

# REFLECTING NEGATIVE POLITENESS BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN CARNAGE MOVIE (A PRAGMATIC STUDY)

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Fetty, Mei Takbirda. 2016. *Reflecting negative politeness by the main character in Carnage movie (a pragmatic study)*

## ABSTRACT

Politeness is defined as a way to show awareness of another person's public self-image. Negative politeness means respect, the distance speaker and hearer. Negative politeness also known as negative face. This research aims to know the situation of negative politeness enacted by the main character in *Carnage* movie and the reason why did the main character do negative politeness. Qualitative research deals with exploring ideas, reasons and opinion deeply. In writing qualitative research, the writer generally uses descriptive data taken from interview, videos, documents, notes and any other sources that can be described. To collect the data writer watching the film, selected the dialogue in term of negative politeness, the data were transferred into the data sheets, gives code to all the data by using data sheet. In this part, the writer analyzes the data by using data sheet, and drawing conclusion. For the result of this study, the writer finds thirteen data negative politeness that enacted by the main character in *Carnage* movie. The data consist on type of negative politeness strategies based on Brown and Levinson theory. There are six data from this sub-strategy. The finding show that Penelope as the main Character mostly applies sub-strategy 1, conventionally indirect. The second is being pessimistic about ability or willingness to comply by using the subjunctive with two data. The third is giving deference with two data. The fourth is apologizing with two data. And the last is stating the FTA as an instance of a general rule with one data.

**Keywords:** Politeness, Negative Politeness, Carnage

## ABSTRAK

Kesantunan didefinisikan sebagai cara untuk menunjukkan kesadaran citra diri terhadap orang lain. Negative politeness berarti rasa hormat atau member jarak antara pembicara dan pendengar. Negative politeness juga dikenal sebagai ekspresi wajah negatif. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui situasi kesopanan negatif yang diberlakukan oleh tokoh utama di film *Carnage* dan alasan mengapa karakter utama melakukan kesopanan negatif. Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif yaitu berkaitan dengan mengeksplorasi gagasan, alasan dan pendapat secara mendalam. Dalam penulisan penelitian kualitatif, penulis umumnya menggunakan data deskriptif yang diambil dari wawancara, video, dokumen, catatan dan sumber lain yang dapat dijelaskan. Untuk mengumpulkan data penulis menonton film, kemudian memilih dialog dalam hal negative politeness, data tersebut ditransfer ke lembar data, memberikan kode untuk semua data dengan menggunakan lembar data. Pada bagian ini, penulis menganalisis data dengan menggunakan lembar data, dan kesimpulan gambar. Untuk hasil penelitian ini, penulis menemukan tiga belas data negative politeness yang dimunculkan oleh tokoh utama dalam film *Carnage*. Data tersebut terdiri dari jenis strategi kesantunan negatif berdasarkan teori Brown dan Levinson. Ada enam data dari sub strategi ini. Temuan tersebut menunjukkan bahwa Penelope sebagai Karakter utama kebanyakan menerapkan sub-strategi 1, pernyataan secara tidak langsung. Yang kedua adalah pesimis tentang kemampuan atau kemauan dengan dua data. Yang ketiga adalah memberi penghormatan dengan dua data. Yang keempat meminta maaf dengan dua data. Dan yang terakhir adalah menyatakan FTA sebagai turunan dari sebuah peraturan umum dengan satu data.

Kata kunci: Politeness, Negative Politeness, *Carnage*

## INTRODUCTION

Every people always want a conversation that runs well and goes smoothly. Because by having a good conversation, they can maintain a good and close relationship with others. So, both of the speaker and the hearer can understand the thoughts, feelings, and desires of each other. Communicative intension is while the speaker want to the hearer understand about the speaker utterances, and the hearer can catch the speaker means (Finch, 1998:161). The speakers have to be able to choose various communicative strategies to maintain a good relationship between both interlocutors and they also need to apply strategies to construct a good conversation. These strategies are also known as politeness strategies.

Politeness defined as a strategy that is used by people to build a harmonious communication. Therefore, when somebody tries to have a polite conversation, he or she also has to pay attention to the hearer's feeling. It is in line with Holmes statement (1995:5) that when people try to be polite, it means that they want to express respect towards the person they are talking to and avoid offending that person. Therefore, it is not only important to speak well in terms of linguistics, but also important to think about other's feeling. So, the speakers can decide the appropriate way and language to convey messages.

Brown and Levinson (1987:69) state that there are four politeness strategies which a speaker uses when dealing with FTA to the hearer. They are bald on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record. Each strategy is used differently depending on the situations. While in this study the writer only focuses on the negative politeness strategy which is addressed to the person's negative face. An example of this strategy is someone will say "Give me a pen" instead of "How about letting me use pen?."

The writer chooses a movie as the object of this study since it can be medium to show the social interaction of people real lives. As we know, movie is a kind of favorite program in television. From those phenomena the writer chooses negative politeness because of in a communication the system of language is important. So, the communication will run well. Carnage movie is an interesting subject to be analyzed in terms of negative politeness strategy. The writer chooses this movie because it has won five awards and nominated in some film festivals.

The writer has several questions about this: first, what types of the negative politeness are reflected by the main character in *Carnage* movie, second, in what situation are the strategies of negative politeness enacted by the main character in *Carnage* movie

### **Research Methode**

Qualitative research deals with exploring ideas, reasons and opinion deeply. In writing qualitative research, the writer generally uses descriptive data taken from interview, videos, documents, notes and any other sources that can be described. So, related to the statement above, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method to describe and analyze the negative politeness that reflected by the main character in *Carnage* Movie.

According to Dornyei, qualitative data which usually involves recorded spoken data (for example, interview data) that is transcribed to textual forms as well as written (field) notes and documents of various sorts (Dornyei, 2007:19). This study was done based on the source of data taken from a movie entitled *Carnage*. The data in this study is from dialogue as performed by the main character in the movie.

According to Lincoln and Guba (1985) in Ary (2010:424) in qualitative study, the human investigator is the primary instrument for gathering and analyzing of data. It means that the writer is the main instrument while analyzing the data, the writer uses laptop as a tool. All of the data collection and the data analysis will do by the writer herself.

In this research, the writer uses not-taking technique in collecting the data. Then, the data were collected by conducting several steps. First, the writer watches the movie to find the appropriate information needed for answering the research objectives. Second, the writer selected the dialogue in term of negative politeness. Third, the data were transferred into the data sheets, and the last is the writer gives code to all the data by using data sheet.

To analyze the data, the writer used steps from Bogdan and Biklen (1998: 157) that analysis involves working with data, organizing them, breaking them into manageable units, synthesizing them, searching for patterns, discovering what is important and what is to be learned, and deciding what will you tell others. So, from Bogdan & Biklen theory, the writer has the procedure to analyzing data in some steps. First, watch through at least twice. Second, giving code to all the data. Then, analyze the context of the situation in the

conversation which used the negative politeness strategies, and the last is making conclusion.

## ANALYSIS

This study have two aim namely, to identify the types of negative politeness strategies that reflected by the main characters in *Carnage* movie and In what situation are the strategies of negative politeness enacted by the main character in *Carnage* movie. For the answer of question number one there are thirteen data which consist on types of negative politeness strategies that reflected by Penelope as the main character. Those are six data from sub-strategy 1, conventionally indirect. The second is being pessimistic, sub-strategy 3 with two data. Then, sub-strategy 5 is giving deference with two data. Sub-strategy 6 is apologizing with two data. The last is State the FTA as an instance of a general rule with one data. From Analysis, shows that Penelope as the main character mostly applies sub-strategy 1, conventionally indirect.

### Data 1

Alan : Armed?

Penelope : Armed. **You don't like armed? Michael, what could we say? Carrying? Holding? Carrying a stick, is that all right?**

Alan : Carrying, yeah.

Michael : Carrying a stick.

**NP/C/01**

The context of situation from this conversation is including in social factors. As has been explained before that social factors relate to the users of the language or known as the participant, the place which includes what kind of situation between the speaker and the hearer, the topic and the function of conversation. This conversation took place in a narrow room created to a home office. Penelope seated at the front of computer. Her husband, Michael, is standing by amiably. Also standing there, a couple Alan and Nancy Cowan. They both stare at the screen. The utterance's Penelope show us that the speaker use negative politeness strategy 1, be conventionally indirect. This strategy suggests that the speaker should tell something in an indirect way with a clear meaning. Penelope, as the

main character use formal language in front of their guest. The situation when Penelope talked to her husband is serious but friendly and tolerant.

### **Data 2**

Penelope : Would it be possible. and I'm just going to come out and ask you. **Could Zachary apologize to Ethan?**

Alan : It would be good if they talked.

**NP/C/02**

From the utterance's Penelope, "*Could Zachary apologize to Ethan?*" it is show that Penelope used strategy 1, conventionally indirect. In this conversation Penelope asks to Alan that Zachary have to apologize to Ethan, her daughter. And Alan responds positively about Penelope request. The situation of this conversation include in the social factor on the topic and function. The topic of this conversation is Penelope wants to Zachary apologizes to Ethan. And the function of this conversation is they are talked about problem solve from their daughter's problem. This dialogue happens in the living room.

### **Data 3**

Nancy : We're very touched by how generous you're being. We realize how you're trying to smooth things out here instead of making them worse.

Penelope : **Please, it's the least we could do.**

**NP/C/03**

This conversation still happens in the living room of Penelope house. The situation of this conversation is a little strained. It is show from the answered of Penelope, "*Please, it's the least we could do*". She uses negative politeness strategy 1, conventionally indirect. From her utterance explain that she still tries to hold her emotion and tries to be polite in her utterance.

### **Data 4**

Penelope : All right, enough about Jimmy Leach. **Would you mind if I talked to Zachary?**

Nancy : Of course not!

**NP/C/06**

These dialogues happen in uneasy situation. It can be show from Penelope's utterance, "*Would you mind if I talked to Zachary?*". Penelope use indirect expression through phrase "would you" to Nancy. This statement related to the factor of the situation about Social distance scale. In this case among Penelope and Nancy is having no close relationship before. That is for the first time they are met.

**Data 5**

Michael : Where's the blow-dryer?

Penelope: He's using it.

Michael : We'll wait. We'll put the Kouros on there last.

Nancy : May I use the bathroom, too?

Penelope : Of course. Yes, of course, of course.

Nancy : I don't know what to say, I'm so sorry.

(Penelope shows Nancy down the hall. Nancy enters the bathroom – before Penelope closes the door behind her and she say....)

Penelope : **Could you bring the blow dryer, please.**

**NP/C/05**

For the first time this conversation happens in the living room. Then continue in the bathroom, when Penelope asked the blow dryer to Alan. Nancy asks to use Penelope's bathroom. Alan was in the bathroom using blow dryer. Penelope asks politely to Alan to give blow dryer to her. The situation of this conversation is awkward between Alan and Penelope.

**Data 6**

Alan : It's an interesting idea...(picks up cell) Yes.

Dennis (O.S. - TEL) We're saying nothing before the release, right? Interviews?

Alan : No, no interviews before we get this release out.

Dennis (O.S. - TEL) He wants to appear humane. He thinks the stockholders may be sensitive to an expression...

Penelope : Mr. Cowan, **would you please put an end to this nerve-**

## racking conversation?

NP/C/06

This conversation still happens in the living room of Penelope house. The situation of this conversation is uneasy. Penelope has little angry to Alan, because he always received a call in the middle of their serious discussion. But she still use strategy 1 in negative politeness by using indirect expression through phrase “*would you*” to Alan.

### Data 7

Penelope : **I wish my son didn't have to lose two teeth in the process.**

Alan : Yeah, of course, that's what I meant.

NP/C/07

These dialogues still happen in the living room. This utterance was uttered by Penelope as Ethan’s Mother. The situation of this dialogue is touching. From Penelope’s utterance, “*I wish my son didn't have to lose two teeth in the process.*”, we can see that Penelope use strategy-3, pessimistic about ability or willingness. Penelope wishes Ethan did not lose his teeth

### Data 8

Michael : We took it out with no argument.

Alan : A word which deliberately establishes intent and excludes any hint of a misunderstanding. Which excludes childhood.

Penelope : **I'm not sure I can put up with that tone of voice.**

NP/C/08

The conversations still took place in the living room. The situation of this conversation is tiring. From Penelope’s utterance “*I'm not sure I can put up with that tone of voice*”, show that she was pessimist with the tone of Alan voice.

### Data 9

Alan : We're not quite on the same page, you and I. Right from the start.

Penelope : **Mr. Cowan, there is nothing so frustrating as being upbraided for something we ourselves admitted was a**



**mistake.** The word "armed" wasn't right, we changed it.  
Although, strictly defined, it certainly applies.

**NP/C/09**

This conversation took place in the living room of Penelope house. Penelope began angry with Alan because he still bring up the word "armed" has been replaced by Penelope on previous discussions. She used strategy-5, giving deference through phrase "This conversation shows that Penelope use honorific from her utterance "*Mr. Cowan*".

**Data 10**

Alan : It's an interesting idea...(picks up cell) Yes.

Dennis (O.S. - TEL) We're saying nothing before the release,  
right? Interviews?

Alan : No, no interviews before we get this release out.

Dennis (O.S. - TEL) He wants to appear humane. He thinks the  
stock holders may be sensitive to an expression...

Penelope : **Mr. Cowan, would you please put an end to this nerve-  
racking conversation?**

**NP/C/10**

The situation of this conversation began strained. It can be seen from the sentence of Penelope "*Mr. Cowan would you please put an end to this nerve-racking conversation?*". Penelope use strategy-5, giving deference through phrase "*Mr. Cowan*". From those dialogue shows that Penelope want Alan stopped answering the phone and returned to find a solution to the problems of their children. But in the other side she respects to Alan, The strategy of giving deference are used to accomplished through the use of honorific or the use of more formal varieties of language.

**Data 11**

Penelope : **Nancy, I'm sorry. I wasn't really there for you.** I was so  
focused on my Kokoschka.

Nancy : That's all right.

**NP/C/11**

This dialogue took place in the living room. Penelope and Michael was cleaning the books are caught of vomit's Nancy. Penelope felt guilty to Nancy

because Penelope cannot accompany Nancy when Nancy feels not good. Penelope tries to minimize the imposition by attempting to soften it. Penelope apologizes to Nancy by saying “*I'm sorry*”.

### **Data 12**

Penelope : Doodle.

Michael : Yeah right, Doodle!

Penelope : Doodle! They both laugh out loud (as Alan appears, holding the blow dryer.)

Alan : Yes, I call her Doodle.

**Penelope : Oh, I'm sorry. We didn't mean anything.** It's just so easy to make fun of other people's pet names. Like what do we call each other, Michael? I'm sure it's worse!

**Alan** : You wanted the blow dryer?

**Penelope** : Thank you.

### **NP/C/12**

This conversation still took place in the living room, when Penelope and Michael clean up the dirty books. They talk about the called of "Doodle" that is used to refer the Queen of Jamaica. But suddenly, Alan appears. Then, the situation turned into an awkward. The utterance of Penelope, “*Oh, I'm sorry. We didn't mean anything*”, show that she use strategy-6, Apologizing.

### **Data 13**

Michael : They want to give the tooth a chance.

Penelope : We would so like to avoid root canal.

Nancy : Of course.

Penelope : So there's an observation period while they give the nerve a chance to heal.

Michael : Meantime, he's going to need caps.

**Penelope : You can't have implants until you're eighteen.**

Michael : You can't.

### **NP/C/13**

This conversation went smoothly. Michael said that before Ethan's tooth will chance, he needed a cap. But Penelope added that dental implants can be carried out after Ethan was eighteen.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, the result of the research can be summarized as follows. The first objective of this study is to identify the types of negative politeness strategies that reflected by the main characters in *Carnage* movie. There are thirteen data which consist on types of negative politeness strategies that reflected by Penelope as the main character. Those are six data from sub-strategy 1, conventionally indirect. The second is being pessimistic, sub-strategy 3 with two data. Then, sub-strategy 5 is giving deference with two data. Sub-strategy 6 is apologizing with two data. The last is State the FTA as an instance of a general rule with one data. From Analysis, shows that Penelope as the main character mostly applies sub-strategy 1, conventionally indirect.

The second objective of this study is to describe the situation of negative politeness are enacted by the main character in *Carnage* movie. Naturally, everyone who met for the first time or have different social levels will certainly feel awkward. To overcome this case, the speaker selects the language as politely as possible in the conversation. So, by using negative politeness strategies the speaker can avoid the FTA of the speaker, and gives the hearer choice. The speakers also can avoid the impression of force by emphasizing the necessity of others by using an apology, or to ask questions to give the hearer an option. Therefore, the hearer can simply refuse the speaker by saying no. The data of the study classified based on the theory of negative politeness strategies proposed by Brown and Levinson. The situation that shows up is from social factor and social dimension. The writer found five sub-strategies of negative politeness in *Carnage* movie. The sub-strategies are conventionally indirect, being pessimistic about ability or willingness to comply by using the subjunctive, giving deference, apologizing, stating the FTA as an instance of a general rule with one data. Based on the findings, there are 13 data that represent negative politeness strategies in the utterances of the main characters in *Carnage* movie. Most of the negative politeness are enacted in awkward situation by the main character in this movie.

Because both of them, never know each other before. Then they met in the unexpected opportunity, that their two children are fight.

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