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**AN ANALYSIS OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED BY HARRY POTTER
IN J.K. ROWLING'S NOVEL "HARRY POTTER AND THE
SORCERER'S STONE"**

A THESIS

**Submitted to English Education Department *Tarbiyah* Faculty of *Syekh Nurjati*
State Institute for Islamic Studies in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for the
Islamic Scholar in English Education (S.Pd.I)**



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ABSTRACT

IRMA RATNA NINGSIH: AN ANALYSIS OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED BY HARRY POTTER IN J.K. ROWLING'S NOVEL "HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE"

Politeness is a strategy of people in being polite to build a harmony in term of communication. Politeness is one of the communication strategies that emphasize on how to be polite in words and actions. People usually use politeness in order to maintain and develop their relationship. If the individual can use politeness, automatically the individual can reach a running well and going smoothly of life.

The aims of this research are to know what politeness strategies that used by Harry Potter in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* novel by J.K. Rowling, to know to whom Harry Potter uses the politeness strategies and to know how Harry Potter uses the politeness strategies in his utterances.

The method of this research is discourse analysis. It used because it is concerning with describing instances of language use in context. From the data can be explored in a systematic way, the relation between language use from text and the context of occurrence of politeness strategies that used by Harry Potter. The data of this research taken from a novel entitled *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling. The main theory to analyze the data taken from the book entitled *Politeness: Some Universals in Language Usage* by Penelope Brown and Stephen C. Levinson (1987).

As results of this research, the writer found 90 data which contain politeness strategies and about 16 data has been analyzed by the writer. All the data belong to the four politeness strategies as being proposed by Brown and Levinson, namely bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness and off record. Bald on record strategy is used by Harry in the situation of urgency. In positive politeness, Harry uses it to people around him in order to satisfying their positive face. Negative politeness also used by Harry as he wants to satisfy the hearer's negative face. While off record strategy used by Harry because he wants to be indirect and gives the hearer clues. Harry used those strategies to his friends, teachers and character around him.

Finally, the researcher expects this research will be able to help the next researcher who conducts the research in the same field. It is suggested to further researchers to be able to investigate other objects which might contain politeness strategy and use another theory of politeness strategy.



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PREFACE

Alhamdulillahirabbil'alamin. The deepest gratitude goes to Allah SWT, for all His blessings and mercies, so the writer can finally finish this thesis. It is only for Him the writer gives all her hopes and wishes. *Shalawat* and *Salam* are always blessed upon our prophet Muhammad SAW who has guided us to the right way of life. This thesis entitled “An Analysis of Politeness Strategies Used by Harry Potter in J.K. Rowling’s Novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*” which is presented to the English Education Department of *Tarbiyah* Faculty in partial fulfillment the requirements for the Islamic Scholar in English Education (S.Pd.I)

Finishing this thesis is not easy and simple and the writer has spent much time. It, however, has given an invaluable experience. This thesis actually would never finish without supports, motivations and contributions from many people. The writer’s sincere gratitude then goes to:

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Finally, the writer admits that this thesis is truly not perfect. Therefore, any constructive comments from the readers will make this writing can provide a valuable contribution in the field of linguistics.

Cirebon, July 2012

The writer



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Language is a system of communication in speech and writing that is used by people of a particular country (Hornby, 2000: 721). As social creatures we need language to communicate with other people to make interaction. Without any language we can not communicate effectively and it can make misunderstanding both the speaker and the hearer. By language, people can express their feeling, opinion, ambitions, willing etc. in other words; it means that language is one of ways to explore people's idea that relates to the real life in their daily communication.

In doing communication people may have acquired a good lexical and grammatical command of the language. But, it is possible for human being to make some violation or offense. Therefore, in case of communication, people need politeness strategy in order to get a good response from the hearers. Politeness is used by people to make a smooth communication and to build equilibrium of relationship in a society. This supports by Ide that:



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[...] the language usage associated with smooth communication, realized 1) through the speaker's use of intentional strategies to allow his or her message to be received favorably by the addressee, and 2) through the speaker's choice of expressions to conform to the expected and/or prescribed norms of speech appropriate to the contextual situation in individual speech communities. (in Barešová, 2008: 24-25)

Watts (2003: 53) states that politeness instructs the interactants to produce a

harmonious interaction socially. If someone¹ wants to make a good conversation, he or she should pay attention to the strategy of politeness. On the other hand, as being suggested by Brown and Levinson (1987: 66) that recognizes what people are doing in verbal exchange (e.g. requesting, offering, criticizing, complaining, etc) not so much by what they overtly claim to do as in the fine linguistics details of utterances. In sum, the theory above means that when somebody has a conversation, he also has to pay attention on the hearer's feeling. It is because; beside the good way of speaking that we must have, to understand others' feeling is also an important point of communication. Therefore, use politeness strategies while having conversation with someone is one of the ways to make them comfortable with the topics.

According to Brown and Levinson (1987: 68), politeness strategies are developed in order to save the hearer's "face." Face refers to the respect that an individual has for him or herself, and maintaining that "self-esteem" in public or in private situations (Brown and Levinson, 1987: 61). In some cases, we are supposed to avoid embarrassing the other person, or making them feel uncomfortable. Face threatening Acts (FTA's) are acts that infringe on the hearers' need to maintain his/her self-esteem, and be respected. Politeness strategies are developed for the main purpose of dealing with these FTA's. In addition, there are four types of politeness



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strategies proposed by Brown and Levinson that sum up human “politeness” behavior: Bald on Record, Negative Politeness, Positive Politeness, and Off-Record-indirect strategy.

Going bald or on record means saying what you want to say without couching the statement or utterance in any politeness strategies (Meyerhoff, 2006: 92). Brown and Levinson (1987: 101) stated that positive politeness is designed to meet the face needs by performing an action like complimenting or showing concern for another person. Negative politeness is designed to protect to other person when face needs threatened. Meyerhoff (2006: 93) stated that off record strategy trying to convey the message by means of hints or suggestion.

There are many kinds of media that can be used as a means of communication. One of them is novel which contains written conversation and speech acts. The novel was so called because of the perceived ‘newness’ of the genre in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Novels can be broadly characterised as long narratives in prose dealing chiefly with contemporary life (Pope, 2002: 221). Novels tell stories, which are typically defined as a series of events described in a sequence. Although it is fiction, most of the ideas come near of our society. And like the other literary work, it must be have social values inside. It is also quite possible that the phenomena of politeness will appear in the novel because it reflects the real situation of the society.

One of example of the novel is *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* by J.K. Rowling. The novel was published on June 30th 1997 by Bloomsbury in London with



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the original title was *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, while in 1998 Scholastic Corporation published an edition for the United States market under the title *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. The novel won most of the UK book awards that were judged by children, and other awards in the USA. The book reached the top of the New York Times list of best-selling fiction in August 1999. It has been translated into several other languages and has been made into a feature-length film of the same name.

“Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” is about the adventures of the main character, as a little wizard, namely Harry Potter. Essentially, witchcraft as described by Rowling in her popular novel is about our being able to control. This research chooses J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter because firstly, this novel is easy to understand particularly because the language is very natural and colloquial. While reading, the readers can feel the dialogues between the characters are alive. Quoting also from Mariano (2002: 3), Harry Potter novel is high in discourse and due to its category as a children’s literature. The dialogues are very natural because it is similar to everyday speaking, and because of its contemporary and its popularity indicate that the conversational style in the book is very realistic and engaging. Secondly, it is because of the phenomenon that happens in this novel is that Harry Potter as the main character and a student of Hogwarts School frequently used polite utterances in many ways, whether it is bald on record, off record, positive or negative politeness. He might use it both of in formal and informal situation, and use it to his friends, teachers or people around him.



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Some researchers have investigated many studies about politeness strategies. Fatkhurozi (2007) conducted Politeness Strategies Used by Mia and Her Grandma in “Princess Diaries” Film. This research was designed by using sociolinguistic approach because the researcher tried to study a language phenomenon used by the speaker and the hearer. The approach is based on the Scollon and Scollon’s theory of politeness. The other research was written by Mufidatul Ula (2010), which focuses on An Analysis of Negative Politeness Found in “There is something about Mary” film. She investigated about negative politeness strategies based on Brown and Levinson theory applied by all the characters in “There is something about Mary” movie. She found that most of the characters used negative politeness strategies when they interact with others. Sari (2010) studied politeness strategies used by the main character of “The Other Boleyn Girl” movie. It was found that strategies used by the main character of “The Other Boleyn Girl” movie were bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness and off record.

The differences between the present researcher and the previous researchers are the object of the research. The previous researchers took the data which were collected from movie, while the present researcher takes data from a novel that appears in written text. The present researcher only examines the utterances shown by the main character in the novel but the previous researcher focused on the whole conversations. Besides, the present researcher doesn’t use the Scollon and Scollon’s model of politeness strategy like the previous researcher did but the present researcher only uses the Brown and Levinson’s theory of politeness to analyze. It is



hoped that the researcher will provide a scientific contribution about how to analyze politeness phenomena, especially in novel.

Therefore, considering all the explanations above this research put the title “An Analysis of Politeness Strategies Used by Harry Potter in J.K. Rowling’s Novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*” to cover this phenomenon.

B. Identification of the Problem

The problem in this research which entitled ”An Analysis of Politeness Strategies Used by Harry Potter in J.K. Rowling’s Novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*” is classified into the following sections:

1. The Field of the Research

The field in the research in this thesis is sociolinguistics.

2. The Kinds of Problem

There are many problems in language use interpretation, as follows:

1. Speaker says something but the hearer can not understand what the speaker intends to.
2. Speaker gives a lot of deference but it would have seemed impolite and rude.

3. The Main Problem

The main problem in this research is one kind of sociolinguistics field that is politeness in utterances, which found in a novel entitled *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*.



C. The Limitation of the Problem

Every analysis needs limitation in order to make the analysis does not go far from the topic of discussion and make the analysis focus to what being discussed. The writer focuses on utterances that show politeness strategies used by Harry Potter as the main character in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, a novel by J.K. Rowling. Brown and Levinson's theory is used to analyze the data. This theory proposes four types of politeness strategies: bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record.

D. The Questions of the Research

The writer interested in analyzing the styles of language used in a novel entitled *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, especially the politeness strategies used by Harry Potter as the main character. The writer has several questions about this, as follows:

1. What politeness strategies are used by Harry Potter in the novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling?
2. Whom does Harry Potter use the politeness strategies to?
3. How does Harry Potter use the politeness strategies in his utterances?

E. The Aims of the Research



Based on the problems mentioned above, the aims of the research are:

1. To know politeness strategies that used by Harry Potter in the novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling.
2. To know to whom Harry Potter uses the politeness strategies.
3. To know how Harry Potter uses the politeness strategies in his utterances

F. The Significance of the Research

The writer hopes this research will be significant theoretically and practically.

The theoretical significances are:

1. To show the readers the kinds of politeness strategies used in utterances.
2. To show that people usually use the politeness strategies in their daily conversation whether they realize it or not.

The practical significance of the research is to encourage another study of politeness strategy in other created discourses like novels, movies, short stories or even field research about politeness strategies. In the filed of education especially English Language Teaching, this research will help the teacher to teach not only on grammatical system, but also a cultural manner of communication so that the students are able to speak with native speakers. It will be better to include the politeness strategies as a speaking practice in the class. The writer also hopes this study gives valuable information to further researchers, teachers, students and readers.



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