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Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Budaya

## DAFTAR ISI

Pengantar Redaksi

1. The Portryal of Christianity in Achebe's *Arrow of God*: A Postcolonial Perspective  
Oleh: Tatang Iskarna
2. The Meanings, the Associations, and the Functions of Metaphor in Sport Discourse in Kompas Newspaper  
Oleh: Devi Melisa Saragi
3. Analisis Makna Implisit dan Eksplisit pada Bahasa Batak Toba dan Bahasa Indonesia  
Oleh: Yusniaty Galinging
4. Absurditas dalam Novella *Si Benalu* Karya Nescio  
Oleh: Mike Wijaya Saragih
5. The Analysis of Politeness Maxim in *the Eclipse* Movie  
Oleh: Martin Axcel Panjaitan, Masda Surti Simatupang
6. Analysis of Translation Shift in a Novel (English-Indonesian Translation)  
Oleh: Maria Gratia Ondok, Gunawan Tambunsaribu



Diterbitkan oleh:  
FAKULTAS SASTRA  
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA  
JAKARTA

**SUSUNAN REDAKSI  
DIALEKTIKA**

Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Budaya  
Fakultas Sastra

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Redaktur Pelaksana

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Alamat Redaksi : Fakultas Sastra  
Universitas Kristen Indonesia  
Kampus Cawang, Lantai 2  
Jalan Mayjen Sutoyo, Cawang  
Jakarta 13630  
Tel. (021) 8092425; 8099190, Pes. 324  
Fax: (021) 808868882  
E-mail: [dialektikafsuki@yahoo.co.id](mailto:dialektikafsuki@yahoo.co.id)

ISSN : 2338-2635

## THE ANALYSIS OF POLITENESS MAXIM IN THE ECLIPSE MOVIE

*Martin Axcel Panjaitan*<sup>1</sup>, *Masda Surti Simatupang*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Kristen Indonesia

\* [masdasimatupang@uki.ac.id](mailto:masdasimatupang@uki.ac.id)

### Abstract

*Maxim as a politeness principle is a substantial issue because if people obey the regulation, they will enact their expression more thoughtfully. One that corresponded to the principle is the scale of politeness, a measurement of the level of politeness. This paper aimed to analyze politeness maxims and determine the scales of politeness used by the characters' utterances in the Eclipse movie. The writers used a qualitative descriptive method in this research since the data described the problematic context. The politeness of maxim and scale of politeness were investigated based on Leech's principle. The phases of analyzes included listing data with politeness maxim and classifying the data into six maxim categories. The next step was analyzing and interpreting the data based on Leech's scale of politeness used by characters' utterances. The last was portraying an inference from the result of the analysis. From the analysis of twenty-six data, the most dominant politeness maxim is the generosity maxim (nine data), and the least was the agreement maxim (one data). The rest were seven approbation maxims, six sympathy maxims, and three tact maxims. The politeness scale was cost-benefit (twenty-three data) and optionality (three data).*

**Key Words:** politeness maxim, politeness principle, scale of politeness

### INTRODUCTION

Politeness is an essential thing in our daily lives since it is an effective way to avoid quarrels and show one's behavior. In other words, applying politeness strategies will help people to behave themselves. Handayani (2011) argued to distinguish politeness strategies used by selected characters in the film. She found the factor of higher and lower in the workplace is not one of the main factors that can cause the different politeness strategy. On the other hand, the lower character had the same strategy as the higher did. Nikmah (2012) discussed politeness in the form of apology, types of apology expressions, the strategy of apology, and types of politeness strategy employed by characters in the Twilight movie. She further revealed 22 apologizing terms in her analysis, divided into two kinds of apologizing: direct and indirect.

There are different forms of politeness employed in our daily communication. One form of politeness is used when one asked for a request. Kristoni (2013) investigated the politeness strategies involved in the requests found in the Inception movie. The result of the politeness strategy, which is used by all the characters, is a bald-on record consisting

of 72 cases. Some of the previous research above indicated the importance of politeness in people's life. If people are not polite to others, it means they are lack behavior. Another assumption is that people who are not polite portrayed the chaos of their life or their parents' lives. So, politeness is the most significant issue in our daily life.

Politeness maxims are the topics that researchers discuss a lot since they relate to our community interaction and associate people's attitude and behavior, which are highly appreciated in our social lives. People value politeness utterances as the standard manners for communication. People tend to perform unpolite statements that create quarrels or disputes among people in the community. One topic relates to the violation of politeness maxims is stated by Sandra (2010), who identified and classified conversations of *Date Night* movie and found breaches of politeness maxim. She obtained seven data that violated the approbation maxim. Two data violated tact maxim, two data violated sympathy maxim, and four data violated agreement maxim. Violations may occur because of someone's desire to give intention implied in utterance, so the principles did not adhere.

Another perspective concerning politeness, Sinkeviciute (2010) analyzed politeness in First Encounter Conversations in British English Film and Peninsular Spanish Film. The data were taken from the film "Love Actually", a British English film, and *Va A Ser Que Nadie Es Perfecto*, a Spanish film. The results asserted negative politeness in British English films and positive politeness in Spanish.

Some researchers discussed implementing the Politeness Maxim. Their studies showed that it is essential to comprehend the maxims in our interaction. Pratiwi (2016) described the politeness of maxim used in the *Frozen* movie and explained factors that influence the politeness maxim employed in the film. She found four types of politeness maxims in the data, including generosity maxim, approbation maxim, agreement maxim, and tact maxim. Nearly similar to Pratiwi's research, Mulyono (2016) conveyed a description of the politeness principle in the *Stand by Me* movie as the data source. The results showed 25 politeness principles found in the film: one tact maxim, three generosity maxims, six approbation maxims, one modesty maxim, two agreement maxims, three sympathy maxims. He also analyzed the politeness scale with the results: two formality scale, three equality scale, and four hesitancy scale. The most numerous maxim operated is the approbation maxim. The characters in this film seek to avoid conflict and create an environment that is comfortable in communication. Another study regarding politeness maxim was conducted by Maharani (2017), who investigated the Maxims' usage in the drama *Secrets Forgiven*. She discussed that in the comparison of the number of the politeness maxims performed by the main characters, the tact maxim performed three times, the generosity six times, the approbation seven times, the agreement seven times, the sympathy two times, and the modesty only once. Therefore, the types of politeness maxim that often

appeared in the main character's conversation in the drama *Secrets Forgiven* are the approbation and agreement maxim. Kurniasih (2017) argued that the most dominant politeness maxim in the Harry Potter movie is the agreement, and the dominant scale is social distance.

According to Leech (1996) in Yule (1996), politeness is a social interaction between participants in the atmosphere of harmonious relation. Leech divided politeness principles into six maxims: tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. Some investigation concerning politeness maxim described by Tanjung (2013). He argued that politeness levels in daily utterances and some factors that influence politeness in a conversation. From six politeness maxims, he explained that the most numerous was sympathy maxim utterances in the movie *Eat, Pray, Love*. He further discovered three factors that influence the use of politeness maxim: culture, etiquette, and directive compliance. Yet, culture is the most factor in the use of Politeness Maxims. Using a similar film *Eat, Pray, Love*, as the source of data, Ismet (2014) attempted to identify and analyze the politeness aspects. He discovered that politeness maxims in the film were generosity maxim, tact maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim.

Different from Tanjung (2013) and Ismet (2014), this study focused on the form of politeness used by the characters' utterances in *Eclipse* movie, which are classified into politeness maxim and measure the scales of politeness based on Leech's principle to explain the level of politeness behind each utterance, for example:

David: "Here's my pen. You can use it."

Nancy: "Thank you so much. You know I want to jot something in my notebook."

The expression "Here's my pen, you can use it" asserts the generosity maxim. David minimizes benefit to himself by giving his pen to her. David adduces his mercy to Nancy by lending her his pen. After getting a pen from David, Nancy responds to him by saying, "Thank you". The example shows that the generosity maxim expressed by David makes his conversation goes smoothly with Nancy. In other words, the knowledge of politeness maxim will enact the expression more thoughtful.

The writer wants to research politeness because it is a significant thing in this era right now. The writer is interested in discussing maxim because maxim is a politeness principle that can make someone speak politely. Maxim determines kinds of politeness in a different situation. People who learn politeness maxim know how to say politely in conversation in a different position. They know what they should speak politely with their partner speaking. The writer is also interested in discussing the scale of politeness because it measures the level of politeness. People who learn the scale of politeness know its level. So, they

will get deep comprehension about etiquette to make them speak politely with their partner speaking.

This study focused on the form of politeness used by the characters' utterances in the *Eclipse* movie, which is classified into politeness maxim and measure the scales of politeness based on Leech's principle to explain the level of politeness behind each utterance. This paper is used to determine the forms of politeness maxims used by the characters' statements and determine the scales of politeness maxims used by the characters' utterances in the *Eclipse* movie. The research questions for this study are: 1) What forms of politeness maxims are used by the characters' utterances found in *Eclipse* movie, 2) What scales of politeness maxims are used by the characters' utterances found in *Eclipse* movie

### **Politeness Maxim**

In this research, the researchers focus on politeness utterances classified into politeness maxims and the explanation of politeness scales based on Leech's principle. Leech divided politeness principles into six: tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. Followings are the thimbles in the Leech politeness principle:

1. Tact Maxim demands a speaker to minimize the expression of beliefs that imply cost to others and maximize the expression of beliefs that benefit others.

Example:

Mira: "Can I finish getting dressed, please? Thank you".

Steffi: "You are the one who keeps talking about being a manager. All I am saying is, it could be you".

The expression of "Can I finish getting dressed please?" indicates tact maxim. Mira's utterance does not force Steffi to help Mira. It suggests that Mira's statements show tact maxim.

2. Generosity Maxim demands the speaker to maximize cost to self and minimize benefit to self.

Example:

Caroline: "At least let me buy you lunch. After all, we've only got each other to get through this humiliation".

Chris : "Caroline, the first lunch was a mistake. As the second would be complete torture".

Caroline: "Drinks, then"?

The expression of “at least let me buy you lunch after all” asserts generosity maxim. Caroline offers Chris to accept her offering (lunch). Caroline maximizes cost and minimizes benefit to herself, implying generosity maxim.

3. Approbation Maxim demands the speaker to minimize dispraise to other and maximize praise to others.

Example:

Mrs. Wright: “Marissa, you are so creative”.

Marissa : “Oh, Thank you”.

In that conversation, Mrs. Wright gives a useful comment about Marissa’s ability to show a compliment to her. The expression of “you are so creative” indicated approbation Maxim.

4. Modesty Maxim demands the speaker to minimize praise to self and maximize disposition to self.

Example:

John: “Please accept this small gift as your birthday present”.

Maria: “Oh my God! Thank you”.

The utterances stated by John, ”Please accept this small gift,” minimize small self-praise by saying the ‘small’, not the ‘big’ present. Therefore, his utterances are categorized as modesty maxim.

5. Agreement Maxim demands the speaker maximize agreement to self and others and minimize disagreement to oneself and others.

For instance:

Bryan: “Mama, can we see the dolphin? Let’s take a look at the dolphin”.

Jessica: “Five minutes”.

Jessica does not allow her son to see the dolphin. She then commits that her son can only see the dolphin for five minutes. Jessica allows her son to take a look at a dolphin is an agreement maxim because she minimizes disagreement and maximizes agreement to her son even for five minutes only.

6. Sympathy Maxim demands the speaker and the listener to maximize sympathy between self and other and minimize antipathy between self and other.

For instance:

Mark: "I am sorry to hear about your father. My deepest condolence to you".

Lucas: "Thank you".

Mark feels sorrowful that Lucas's father has passed away. He shows his sympathy to Lucas. In that case, Mark maximizes sympathy for Lucas. Hence, Mark's utterances, "I am sorry to hear about your father," belongs to the sympathy maxim.

### **Scale of Politeness**

Leech (1982: 123-126) makes a scale about politeness used to measure politeness.

#### **1. The cost-benefit scale**

That scale gives detail about cost and benefit, which has an orientation to the listener. Here, cost and benefit refer to the expression conveyed by the speaker, whether financial or prestigious. If the cost is higher than the benefit of the addressee, it is indicated impolite. On the other hand, if the benefit is higher than the addressee cost, it refers to politeness. From detail, we can demonstrate that higher costs to the addressee emphasize impoliteness. However, the more benefit to the addressee emphasizes the more polite someone.

#### **2. Optionality Scale**

It assesses how far that illocutionary is done by the speaker allow the addressee free to choose. An option is frequently offered to use an indirect expression of giving a command, requesting the addressee. In that case, the speaker provides the listener with a chance to answer or comment about the speaker's utterance. Because the speaker gives the receiver an option to choose the answer, that will increase politeness.

#### **3. Indirectness scale**

The indirectness scale demonstrates the amount of inference required of the hearer to establish the intended speaker meaning. In that case, the more indirect utterances indicate politeness.

#### **4. Authority Scale**

It represents social status between the participants. The way we choose the word demonstrates the person refers to the superior, inferior or same position. For instance, a hotel manager called the servant in the hotel, 'Jennifer' and Jennifer called the manager 'Sir'. It shows the different status between the speakers, such as the manager is superior and the

servant is an inferior. When the participant has other social status, people with higher status can give a command to the lower status. A different prominent level between the speaker and the listener will cause polite utterance.

## 5. Social Distance Scale

Social- distance scale indicates the degree of familiarity between the speaker and the hearer. This scale shows the social distance between the speaker and the hearer. The further social distance between the speaker and the hearer emphasizes the more polite the utterance. On the other hand, the close relationship between the speaker and the hearer makes the impolite utterance.

## METHODOLOGY

The object of this research is the conversation in the script of *Eclipse* movie that has politeness maxim and scale of politeness according to Leech's theory (1982). Those data are taken from the script of the film, which is in database movie internet or IMDb.com

The method of this research is qualitative descriptive. Qualitative research studies about things in their natural settings and attempts to interpret phenomena (Denzin and Lincoln, 2005 in Aspers (2019), while descriptive research, according to Trochim (2006:23), is

“used to describe the basic features of the data in a study. Data provide simple summaries about the sample and measure. Together with simple graphics analysis, they form the basis of virtually of quantitative analysis of data, with descriptive analysis are simply describing based the data shows”.

This research uses the qualitative method. Denzin and Lincoln (2005) in Aspers (2019) explained qualitative research involves studying the various material case study, reflective, personal experiences, observational, historical, and text that describe the problematic and meaningful context. Qualitative research emphasizes the process of analysis rather than the result of the study. The data of the research are words, phrases, and sentences that represent speech.

Based on the explanation above, qualitative research is research that portrays oral or written data, a comprehension phenomenon interpretation data. Then, qualitative research in this research uses descriptive analysis.

In research, data are the essential thing. Bryman and Bell (2007) in Baum (2013) stated that qualitative research data is a form of word or picture, an inductive approach to build a theory, emphasizing the interpretation of social reality and purpose of understanding the

phenomena' meaning from the participant of research. Data of the study are conversations that are uttered by the characters in *Eclipse*.

Before analyzing the data, the writer takes the sample of data. The writer does some steps to take the samples: Identify total data in the research, list all of the data, determine how many sampling should be carried, start to pick the examples.

The writer does some steps to analyze data into play movie and list which shows the politeness maxim, classify data from the dialogue "*Eclipse*" include six maxims: agreement, tact, generosity, modesty, approbation, and sympathy maxim, analyze and interpret data based on Leech's politeness principle, clarify the scale of politeness which is used by characters' utterances of the movie, portray an inference from the result of analysis and give a suggestion.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

The writers classified data based on kinds of politeness. They focus on the politeness maxim based on Leech's politeness principle, which focuses on the conversation by the characters' utterances from the movie "*Eclipse*".

The data is analyzed based on the form of the politeness principle by Leech. The writer makes an order analysis start from the most to the least: generosity maxim to agreement maxim.

### **a. Generosity Maxim**

Bella: "You should get back before the storm hits."

Jacob: "No, I'm staying. You'll need my connection to the pack to keep tabs on what's going on."

### **The relevance of the situation**

There was a great storm. Bella was in the camp waiting for the bright day while Jacob wanted to keep Bella safe from dangerous things. Jacob stayed in camp to maintain Bella's safety if she needed something so that Jacob could give it to her. However, Bella asked Jacob came back before the great storm hit Jacob.

### **Data Interpretation**

Based on Bella's utterances, "You should get back before the storm hits" signifies generosity maxim. Bella maximized the cost to herself by giving him a command, he had to come back, and she minimized the benefit to show the generosity maxim. Therefore, Bella thought that Jacob ought to go back during the terrible snow. For the scale of politeness, it is an optionality scale because Bella gives an option to Jacob: to get back before the storm hits. It increases the level of politeness by asking Jacob to get back before the storm hits. Unfortunately, Jacob prefers to stay instead.

### **b. Approbation Maxim**

Mike : "My fellow students. Cool. Right? Wow. Okay, right? -- Cute.  
We are the future. Anything is possible...If you just believe."  
Angela : Nice.

The relevance of the situation:

For a near time, Bella and her friend would graduate soon, so they prepared for the graduation speech as best as possible. Edward and Bella sat together watch Mike practice. Angela jotted a notecard then Mike read his graduation speech to Angela. After Mike read his graduation speech, Angela gave a compliment to him.

### **Data Interpretation**

Angela's utterances, "nice", adduce approbation maxim. Angela gave praise to Mike after he read about his graduation speech. She maximized praise to Mike by giving him credit and minimized dispraise to Mike asserted approbation Maxim. "Nice" is a compliment that was pointed out to Mike. She gave a direct compliment to her friend, Mike. It is a cost-benefit scale from the politeness scale because Angela gives a higher benefit to Mike by praising his speech graduation.

### **c. Sympathy Maxim**

Bella: "Jacob is not going to hurt me."  
Edward: "Not intentionally, but the wolves have no control..."  
Bella: "Edward. I have... Until graduation, to see him. And I'll be one of you, and he'll hate me forever."  
Edward: "I'm sorry." (She looks at him. Then gets angry, forces open her door--)

The relevance of the situation:

The relationship between Bella and Edward was getting closer. For a near time, Bella was going to graduate. She was hesitant about her bounding with Edward, which enacts a distance between her and Jacob. Bella tried to convince Edward that Jacob's family was not dangerous. The best way to make them stop quarrels was to stay away from both of them.

### **Data Interpretation**

The utterances Edward conveyed to Bella, "I'm sorry," assert politeness. Edward maximizes sympathy to Bella by saying his apology emphasize sympathy maxim. He did not want to make Bella get angrier. So he tried to convey his regret about what he had done in a polite utterance. Bella received an apology from Edward, but she must keep her distance to prevent a quarrel. Based on the scale of politeness, it is a cost-benefit scale. As a boyfriend, Edward gives a higher benefit to Bella, apologizes to her. The more help Edward gives Bella increase the level of politeness.

**d. Tact Maxim**

Bella: "I don't know, we're just... in love."

Renee: "I get it. I just want to make sure you're making the right choice for you. You know, because you're the one who's going to have to live with them."

The relevance of the situation

Renee did not want Bella to step in the wrong way. She knew that Bella and Edward stick like a magnet since they were so in love. Otherwise, Renee was worried about Bella's choice to stick together with Edward. Renee perceived if Bella and Edward were always around, there would be something terrible happen. Therefore, she remained Bella of her choice, being with Edward.

**Data Interpretation**

Renee did not want Bella to regret it in the future. She maximizes the benefit to Bella by letting Bella choose the right thing to emphasize tact maxim. The utterance "I just want to make sure you're making the right choices for you" implied tact maxim. Besides, the scale of politeness is optional because Renee makes sure that Bella is making the right choice. She advised Bella to stay on the right path increase the level of politeness.

**e. Agreement Maxim**

Jane: "Aro's decisions are being watched. We must decide."

Alec: "Then decide, sister. It's time."

The relevance of the situation:

They thought about what they ought to do to Felix. Jane and Alec did not want to miss the chance. Jane wanted to decide about what she has to do. Not only Jane but also Alec asked her to determine the best thing they had to do.

**Data Interpretation**

The utterances of "decide sister" assert the agreement maxim. There is an agreement between Jane and Alec that they have to decide. Alex maximizes agreement between himself and Jane and minimizes disagreement between himself and Jane by stating decide. Hence, it is an agreement maxim. Based on the level of politeness, it is a cost-benefit scale because Alec gives higher benefit to Jane by matching the perception.

**Table 1. The Politeness Maxims in the *Eclipse* Movie**

Politeness Maxim	Number
Generosity Maxim	9

Approbation Maxim	7
Sympathy Maxim	6
Tact Maxim	3
Agreement Maxim	1
Total	26

**Table 2. The Scale of Politeness in *Eclipse* Movie**

No	Scale of Politeness	Number
1	Cost-Benefit Scale	23
2	Optionality Scale	3
	Total	26

## CONCLUSION

The writers analyzed five politeness maxims in the Eclipse movie. The politeness maxims are generosity maxim, approbation maxim, sympathy maxim, tact maxim, and agreement maxim. From 26 data, the maxim category had been analyzed, and the results displayed: nine generosity maxim, seven approbation maxim, six sympathy maxim, three tact maxim, and one agreement maxim.

The most numerous politeness maxim is the generosity maxim. In the Eclipse movie, people who have a close relationship will minimize their benefits, particularly to the people they love. There is no modesty maxim in this research because people do not want to minimize praise for themselves and maximize dispraise to themselves.

Furthermore, this movie's scale of politeness could be classified into the cost-benefit scale and optionality scale. The most numerous politeness scale is the cost-benefit scale (23 data) because when people have close relationships such as friends or couples, they will give higher benefit than cost. Optionality scale only found in three data.

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