

Negative Face Threatening Acts Used By Kenya's Members Of The 12th National Assembly

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ABSTRACT

Members of National Assembly desire to protect their face during debates in the National Assembly. Face protection makes them to be seen as competent and respectable leaders. Negative face desires include autonomy and independence. Negative face threatening acts run contrary to negative face desires of interlocutors. Negative face threatening acts cause damage to hearer's negative face when a speaker produces an act that affirms or denies a future act that creates pressure on the hearer to either perform or not perform an action at all. During social interactions, interlocutors try to avoid acts that would make the hearer to feel impinged upon. Face saving acts are utilized by interlocutors in order to reduce the effects of face threats to interacting parties. This paper focused on the speeches of selected Members of Kenya's National Assembly in the 12th parliament context in order to find out the negative face threatening acts that they use. The objective of this paper was to discuss how negative face threatening acts are used by members of the National Assembly. The researcher used politeness theory to analyze, interpret and discuss the data collected. The speeches were downloaded from the Hansard and analyzed using content analysis method. Purposive sampling technique was used where only the utterances with negative face threatening acts were selected for inclusion in the paper. A guiding card was used to identify negative face threatening acts. This paper is important as the findings of the paper are expected to add to the existing literature in the field of sociolinguistics and pragmatics.

KEY WORDS: Face, Face threatening act, Negative face, Politeness

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I. INTRODUCTION

This paper aims at exploring negative face threatening acts used by members of Kenya's 12th National Assembly. The National Assembly is a formal context where participants are expected to be careful on their choice of words. This section explores the notions of face, negative face, negative face threatening acts and theoretical framework.

1.1. Face

The idea of face was pioneered by Goffman (1955) and has been developed by other scholars such as Leech (1983) and Brown & Levinson (1987). Face is the positive social value a person claims for himself (Goffman, 1955). Negative face is the desire not to be impeded upon. According to Goffman (1967), face is only a loan to a person from the society and it can be withdrawn unless he conducts himself in a way that is worthy of it. He notes that face comes into being only in social contacts and it depends on other interactants. Face reflects how a person wishes to be perceived by others in his surroundings. According to Regina (2011), face is determined by social features such as profession, religion and gender. In order to maintain harmonious interpersonal relationships and ensure successful social interaction, people should be aware of another one's face. Brown & Levinson (1987) assume face to be universal. Regina (2011) argues that the notion of face as a public self-image plays a major role in culture. According to her, face shapes the character of a speaker as well as how he/she is perceived by others. A person adapts a particular face according to how he/she wants to be seen in public. Relationship management and specifically face is seen in the manner in which people carry themselves in public (Maria, 2017).

1.2. Negative Face

Negative face according to Brown & Levinson (1987) is the want of every member that his actions be unobstructed by others. Murphy (2014) defines negative face in relation to political discourse as the desire to carry out one's own legislative programs and enact reforms which a politician and their and their party thinks are the best for the country, the desire to freely speak and make representations about their own interests and the

constituencies they represent. When these desires are obstructed by their colleagues, he/she feels that his/her negative face has been attacked. Goffman (1955) ascertains that every person lives in a world of social encounters which involve him/her getting in contact with others. In these contacts, a person uses verbal and nonverbal acts by which he expresses his view of the situations. Interaction is therefore inevitable and there is always a possibility of a speaker attacking hearer's negative face. Acts such as threats, orders and expressions of hatred and anger deny a hearer his desire for autonomy thus threatening his negative face. Negative FTAs damage hearer's face when they attack their territories, personal preserves and when they cause distraction. Negative face needs include autonomy and independence.

1.3. Negative Face threatening acts

Interlocutors wish to maintain each other's face in interaction although sometimes they are forced to make FTAs in order to get what they want. A face threatening act (FTA) can threaten the face of any participant during social interaction. According to Brown & Levinson (1987), a negative FTA refers to an act that by its nature runs contrary to the negative face wants of the speaker and hearer. Face is threatened when it is undermined in a way. A speaker can know that hearer's negative face has been threatened through his emotional reactions. Negative face threats, according to Brown & Levinson (1987) produce feelings of agitation, humiliation, confusion and defensiveness. For instance, orders make a hearer feel pressured to do something against his desire for autonomy.

Face threatening acts that threaten negative face are referred to by Brown and Levinson (1987) as negative face threatening acts. The hearer is not given a chance to decide what he/she would want since the speaker does not purpose to avoid obstruction or blockage of hearer's freedom of action. When negative face is threatened, freedom of choice and action are impeded. A speaker can damage his/her own negative face. Brown (1970) argues that some acts such as expressing thanks, excuses, accepting offers and accepting a thank you commits the speaker to something he/she does not want to do.

Negative face threatening acts can cause damage to the hearer's negative face when the speaker produces an act that affirms or denies a future act that creates pressure on the hearer to either perform or not perform an action at all (Brown & Levinson, 1987). These acts include orders, requests, suggestions, advice, threats and warnings. These acts are considered face threatening because they comprise efforts by the speaker to make the hearer comply with what the speaker wants. Brown (1970) also ascertains that acts such as expressions of envy, hatred, disgust and anger also threaten hearer's negative face since they make the hearer feel impinged upon.

Kithure (2013) observes that televangelists use positive politeness strategies more than negative politeness strategies. She reveals that televangelists have a tendency to use in-group identity markers to redress threat to hearer's negative face and observes that power, rank and distance are the factors that influence televangelist's choice of a politeness strategy. Kithure (2013) shows that negative FTAs are inevitable in social interactions. The negative face threatening acts occurred when televangelists tried to persuade their congregants to change their ways and also to give generous contributions. This threatened their desire for independence as they may not have done it willingly but due to pressure Televangelists rely on politeness strategies with an aim to reduce face threatening acts.

Kaisa (2019) finds out that nativeness has a direct influence on Face. He found that athletes who were non-native English speakers were found to have difficulty in expressing themselves in English, thus unintentional FTAs arose. This study noted that any act that predicted athletes' future acts and those that created pressure on them to do something threatened their negative face. Interviewers making suggestions and offering advice to athletes also limited their freedom of choice of action. His study notes that journalists used FTAs towards athletes in form of criticisms, offering advices, presenting 'bad' news, non-coopering, disagreements and suggestions.

Kithenge (2018) observes that in rallies, leaders use negative FTAs towards opponents and their sympathizers in order to tarnish their name and paint a negative picture to the voters. Politicians portrayed their opponents in negative light by attacking their face and exposing them as weak leaders and people who lack a sound political stand. Kithenge (2018) also noted that politicians used insinuation to belittle their opponents. This occurred through use of indirect reference to another person to help a speaker escape responsibility since it was up to the hearer to decipher meaning from utterances. Expressions of hatred and anger towards opponents also greatly attacked their negative wants.

Lisa (2020) notes that gender influences choice of a FTA. She notes that choice of face threatening acts was influenced much by the context in which they were performed, interlocutors and the situation. Men were found to be more aggressive in language use than women hence more face threatening acts were observed in their utterances. Women seemed to be more indirect in their speech and toned down their utterances to reduce threats to face. Lisa (2020) concludes that women tend to use more politeness strategies in their conversation

since they want to sound polite. Women avoided intruding directly to their interactant's independence while men were less concerned about hearer's desire for autonomy.

Negative face threatening acts lead to damage of interlocutor's negative face. All acts have the potential to damage face and therefore there is no utterance that can be said to be inherently polite or impolite. Politicians are role models and national leaders of the people and therefore it is vital that they attend to the face needs of their colleagues in order to communicate effectively. However, sometimes, politicians have been condemned for speaking without thinking about the impact and weight of what they are saying. When effective communication is not achieved, leaders may end up embarrassing themselves and creating a negative impact to the public. Studies have been conducted on negative FTAs used in different contexts. Parliamentary studies have concentrated on other aspects such as language and power, language and gender and hate speech. A study on negative face threatening acts in parliamentary discourse is also necessary. This is the gap that this paper intended to fill.

1.4. Theoretical Framework

Politeness theory by Brown and Levinson (1987) was used in this paper. This theory is based on existence of speakers and listeners. Being polite is an attempt for the speaker to save their own face or the face of the listener. This theory is built of the notion of face, face threatening acts and politeness strategies. Brown and Levinson (1987) define negative face as the want of every competent adult member that his actions be unimpeded by others. Negative face threatening acts impede upon hearer's negative face. The researcher used this theory to identify negative face threatening acts that were used by members of national assembly. Negative FTAs are orders, requests, advice, threats, warnings, compliments, envy expressions, admiration, offers, promises and expressions of hatred, anger and disgust.

This theory helped in categorizing negative FTAs that were used by members of national assembly in various categories.

II. METHODOLOGY

The population of the study consisted of all negative face threatening acts used by members of the 12th National Assembly in parliamentary debates. The sampling technique that was used in this paper was purposive sampling. Speeches were collected for a period of five parliamentary sessions which provided adequate data for analysis. Extracts from the 12th parliament proceedings were retrieved from Hansard and then content analysis of the speeches was done in order to identify relevant excerpts that contained negative face threatening acts. Regarding ethical considerations this research used data from the Hansard which is in the public domain and so no pseudonyms were used to conceal anonymity.

III. Negative Face Threatening Acts Used by Kenya's Members Of National Assembly

3.1. Negative Face Threatening Acts.

Negative FTAs that were identified by the researcher are: orders, requests, advices, threats, warnings, promises, compliments and expressions of anger.

3.1.1. Orders

The hearer's negative face is threatened by orders since the speaker gives an order indicating that the hearer has no choice of action but to do what the speaker wants. This is contrary to hearer's desire to do anything freely as he/she wishes without being pressured. *FTA 1* and 2 provide more details.

NFTA 1

Hon. Aden Duale: Hon. Speaker, as per the calendar, the house will resume in February. I want you to use your powers now and ask him (Hon Katoo) to give us an answer before the house goes on recess.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Katoo, are you able to respond to that?

Hon. Katoo: Hon. Speaker, I will respond on Wednesday.

In this utterance, Hon. Duale threatens the speaker's negative face by giving him an order. This happens after he realizes that the house is going on recess for two months although his questions that he had forwarded to Hon. Katoo's committee have not yet been responded to. Hon. Duale had earlier enquired about payment and documentation of cheques issued to some Kenyans. He had also questioned why Hon. Katoo had not responded to MPs requests for statements. He gives an order to the speaker by using the phrase *'I want you to...'* This is an attempt to change the speaker's mind to use his power as the speaker of the house to force Hon. Katoo to respond to questions before the house breaks for Christmas holiday. An order, according to Brown &

Levinson (1987), pressures a hearer to act in the way the speaker wants. Therefore, through the use of this order, the speaker does as Hon. Duale wants and makes Hon. Katoo commit himself to reply to the MPs question the following week on Wednesday. *FTA 2* also illustrates this.

NFTA 2

Hon. John Mutunga: Hon. deputy speaker, allow me to donate five minutes. One minute each to five members.

Hon. Deputy speaker: I cannot accept that Hon. Mutunga. You must mention their names. I can only allow two.

Hon. John Mutunga: Okay Hon. deputy speaker, I donate one minute to Hon. Iringo and another one to Hon. Nasi.

Hon. John Mutunga wants to donate minutes of his time to his colleagues. However, the deputy speaker can only allow him to donate two minutes only to two members. To do this, he must mention their names. This prompts the deputy speaker to give an order to Hon. Mutunga. He commands him to mention the names of the people he would like to give a chance to. This order is a FTA because Hon. Mutunga is acting, not on his own want, but due to pressure from the deputy speaker. Accordingly, the use of an order by the deputy speaker makes Hon. Mutunga to act as the speaker wants and donates two minutes to two MPs. The deputy speaker does not attempt to reduce the effect of the face threat by use of politeness markers such as 'please' or 'could you'. The FTA is therefore said in a clear, direct and concise way. Consequently, power plays a vital role in orders where, for instance, in the National Assembly, the speaker and the deputy speaker have more power than other MPs and so they address them using imperatives. Due to parliamentary context, MPs are able to understand that orders are not meant to be rude. Through the use of imperatives, a speaker makes a hearer to perform an act.

3.1.2. Requests

The members of parliament also use requests in their speeches. A request, according to Brown & Levinson (1987) acts as a potential threat to negative face of the hearer because just like orders, the speaker is trying to make the hearer to perform or not perform an act. This is contrary to the hearer's negative face want of the desire not to be imposed upon. *FTA 3, 4 and 5* illustrate this.

NFTA 3

Hon. Jude Njomo: Thankyou Hon. Speaker. I wish to request a statement from the chair of the committee regarding the pending bills in respect to construction of single accommodation works of DOD (Department of Defence).

The request in *FTA3* is in form of a statement addressed to the chair of the committee of defence who is expected to respond positively by providing the statement. The speaker expects the hearer to give a statement which impinges upon his/her negative face. This goes against negative politeness since Hon. Njomo does not intend to avoid impending hearer's freedom of action. Through this utterance, it can be observed that requests stated clearly make the hearer understand what the speaker's command is. However, this request goes against the addressee's desire for autonomy.

NFTA 4

Hon. Wangari Mwaniki: Hon. Speaker, I stand here to make a statement regarding the passing away of Onesmas Mwangi, the former MP for Kigumo constituency.

I am kindly requesting this house to stand and pay tribute to the late Hon. MP by observing a minute of silence. Thankyou.

(A moment of silence is observed.)

In this utterance, Hon. Wangari requests her colleagues to rise and observe a minute of silence for a former MP who had passed on. Through this request, Hon. Mwaniki threatens the negative face of the other MPs since their freedom of action is obstructed. Hon. Wangari's request is expected to stop normal parliamentary proceedings. Consequently, for this request to be accepted, she softens the request through the use of the words 'I am kindly requesting....' This lessens the potential face threat towards the addressees. The MPs react to this request by standing and observing a minute of silence.

NFTA 5

Hon. Deputy speaker: Will you contribute to this motion Hon. Oundo?

Hon. Oundo: Yes

Hon. Deputy speaker: You will do so after Hon. Sankok because I have already pressed your card.

The deputy speaker requests Hon. Oundo to contribute to the ongoing motion. This request is in form of a question. The hearer is expected to give information or to perform an act through the use of a request. This request is a threat to Hon. Oundo's negative face. A request, according to Brown & Levinson (1987) can be seen as coercion since the speaker tries to make the hearer do as he wants. The hearer's freedom of choice of action is therefore not respected. Speakers can make use of modals such as 'could you', 'would you', 'can you' and 'may you' to make requests. The use of these auxiliaries indirectly imposes a speaker's want to the hearer. Hon. Deputy speaker in *FTA 5* uses modal auxiliary 'will' to reduce the weight of the FTA to the hearer. Therefore, requests are used by a speaker to make a postulation to an addressee to deliver speaker's intention. Hon. Oundo in *FTA 5* responds by accepting to contribute to the motion after Hon. Sankok.

3.1.3. Advice

An advice threatens hearer's negative face because it indicates that the hearer has to do a certain act. It can also indicate that the hearer is wrong and therefore needs to follow speaker's opinion. This impinges upon the hearer and thus his negative face is threatened. This can be seen in *FTA 6-8*.

NFTA 6

Hon. Sabina Chege: Hon. Speaker, I thank the BAC (Budget and Appropriation Committee) for giving back the money for UHC (Universal Health Coverage) to health. ...it is not clear when that money goes to counties. There is no agreement between national and county governments. Mr. Speaker, the National Treasury and the Budget and Appropriation Committee are actually like an engine in the running of Government. So, it is imperative that they get organized. ...I propose that before they present the budget, they should sit with each department. They should make sure that the proposals are very clear.

Hon. Sabina advises members of Budget and Appropriation Committee to sit and discuss with all the relevant departments before they present the budget. She also suggests that they should ensure that their proposals are very clear. This advice impedes upon the members of the committee's desire to act independently and not be imposed upon. Hon. Sabina also insinuates that their proposals are not clear which is an indication that they did not do a thorough job before presenting the proposals in parliament. Brown & Levinson (1987) argue that an advice, though it is beneficial to the hearer, puts pressure on him/her which may make him/her humble himself/herself and do as the speaker wants. The act may offend the hearer. Thus, an advice could threaten hearer's face since the hearer's desire for autonomy is encroached.

NFTA 7

Deputy speaker: Next, we shall have the member for Kilifi North.

Hon. Baya: Thankyou Hon. Deputy speaker. I will propose several amendments to this bill. I congratulate Hon. Kamket for bringing this bill. ...you can imagine in my constituency which has many poor areas, only one ward has been identified. ...this thing was done by CRA (Commission on Revenue Allocation) with bias. They have included non-marginalized areas.

(Hon. Baya coughs and loses his voice)

I am losing my voice because it is very hurting seeing what we are doing. This list must be scrutinized. ... there is an attempt to continue to marginalize already marginalized areas. You cannot take all the money to already developed areas.

(Hon. Baya coughs)

Deputy speaker: Hon. Baya, take some water. Hon. Milemba is not a good neighbour. He ran away from you instead of giving you water. I am sure you will find some. Hon. Omulele, what is your point of order? Hon. Omulele: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Hon. Milemba did not run away, he was only coming to join member for Luanda. We suffer the same because we are marginalized.

The deputy speaker advises Hon. Baya to take some water after coughing and losing his voice while giving his speech. This is because he seems angered by choice of marginalized areas by Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA). The areas are set to receive money for development. The speaker's intention is to help Hon. Baya stop coughing so that he can feel comfortable. Such an advice, according to Brown and Levinson (1987) makes the hearer feel pressure to act as the speaker's utterance states, thus he/she does not do it by his/her own will which threatens his/her desire for choice of actions without feeling pressured. Hon. Milemba's face as a good and caring neighbour is also at a threat since it is revealed that he run away from Hon. Baya instead of helping him. However, Hon. Omulele helps save his face by revealing to the house that Hon. Milemba did not run away, rather he decided to join member for Luanda since they both suffer the same issue of marginalized communities. A face threatening act does not always give a negative evaluation of the hearer since

it can be done for the benefit of the hearer. For instance, in *FTA7*, the deputy speaker's advice is geared towards helping Hon. Baya. Therefore, a FTA could be done by a speaker for the benefit of an addressee.

NFTA 8

Hon. Aden Duale: I ask Moses Kuria to know he has enough time to campaign for his presidential ambition. He will lose much time. ...he needs to go and popularize his candidature.

In the *FTA 8*, Hon. Duale advises Hon. Kuria to go and popularize his desire to run for presidential race for 2022 outside the parliament. The use of advice can make the hearer be offended because it assumes that the speaker is more experienced and has more knowledge than the hearer. For instance, Hon. Duale reminds Hon. Kuria that he will lose much time if he does not popularize his candidature. This advice is stated directly so that the message is not interpreted in any other way by the addressee. Hon. Duale's message to Hon. Kuria is that he should stop popularizing his interest for the presidential race in parliament and instead go to the people outside the parliament since they have the votes. *FTA 6* also reveals that the committee members have not made their proposals clear and hence there are gaps. An advice therefore threatens hearer's negative face by making him/her to act in a way that the speaker wishes. In summary, *FTA 6,7* and *8* indicate that an advice to the speaker can be a potential threat to face. wherefore, an advice is used by a speaker to show that he cares about a hearer and would like the hearer to do something.

3.1.4. Threats

A threat is an expression whose intention is to punish/injure another person. Threats indicate a forthcoming danger. Threats threaten hearer's negative face since through giving threats, the speaker suppresses the hearer and impinges upon his/her autonomy. A threat can function as a strategy to influence the hearer to act in a certain manner. The following data illustrate this.

NFTA 9

Hon. Clement Kiguno: Thankyou Hon. speaker. You are going to open the flood gates the moment you allow this (summit meeting). The so-called bishops like Ng'ang'a and others will be the next to apply to use this house. Hon. Speaker, remember this is also a ground for your removal.

Hon. Kiguno threatens the speaker that if he allows outsiders to use parliament chambers for their meeting, they will impeach/remove him from the house. This follows after the speaker informs the house that there would be a summit meeting by International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) which would take place in Nairobi and that they had requested to use the chambers for the meeting. Hon. Kiguno's threat towards the speaker acts as a warning in that, he threatens to impeach the speaker so as to influence his negative face not to allow any intruder conduct business in parliamentary buildings. The speaker's freedom of choice is therefore impinged upon. Therefore, it is evident that threats are inherently impolite and unavoidably threaten hearer's face. Threats can be used to give a warning to addressees thus influencing their choice of action.

NFTA 10

Hon. Aden Duale: I want to make it very clear that we will forcefully remove them (summit members) if they mention anything about gaysm and lesbianism. When you go to Rome, respect their way of life.

Referring to the same issue in *FTA 9*, Hon. Duale also threatens to use force to chase members of the summit in case they want to discuss issues that are contrary to African culture. He reminds the speaker that parliament is not a place for such discussions as homosexuality. This threat is also meant to convince the speaker of the house not to allow the summit take place in the chambers. This pressures the speaker to act in the way MPs want. He denies the members of the summit permission to hold their meeting in parliament. Power relations can manifest themselves through use of threats. Interlocutors who perceive themselves as having more power in a conversation are more likely to use threats to their addressees. Hon. Duale, in *FTA 10* is the leader of the majority party and so uses his power to convince the speaker not to allow foreign delegates to assemble in the chambers and discuss issues relating to homosexuality. Therefore, threats deny hearers freedom of action thus a FTA. His negative face is therefore threatened.

NFTA 11

Hon. Passaris: Mr. speaker, I would like to raise a matter that happened on 21st November regarding misconduct of a member.
Hon. Speaker: Which member?

Hon. Passaris: Member for Kimilili, Hon. Didmus. The Hansard is here Hon. Speaker.
Hon. Speaker: Read it out.

(Hon. Passaris grimaces at Hon. Barasa)

Hon. Didmus Barasa: What are you doing? Stupid! I can punch you.

Hon. Esther Passaris: Who do you think you are? You cannot punch me.

Hon. Didmus Barasa: Who are you? Why are you accusing me? For what purpose? You are becoming unruly. I will.... Stupid!

In *FTA 11*, Hon. Barasa threatens to punch Hon. Passaris who tries to accuse him of misconduct in the house during a past parliamentary sitting. She makes faces to Hon. Barasa as she stands to read what Hon. Barasa had said from the Hansard. This angers Hon. Barasa who threatens to punch her. This threat is a FTA that portrays both members negatively leading to embarrassment in the house. From the above examples, it is clear that threats are inherently impolite and unavoidably threaten hearer's face.

3.1.5. Warnings

When a speaker warns the hearer, the hearer's negative face wants that his/her actions be unobstructed by others, is impeded. The hearer's freedom to act is tampered with. This is evident in the following FTAs from MP's speeches.

NFTA 12

Hon. Aden Duale: There are members speaking behind me Mr. speaker. That should stop. Only two languages can be spoken in parliament.

NFTA 13

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Millie Odhiambo I see you have an intervention. You should not shout.

Hon. Duale, in *FTA 12* intervenes through the speaker's permission and gives a warning to two MPs speaking in their local language in parliament. He also warns them that mother tongue is not allowed in the chambers. A warning in this case serves to make the hearer stop what he/she is doing and act in the way that the speaker wishes. Their freedom from imposition is impinged upon. This leads to negative face threat towards the hearer. In this instance, Hon. Duale uses his power as the majority leader to give warnings aimed at influencing MPs making noise behind him to keep quiet. This warning is a FTA aimed at influencing an addressee's actions.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo in *FTA 13* shouts to capture the attention of the speaker. This is after she tries to get the speaker to notice her without success. The act of shouting is unparliamentary since MPs with interventions are required to plug in a card that reflects on the speaker's screen who notices them and gives them a chance. This act angers the speaker who in turn gives her a stern warning that that should not happen. Warning makes the hearer embarrassed since his/her negative face is threatened. The use of modals such as *should*, *must* and *ought* show a strong obligation towards the addressee. The modal '*should*' in *FTA13* is used for emphasis to warn Hon. Odhiambo that shouting is unparliamentary.

NFTA 14

Hon Raphael Wanjala: I stand to support this motion.... Kabla sija...
Deputy speaker: You cannot mix English and Kiswahili in the house.

The deputy speaker warns Hon. Wanjala against code mixing since standing orders only allows a member to use either English or Kiswahili during one speech event. This puts pressure on him to be apologetic and start his speech using one language. His freedom from imposition is threatened. Hearer's negative face is at threat when given a warning by the speaker. This is because warnings seek to make the hearer refrain from doing an act and instead do as the speaker wants. Therefore, warnings are potential threats to face because the addressee is forced to do what the speaker wants. This can also be seen in *FTA 15*.

NFTA 15

Hon. Speaker: I see members very busy communicating on phone and not following the proceedings. Tell your constituents to watch TV and see that the house is sitting. Do not be a slave. I always see members busy being called by villagers telling him they can see he is speaking very well. Do not be their slave. We will not bend rules.

In *FTA 15*, the speaker gives a warning to the MPs who are always busy chatting on their phones while parliamentary proceedings are on progress. The MPs negative face is threatened by this utterance. Their freedom

of choice is impeded because they are given no other option but to be attentive and avoid disruptions since the rules of parliament cannot be bent to accommodate such behaviour. Their negative face wants, their freedom to act is impinged upon. This warning is stated directly and it inherently threatens the addressee's face. Therefore, the above examples show that warnings can be used to influence hearer's behaviour. Warnings therefore threaten hearer's negative face desire that his/her actions be unobstructed by others.

3.1.6. Promises

MPs make promises in their discourse. According to Brown & Levinson (1987), a promise puts pressure on the hearer to accept or even reject them which would possibly make them incur a debt. Promises make the speaker have a possible debt towards the hearer that has to be fulfilled. *FTA 16-18* illustrate this.

NFTA 16

Hon. Speaker: Let us hear from the chairman of the Departmental Committee on Agriculture and Livestock how much time he needs.

Hon. Ali Adan: Thankyou Mr. speaker ... this statement requires full inquiry. I will go by 60 days to come up with proper inquiry into the case.

In *FTA 16*, Hon. Ali Adan promises MPs that in 60 days time, he will come up with proper inquiry into a case involving inquiry into challenges facing dairy farmers and give a feedback. Brown & Levinson (1987) explain that such utterances pressure the hearer to accept a speaker's point of view and wait for the promise to be fulfilled. Promises may force the hearer to accept a debt whether he/she likes it or not. For instance, in *FTA 16*, the addressees have no option but to wait for three months for Hon. Ali to do inquiries. The speaker in this case makes a promise in order to get sufficient time to do inquiries. This is also seen in *FTA 17*.

NFTA 17

(Hon. Jimmy Angwenyi stands up)

Deputy speaker: Hon. Angwenyi I assure you that you will get a chance but let us have Hon. Opiyo contributing before you.

In *FTA 17*, the deputy speaker promises Hon. Angwenyi a chance to speak after Hon. Opiyo. This pressures Hon. Angwenyi to sit down and keep waiting. The act of promising makes the hearer incur a debt of waiting for the promise to be fulfilled. Promises also make the speaker incur a debt and they can also damage the speaker's own face. Brown & Levinson (1987) state that when a speaker makes a promise, he commits himself to some act to fulfil the promise. For instance, in *FTA 16*, Hon Adan commits himself to do proper inquiry in 60 days while in *FTA 17* the deputy speaker commits himself to a future act of giving Hon. Angwenyi the floor after Hon. Opiyo. He is later given a chance to address the house thus the speaker keeps his promise. Therefore, promises can predict a positive future act since the speaker works towards fulfilling the promise. Making a promise is a FTA against hearer's face but the promise is made to benefit the hearer in a way. If the speaker fails to fulfil the promise, he risks losing his public self-image. He loses his desire to be liked, admired and related to positively since he will be seen as a liar who cannot keep promises.

NFTA 18

Hon. Joseph Limo: Thankyou Hon. Speaker. As I promised on Thursday, we have received a statement from KNBS (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics) about the question raised by Hon Abdullah.

In *FTA 18*, Hon. Limo had made a promise to the MPs to forward a statement from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics regarding Hon. Abdullah's question. This promise puts pressure on him to fulfil it. It also pressures the hearers to wait further for a statement. Promises made by a speaker persuades the hearer to change his present state of mind in order to enjoy the promise later when it is fulfilled. However, a promise could violate a speaker's freedom of choice if the speaker is forced to make an unwilling promise/offer. He/she commits himself to a future action that must be fulfilled to appeal to his face. Promises may also be used to persuade the hearer. Making a promise could convince the hearer to accept or do something. For example, in *FTA 17*, the deputy speaker successfully persuades Hon. Angwenyi to sit and wait since his turn would be come next after Hon. Opiyo.

3.1.7. Compliments

A compliment is an expression whose intention is to give praise to someone for something. Compliments express a speaker's favourable opinions towards the hearer. A compliment is a threat to hearer's negative face needs because it impinges on hearer's desire of autonomy. The hearer is also pressured to accept

the compliment which may not be his/her desire. The hearer's claim to territories, personal preserve and right to non-distraction is impinged on. The hearer loses his independence and autonomy. The FTA below is an illustration of this.

NFTA 19

Hon. Millie Odhiambo: Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and encourage him to pull up his socks. When I say this, it does not mean you are doing badly, you are doing very well but as I said yesterday, committees led by women are doing much better. You are doing very well... Hon. Wandayi is also doing very well. Deputy speaker: Hon. Wandayi seems to be super excited.

In this FTA, Hon. Millie Odhiambo compliments the chairman of Parliamentary Service Committee (PSC) and Hon. Wandayi indicating that they are doing very well. This pressures them to act positively towards the compliment. The speaker also risks losing his positive face because the hearer may choose not to react towards the compliment by thanking the speaker. This could lead to a speaker being embarrassed. The hearer's desire for privacy is impinged upon by compliments hence it is a negative FTA. A compliment reduces the social distance between a speaker and a hearer since it shows that the speaker is concerned about the hearer and notices some positive aspects about the hearer. Therefore, in parliamentary context, compliments are polite expressions meant to praise, commend and show admiration towards the addressee. However, a compliment may threaten hearer's face sometimes.

3.1.8 Expressions of Anger

Expressions of anger are evident in MPs discourse. They reveal that the speaker is irritated, displeased and enraged about something. These expressions damage addressee's negative face since they obstruct addressee's actions. This may cause disharmony and disagreements between interacting parties.

NFTA 20

Hon. Aden Duale: Hon. Speaker, can you tell the chair of BAC (Budget and Appropriation Committee) and the member of parliament for Kirinyaga that the way they are talking is not parliamentary. In fact, even how close they are... this is not a club. You must leave your behaviour outside. They are my friends but it is like they have been playing another game.

Hon. Aden Duale is angered by how two MPs are seated close to each other and making noise during proceedings when they should be quiet and listening. This leads him to react by asking the speaker to order them to shut up. Such acts of anger damage the hearer's negative face. It makes the hearer lose his/her negative face want since the speaker utters a locution trying to pressure the hearer to act in a way. The speaker may also end up losing his own face. For instance, in this case, Hon. Duale ends up ordering the speaker to tell the MPs to shut up hence he also threatens the speaker's negative face. Hon. Duale also loses his Positive face because he orders the speaker who is more powerful since he controls the motion. Expressions of anger are positive FTAs. They are stated directly and hence they are effectively understood. They make the hearer to perform an action.

NFTA 21

Hon. Kassait: ... therefore, this bill does a bottom up approach...
(Hon. Kabinga and King'ara talk)
Deputy speaker: Order members. You cannot be the interface between the speaker and Hon. Kassait.

In *FTA 21*, the deputy speaker is angered due to disruption caused by Hon. Kabinga and Hon. King'ara. He reacts angrily by reminding them that they should never be a barrier to proper communication between the speaker and the members. This makes Hon. Kabinga and Hon. King'ara lose their negative face since their desire for freedom is impinged on. Expressions of anger are therefore used by MPs against their colleagues. These expressions influence hearer's behaviour to act the way the speaker wants. For instance, the addressees in *FTA 20* react to the FTA by shutting up and keeping distance from each other. In *FTA 21*, they react by maintaining silence hence restoring their face.

IV. CONCLUSION

MPs use negative face threatening acts in their discourse. Negative FTAs occurred in form of expressions of anger, compliments, promises, warnings, threats, advice, requests and orders. They occurred twenty-one times in this paper which consisted of forty percent of the total face threatening acts that were used by members of the National Assembly. This shows that more positive FTAs are employed by Kenya's members

of National Assembly as compared to negative FTAs. Negative FTAs put pressure on the hearer since the speaker used these FTAs in an attempt to make the hearer to either perform or not perform an act. This impinged hearer's freedom of choice and autonomy.

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