

**The Analysis of Politeness Strategies
in The Theatre of a Raisin in The
Sun by Lorraine Hansberry**

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Abstract

In communicating, one needs to pay attention to people's faces to prevent being offended from the other person and more concerned with their feelings. Therefore, one needs to use a politeness strategy. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to describe the types and functions of politeness strategies in the theater of A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry. The method of this research is discourse analysis and uses the theory of politeness strategies proposed by Brown and Levinson. The results of this study are that there are several uses of politeness strategy, those are: (1) bald on record strategy used twice, the strategy of positive politeness once, the strategy of negative politeness twice, and the strategy of off record twice. Therefore, this strategy is used to maintain relationships with people who are known or not.

Keywords: *sociolinguistics, politeness strategies, function, Discourse Analysis*

Abstrak

Dalam berkomunikasi, seseorang perlu memerhatikan wajah orang-orang untuk mencegah adanya tersinggung dari lawan bicara dan lebih mementingkan perasaan mereka. Maka dari itu, seseorang perlu menggunakan strategi kesopanan. Oleh karena itu, tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan jenis dan fungsi strategi kesantunan in the theater of A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry. Metode dari penelitian ini adalah analisis wacana dan menggunakan teori strategi kesantunan yang dikemukakan oleh Brown dan Levinson. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah terdapat beberapa penggunaan dari strategy politeness, those are: (1) bald on record strategy used twice, the strategy of positive politeness once, the strategy of negative politeness twice, and the strategy of off record twice. Oleh karena itu, strategy ini digunakan untuk menjaga hubungan dengan orang-orang yang dikenal atau tidak.

Kata kunci: *sosiolinguistik, strategi kesantunan, fungsi, Analisis Wacana*

1. Introduction

Sociolinguistics is a study that discusses the relationship between society and language (Khasanah, 2019). Based on the Oxford Dictionary, sociolinguistics is used as a science that discusses and studies language in a social context involving various class, regional, gender differences. The field of sociolinguistics studies the relationship between language and society. This study explains the interest in different ways of speaking in different social contexts and identifies the social function of language and the way that language is used and how it conveys its social meaning (Holmes, 2001). Along with this definition, the Oxford dictionary defines sociolinguistics as the study of language related to social factors, such as regional differences, class, and occupational dialects, gender differences, and bilingualism. The ability to apply social rules and understand social communication is part of the communicative competence which consists of linguistic competence, discourse competence and sociolinguistic competence. In addition, the definition of

sociolinguistics is the ability to choose language appropriately according to the context. Along with this statement, this study competency is a task faced by teacher- students and students in their interactions at school. Their interaction is learning how to use language appropriately in various functions and situations. As for the comments from Cameron (1995: 15-16) where sociolinguistics can reflect its identity as a certain type of social subject. She added that she spoke like a middle-class white woman because she was a middle-class white woman. These records show that language is one of the things that can form a certain identity of a person. Sociolinguistics is closely related to a person's actions that will have an impact on identity or self-identity. So, every action will reflect themselves. As for those who say that sociolinguistics is a combination of two disciplines, namely sociology and linguistics (Borris & Zecho, 2018). The relationship between language and politeness. The relationship between sociolinguistics and politeness is in language politeness. In essence,

politeness in language is something that has been agreed upon by the speaker and the interlocutor.

Language is a tool for communication used by humans. According to Wiratno & Santosa (2014) language is a tool to communicate and be organized in the form of units such as words, word groups, clauses, and sentences and can be used orally and in writing. There are different definitions of language which reveal that language is a communication system that is communicated by voice or written which is structured to form larger units such as morphemes, words, and sentences (Richards, Platt & Weber, 1985: 153). As for language, it can be defined as a basic set of items, entities such as sounds, words, grammatical structures and so on (Togatorop, 2019). According to Hornby (2000) language is a communication system in spoken or written form and is used by people in a country. However, it can be concluded that language is a tool for communication. If someone wants to communicate, it is important for them to learn the language so that what they want to convey can be conveyed or understood properly. This causes the importance of the existence of language because humans and language are very closely related. Languages have many variations according to where they grow and develop. This language variation is formed due to the interaction between humans. Language grows and continues to be attached to humans. As for the variety of language, namely spoken, written and sign language, which have their respective meanings and help humans to be able to communicate what they want to convey.

Language was created by humans to interact with each other. The role of humans is no less important because they are the ones who regulate the creation of a language and use it. Humans are social creatures who live life with other humans' side by side. A collection of people in one place can be called a society. Of course, people will be involved with others through interactions that involve language to communicate. Humans communicate with each other because they need each other, this is what creates interaction (Togatorop, 2019). Every

society has a different way of communicating, this makes the language continues to develop into more and more. The study studies the language and behavior of society. The study includes linguistic phenomena in the social field. Sociolinguistics is a study in the field of the relationship between language and society where they study the use of language in the social structure in which language grows. This field assumes that society is formed from many interrelated patterns of thought and behavior. Language is not only for communicating but there are other functions, namely building and maintaining social relationships. As for examples that can be seen, namely mother and child and also two friends who are talking, they do this communication to build closeness between them and maintain their social relationship either as parents and children or as friends (Spolsky, 1998). This aspect is something that is learned by sociolinguistics. After 30 more, this field of study is considered important to study. One of the sub-chapters studied in sociolinguistics is politeness.

Politeness is a theory which is compensation for negative things such as insulting the interlocutor by the main actor as a speaker (Togatorop, 2019). The speaker here performs a face-threatening act to the other person. in other words, politeness means an expression made by a person based on his intention to reduce facial threats to others. Based on the above theory, the purpose of politeness is to make the atmosphere of the speaker and the interlocutor more comfortable, prevent awkwardness, and embarrassment when talking to each other. however, things that usually happen can cause discomfort to the party concerned. Another goal which is language politeness learning is to understand, examine, and apply forms of communication related to appreciating the relationship in the context of communicating between the speaker and the interlocutor based on communication strategies that are known to the public. besides, with the presence of politeness, it can make other people's faces safe because they do not experience shame. In addition, based on the study by Borris & Zecho (2018), stated that is

in general politeness is part of the sociolinguistics phenomenon which has two participants, namely: 'Ourselves' and 'Other people'. So, this is indeed related to the existence of a community that has been mutually agreed upon in shaping a behavior in the language used by speakers to respect and respect each other.

According to study by Gu (1990), stated that there were several aspects of politeness based three things, those are: first, this can be seen from the age of a person such as parents and children, teachers and students, and last brothers and sisters. The second aspect is that this can be seen from the socioeconomic level based on professions such as: servants and employers, courtiers with kings, and superiors and subordinates. The third aspect is that it can be seen based on the relationship between friends who are already familiar. In addition, politeness can be formed through three things, namely: applying the principle of politeness, preventing, reducing, and avoiding taboo language, and finally using words that are euphoric. Politeness can be formed due to three things, among others: the application of politeness principles, avoiding the use of taboo words, and the use of honorific words or euphoric words. In addition, there is also the principle of politeness which has several maxims (Pan & Kadar, 2011), namely: the maxim of wisdom (tact maxim), the generosity maxim (generosity maxim), the maxim of acceptance (approbation maxim), the modesty maxim (modesty maxim), the maxim of compatibility (agreement maxim), and the sympathy maxim (sympathy maxim). The principle of politeness relates to two conversation participants, namely oneself (self) and others (other). The self is the speaker, and the other person is the opposite of the speaker.

Besides, based on theory by Brown and Levinson (1978) stated that a person makes their own face is a self-image that becomes itself as each member claimed by the public. From that, there are two aspects, namely: negative face and positive face. First of all, negative face means the right to be undisturbed and free from coercion and free to act. Second, a positive face

means an image of you that is positive based on important things about yourself that are appreciated and approved. So, the act of threatening the face is a negative behavior that aims to dirty the face of the interlocutor with the speaker's words (Togatorop, 2019). Thus, the wishes of the two participants were very contradictory.

A positive face can be threatened if the speaker or the interlocutor no longer cares about the feelings, desires, or it can also not want what the other person wants. Positive actions that threaten this face can have an impact on the damage to the interlocutor or speaker because they are treated as less important.

A negative face is threatened if a person does not avoid or intends to impede the interlocutor's freedom to act. This can cause damage to both the speaker and the interlocutor. Freedom to choose and act can be hampered because negative faces are threatened.

Effectiveness in the use of language to express information can not only be seen from the giver of information, but listeners also affect the effectiveness. Why is that so? This is because listeners have the potential to misinterpret a sentence (Widarwati, 2014). The words that are usually spoken or used in communication can be misunderstood by listeners and make them offended or carried away. For example, when someone says you are in Indonesia, maybe the greeting is very frequent and has been used by various people. However, if the word is used when talking to parents, it is considered impolite and can offend others. In America, calling those who are older as older is considered impolite, so they often use the word senior, which is more acceptable to them. Brown and Levinson (1987) say about four types of politeness strategies. The four types of strategies are on-record balding, negative politeness, positive politeness, and off-record strategies. This politeness strategy is commonly used in real-life situations and is useful for taking care of each other. Politeness which is a linguistic phenomenon, has been widely studied in the world. The definition of politeness itself according to Lakoff (1975) is a form of behavior that develops in society to reduce frictions in

communication.

To analyze the case of politeness, researchers can use various sources and techniques. Some of them are the use of discourse analysis in analyzing talk shows, theater, films or novels according to the interests of researchers. The use of discourse analysis aims to identify cases of politeness that occur in talk shows, theaters, films or novels. Theater is a work of art that is staged with the aim of entertaining. One of the famous theater scripts and often performed is entitled *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. In this theater, a small family lives in 1959 where they are a black family who are experiencing financial problems. The characters in this theater consist of a mother who has 2 children, a son and a daughter, Walter is the first child and acts as the husband of Ruth and has a child named Travis, then there is Walter's sister, the second child named Beneatha. This theater tells of their struggle to get out of poverty where at that time black people were still looked down upon so there was not much they could do. Beneatha's struggles to become a doctor but were insulted by her brother caused a fight. Here each character has their own struggles.

In this article, the use of theater to make an analysis of politeness is because theater is entertainment based on true stories and of course quite relatable to everyday life. This is the basis for the author to use theater as an object of research. According to Widarwati (2014), film is one type of entertainment, just like theater where the difference between the two is only in how they present it. Films here are shown through television where scenes are recorded and edited and then given visual effects with technology while theater is a live performance whose visual effects use objects that are directly arranged on stage. This artwork is entertainment that expresses real life that anyone can experience. And this is the reason that works of art, whether film or theater, deserve to be analyzed in terms of politeness.

The analysis that will be listed is the type or strategy of politeness used and how the function of the type or strategy of politeness used in this theater. Analysis of works of art is certainly very

common. The making of this article can be a reference for those who will analyze the theater entitled a raisin in the sun. This article discusses the analysis of the use of politeness in theater entitled a raisin in the sun. And the purpose of making this analysis is to explain the types of politeness in the theater entitled a raisin in the sun. And the second is to describe the function of the politeness strategy used in the theater entitled a raisin in the sun.

2. Research questions

In this research, there are two research questions related to the study, those are:

1. What are the types of politeness strategies in the theater of A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry?
2. What are the functions of politeness strategies in the theater of A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry?

3. Method

In this study, researchers used discourse analysis in the form of theater entitled a raisin in the sun. According to Brown and Yule (1983) discourse analysis has the aim of investigating language use. Usually it can be defined as "language outside the sentence" where the analysis relates to text or conversation. Based on this, the researcher can conclude that discourse analysis is a study of the use of language in social interaction. This can be in the form of text or conversation. In this study, researchers used discourse analysis to analyze the types and functions of politeness strategies.

4. Findings and discussion

In this finding, the researcher used politeness strategies to find the obtained data from the theater of A Raisin in The Sun, those are: (1) Bald on Record, (2) Positive Politeness, (3) Negative Politeness, and (4) Off Record. In the first strategy, researcher found several parts of Bald on Record, namely: 'Alerting' and 'Task-Oriented'. in the second, researcher found 'seek agreement' in the positive politeness. In the negative politeness, it found 'apologize'

statement in the theater. And last, it found 'be sarcastic' in a raisin in the sun theater.

There are four strategies in politeness proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). Those are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record.

1) Bald on Record

This strategy is used to carry out a conversation openly without further ado (Supriyanta & Ghozali, 2017). In other words, the speaker usually performs an impolite behavior without being held responsible. Usually, speakers make no effort to reduce the impact of a face-threatening act (FTA). According to Brown and Levinson (1987) this strategy is used as a direct, clear, and unambiguous way to say something without minimizing coercion. the things that the speaker does based on this strategy is to do bad things to the interlocutor such as: shocking the other person, humiliating, and making the situation uncomfortable. In addition, this strategy is usually used when the speaker communicates with familiar and familiar people such as: family, friends, and close friends.

2) Positive Politeness

This type of strategy usually only applies to a group where they only know each other or are just friends. Brown and Levinson (1987) stated that positive politeness strategies aim to pay attention to the interests, desires, and listeners themselves. Positive politeness strategies consist of paying attention, paying attention to the listener; excessive; intensify the listener's interest; using identity

markers in groups; looking for a deal; avoid disputes; presupposes / rises / asserts similarity; joke; convey that speaker and listener are cooperators; affirms or presupposes the speaker's knowledge of and concern for the listener's wishes; offer, promise; Be optimistic; involve speakers and listeners in the activity; give or ask for reasons; assume or assert reciprocity: fulfill the listener's wishes; and give gifts to listeners.

Brown and Levinson (1987:101) state that a strategy that is often used in situations where both parties know each other well is a positive politeness strategy which serves to reduce or avoid the occurrence of conflict. Building positive relationships, respecting the needs of others, everyone should strive to be liked and understood. As for the actions that still include aspects of positive politeness where direct speech acts, cursing, and violating Grice's maxims. This is because the action shows awareness that the relationship is strong to be able to overcome things, actions and words that are considered impolite. Holmes also suggests that positive politeness places more emphasis on shared attitudes and values. The use of positive politeness can be a face-saving act regarding the positive face of someone who shows solidarity, this emphasizes that both people who communicate want the same thing (Yule, 1996: 62).

3) Negative Politeness

According to Brown and Levinson (1987) negative politeness is the essence of respectful behavior and is more specific and focused. As for the part of negative politeness that is conventionally indirect; questions, fences; be pessimistic; minimize imposition; give respect; apologize; personalize the speaker and listener declare the FTA. Brown and Levinson (1987:129) state that negative politeness is coercion between the speaker and the listener. This can potentially lead to awkward positions or excessive shyness. Negative face is an independent desire where the request expressed does not take into account the negative face of the listener who may not be comfortable listening to it. Negative politeness can also be interpreted as respectful politeness because everyone in the social process has a need not to be disturbed or free. According to Holmes (1992:297), negative politeness can be understood and makes someone respected and not bothered by someone. However, Brown and Levinson (Goody, 1996:134) say that negative politeness is a repressive act by showing a negative face from the recipient.

4) Off Record

Brown and Levinson (1987) state that off-record in the use of language does not immediately eliminate the potential for coercion. In this case, the listener needs to understand and conclude what the speaker meant. The off-record strategy consists of: providing instructions; become unclear; and being sarcastic; or joke. According to Brown and Levinson (1987) off-record communicative actions can be performed so that they do not link only one clear communicative intent to an action. So, if someone wants to do an FTA but doesn't want to be responsible, he or she can off record and submit it to the recipient for interpretation.

So, here are several discussions of the politeness strategies in the theater of a raisin in the sun.

ACT 1 SCENE 1

1) Bald on Record

a) Alerting

RUTH Come on now, boy, it's seven thirty!
(*Her son sits up*)

at last, in a stupor of sleepiness) I say **hurry up, Travis You ain't the only person in the world got to use a bathroom!** (*The child, a sturdy, handsome little boy of ten or eleven, drags himself out of the bed and almost blindly takes his towels and "today's clothes" from drawers and a closet and goes out to the bathroom, which is in an outside hall and which is shared by another family or families on the same floor, RUTH crosses to the bedroom door at right and opens it and calls in to her husband*) **Walter Lee! ... It's after seven thirty!** Lemme see you do some waking up in there now! (*She waits*) You better get up from there, man! **It's after seven thirty** I tell you. (*She waits again*) All right, you just go ahead and lay there and next thing you know Travis be finished and Mr. Johnson'll be in there and you'll be fussing and cussing round here like a madman! And be late too! (*She waits, at the end of patience*) Walter Lee—it's time for you to GET UP!

Based on the conversation, Ruth here gives some 'alerting' to her son and husband named Travis and Walter. It is because Ruth expresses clear way and directly to her son and husband because he can be late to go to school and to work. This conversations use the strategy by saying it's after seven thirty and hurry up. Travis You ain't the only person in the world got to use a bathroom.

b) Task-Oriented

RUTH Sit down and have your breakfast, Travis. TRAVIS Mama, this is Friday. (*Gleefully*) Check comingtomorrow, huh?

RUTH You get your mind off money and eat your breakfast. TRAVIS (*Eating*) This is the morning we supposed to bring the fifty cents to school.

RUTH Well, I ain't got no fifty cents this morning. TRAVIS Teacher say we have to.

RUTH I don't care what teacher say. I ain't got it. **Eat your breakfast, Travis.**

TRAVIS I am eating.

RUTH Hush up now and just eat!

Based on the conversation above, Ruth gives a task-oriented to her son. It is because she has prepared breakfast to Travis. This strategy uses several instruction by saying Sit down and have your breakfast and Eat your breakfast, Travis.

2) Positive Politeness

a) Seek agreement

RUTH Walter, please leave me alone.

WALTER A man needs for a woman to back him up ...

RUTH Walter—

WALTER **Mama would listen to you. You know she listen to you more than she do me and Bennie. She think more of you. All you have to do is just sit down with her when you**

drinking your coffee one morning and talking 'bout things like you do and—(*He sits down beside her and*

demonstrates graphically what he thinks her methods and tone should be)—**you just sip your coffee, see, and**

say easy like that you been thinking 'bout that deal Walter Lee is so interested in, 'bout the store and all, and sip some more coffee, like what you saying ain't really that important to you— And the next thing you know, she be listening good and asking you questions and when I

come home—I can tell her the details. This ain't no fly-by-night proposition, baby. I mean we figured it out, me and Willy and Bobo.

The conversations above used positive politeness based on the part of it, namely: seek agreement. It stated that Walter wants to negotiate with his wife to invest his father's insurance money in the liquor store. So, Walter wants to his wife to talk to his mother because his mother loves his wife.

ACT 1 SCENE TWO

3) Negative Politeness

a) Apologize

MAMA Seem like you getting to a place where you always

tied up in some kind of knot about something. But if anybody ask you 'bout it you just yell at 'em and bust out the house and go out and drink somewheres. Walter

Lee, people can't live with that. Ruth's a good, patient girl

in her way—but you getting to be too much. Boy, don't make the mistake of driving that girl away from you.

WALTER Why—what she do for me? MAMA She loves you.

WALTER Mama—I'm going out. I want to go off somewhere and be by myself for a while.

MAMA I'm sorry 'bout your liquor store, son. It just wasn't the thing for us to do. That's what I want to tell you about— WALTER I got to go out, Mama—

Here, the conversation uses the strategy of apologize in negative politeness. It stated that Mama wants to apologize to her son about liquor store because **it just wasn't the thing for us to do**.

SCENE 1

b) Question

WALTER That's what you mad about, ain't it? The things I want to talk about with my friends just couldn't be important in your mind, could they? *(He rises and finds a cigarette in her handbag on the table and crosses to the little window and looks out, smoking and deeply enjoying this first one)*

RUTH *(Almost matter of factly, a complaint too automatic to*

deserve emphasis) **Why you always got to smoke before you eat in the morning?**

According to the conversation above, the strategy uses a question in negative politeness. It stated that Ruth asks to her husband by saying **why you always got to smoke before you eat in the morning?**

ACT 1 SCENE ONE

4) Off Record

a) Be Sarcastic - 1

(She waits another second and then starts to go into the bedroom, but is apparently satisfied that her husband has begun to get up. She stops, pulls the door to, and returns to the kitchen area. She wipes her face with a moist cloth and runs her fingers through her sleep-disheveled hair in a vain effort and ties an apron around her housecoat. The bedroom door at right opens

and her husband stands in the doorway in his pajamas, which are rumpled and mismated. He is a lean, intense young man in his middle thirties, inclined to quick nervous movements and erratic speech habits—and always in his voice there is a quality of indictment) WALTER Is he out yet?

RUTH **What you mean out? He ain't hardly got in there good yet**

The conversation uses be sarcastic in off record strategy. It stated that Ruth said **“what you mean out? He ain't hardly got in there good yet”**. She said that to her husband but, Walter did not know about his son whether Travis had come out of the bathroom or not.

Be Sarcastic - 2

WALTER *(At the window)* Just look at 'em down

there ... Running and racing to work ... *(He turns and faces his wife and watches her a moment at the stove, and then, suddenly)* You look young this morning, baby. RUTH *(Indifferently)* Yeah?

WALTER Just for a second—stirring them eggs. Just for a second it was—you looked real young again. *(He*

reaches for her; she crosses away. Then, drily) It's gone now—you look like yourself again!

RUTH Man, if you don't shut up and leave me alone. WALTER *(Looking out to the street again)* **First thing a man ought to learn in life is not to make love to no colored woman first thing in the morning. You all some eeeevil**

people at eight o'clock in the morning.

In the conversation above, it uses the strategy of off record, namely: be sarcastic. It stated that Walter said that **“First thing a man ought to learn in life is not to make love to no colored woman first thing in the morning. You all some eeeevil people at eight o'clock in the morning”**.

5. Conclusion

Based on the data analysis, there are

four strategies used by researcher to find the politeness in the theater of a raisin in the sun, those are: Those are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. In the theater, it uses bald on record strategy twice, the strategy of positive politeness once, the strategy of negative politeness twice, and the strategy of off record twice. So, Lorraine Hansberry uses politeness strategy because she wants to someone to do something right, to manage the time well, to minimize the FTAs, and to make a good relationship with family. So, the researcher suggests to all reader that if we want to make a good relationship, we should implement these strategies in our daily life with other. It will be better if the future researchers observe more about politeness strategy in different ways. So, it makes more knowledge about how to maintain the relationship with others in good way.

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