COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES USED BY THE STUDENTS
ON THE PERSPECTIVE OF ORAL PROFICIENCY
AND GENDER DIFFERENCES
(A Case Study at the Second Year Students of English Education Department at
UIN Walisongo Semarang in the Academic Year of 2017/2018)

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Attainment of the
Graduate Degree in English Education

A THESIS

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SURAKARTA
2018
PRONOUNCEMENT

I would like to certify that the thesis entitled “Communication Strategies Used by the Students on the Perspective of Language Proficiency and Gender Differences (A Case Study at the Second Year Students of UIN Walisongo Semarang in the Academic Year of 2017/2018) is definitely my work. I am completely responsible for the content of this thesis. Anything related to other’s work is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

If then this pronouncement is incorrect, I am ready to accept any academic punishment, including the withdrawal or cancellation of my academic degree.

Surakarta, April 2018

Hanita Masithoh
MOTTO

بِسْمِِ اللهِ الرَّحْمنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
DEDICATION

No writing project of mine reaches fruition without the patience and support of my family, my teachers, my friends, and whom I am indebted and from whom I receive energy and sustenance. Finally, this thesis is dedicated for them, but the foremost dedications are to:

1. My beloved father and mother, Bpk. H. Badrussalam and Ibu Hj. Muthoharoh,
2. My grandfather and grandmother, the deceased mbah H. Suyuthi and mbah Hj. Halimah,

Thanks a billion, there is no word except pray, May Allah multiply rewards for all of your kindness.
This research sets to investigate: (1) The types and sub-types of communication strategies (CSs) employed by the students; (2) The similarities and differences of CSs employed by the students on the perspective of oral proficiency and; (3) The similarities and differences of CSs employed by the students on the perspective of gender differences.

The research was conducted at the English Education Department of UIN Walisongo, Semarang from December 2017 to February 2018. It was a qualitative research in the form of case study. There were 12 students involved as the subjects in this research. The data were obtained from observation, interview, and document analysis. Ary, Jacobs, Sorensen, Razavieh’s concept was utilized to analyse the data.

The findings revealed that: (1) The students employed five types and thirteen out of eighteen sub-types of CSs. The five types were avoidance or reduction strategies, achievement or compensatory strategies, stalling or time-gaining strategies, self-monitoring strategies, and interactional strategies. The sub-types were topic avoidance, message abandonment, all-purpose words, non-linguistic means, restructuring, literal translation, code switching, fillers/hesitation devices/gambits, self-repetition, self-initiated repair, self-rephrasing, appeal for help, and meaning negotiation strategies.; (2) The students with high proficiency level used five types and ten sub-types of CSs. Meanwhile, the students with low proficiency level used four types and nine sub-types of CSs. It means that the students with high proficiency level utilized more types and sub-types of CSs than the low proficient students did; (3) The female students used four types and ten sub-types of CSs. Meanwhile, the male students utilized five types and ten sub-types of CSs. On the other words, gender differences influence the use of CSs because male students employed more types of CS that the female students did.

Espousing to the findings of the research, it can be inferred that CSs aid the students to circumvent their linguistic difficulties. These strategies also promote students’ fluency in speaking because the students can communicate without any restrictions. From this point of view, it can be indicated that CSs have a direct influence on communication and plays a constitutive role in second language acquisition.

Keywords: Communication strategies, oral proficiency, gender differences.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillahi robbil 'alamin, all praises due to Allah SWT, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful. Then, Sholawat and Salutation are always offered to the Prophet Muhammad, the most beloved Prophet of Allah. It is also a pleasure to thank many people who made this thesis possible. Hence, the writer would like to acknowledge that she cannot complete this thesis without love, help, and encouragement from them. Therefore, the writer would like to extend the deepest graduate to:

1. The Dean of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Sebelas Maret University,
2. The Head of the Graduate Program of English Education Department,
3. Prof. Dr. Endang Fauziati, M.Hum, the first consultant, and Dr. Slamet Supriyadi, M.Pd, the second consultant, for their invaluable advice and positive direction,
4. All lecturers of the Graduate Program of English Education Department for their insightful knowledge.
5. The Dean of Education and Teacher Training Faculty of UIN Walisongo Semarang for the support and permission to carry out this study,
6. Siti Tarwiyah, SS., M.Hum for their help and cooperation,
7. The writer’s parents in Dafa Be-Songo, Prof. Dr. H. Imam Taufiq, M.Ag., and Dr. Hj. Arikah, M.Ag. Their intelligence, and foresight have paved the way for an exceptional life,
9. Khisna Yumniyati, Khoirunnisa, Ummi Khoirunisya, Munzilir Rrohmah, Manzilatun Ni’mah, Imroatus Soliha, and Ulfatul Qoyyimah, nothing I would say to them because of closely resemble of warmth, comfort and optimism that they have provided for me.

The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect. She humbly welcomes any criticism and suggestion for improvement of future research through hanitamasithoh.hm@gmail.com. She expects that this thesis would provide beneficial contribution to the academe.

Surakarta, April 2018

Hanita Masithoh
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