

**GENDER BASED DIFFERENCES IN COMPLIMENT AND  
COMPLIMENT RESPONSE BEHAVIOR IN AMERICAN TALK SHOW  
“THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW”**

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**ABSTRACT:** The present study aims at discussing compliment giving behavior and the compliment responses given by the participants (host, guest stars, and audience) based on different gender which appeared in *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. The data were taken from the conversations among female and male participants containing compliments and compliment responses in ten random videos of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, and categorized the compliment strategies employed by males and females based on Ye's taxonomy (1995: 243) and compliment responses based on Herbert's taxonomy (1986:79). Findings showed that females offer more compliment than males do, both females and males tend to offer explicit compliments, and both genders employed various strategies in responding to the compliment.

**Keywords:** gender differences, compliments, compliment responses, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*

Humans are social creature that have a need to communicate with others. Communication is defined as a process by which we assign and convey meanings in attempt to create shared understanding; both the speaker and hearer should hold to general rules or principles and thereby use certain strategies. An often-used strategy to achieve this is politeness (Renkema, 1993). Brown and Levinson (1987) suggest politeness as a compensation action taken to counter-balance the disruptive effect of face threatening acts. Further, they describe face threatening acts as “acts that infringe on the hearer's need to maintain his/her self-esteem and be respected.” In order to do so, people may perform speech acts.

Speakers employ a variety of speech acts to show their politeness. Austin (1962) defines speech acts as the action performed in saying something. One of the most commonly addressed speech act is compliments and compliment responses. According to Holmes, a compliment is defined as “a speech act which explicitly or implicitly attributes credit to someone other than the speakers, usually the person addressed, for some good possession, characteristics, skill, etc. which is positively valued by the speaker” (Bulut and Ozkan, 2005:41). Whereas, a compliment response is taken to mean “an utterance that people say after another person has praised them for ability, possession, appearance, or anything which are positively valued by participant”.

The ways of expressing and responding to the compliments are different from one person to another. It is because the norms for compliment behaviors also vary from one culture to another. Each society has different ways in giving and responding to compliments. In addition, the social factors also affect to the way people give and respond to the compliments. Zhihui (2002:8) states that the studies of act behavior are influenced by social and situational factors. The factors exert their influences on the use of the speech acts, including gender, age, level of education, social distance, social relationship, style, ethnicity, and so on.

There are so many reasons which make a person alter their mind to utter and employ a compliment. Compliment and compliment response patterns appear to be completely different when the addresser and the addressee also have different genders. It is because males and females have their own way in speech and perform the language. According to Coates (1991: 64) "Female speakers will use a higher proportion of prestige forms than male speakers. In other words, the prestige norms seem to exert a stronger influence on women than on men." Two important studies that focus on gender differences in complimenting are those by Holmes (1995) and Herbert (1990: 201). They found that the syntactic patterns and lexical choice employed by men and women were different. Based on the findings, they assumed that females use compliments for keeping solidarity, while males regard compliments as potential face threatening acts or actual assertions of praise. For example, by complimenting someone's taste in fashion, by saying, "You look so pretty in that gown," this compliment may use as facilitating conversation.

There is various research that deal with compliment and compliment responses as the topics of their linguistics studies. Tricahyati (2003) conducted research on the analysis of compliment and compliment response which is produced by Indonesian-native speaker. Besides, Natalia (2005) also focused her compliment and compliment response study on Indonesian-native speaker. Prastiwi (2008) conducted research on the identification of the compliment responses produced by Indonesian learners of English which is influenced by social factors. Besides, Januaristy (2010) also conducted her compliment responses study on Indonesian learners of English based on gender.

The research questions of this study are as follows 1) how are compliments giving behavior different between male and female participants in *The*

*Oprah Winfrey Show*, 2) How are compliment responses behavior different between male and female participants in *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Thus, the present research is investigating the gender based differences in giving compliment and compliment response behavior in *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. These compliment and compliment response are parts of commonly used speech acts.

## **METHOD**

The method of this study was descriptive qualitative since the researcher intended to obtain the conversations among female and male participants in *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. The researcher provided the data as they naturally occur without manipulating them. The data were taken from the conversations among participants containing compliments and compliment responses.

The data collections were done as follows: first, the researcher downloaded the videos and transcriptions of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Second, the researcher observed the videos; compared the videos and the transcriptions. Later, the researcher transcribed the compliment and compliment response utterances to be analyzed further.

The data analysis was carried out in stages. First, the researcher started by classifying the data; compliment strategies were classified into four types: explicit compliment, implicit compliment, non-compliment, and no response. While, the compliment responses were classified into agreement, non agreement, and other interpretation. Second, the researcher began to display the compliments and compliment responses into tabulation then the third step was to draw conclusion of the study.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of the study correspond to the research questions as mentioned and elaborated in the following sections.

### **Findings**

#### *Giving Compliment Based on Gender Differences*

The first focus in the compliment and compliment response based on gender differences in this study deals with the compliment strategies given by males and females in *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. The variables are divided into two categories, different gender and same gender. The occurrence of the types of

compliment strategy in terms of different gender and same gender variables are summarized in Table 3.1.1.

**Table 3.1.1 The Distribution of Compliment Strategy Types Based on Gender Differences in *The Oprah Winfrey Show***

Compliment Strategy	Male-Male		Female-Female		Male-Female		Female-Male		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Explicit	5	3.	2	18.	3	24.	3	24.	11	71
Implicit	2	1.	9	5.9	1	8.5	1	6.	3	22
No Response	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non Compliment	0	0	2	1.4	1	0.6	6	3.	9	5.
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26.</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>33.</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>35.</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>

On the same gender variable, females (18.9%) give more Explicit Compliment than males (3.3%) do. On the other hand, neither females nor males (0%) choose to opt out. On the different gender variable, both females and males (24.8%) make similar number of Explicit Compliment. Besides, both females and males (0%) choose not to opt out and females (3.9%) offer more Non Compliment than males (0.6%) do.

**Table 3.14 The Distribution of Topics of Compliments Based on Gender Differences in *The Oprah Winfrey Show***

Aspects	Male-Male		Female-Female		Male-Female		Female-Male		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Appearance	0	0	5	3.3	4	2.6	5	3.3	14	9.2
Ability	1	0.7	13	8.5	14	9.2	12	7.8	40	26.1
Personality	0	0	5	3.3	7	4.6	7	4.6	19	12.4
Possession	1	0.7	3	1.9	2	1.3	3	1.9	9	5.9
Personality + Ability	0	0	1	0.7	8	5.2	2	1.3	11	7.2
Others	3	1.9	13	9.8	20	13.1	22	14.4	60	39.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100</b>

On the same gender variable, both female (9.8%) and male (1.9%) participants in *The Oprah Winfrey Show* tend to give compliment about 'Others' category topic, such as commenting on the show, books, movies and so forth. The second most frequent compliment topic in males was about Ability (0.7%) and Possession (0.7%). This also occurred in females, where Ability (8.5%) comes to the second most frequent compliment topic. Meanwhile, on different gender variable both females (14.4%) and males (13.1%) tend to compliment about 'Others' topic. Besides, Males (1.3%) have fewer tendencies to compliment about Possession and females (1.3%) have fewer tendencies to compliment about Personality + Ability.

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*Giving Compliment Responses Based on Gender Differences*

This part shows the types of compliment responses used by females and males participants in *The Oprah Winfrey Show* based on gender differences. The findings are presented in table 3.2.1

**Table 3.2.1 The Distribution of Compliment Responses Types Based on Gender Differences in *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (Adapted From Herbert,1986).**

Type of Compliment Response	Male-Male		Female-Female		Male-Female		Female-Male		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Appreciation Token	0	0	15	9.6	15	9.6	16	10.2	46	29.4
Comment Acceptance	0	0	5	3.2	5	3.2	1	0.6	11	7
Praise Upgrade	0	0	0	0	2	1.3	0	0	2	1.3
Comment History	0	0	0	0	2	1.3	1	0.6	3	1.9
Reassignment	0	0	1	0.6	1	0.6	0	0	2	1.2
Return	0	0	0	0	1	0.6	1	0.6	2	1.2
Scale Down	0	0	0	0	2	1.3	2	1.3	4	2.6
Question	0	0	1	0.6	0	0	2	1.3	3	1.9
Disagreement	0	0	0	0	1	0.6	3	1.9	4	2.5
Qualification	0	0	4	2.6	2	1.3	1	0.6	7	4.5
No Acknowledgement	7	4.5	16	10.2	26	16.5	24	15.3	73	46.5
Request	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100</b>

On the same gender variable, females (10.2%) and males (4.5%) tend to respond the compliment with No Acknowledgement. Both of them choose to shift the topic or remain silent. Interestingly, all of the compliments given by males to male were responded with No Acknowledgement. However, compliments given by females to females were responded with various types of compliment responses, such as Appreciation Token (9.6%), Comment Acceptance (3.2%), Reassignment (0.6%), Question (0.6), and Qualification (2.6).

Meanwhile, on the different gender variable Males (16.5%) and Females (15.3%) remain responding the compliment by No Acknowledgement. However, males also employed other compliment responses in responding the compliment, for example: Appreciation Token (9.6%), Comment Acceptance (3.2%), Praise Upgrade (1.3%) and so Forth. In addition, females employed more various types of compliment responses in responding compliment from different gender, for instance: Comment History (0.6%), Scale Down (1.3%), Disagreement (1.9%) and the like.

## **Discussion**

Discussion will cover (1) giving compliment based on gender differences, 2) giving compliment responses based on gender differences

### *Compliment Giving Behavior Based on Gender Differences*

The researcher finds out that from 153 compliments in American talk show “The Oprah Winfrey Show”, gender differences play a pivotal role in compliment giving strategies. The frequency of compliments made by males and females are far different. In the present study, females receive more compliments than males, either from the same gender or opposite gender. Similar to Wolfson’s finding (1984) which states that females received more compliments than males; it can be seen in Table 3.1.1 that females received 92 compliments while males 61 compliments. It might be that women’s positive attitude to compliments is recognized by both women and men in these speech communities. People will pay more compliments to women because they know women value them (Holmes,1995). In addition, he suggests that it is much more acceptable and socially appropriate for one to offer compliment to a woman than a man because compliments show social approval.

Besides receiving more compliments, females also tend to give more compliments than males. It can be viewed in Table 3.1.1 that females make compliments with 61.4%, while males make them with 38.6%. The number of compliments made by males is less than compliments made by females because males are more powerful than females; males usually employed voice of commands and directives to express their feeling (Coates, 1991: 114). For females, they usually compliment with personalized forms and

just express their feeling (Herbert, 1989: 58). Along with Herbert's (1989) findings, compliments from males occurred more frequently than compliments from females and that the easiest type of compliment to collect was female to female compliments. In the present study, however, we find out that the highest frequency of compliment giving was interactions between males and females. As Mills (2003: 221) suggests, the males and females "do not always operate in globally different ways but that there may be patterns to the way that the genders behave according to context and the gender of the interactants." The highest frequency of males and females interaction might happen in the present study since the conversations are taken from a talk show which require more interactions.

With regard to the compliment strategies, the findings show that both female and male participants of *The Oprah Winfrey Show* tend to offer Explicit Compliment either to the same gender or the opposite. Pay a close attention to the two conversations below:

- (1) Piers : It was **the single greatest stunt I have ever seen**. And **your face, you were squealing larger than they were**.  
Host : I don't like the word "stunt," Piers.
- (2) Host : And **you're one of world's-listed as one of the worlds's most influential people**.  
Robert : I was above Obama. I was like, I have to agree with that. I totally agree. But it's completely insane.

On the two data above, we can see that both genders employ explicit compliment. The first data is a compliment comes from Piers (male) offered to Oprah (female) as the host, the word in bold is considered as explicit compliment. He uses "greatest" as a positive semantic carrier which is the characteristic of explicit compliment. Besides, he also directly offers the comment to Oprah. Meanwhile, the second data is a compliment from Oprah (female) to Robert (male). In the data, Oprah directly offers compliment to Robert by giving comment which contains positive semantic carrier which is "most influential".

In contrast with the previous studies which suggest that males are more likely to offer implicit compliment rather than explicit compliment. This is because nowadays the equality between males and females has been advocated and it influences people's opinions toward gender and the behaviors in terms of the methods of speech acts. Therefore, more and more males regard females to be equal to males. As Zihui (2002) suggests that men as the leaders of the world enforce their dominance also in language. Men's speech usually provides the norm and women's speech is judged in accordance with it. Thus, males nowadays may consider giving priority to solidarity and also concentrating on building and maintaining the social bonds that hold communities together as the females do.

Implicit compliment appears as the second most common strategies employed by

both females and males. However, males make more Implicit Compliment than females do. This situation may appear because compliment for male is often perceived as Face Threatening Acts. In order to avoid the threats, complimenters used certain strategies to minimize the threat and save their faces. Implicit compliment is one way to avoid FTAs since it refers to those compliments which are not explicitly directed to the complimentees. Thus, these compliments are usually in the form of requesting or questioning; still they are not true request or information inquiries. This is along with Brown and Levinson's strategy in avoiding FTAs (1987: 62), "Off record is a politeness strategy in which someone does not directly address the other as a means to express his or her needs." Look at the conversation below:

(3) Dr Oz : **You have a Turk on?**  
Host : Yes, A Turk on.

The data above is considered as implicit compliment since the complimenter, Dr. Oz (male) does not directly offer the compliment to Oprah (female), instead he employs a question to express his need. By asking "You have a Turk On?" he means to offer a compliment to the show which can connect him to people in Turkey since the talk show is taken place in America. Therefore, his question, in this case, is not considered as a real question yet it is more likely an implicit compliment.

Non Compliment can also be found as a compliment strategy in this particular talk show. However, this strategy is rarely used by the participant: it is shown on the findings that make up only 5.9% out of 100%. Based on the data, the participants choose to opt out on particular situation which is not considered as a compliment situation. Besides, they tend to offer other questions or shift the topic rather than to give compliment.

Then, the last strategy observed in the present study is No Response. In *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, there are no participants, either males or females, who employ this strategy since the conversation occurred in a talk show, in which the participants are required to interact more with each other. Therefore, they give any comment in any situation whether it includes in compliment situation or not. For the section on the topic of compliment, the present study classifies them into four types of compliments according to Herbert (1998): appearance, possession, ability, and personality. Besides, the researchers also add two more topics which are personality + ability and other since in *The Oprah Winfrey Show* there are several participants who offer this topic to others. Regarding to the topic of compliment, the finding shows that the most frequent topic was about 'Other' category. Both males and females tend to offer compliments on this topic. This topic referred to commenting on a movie, scene of a movie, book's chapter, food, activity and so forth. It can be seen in the following extracts:

- (4) Host : It is really **the hottest thing going on in the world right now**.  
 Robbert : Hello.
- (5) Host : **Everybody in the audience saw “Eclipse”** last night.  
 Robbert : I didn’t even know that.

Those compliments show ‘Other’ topic of compliment. First extract show that the host of the talk show gives a comment to the phenomenal novel in the world, while the second extract is about the movie based on that novel which is starred by her guest stars. Since the guest stars of this talk show come from any background and any professions, it is easier for them to offer compliment on ‘Other’ topics.

Personality and ability are topics of compliment which are both commonly used in the talk show by males and females after ‘Other’ topic. Personality and Ability topic of compliment are sometimes employed by the host to the guest stars which function as introducing the guests to the audience. Besides, these topics are also used by the guest to the third person which function as commenting on a person, focusing on the personality and ability of the complimentee. Look at to below extract:

- (6) Host : J.K. Rowling is the first **self-made billionaire author in history, selling more than four-hundred million books, captivating readers in sixty-nine languages**, and two- hundred countries around the world.
- (7) Guest : They were really **nice**. That was nice. I kind of wanted to stay there and have dinner.
- (8) Host : Ask him the question in Turkish and then he’ll translate for us.

The first above compliment shows that the host offers a compliment, relates to the introduction of the guest star’s personality and ability to the audience. The words “self-made billionaire author in history, selling more than four-hundred million books, captivating readers in sixty-nine languages” from the host can be considered as a personality and ability compliment topic since by such words Oprah means to say that J.K. Rowling ability in writing novel is awesome and fascinating and her persistence in it makes her a billionaire. Meanwhile the second is a personality topic of compliment given by a male guest star to his particular fans; it is indicated by the word “nice”. The last one is about the female guest who gives a compliment to a male guest star related to his ability in speaking Turkish by saying “he’ll translate for us. It means that the host do know her guest ability in Turkish.

Appearance and possession can also be found as topic of compliments in *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. However, these two topics are less commonly used in this talk show. Only 9.5% of the compliments contain appearance topic and 5.8% contain possession topic. Most of appearance topic given to the female complimentee is maybe because of the female’s natural character. To this Holmes (1995:40, 120) suggests “women tend to compliment on aspects of personality and appearance (especially

clothes and hair)... Women tend to receive more compliments on their appearance and they compliment each other most often on the aspect of their appearance". Furthermore, the strategy most preferred by the participants is expression of admiration by positive adjectives, such as *hot, beautiful, great, and good*. This correlates with Wolfson (1983) who states that two-third of the corpus make use of these five adjective. Meanwhile, half of possession topic of compliment is used by female participants and another half used by males which is in contrast with Herbert's study (1998:56) which suggests that women tend to compliment each other on appearance while men prefer to compliment on possession or skills. Here the findings show that females offer compliment more on possession than males, in which the reason might deal with the equal status in society between females and males.

#### *Compliment Responses Based on Gender Differences*

The research findings show that both female and male participants in *The Oprah Winfrey Show* employed various strategies in responding to compliments given. The female participants used ten types of compliment responses which are based on Herbert's taxonomy. They are appreciation token, comment acceptance, comment history, reassignment, return, and scale down, question, disagreement, qualification, and no acknowledgment. Meanwhile, male participants also employed ten types of compliment responses yet rather different from the females do. They are appreciation token, comment acceptance, praise upgrade, comment history, reassignment, return and scale down, question, disagreement, qualification, and no acknowledgment. The difference is in the using of praise upgrade by males.

The researcher found out that on the same gender level there is a slight difference in using compliment responses strategies. All of the compliment response strategies used by males to respond male's compliment included in non- acceptance strategy which is No Acknowledgment. Whereas, females employ more various response strategies to respond female's compliment. They choose to employ acceptance strategies as well as non-acceptance strategies. In the present study, it indicates that males tend to opt out whenever the complimenter is in the same gender, while females are more flexible since they used acceptance and non- acceptance strategies in the same percentage. This is in line with Zihui's study which suggested that "females show a stronger tendency to acceptance, whereas more males choose to opt out. On the other hand, it indicates that women might tend to show agreement in conform to the previous utterances".

Meanwhile, on the different gender level, the differences between both genders in employing acceptance and non-acceptance strategies are obvious. Male participants tend to employ non-acceptance strategies, especially No Acknowledgment, and they also employ acceptance strategy yet the percentage is not as much as the using of non

acceptance strategy. On the other hand, females use both acceptance and non- acceptance strategy almost in the same percentage. For non acceptance strategy they mostly use No Acknowledgment while for acceptance strategy they mostly employ appreciation token to respond to compliments. This counters to Wolfson's (1983) findings, who noted that female recipients would more likely to accept males' compliments than compliments offered by females.

From the findings, we can see that both males and females mostly employed non-acceptance strategy in responding to compliments. It is surprising that in contrast with the researcher's hypothesis that there were more non acceptance responses than acceptance responses in the present study. Non acceptance responses occur more than acceptance responses due to the frequency (46.5%) of No Acknowledgement responses in the present study. It indicates that for most of the compliments given to the participants, they receive no response. This might be because after the compliment given, the complimenter changes the topic and the complimentee chooses to keep silent or responds to the complimenter's speech without responding to the compliment. As a matter of fact, compliment is a type of speech act that requires immediate response. Thus, in such cases, when the complimenter arises a new topic right after the compliment, the complimentee does not respond to the compliment instead they respond to the new topic. We can see the example in the conversations below:

- (9) Host : What a luxury. What a luxury. Did you just read them one right after the other?  
Dakota : **Yeah, I just read them one right after the other . I was doing press for another film at the time, and so I was on, like, a lot of airplanes, and I read really fast anyway, so I just read it and I was hooked.**
- (10) Host : They are the hottest thing on the planet. Robert Pattinson, you know there are all these rumors about the two of you dating. Is it true? Kirsten Stewart, Taylor Lautner and Dakota Fanning.  
Robbert : **Hello.**

The data above show the compliment given by the host to her guest stars. The first compliment is given to female guest star while the second to male. Both compliments in this data receive no response from the complimentees. We can see in the bolded expression, the complimentees do not respond to the compliment, instead they answer the question directly and shift the topic of the compliment.

There is a significant difference in the likelihood of compliment acceptance that depended most directly on the gender of the person who gives the compliment. Compliments from females would most likely not be accepted, while compliments from males would. This mostly happened to the female recipients than male recipients (Wolfson, 1983). In her research, it was female compliments that were the most likely to be ignored or not to be accepted, whereas compliments from

male were likely to be accepted and/ or agreed with, especially by female recipients. However, in the present study the frequency of females' responses to female compliments is almost the same as male compliments.

This increased the frequency of acceptance responses to female compliments by female which might be the manifestation of the linguistic consequences of status differences apparent in cross-gender interaction (Herbert, 1989).

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The following section discusses the conclusions and suggestions for the present study.

### **Conclusions**

From the present study, some conclusions can be drawn as regard to *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Firstly, female participants still offer more compliments than males and it is far different among them. Besides, both females and males tend to offer compliment to the opposite gender and compliments between male and male are the fewest. More than half of the compliments were given by female participants. The finding is in line with Holmes' study (1988) which argues that women compliments are far more than men. Besides offering more compliments, women also receive more compliments by both men and women yet the number is not far different. This finding is similar to Wolfson's finding (1984) that females receive more compliments than males.

Secondly, as regard to compliment strategy, both female and male participants in the present study tend to offer explicit compliments both to the same gender and opposite gender. It is in contrast with the previous studies which suggest that males are more likely to offer implicit compliments rather than explicit compliments. This might be because nowadays the equality between males and females has been advocated and it influences people's opinions toward gender and the behaviors in terms of the methods of speech acts. Therefore, more and more males regard females to be equal with males. In terms of the topic of compliment, both genders tend to offer 'Other' compliment topic. Both males and females choose to comment on scene of a movie, novel and other things. This result is different from the former views. Some previous studies found that females tended to compliment others' appearance, while males focused on possessions (Wolfson, 1983 and Holmes, 1988).

The last conclusion is that both genders employed various strategies in responding to compliments. However, males always employ non-agreement strategy which is No Acknowledgment in responding to the males' compliments while females used more various strategies in responding to the same gender'. Meanwhile, in different gender level, male participants tend to employ non- acceptance strategy, especially No Acknowledgment and they also employ acceptance strategy with fewer

percentage. On the other hand, females use both acceptance and non -acceptance strategy almost in the same percentage. It is in contrast with Wolfson's (1983) findings who noted that female recipients would more likely to accept males' compliments than compliments offered by females.

### **Suggestions**

The results of the study bring some suggestions for students and teachers of English, future researchers and also personality trainers.

#### 1. Students of English

They may use this study as a reference to understand the study of Pragmatics and Sociolinguistics related to compliment behavior based on gender differences and apply it in the daily life especially in giving and responding to speech acts from someone. In addition, they can observe the differences between males and females in compliment behavior in order to give appropriate strategy in giving and responding to it.

#### 2. Lecturers and teachers

They may use this study as a reference to teach their students and give the view on compliment behavior based on gender differences. Besides, they will be able to broaden their students' minds as a regard to speech act across gender. Therefore, the students are able to know and understand the differences between men and women talks.

#### 3. Future Researchers

This study, of course, still needs improvement since the primary materials of the research are from a TV Talk Show which is not exactly the same as real conversation in real life. Besides, the corpus chosen for the study is based on only ten videos which are very small and need to be expanded. With regard to a compliment behavior, many other questions may arise, such as the offer of compliments and responses based on gender with different ages, different relationships, or different status. Those factors should be taken into account in further research since it cannot be assumed that all English speakers offer compliments and respond to compliments in the same way. I believe that a study which compares compliment behaviors and compliment responses by the speakers of same language, but different regions and culture would give more understanding to this complicated speech act.

#### 4. Personality Trainers

They may use this study as a reference to teach their trainees and give the view on compliment behavior based on gender differences since the way males and females perform language is not the same. Therefore, as a professional

personality trainer they should know the way males and females perform language especially in terms of compliment and compliment responses which are considered as important speech acts in society.

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