



**AN ANALYSIS OF NEGATIVE POLITENESS STRATEGIES
AS FOUND IN *TITANIC* MOVIE**

THESIS

BY :

LUTHFI GUSTRI ELDY

1110014211012

**ENGLISH DEPARTEMENT
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BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY**

2015



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Submitted to Fulfill a Partial Requirement for S1 Degree

In The Department of English Faculty of Humanities

Bung Hatta University

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LUTHFI GUSTRI ELDY

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SURAT PERNYATAAN

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Luthfi Gustri Eldy
NPM : 1110014211012
Jurusan : Sastra Inggris
Judul : An analysis of Negative Politeness Strategies as Found in *Titanic* Movie

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Luthfi Gustri Eldy

AN ANALYSIS OF NEGATIVE POLITENESS STRATEGIES AS FOUND IN *TITANIC* MOVIE

Luthfi Gustri Eldy¹, Yusrita Yanti², Elfiondri²

¹English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University

Email : luthfigustrie@yahoo.co.id

²Lecturer of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University

Abstract

The aim in this research is to describe about negative politeness strategies based on theory proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). Politeness strategies are used to formulate messages to save the hearers face when face threatening acts are inevitable or desire. This research discuss about what are the strategies used by the actors to express negative politeness in *Titanic* movie and what are the markers used to reflect the negative politeness strategies in *Titanic* movie. Data were taken from *Titanic* movie. From the data, the writer find six strategies of negative politeness .They are (1) be conventionally indirect, (2) question hedge, (3) give deference, (4) apologize, (5) minimize imposition, and (6) general rule. The writer also find the markers used to reflect the negative politeness strategies in *Titanic* movie. There are *will you, please, can, sorry*. The writer used descriptive qualitative method. All of the findings will be discussed in this thesis.

Keywords: *politeness strategies, context, negative politeness strategies*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Alhamdulillahirobbil'alamin, first of all thanks for Allah SWT for giving his mercy, guidance, and blessing my life and effort in accomplishing my thesis entitle “An Analysis of Negative Politeness Strategies As Found In *Titanic* movie” Thanks are also expressed to the Prophet Muhammad SAW the lifetime leader of Muslims who brought us from the darkness era into the better life.

I would like to say thank to my supervisors, Dr. Yusrita Yanti,M.Hum, and Dr. Elfiondri,M.Hum. This thesis would not be completed without the guidance of both of them. They are not only good supervisors, but you are the greatest lectures that I have ever met. The knowledge that you provide is very helpful for me in taking the job later. I would also like to thanks all lectures who thought me in English Department, Dra.Nova Rina,M.Hum, Dra.Fatimah Tanjung, M.Hum and thanks also to all of teaching staffs in English Department.

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved parent my mom “Elly Syaflina Murdizah,SE” and my dad “Yuhardi”, my beloved sister “Suci Imansari Eldy and my beloved brother “Alma Pratama Eldy”. I would like to say thanks for their suggestion, sacrifice, sincere love, patience, and always remains me to finish my thesis, I’m nothing without both of you. There are no more words that I can tell to express my love and proud to you. I dedicate this thesis to all friends, English Department especially Vira Afriza Rosdiana Dewi, Indradwiee Bunga Annisaa,

Ayu Maywisti, Bellinda Refriandani, Ermawati, Yuda Eka Pramantau, Hayqal Idham, Oktaria Amanda, my seniors, my juniors and who always gives me support. Thanks for the kindness, advice, affection that you given to me. To my friends English Department 2011, I'm really happy to spend time with you friends.

Padang, 14 December, 2015

Luthfi Gustri Eldy

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Communication is one way to interaction in each other. It refers to, process social interaction between speakers and hearers. In communication, the speaker should give clear information to the hearer. It means, the communication must have characteristics to make hearer's attention what the speaker said. To communicate efficiently, there are some strategies, such as: good manners, politeness etc.

Politeness is one of social rules in the social relationship. In society, people try to use polite language to make others feel comfortable. Politeness as a system of interpersonal relations designed to facilitate interaction by minimizing the potential for conflict and confrontation inherent in all human interchange (Lakoff, 1990). In addition, politeness also related with context. This is context can define meaning of some utterances in communication. Meanwhile, context is also important in politeness.

According to Brown and Levinson (1987), politeness used main strategies in communications. Politeness strategies are used to formulate messages to save the hearer's face when face threatening acts are inevitable or desired. Politeness strategies have four kinds, there are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and bald off record. In addition, face consists of two kinds of positive face and negative face. The expression of solidarity, attending to the hearer's positive face called positive politeness. The expression of restraint, attending to

the hearer's negative face called negative politeness. Between positive politeness and negative politeness have some of different strategies.

Politeness strategies also have something to do with face threatening acts (FTAs). According to Brown and Levinson (1987) when face threatening acts (FTAs) are unavoidable, speakers can redress the threat with negative politeness that respects the hearer's negative face, the need to be independent, have freedom of action. They can also redress the face threatening acts (FTAs) with positive politeness that attends the positive face the need to be accepted and liked by others (Cutting, Joan: 2002).

In this research, the writer only focuses on analyzing the negative politeness strategies according to Brown and Levinson (1987). Negative politeness is expression from the speakers to the hearers with minimizing of imposition. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), there are ten strategies of negative politeness. They are be conventionally indirect, question hedge, be pessimistic, minimize imposition, give deference, apologize, impersonalize things (Speaker and Hearer), state the FTA as a general rule, go on record incurring a debt, and nominalization. Here some examples to make understand about negative politeness:

(1) a. I couldn't borrow \$30, could I, if you don't need it right now?

b. Could I borrow \$30?

From the example (1) it can describe that example (a) is more polite than (b) because in example (a) the speaker's negative question 'I couldn't borrow \$30,

couldn't I', which seems to anticipate a refusal, follows the negative politeness strategy that Brown and Levinson call 'be pessimistic'.

In this research, the writer focuses on analyzing about negative politeness in the movie. The writer is interested in analyzing about politeness, especially negative politeness. Because, politeness is how people used polite language. It can be seen depends on society phenomenon. The writer takes *Titanic* movie as the data in this research. The movie tells about a meeting a young man from lower class with an upper class woman in a *Titanic* ship, a magnificent sailing ship. The movie describes how the differences between the upper and lower classes especially in communication. This is refers to the topic about negative politeness strategies. The reason why the writer chooses negative politeness to be analyzed in the *Titanic* is the movie shows all events in communication. This movie also displayed how someone's status affects their way to communicate. This is one of the phenomena's which happen in social relationship. This is related with the writer's topic about negative politeness strategies.

1.2 Identification and Limitation of the Problem

Movie is one of media as a source to analyze conversations in society. Many types can be analyzed in the movie especially in linguistics studies. One of the linguistics studies is politeness. According Brown and Levinson (1987) politeness include four kinds. Such as bald on record, bald off record, positive politeness, and negative politeness. In this research, the writer focuses on analyzing about negative politeness. The writer finding strategies and markers the negative politeness used in *Titanic* movie.

From types of politeness, the writer will analyze about politeness strategies, which only focus to analyze negative politeness strategies in *Titanic* movie. There are ten of negative politeness strategies in this research according to Brown and Levinson (1987). There are be conventionally indirect question hedge, be pessimistic, minimize imposition, give deference, apologize, impersonalize things (Speakers and Hearers), state the FTA as a general rule, go on record, and nominalization.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

In this research the writer formulates the problem of this study as follows:

1. What are the strategies used by the actors to express negative politeness in *Titanic* movie?
2. What are the markers used to reflect the negative politeness strategies in *Titanic* movie?

1.4 Purpose of the Research

The purpose of the research of this research as follows:

1. To find out the strategies used by the actors to express negative politeness in *Titanic* movie.
2. To find out the markers used to reflect the negative politeness strategies in *Titanic* movie.

1.5 Significance of the Research

The writer hopes, this research will give contribution in linguistic fields for next who want to analyze about politeness, especially about negative politeness. It

also gives an additional knowledge to them who are interested about negative politeness, and it can increase knowledge between the writer and the readers in studying linguistics especially in pragmatic and sociolinguistic.