

**POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED BY PONYBOY CURTIS**

**IN *THE OUTSIDERS* MOVIE**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining

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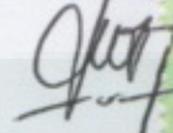
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Kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris. Atas perhatiannya, kami ucapkan terimakasih.

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED BY PONYBOY CURTIS IN *THE OUTSIDERS* MOVIE**

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People around the world use language to communicate. Besides being a means of communication, language is one of the ways to show politeness. The object of this research is the utterances that Ponyboy Curtis delivered in *The Outsiders* movie. This movie tells about two groups of young teenagers in USA which is still divided by economic status. They are Socs and Greaser. Ponyboy Curtis is a member of Greaser. Although Greaser is always seen as a bad group by Socs, Ponyboy Curtis has a nice way in delivering his speaking toward others. This research aims to find out the kind of politeness strategies are used by Ponyboy Curtis and explain how he delivers it. This research uses qualitative approach in data analysis. The data is analyzed by using Brown and Levinson's politeness strategies theory. The result of this research shows that Ponyboy Curtis uses 15 Bald On Record (37.5%), 20 Positive Politeness (50%), two Negative Politeness (5%), and three Off Record (7.5%). Most of Politeness Strategies are used by Ponyboy Curtis is Positive Politeness. The strategies that are used in Bald On Record are urgent (three cases), offer (11 cases), and welcoming (one case). In Positive Politeness, the strategies used are avoid disagreement (eight cases), joke (three cases), understanding (five cases), seek agreement (one case), ask for reason (two cases), and include both in activity (one case). In Negative Politeness, there are question (one case) and apologize strategy (one case). In Off Record, there is only one strategy that is give association clue (three cases).

**Keywords:** *Utterances, The Outsiders movie, politeness strategies*

## ABSTRAK

### POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED BY PONYBOY CURTIS IN *THE OUTSIDERS* MOVIE

By: Nur Miftahul Khoiriah

Orang-orang di seluruh dunia menggunakan bahasa untuk berkomunikasi. Selain sebagai alat komunikasi, bahasa adalah salah satu cara untuk menunjukkan kesopan-santunan. Objek dalam kajian ini adalah ucapan-ucapan yang disampaikan oleh Ponyboy Curtis di film *The Outsiders*. Film ini menceritakan tentang dua grup remaja Amerika yang masih terbagi berdasarkan status ekonomi. Kedua grup itu adalah *Socs* dan *Greaser*. Ponyboy Curtis adalah anggota dari *Greaser*. Meskipun *Greaser* selalu dilihat sebagai grup yang buruk oleh *Socs*, Ponyboy Curtis memiliki cara yang baik dalam menyampaikan ucapannya kepada orang lain. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan jenis-jenis strategi kesopanan yang digunakan oleh Ponyboy Curtis dan menjelaskan bagaimana dia menyampaikannya. Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif pada analisis data. Data dianalisis menggunakan teori strategi kesopanan oleh Brown dan Levinson. Hasil dari kajian ini menunjukkan bahwa Ponyboy Curtis menggunakan 15 Bald On Record (37.5%), 20 Positive Politeness (50%), dua Negative Politeness (5%), dan tiga Off Record (7.5%). Strategi kesopanan yang paling banyak digunakan oleh Ponyboy Curtis adalah Positive Politeness. Strategi yang digunakan pada Bald On Record adalah *urgent* (tiga kasus), *offer* (11 kasus), dan *welcoming* (satu kasus). Pada Positive Politeness, strategi yang digunakan adalah *avoid disagreement* (delapan kasus), *joke* (tiga kasus), *understanding* (lima kasus), *seek agreement* (satu kasus), *ask for reason* (dua kasus), dan *include both in activity* (satu kasus). Pada Negative Politeness, terdapat strategi *question* (satu kasus) dan *apologize* (satu kasus). Pada Off Record, hanya terdapat satu strategi yaitu *give association clue* (tiga kasus).

**Kata kunci:** Ucapan, film *The Outsiders*, strategi kesopanan

## **MOTTO**

“Whether you believe you can or whether you believe you can’t, you are absolutely right!”

Henry Ford

“The only thing that stands between you and your dream is the will to try and the belief that it is actually possible”

Joel Brown

“Zero is where anything starts. Nothing would ever be born if we didn’t depart from there”

Shinichi Kudo (*Detective Conan* Comic)

“Everyone is the main character of their own life”

Kuroba Kaito (*Magic Kaito* Comic)



## DEDICATION

This graduating paper| dedicated to :

- My Father, Khatmun
- My Mother, Nur Mahmudah
- My love, Ali, and Umar



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1. FTA : Face threatening act
2. S : Speaker
3. H : Hearer



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Study

People around the world use language to communicate each other. According to *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (third edition)* "language is a system of communication consisting of sounds, words and grammar, or the system of communication used by the people of a particular country or profession". People need language to deliver their purpose and desirability. Yacob states that communication in society happens chiefly by means of language (1993: 6). Since there are many languages in the world, people also speak in different way according to their country they live in.

Beside being a means of communication, language is used to show politeness towards others. Sometimes, people with the same language will have different way in delivering their meaning through their own manner. A person may think that his/her way in speaking is good, but others may think that it is impolite for them although they use the same language and live in the same country. People can say that perhaps the standard of politeness for every person is different depending on the society they live. Sometimes how a person delivers his/her speaking depends on the family he/she lives with and the educational side of them.

People tend to be polite because they do not want to hurt other's feeling or to avoid misunderstanding in their communication. It is because they want to make others feel better. It is already stated in Al-Quran surah Al-Isra' : 53.

وَقُلْ لِعِبَادِي يَقُولُوا الَّذِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ....

“Say to My servants that they should (only) speak those things that are best...”

(Translated by Ali, 1987:135)

The verse above has relation with how the politeness strategies should be used by people in delivering their speaking. This verse clearly tells that people should speak the best for other people. In other words, they are forbidden to hurt other's feeling by saying in bad ways.

This research analyzes politeness strategies used by Ponyboy Curtis in *The Outsiders* movie. This movie is American drama film which released on 1983. It is adapted from the novel written by S.E Hinton with the same title. This movie tells about two groups of young teenagers which are divided by socioeconomic status. This movie also tells about the relationship of family and also tells about the friendship between them. Ponyboy Curtis who is the main character in this movie is a member of Greaser group. He has two older brothers named Sodapop Curtis and Darrel Curtis. In his group he has a close friend named Johnny Cade. Other members of this group are Dallas Winston, Steve Randle, and Two-Bit Matthews. They all live in the east side of the town. Their rival group is the Socs which is from the west side and they are rich people. Two of them are Randy Adderson and Bob Sheldon. Still there is Socs' girl named Cherry Valance. Cherry is Bob's girlfriend and Socs' cheerleader in Ponyboy's school. She is the only Soc who believes in Greaser. She also has a friend named Marcia.

The problem in the movie increases when a group of Socs come to fight Ponyboy Curtis and Johnny Cade in the lot. The Socs come while getting drunk to bother both of them because they got along with the Socs' girlfriends. When some of the Socs drown Ponyboy in the fountain, Johnny cannot hold himself to stab one of the Socs using a knife he used to bring. Then, the following story is about the escape of Ponyboy and Johnny, their friendship, how in the end Johnny and Dallas died and how Ponyboy can make his relationship with his two older brothers become better.

*The Outsiders* movie is a good movie for teenagers. This movie gets a positive response from the audience. It is even admitted as one of the best movies on 1983 ([https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Outsiders\(film\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Outsiders(film))). This movie shows the teenagers' life in US at that time. There is still dividing groups by seeing the economic status. It also tells the problems which teenagers usually face like friendship and the relationship in their family. Other than show how teenagers live at that time and the problems follow, *The Outsiders* movie also shows how they solve their problems by themselves and fix it well. So that is the reason why the researcher chooses the movie to be analyzed.

This research focuses on the character Ponyboy Curtis in *The Outsiders* movie. It only analyzes the utterances of Ponyboy Curtis and what kind of politeness strategies he uses. The researcher chooses Ponyboy Curtis as the representative of the characters in *The Outsiders* movie that is analyzed because he has a better way in delivering his speaking comparing with his other friends in Greaser group. Ponyboy Curtis lives with the Greaser group but has a nice way in

choosing the strategies of politeness. It is because Ponyboy Curtis has a good behavior and talks nicely although with people he meets first time. Here is the example.

Dallas : wah, nah, nah.

I'm gonna go hunt some action.

If little kids are allowed

Johnny : we'll go with you, won't we, Pony?

Pony : **I don't know, Dal.**

**I can't get in trouble with the cops**

**Darry says the court will split us up for sure if I do.**

The conversation above happens when Dallas tries to invite Ponyboy to go somewhere and do something fun. Johnny even asks him to join Dallas but Ponyboy gives response by giving some reasons why he cannot make it. He talks honestly about what will happen if he is in trouble with the cops. He tells his anxiety of being split from his older brothers. He does not reject Dallas' invitation directly but choosing to give the reasons with his purity as a kid.

Ponyboy lives with his two older brothers after his parents passed away. He is the only one who still goes to school in the group. He likes books and movies. So that he is open minded since he likes books. He is not only smart but also seems different from his other friends because of his speaking. In delivering his speaking, Ponyboy tends to choose his utterance carefully and only speaks of what he knows. He is kind of kid who is easy to deal with others and follow the

rules well. However, the group Greaser is known as the group which has no good behavior in some Socs' point of view. By analyzing the utterances that Ponyboy delivers, people will find out that sometimes the sphere where someone live in will not influence their behavior and how to deliver the speaking in conversation.

The following is one of the utterances Ponyboy delivers.

Ponyboy : Do you want anything?

Johnny : A book, man.

Can y'all get me another one?

Ponyboy : I think he wants a copy of *Gone with The Wind*,

So I can read it to him.

**Would you mind going downstairs and getting one?**

Two-bit : They got a gift shop downstairs. I'll go get one.

On the conversation above, when Johnny asks him to get a book *Gone with The Wind*, Ponyboy chooses to deliver a negative politeness by using question strategy to Two-bit by saying "I think he wants a copy of *Gone with The Wind*, So I can read it to him. *Would you mind going downstairs and getting one?*". He appreciates Two-bit as his friend and he request something to Two-bit by using a question.

This research needs to be analyzed because it is different from other research. It analyzes about the using of politeness strategies which is uttered by Ponyboy Curtis as the main character in the movie. This research is not done yet

by any researcher. There is no comparison in this research so it focuses on the Ponyboy Curtis' utterances which use politeness strategies in *The Outsiders* movie.

## 1.2 Research Questions

After presenting the background above, the researcher has research questions as follows:

1. What kinds of politeness strategies are used by Ponyboy Curtis in *The Outsiders* movie?
2. How the politeness strategies are used by Ponyboy Curtis in *The Outsiders* movie?

## 1.3 Objectives of Study

The researcher analyzes the utterances of the characters in the movie that has the objectives as follows:

1. to find out the politeness strategies used by Ponyboy Curtis in *The Outsiders* movie.
2. to explain the politeness strategies used by Ponyboy Curtis in *The Outsiders* movie.

## 1.4 Significances of Study

This research gives significances for the readers and people in general. This research will help the reader to understand more about the using of Politeness Strategies by Brown and Levinson. This research also may prove that people cannot be judged from where they live. Every people has their own strategy in

delivering their politeness to make others feel better. By this research, people will know and understand why people are different in delivering the politeness.

### **1.5 Literature Review**

During arranging this research, the researcher found some researches that related to this research. The first was “Politeness Strategies of Refusals in the Main Characters of Movies entitled *The Scarlet Letter* and *Easy A*” (2014) written by Efendi. The aim of this research was to clarify the use of politeness strategies which were delivered by the two main characters in *The Scarlet Letter* and *Easy A* movie. He only analyzed the utterances of the two main characters which were on the refusal area. He used qualitative method by using the theory of Brown and Levinson. The result of his research show that both of the main characters in *The Scarlet Letter* and *Easy A* movie tended to use bald on record super-strategy to refuse something. The percentages of his research showed that there were 13 case for bald on record (46.4%), three cases for positive politeness (10.2%), two cases for negative politeness (7.1%) and ten cases for off record (35.6%).

The second was “Politeness Strategies Used by George Milton in John Steinbeck’s of *Mice and Men*” (2013) written by Yuni Murliati. This research aimed to describe how politeness strategies were used by George Milton in his directive utterances in Steinbeck’s of *Mice and Men* and to find the reason why certain politeness strategies were used by George Milton in his directive utterances. She used a qualitative method. The result of her research showed that George Milton gave commands more than requests and suggestions. George Milton mostly used bald on record in giving commands and used positive and

negative politeness strategies in requesting and suggesting. It was because George's consideration about the addressee by seeing the face and the context of the situation.

The last was "Politeness Strategies in Asking for Information and Asking Someone to Do Something Used by Customer Service Representatives" (2010) written by Arditya Candra Putra. This research aimed to find the utterance that the customer service representatives used to ask for information and to ask the customer to do something and the politeness strategies used by the customer service. This research used descriptive method. The result of this research showed that there were eight utterances to get information, 11 utterances to get clarification, seven utterances to get confirmation, and two utterances to ask customer to do something. Based on record, positive and negative politeness were the politeness strategies that were used by the customer service.

The similarity of this research with the previous researches can be seen from the second and the third research which has the same idea to find out the Politeness Strategies used by the character. This research is different with other researches because it is only analyze the utterance of Ponyboy Curtis without compare with other character in the movie or other movies. This research also analyzes all the utterances of Ponyboy Curtis.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

As the researcher has explained above, this research analyzes what politeness strategies are used by Ponyboy Curtis in *The Outsiders* movie. Politeness strategies is used to show the action of utterance. According to Yule "Politeness is

an interaction, can then be defined as the means employed to show awareness of another person's face" (1996: 60). The awareness which is defined above is about the relation between a person with others. A person shows the politeness strategies to others will be depend on the relation between them whether they are close or making a distance.

Brown and Levinson state that there are four politeness strategies. Those are bald on record, off record, positive politeness, and negative politeness (1987:92). In the bald on record strategy, the speaker does nothing to minimize threats to the hearer's face. The speaker does Bald On Record to deliver what she/he wants by using direct approach.

"The prime reason for bald-on-record usage may be stated simply: in general, wherever S wants to do the FTA with maximum efficiency *more than* H's face, even to any degree, he will choose the bald-on-record strategy" (Brown and Levinson, 1987:95).

Bald on record is the strategy usually used by the speaker to do direct approach. It is different to off record which is used by the speaker only by giving hints to the hearer. "Thus if a speaker wants to do on FTA, but wants to avoid the responsibility for doing it, he can do it off record and leave it up to the addressee to decide how to interpret it" (Brown and Levinson, 1987:211). The using of Off record is when the Speaker wants the Hearer interpret by himself and leave the responsibility of doing FTA.

Then positive politeness is strategies that are used by speaker to show the solidarity between the speaker and the hearer. Negative politeness is the opposite of positive politeness. Negative politeness is defined as "A redressive action

addressed to the addressee's negative face: his want to have his freedom of action unobstructed and his attention unrestricted" (Brown and Levinson, 1987: 129). Negative politeness strategies is used when the speaker make distance between the speaker and the hearer. It is because the speaker does not want to disturb the hearer's importance.

## **1.7 Methods of Research**

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

The researcher uses qualitative research for the study analysis. This method of the research analyzes the data descriptively. A Qualitative research can be done by using field and library research, but the researcher only uses library research to analyze the data. This method is used by studying books related to the object and the utterances of the character in the movie.

Wahyuni defines "Qualitative research is an inductive approach and its goal is to gain a deeper understanding of a person's or group's experience" (2011: 1). She also states that "the data which are collected in the qualitative research are in the form of words or pictures than numbers" (2011: 12). This research is called descriptive qualitative research. It is because the data is the description in forms of words. So, it can be concluded that the data which is from qualitative research is descriptive.

### **1.7.2 Data Source**

According to Moeloeng, "The words and actions of the people which observed or interviewed are source of the main data" (2008:157). In this research, the data source is *The Outsiders* movie and the dialogue in the movie. The main

data are the utterances of Ponyboy Curtis in the movie script. Then, for the supporting data in this research is the utterance of other characters in The Outsiders movie. They are Ponyboy Curtis' friends. The running time of The Outsiders movie is 115 minutes.

### **1.7.3 Data Collection Technique**

This research uses documentation technique in collecting data. In collecting data, the researcher uses several steps. The first is by watching the movie repeatedly and carefully. The second is to classify the utterances of Ponyboy Curtis from the movie script. The third, the researcher identifies and analyzes the utterances of Ponyboy Curtis by using Politeness Strategies by Brown and Levinson. The last, the researcher makes a note about the analysis.

### **1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. There are some steps that the researcher uses in data analysis technique. The first is the researcher collects all the utterances by Ponyboy Curtis which contains Brown and Levinson's politeness strategies and analyzes it one by one. The second, the researcher explains what politeness strategies that Ponyboy Curtis uses in his speaking and how he delivers the politeness strategies in the conversation in *The Outsiders* movie.

## **1.8 Paper Organization**

This paper consists of four chapters. The first chapter is introduction which consists of background of study, research questions, objectives of study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research,

and paper organization. The second chapter is theoretical background. This chapter contains the explanation of the theory of politeness strategies. The third chapter is research findings and discussion. This chapter provides the analysis of the data. The fourth chapter is conclusion and suggestion of this research.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the data, the researcher concludes about what kinds of politeness strategies are used by Ponyboy Curtis in *The Outsiders* movie and how the politeness strategies are used, it can be seen as follow:

1. Ponyboy Curtis uses all the four politeness strategies which is divided with percentage: 15 Bald On Record (37.5%), 20 Positive Politeness (50%), two Negative Politeness (5%), and three Off Record (7.5%). From the analysis, it can be concluded that most of Ponyboy Curtis' politeness strategies is Positive Politeness. It is because Ponyboy Curtis has a good behavior toward others.
2. In delivering the politeness strategies, the researcher finds three strategies which are used by Ponyboy Curtis in Bald On Record. Those are urgent (three cases), offer (11 cases), and welcoming strategy (one case). In Positive Politeness, Ponyboy Curtis uses six strategy those are avoid disagreement (eight cases), joke (three cases), understanding (five cases), seek agreement (one case), ask for reason (two cases), and include both in activity strategy (one case). In Negative Politeness, Ponyboy Curtis uses two strategies those are question (one case) and apologize strategy (one case). In Off Record, Ponyboy Curtis uses only one strategy that is give association clue (three cases).

## 4.2 Suggestion

The researcher would like to give some suggestions for the reader who studies this research or has the same topic:

1. The researcher suggests the readers to be more concerned and has a wide knowledge about linguistic aspect when studying and analyzing a movie from linguistic aspect moreover pragmatics.
2. The researcher hopes this research can be useful for the readers who analyze the same topic about politeness strategies.
3. The researcher suggests the readers who want to do research about linguistics to analyze the same object as this research that is *The Outsiders* movie with other linguistics theories such sociolinguistic or others.
4. After reading and studying this research, the researcher expects the readers can understand that people around the world cannot be judged from where they live in because they have their own way in delivering the politeness strategies. So it can decrease possible misunderstandings.

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Application.



## CURRICULUM VITAE

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