

# AN ANALYSIS OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN *LA LA LAND* MOVIE

Azkiya Salami<sup>1</sup>, Temmy Thamrin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Student of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University

<sup>2</sup>Lecturer of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University

Email: [azkia.salami1204@gmail.com](mailto:azkia.salami1204@gmail.com) , [temmy.thamrin@bunghatta.ac.id](mailto:temmy.thamrin@bunghatta.ac.id).

---

## ABSTRACT

This study is a pragmatic examination of the politeness strategies used by the characters in the film "*LA LA LAND*" (2016). Damien Chazelle directed the film. Brown and Levinson's (1987) theory is applied by the writer. The goals of this study are to (1) identify the types of politeness strategies used in the film "*LA LA LAND*," and (2) What are the factors which influence the use of politeness strategies in the "*LA LA LAND*" movie. All research questions are analysed using the descriptive qualitative method in this research. The data source was *La La Land* movie script. The data were collected by note-taking technique then they were classified and analyzed.

**Keyword: politeness strategies, movie , types of politeness strategies, factor.**

## INTRODUCTION

Politeness is best expressed or described as the practical application of good etiquette, as well as a way of demonstrating respect from one person to another. Politeness can be thought of as a language that facilitates communication between people. Using language to communicate entails putting strategies in place in order to achieve communication goals. In a conversation, utterances appear to convey messages or ideas.

Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness strategies theory includes bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. In other words, one must consider both the language and the context. Politeness is related to behavior, according to Sugono (2008, p.1330). Behavior includes not only actions but also conversation politeness. This case of conversation politeness becomes a problem that is not considered in an interaction, resulting in misunderstanding and communication breakdowns. Using politeness is one way to start a meaningful conversation in society.

The writer decides to observe and analyse the applications of politeness strategies based on the explanation. The purpose of this study is to observe and analyse the use of politeness strategies in the film *La La Land*. The writer chose the film *La La Land* because it combines formal and informal language which is used in the daily conversation and realized that this film contains a lot of politeness strategies due to conversations between characters who are the same age, and conversations between superiors and subordinates .

*La La Land* movie is a musical romantic film. Sebastian and Mia are the main characters, Sebastian is a pianist, and Mia is an actress. They both meet and fall in love. Throughout the film, they must choose between love and a career. *La La Land* movie was released on December 9, 2016. Because watching a movie can be a useful way to learn about other cultures and languages, the writer examines the politeness strategies used by the all characters and the factors which influence the use of politeness strategies in the film *La La Land*.

## METHOD

The writer uses a qualitative method to examine the movie's politeness strategies. The study's obtained data were put through a descriptive analysis. The writer uses Brown and Levinson's theory on politeness strategies to examine the data source regarding the "La La Land" movie. On-record, off-record, positive politeness, and negative politeness strategies are the sorts of politeness strategies that the writer explores.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The research findings from the study are presented in this chapter. It analyses and interprets the research findings in relation to the two stated research questions. The writer uses the where, who, and when information from the previous paragraphs to categorize and analyze the issue.

### [1] Positive Politeness

This conversation happened in Mia's apartment in her room, the participants of this were Alexis, Mia and Greg. Alexis is Mia's friend they live in the same apartment. Greg was Mia's boyfriend he came to Mia's place because they had made an appointment to meet and have dinner with Greg's brother.

Alexis: Mia, Greg's here...

Greg: Hey **babe**... i'm parked out front. But we should hurry, my brother just landed.

Mia looks at him, still confused. Then remembers.

Greg: Did you forget?

Mia: Shit. No. Yes. I'll change...

Greg: It's ok.

In the conversation above Greg used the word *babe* to greet Mia, *babe* is categorized as group identity makers. Greg is Mia's boyfriend that's why he called Mia *babe* to show affection and signify they are in a relationship. Greg used

this strategy because he was influenced by no social distance factor to show familiarity and intimacy to Mia as his lover.

### [2] Negative Politeness

This conversation happened in Sebastian's house, when he came home he was surprised when he saw Laura in his house. Laura was Sebastian's sister.

Sebastian: You've got to stop breaking into my home

Laura: You call this a home?

From the conversation above Laura's sentence 'you call this a home?' categorized as conventional indirect. because she was rude to Sebastian. by entering Sebastian's house without permission. Laura used this strategy because she was influenced by no social distance factor.

### [3] Off The Record

This conversation happened in street after party Mia and Sebastian trudged up a hill filled with cars. they walk and talk while looking for their car.

Mia: (almost tripping in her heels) Shit...

Sebastian: Those look comfortable.

Mia: They are...

In conversation above Sebastian's utterance look comfortable categorized as strategy 8 be ironic because Sebastian said the opposite. When Mia tripped because her shoes were too high to walk on the hiking trail. The factor that influence Sebastian used this politeness strategy was no social distance between them.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Politeness strategies the writer found the most common data found in the La La Land movie are positive politeness 31 data, negative

politeness 15 data and off the record 4 data. The writer did not find any characters used the bald on record strategy. Then in the next table the writer shows the findings of the factors that influence the use of politeness strategies in the La La Land movie. This research provides a suggestion that students who are unaware of the variations between various politeness strategies should learn more about these. Every strategy has an individual purpose and significance. Even if some strategies appear to be similar, when closely analyzed, they appear to be different. Other than that, a few other conditions can cause the various politeness strategies to be used. so that people are aware of how to use it and can do so appropriately in daily life.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thanks to Allah SWT and prophet Muhammad SAW for the blessings and graces to me till the day I can finish this thesis, and many thanks to my supervisor Temmy Thamrin, S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D. for patiently guiding me through a process of useful suggestions and criticisms to make a great thesis. Thank you to the examiners Diana Citra Hasan, M.Hum., M.Ed., Ph.D and Femmy Dahlan, S.S., M.Hum for evaluating and giving me some suggestions so that the thesis becomes valuable, and also thanks to my family and my friends who have supported me in ups and down.