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## UNVEILING IMPLICIT MEANING: POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN SUMBAWANESE DAILY CONVERSATIONS

**Submission Date:** October 29, 2023, **Accepted Date:** November 03, 2023,

**Published Date:** November 08, 2023

**Crossref doi:** <https://doi.org/10.37547/ijll/Volume03Issue11-02>

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### ABSTRACT

This study delves into the realm of Sumbawane daily conversations, seeking to unveil the intricate world of conversational implicature and politeness strategies employed by its speakers. Through a comprehensive analysis of natural interactions, we uncover the nuanced ways in which politeness is expressed, cultural norms are adhered to, and implicit meaning is conveyed in this unique linguistic context. By shedding light on these linguistic phenomena, our research contributes to a deeper understanding of Sumbawane sociolinguistics and offers insights into the broader field of language and culture.

### KEYWORDS

Sumbawane; Politeness strategies; Conversational implicature; Sociolinguistics; Implicit meaning; Sumbawa culture; Language and culture; Pragmatics.

### INTRODUCTION

Language is a dynamic and multifaceted system that extends far beyond its overt surface. Beyond the mere words and sentences, it harbors intricate layers of meaning that are often conveyed implicitly, shaped by

cultural norms, social contexts, and individual intentions. Politeness strategies and conversational implicature play pivotal roles in this process, serving as essential tools for effective communication,

maintaining social harmony, and navigating the nuances of everyday interactions.

This study embarks on a journey to explore the rich linguistic tapestry of Sumbawane, a language spoken by the people of Sumbawa Island in Indonesia. Sumbawane, like many other languages, employs unique politeness strategies and conversational implicature, which reveal deep insights into the culture and social dynamics of its speakers. In our quest to unveil implicit meaning, we delve into the realm of Sumbawane daily conversations, seeking to understand how politeness is expressed and how unspoken layers of meaning are constructed and interpreted.

The need to investigate Sumbawane politeness and implicature arises from the recognition that languages, and their pragmatic nuances, play a fundamental role in shaping the interactions within a society. The interplay between linguistic choices and cultural values is especially fascinating in this context, as Sumbawa Island boasts a rich and diverse cultural heritage, where the Sumbawane language stands as a unique reflection of its people's identity.

Throughout this study, we will examine how Sumbawane speakers employ politeness strategies to convey respect, establish rapport, and mitigate face-threatening acts. We will also analyze conversational implicature to decipher the unspoken intentions, indirectness, and nuanced meanings in everyday interactions. By doing so, we aim to provide valuable insights into the sociolinguistic landscape of Sumbawa and contribute to the broader understanding of the intricate interplay between language, culture, and human communication.

As we delve into the heart of Sumbawane daily discourse, we invite readers to join us on this exploration of linguistic subtleties and cultural intricacies. Through this journey, we hope to shed light on the hidden dimensions of communication in the Sumbawane context and offer a deeper appreciation of how language and culture intertwine in our daily lives.

## **METHOD**

The journey to unveil implicit meaning and dissect the intricacies of politeness strategies in Sumbawane daily conversations was an engaging and comprehensive endeavor. Our research commenced with meticulous data collection, where we immersed ourselves in the vibrant community of Sumbawa Island. This immersion was a pivotal first step, allowing us to establish rapport with the local population and gain access to their natural interactions. Over a span of several months, we actively participated in conversations and gatherings, recording countless instances of spoken language. These interactions spanned a diverse range of contexts, from familial settings to bustling markets and communal events, offering a representative cross-section of the linguistic practices in daily life.

Following the extensive data collection phase, the meticulous task of transcription and translation ensued. The audio recordings of Sumbawane conversations were transcribed in their native form and subsequently translated into a format suitable for analysis. This painstaking process was undertaken with the utmost care to ensure the preservation of linguistic nuances and cultural context. It was imperative to maintain the integrity of the original language while making it accessible for deeper examination.

With the transcribed and translated data in hand, we embarked on a journey into the realm of pragmatic analysis. Our research team meticulously scrutinized the conversations, paying particular attention to conversational implicatures and the employment of politeness strategies in various speech acts. This encompassed requests, refusals, compliments, criticisms, and more. The aim was to unearth the implicit meaning, decode the subtleties of indirect communication, and identify the use of mitigating language. Each linguistic choice was scrutinized in its cultural and social context, offering a nuanced understanding of how language functions as a tool for expressing respect, maintaining face, and navigating the intricacies of interpersonal relationships in Sumbawanese society.

Furthermore, our research process was underpinned by interviews with native speakers. These interviews served as invaluable windows into the cultural and linguistic choices made by Sumbawanese individuals, providing insights into their perceptions of politeness, the significance of language in their lives, and how cultural norms influence their communicative practices.

By adopting an interdisciplinary approach and collaborating with local cultural experts and anthropologists, we were able to enrich our understanding of the data with cultural insights. This allowed us to position our linguistic findings within the broader social and cultural tapestry of Sumbawa Island, resulting in a holistic and comprehensive exploration of implicit meaning and politeness strategies in Sumbawanese daily conversations. Through these methodical steps, we sought to unveil the hidden dimensions of communication in this unique linguistic context and shed light on the intricate

interplay between language, culture, and human interaction.

To unveil the implicit meaning and politeness strategies within Sumbawanese daily conversations, a comprehensive and multifaceted research approach was employed. This research involved a combination of qualitative and ethnographic methods, which allowed us to gather data from natural interactions and conduct in-depth analyses. The methodological framework included the following key components:

### **Data Collection:**

We collected data through participant observation and audio recordings of natural conversations among Sumbawanese speakers. These conversations took place in various everyday contexts, including homes, markets, and community gatherings. A diverse range of interlocutors, spanning different age groups and social backgrounds, were observed to capture a broad spectrum of linguistic practices.

### **Transcription and Translation:**

The audio recordings were transcribed in their original Sumbawanese language, and then translated into a language suitable for analysis. This process ensured the preservation of linguistic nuances and cultural context.

### **Pragmatic Analysis:**

We applied pragmatic analysis techniques to the transcribed data. This involved examining conversational implicatures and politeness strategies employed in various speech acts, such as requests, refusals, compliments, and criticisms. The analysis

aimed to uncover implicit meaning, indirectness, and the use of mitigating language in these interactions.

### **Cultural and Contextual Considerations:**

In parallel with the linguistic analysis, the research team paid careful attention to the cultural and social context of each conversation. This included considering the relationships between interlocutors, the situational context, and the cultural norms that guided polite behavior.

### **Participant Interviews:**

To gain further insights into the cultural and linguistic choices made by Sumbawanese speakers, we conducted interviews with native speakers. These interviews allowed us to inquire about the specific politeness strategies and implicatures in their language use, as well as their perceptions of politeness in Sumbawanese culture.

### **Interdisciplinary Approach:**

Our research benefited from an interdisciplinary approach, involving collaborations with local cultural experts and anthropologists who provided valuable cultural insights and helped contextualize our linguistic findings within the broader social and cultural landscape of Sumbawa Island.

The combination of these research methods allowed us to undertake a holistic exploration of Sumbawanese daily conversations. By analyzing the data through linguistic, cultural, and contextual lenses, we aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the implicit meaning and politeness strategies at play in the Sumbawanese sociolinguistic context.

## **RESULTS**

Our investigation into Sumbawanese daily conversations yielded fascinating insights into the employment of politeness strategies and the use of conversational implicature in this linguistic context. We discovered that Sumbawanese speakers employ a rich array of linguistic devices to express politeness, establish rapport, and navigate delicate social interactions. These devices include indirect speech acts, honorific language, mitigating expressions, and culturally specific etiquette, all of which contribute to maintaining harmony and respect within the community.

Conversational implicature also played a pivotal role in these interactions. Sumbawanese speakers, in line with the broader principles of Gricean pragmatics, utilized implicature to convey implicit meanings and intentions. We found that indirectness often served as a mechanism to mitigate face-threatening acts, particularly in situations involving requests, refusals, and criticism. The contextual and cultural nuances at play added layers of complexity to these indirect communicative practices.

## **DISCUSSION**

The discussion of our findings underscores the intricate interplay between language and culture in the Sumbawanese context. We observed a strong alignment between politeness strategies and cultural norms, with linguistic choices reflecting broader societal values. The use of honorific language and deferential expressions reflected a deep-seated respect for social hierarchy and the importance of maintaining face in interpersonal interactions.



Conversational implicature, on the other hand, provided Sumbawanese speakers with a flexible means of communicating implicit meanings. The context-specific nature of implicature was particularly striking, as speakers adeptly navigated complex sociocultural terrain through indirect communication. This demonstrated the adaptability of language to serve as a tool for harmony and diplomacy in everyday discourse.

Our interdisciplinary approach, which integrated insights from local cultural experts, further enriched our understanding of the cultural underpinnings of linguistic choices. It highlighted the significance of Sumbawa's cultural heritage in shaping communicative norms and reinforced the idea that language is an integral aspect of cultural identity.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our research into the implicit meaning and politeness strategies in Sumbawanese daily conversations has illuminated the intricate tapestry of language and culture in this unique linguistic context. The findings underscore the profound relationship between language choices and cultural values, highlighting the pivotal role of politeness strategies in maintaining social harmony and respect within the Sumbawanese community.

Furthermore, the study has advanced our understanding of conversational implicature and its cultural underpinnings. Sumbawanese speakers employ implicature as a versatile tool to convey implicit meanings and intentions, allowing for the delicate negotiation of interpersonal relationships and social hierarchies.

This research contributes not only to the field of linguistics but also to the broader understanding of language and culture. It emphasizes the importance of considering cultural context when analyzing linguistic phenomena and underscores the dynamic nature of language as it adapts to serve the communicative needs of a specific community. By unveiling the implicit meaning and politeness strategies in Sumbawanese daily conversations, we hope to encourage further exploration of the intricate interplay between language and culture in diverse linguistic contexts.

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