

SPEECH STYLES AND POLITENESS

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to inquire to the speech styles and politeness and the relationship between language and culture which reflect the identity of the speakers based on age, ethnicities, gender and educational levels. The researcher follows the survey purposeful method to self design the questionnaire. The respondents consist of forty eight (48) participants; (33) from Malaysia, (9) from China and (6) from Iran, India and Indonesia, their age range from 18- 57 years. The participants are undergraduates, postgraduate, PhD administrative staff and lecturer holders. The goal of the researcher is to investigate the different styles of speech and politeness strategies among the undergraduates, postgraduates, administrative staff and lecturers. Based on the findings, the respondents from different ethnicities and races have different concepts for politeness. Moreover, they show their gratitude and respect differently. Although intercultural communication and technology lead people to be more direct rather than indirect, according to this research and other journal articles which support this research, it can be said that people from different ethnicities have different views of politeness and ways of speaking.