



MARY LENNOX IMPOLITENESS STRATEGY IN "THE SECRET GARDEN" 2020

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Abstract

This study was motivated by the phenomenon of rude and cold speech patterns carried out by the main character of the children's story in the film *The Secret Garden 2020*. This study aims to analyse the types and triggers of Impoliteness Strategies carried out by the main character. In children's stories, there tend to be main characters that are friendly and kind so that they can be examples for their readers. However, unlike the story from the novel "The Secret Garden" by F.H. Burnett, the main character of this story is an unfriendly child, therefore the researcher wants to know what triggers the unfriendly attitude of the main character, as well as what forms of impoliteness are carried out by the main character. The researcher chose the 2020 film adaptation as the data source for this study. The story adaptation of the novel "The Secret Garden" version of 2020 presents a story through audio-visuals that can be observed carefully. Data collection was carried out by analysing the script of the film *The Secret Garden 2020*. The researcher collected utterances that were estimated to contain types of impoliteness strategies according to the theory of "Impoliteness Strategy" introduced by Culpeper (1996). The results of the study showed that there was the use of three of the five types of impoliteness strategies found, namely as well as several triggers for impoliteness strategy actions.

Key words: Impoliteness Strategy, Face, *The Secret Garden 2020 Movie*

A. INTRODUCTION

This research is motivated by the phenomenon of a rude and cold way of speaking by a main character in a children's story from the 2020 movie *The Secret Garden*. This movie is an adaptation of the story in the novel by F.H. Burnett entitled "The Secret Garden" which was published in 1911. In the adaptation, it is told that there is a little girl named Mary Lennox who tends to be cold and rude when she interacts with other people. This raises the researcher's

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desire to analyze what types of rude acts are committed by Mary Lennox and the triggers for these rude acts.

Some examples of research that have been conducted on the topic of Impoliteness Strategy are a study by Bustan and Alakrash (2020) on the types of impoliteness strategy used by former American President Donald Trump in his tweets about Middle Eastern countries. The study showed that Donald Trump used the Bald on Record Impoliteness strategy the most on his tweet. In addition, research by Benabdellah (2018) also analyzed the impoliteness strategy by the protagonists in Disney's works entitled "Moana" and Frozen. The findings show that the use of Impoliteness Strategy by the protagonists is to assert their identity and power. Study by Shinta, Hamzah, Wahyuni (2018) on Impoliteness strategies shows that women used the negative impoliteness the most while men prefer to used positive impoliteness in expressing themselves.

Although there have been several studies conducted on the topic of impoliteness strategy in adults, research on impoliteness strategy in children is still limited. Therefore, this study was conducted to analyze how children use impoliteness strategy told in stories for children. In addition, this study found what triggers resulted in the use of impoliteness strategy by the main character of the child in the movie *The Secret Garden* 2020.

There are five types of impoliteness strategies stated by Culpeper (1996: 355-356). The strategies are (1) Bald on Record Impoliteness, (2) Positive Impoliteness, (3) negative Impoliteness, (4) Mock Politeness, (5) Withhold Politeness. Bald-on record impoliteness can be seen when a speaker attack the hearer's face wants directly, the language that used in this impoliteness will be straightforward, apparent, and explicit in a situation. The speaker could easily feel the attack. Positive impoliteness happens when the speaker attack the positive face wants of the hearer. It is can be done by calling other names, dissociating from people, using words that are taboo, the use of identity markers that inappropriate in communication, seek disagreement. Call other names in calling someone can be seen in using derogative words. Negative Impoliteness is attacking other people's negative face is the point of negative politeness. Not treating other people seriously, try to make other people frightened, associating someone with something negative, underestimate others, invade other people personal space is example of negative impoliteness. Sarcasm or Mock Politeness the use of sarcasm or mock politeness can be seen by using the word that express the opposite intention of what the speaker think and feel about something. This also can be said as insincere politeness because the real intention of words that uttered by the speaker are not the real things that the thought and felt about something. Withhold Politeness: this type of impoliteness happens when the speaker chose to keep silent or doesn't give any feedback or reply while it is actually hoped that the polite act is performed by other. This can happen when there's should be a good feedback or reply when something good is performed but when the one that supposed to give feedback or reply chose to be silent.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used descriptive qualitative method to describe the data found in the study. The qualitative method deals with understanding the phenomenon that was found in the study. Qualitative research is suitable for problems that are uncertain, because with qualitative research the researcher can immediately go to the research object to carry out exploration so that a clear research problem is obtained. In understanding social phenomena, often what is visible is not necessarily the truth, so qualitative research would deepen social phenomena so that the real facts can be found (Sugiyono, 2013:24).

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Result and Finding

There are three impoliteness strategies found in 2020's movie adaptation of the story *The Secret Garden*. The most dominant type found is Positive Impoliteness and followed by Negative Impoliteness and Bald on Record. The number shows there are 7 positive impoliteness type, 2 negative impoliteness type and 1 bald on record impoliteness used by the character Mary Lennox in the movie *The Secret Garden 2020*. The data collected from the script of the movie 2020's version.

The finding of the research showed that there are totally 10 impoliteness strategy found in the movie version of *The Secret Garden*. These 10 data classified into three out of five types of impoliteness strategy based on Culpeper's theory. The sarcasm/mock impoliteness and withhold politeness didn't found in this research. The most dominant type used by the character Mary Lennox was "positive impoliteness". Researcher also found several triggers that cause the use of impoliteness strategy by the main character of the story. The researcher found there are ten triggers of the use of impoliteness strategy by the main character of the story. Those triggers are Bald on Record

1) Bald-on record impoliteness:

Datum #22 movie:

Mary: it's disgusting

In this context Mary said "it's disgusting" refers to the food she got. She said the food was disgusting while pushing away the food that was served for her. Moreover, he said this next to her friend who was eating the same food. The way Mary Lennox clearly stated her opinion about the food that she thought "disgusting" is considered into bald- on record politeness because of the direct and unambiguous opinion towards the food served for her. Mentioning that thing while she sat together with other children eating the same food shows that she did not care about the suffering they had together.

2) Positive impoliteness:

Datum #86 movie

Mary: I don't eat porridge

In this context Mary said that she did not eat porridge was when Martha served porridge for Mary's breakfast. It implied that she does not eat porridge and then refused the breakfast that Martha had served her. Afterward, Mary said that she usually eats bacon and eggs for breakfast. Mary indirectly rejected Martha's kindness in serving her breakfast. In the concept of politeness, a reciprocal response is something that must exist to create harmony. In the context here Mary is not grateful for the food served to her but instead refuses it. This can attack the positive face of Martha that has performed a polite act by serving the breakfast for Mary.

3) Negative Impoliteness:

Datum #146 Movie: Mary: My mother was sister to the mistress of this house and my uncle owns it still, and you'll do well to give me the respect I'm due.

In this context Mary enter one room that new house she went to, when she entered the room there's one boy asking who Mary was. Mary said that she is basically the niece of the mistress of the house, so the boy asking her should be the one gives her the respect Mary thought she deserved. In this context Mary directly order someone she barely knows to give her respect, in this context the respect means the recognition that Mary has a higher position than the boy so that Mary feels she must be respected. This shows the arrogance and effort to force the power that Mary feels she has so that she is respected by others. This is triggered by the power dynamic where Mary feels that her status as the niece of the hostess makes her higher in rank than other people who are not family members of the owner of the house.

Trigger of Impoliteness

1. Power Dynamic: Before moving to England, Mary lived a privileged life in India. As the wealthy daughter of a powerful family, she had servants to attend to her every need. Accustomed to being obeyed, Mary developed a strong sense of entitlement. She believed she could do anything without facing opposition. However, this power dynamic changed dramatically when her parents died in an epidemic, forcing her to fend for herself as the servants abandoned her.

2. An Act of Reaching One's Goal: Mary Lennox, the story's protagonist, employs impolite tactics to achieve her desires. To gain what she wants, she often resorts to direct and harsh expressions or loud outbursts. When subtle approaches fail, Mary's outspoken and straightforward nature leads her to use impoliteness as a tool. This strategy aligns with her personality.

3. Violation of Social Norms and Expectations: Mary often responds to impolite treatment with her own rudeness. When others impose their will on her, disrupt her peace, or restrict her freedom, she retaliates. For example, Colin's constant screaming and Mrs. Medlock's strict rules trigger Mary to act out against social norms. These actions can be seen as a way for Mary to assert herself and resist the control of others.

4. Inherent Impoliteness: Inherent impoliteness is a natural tendency that can lead to conflict. Behaviors like criticism, threats, and neglect often disrupt communication and relationships. For instance, Mary's defiance towards Mrs. Medlock caused tension and arguments between them. Mary felt restricted by Mrs. Medlock's rules, which made her retaliate with disrespect. This ongoing cycle of negative interactions deepened their animosity.

5. Emotional Relation Factors: Negative Affect: Negative emotions, such as anger, sadness, and frustration, can contribute to impolite behavior. When individuals harbor negative feelings towards others, they are less likely to consider the other person's perspective. For example, Mary's experiences of loss and isolation led to a build-up of negative emotions. These feelings fueled her resentment towards Mrs. Medlock, resulting in impolite and disrespectful behavior.

2. DISCUSSION

This study found that out of a total of five impoliteness strategies, only three strategies were used by Mary Lennox, the main character in the film "The Secret Garden 2020". Mary's use of impoliteness strategies is not only due to Mary's natural nature (Culpeper, 1996) but there are other things that cause it to happen. Mary's impoliteness in the film is largely due to her personality and previous experiences. Her unpleasant behavior is often a reaction to situations where she feels helpless, insecure, or challenged by the situation. This thing is in line with Culpeper's (1996) findings where negative affect/negative emotions can be a driving force for someone to commit acts of impoliteness. The film depicts her as a multi-faceted character, which is a defense mechanism resulting from neglect and emotional deprivation in her childhood. Overall, the depiction of Mary Lennox in the film using impoliteness is to assert power and protect her in a world where she often feels helpless. This is in line with a study conducted by Benabdella (2018) which found that efforts to show strength are one of the reasons someone commits acts of impoliteness. The study showed that her impoliteness is not only a reflection of her spoiled personality, but also a coping mechanism in responding to her mental turmoil and the difficulties she experiences in her new environment. Mary's actions in the form of screaming are a form of negative impoliteness. This is a common thing for Mary where she communicates in a high voice to others. This is also in line with research by Shinta, Hamzah and Wahyuni (2018) where women are more likely to use negative impoliteness in expressing themselves. Forms of the use of impoliteness can be seen in Mary's attitude of ignoring others, speaking loudly, giving orders

directly, and several other actions of Mary that attack other people's faces. Some of the triggers that also found in Mary's impoliteness strategies are power dynamic, violation to social norm and expectation, inherent politeness, and verbal aggression (personality traits). The findings of trigger of Mary's impoliteness strategies is in line with the Culpeper's finding in "towards an anatomy of impoliteness" (1996).

D. CONCLUSION

Impoliteness Strategies: Mary employed four main impoliteness strategies: bald on record, positive impoliteness, negative impoliteness, and withhold politeness. No Sarcasm: the sarcasm or mock politeness are not found in the study of impoliteness strategy of Mary Lennox in the movie and cartoon version. Differences between Adaptations: Both versions portray Mary as rude; the cartoon version presents her as more talkative. Additionally, the plot and challenges faced by Mary differ between the two adaptations, influencing her use of impoliteness strategies. Overall: The study compares and contrasts the impoliteness behavior of Mary Lennox in the movie and cartoon versions of "The Secret Garden," highlighting the impact of different adaptations on character portrayal.

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