

Masterchef Canada Judges' Strategies for Giving Compliments in the Season 7 Finale

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive qualitative research sought to examine compliment as one of the pragmatics phenomena. The object of this research is compliment strategies applied to acknowledge contestants as interlocutors. The finale episode of MasterChef Canada season 7 entitled "And the Winner of Season 7 Is..." became the data source. It got Claudio Aprile, Michael Bonacini, and Alvin Leung to challenge the finalists to show the culmination of their skills in cooking three dishes within three hours. In giving compliments to the contestants, various ways were applied to have their compliments delivered. Compliment utterances of the three judges were collected as data through observational methods and note-taking techniques. The pragmatic identity method and pragmatic competence equalizing technique were then used to analyze the collected data. To theoretically explore compliment strategies, the theory coined by Yuan (2002) was adopted. The result reported that eight out of ten strategies were employed and those were found in 23 utterances. The explicit compliments consisted of ten data, advice showed four data, explanation got three data, contrast had two data, and one data belonged to each strategy of implicit compliment, non-compliment, information question, and future reference. From the strategies, explicit compliments got the highest frequency as the judges tended to express compliments by giving direct compliments without being triggered by previous actions and leaving nothing lack of sureness. In the finale episode, compliments were frequently expressed by including the positive semantic carriers, namely "amazing", "awesome", "good", "beautiful", "like", "love", "elevated", "nailed", "stop conversation", and "great". The frequency of giving compliments was caused by the good performance of the contestants in the Season 7 Finale. The use of compliant expressions helped the judges to express their appreciation in various ways.

Keywords: compliment, compliment strategies, expressive acts, pragmatics

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1. INTRODUCTION

Being appreciative through utterances surely will make the surroundings feel valued and appreciated. People show this behavior by complimenting others who are deemed worthy of compliments. The act of giving compliments acknowledges the good behaviour of others and put speakers' appreciation into utterances. Positive psychological state of speakers toward hearers' skills, accomplishments, appearance, and other good qualities refers to compliment phenomenon and the expression is delivered to show appreciation. Compliment includes direct or indirect credit given to someone else that has good qualifications of possession, characteristic, or skill, and those are highly regarded by both parties (Holmes, 1995). Ultimately, compliments express genuine appreciation for pleasant things that belong or happen to another person.

Despite how positive a compliment may seem at first glance, it is possible to misinterpret the expression. It is undoubtedly true that expressing compliment can also lead to miscommunication if another person is unable to grasp the speaker's intended meaning. As a result of misunderstanding, both parties of communication will face difficulty to communicate effectively (Sembiring & Ambalegin, 2019). Besides, the success of compliment expressions in establishing or keeping up a good relationship relies on how the compliment is expressed and received (Wolfson & Manes, 1980). This implies that compliment utterances should be accurately expressed because the used strategies reflect the meaning interpretations. Thus, expressing and interpreting compliments requires both parties to understand the distinctions of each compliment strategy.

Impossibility is beyond question when a compliment is given without the use of strategy. Giving and receiving compliments constantly happen in daily interaction (Hao, 2017). Compliment strategies appear on social media as ways of complimenting great objects. The present researchers found the phenomenon on a YouTube video of Zach Sang Show titled "Jamie Miller Talks Broken Memories, Here's Your Perfect, Coming Out, Khloe Kardashian & The voice". The interview was broadcasted on May 12th, 2022 and Jamie Miller came by to talk about his new extended play "Broken Memories" and career. Jamie Miller's good achievements encouraged Zach Sang to produce compliment utterance in the interview and the paragraph below discusses the phenomenon.

Jamie Miller previously thanked Zach Sang for having him as the guest star in the Zach Sang Show. It was said at the beginning of the interview and the utterance got led by Zach Sang as the interviewer.

Zach : "Excited to have you here."

Jamie : "Me too."

Zach : "You have a new EP out. **I highly recommend you listen to... It's called Broken Memories.**"

Jamie : "Yeah." (00:53→01:09)

(Sang, 2022)

At the Zach Sang Show studio, the aforementioned conversation got Zach as the speaker and Jamie Miller became the hearer. The speaker talked about the hearer's new extended play and recommended his YouTube viewers to listen to Broken Memories. In the marked utterance, the speaker did not mean to compliment as the speaker did not have the intention to show his praise. Besides, none of compliment strategies from unbound semantic formula was applied in the speaker's compliment. On the contrary, the speaker conveyed mere bound semantic formula to get them done as recommended. Yuan (2002) emphasized that non-compliment strategy is either bound semantic formula presenting by its own or other utterances that do not have positive characteristics. This proves that there is non-compliment strategy because the speaker did not purposefully convey the utterance to compliment the hearer's newly released music.

The phenomena of compliment exist in reality show. A programming genre that broadcasts unscripted utterances of everyday language users is reality television (Allen, 2017). In reality television, people use language to communicate and everything are not scripted. The unscripted utterances have the use of compliment and people employ its strategies as ways of complimenting. In this research, the researchers investigated the finale episode of MasterChef Canada season 7 titled "And the Winner of Season 7 Is..." and aired on March 11th, 2022. The occurrences of compliment utterances were influenced by good qualities shown to get the season 7 winner title. One of the compliment phenomena is displayed in the following paragraph.

Thea's cooking station was visited by Claudio. At that moment, the finalist was preparing the dish that would make her the winner. The man wanted to know what dish she would serve to the judges. Thea told him that she had tried hibiscus margaritas while she was in Mexico. Additionally, the

hibiscus she invented would consist of a coriander sponge cake, a macerated tequila, lime melon, hibiscus Tanakata, and Habanero ice cream.

Claudio : "So, tell me, Thea. What is your strong finish?"

Thea : "When I went to Mexico with my husband, they served these amazing hibiscus margaritas that were rimmed with chili. So, I'm doing a play on that..."

Claudio : "**Amazing...**" (01:09→01:31)

(Russell, 2022)

The conversation was stated by Claudio to Thea at the MasterChef Canada gallery. After hearing the ingredients, the speaker expressed his admiration toward those appetizing ingredients. The speaker did not leave the compliment unstated and the compliment was also delivered without being connected to the previous event. Based on the utterance, the speaker showed the feeling by directly declaring "amazing" and the word shows the positive evaluation addressed to the object. Yuan (2002) revealed that there is at least one inclusion of positive semantic value in explicit compliment. In accordance with the analysis, it reveals that the speaker complimented by employing an explicit compliment strategy considering the speaker clearly complimented the hearer without any context and the speaker uttered one positive semantic carrier.

Giving an appreciation toward someone or something is realized with the delivery of compliment expression. Compliment expresses a speaker's admiration or envy about an interlocutor's thing that the speaker likes (Brown & Levinson, 1987). Compliment also shows acknowledgement, approval, and intention to begin a conversation. Compliment is regarded as the act of expressing gratitude for beneficial action, conversation introduction, or expression of a speaker's approval (Norrick, 1978; Wolfson & Manes, 1980). Along with it, Searle and Vanderveken (1985) defined compliment as the type of the expressive act uttered by a speaker, who finds reality meets the expectation and it does not have to benefit the speaker. Briefly, a compliment utterance indicates that a hearer has behaved positively as expected or the speaker admires something that the hearer owns.

As pointed by Yuan (2002, p. 192), "Semantic formulas of compliments are distinguished into two macro categories. Those are compliments and non-complimentary replies. Compliments are further divided into unbound semantic formulas as a category that can express a compliment on its own (explicit compliment and implicit compliment) and bound semantic formulas, which require an utterance to be attached or to co-occur with an unbound semantic formula to be categorized in this category (explanation, information question, future reference, contrast, advice, and request). Non-complimentary replies are regarded as the category that is not conveyed to express speakers' admiration (non-compliment and opt out)." Further explanation of each strategy is provided below.

1. Explicit Compliment, a speaker precisely delivers a direct compliment and the directness enables the hearer to directly get the meaning in explicit compliment. It is considering the speaker's praise is delivered without being triggered by the previous events or things. Explicit compliment strategy is the way of complimenting by explicitly producing direct positive comment (Ye, 1995; Holmes, 1995). Along with this, Yuan (2002) also determined that there is at least one inclusion of positive semantic value in explicit compliment. On the whole, explicit compliment has at least one good evaluation to leave nothing implied and this leads the hearer to directly get the meaning. For instance, "**I'm proud you are here**" (Agustiyan, 2020) and "**What a kind heart you have!**" (Pour & Zarei, 2016)

2. Implicit Compliment, it occurs because a direct compliment is not intended to be delivered. Implicit compliment refers to a strategy that is implicitly directed to the hearer and this strategy enables the interlocutor to make a different interpretation of meaning (Ye, 1995). Also, Yuan (2002) revealed that a speaker's way of complimenting with or without a positive semantic carrier, where the hearer is indirectly complimented and required to interpret meaning from a

certain context is defined as an implicit compliment. For the compliment utterance that is absent from positive semantic value, it still has a positive meaning that needs to be interpreted. By using this compliment strategy, the speaker does not directly declare the compliment, but rather lets the context reveal the positive meaning. The utterances are **“Where you bought it?”** (Fortunasari et al., 2019) and **“I’m very tempted to put on the Changbin’s drawing as a profile photo”** (Fitriane, 2022)

3. Explanation, this belongs to the compliment strategy that a speaker employs after stating a positive value. The previous expression should involve explicit semantic formula that a speaker expresses to compliment a hearer. The mere explanation cannot be considered a compliment unless it is attached to an explicit semantic value (Yuan, 2002). Through this strategy, a speaker enriches the compliment by explaining further about the complimented object. The utterances are as written in **“Wow... It’s beautiful. A house with a, with a blue carpet like this is so comfortable. You don’t want to go anywhere, but only want to stay home.”** (Yuan, 2002, p. 193) and **“Tina, I saw you distribute and deliver relief goods for the victims at Ondoy. I also heard you donated 2000 pesos. That’s quite thoughtful and generous of you.”** (Zhang, 2013)

4. Information Question, this strategy is found in a compliment utterance that has an explicit semantic formula and question. Yuan (2002) clarified that a speaker uses an information question in addition to an explicit compliment to obtain more information about a hearer's quality. A question asked by a hearer is not regarded as information question if it comes alone seeing that it does not express a compliment without any context or positive semantic formula involved. For instance, **“Nice cell phone! Where did you buy it.”** (Zhang, 2013) and **“I love your unique hairstyle. Do you make it by yourself?”** (Ariani et al., 2021)

5. Future Reference, complimenting someone also can be referred to a promising future that brings the speaker to get something great. Additionally, a speaker should previously apply explicit compliment to make the application of this strategy occurs. Future reference is applied to emphasize that a hearer will get good things in the future due to the good qualifications the hearer has (Yuan, 2002). To sum up, future reference appears in a speaker's compliment utterance whenever a speaker provides at least one positive semantic formula and the compliment utterance has a relation to the future. The utterances are **“Thank you very much David, you’re a life saver. You have a future in fixing laptops.”** (Pour & Zarei, 2016) and **“Quite capable! There shouldn’t be my problem (for you) to get a Ph.D in the future”** (Yuan, 2002, p. 193)

6. Contrast, it is regarded as a way of complimenting by also contrasting or comparing the quality of a hearer with another person (Yuan, 2002). It indicates that compliment utterance of this strategy is conveyed by having the speaker to give explicit compliment and attach a comparison or contradiction of the hearer with someone. As the hearer is the one that gets a compliment, a great thing has been done by the hearer and it leads the speaker to appreciate the hearer. The contrast utterance is **“This child of yours is so good not at all like mine, who doesn’t come home until midnight. When I ask her to do something, she bargains. She’s not obedient at all.”** (Yuan, 2002, p. 193)

7. Advice, in addition to giving a compliment, it is possible to advise a hearer while complimenting. This strategy is employed by involving at least one positive semantic value and good recommendation. Advice is defined as the strategy that enables a speaker to utter a compliment and advice to the hearer (Yuan, 2002). In other words, advice presents in a compliment utterance that includes positive semantic formula and an advice from a speaker, which is expected to be realized. **“What a great mark! You should be proud of yourself!”** (Ariani et al., 2021) is the utterance that shows advice.

8. Request, a speaker uses this strategy to compliment while requesting to get something. Commonly, a speaker asks to have the complimented object as the speaker admires it. When a speaker compliments and asks a request at the same time, the speaker applies a request (Yuan, 2002). It emphasizes that request strategy is a way of expressing a compliment, which intends to get a particular thing accomplished. The speaker also delivers compliment with this strategy to get information about the complimented object. "This dress of yours is good looking. **Lend it to me and let me wear it for a couple of days.**" (Yuan, 2002, p. 194) and "You always give such interesting and easy to understand presentation. **Is there a secret? Is there a secret?**" (Ariani et al., 2021) are the request utterances.

9. Non-Compliment, a speaker does not intend to deliver positive meaning through this strategy. Non-compliment strategy is either a bound semantic formula presented by its own or other utterances that do not have positive characteristics (Yuan, 2002). It defines that non-compliment only has a bound semantic formula and there are no positive emotions included even in other replies. Besides, Ye (1995) argued that non-compliment strategy is hardly to be categorized as compliment as it is not said to praise. Hence, the non-compliment strategy is not conveyed to show appreciation, but it is more likely to express thanks. Non-compliment utterances are "**Nothing special**" (Miranda & Hamzah, 2018) and "**Your brain really works. You are so intelligent.**" (Pour & Zarei, 2016)

10. Opt Out, it refers to the strategy that does not show speaker's compliment. Specifically, the hearer is expected to have the compliment as the situation supports, but the speaker chooses to say nothing. Yuan (2002) acknowledged that opt out is compliment strategy where a speaker does not say anything in a situation where compliment is generally expected. Therefore, this appears when the speaker does not give compliment when there is a possibility for compliment expression to be expressed. The following utterances are regarded as opt out utterance "I **would not say anything.**" (Zhang, 2013) and "I **just keep silent, because. I don't know I don't know. She's really really close.**" (Fortunasari et al., 2019).

Research on compliment strategies has been conducted due to the widespread phenomena of compliment strategies. From few research, there are two research on compliment strategies examined by previous researchers. Alqarni (2020) employed the research of compliment strategies and responses applied by eight Saudi students, who were all EFL learners. The researcher's investigation focused on the students' compliment utterances seeing that those were collected as data. The researcher used the theory of Yuan (2002) to find out the compliment strategies. The findings reported that explicit compliment of unbound semantic formulas was dominantly used. It was followed by implicit compliment, information question, future reference, explanation, contrast, and advice. Specifically, the students had the tendency to use explicit compliment in conveying their admiration. Opt out, non-compliment, and request were not employed by the eight students.

In light of Hanifah and Marlina (2022)'s analysis, the research particularly determined compliment strategies delivered in the final of American Got Talent 2019. The researchers took the judges' compliment utterances to be investigated. Compliment strategies theory of Yuan (2002) was employed to reveal the strategies. As a result, it confirmed that 72 utterances were said to praise the finalists and male judges were more likely to give compliment compared to female judges. The male judges frequently used an explicit compliment strategy in delivering the compliments. On the other hand, female judges' compliment utterances showed high frequency in implicit compliment. The female judges were revealed to prefer implicitly complimenting the finalists and requiring compliment interpretations.

Although compliment strategies research had been carried out, this research was different from the previous research. The difference became the thing that distinguished this research with other research on compliment strategies. For this present research, the researchers took competitive cooking shows, specifically the season 7 finale of MasterChef Canada to be examined. It is considering the data source had not been analyzed in the same topic and there were lots of compliment phenomena in judges' utterances. The judges' ways of complimenting the contestants were also various and the variety showed that the data source is representative. The present researchers chose compliment strategies in view of the fact that people inevitably use strategies to express compliments. The topic of compliment strategies is therefore essential and the ability to distinguish each strategy will ensure there is no room for misunderstanding. In terms of similarities, the present research and previous research took the same topic and theory. The researchers explored compliment strategies through implementation of the theory invented by Yuan (2002). To sum up, this present research focused on examining MasterChef Canada judges' for giving compliments in the season 7 finale.

2. METHOD

This research analyzed compliment strategies as the pragmatics phenomena expressed through utterances. The season 7 finale episode of MasterChef Canada titled "And the Winner of Season 7 Is..." was selected as the data source. Among other sources, it was selected to be analyzed because it was the final episode in which the judges produced lots of compliments. The expressions were frequently presented to appreciate the contestants' good performance in finale. Three judges delivered their appreciation with different ways that made the episode is worthy selection. The researchers used descriptive qualitative to explore the competitive cooking show judges' strategies for expressing compliments. The research design was selected because compliment is a language phenomenon and to give an in-depth understanding, the researchers analyzed data and elaborated the research result into words. "Defining language phenomena, giving explanations, and understanding utterances have become the distinguishing characteristics of qualitative research" (Leavy, 2017, p. 9). The data collection method and technique were observational method and note-taking technique from Sudaryanto (2015). Some steps were done by the researchers as follows. The researchers took the following steps. In the first step, the researchers observed the final episode of MasterChef Canada Season 7 by watching it. Secondly, the researchers typed all utterances produced on the episode by also noting the name of speakers, hearers, and duration. Thirdly, re-watching the episode was done while reading the typed utterances. Finally, the researchers gave bold marks to judges' utterances that showed compliment phenomena.

All collected data were analyzed by adopting pragmatic identity method and pragmatic competence- in equalizing technique. The method was taken because the analysis process required the identification of pragmatics elements. All of the data analysis were done through the pragmatic perspective, which all analysis relied on implied meaning identified by seeing its context. As for the technique, the researchers selected it seeing that equalizing data with the applied theory was the data analysis technique. Analyzing data required the researchers to do several steps as follows. To begin the data analysis process, the researchers firstly did the identification of collected data by interpreting the contextual situations. The interpretation resulted in the discovery of implied meanings and those meanings were the data characteristics. For the second step, the characteristic of each data was equalized with the characteristics of compliment strategies coined by Yuan (2002). Lastly, the final step got the researchers to expose the MasterChef Canada Judges' strategies for giving compliments in the season 7 finale. It was presented in table 1 as shown in the next section.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Result

The result concerning compliment strategies exposed 23 data found in the finale episode. The total data was influenced by the frequency of compliment expressions expressed by three judges. These data fell into eight strategies, namely explicit compliment, implicit compliment, explanation, information question, future reference, contrast, advice, and non-compliment. Most data were discovered in explicit compliment strategy as the judges directly expressing their appreciations and data commonly had at least one positive semantic formula. There were two strategies absent from the judges' compliment utterances, namely request and opt out. Table 1 elaborates the data frequency of each strategy.

Table 1. MasterChef Canada Judges' strategies for giving compliments in the season 7 finale

No.	Compliment Categories	Compliment Strategies	Frequency
1.	Unbound Semantic Formulas	Explicit Compliment	10
		Implicit Compliment	1
2.	Bound Semantic Formulas	Explanation	3
		Information Question	1
		Future Reference	1
		Contrast	2
		Advice	4
3.	Non-Complimentary Replies	Non-compliment	1
Total data			23

3.2 Discussion

In an attempt to avoid redundancy, the researchers served 15 data from all data found in the finale episode of MasterChef Canada Season 7. The selected data represented eight compliment strategies from 10 strategies based on Yuan (2002)'s theory. The data were specifically selected from six explicit compliment, two data of advice and explanation, one data for each strategy of non-compliment, implicit compliment, contrast, and future reference. The following data were chronologically presented from the first to the last duration of the episode. On the selected episode, it took place at MasterChef Canda Gallery and thereby all data showed were uttered at the same place.

Data 1

Michael previously approached Christopher to ask about the ingredients that he prepared for the final dessert. The hearer answered that he was making cheesecake. The finalist intended to add little bit of brown butter crumb, some lemon sponge, passionate fruit meringue, and some coconut snow for lots.

Michael : "Christopher, I'm going to let you deal with that and **good luck.**"

Christopher : "Thank you!" (00:57→00:59)

A speaker named Michael was found to be excited about the final results. The excitement came after hearing about the dessert, which was a play on a traditional Chinese dessert called mango pomelo sago. In light of the marked utterance, the speaker let him finish cooking the dessert. The speaker said the word "good luck" to support him in preparing the final dish. **The speaker delivered the utterance without intending to compliment. The speaker more likely showed compassion for the hearer.** In this instance, the dish had not been served while the utterance was being produced. Also, there is not any positive evaluation included in the utterance. Based on the speaker's way of delivering the utterance the strategy of **non-compliment** was applied because the utterance has no unbound semantic formula characteristic.

Data 2

Claudio asked Thea about her strong finish and it got the finalist to answer Claudio's question. The finalist answered that she was doing a play on hibiscus margaritas that were rimmed with chilli.

Claudio : "Amazing. **And where does the tequila come in?**"

Thea : "In the macerated melon on the side of the bowl." (01:30→01:34)

In response to the question, Claudio as the speaker said the aforementioned utterance. The speaker said the utterance to show her content feeling as the speaker praised the hearer's final dish. In expressing this feeling, the speaker used the explicit compliment "amazing" to convey a positive semantic carrier. **Then, the explicit compliment was followed by the utterance that consists of a question.** The question was asked because the speaker wanted to know how the hearer brought the tequila in. The speaker complimented while seeking detailed information about the thing that he was complimenting. It became the speaker's strategy for delivering the compliment to the hearer. Consistent with the analysis, the speaker complimented the hearer through the strategy of the **information question.**

Data 3

Claudio earlier asked what Thea was going to do to make the tequila come in from the hibiscus margaritas. The finalist stated that the tequila would come from the macerated melon. It was specifically on the side bowl of the dessert.

Claudio : "**That sounds awesome! I love it!**"

Thea : "Thank you." (01:33→01:36)

Claudio began the discussion by responding to the previous utterance. It was about the brilliant way in which the hearer managed to get the tequila into the margaritas from the hibiscus margaritas. The hearer's creation of hibiscus margaritas encouraged the speaker to feel impressed. A direct way of showing the feeling was used since the speaker did not attempt to imply the expression. **The direct compliment was addressed without requiring the hearer to make an interpretation and delivered by involving positive semantic value to acknowledge the positive action.** According to the analysis, the speaker's compliment utterance illustrates an **explicit compliment** strategy.

Data 4

The next finalist that was questioned about final dessert was Andy. Alvin came to get the information regarding the blueberry grunt that was in the making. Considering the final stage needed the finalists to create something different, the judge produced the following utterance.

Alvin : "How are you going to elevate it?"

Andy : "We have a lemon blueberry cake in the oven. I'm going to smoke a compote. I've got a meringue that I'm going to toast similar to around the campfire, so that marshmallow flavor.

Alvin : "**That's a good idea.**" (02:03→02:12)

As the speaker, Alvin wished to know the way to elevate the address would be to have the hearer state that he had lemon blueberry cake and he was going to smoke a compost. There was also a meringue that was planned to be toasted similar to the campfire and those ways were considered to create an innovative dish. Following that, the speaker described his psychological state as being pleased with the innovation. The speaker directly expressed compliment without implying anything to the hearer. **In the direct compliment, the speaker used the positive semantic carrier "good" to indicate his feeling toward the idea.** Conforming to the analysis, the strategy of the utterance has the same characteristic as an **explicit compliment** because the speaker conveyed a direct compliment and there was a positive semantic carrier.

Data 5

Alvin earlier shouted at the finalists to inform them there was only a minute left and they were assigned to get the presentation on. Finally, the time had run out and they had to stop doing their dishes. The three finalists were walking forward to have their dishes tasted.

Michael : "Congratulations, finalists. The three of you just cooked the meal of your lives. **Your meals have been telling the three of us a beautiful story so far.** Now it's time for the finale chapter."

Finalists : [Nodding and smiling to the judges] (07:29→07:45)

Michael featured as the speaker, who congratulated the finalists as the hearers. The speaker told them that they had just cooked the meal, which would determine whether or not they were qualified to get the title. In this case, the speaker also expressed his emotion by appreciating the story told by the three hearers. The speaker did not give unspoken meaning, which required the hearers to make a different interpretation. **Specifically, the speaker complimented the story by saying it was beautiful and the evaluation represented the speaker's positive emotion.** The speaker also complimented without connecting it to the previous situation as the complimented object was shown while the compliment was being expressed. Referring to the analysis, it highlights the use of **explicit compliment** in the speaker's compliment expression.

Data 6

Christopher became the first finalist whose dish would be tasted. The finalist brought mango pomelo sago, which was beautifully placed on his plate. The appetizing dessert consisted of mango cheesecake foam, coconut snow, and passion fruit meringue.

Alvin : "I like the presentation..."

Christopher: [Smiling and paying attention to the judges' commentaries]
(08:08→08:16)

As the speaker, Alvin commented on Christopher's dessert. The speaker was given a plate of the dish that was a play on traditional Chinese dessert. Before tasting the dessert, the speaker expressed his satisfaction with its presentation. The feeling was expressed because the presentation had caught the speaker's attention even before being tasted. The speaker used the word "like" to describe the feeling that he felt. **The positive semantic value was delivered in a direct way and it did not need to be interpreted.** The speaker complimented the thing that he saw in front of him. In other words, the speaker complimented without being triggered by the previous action. The analysis proves that the compliment was expressed in an **explicit compliment** strategy because of the positive semantic value.

Data 7

After having his name called by Alvin, Christopher put his on the table. The finalist served the mango pomelo sago as the last dish. The judge seemed satisfied with the presentation made by the finalist.

Alvin : "I like the presentation. **The colors simple. You got the yellow, you got the green, you got the white from the snow. You got bits of textures in there. It's a neat little package.**"

Christopher: [Smiling and paying attention to the judge's commentaries]
(08:08→08:16)

Alvin appeared as the speaker that got the first chance to taste Christopher's dish. The hearer named Christopher was waiting for the commentaries while standing in front of the judges. As analyzed in the previous data, the speaker conveyed a positive semantic value in the utterance "I like the

presentation". The strategy employed by the speaker was an explicit compliment and it indicated that the marked utterance indicated bound semantic formula. **The speaker continued to compliment the presentation by explaining further reasons for its value.** The speaker explained that the dish had simple colors of yellow, white, and green. There was also a little bit of texture that made the dish have an impressive presentation after all. Accordingly, the compliment was expressed in an **explanation** strategy considering there is an explicit compliment and detailed explanation of the complimented object.

Data 8

Alvin firstly commented on Christopher's mango pomelo sago and the second judge who would taste the dessert was Claudio. The judge tasted the dessert by also paying attention to the presentation. Then, the dessert was tasted and the judge commented as follows.

Claudio : "I don't like this. I love it..."

Christopher: "Thank you, chef." (08:28→08:53)

Having had a spoon of the dessert, the speaker named Claudio produced the aforementioned utterance. Upon tasting the dessert, the speaker expressed his feelings through this utterance. **Conversely, the speaker did not explicitly express his feeling and it required the hearer to interpret what was said because it was opposed to reality.** Due to the way applied by the speaker to deliver a compliment, the hearer had to find out the meaning of the compliment. Referring to the context, the speaker liked the dish and his admiration could be seen from the speaker's expression. Even though the marked utterance did not have a positive semantic carrier, the following utterance clarified the speaker's feeling and was deemed positive. The utterance "I don't like that" was meant to grab the hearer's attention before having the speaker to give a real compliment. Based on the analysis, the speaker implied the compliment by adopting the **implicit compliment** strategy.

Data 9

Claudio once tasted Christopher's dessert and the dessert left the judge impressed. The judge also implied the compliment by telling that he did not like the dish and it was corrected as the judge liked it.

Claudio : "I don't like this. I love it. **I like how light the passion fruit mousse is. I like the little sponge pieces of cake that are just studded around. The Isamalt basket is really smart instead of sugar, because Isamal really breaks down very easily, and it can handle the moisture of the passion fruit mousse. I think, overall, it is one of those show stopping desserts.**"

Christopher: "Thank you, chef." (08:28→08:53)

Claudio acted as the speaker and Christopher as the hearer. The hearer was wondering how the mango pomelo sago would taste as it was the hearer's last chance. In data 8, the speaker uttered the utterance "I don't like this" to imply the speaker's compliment. Even though the speaker did not directly convey the compliment, the speaker provided positive value in the unbound semantic formula. **As part of the marked utterance, the speaker explained the hearer's brilliant idea for making the dessert.** The speaker explained the good texture and taste of the fruit mousse, sponge, and Isamalt basket. The analysis above illustrates that the utterance above has an unbound semantic formula and further explanation. The inclusion of those elements indicates the application of the **explanation** strategy.

Data 10

Alvin and Claudio had tasted Christopher's dish earlier. Then, Michael also tasted his dish while other judges were commenting. In the conversation below, the judge directly stated his commentary after Claudio had done talking.

Michael : "I, too, love the exotic notes, the rich mousse that sits on top. **But I would have loved to have seen just a little bit more of that diced mango as part of it.**"

Christopher: [Nodding head] (08:53→09:05)

The conversation got Michael to be the speaker and the hearer was Christopher. The speaker emphasized his happiness about the dessert by saying he agreed with the other two judges that it had an unfamiliar taste. The speaker conveyed the compliment by explicitly saying "love" as a good evaluation. **By involving positive evolution, it is clear that the expression represents an explicit compliment.** The speaker also added that the rich mousse perfectly sat on top of mango pomelo sago. **Afterward, the marked utterance was said to advise the hearer to add more diced mango to it.** By being advised, the speaker was complimenting the hearer because the hearer had received a positive evaluation. The marked utterance was intended to make the dish much better. It exposes the expression of compliment in the strategy of **advice** because the speaker complimented and gave advice.

Data 11

Andy came to serve his blueberry grunt to the judges. The finalist explained that he had smoked blueberry compote, a blueberry lemon cake toasted with butter and thyme, toasted marshmallow, and lemon curd underneath the lemon gelato disc on top of the dessert.

Michael : "**I have never seen a blueberry grunt looking this good. This is often heavy and stagy looking.** It's a humble, humble dessert, yet this. Is a thing of beauty."

Andy : "Thank you." (09:22→09:35)

After the hearer explained the dish, the speaker named Michael communicated directly with Andy as the hearer. **According to the marked utterance, the speaker compared the hearer's dish to others'. The speaker clarified that he had never seen a blueberry grunt as good as the hearer's creation.** In other words, the speaker compared the hearer's dish with the other blueberry grunts that he had tasted. Prior to this, the speaker found plenty of blueberry grunts that were heavy and stagy. It contains the explicit compliment of "beauty" referring to the entire dessert. The speaker mentioned that the dessert was impressive because the speaker created something different in taste and texture. The analysis reveals that the **contrast** strategy was employed because the speaker compared the complimented object to other things and an explicit compliment was uttered as well.

Data 12

After being complimented by Michael, Andy's dessert then was tasted by Alvin. The judge tasted the dessert before commenting and having done tasting, the following conversation was produced.

Alvin : "I tell you, you have elevated. The lemon gelato ring gives acidity, but the sponge cake was heavy. **I would've sautéed the nice rum. It would give more depth.**"

Andy : [Smiling and nodding] (09:46→10:01)

Alvin appeared as the speaker that commented on Andy's dessert. The speaker was conveying the psychological state that he felt after tasting the dessert. As the taste was pleasing, he said the hearer had improved since his last performance. By leaving nothing implied, the speaker explicitly complimented the hearer. There was no need for interpretation on the hearer's part and the explicit compliment was expressed with the positive semantic carrier "elevated". **Afterward, the compliment got continued by having the speaker to advise the hearer.** The speaker advised him to sauté the tasty rum and put it on the dessert because it would give more depth, which would benefit the taste. Since the hearer showed a good performance, the speaker intended to give advice as part

of complimenting him. Hence, the analysis above has the same characteristics as **advice** because there are explicit compliments and advice.

Data 13

Andy had gotten a good comment from Alvin as the judge, who tasted his dessert for the first time. In addition to complimenting, the judge also gave him advice to add sautéed rum on the dessert.

Claudio : **“I think you’ve nailed the presentation...”**

Andy : [Not answering, but nodding head to show that he got the judge’s point]
(10:01→10:17)

As the speaker, Claudio declared the utterance to express his emotion toward Andy as the hearer. The speaker used the marked utterance to show that he admired the presentation made by the hearer. **The delivery of the compliment was through the positive semantic carrier “nailed”, which was addressed to the hearer.** The speaker complimented the hearer as he had nailed the presentation of the blueberry grunt by also concentrating on the flavors. The speaker gave the compliment in explicit way without leaving the meaning implied. Without any context, the speaker could compliment the hearer because the complimented object was the dessert that was being tasted while he was commenting. The compliment expression did not need to be interpreted as it had been stated clearly. Through the analysis, it emphasizes the phenomenon of **explicit compliment** due to the directness for giving the compliment.

Data 14

The last finalist was Thea that made hibiscus margaritas for dessert. The finalist was asked to describe her dessert and she mentioned that she had hibiscus margaritas. There was a coriander sponge, a hibiscus panna cotta, Habanero ice cream, and some mastered tequila, lime melon just for some fruits.

Alvin : **“I am amazed at your presentation...”**

Thea : [Responding by laughing] (10:38→10:49)

Alvin presented as the speaker and Thea became the hearer. The speaker directly conveyed the utterance after seeing the dessert and hearing the speaker’s explanation. The speaker used the marked utterance to talk about a dessert presentation that amazed her. **The positive evaluation was explicitly expressed as the speaker used the word “amazed” to indicate the compliment.** The speaker was amazed by the simplicity of the dessert and could not resist spending money to get the dessert again. In expressing the feeling, the speaker did not attempt to imply the compliment and thereby the hearer did not need to find the meaning. Relating the compliment to the previous event was also unnecessary because it did not trigger the compliment expression. From the analysis, there is the strategy of **explicit compliment** seeing that the speaker included positive evaluation.

Data 15

Having had tasting all dishes, the judges were going to announce the winner of MasterChef Canada season 7. The finalists were standing in front of the three judges while waiting for the announcement,

Michael : **“There’s no doubt that all of three of you are winners. The journey you’ve taken to reach these point are more epic than any in MasterChef Canada history and that remarkable achievement have earned you the right to change places with us.”**

Andy: “Okay... let’s go. [Inviting the other two finalists] (12:11→12:28)

Michael acted as the speaker and Andy was the hearer. In this case, the speaker was congratulating the finalists who had all been in the final. The speaker also expressed his appreciation for their performances by saying they were all winners. In **showing the feeling, the speaker produced the positive semantic carrier “winners” to describe their efforts for the three dishes cooked within three hours.** The finalists were also informed that their journeys were more epic than those of the previous seasons. **The marked utterance has the relation to future reference in which the speaker uttered to say the finalists would have a bright future.** They could get these great things because they have proven their qualifications. The speaker shared his admiration for the finalists' future because their ability could enable them to change places with the judges. This implies a compliment in the strategy of **future reference** since the expression carried a positive semantic carrier and referred to future.

4. CONCLUSION

Through the implementation of the adopted theory, this research concluded that the judges' utterances in the MasterChef Canada season 7 finale episode included compliment strategies. Eight out of ten compliment strategies were applied while the judges were commenting on the finalists' dishes. Altogether, the judges produced 23 compliment utterances and those were apparently uttered in explicit compliment as it got 10 data. The high frequency belonged to explicit compliment due to the judges' tendency to compliment by giving direct compliments and leaving no room for uncertainty. As judges, they preferred expressing their appreciation for the good qualities of the finalists' dishes in explicit manners. The judges also generally conveyed at least one positive evaluation presented by the words “amazing”, “awesome”, “good”, “beautiful”, “like”, “love”, “elevated”, “nailed”, “stop conversation”, and “great” as positive semantic carriers.

As the dominant strategy, the explicit compliment was followed by advice as strategy the data had four data, three data were investigated in explanation, two data were in contrast, and one data was delivered in each strategy of future reference, non-compliment, implicit compliment, and information question. There were two strategies absent from the judges' compliment utterances, namely request and opt out. The judges did not give requests while expressing compliments and refrained from being silent in the situations where compliment expressions were expected. This research also has suggestions for future researchers. They are recommended to explore compliment strategies in daily conversations. With the unscripted utterances, future research will have a more natural data source and prove compliment strategies exist in real life. In addition, future researchers may analyze other pragmatics phenomena in daily utterances as well or combine the topic of compliment strategies with other topics to conduct more varied research.

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