

## **POLITENESS STRATEGIES ANALYSIS REFLECTED IN LITTLE WOMEN MOVIE BY GRETA GERWIG**

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### **Abstract**

This research mostly discusses the politeness strategies that is shown in Little Women movie. Politeness is a social behaviour to a speaker towards deferent wishes of the addressee in different concerns. The purpose of this study is to find the politeness strategies and the most-frequent strategy that is used in Little Women movie. Based on Brown and Levinson (1978), there are four types of politeness strategies. Those are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. Descriptive qualitative method was selected to analysed the data. The theory that are applied in this study are Brown and Levinson's theory (1978), which concerns about the politeness strategies. The result of this term paper was shown that all of the characters use all the politeness strategies from Brown and Levinson and the most frequent strategy that is used by the characters is positive politeness. The researchers hope that this research will help the readers to get a better understanding about politeness strategies based on Brown and Levinson.

**Keywords:** Linguistic, Pragmatic, Politeness Strategies, Brown and Levinson.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Language holds an essential part in our life. Human use language to communicate with others in order to fulfill their needs and understand each other. When human use language, they express their emotions, intentions, purpose, and objective. It seems unlikely that we, as human, do not use the language. According to Finocchiaro (Finocchiaro, 1964) language is a system of arbitrary, vocal symbols that permit all people in a given culture, or other people who have learned the system of that culture, to communicate or to interact. This explains that language is an organized form of a vocal or symbols and also arbitrary because it is created based on social agreement, so there is no reasonable explanation about how language is made of. We use language for communication. As a social being we have to build a good communication skill in order to be accepted by every branch of society. Not only a good communication skill, but also we have to know linguistic.

Linguistic is a field which focus on human language. According to Kreidler (Kreidler, 2010), Linguistic is about identifying the meaningful elements of specific language. As

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stated in one of his book, Chomsky in *The Logical Structure of Linguistic Theory* (Chomsky, 2010) Linguistic aims to analyse the characteristic of the nature of human linguistic knowledge or known as competence. This means to explain what speakers know which allow them to speak and understand speech or sign. Linguistic also deals with the meanings expressed by speaker's voice and processed by the hearers and readers associates with a new information to the information they already know. Linguistic have several main branches such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics.

Pragmatic is a linguistic study which talk about the hidden meaning of a sentence. Pragmatic concerned with meaning and its definition of role variation with different communicative tasks which are provided by a speaker in a way to interpret by a reader or listener. This study involves the interpretation of the people about what they usually mean in a particular context and the way they influence within a given context. According to Crystal (2010), Pragmatic deals with the factors that manages the language for what we want to choose within the pool of language that could satisfy whenever it is used within a social interaction and its effects on others. The study of pragmatic tends to relate it with the meaning of words that people used within their social situations and choice of the words in a context.

One of the scopes of pragmatic in linguistics is Politeness. Politeness is a general aspect of the social behaviour to a speaker towards deferent wishes of the addressee in different concerns. English linguists, Levinson and Penelope Brown (1987), introduced some of prominent strategies used to point out the differences of maximizing in exchanges, for example using formal way to address or an indirect speech acts. The aim of these strategies is to fulfil required particular goals. One of the major terms of these strategies is a face that shows the speaker's public image and it is divided into two major types: Positive face and Negative face. Positive face shows the individual's wishes and can be appreciated as well as respected by others. Negative face shows the unrestricted wish in set of choices to speaker about social behaviour. Both of positive and negative face by the society creates norms and rules that organize how the people in society interact.

As a social creatures and human beings, people need a tool to make interaction, to communicate with other people. It is called language. Widdowson (2002:4), language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communication ideas, emotion and desires by means of system of voluntarily produced symbol. Language can facilitate us to inform a good or bad news to other. Besides to communication, people use language to get information about everything. For example, education, politics, entertainment, social issues

and so on. If we do not use a language, according to Chaer and Agustina (1995:19), it seems impossible for people to interact with other in daily life because language can express. As a result, we will understand what people want and they too. According to Wardhough in journal of Yuni Murliati (2013), by this language, people try to manage to live together by using such concept as "identity", "power", "class", "status", "solidarity", "accommodation", "face", "gender", etc.

Furthermore, language is an inheritance from our ancestor because they has studied in the past. Although, they still use a symbols, that is their ways to communicate with their society. Nowadays, in our world, there are so many kinds of language. Our language influenced by our ancestor, so that make one place with the others have different language, different characters and different pronountition. In a conversation, there are have some unwritten rules depend on the countries. Like the researcher said before, in every place have some unwritten rules depend on the countries, include at home, school, or work environment, beside we use a language, we use a politeness also. Politeness is important thing that we must know when we communicate with other people and make a polite conversation. Politeness is not only used to honor to old people, but also it can be used to give honor to young people. It is indicate who we are, whether we are a good people or not, and includes people who respect to other people or not.

In a previous research, Murliati (2013) states politeness is a behaving in a way that attempts to take into account the feelings of the people being addressed. It is one of important subject matters in a communication. In Reza Pishghadam's previous research (2012), he also states that Politeness is an important factor in developing effective relationships with people, and any misuse of these strategies can hinder the effective communication, leading to individuals` dissatisfaction and indifference (Reza Pishghadam, 2012). Using strategies of politeness properly can control our selves when we communicate with other. If we talk with high intonation and rude, the communication will not good enough. Brown and Levinson (1978), politeness is basic to the production of social order and a precondition of human cooperation. Therefore, we must be careful to choose the strategies of politeness when we make an interaction because someone who talk with us can be misunderstanding. Politeness have two types and four strategies. Two different types of politeness are used in interaction; " Negative Politeness" and "Positive Politeness.

Politeness strategies itself include : bald-on record strategy, positive politeness strategy (showing respect), negative politenes s strategy (showing solidarity), and off recordstrategy. Each one have the purpose which is appropriate with the situation or with

whom we will talk. According to Watts (2003:1), some might characterise a polite person as always being considerate towards other people; others might suggest that a polite person is self-effacing. Thus, if we being polite, many people feel comfortable and do not hesitate to make relation with us, although just talk for a moment. Also, with being polite, we can keep our relationship and feeling with other people. In here, being polite can be indicate with the expression of face, control our speech, gesture, and many more. In addition, the politeness strategies also used in literary work like novels, drama or films. Especially for dramas or films, it takes from real life. Many films adopted from the real story and appeared as an interesting film, like love stories or story about political, patriotism, social and so on. In dramas or films, the important points about politeness are more than easy to understand because we can watch directly without having to imagine it. So that, we can choose which one is good or not good for us to apply in daily life.

*Little Women* is one of the inspiring and a fascinating movie. choose this movie because the researchers want to show the reader about the politeness strategy reflected in this movie. This movie has won an AACTA International Awards and Boston Society of Film Critics Awards 2020 for best lead actress that goes for Saoirse Ronan who plays Jo March in *Little Women*. Greta Gerwig directed and re-arranged the story line that was crafted based on novel originally written by Louisa May Alcott. Furthermore, this movie is about the lovely story of the March sisters Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy who have their own dreams and different characters. It is based on the lives of the author and her three sisters. The background of the story was in the years after the Civil War, Jo March lives in New York and working as a writer and a tutor to help her family afloat. Amy March, studies painting in Paris and sooner she will marry a wealthy man, Meg March, is married to a school teacher and has two children, while Beth March has an illness which brings her family back together.

Based on the background of the study above, the researchers identified that there are different social status and different ages between the characters in *Little Women* Movie. The politeness strategy is shown in the movie because of the relative distance, difference social status and different ages. This research is focuses on politeness strategies reflected by the characters in *Little Women* Movie. According to Brown and Levinson (Levinson, 1978) they divide the politeness strategies into four, which are bald on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness and off-record. Also, the researcher wants to connect the politeness strategies and the relative distance theory by Brown and Levinson.

## ***METHODS OF THE RESEARCH***

This research uses qualitative method. According to Taylor (Steven J. Taylor, 2016), the phrase of qualitative method refers to the broadest sense to research that produces descriptive data, people's own written or spoken words and observable behaviour.

Qualitative method is the method that is used when the researcher describes or analyse the data in the descriptive form and using sources that is already existed in books or in the internet. The researchers will use qualitative method as the method because I use journals and theories that have already existed in books and internet as references. And also, the data were collected by conducting several steps.

1. The movie was watched carefully in order to find the proper information needed for answering the research objectives
2. While the movie was watched, I also read the movie-script in order to check the accuracy of the script.
3. The dialogues consisting politeness strategies were interpreted and identified.
4. The data is analysed in table form

## ***RESULT AND DISCUSSION***

In this research, the researchers found the politeness strategies by Brown and Levinson theory applied in *Little Women* movie which are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. There are also the relative distance theory by Brown and Levinson that affects the politeness strategy which are Power (P) the degree to which H can impose his own plans and his own self-evaluation at the expense of S's plans and self-evaluation, Distance (D) a symmetrical social dimension of similarity of difference within which S and H stand for the purposes of this act. In many cases, it is based on as assessment of the frequency of interaction and the kinds of material or non-material goods including face exchanged between S and H. an important part of the assessment of D will be measures of social distance based on stable social attributes, and Ranking imposition (R) culturally defined as ranking of impositions by the degree to which they are considered to interfere with an agent's wants of self-determination of approval of their positive or negative face wants.

### **1. Bald on Record**

Bald on record strategy is used for people who know each other very well and who are comfortable in their environments such as between close friends and families. There are

five sub-strategies of bald on record and they are showing disagreement, giving suggestion or advice, requesting, warning; threatening, and using an imperative form. The table 1 is the result of bald on record strategy applied in *Little Women* movie.

Table 1. Bald on Record

<b>Bald on Record; Giving advice</b> (Aunt March advise Jo March to pay attention to her)	
<b>Jo March</b>	“But there are precious few ways for women to make money.”
<b>Aunt March</b>	“That’s not true, you could run a cat house, or go on the stage. Practically the same thing.” [There is silence and Jo says nothing. Then Aunt March continues] “Other than that, you’re right, precious few ways for women. <b>That’s why you should heed me.”</b> <b>(Aunt March/35:56)</b>

The situation above happens in Aunt March’s House where she asks Jo to read her *Belsham* in her room. Aunt March falls asleep and then Jo sneaks to the window and read another book. A minute later she wakes up and calls Jo and asks why she stops reading *Belsham*. She continues to read and Aunt March says that she has to mind herself because one day she might need her and she will wish that she had behaved better. Hearing that, Jo thanks her aunt because of her kindnesses and tells her that she intends to make her own way in the world.

However, her aunt disagrees that no one makes their own way, especially for a woman. A woman needs to marry well. Jo comes to the conclusion that the only way to be an unmarried woman is to be rich and she convinces her aunt that there are precious ways for women to make money. At first, she disagrees and says that women could run a cat house or go on stage, but then she agrees that there are precious ways for women to be rich, that is why Jo needs to pay attention to Aunt March and behave well. For that reason, Aunt March performs her FTA bluntly to Jo because she is her family and she cares a lot to March family and that is why she gives advice to Jo that she needs to behaved well therefore she could marry a wealthy man and be rich.

The strategy used by Aunt March is bald on record because according to the relative distance theory, the power affects the conversations. Aunt March has higher social status

because she is a rich woman. The distance between Jo and Aunt March is close because they know each other well. The imposition between Jo March and Aunt March is giving advice. By giving advice, Aunt March basically threatens Jo's face because she has the power to impose her own plans to Jo's plans and self-evaluation

Another example of bald on record is shown in table 2.

Table 2. Bald on record

<b>Bald on Record; Warning/Threatening</b> (Aunt March warns Amy to not go back to her family)	
<b>Amy March</b>	"Mother doesn't say anything about Beth. I feel I should go back but they all say "stay."
<b>Aunt March</b>	"You can do nothing if you go back. The girl is sick, not lonely. <b>And you shouldn't go home until you and Fred Vaughn are properly engaged."</b> <b>(Aunt March/06:52)</b>

The situation above happens in Paris which Amy and Aunt March are in carriage talk to each other. Amy worries about her family and thinking to go back to her family but her Aunt disagree with what she thinks. Aunt March warned Amy that she should not go back unless she is engaged with a wealthy man Fred Vaughn. For that reason, Aunt March performs her FTA baldly and tells her reason to Amy that she should be engaged before she goes back to her family because Aunt March thinks that Amy is the only women who have to marry a wealthy man so that she can support her family.

The strategy used by Aunt March is bald on record because based on the relative distance theory, the power (P) does affect the conversation. Aunt March has higher social status than Amy, therefore she has the power to impose her own plans over Amy's plans. The distance (D) between Aunt March and Amy March is close because they are family and they know each other. The imposition is Aunt March warns Amy to not go back to home until she is engaged properly with Fred Vaughn, a wealthy man from Europe. Aunt March performs her FTA against Amy's negative face because Aunt March imposes Amy to stay with her.

## 2. Positive Politeness

Positive face is known as every individual's needs to be respected and accepted in social interaction. The positive politeness strategy is used when the speaker recognize that the

hearer has needs to be respected. This strategy is commonly used in the groups of friends or the people where they are in the social situation know each other well. Here, the FTA is relatively low. It usually tries to minimize the distance between them by expressing friendly statement and the same interest in the hearer's needs.

According to Brown and Levinson (1987), there are fifteen sub-strategies in positive politeness: Noticing, attending to H (his interest, wants, needs and goods), Exaggerating (interest, approval, sympathy with H), Intensifying interest to H, Using in-group identity markers: in-group language or dialect, jargon, slang, contraction or ellipses, Seeking agreement: safe topics, repetition, Avoiding disagreement: token agreement, pseudo-agreement, white lies, hedging opinions, Presupposing/raising/asserting common ground: gossip, small talk, point of view operations, presupposition manipulation, Joking, Asserting or presupposing S's knowledge or and concerning for H's wants, Offering, promising, Being optimistic, Including both S and H in the activity, Giving or asking for reasons , Assuming or asserting reciprocity, Giving gifts to H (goods, sympathy, understanding, cooperation)

Table 3 is the example of positive politeness strategy applied in *Little Women* movie.

Table 3. Positive politeness

<b>Positive politeness; Assuming or asserting reciprocity</b> (Aunt March assume that Jo might need her one day)	
<b>Aunt March</b>	"Josephine!"
<b>Jo March</b>	"Yes."
<b>Aunt March</b>	"Is there a reason you stopped reading Belsham?"
<b>Jo March</b>	"I'm sorry, I'll continue"
<b>Aunt March</b>	"You mind yourself, deary, <b>one day you'll need me and you'll wish you had behaved better.</b> " (Aunt March/35:15)

The dialogue above happens in Aunt March's house when she asks Jo to read Belsham. Aunt March falls asleep and Jo sneaks around to the window and read a book. After a minute, Aunt March wakes up, calls Jo and asks why she stopped reading. Caught red handed she apologizes to her aunt. Aunt March examines Jo and says that one day she will need her and she will wish that she had behaved better. The utterance "...one day you'll need me and you'll wish you had behaved better." indicates that Jo might need Aunt March



one day and she should had behaved better. For that reason, Aunt March performs her FTA in positive politeness by assuming or asserting reciprocity.

The strategy used by Aunt March is positive politeness because based on the relative distance theory, the power does affect the conversation. Aunt March has the power to impose her plans over Jo’s plans because she has higher status dan Jo March. The distance between Jo and Aunt March is close because they are March family. The imposition is Aunt March assumes that Jo might need her one day. Aunt March expresses her FTA against Jo March’s positive face because the ranking imposition involves an assessment of the amount of ‘pain’ given to Jo March’s face based on the difference between Jo’s desired self-image. Another example of positive politeness is shown in table 4.

Table 4. Positive politeness

<b>Positive politeness; give or ask reasons</b> (Friedrich give reasons to Jo why he is being so blunt)	
<b>Friedrich</b>	“I don’t like them” “Honestly, I think that they’re not good.”
<b>Jo March</b>	“But, I, they’re published in the papers, and, people have always said – I’m considered talented –”
<b>Friedrich</b>	“ <b>Oh, I think you’re talented, which is why I’m being so .... so blunt</b> ”
<b>Jo March</b>	[ Jo, deeply offended, starts to gather up her work] “I can’t afford to starve on praise.” <b>(Friedrich/22:48)</b>

The situation above takes place in Boarding House in New York City. Friedrich read Jo’s work and give her an honest opinion. He does not like the story. Jo is offended by Friedrich’s opinion because people always tell her that she is talented and they always like her story. Friedrich agrees that she is talented which is why he is being so blunt to her. For that reason, Friedrich expresses his FTA by using this strategy in the form of give or ask reason which he gives reason why he is being straightforward to her is because she is talented and he cares about her work and also wants to give her an honest opinion about her work.

The strategy used by Friedrich is positive politeness because according to the relative distance theory, the power (P) does not affect the conversations. Friedrich has higher social status than Jo because he is a Professor while Jo is a tutor. The distance (D) between

Friedrich and Jo is close because they are neighbor in the boarding house and they know each other. The ranking imposition (R) is relatively high because Friedrich thinks that Jo is talented and he is being blunt about her work. He gives his honest opinion about her work that he does not like Jo's story. Friedrich expresses his FTA against Jo March's negative face where she has the freedom to choose what kind of story that she likes to write.

### 3. Negative Politeness

According to Brown and Levinson, Negative face is known as the individual's need to have a freedom of action and imposition in social interaction. Negative politeness also recognizes the hearer's face and admits that the speaker is in some way imposing on the hearer. The tendency to use negative politeness forms, emphasizing the hearer's right to freedom can be seen as a deference strategy. A deference strategy is involved in what is called "formal politeness".

This strategy is commonly used in a group or just an option used on a particular occasion. In negative politeness, the threat to face is relatively high. The negative politeness is focus on minimizing the imposition by trying to soften it. There are ten sub-strategies of negative politeness which they are be indirect, do not presume/assume, be pessimistic, minimize the imposition, giving deference, apologize, impersonalize S and H, Stating FTA as general rule, nominalize, redressing other wants of H's.

Table 5 is the example of negative strategy applied in *Little Women* movie.

Table 5. Negative politeness

<b>Negative politeness; be direct</b>	
<b>Amy March</b>	"Where are you going?"
<b>Jo March</b>	"You're not invited." <b>(Jo March/45:00)</b>

This dialogue above happens in March House where Jo and Meg are going out to theatre with Laurie and his teacher, John Brooke. Knowing that her sisters are going out, Amy wants to go with them but Jo March refuses by saying "you're not invited". For that reason, Jo performs her FTA by using be direct form of negative politeness. The utterance "you're not invited" means that Amy could go if Laurie and John invite her as well. Jo performs her FTA directly to Amy because she has close relationship with her sister.

The strategy used by Jo March is negative politeness because based on the relative distance theory, the power (P) does affect the conversation where Jo March is Amy's older

sister, therefore Jo has higher power than Amy. The distance (D) between Jo and Amy is close since they are sisters and care for each other. The ranking imposition (R) is low because Jo is being direct to Amy so there will not be a misunderstanding between them. Jo performs her FTA against Amy's positive face because the ranking imposition involves an assessment of the amount of 'pain' given to Amy's face based on the difference between Amy's own desired self-image.

Another example of negative politeness is shown in table 6.

Table 6. negative politeness

<b>Negative politeness; Apologize</b> (John apologizes to Meg because he cannot buy her what she wants)	
<b>John</b>	"I can't afford it, my dear."
<b>Meg</b>	"John, but---"
<b>John</b>	"I need to go to bed." [gets up from the table and speaks again] " <b>And I really am very sorry</b> that you have had to do without so many beautiful things. And that you're married to someone who can't give them to you." <b>(John/21/1:02:59)</b>

The dialogue above takes place in Meg and John's house, they are married and live in the same house. Meg buys a fabric silk that costs around fifty dollars, which John needs a new coat. Meg buys that because she couldn't resist when her friend, Sallie, buys everything she wants and she does not want Sallie to pity her. John apologizes to Meg because he couldn't afford her a silk, and he apologizes that Meg is married to someone who can't give beautiful things to her. For that reason, John performs his FTA by using apologize form of negative politeness. The utterance "and I really am sorry" shows that John indicates his reluctance to impinge on Meg's negative face and thereby partially redress that impingement.

The strategy used by Mr. Brooke or John is negative politeness because based on the relative distance theory, the power (P) does not affect the conversation even though John has higher status than Meg because he is her husband and the head of his family. The distance between Meg and John is close since they are a married couple. The ranking imposition is high because apologize threatens to Meg's face. John expresses his FTA against Meg's negative face because he shows apologise to Meg.

#### 4. Off Record

According to Brown and Levinson Off-record or indirect is a communicative act which is done in such a way that it is not possible to attribute only one clear communicative intention to the act. In other words, the actor leaves himself an 'out' by providing himself with a number of defensible interpretations. Off record utterances are indirect uses of language and contains less information in the sense that it rules out fewer possible states of affairs or actually different from what one means. In this case, H must make some inference to recover what was in fact intended. If the speaker wants to do the FTA, in contrast, the speaker wants to avoid the responsibility by doing it. The speaker can do an off-record and leave it up to the H to decide how H interpret it. The hearer cannot know that a hint has been mentioned; the speaker can credibly claim a different possible interpretation. In this sense, the threat to face is very high. There are fifteen sub-strategies of off record which they give hints, give association rules, presuppose, understate, overstate, use tautologies, use contradictions, be ironic, use metaphors, use rhetorical questions, be ambiguous, be vague, over-generalize, displace H, be incomplete/ use ellipsis.

Table 7 is the example of off record.

Table 7. off record

<b>Off record; give hints (Jo's father wants to go to West as well as Friedrich)</b>	
<b>Jo's Father</b>	"And you intend to stay in New York?"
<b>Friedrich</b>	"No, I've been offered a professorship in California – and as I have nothing keeping me here, I thought I might go West. It is new there, and they are less particular about immigrants."
<b>Jo's Father</b>	"Perhaps I should go West..."
<b>Marmee</b>	"You aren't an immigrant, so perhaps you should stay home." <b>(Jo's Father/01:58:34)</b>

The dialogue above takes place in March House where Friedrich, a friend of Jo in New York, visit her house. Jo is happy to see him again and she does not have idea that Friedrich would come. They have dinner together in that evening, and talk to each other. And Jo's father asks him whether he intend to stay in New York but Friedrich says that he has been offered a professorship in California and he might go west which they are less particular about immigrants. Jo's father replies "perhaps I should go west". For that reason, he performs his

FTA by using give hints of off record. The utterance “perhaps I should go west” indicates that he wants to go west as well as Friedrich. Marmee replies to his utterance “You aren’t an immigrant, so perhaps you should stay home.” which means that he is not allowed to go west since he is not an immigrant.

The strategy used by Jo’s father is off record because according to the relative distance theory, the power (P) does not affect the conversations even though Jo’s father has higher social status than Marmee. The distance (D) between Jo’s father and Marmee is close since they are a married couple. The ranking imposition (R) is quite high because Jo’s father is giving hints to Marmee that he should go west as well as Friedrich whose immigrant. Jo’s father performs his FTA against Marmee’s positive face because he wants Marmee to let him go to west even though he is not an immigrant.

Another example of off record is shown in table 8.

Table 8. off record

<b>Off record; use metaphors</b> (Marmee uses metaphors to calm down Jo’s anger)	
<b>Amy</b>	“I am the most-sorry for it now. I’m so sorry”
<b>Marmee</b>	“ <b>Don’t let the sun go down on your anger.</b> Forgive her. Help each other, and you begin again tomorrow.”
<b>Jo March</b>	“She doesn’t deserve my forgiveness. I will hate her! I will hate her forever!”  <b>(Marmee/48:50)</b>

The dialogue above happens in Jo’s room. Jo is very sad because of Amy. Meg and Jo are going out with Laurie and John Brooke while Amy wants to join them and pay with her own money but she could not go because she is not invited. Jo is annoyed by Amy because she whines a lot about it. Jo says that she is such a baby and that makes Amy upset. Amy threatens her that she will regret for what she says. And while Jo and Meg are outside, Amy goes to Jo’s room and search for Jo’s stories that she has been writing. Amy wants Jo to be upset then she burns all of her works.

When Jo and Meg come home, Jo walks straight up to her room and search for her stories. Surprised that she does not find it in her room then she asks her sisters and Beth says no and asks why and she looks at Amy who is pretend to read even more intently than before. Jo assumes that Amy has her story and Amy admits that she burns all her works. Jo turns into anger, grab her hair and then they start fighting. Marmee and her sisters try to separate them. After that, Amy expresses her sorry but Jo cannot forgive her because it is a hard loss

for her to lose all her stories that she cannot write it again. Marmee tries to advise her and tries to persuade Jo to forgive Amy. For that reason, Marmee performs her FTA by using metaphor in off record strategy. She uses a metaphor “don’t let the sun go down on your anger” which means we should not bury the anger, just let it go.

The strategy used by Marmee is off record because based on the relative distance theory, the power (P) does affect the conversation because Marmee has higher status and power than Jo. The distance (D) between Marmee and Jo is close because they are mother and daughter, and they care for each other. The ranking imposition is relatively low because Marmee wants Jo March to not get buried with her anger towards Amy. Marmee performs her FTA against Jo March’s negative face because Jo does not want to forgive Amy after what she has done to Jo March.

### **CONCLUSION**

This research is conducted to find the politeness strategies in *Little Women* movie. In this research, the researcher uses politeness theory by Brown and Levinson. The conclusion of this research is there are four types of politeness that is used in *Little Women* movie which are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. There are also the relative distance theory by Brown and Levinson that affects the politeness strategy which are Power (P) the degree to which H can impose his own plans and his own self-evaluation at the expense of S’s plans and self-evaluation, Distance (D) a symmetrical social dimension of similarity of difference within which S and H stand for the purposes of this act. In many cases, it is based on as assessment of the frequency of interaction and the kinds of material or non-material goods including face exchanged between S and H. an important part of the assessment of D will be measures of social distance based on stable social attributes, and Ranking imposition (R) culturally defined as ranking of impositions by the degree to which they are considered to interfere with an agent’s wants of self-determination of approval of their positive or negative face wants.

In conclusion, norm and moral value is the basic knowledge that we should know. We often speak formally to the people who are older than us, and those who have higher status in the society. We tend to speak casually or informal when we are closed to someone such as friends or family and when we are comfortable with the social environment. Therefore, different social status, different ages, and different social environment are the factors for people to use politeness strategy in communicating to each other.

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