LINGUISTIC POLITENESS

M. Ferenčík
English Stylistics
Neprišli za kráľ'ovnou

SME, 25.10.2008

Dvaja najvyšší ústavní činitelia Fico a Paška sa ospravedlnili z banketu

Neprišli za kráľ'ovnou

Pre tisíce ľudí by bola večera s kráľ'ovnou cťou, pre slovenského premiéra a predsedu parlamentu nie.

BRATISLAVA. Premiér Robert Fico ani predseda parlamentu Pavol Paška neprišli vo štvrtok večer na slávnostný banket, ktorý pri príležitosti návštevy kráľovnej Alžbety II. usporiadal prezident Ivan Gašparovič.

Obdvaja sa ňou mali vo štvrtok obed a z večere sa ospravedlnili. Mali pritom sedieť s kráľ'ovnou pri stole. „Predseda chcel umožniť jej veličenstvo spoznať aj iné osobnosti Slovenska,“ povedal Paškov hovorca Jozef Plško, prečo sa ospravedlnil. Kráľ'ovná spoznávala podpredsedov parlamentu Milana Horta a Annu Belousovovú.

Hovorkyňa premiéra Silvia Glendová dôvod premiérovho ospravedlenenia neuviedla.

Odborník na protokol a etiku Ladislav Špaček povedal, že niečo také ešte nepočul. Podľa nieho je to veľmi vážne zlyhanie.
Kováč: Je to nekultúrne

Exprezident Michal Kováč SME povedal, že pozvanie čakal. S kráľovnou sa v minulosti stretol. „Svedčí to o istej úrovni kultúry a slušnosti,“ povedal Kováč. Zábery z banketu pozeral v televízii a je rád, že to dobre dopadlo.

Odborníčka na protokol Deana Lutherová kritizuje aj to, že Slovensko nemá na takýto banket vhodné priestory. Reduta je malá a veľa ľudí sa tam nezmestí. Etiketa tiež podľa nej hovorí, že pozvaní by mali prísť s partnerkami, čo sa nestalo.

Prezidentská kancelária na otázky SME neodpovedala. Neposkytla ani zoznam všetkých pozvaných hostí.
co je to ostuda? jaaa uz viem to je este vyssi superlativ od hanba... ano, popisuje to tvoj slovnik a uvazovanie...to je hanba hanbovita...
Neprišli za kráľovnou
SME, 25.10.2008
(diskusia k článku)

To, že nedostal pozvanku byvaly premier nech uz je nepriatelsky postoj Fica k nemu akykolvek povazujem za absolutne nenormalne a bohuzial vystihujuce politicku kulturu tohto naroda..katastrofa

25.10.2008 0:07 | Oznám správcovi | Odkaz
To uz v sebe Fico s Paskom
nemaju ani stipku slusnosti?!!
Nad tymto sa cloveku normalne rezum zastavuje!!!

18. novembra 2008 17:50
Kanonier Manchestru United Cristiano Ronaldo má sebavedomie na rozdávania. Dvadsaťtriročný futbalista je podľa vlastných slov natoľko dobrý, že by mal v ankete FIFA o najlepšieho hráča sveta obsadiť nielen prvé, ale aj druhé a tretie miesto.
He has to wait to be asked ...
Interaction in the public =
projection of individual´s „faces“

Good evening ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for this kind introduction and for the privilege ...
Interaction in the public is a potentially antagonistic endeavour: constant possibility of face-threat
Approaches to politeness

- **Politeness as a *lay concept***
  = everyday evaluation of each other’s behaviour
  - **politeness** = a matter of „proper“ talk and behaviour
    - *This is (im)polite/rude/nice/decent ...*
    - *To je (ne)sušné/(ne)zdvorilé/(ne)taktné/hrubé ...*
  - etiquette manuals

- **Politeness as a *scientific concept***
  = theoretical conceptualization of politeness
  goal = explain and predict „polite“ behaviour
  - **Pre-pragmatic**
    - *politeness as ‘social norm’*
  - **Pragmatic** („traditional/modernist“):
    - P. Brown and S. Levinson (1987)
    - G. Leech (1983)
  - **Post-pragmatic** („postmodernist“):
    - Watts and Locher (2005)
Pragmatic approaches to politeness

• P. Brown and S. Levinson
  *Politeness, Some Universals in Language Usage* (1987)

• G. Leech
  *Principles of Pragmatics* (1983)
Brown and Levinson´s politeness model

Central concepts:

- **face**
- **face–wants**
- **face-work**

**Face** (E. Goffman) = **public self-image** that individuals strive to **present to others** and preserve during social interaction.

**Social interaction** = projection of individual face
Brown and Levinson´s politeness model: face
Obraz v prachu

ých stodväťtisíc, o ktoré bude ľahší po sankcii Pavla Pašku, až tak veľmi Luboša Michela mrzieť nemusí.

Rinat Achmetov platí lepšie ako slovenský parlament, takže mu túto „ujmu“ azda aj zahrnie do nákladov.

To, čo by Michela mrziel mohlo a malo, je dobrá povest, o ktorú prichádza s takou lahkosťou, akoby si ju ani nezískavať desatročia profesionálnej prácou. Je smutné sledovať, ako suverén, ktorý dokázal odpískať bez chyby Manchester - Chelsea, kopi chybu na chybu a omyl na omyl v momente, keď vykročil mimo trávnik. S takým vzťahom k politike nemal vstupovať ani do parlamentu. A ak zaujme erár ľehko príznania náhodou, ale ozaj iba náhodou súvisí s poslaneckým mandátom, tak i to je nepriama daň z toho, že do politiky dost neprencikol.

Michel mohol byť pre slovenskú mládež vzorom. Ako druhý trestaný absentér po Mečiarovi (Slotu práve hodilo o zem od smiechu) a dezertér z SDKÚ s temnými pozadiami svojich rozhodnutí sa však stáva len príkladom, ako sa dá za pár dní zní čít obraz, ktorý človek o sebe roky tvorí.

Peter Schütz

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f's or Fs, fs the sixth letter of the English alphabet.  

In Western music, the musical key is based on a scale note.  
2 AmE a mark given to a student's work.  
The or she has failed on a piece of work or the Mark got an F in math - he'll have to do the class work.  
See also grade 1 (3)  

for: fahrenheit. Water boils at 212 °F.  

Si the fourth note in the sol-fa musical scale - [the] Football Association: the ruling body for football, which controls both the amateur and professional game and arranges the fa cup - see also L (1) and see also extra information on page 501  
est [the] abbrev. for federal aviation administration  

adj old-fashioned extremely good; fabulous  
egg /ˈɛɡ/ or /ˈeɡ/ or /ˈeɡ/ a single or many jewelled eggs made by Peter Carl Fabergé for ts of the Russian royal family. The Fabergé eggs are very valuable.  
Fabian adj (a member) of the Fabian Society  

b-c-i-e-ty /ˈbaɪəki- /. /. / (the) a British organization of thinkers which was started in the late 19th century which used to be an important influence on the Party.  

face /feɪs/ or /fɛs/ or /fɛs/ 1 [C] a short story that teaches a lesson or truth, esp. a story in which animals or people are the north face of the mountain.  
The face of the building is covered with climbing plants.  
the face of a clock/; watch.  
They seem to have disappeared off the face of the earth.  
= (completely) - see picture at mountain.  
the surface of a rock, either on or below the ground, from which coal, gold, diamonds, etc., are dug. The miners work on the coal face for seven hours each day.  
a state of being respected by others: He was afraid of failure because he didn't want to lose face with his colleagues.  
England saved (their) face by getting a goal in the last minute to draw the match. - see also face-saving  
sp. BR E self-confidence or daring, esp. which is disrespectful or rude: I don't know how you can have the face to see her after all the lies you've told.  
7 (C) a typeface  
8 face to face (with) in or into the direct presence of;  
I've talked to him on the telephone but I've never actually met him face to face.  
She came face to face with poverty for the first time.  
In the face of in spite of; against:  
In the face of great hardship, she managed to keep her sense of humour.  
10 on the face of it; judging by what one can see; apparently  
11 put a good face on something to behave or make it appear as if things are better than they really are  
12 set one's face against to oppose strongly  
13 to someone's face in someone's presence; openly:  
He wouldn't be so rude to her face.  
14-faced having a face or expression of the stated type: red-faced | sad-faced  
15 (Is this) the face that launched a thousand ships? (quote) a phrase from a play by Christopher Marlowe describing the beauty of Helen of Troy  

face2 /feɪs/ or /fɛs/ or /fɛs/ 1 [a (preposition) to have or turn the face or front towards (something) or in a certain direction: She turned her face to the newcomer and introduced herself.  
The house faces the park.  
The building faces north towards the north.  
a sunny south-facing garden  
A diagram appears on the facing (=opposite) page.  
a to be in a position in which one must deal with a problem or unpleasant situation: Manufacturing industry faces a grim
Možno označiť za nátlak na SaS vyjadrenia, že ak euroval neprejde, môže padnúť vláda?
Je to legitimný nástroj na prizvanie SaS k plneniu koaličnej zmluvy a ku koaličnej solidarite. Líder SaS však zašiel tak ďaleko, že bez totálnej straty tváre sám stanovisko nezmení. Či 330 členov SaS preukáže len politické prezieravosti, že sa prinavráti k politickému realismu a prípadne bude riskovať tohto lídra, ukážu najbližšie týždne.
Brown and Levinson´s politeness model: face

• **Face** can be **maintained** and/or **lost**:

  • **Maintaining face** → taking a **line** = a pattern of verbal/non-verbal acts **consistent with one´s face**.

  • **Losing face** → behaving in a way which is **not consistent** with the expected behaviour associated **with one´s face**.

• **Social interacion** is a process which combines **face** (image) and **line** (action) = **face-work**.
B&L’s politeness model: face types

- Each individual has two basic types of face and the related face needs = face-wants:
  - A/ positive face = the want
    - to be liked, appreciated or approved of,
    - to be thought of as a normal, contributing member of his social world.
  - B/ negative face = the want
    - not to be imposed on
    - to be respected as an independent individual
    - to preserve one’s own territory and
    - to have freedom of decision and action.

- These faces are present in each individual.
- They are not opposites but complementary.
B&L’s politeness model: Face-threatening act

- Social interaction can be seen as **playing off one’s own positive and negative face wants against those of others.**
- **Face wants** are then constantly under **negotiation** in communication.
- Any **act** of communication is a **potential threat** to the participants’ faces → it may become a **face threatening act** (FTA):
  - plain imperatives: *Give me some more money*,
  - questions: *How old are you?*
  - requests: *Pass me that A4.*
B&L´s politeness model: negative and positive politeness

Politeness strategies - to avoid/minimize FTAs or to balance face wants

Positive politeness strategies (solidarity politeness):
• aimed at respecting positive face wants
• strengthen the solidarity between/among participants
• stress the common ground and good-will
  Example: prefacing a question:
  *I am sure you will know the answer to this question as you know everything.* Can you tell me what „serendipity“ means?

Negative politeness strategies (deference politeness):
• stress distance, respect and freedom from imposition
• often acknowledge that the other´s face is threatened
  Example: redressing a request (by literally stating the imposition):
  *Sorry to interrupt but can you tell me where the nearest post office is?*
B&L´s politeness model: Politeness strategies

Depending on the degree of the face threat, five categories of politeness can be established:

1. Bold-on-record politeness
2. Positive politeness
3. Negative politeness
4. Off-record politeness
5. Not-doing-the-FTA
B&L´s politeness:
1. Bald-on-record politeness

• communicative intention is expressed unambiguously = without redress
  – please, will you...?

  Give me some money.
B&L’s politeness:

2. **Positive politeness**

- emphasizes the commonality of S and H
- addresses H’s **positive** face
- some form of redress is used

*I know that only you can help me.*

*Could you give me some money?*
B&L’s politeness:  
3. Negative politeness

- emphasizes the distance between S and H,
- S uses **redress** to attend to H’s negative face:
  - **apology**: *Sorry to trouble you...,*
  - **hedge**: *I think you are kind of wrong to think that ...,*
  - impersonalized structures (passive), etc.
  - modality markers: *can/could I ...*

*Sorry to bother you but could I ask you for some money?*
B&L’s politeness: 4. Off-record

- used when **imposition is so great** that it may seriously damage H´s face
- Example: using **implicature** in ISA: 
  *Everything is so expensive and I am broke.*

Problem - communication becomes ambiguous:

a/ H can take it literally as an assertion:
  *Yes, you´re right, very expensive.*

b/ H can act in line with the indirect illocution =
  *Here.* = give S money.

Here both S´s and H´s faces are saved.
B&L´s politeness:

5. Not-doing-the-FTA

- applied when the risk of the loss of face is too great
  a/ imposition is high:
    Ex: asking a poor for money
  b/ H´s status is very high:
    Ex: asking the boss for money

Result = Ø („saying nothing“)
B&L´s politeness:
Summary of strategies

Degree of face threat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low</th>
<th>1. Without redressive action - baldly</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Off-record</td>
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<td>5. Don´t do the FTA</td>
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Give me some money.

I know that only you can help me.
Could you give me some money?

Sorry to bother you but could I ask you for some money?

I am broke.

Saying nothing
G. Leech’s politeness model
G. Leech´s politeness model

G. Leech’s Politeness theory → Politeness principle (PP)

Goals of PP:
- maintain social equilibrium
- avoid tension, friction
- prevent conflict

Forms a part of interpersonal rhetoric = Grice’s CP + Leech’s PP

Maxims:
- tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, sympathy

Scales:
- Cost vs. Benefit
- Praise vs. Dispraise
- Agreement vs. Disagreement
- Sympathy vs. Antipathy
G. Leech's politeness model: maxims of PP

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<tr>
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<th>SELF-oriented</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TACT</strong>&lt;br&gt;(takt)</td>
<td>Cost ↓ Benefit ↑</td>
<td>Cost          Benefit ↓</td>
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<td><strong>GENEROSITY</strong>&lt;br&gt;(vel'korysost')</td>
<td>↑ ↓</td>
<td>↑ ↓</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>APPROBATION</strong>&lt;br&gt;(ocenenie)</td>
<td>Praise ↑ Dispraise ↓</td>
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<td>↓ ↑</td>
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<td><strong>AGREEMENT</strong>&lt;br&gt;(súhlas)</td>
<td>Agreement ↑ Disagreement ↓</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SYMPATHY</strong>&lt;br&gt;(súcit)</td>
<td>Sympathy ↑ Antipathy ↓</td>
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Note: ↑ maximize ↓ minimize
TACT (other-oriented)

Scale: cost vs. benefit

other benefit ↑ other cost ↓

*other benefit ↓ other cost ↑

Situation 1: boarding a bus

No no, after you. *Will you please wait until I go first?

Situation 2: entering a dark hall

Shall I go first? *No no, after you.
GENEROSITY (self-oriented)

Scale: cost vs. benefit

self benefit ↓ self cost ↑

* self benefit ↑ self cost ↓

Situation: missing a bus home
A: *I just missed my last bus home.*
B: (standing beside his car)

*I´ll take you home.*

*Poor you. What are you going to do now?*
APPROBATION
(Other-oriented)

Scale: praise vs. dispraise

other praise ↑ other dispraise ↓ *other praise ↓ other dispraise ↑

Situation: commenting on one’s hairstyle

Your new hairstyle is terrific. *Your new hairstyle is ugly.
MODESTY (self-oriented)

Scale: praise vs. dispraise

self praise↓ self dispraise↑  *self praise↑ self dispraise↓

Situation: offering a gift

Please accept this **small**  *Please accept this **expensive**
present as a token of our friendship.

B.Gates:
I believe I´m still marketable.
I´m a self starter. I´m proficient
in Microsoft office.

* I founded one of the most successful businesses in the world.
AGREEMENT
(other-oriented)

Scale: agreement vs. disagreement
agreement ↑ disagreement↓ *agreement↓ disagreement↑

Situation: phatic talk (weather)

A: *What* lovely autumn weather we´re having today!
B: Yeah. It´s really nice. *No. It´s absolutely terrible."
SYMPATHY
(other-oriented)

Scale: sympathy vs. antipathy

sympathy ↑ antipathy ↓  *sympathy ↓ antipathy ↑

Situation: commenting on someone’s failing a course

I’m sorry to hear you’ve failed  *I’m glad to hear you’ve failed

the course in stylistics.
Question as a face-threat

How do they know the load limit on bridges, Dad?

They drive bigger and bigger trucks over the bridge until it breaks.

Then they weigh the last truck and rebuild the bridge.

Oh, I should've guessed.

Dear, if you don't know the answer, just tell him!
G. Leech´s (1983) politeness model

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