# A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF IMPOLITENESS STRATEGIES IN *CARRIE* MOVIE

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**Abstract**

The aims of the study are to identify: (1) the types of impoliteness strategies, (2) the functions of the strategies, and (3) the responses of impoliteness strategies performed by the characters in *Carrie* movie. The study was descriptive qualitative and was supported by quantitative method in presenting the occurrence of the data in frequency. The data were in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences in the context of dialogues. Three findings are shown in the result. (1) There are four types of impoliteness strategies found in the movie. Those types are bald on record strategy, positive impoliteness, negative impoliteness, and sarcasm or mock politeness. (2) All functions are found in the movie i.e. affective function, coercive function, and entertaining function. (3) All responses are found in the movie, they are accepting, countering, and giving no response.

Keywords: pragmatic, impoliteness, *Carrie* movie.

## INTRODUCTION

As social creatures, people have an essential need which is to communicate with others to exchange messages, answer questions, and express some ideas. Conversation is the most common process of communication which involves two people or more. In conversations, people use language to send their thoughts and opinions. In sending their messages people often use different styles and ways. Some of them choose their words wisely and tend to apply polite language because they expect to have smooth conversation. Nevertheless, smooth conversation sometimes cannot be achieved because there are some people who do not care about words choice. They often use impolite language to express their feelings to other people.

This study uses the theories which are proposed by Culpeper. The research has three objectives: to explain the types of impoliteness strategies used by the characters in *Carrie* movie, to find out the functions of impoliteness strategies used in *Carrie* movie, and to describe the responses of the characters in *Carrie* movie to the impolite treatment addressed to them.

Culpeper et al (2003: 1549) says that intention is the main key of the difference between politeness and impoliteness, whether it is the support face (politeness) or to attack it (impoliteness). Furthermore, people also address impoliteness to show their power and

intimacy. People want to show their social status and classes by aggravating another person's face. These acts are the means to show that the speaker has a higher social status than the addressee. Viewed from the side of intimacy, impoliteness will work in context in which the impoliteness is understood to be untrue. The intimacy of a relationship of two individuals takes an effect to the use of impoliteness. Politeness is rarely used by two people who have close relationship (Culpeper, 1995: 352).

People can observe impolite acts not only in daily life activities, but also in movies. One of which is *Carrie* movie. The story is about a girl named Carrie who is always bullied by a group of girls in her school. She is very clumsy and coward, so she always becomes the target of impoliteness by the sadistic girls. Suddenly she finds out her secret ability to move things without touching it. She wants to take a revenge to her classmates by using this ability.

Before knowing about impoliteness, it is important to understand about face and politeness. According to Brown and Levinson (in Gyllenhaal, 2016: 2), the term face is the public self-image of an individual that everyone wants to claim it for him/herself. Yule (1996: 60) argues that people hope that their public self-image can be identified by others. People behave properly and speak nicely in accordance to save the other's face. In contrast, some of them do not speak properly in order to damage the other's face.

Meanwhile, politeness can be defined as spoken and non-spokenmanners that allow people to maintain face (Brown and Levinson in Ruhi , 2006: 44). Politeness is something people have to learn because it is not born with people. Politeness focusses on how communicative strategies are employed to maintain social harmony. In contrast, Disharmony also can happen when the speaker is attacking the interlocutor's public self image. Some people prefer to use impolite language than the polite one because of several factors. Eelen (in Primadianti, 2015: 13) argues that impoliteness is used by a person who does not return remembrances or he prefers being silent.

The researcher analyzes the characters' utterances in the movie which contain impoliteness strategies. The types of impoliteness strategies that are observed in this research are the characters' utterances when performing impoliteness strategies. To find oout the types of impoliteness strategies, the researcher uses the theory which is proposed by Culpeper (1995). There are five types of impoliteness strategies analyzed in this research: bald on record strategy, positive impoliteness strategy, negative impoliteness strategy, sarcasm or mock politeness, and withhold politeness.

To find out the functions of impoliteness strategies, the researcher uses the theory classified by Culpeper (2011). He concludes that there are three types of functions. He state the types of functions into three that are affective function, coercive function, and entertaining function.

The last objective is to find out the responses of impoliteness strategies. There are

three types of responses which are suggested by Culpeper (2003). Those responses are accepting the face attack, countering the face attack, and giving no response.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted by using mixed method, the combination of qualitative method and quantitative method. Since the aims of this research were to describe the types, the functions, and the responses to impoliteness strategies used in *Carrie* movie.

According to Berg (2001: 3), a qualitative research refers to meanings, ideas, explanations, characteristics, and descriptions of objects. Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009:167) state that the aim of the qualitative research is to describe the objectives of the research than to predict it. This research also used quantitative method to show the percentage number of occurrences of each characteristic. Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009: 7) state that quantitative research deals with statistical assignment in certain occurrence of the research. The detailed result can be reached by the researcher through the number of the percentage.

The data in this research were in the forms of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences found in the utterances of the main and the supporting characters. The contexts of the data were the dialogues between the characters in the movie. There were two sources in this research. The primary sources of the data were the movie and the transcript of *Carrie* moviE. The secondary sources were books, journals, and papers.

In the qualitative research, the instrument of data collecting process is the researcher him or herself or with the assistance of somebody else. Therefore, the primary instrument of this research was the researcher herself. Since the researcher was the main instrument, she had the role of planning, collecting, analyzing and reporting the research findings. Meanwhile, to help the researcher in collecting the data, the researcher used supporting instrument. Data sheet was the supporting instrument which function is to note the linguistic phenomena of impoliteness found in the movie.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

From the object of the research, there are 47 data found by the researcher. However, from five types of impoliteness strategies, only four types occur in the utterance of the characters. Those are bald on record impoliteness, positive impoliteness, negative impoliteness, and sarcasm or mock politeness. Meanwhile, the absent type is withhold politeness. In *Carrie* movie, positive impoliteness becomes the type which is frequently used by the characters in the movie.

Furthermore, there are three types of functions which are used in the movie. The most dominant function which occurs in the movie is affective function because most of the characters in the movie want to show their current emotion to the person they talk to. Most of them show their madness and the other want to show sadness, discomfort, and fear. On the other hand, coercive function becomes the rarely used function by the

characters in the movie because most of them have the same class in the society.

In addition, there are four types of responses which can be choosen by the characters. Those are accepting the face attack, offensive countering, defensive countering, and no response. In addition, no response comes as the most dominant type which is used by the characters in the movie because the characters do not want the face attacks from the speaker become worse. Furthermore, defensive countering becomes the lowest response used by the characters because it is difficult to defense themselves when the impoliteness strategy happens because of their own fault.

## 1. Types of Impoliteness Strategies in *Carrie* Movie

### a. Bald on Record Impoliteness

SUE        : It's so funny, Chris.

CHRIS      : Are you okay?

SUE        : Yeah.

(CARRIE CHUCKLES)

CHRIS      : **You eat shit.**

CARRIE     : (*Silent*)

Bald on record strategy is clearly used by Chris when she talks to Carrie. Chris, who thinks that Carrie should not be laughing, shouts to Carrie. She addresses bald on record strategy to Carrie by saying **You eat shit**. She wants to attack Carrie' face directly. It can be seen from Chris' utterance that she does not like Carrie's behaviour. Carrie laughs because she thinks that its okay for her to laugh when her friends are laughing. On the other hand, Chris thinks that Carrie is not the part of her

community, so she wants to remind Carrie by delivering impoliteness strategy.

### b. Positive Impoliteness

### 1) Disassociating from the Other

MARGARET  : **You must be different**,because He can see you.

CARRIE     : *I don't want to be different, Mama.I want to be like them.*

**You must be different** is the example of positive impoliteness because Margaret is disassociating her daughter from the other girls. She believes that God can see Carrie but cannot see the other girls. Margaret also believes that only sinned girls get period. It is the sign that God hate you, so he give period as the punishment. Meanwhile, Carrie does not like to be different, she wants to be like the other girls. She is also mad at her mother because she never tell her about period.

### 2) Calling the Other Names

CHRIS      : I bet that **cocksucker Morton** loses his job, though.My dad is suing him.

ALL        : (*Silent*)

Chris performs positive impoliteness because she hates the headmaster's decision that she has to be taken out from the prom. The headmaster force Chris to give her phone to him to prove that she does not have Carrie's video when she gets her first period. Chris refuses to give her phone and she officialy out from the prom. She performs calling the other names strategy to express her anger at the headmaster. She uses **cocksucker Morton** to call the headmaster's name. This

word is included as a derogative word and of course it also belongs as an impolite word.

### 3) Utilizing Taboo Words

SUE : **What the hell**?

CARRIE : (*Silent*)

Sue employs positive impoliteness strategy because she is surprised with the thing happens to her. She sometimes bullies Carrie because of her strange behavior. In this case, Sue employs utilizing taboo words because she does not like what Carrie has done to her. She even uses taboo words **What the hell** in her utterance to damage Carrie's positive face. Sue's utterance toward Carrie is undoubtedly impolite. Meanhile, Carrie says nothing to Sue during the face attack.

### c. Negative Impoliteness

### 1) Condescending, Scorning, or Ridiculing

CHRIS : **Yeah, Carrie White! Do it, Carrie! Yeah, yeah. Throw it. Do it. Serve it.**

CARRIE : (*Silent*)

Chris performs negative impoliteness to Carrie because she does not respect Carrie. Even though Carrie tries to prove to her friends that she is worth and she can be like them, Chris and her friends still hate her. Chris even scorns to Carrie because she does not has any respect anymore toward Carrie. She expresses her impoliteness strategy to Carrie by **Yeah, Carrie White! Do it, Carrie! Yeah, yeah. Throw it. Do it. Serve it.** She believes that Carrie cannot serve the ball.

### 2) Associating the Other with a Negative Aspect Explicitly

MARGARET : Boys, boys. After the blood, comes the boys **sniffing, slobbering like dogs**.

CARRIE : *Stop it mama.*

Margaret performs negative impoliteness because she has her own mindset about boys. She never has good impression about boys (literary boys and men) because she does not have good past time with men. She warns her daughter by using negative impoliteness strategy to convince her not to go to the prom because boys are dangerous. However, she mock 'boys' by saying the boys **sniffing, slobbering like dogs**. Margaret associates 'boys' with negative aspects explicitly by using the words "like dogs". In this utterance, Margaret wants to highlight that boys have the same ability with dogs that is sniffing to search something. In this case, boys is searching for the place where the period blood comes from.

### d. Sarcasm or Mock Politeness

SUE : (LAUGHS SARCASTICALLY)**It's so funny, Chris**.

CHRIS : *Are you okay*?

Sue insincerely talks to Chris that this accident is very funny. She actually means the opposite from what she literally says. She intends to attack Chris' face because she has done something that makes her mad. Chris does not help Sue when Carrie accidentally serves the ball to Sue's head. All the girls, include Carrie, are laughing watch this accident. Sue is mad and shy at the same time. To save her face she employs face threathening act to Chris.

**2. Functions of Impoliteness Strategies in Carrie Movie**

**a. Affective Function**

CARRIE : **I didn't sin, you sinned.**

MARGARET : *I did not. I did not sin.*

Carrie employs bald on record impoliteness to her mother by saying **I didn't sin, you sinned**. She wants to emphazise that she did not sin, but her mother. She recalls Margaret's memory that Carrie was born from the sin of her parents. Carrie attacks Margaret's face to show that she is very angry at her. In this case, Carrie employs affective function to show her current emotions that is angry. Carrie is angry because she thinks she did not make any sin, but her mother did. She thinks that take a shower together with her friends is not a sin, intercourse is.

**b. Coercive Function**

SUE : **Get off me, you freak**!

CARRIE : *Please*.

Carrie holds Sue's shirt and makes blood marks on her shirt. Sue is so surprised with Carrie's behaviour. She also hates to be annoyed by Carrie. Therefore, she employs negative impoliteness to stop Carrie's weird behaviour. She scorns Carrie to show that they have different classes and statuses. Besides, she shows to her friends that Carrie does not deserve any respect. In this case, she performs coercive function. All of her friends agree with Sue's face attack because they also hate Carrie. Meanwhile, Carrie accepts the face attack because she does not know what to do.

**c. Entertaining Function**

ULMAN : **Okay, uh, that was, uh......disturbing.**

CARRIE : (*Silent*)

Mr. Ulman thinks that Carrie is a weird person and he hates her because she acts clumsy. When Carrie finished reading her poem, Mr. Ulman says something that damage her face and hurt her feeling. He says **Okay, uh, that was, uh......disturbing** to Carrie in front of his students to entertain himself and them. All of them laugh except Tommy and Sue. They think Carrie is weird because she talks about God most of the time. Even she loves to read poem which is related to God.

**3. The Characters' Responses to the Impoliteness Strategies Addressed to Them in *Carrie* Movie**

**a. Accepting the Face Attack**

CHRIS : **This is bullshit!** We didn't do anything wrong.

DESJARDIN : *All right, let's go*

Mrs. Desjardin is accepting the face attack from Chris by ignoring her utterances. She focuses on her students who are undergoing their punishment. She says *All right, let's go* to order her students to continue the punishment. From the conversation above, it can be seen that Chris is angry at Mrs. Desjardin because Mrs. Desjardin has suspended Chris from her class. She is also furious because she is out from the prom night. In this case, Mrs. Desjardin accepts the face threathening act because she does not care with Chris. She does not give respect for those who do not respect the other.

**b. Countering the Face Attack**

**1) Offensive Countering**

CARRIE : **Get off me! Mama! Stop it!**

MARGARET : *Go to your closet and pray for forgiveness.*

CARRIE : *No!*

Margaret tries to counter Carrie's face attack by offending her. She replies Carrie's face attack with face attack. She offends Carrie by ordering her to go to the praying closet and pray for forgiveness because she already made a sin. It can be seen that Margaret is angry at her daughter because she does not obey her order. In the end, Carrie still does not go to the praying closet and still attacks her mother's face by saying *No!*.

**2) Defensive Countering**

MARGARET : *You showered with those other girls.* **You had lust-filled thoughts.**

CARRIE : *Everyone has to shower, Mama. Everyone. That's just the rules.*

Carrie counters her mother who insult her that she has lust-filled thoughts. She counters her mother's face attack by defending her own face. She says *Everyone has to shower, Mama. Everyone. That's just the rules.* Carrie wants her mother to be understood that she did not do anything wrong. She did not sin just because she took a shower together with her friends. It is the school's rules that everyone should take shower together in one big shower room. She wants to prove to her mother that she does not have lust-filled thoughts.

**c. No Response**

ULMAN : **Okay, uh, that was, uh......disturbing.**

CARRIE : (*Silent*)

Mr. Ulman says to Carrie that her poem and her performance are disturbing. (Datum 12). All of the students in the class are laughing except Carrie, Tommy, and Sue. Carrie gives no response to the impoliteness addressed to her. She choses to not respond because she knows that Mr. Ulman is her teacher, and she cannot offend the face attack. She thinks that giving face attack to teacher is unappropriate behaviour. In the end, the one who gives face attack to Mr. Ulman is Tommy. He does this to save.

**CONCLUSION**

To summarize the findings and discussion, it can be concluded that most of the impoliteness strategies performed by the characters in Carrie movie. They are bald on record strategy, positive impoliteness strategy, negative impoliteness strategy, and sarcasm or mock politeness. Utilizing taboo words becomes the first rank of appearance of positive impoliteness strategy in this movie. By using this strategy, the speaker can damage the addressee's face because the taboo words can insult the hearer.

The second objective of this research is to explain the functions of impoliteness strategies in *Carrie* movie. There are three functions of impoliteness strategy,i.e. affective function, coercive function, and entertaining function. The most used function in this movie is affective function. The aim of this function

is to show current emotions of the speaker such as anger, fear, and sadness to the addressee. By using this function, the speakers can easily express their emotions to the hearers.

The last objective of this research is to explain the responses of impoliteness strategies addressed to the characters in *Carrie* movie. From the three kinds of responses of impoliteness strategies, all of them are used by the characters. Those are accepting the face attack, countering the face attack, and no response. No response becomes the most frequent choice of responses of impoliteness strategy in the movie because the characters do not want the impoliteness strategies addressed to them become worse.

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