

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS

This chapter presents the demographic data of the participants and research findings. Demographic data is perceived from the questionnaire “Part 1: Personal Information” such as age range, gender, duration of stay in the current residing country and ways of learning English of the participants are summarized. Research findings are presented in two parts in order to give results to the two main objectives of the study.

Findings of the types of compliment responses strategies employed by three groups of Myanmar in the United States of America (MA), the Republic of Singapore (MS) and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (MM) in Kachru’s Three Concentric Circles of English are firstly presented and then followed by the findings of the similarities and differences of the use of compliment responses strategies by two groups of Myanmar in foreign countries (MA and MS), and a group in a mother country (MM).

4.1 Demographic Data of the Participants

The total number of 45 participants is divided into 3 groups, MA, MS and MM. The age range of the participants is between 20 to 30 years old. Additional information of three groups of participants is shown in Table 6.

Table 6 Personal Information of the Participants

	Age Range	Gender		Duration				Ways of Learning English							
		M	F	> 1 yr	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs	< 5 yrs	Classes	Reading	Watching	Listening	Others			
MA	21-30	6	9	2	6	7	0	13	9	14	12	6			
MS	20-30	7	8	0	4	4	7	7	7	14	14	0			
MM	22-29	6	9	0	0	0	0	9	11	13	14	2			
	English Proficiency- Father					English Proficiency- Mother					English Proficiency- Self				
	No.	Bas.	Int.	Gd.	Ex.	No.	Bas.	Int.	Gd.	Ex.	No.	Bas.	Int.	Gd.	Ex.
MA	0	1	4	8	2	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	3	8	4
MS	0	6	4	4	1	1	8	6	0	0	0	0	6	8	1
MM	0	7	3	5	0	0	7	4	4	0	0	0	2	13	0

MA group, Myanmar participants in the United States of America group is made up of 15 participants, 6 males and 9 females. Most of the participants are in the U.S for 3 to 5 years and 1 to 2 years but there are no participants who live there for more than 5 years in this group. Most of them learn and improve English by taking classes, watching movies and practice speaking with the native speakers. Most of them said their fathers and they have good English and the mothers' level of English is varied from basic to good.

MS group, Myanmar participants in the Republic of Singapore is made up of 15 participants, 7 males and 8 females. Most of the participants have been living in Singapore for more than 5 years. Participants learn and improve their English by watching movies and listening to music. Most of them said that the parents have basics English the participants themselves have good English.

MM group, Myanmar participants in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is made up of 15 participants, 6 males and 9 females. A few of them had been in the foreign countries for 1 to 2 years. Most of them learn and improve their English by all means that were given in the questionnaire. They take English classes, read books, watch movies and listen to music. Most of them said that the parents have basics English and they have good English.

4.2 Research Findings

4.2.1 Compliment Responses Strategies Employed by Three Groups of Myanmar

The data from the questionnaire were analyzed and presented into bar charts shown as Diagram 5 and Diagram 6. Diagram 5 described the general pattern of macro levels' five categories: Accept, Reject, Deflect or Evade, No Response and Non-Verbal Response and Diagram 6 showed the micro levels' ten sub-categories of compliment responses strategies employed by MA, MS and MM participants in Kachru's Three Concentric English.

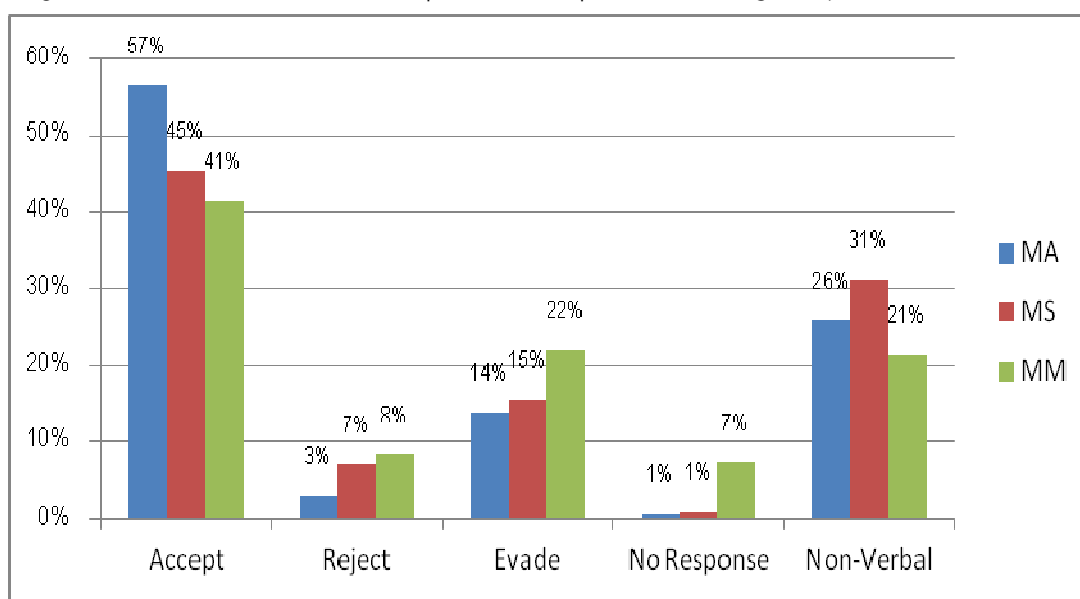
Diagram 5 Macro Levels of Compliment Responses Strategies by MA, MS and MM

Diagram 5 represented the results of the compliment responses strategies in the macro levels employed by Myanmar participants in the United States of America (MA), the Republic of Singapore (MS) and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (MM).

1) Accept

“Accept” was the first compliment responses strategy in the macro levels with four sub-types: Appreciation Token, Agreeing Utterance, Downgrading Qualifying Utterance and Returning Compliment. As shown in Diagram 5, the use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 57%, 45% and 41% respectively, the most significantly used strategy by all three groups of participants. MA was found to be the highest in using this strategy, followed by MS and MM.

- a) Thank you very much.
- b) Yeah! Nice colour, I love it too.
- c) Yes, of course. I'm lucky for having such one.

2) Reject

“Reject” was the second compliment responses strategy in the macro levels with three sub-types: Disagreeing Utterance, Question Accuracy and Challenging Sincerity in the micro levels. The findings revealed that rejecting compliments were

the least employed compliment responses strategy and MM was the group that frequently used this strategy, then; followed by MS and MA for 8%, 7% and 3%.

- a) Oh, it's nothing.
- b) I'm not that good.
- c) Really? I don't think so.

3) Deflect or Evade

“Deflect or Evade” was the third compliment responses strategy in the macro levels with three sub-types: Shift Credit, Informative Comment and Request Reassurance. The results showed that the use of “Deflect or Evade” by the participants was less than “Accept” but more than “Reject”. The use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 14%, 15% and 22% respectively. Among three groups, MM was found to be the highest in using this strategy followed by MS and MA with similar percentage.

- a) I got it from my mom.
- b) My pleasure and welcome to my country.
- c) You must be kidding.

4) No Response

“No Response” was an additional compliment responses strategy attached to the framework of Holme's (1986 ; 1988) Compliment Responses Strategies Categorization in this research in order to see how this strategy was frequently used by the participants. The results came out for MA, MS and MM were 1%, 1% and 7% respectively. It showed that this strategy was highly used by MM for 7% while MA and MS used for 1% only by each group.

5) Non-Verbal Response

“Non-Verbal Response” was also an additional compliment responses strategy added to the framework of Holme's (1986 ; 1988) Compliment Responses Strategies Categorization to observe the use of non-verbal actions and expressions by the participants while responding to the compliments. Non-Verbal Responses found in this research were smile, laugh, giggle, look over, look over legs, nod, thumbs up, shake hands, touch shoulder, cover legs, passionate gesture, hug and open a present. It was the second most significant strategy that came after “Accept”; higher than other strategies “Reject”, “Deflect or Evade” and “No Response”. Among three groups,

MS was the highest group using this strategy, followed by MA and MM for 31%, 26% and 21% respectively. Occurrences of Non-Verbal Responses were found in three different ways as below.

5.1) Non-Verbal Response

Participants gave any verbal or non-verbal responses when they tried to pretend that they do not hear the compliments.

5.2) Non-Verbal Response and Verbal Response

Participants gave compliment responses in verbal utterances, along with a non-verbal response.

5.3) Non-Verbal Response and No Response

Participants gave any compliment responses verbally but a non-verbal response was given such as showing facial expression such as a smile/ laugh or using body language such as shaking hands.

Diagram 6 Micro Levels of Compliment Responses Strategies by MA, MS and MM

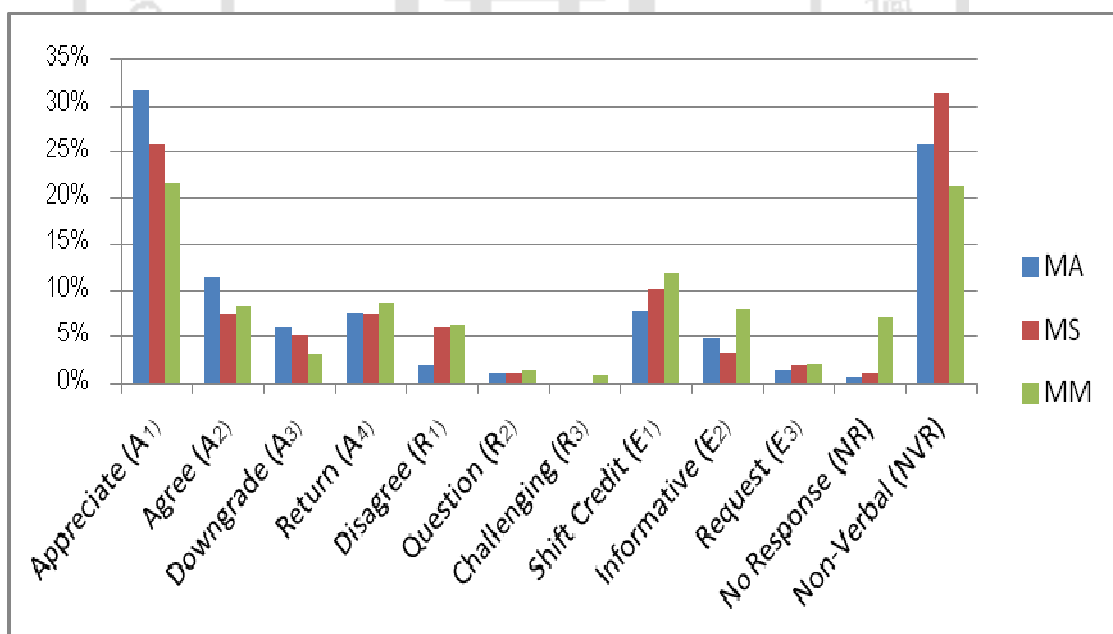


Table 7 Micro Levels of Compliment Responses Strategies by MA, MS and MM

Macro Level	Micro Level	MA (%)	MS (%)	MM (%)
Accept	Appreciation Token (A1)	32	26	22
	Agreeing Utterance (A2)	11	7	8
	Downgrading Qualifying Utterance (A3)	6	5	3
	Returning Compliment (A4)	7	7	9
	Total	56	35	42
Reject	Disagreeing Utterance (R1)	2	6	6
	Question Accuracy (R2)	1	1	1
	Challenging Sincerity (R3)	0	0	1
	Total	3	7	8
Deflect/Evade	Shift Credit (E1)	8	10	12
	Informative Comment (E2)	5	3	8
	Request Reassurance (E3)	1	2	2
	Total	14	15	22
No Response	No Response (NR)	1	1	7
Non-Verbal Response	Non-Verbal Response (NVR)	26	31	21

Diagram 6 and Table 7 showed the results of the compliment responses strategies in the micro levels employed by Myanmar participants in the United States of America (MA), the Republic of Singapore (MS) and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (MM).

1) Appreciation Token (A1)

“Appreciation Token” was the first sub-type of the macro category “Accept”, described as A1 in the figure. The use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 32%, 26% and 22%. Participants used this strategy to show their appreciation to the complimenters and utterances found in the questionnaire were as follows:

- a) Thank you.
- b) Yes, it is.
- c) Thanks a lot.

2) Agreeing Utterance (A2)

“Agreeing Utterance” was the second sub-type of the macro category “Accept”, described as A2 in the figure. The use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 11%, 7% and 8%. Participants applied this strategy when they agreed with the complimenters and utterances found in the questionnaire were as follows:

- a) I’m glad I could help.
- b) I know.
- c) I love it so much.

3) Downgrading Qualifying Utterance (A3)

“Downgrading Qualifying Utterance” was the second last sub-type of the macro category “Accept”, described as A3 in the figure. The use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 6%, 5% and 3%. Participants used this strategy when they wanted to reduce the weight of the received compliments and utterances found in the questionnaire were as follows:

- a) It’s ok, not to mention.
- b) No problem.
- c) It’s nothing.

4) Returning Compliment (A4)

“Returning Compliment” was the last sub-type of the macro category “Accept”, described as A4 in the figure. The use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 7%, 7% and 9%. Participants gave compliments to the complimenters in return and utterances found in the questionnaire were as follows:

- a) You did very impressive too.
- b) So you are.
- c) You look nice too.

5) Disagreeing Utterance (R1)

“Disagreeing Utterance” was the first sub-type of the macro category “Reject”, described as R1 in the figure. The use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 2%, 6% and 6%. Participants applied this strategy when they wanted to show their disagreements to the complimenters and utterances found in the questionnaire were as follows:

- a) I don’t think I have a great one.
- b) That’s not true though.
- c) Oh, actually not.

6) Question Accuracy (R2)

“Question Accuracy” was the second sub-type of the macro category “Reject”, described as R2 in the figure. The use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 1% in each group. Participants asked questions to the compliment in order to reject the compliments indirectly and utterances found in the questionnaire were as follows:

- a) Right?
- b) Is it?
- c) Do you think so?

7) Challenging Sincerity (R3)

“Challenging Sincerity” was the last sub-type of the macro strategy “Reject”, described as R3 in the figure. There was no use of this strategy by MA and MS groups but MM group used for 1%. This strategy was employed when the participant disagreed with the complimenter and utterances found in the questionnaire are as follows:

- a) You must be kidding.
- b) You must be joking.

8) Shift Credit (E1)

“Shift Credit” was the first sub-type of the macro strategy “Deflect or Evade”, described as E1 in the figure. The use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 8%, 10% and 12 %. Participants changed the topic or theme of a conversation when they wanted to evade the compliments and utterances found in the questionnaire were as follows:

- a) It is my pleasure to help you.
- b) That was just lucky!
- c) You are always welcome.

9) Informative Comment (E2)

“Informative Comment” was the second sub-type of the macro strategy “Deflect or Evade”, described as E2 in the figure. The use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 5%, 3% and 8%. Participants avoided the compliments by giving information to the complimenter and utterances found in the questionnaire were as follows:

- a) That’s how I decorate it with my own idea.
- b) I love my friends.
- c) I got it free from someone.

10) Request Reassurance (E3)

“Request Reassurance” was the last sub-type of the macro strategy “Deflect or Evade”, shown as E3 in the figure. The use of this strategy by MA, MS and MM were 1%, 2% and 2%. Participants asked questions to the complimenters when they wanted to hear more about the compliments and utterances found in the questionnaire are as follows:

- a) Really?
- b) You just realized?
- c) Is it really nice enough?

4.2.2 Similar and Different Use of Compliment Responses Strategies among Three Groups of Myanmar

The micro levels of Accept, Reject and Deflect or Evade compliment responses strategies based on Diagram 6 were divided into four charts: Diagram 7, Diagram 8, Diagram 9 and Diagram 10. In this part, the results were presented for each sub-category in a comparative pattern.

Diagram 7 Pattern of Accept Strategies by MA, MS and MM

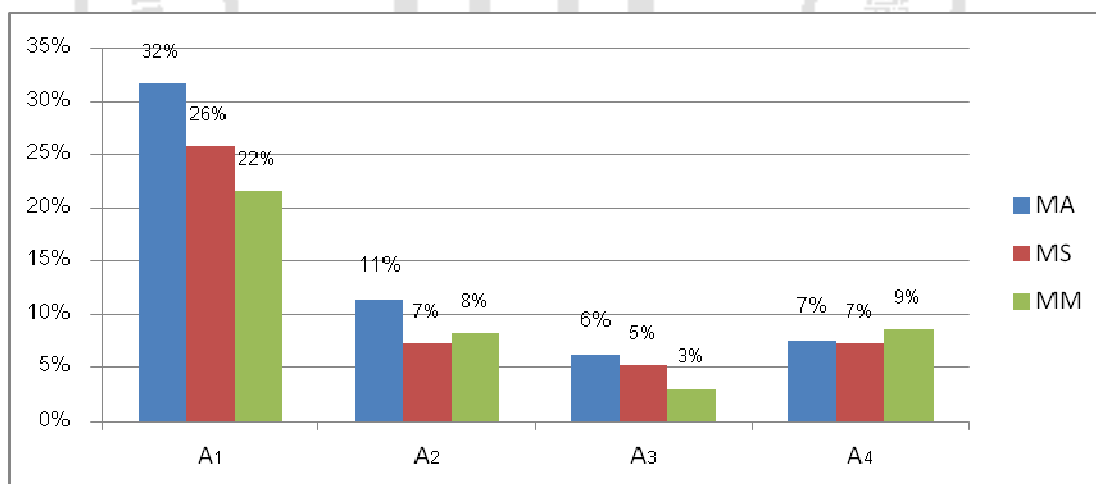


Diagram 7 was the first chart showing the micro compliment responses strategies under the macro “Accept” employed by three groups of participants.

1) Appreciation Token (A1)

The result in this chart showed that the first category “Appreciation Token” was a highly used strategy by all groups. The use of this strategy by MA and MS, 32%

and 26% was higher than MM, 22%. Therefore, the use of this strategy was found to be similar between MA and MS; different from MM.

2) Agreeing Utterance (A2)

“Agreeing Utterance” was the second category which was used by MA group for 11% which was higher than both MS 7% and MM 8%. The use of this strategy is similar between MS and MM; different from MA.

3) Downgrading Qualifying Utterance (A3)

“Downgrading Qualifying Utterance” was the third strategy that MA and MS employed more than two times by MM. The former groups were resulted 6% and 5% while the latter was only found for 3%. Thus, the use of this strategy was similar between MA and MS and different from MM.

4) Returning Compliment (A4)

“Returning Compliment” was the last category and there was a lesser use by MA and MS than MM. Both MA and MS applied this strategy for 7% and MM for 9% showing that the use of this strategy was similar among all groups of participants.

Diagram 8 Pattern of Reject Strategies by MA, MS and MM

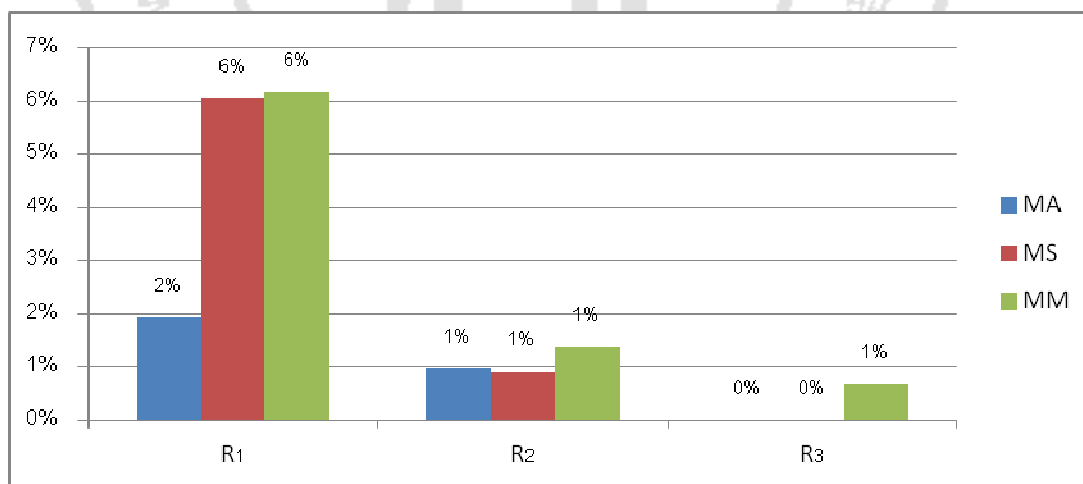


Diagram 8 was the second chart showing the micro compliment responses strategies of the macro “Reject” employed by three groups of participants.

1) Disagreeing Utterance (R1)

“Disagreeing Utterance” was the first sub-category of “Reject” and it was found to a highly used strategy by MS and MM, 6% each while MA, only 2%. In this case, the employment of this strategy by MS is different from MA but similar with MM.

2) Questioning Accuracy (R2)

The use of the second sub-category “Questioning Accuracy” was found to be similar among all three groups since each group applied more or less than 1%.

3) Challenging Sincerity (R3)

“Challenging Sincerity” was the last sub-category of “Reject” and the results showed that it was only applied by the MM.

Diagram 9 Pattern of Deflect/Evade Strategies by MA, MS and MM

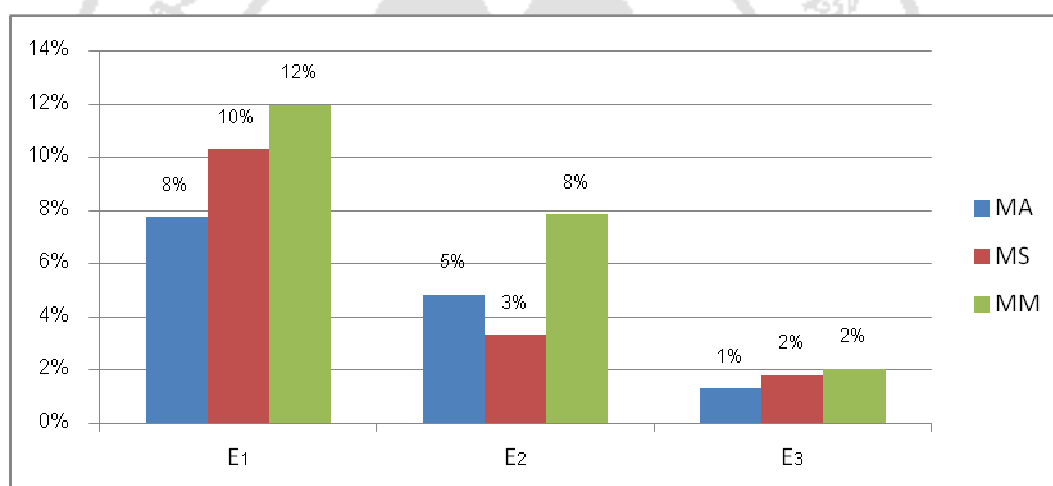


Diagram 9 was the third chart showing the micro compliment responses strategies of the macro “Deflect or Evade” employed by three groups of participants.

1) Shift Credit (E1)

The first sub-category “Shift Credit” of “Deflect or Evade” was the main strategy used by all groups in the micro levels. It was mostly used by MM for 12% and least used by MA for 8%. Among the foreign groups, it was observed that MS used this strategy for 10%, higher than MA for 2% and less than MM for 2%. It can be said that the use of “Shift Credit” by MS was similar to both MA and MM.

2) Informative Comment (E2)

The second sub-category “Informative Comment” was used by MM for 8% which was higher than MA and MS, 5% and 3%. From this result, it can be said that the use of this strategy was similar between MA and MS but different from MM.

3) Request Reassurance (E3)

The last sub-category “Request Reassurance” was employed equally by MS and MM, 2% for each, which was slightly higher than MA 1%.

Diagram 10 Pattern of No Response and Non-Verbal Response Strategies by MA, MS and MM

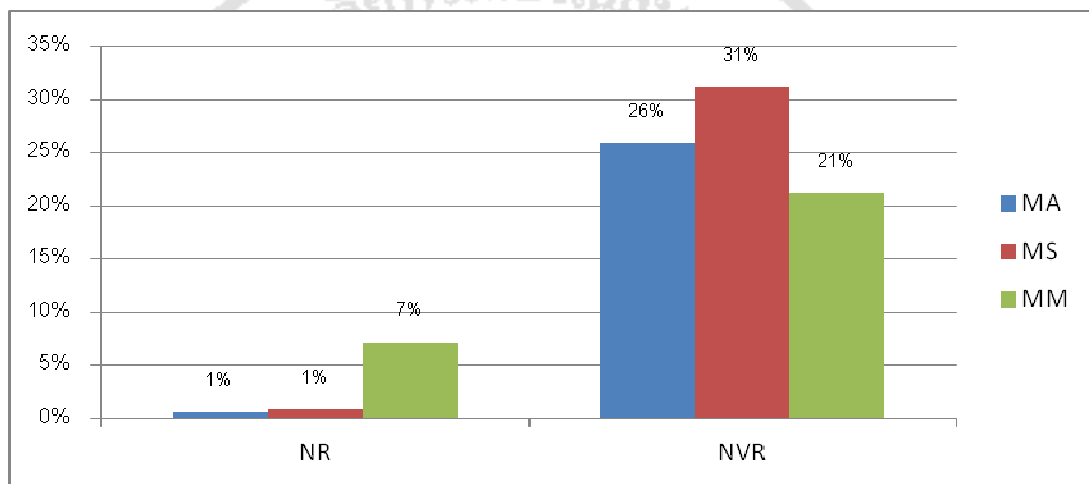


Diagram 10 was the last chart showing the additional compliment responses strategies “No Response” and “Non-Verbal Response” employed by three groups of participants.

1) No Response

MM significantly applied the strategy “No Response” for 7% but MA and MS employed only 1% each. Thus, it can be said that the use of this strategy by MM is different from MA and MS.

2) Non-Verbal Response

The use of “Non-Verbal Response” strategy by MA and MS, 26% and 31% were higher than MM, 21%. Thus, this finding showed that the strategy used between MA and MS were quite similar that were different from MM.