

**POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED BY MEN AND WOMEN IN  
SHOWING POWER AND SOLIDARITY AS FOUND IN THE TV  
SERIALS "DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES"**

**A THESIS**

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## ABSTRAK

Penggunaan strategi kesantunan berbahasa (*Politeness Strategies*) oleh laki-laki dan perempuan ini dibahas dalam skripsi. Ada pun tujuan penelitian ini adalah (1) untuk menentukan strategi kesantunan yang digunakan oleh laki-laki dan perempuan, (2) untuk mengetahui kemunculan *power* dan *solidarity* (solidaritas) dalam ujaran. Data diperoleh dari serial "*Desperate Housewives*" yang diambil dengan teknik perekaman dan pencatatan. Data dianalisis dengan mengelompokkan ujaran ke dalam ujaran laki-laki dan perempuan. Kemudian ditentukan tipe strategi kesantunan yang digunakan penutur dengan menggunakan teori Brown dan Levinson. Penulis juga memakai teori Tannen untuk mengkaji kemunculan *power* dan *solidarity* (*solidaritas*) yang muncul dalam ujaran penutur. Metode formal dan informal digunakan dalam penyajian data.

Empat macam strategi pokok kesantunan berbahasa yaitu *bald on record*, *positive politeness*, *negative politeness*, dan *off record* ditemukan di dalam skripsi ini. Ditemukan bahwa strategi kesantunan yang digunakan oleh laki-laki dan perempuan menunjukkan *power* dan *solidarity* (*solidaritas*). Dari keempat strategi kesantunan, ditemukan bahwa *positive politeness* (45,5%) lebih sering digunakan oleh penutur wanita yang menunjukkan nilai solidaritas. Sedangkan laki-laki cenderung lebih sering menggunakan *negative politeness* (50%) yang menandakan *power*.

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In interaction with others, men and women show different ways in conveying their intention. These differences can always be seen in many societies. For example men tend to talk about information. On the other hand, women tend to reflect solidarity. As stated in Holmes (2000:151), "Men and women do not speak in exactly the same way as each other in any communication". Each of them has unique ways of expressing their thoughts and feelings.

The differences in uttering language between men and women can be the way how they show power (patriarchy) and solidarity (intimacy). In assumption, power is the men's characteristic in showing their independency and solidarity is the women's ways to maintain intimacy (Tannen, 1994).

Furthermore, one of the interaction distinctions between men and women can also be seen in politeness behavior. It clearly shows that politeness is important in social life. People need to be polite anytime and anywhere. Thus, politeness is reflected in language. People might know whether one is being polite or not through the way he or she speaks. According to Brown and Levinson (1987) politeness in speech is described in terms of positive and negative face; showing respect and



awareness to another person's face. If we relate to women linguistic behaviors, women are often thought to be more polite, and more correct than men, in their language.

Holmes (1995:5) states,

*"Women tend to be more polite than men. In general, women are much more likely than men to express positive politeness or friendliness in the way they use language. Women's utterances show evidence of concern for the feelings of the people they are talking to more often and more explicitly than men's do."*

Related to this, politeness strategy emerges almost in day-to-day conversation, including in women and men interaction. The application of politeness strategy occurs when speaker realizes that to save the hearer's face is important. It would not be polite if a speaker directly gives an order, for example, to someone that has social distance relationship with him (to a stranger). It may threaten the face of the hearer. This explanation can be illustrated in the following example. This dialog happens in a bus:

A: What a hot day!

B: Yeah and I will open the window, it will be nice, isn't?

A: Thank you

Based on the example above, the situation in a bus is hot and the window besides B's chair is closed, A tries to give an order to B to open the window. The fact, A and B are strangers, A decides to use off record (give a hint) to state his order by

## BAB IV

### CONCLUSION

In her analysis, the writer finds out four politeness strategies in the conversations. They are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. The choice of each strategy by the users is various factors. One of them is gender in which this factor influences the participants in the communication to express their wants.

Positive politeness is frequently used by women in the data analyzed. Among eleven data of women participants, the occurrences of positive politeness are five times. Women frequently use positive politeness considering positive face of hearer more often than men. It is appropriate with woman style in language concerned with building and maintaining relationship (solidarity). Hence, this type not only indicates being polite, but also to build a sense of community

Meanwhile negative politeness is frequently used by men in the data analyzed. This type is used to show respect to the addressee. It means that in conversation, men tend to show power and distance. Beside, they also apply this strategy to protect their negative face. Among ten data, the occurrence of negative politeness is five times and positive politeness is three times. The application of this type of politeness strategies only occurs if the relationship between the speaker and the hearer is unclosed. To conclude, this phenomenon can be elaborated by comparing it with participants' relationship to each other.

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