information, while the people being questioned use representative speech acts to provide it. In addition, the present study is also aligned with the study conducted by Vidhiasi et al. (2023), showing that the dominance of directive, representative, and expressive speech acts is a consistent pattern in institutional discourse.

Additionally, the relationship between speech acts and politeness strategies was also analyzed. The use of bald-on-record strategies were found to be more dominant than other strategies, such as negative and positive politeness strategies. Concerning the concept of “face,” Brown and Levinson (1987) argued the use of bald-on-record strategies in this context are aligned with face since they perform a clear communication without any mitigation. Ardi et al. (2020) add that the bald-on-record strategies found in the previous research directly perform the illocutionary act without any effort to minimize the threat to the hearer’s face. However, a small number of negative and positive politeness strategies were also found, because negative politeness is oriented toward the hearer's negative face, aiming to respect their autonomy and freedom from imposition, while positive politeness is a strategy oriented toward the hearer's positive face, aiming to make them feel liked, admired, and part of the group (Brown & Levinson, 1987; Ardi et al., 2020).

The translation quality of this speech event remained good, reaching a score of 2.89 out of 3 with detailed scores of 2.86 for accuracy, 2.83 for acceptability, and 2.99 for readability. The reason for the high score of the translation quality is the use of established equivalence, followed by other techniques, including variation, explicitation, modulation, implicitation, paraphrase, compensation, generalization, and transposition techniques. These techniques, but especially established equivalence, positively contribute to enhancing the translation quality. Some studies conducted by Ardi et al. (2020) and Jamal et al. (2024) have proven that established equivalence techniques contribute positively to maintaining all translation quality, which also highlights its role in achieving accurate and functional translation (Molina & Albir, 2002). However, Ardi et al. (2020), Jamal et al. (2024), and Sugiharti et al. (2022) found that several techniques that have a positive impact on accuracy (explicitation, implicitation, and modulation) lead to decreasing accuracy rather than maintaining it. This happens as a result of the explicitation possibly shifting politeness strategies by changing the identity marker “you” to “ayah” to adjust to Indonesian culture. Addressing “you” to parents is considered impolite in Indonesian culture. The shift in politeness strategies is supposed to decrease the accuracy. Moreover, the techniques that are used to provide a destructive impact on accuracy are discursive creation, reduction, literal translation, and deletion. The same result was also found by Ardi et al. (2020), Jamal et al. (2024), Puruhito et al. (2022), and Abudayeh and Dubbati (2020). The use of discursive creation here not only decreases the meaning but also shifts the politeness from representative speech acts to directive speech acts and negative hedging to positive politeness. Meanwhile, deletion (omission) and reduction drop the message from source text to target text.

B. Obtaining Information

The speech acts under this speech event encompass directive (e.g., asking, commanding, and requesting), representational (statement), and expressive (e.g., expressing dislike) illocutionary acts. The functions reflect the nature of obtaining information, which requires both probing questions and reactions. However, directive speech acts are used in different cases to encourage students' participation, remind, command, plead, and clarify (Suryandani & Budasi, 2021; Hermansyah et al., 2022; Kamal et al., 2023). Therefore, while obtaining information, directives are intended to get the hearer to do something, such as providing information to the police officers. A wide array of politeness strategies is also observed, including bald-on-record, negative politeness (hedging, questioning, minimizing the imposition), and positive politeness (group markers). Bald-on-record dominates once again, followed by negative politeness. In line with the results, negative politeness, which involves using hedges and indirect questions, is employed to save someone's face, build rapport, and elicit reliable testimony in investigative and courtroom interactions (Burgo, 2022). It provides institutional pressure while maintaining witness autonomy. Unlike these events, various strategies, including bald-on-record, negative politeness (hedges, indirect requests), positive politeness, and off-record strategies, are employed to strike a balance between professionalism and assertiveness in media interrogation (Malik & Rehman, 2025).

The translation quality of politeness strategies in obtaining information remains good, with an overall score of 2.71. The score of accuracy has failed to reach a perfect score since the introduction of discursive creation and reduction. The reduction technique applied changed the politeness strategy from hedging to bald-on-record, making the utterance more

direct in the target text. In contrast, the source text exhibits negative politeness, which serves to maintain a close relationship between the speaker and interlocutor. Moreover, Ardi et al. (2018) and Sugiharti et al. (2022) found that reducing a specific element in the target text shifts the politeness strategies from indirect to direct commands.

Additionally, acceptability reaches a score of 2.5, and readability is 2.90. Based on the result, the acceptability does not seem to remain good, as the translator applied a pure borrowing technique, which brings the term from the source text (English) into the target text (Indonesian). Some pure borrowing techniques are not acceptable in Indonesian when it comes to terms that are not names. It not only affects acceptability but also readability, since it makes the target readers struggle to understand terms that sound unfamiliar to them. However, they did not affect the shift. Even so, Jamal et al. (2024) found that the paraphrase technique reduces acceptability when it flattens complex politeness expressions into overly simplified or generalized sentences.

C. Confirming and Asking About Chronology

In the context of interrogation speech events involving confirmation and inquiry about chronology, the results indicate a consistent use of representative illocutionary acts, particularly in the form of statements. Witnesses or suspects typically deploy these to provide detailed accounts of a sequence of events. The function of such speech aligns with Searle's (1976) conceptualization of illocutionary acts as goal-oriented verbal action where language is used not merely to inform but to perform a communicative function with intentionality.

Speaking of speech function, the politeness strategy most frequently employed was bald on record, reflecting a direct communication that leads to unambiguousness and is often devoid of mitigating devices. The institutional context of interrogation prioritizes clarity, brevity, and assertiveness, particularly in criminal cases. In addition, the study conducted by Farinde et al. (2021) shows similar patterns in the context of the Nigerian police and interrogations. According to Farinde et al. (2021), Nigerian police present a high frequency of bald-on-record and restricted WH-questions to assert institutional authority and control information flow. After comparing the results of this study to others, it underlines the institutional need for control, efficiency, and procedural clarity.

Furthermore, the result also presented nine translation techniques, namely established equivalence, pure borrowing, compensation, variation, particularization, implicitation, modulation, and paraphrase. The translation techniques found through this research maintain the translation well, reaching an overall score of 2.89 out of 3. This is because these techniques do not make any translation shift but maintain the unfamiliar terms by borrowing them from the source text. This results in a translation that is unfamiliar in Indonesian; however, it is not confusing for the target readers because the borrowed terms are familiar to them. Therefore, the overall quality cannot reach the perfect score of 3. Regarding the score, according to the findings, the translators tended to use established equivalency, which indicates that they were able to keep the meaning consistent with the context, meaning the translation is very likely to be accurate (Molina & Albir, 2002). Furthermore, Nababan (2008) also adds that translation as a product and a communication tool must not only be accurate but also be natural and easily understood by the target readers. The high frequency of the established equivalence in this translation shows that the translator maintains all indicators of translation quality (Ardi et al., 2020; Puruhito et al., 2022; Jamal et al., 2024). However, this result is also different from the result of Ardi et al. (2018). The modulation technique found in present research preserves the accuracy; meanwhile, Ardi et al. changed the illocution. This happened because modulation can have 11 changes: abstract to concrete, cause to effect, manner to result, geographic changes, symbolic changes, active to passive, part to whole, point of view changes, positive to negative, space to time, and interval to limit. In the example of Ardi et al., it was found that modulation techniques changed the focus, which shifted the illocutionary from weak obligation to strong obligation by modulating *need* into *harus* (must). Thus, it affected the accuracy.

In contrast, the present study finds that modulation techniques do not shift any quality since this technique is used to achieve naturalness in the target language, as *something* and *sedikit* in *How many people make up your household here and something about them* become *Berapa jumlah orang yang tinggal di sini dan sedikit tentang latar belakang mereka*, which does not shift any politeness strategy.

D. Giving Information

In giving information, speakers dominantly employ representative illocutionary acts, as these are intended to assert or verify the truth of a proposition. Based on the storyline, this function aligns with Soesilo's (1984) assertion that interrogation is conducted to obtain information through listening to and verifying the statements of suspects and witnesses. As Searle (1976) explains, a representative illocutionary act is characterized by the speaker's commitment to the truth of their utterance.

In the analyzed speech events, three politeness strategies were identified as expressing this illocutionary act: (1) bald-on-record, (2) hedging, and (3) in-group identity markers. Among these, the bald-on-record strategy was the most frequently used. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), this strategy prioritizes communicative efficiency and directness, which corresponds with both the findings of this study and those reported by Jamal et al. (2024). Conversely, hedging and the use of in-group identity markers were rarely observed in interrogative contexts during interviews. Hedging, classified as a negative politeness strategy, functions to minimize imposition on the interlocutor's freedom, which consequently reduces the illocutionary force of the speech act. In contrast, in-group identity markers, associated with positive politeness, aim to reinforce solidarity and maintain social relationships (Brown & Levinson, 1987). However,

during interrogation, the parties—represented in the novel as suspects and witnesses—provide the information directly, rather than expressing uncertainty or solidarity to preserve effective communication. However, as suspects and witnesses are being interviewed by the police officers and detectives, they can sometimes be uncertain about their information. As a result, the present study also found the use of hedges. Previous study has also demonstrated that hedges signal uncertainty and lack of commitment to the truth of the proposition (Hyland, 2008). Thus, both hedging and in-group identity markers are used sparingly, as they would undermine the authoritative stance required to confirm statements and evidence in interrogation scenarios.

In terms of translation quality—evaluated through the indicators of accuracy, acceptability, and readability—the overall quality is well-maintained, with an average score of 2.94 out of 3. There can be no perfect score here because of the translation techniques employed to transfer the utterances, which included established equivalence, explicitation, pure borrowing, paraphrase, implicitation, compensation, variation, generalization, modulation, discursive creation, and transposition. Moreover, the translation quality also did not achieve a perfect score of 3 due to the application of specific techniques that negatively impact individual indicators. Accuracy, for instance, is slightly reduced to a score of 2.96 out of 3 because the translator used discursive creation in rendering some bald-on-record strategies. This approach resulted in the partial omission of meaning in the target text. The results of Ardi et al. (2018) and Jamal et al. (2024) also found that discursive creation techniques can reduce the meaning but, in some cases, do not change the strategy. Nevertheless, this technique did not result in any shift of the politeness strategies, and thus the intended pragmatic function of the utterances was preserved. Acceptability is also affected, particularly by the occasional use of *literal translation*, which renders some expressions less natural in the target language. This issue results in a slightly lower acceptability score of 2.84 out of 3. In contrast, readability is the strongest indicator of translation quality, with a perfect score of 3, demonstrating that the translation is clear and easily understood by the target audience.

E. Confirming Information, Assumptions, Accusations, and Violations From Other Parties

In confirming the assumptions, information, accusations, and committing violations, this study found only the representative speech act functioning as statements with bald-on-record as the politeness strategy. Of seven speech events, this speech event is considered to rarely occur in interrogation. This happens since the police officers or detectives used this to confirm the information they got from the people interviewed in the interrogation or evidence. Searle (1969, 1976) states that representatives (or assertives) commit the speaker to the truth of expressed propositions. Therefore, no wonder that bald-on-record is frequently used to confirm the information asked by the police officers and detectives. As Brown and Levinson (1987) define bald-on-record as a strategy for performing the FTA (face-threatening act), this strategy is used to confirm and give the officers and detective clear information to support the efficient communication. However, other strategies (negative and positive politeness strategies) also resonate with this speech event. Negative politeness here is used to articulate uncertainty in the statements by avoiding the question indirectly or expressing the offense of being accused. Meanwhile, positive politeness is used to show gratefulness, to give thanks, and to express politeness for being interviewed. The application of these two strategies supports the concept of positive and negative politeness proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). Moreover, established equivalence is once again the most used translation technique analyzed to translate the utterances in these speech events. It also positively impacts translation quality as the result of research conducted by Jamal et al. (2024), Ardi et al. (2020), Sugiharti et al. (2022), and Puruhito et al. (2022). The high frequency of established equivalence techniques indicates that the translator could preserve the message in an accurate, acceptable, and readable translation. Molina and Albir (2002) also define translation techniques as the decisions made by the translator. By using the high usage of established equivalence, the translator has proven to have the competence that a translator should possess to produce a good translation (Nababan et al., 2012; Neubert, 2000; Nababan, 2008).

The overall score of the translation quality is 2.89, with accuracy reaching 2.66, acceptability at 3, and readability at 3. The accuracy is decreasing because of the use of discursive creation techniques, which translate the source text out of context so that the type of illocutionary act and politeness strategy experience shifts. This technique is found by changing the representative illocutionary act with negative politeness to a directive speech act with bald-on-record. Ardi et al. (2020) and Jamal et al. (2024) also do not recommend using this technique to translate the utterance, especially when dealing with the politeness strategies since they are culturally constructed (Marsih, 2010).

F. Suppressing

In contrast to the speech events, which need information, suppressing needs power to obtain information. However, in order to suppress suspects from committing their crimes and to force those being questioned to provide the information that the police and detectives desire, the speakers frequently used directive speech actions with command as the dominant function, followed by the inquiring and advising functions. The representative speech act with a statement function is a less than directive speech act in this speech event. Likewise, Barus et al. (2017) also confirmed that the directive speech act is the most dominant in police investigative interviews. The directive speech acts found in the present research and the research of Barus et al. present the same pattern: directive speech acts to obtain information by suppressing the interviewees. They also add that investigators use it to challenge the suspects or command them to speak. In contrast, the representative speech act is used by the suspects to describe and defend themselves. In addition, bald-on-record is once again the most often used strategy in most of the interrogation speech events. It also happens in giving commands and statements and asking. Other strategies were also found, but all were less than bald-on-record.

The score of translation quality is considered high since the overall score was 2.70. It is a bit far from the score of 3 since the acceptability decreased dramatically due to the use of pure borrowing. Nababan et al. (2012) define acceptability as how well a translation conforms to the cultural norms, conventions, and linguistic rules of the target language, making it natural and appropriate to the target audiences. Aresta et al. (2018) found the same impact on acceptability due to the discursive creation techniques. Pure borrowing techniques in both the present study and the study of Aresta et al. tend to borrow the terms and a person addressing, which do not follow the cultural issues in Indonesian as the target language. However, both studies agree that it is still considered accurate because of borrowing the terms. The intention to borrow terms from the source text might be untranslatability. Baker (2018) explained that equivalence at the word level should pay attention to number, gender, and tense, which are considered cultural issues. In addition, no shifts are found in this speech event, making it not a reason why the overall score is far from the perfect score of 3.

G. Evading

The last speech event, evading the questions or accusations, is the least speech event found in this research. It happens when the witnesses or suspects avoid being interrogated or deny the accusations. Therefore, representative speech acts are the only speech acts found in this speech event with statement functions. In an interrogation session, the suspects or witnesses get the chance to defend themselves by evading questions or accusations (Barus et al., 2017). Stating, explaining, and denying are included in the representative speech act proposed by Searle (1976). Since the representative speech act in this speech event is used for self-defense, then bald-on-record must be the strategy expressing it. As Brown and Levinson (1987) state, bald-on-record performs FTA, and the clearance of communication and interrogation sessions enables the witnesses and suspects to feel offended or not to participate in the investigation. Therefore, they sometimes make excuses for hiding facts or not participating. Speaking about the translation, the techniques (established equivalence, variation, and explicitation) used in translating the utterances in this speech event maintain the translation quality in terms of accuracy, acceptability, and readability without reducing it. They make the perfect score of 3. Hence, the translation is considered a good translation since it meets the requirements for a good translation as scholars mentioned above (Nababan, 2008; Nababan et al., 2012; Nida, 1964; Newmark, 1988, 1991; Baker, 2018; Venuti, 1995).

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, the most frequent speech event in the interrogation was confirming questions, statements, and evidence from witnesses, detectives, suspects, and other parties, accounting for 51% of the data. The dominant speech act in this event was the representative speech act, which functioned as a statement, followed by directives (asking, requesting, and commanding) and expressives (anger and thanking). Across most of the interrogation speech events, the bald-on-record politeness strategy was found to be the most dominant, used to provide clear, direct communication. To translate these utterances, the most frequently used technique was established equivalence, which was found to have a positive impact on maintaining all translation quality indicators. While most of the translation maintained good quality, shifts did occur, such as a shift from negative politeness to bald-on-record due to structural and cultural differences. The use of techniques like discursive creation and reduction was found to negatively impact accuracy, sometimes leading to a shift in the politeness strategy and a partial omission of meaning. This highlights that a good translation, according to scholars, must be not only accurate but also natural and easily understood by the target readers.

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Dede Irawan is a Ph.D. candidate in Translation at the Faculty of Cultural Science, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia. His undergraduate program was in English Education at Universitas Wiralodra Indramayu, and he graduated with a master's degree in English Education from Universitas Indraprasta PGRI Jakarta. His research interests focus on translation with an interdisciplinary approach.

Mangatur Nababan is a professor of Translation Studies in the English Literature Study Program, Universitas Sebelas Maret. Nababan graduated with a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Universitas Sebelas Maret in 1986. He then pursued his master's degree at the University of Houston, Texas, where he earned a Master of Education in 1996. Not stopping there, he obtained a second master's in Applied Linguistics with a specialization in Sociolinguistics from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, graduating with a Master of Arts in 2000. His passion for advancing his expertise continued as he returned to New Zealand to focus on translation studies. With a dissertation entitled "*Translation Processes, Products, and Practices of Professional Indonesian Translators*," he earned his Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the Victoria University of Wellington.

Riyadi Santosa is a full professor of Linguistics at Sebelas Maret University (UNS) in Surakarta, Central Java, Indonesia. He earned his Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from Universiti Utara Malaysia in 2010, following an M.Ed. in TESOL from the University of Sydney in 1993 and a bachelor's in English Literature from UNS in 1985. Joining UNS in 1986, he later served as Head of the English Department (1999–2003, 2003–2007) and as Dean of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences (2011–2016, 2015–2019). His research focuses on discourse analysis and systemic functional linguistics, particularly in media contexts, and he serves as editor-in-chief of the journal *Prasasti: Journal of Linguistics*. His scholarly impact is reflected in a Scopus H-index of 4 and numerous publications across various venues in linguistic and translation studies.

Djatmika is a leading figure in applied linguistics at Universitas Sebelas Maret in Surakarta, Central Java, Indonesia. He holds a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from UNS and an M.A. with a focus on discourse analysis, pragmatics, and systemic functional linguistics. As a full professor, he teaches in the English Literature and Linguistics graduate programs and serves as the editor-in-chief of *Prasasti: Journal of Linguistics*. His editorial roles extend across several UNS journals, and he frequently contributes to *Transling*. His research spans topics such as discourse strategies in translation, appraisal in migrant texts, and pragmatic speech acts in Indonesian literature.