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## Positive Politeness Strategies Used In The Perfect Date Movie

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**Abstract.** *Positive politeness tends to minimize social distance, meanwhile negative politeness expands the social distance, however still showing respect behavior towards the interlocutor. The aim of this study is to find out positive politeness strategies used by the main character in The Perfect Date movie. The data of this study were taken from a movie and the script entitled The Perfect Date Movie. This study used the observation and note taking as a technique of collecting data. The method used to analyze the data in this study was qualitative method. This study was conducted based on politeness theory proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). The result of this study showed that all the fifteen strategies are used by the characters in the movie. Almost all politeness strategies used in the main characters' utterances. That is because the interlocutors of the main characters in the film are mostly family, schoolmates, and people of the same age as the speakers.*

**Keywords:** *movie, politeness, positive politeness strategies*

## **LATAR BELAKANG**

Politeness theory exists since there is an assumption that people have two different faces. Levinson and Brown (1987) states that a face is an image that consists of two related wants, they are positive and negative faces. Positive face is an urge to be appreciated and approved of by selected others. The urge in this case is regarding the personality, desires, behavior, values, etc. On the opposite side, a negative face is an urge to be unimpeded by others, the desire to be free to act and not to be imposed upon. Either Positive Politeness or Negative Politeness both respect the interlocutor. However, a person can have a tendency to show positive politeness or negative politeness depending on some situation. Positive politeness tends to minimize social distance, meanwhile negative politeness expands the social distance, however still showing respect behavior towards the interlocutor.

Hidayatul, Dian and Suhandoko (2020) in their journal entitled "Politeness Strategies Reflected by The Main Character in Bridge to Terabithia Movie" found that from 46 utterances, there are 19 utterances in bald on record and positive politeness strategy, thus it shows the closeness of social distance between the main character and the interlocutor. international article to be reviewed entitled "An Appeal to the People: Politeness Strategies in the Malaysian Prime Minister's Maiden Speech" by Nadia & Nurizah (2021). The study was conducted to identify the types and figure out what kind of politeness strategies mostly occur. The result of the study found that Negative Politeness strategies used by Muhyiddin Yassin the Malaysian Prime Minister is less than positive politeness. The study found contradicts the previous study which found that negative politeness strategies are commonly used in political discourse. This study focused with only positive politeness strategies. Positive politeness strategies have many types, there are fifteen types.

## **KAJIAN TEORITIS**

Politeness strategies are strategies or ways to achieve the goals of each type of politeness. There are four types of politeness strategies according to Brown and Levinson (1987), there are bald on record, bald off record, positive politeness strategies, and negative politeness strategies. They mentioned that positive politeness and negative politeness are two super-strategies. Blum-Kulka (1985) in experiment found that between

those two super-strategies, negative politeness is the highest politeness level in the hierarchy.

## **METODE PENELITIAN**

The data of this study were taken from a movie and the script entitled *The Perfect Date Movie*. This Movie was released on April 12, 2019, by Netflix. This study used library research to collect the data and observation methods regarding the data source of this research is a movie. In collecting the data, this study used note taking technique. This study needs the utterances that have transcript before as the object of the study. Qualitative method was used in the analysis. In this research, the researcher describes the use of politeness in the characters, which are found. After the data are found, the collected data of this study analyzed by using the theory of politeness strategy proposed by Brown and Levinson (1978).

## **HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN**

The analysis was done based on theory proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987) that divided positive politeness into fifteen strategies; Notice, attend to Hearer (his interests, wants, needs, goods), Exaggerate (interest, approval, sympathy with hearer), Intensify interest to hearer, Use in-group identity markers, Seek agreement, Avoid disagreement, Presuppose/raise/assert common ground, Joke, Assert or presuppose speaker's knowledge and concern for hearer's wants, Offer, promise, Be optimistic, Include both speaker and hearer in the activity, Give or ask reasons, Assume or assert reciprocity, Give gifts to Hearer (goods, sympathy, understanding, cooperation).

### **1. Strategy 1 "Notice, attend to Hearer (his interests, wants, needs, goods)"**

The speaker notices something good about the hearer and shows appreciation about that.

39:40

Brooks : Not a break up script, more like break up bullet points.

... Oh, wow. **Celia, you look great.**

Celia : Thanks.

Setting : Car

Brooks in his utterance, uses strategy 1 of positive politeness. Celia wanted Brooks to notice her uncharacteristic appearance. Brooks uses this strategy to satisfy the hearer's face which is Celia.

## **2. Strategy 2 “Exaggerate (interest, approval, sympathy with hearer)”**

This strategy is done by overemphasizing the speaker's interest, approval, sympathy by intonation, stress.

37:21

Brooks : Celia Lieberman, you make flowers blossom. You are the reason trees have leaves. You are a goddess.

Celia : Aw! That is **absolutely** correct.

Setting: Phone call

The utterance happened between Brooks and Celia. They were talking on phone about going to Yale. Brooks praised Celia because she gave Brooks an opportunity to meet the Dean of Yale. Celia accepted the praise by saying “That is absolutely correct”. This strategy is done by Celia to exaggerate her approval. Celia used the expression “absolutely” which is one of expressions that remark as the positive politeness output.

## **3. Strategy 3 “Intensify interest to hearer”**

emphasized the hearer's interest in the activity by telling or making a good story.

45:13

Celia : Maybe you're right

Brooks : About which thing? There were couple.

Celia : **Maybe I am a hypocrite, okay? My parents say that I stomp around in my boots looking tough to push people away, because I'm too scared to show people who I really am.**

Setting: Car

Celia tells how hypocritical she is. She tells about her parents' thoughts of her. Strategy 3 is applied by Celia in this conversation by making a good story. The strategy is done by Celia in order to raise Brooks' interest in her utterance.

#### 4. Strategy 4 “Use in-group identity markers”

This strategy is done by using identity markers. Each group has its own identity markers that show a sense of belonging to a certain group. Moreover, identity markers may show solidarity such as, address form.

05:18

Brooks : I don't know, **man**, I think my life's interesting.  
I just don't know how to articulate it, you know?

Setting: Sandwich restaurant

In that conversation, Brooks applies strategy 4 of positive politeness by using the address form “man” in his utterance. Brooks uses this strategy in order to show that Murph is in the same group with him. Moreover, the use of this strategy shows that Brooks and Murph have a close relationship.

#### 5. Strategy 5 “Seek agreement”

Repetition. Agreement may also be stressed by repeating part or all of what the preceding speaker has said, in a conversation.

18:24

Brooks : Come on, it is classic quid pro quo. I get the app I need, and the money I need to go to Yale, and you get to practice your craft, the art of coding.

Murph : You haven't even been accepted **yet**.

Brooks : **Yet**.

Setting: Sandwich shop

In his utterance, Brooks repeats Murph's utterance. That indicates Brooks used the strategy of "seek agreement" by the repetition he made.

#### 6. Strategy 6 “Avoid disagreement”

Sacks (1973) has collected numerous examples which speakers may go in twisting their utterances so as to appear to agree or to hide disagreement - to respond to a preceding utterance with “Yes, but...” in effect, rather than a blatant ‘No’.

14:12

Shelby : So, I'm having this intimate after-party thing at my place. You guys should come.

Brooks : **Yeah, I mean, that's ... She's, you know, but rain check?**

Shelby : That's a shame.

Setting: A party

Brooks was forced to refuse Shelby's invitation because he had to look after Celia by saying "Yeah, I mean, that's... She's, you know, but rain check?". The utterance which said Brooks applying "avoid disagreement" strategy. In this case, Brooks gently refuses Shelby's invitation, but it is not to be seen that he disagreed with her. He chooses to be vague rather than damage Shelby's face.

### 7. Strategy 7 "Presuppose/raise/assert common ground"

Presuppose Hearer's knowledge. The use of any term presupposes (in some senses) that the referents are known to the addressee. Thus, the use of in group codes language, dialect, jargon, local terminology

47:32

Brooks : was that **tuna melt on seven grain?**

Murph : if only.

Setting: Restaurant

Murph said he was going to meet someone with Brooks. Brooks, who was curious about who Murph would go to, asked "was that tuna melt on seven grain?". in his utterance Brooks uses the term "tuna melt on seven grain" for the person Murph will meet. For other people who hear this, they will definitely think that "tuna melt on seven grain" is a type of food. The fact that it is only known by Brooks and Murph indicates that Brooks applied the strategy "Press hearer's knowledge" in his utterance.

### 8. Strategy 8 "Joke"

Since jokes are based on mutual shared background knowledge and values, jokes may be used to stress that shared background or those shared values.

05:04

Brooks : Do you wanna hear what I got?

Murph : Mm

Brooks : **My name is Brooks Rattigan.**

Murph : I like it. It's raw.

Setting: Sandwich Shop

The utterance happened between Brooks and his friend Murph. They are talking about the essay assignment from their teacher. Brooks doesn't have idea for his essay then make a joke about it. He said that all he got is "My name is Brooks Rattigan" which is it's just an introduction.

### 9. Strategy 9 "Assert or presuppose speaker's knowledge and concern for hearer's wants"

01:22:16

Murph : Look, **I know it's early, but if you're in need of a roommate next year...**

Brooks : No. Wait, you're going to UCONN?

Setting: Party

This utterance happened between Murph and Brooks. Murph in his utterance implied that he goes to UCONN (university), and he offers Brooks to be his roommate. Murph knows that Brooks are going to UCONN and he will need a roommate shows that he cares to Brooks. Knowing the hearer's personal information indicated the speaker's knowledge and wants that needs to be fulfilled by the hearer. Moreover, knowing personal information about the hearer implied that the speaker showed friendliness and care.

### 10. Strategy 10 "Offer, promises"

37:30

Brooks : What time should I pick you up?

Celia : You shouldn't

This is your day, but it's my rules, so **I'm gonna pick you up at one.**

Brooks : **I'll text you my address**

Setting: Phone call

The utterance happened between Brooks and Celia. They are talking about Yale interview for Brooks. Celia said "I'm gonna pick you up at one" then Brooks answers "I'll text you my address". In that conversation, they both utter an offer and promise.

### 11. Strategy 11 “Be optimistic”

Speaker assumes that hearer wants speaker’s wants for speaker (or for speaker and hearer) and will help him to obtain them.

29:47

Brooks : Have you seen this collection? She is a music fiend, always going on and on about bands. Bands that I've never heard of, **so you know they're cool, right?**

Setting: Party

This utterance happened between Brooks, Celia, and Franklin. Brooks, who is pretending to be Celia's boyfriend, tries to get Celia and Franklin closer. While Brooks and Celia were at a party, Brooks saw Franklin in the corner of the room. Brooks saw Franklin holding the vinyl and assumed that Franklin liked music. Brooks invites Celia to come over to Franklin. In front of Franklin, Brooks opened the topic of conversation about Celia's likes to impress Franklin with Celia. By saying the utterance, Brooks assumes Franklin will cooperate because their mutual interest.

### 12. Strategy 12 “Include both speaker and hearer in the activity”

By using an inclusive ‘we’ form, when S really means ‘you’ or ‘me’, he can call upon the cooperative assumptions and thereby redress FTAs. Noting that let’s m English is an inclusive ‘we’ form.

12:19

Brooks : Okay, **let’s** go shred some hardwood.

Celia : No

Setting: Party

In the conversation, Brooks, in his utterance "Okay, let's go shred some hardwood" uses "let's" which indicates that he is inviting the other person to talk to. Brooks in his utterance asked Celia to dance with him. The word "let's" from the conversation using positive politeness strategy 12, which is to invite cooperation between the speaker and the hearer. Brooks as the speaker invited Celia as the hearer to dance together.



**13. Strategy 13 “Give or ask reasons”**

Hearer in the activity is for Speaker to give reasons as to why he wants what he wants.

05:21

Murph : **Why don't you write about your mom leaving?** That's interesting.

Brooks : That's a really short essay, actually.

In this dialogue, Brooks and Murph are talking about essay assignment. Brooks doesn't have idea for his essay. Murph asks “Why don't you write about your mom leaving? That's interesting”

**14. Strategy 14 “Assume or assert reciprocity”**

Brooks : Okay, well, how about this? I'm totally booked out tonight and tomorrow, but I am completely free on Saturday and I will make sure it stays that way, if you promise to go to Tino's with me.

Murph : Count me in.

Setting : Sandwich shop

The strategy of positive politeness used by Brooks in his utterances is strategy 14 which assumes or asserts reciprocity. The existence of cooperation between S and H may be claimed or urged by giving evidence of reciprocal rights or obligations obtaining between S and H.

**15. Strategy 15 “Give gifts to Hearer (goods, sympathy, understanding, cooperation)”**

Speaker may satisfy hearer's positive-face want (that speaker want hearer's wants, to some degree) by actually satisfying some of hearer's wants

01:00:14

Brooks' Client : My husband and I did this every day for the past 20 years. He passed away in June.

Brooks : I'm sorry to hear that.

Setting: Street

The conversation is done between Brooks and his client. His client told a memory about her husband. She said that his husband already passed away. Brooks who is sympathy with her story said “I’m sorry to hear that”

## **KESIMPULAN DAN SARAN**

Based on the result of the analysis and discussion, the finding shows that all the fifteen strategies are used by the characters. It can be concluded that in The Perfect Date movie, the politeness strategies used in the main characters' utterances are positive politeness strategies. That is because the interlocutors of the main characters in the film are mostly family, schoolmates, and people of the same age as the speakers.

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