The Analysis of Impoliteness Strategies Found in Carnage Movie Script

(Analisis Strategi Ketidaksantunan Yang Ditemukan dalam Skrip Film Carnage)

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Abstract

This study is aimed to analyze the types of impoliteness and the factors that influence the use of impoliteness strategies in a movie script. The data source of this research are taken from a movie script entitled Carnage directed by Roman Polanski (2011). This study describes the types of impoliteness used by the characters in Carnage. This research uses qualitative method because the data of this research are in the form of utterances produced by the characters of Carnage. This research uses Culpeper’s theory of impoliteness strategy and theory of context to analyze impoliteness data found in the movie script. The results of this research show that there are five types of impoliteness strategies used by the characters in Carnage, they are: bald on record impoliteness, negative impoliteness, positive impoliteness, sarcasm or mock politeness and withhold politeness. The writer also found that there are three factors that influence the characters to use impoliteness strategy. The first factor is a conflict interest between the speaker and the hearer, the second is intimacy or closeness between the speaker and hearer and the last factor is power distance between the speaker and hearer.

Keywords: impoliteness strategy, Carnage, factor, speaker, hearer

Introduction

In daily life, language has a significant role in communication. As social beings, almost everyday people use language to communicate with others such as communication over the telephone or a direct conversation. “Language is a symbol of sound pronounced by human and it is used as a means of communication to interact with each other” (Keraf, 1984:5). In conversation there is a certain rule which has to be learned to avoid misunderstanding. It is called politeness. Politeness is a system of interpersonal relations designed to facilitate interaction by human interaction by minimizing, potential conflict and confrontation inherent in all human interchange (Yule, 1996:106). Language becomes a kind of tool to maintain our relation with other people. So that, the term of politeness becomes very crucial in a communication. However, it is not only the politeness that becomes crucial, but also the impoliteness. In this case, the impoliteness also holds a crucial part in influencing our social interaction process. This kind of thing not only can be seen on the real life only, but also can be seen on a movie. In this case, this research researched about impoliteness that can be found in the script of a movie titled Carnage. Specifically this research analyzed impoliteness strategy produced by the characters of Carnage. Based on the background of the study elaborated above therefore the research questions are:

1. What kinds of impoliteness strategies are found in Carnage movie script?

2. What factors make the characters in Carnage use impoliteness strategies?
According to the research questions, this research is intended to find out:
1. The kinds of impoliteness strategy produced by the characters of Carnage
2. The factors influence the characters to produce impoliteness strategy.

**Research Method**

The type of this research is qualitative research. Qualitative research is different from quantitative. Quantitative research is a research that settles on statistical or numerical data while qualitative research is non-numerical data. Since the data of this research are in the form of utterances or words produced by the characters of *Carnage*, this research can be classified into qualitative research. Denscombe (2007:248) states that “qualitative research that tends to be associated with small-scale studies, description and holistic perspective by using words or images as the unit of data analysis.” In addition, qualitative research will be helpful to get a deeper understanding of the issues being investigated in this thesis. It also will enable the research questions to be answered by providing a rich descriptions of the result of the research.

The data of this research are in the form of utterances spoken by the characters of *Carnage* movie which contain impoliteness. The data are collected from *Carnage* movie script directed by Reza and Polanski (downloaded from http://www.sonyclassics.com/awardsinformation/screenplays/carnage_screenplay.pdf). The data are collected by using documentary technique, according to Blaxter et al. (1997:187), documentary technique proceeds by abstracting from each document those elements which we consider to be important or relevant by grouping together those findings, or setting on them alongside others which we believe to be linked”.

**Results**

The results of this research shows that there are five types of impoliteness strategies. The data show the following result. The first strategy is bald on record impoliteness strategy which consists of 46 utterances or 36% of the data. This strategy is mostly found in the last story because all the characters are angry and it triggers the characters to use bald on record impoliteness strategy. The second is negative impoliteness strategy, it consists of 41 utterances or 31% of the data and the last dominant strategy is positive impoliteness strategy which consists of 34 utterances or 26% of the data. The fourth strategy is sarcasm or mock politeness with only 7 data or 5% and the last strategy is withhold politeness with only 2 data or 2%. Here is the frequency of each impoliteness strategies found in the script. The result is presented in the following table.

### Table 4.1 The types and frequency of impoliteness strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO</th>
<th>THE TYPES OF IMPOLITENESS STRATEGIES</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bald On Record Impoliteness</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Negative Impoliteness</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Positive Impoliteness</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sarcasm or Mock Impoliteness</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Withhold politeness</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion**

As stated in chapter one, the aims of this research is to analyze the types of impoliteness strategy and the factors that influence the characters to produce impoliteness in *Carnage* movie script. This research uses Culpeper's theory of impoliteness in determining the types of impoliteness strategy produced by the characters of Carnage.

1. **Impoliteness Strategies**

   Impoliteness strategy is a communicative strategy that use to attack the hearer’s face. According to Culpeper (1996: 349) “impoliteness is the use of utterances or actions that attack one’s interlocutor and cause disharmony and/or social disturbance rather than promoting social harmony”. Face is the basic want in any social interaction. It was a term first coined by Goffman (1955: 213) “which in general is defined as the positive social value a person effectively claims for himself by the line others assume he has taken during a particular contact”. Brown and Levinson (1987:66) devide face into two type of face they are positive face and negative face. Positive face is “The want of every member that his wants be desirable to at least some others”(Brown And Levinson 1987:62), the second is negative face. Brown and Levinson (1987:62) define negative face as “the want of every ‘competent adult member’ that his actions be unimpeded others.”

   Culpeper divides impoliteness strategy into five types of impoliteness strategy.

   a. **Bald on record impoliteness strategy**

   according to Culpeper (1996:356) the FTA is performed in a direct, clear, unambiguous and concise way in circumstances where the face is not relevant or minimized. Based on the research finding, bald on record impoliteness is the most dominant strategy used by the characters of Carnage. The writer found 46 data of bald on record impoliteness strategies, most of the data are found in the middle to the end of the story. The characters decided to use bald on record impoliteness because they already get annoyed with the conversation which never end. In the following examples, the characters interact with other characters whom they have never met before. It makes the effect of bald on record impoliteness even stronger. In this category, it was common that the impoliteness was clear, unambiguous and direct. The setting or the scene of this movie only occurs in Penelope’s house. There are 2 extras
characters and 4 main characters that would be a participant in the sample dialogue below, they are:

Michael : the owner of the house and Ethan’s father  
Penelope : Michael’s wife  
Alan : the guest and Zachary’s father  
Nancy : Alan’s wife  
Ethan : the victim  
Zachary : Alan’s son who strike Ethan with a stick

Data 1  
Alan : Doodle, I really have to go.  
Nancy : So go. Coward.  
Alan : Right, yeah. I think we got that.  
Penelope : One of them permanently.  
Alan : He’ll get new teeth! Better ones! No one chewed his ear off!

In that conversation the characters discuss about the root of the problems that triggers the incident. Nancy thinks that her son is only defending himself because Ethan calls him as a snitch. After Michael hears Nancy’s opinion, he does not agree with Nancy’s opinion. Michael considers Nancy’s son may indeed a snitch. In the middle of the conversation Alan gets a phone call again from his coworker. After Alan finishes with the phone, he invites Nancy to leave immediately because he would lose his client if he does not leave now. Nancy starts to get angry when Alan asks Nancy to leave because he considers his client is more important than his family. It shows in Nancy’s utterance when she said “so go. Coward” in this utterance Nancy directly indicates her husband as a coward and also she directly orders Alan to leave. A direct order can be categorized as bald on-record impoliteness because Nancy does not attempt to minimize the FTA and it damages Alan face. A close relationship between Nancy and Alan triggers her to use bald on-record impoliteness strategy toward Alan.

b. Negative impoliteness

Negative impoliteness is designed to damage the addressee's negative face. According to Culpeper(1996:358) there are some negative impoliteness output strategies, those are:

- Frighten - instill a belief that action detrimental to the other will occur.  
- Condescend, scorn or ridicule - emphasize your relative power. Be contemptuous. Do not treat the other seriously. Belittle the other (e.g. use diminutives).  
- Invade the other's space - literally (e.g. position yourself closer to the other than the relationship permits) or metaphorically (e.g. ask for or speak about information which is too intimate given the relationship).  
- Explicitly associate the other with a negative aspect - personalize, use the pronouns 'I' and 'you'.

Data 2  
Nancy : What did I do to you?!  
Penelope : The blame is not shared! The victim and the criminal are not the same!  
Nancy : The criminal!  
Michael : Oh give it a fucking rest, Penelope! Enough of these idealistic theories!  
Penelope : Which I believe in.

In that conversation the characters are still arguing about who is at fault in the case of their children. Nancy thinks that her son and Penelope’s son are the same; both kids are guilty because the one who triggers the fight is Penelope’s son. After Penelope hears Nancy’s opinion, Penelope feels angry because his son is also considered guilty. Penelope’s anger is shown by her utterance when she says “The blame is not shared! The victim and the criminal are not the same!” In her utterance she calls Nancy’s son as a criminal. Penelope’s utterance can be considered as negative impoliteness strategy because she explicitly associate Nancy’s son with a negative aspect and associating someone with negative aspect is one of negative impoliteness categories. A conflict interest between Penelope and Nancy is the factor that causes the occurrence of impoliteness strategy in this conversation. Both characters think their son is innocence.

c. Positive impoliteness

Positive impoliteness refers to the strategies that are designed to damage the addressee’s positive face wants. A positive face is the need to be part of a certain action or to be approved of. Culpeper comes up with a number of sub-strategies for positive impoliteness.

- Ignore, snub the other - fail to acknowledge the others presence.  
- Exclude the other from an activity  
- Disassociate from the other - for example, deny association or common ground with the other; avoid sitting together.  
- Be disinterested, unconcerned, unsympathetic  
- Use inappropriate identity markers - for example, use title and surname when a close relationship pertains, or a nickname when a distant relationship pertains.  
- Use obscure or secretive language - for example, mystify the other with jargon, or use a code known to others in the group, but not the target.  
- Seek disagreement - select a sensitive topic. Make the other feels uncomfortable - for example, do not avoid silence, joke, or use small talk.  
- Make the other feels uncomfortable

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- Use taboo words - swear, or use abusive or profane language.
- Call the others names - use derogatory nominations.

There are 37 data of positive impoliteness have been found in the script. Here is the sample of the data found in the script.

**Data 3**

Michael: When I was the leader, in fifth grade, I beat Jimmy Leach in a fair fight and he was stronger than me.

Penelope: What does that mean, Michael? What has that got to do with anything?

Michael: No, nothing.

Penelope: We're not talking about a fair fight. These children weren't having a fight.

Michael: Right, right. I was just remembering something.

Alan: It's not very different.

Penelope: *Yes it is. Excuse me but there is a difference.*

Michael: There is a difference.

In that conversation Michael tells about his fights with one of his friends when he was in elementary school, but Penelope immediately denies the story because she thinks the story has nothing to do with what happens between her son and Alan’s son. However Alan does not agree with Penelope. He assumes that what has happened to these children is almost the same with Michael’s story but Penelope denies Alan’s statement. She thinks that what happens to her son and Michael’s son are different. Penelope’s expression of disapproval is one of impoliteness strategies. Penelope’s utterance can be classified as positive impoliteness strategy because seeking disagreement is one of the positive impoliteness categories. Penelope’s expression is triggered by a conflict interest between her and Alan. She does not agree with Alan’s opinion about the fight.

d. Sarcasm or mock politeness

According to Culepber (1996) the FTA is performed with the use of politeness strategies that are obviously insincere, and thus remain surface realizations. there are only 7 data of sarcasm or mock politeness have been found in the script. Below is the sample of sarcasm or mock politeness.

Penelope: No. No, I'm sorry. We are not all temperamental sons of bitches.

Michael: You're so evolved. You never go off halfcocked.

Penelope: Why are you being so aggressive with me?

Michael: I'm not being aggressive. I'm being honest.

In that dialogue Michael feels annoyed because Nancy and Penelope are still talking about the hamster that he has left on the street. Michael thinks the hamster is not related to their children problem but why they are still talking and blaming him for the hamster. Michael says that he has enough with the conversation they are doing. He admits that he is a temperamental man and get no patience. Alan agrees with Michael’s statement, he also assumes that they all are temperamental. However Penelope refuses to be called as a temperament and hotheaded person. Michael responds Penelope’s refusal by saying “Not you, darjee, not you. You're so evolved. You never go off halfcocked.” In Michael’s utterance he looks like he praises his wife and considers her as a patient wife and never gets angry but Michael’s real purpose is sarcastic and mocking his wife. A close relationship between Michael and Penelope triggers Michael to tease and mock his wife.

e. Withhold politeness

According to Culpeper (1996:357) “The absence of politeness works where it would be expected”. For example, failing to thank somebody for a present may be taken as deliberate impoliteness or the absence of expressing greetings where it would be necessary to do so. There are 2 data of withhold politeness strategy have been found in the script. Below is the sample of withhold politeness strategy, the conversation occurs between Penelope and Nancy.

Nancy: May I use the bathroom, too?

Penelope: Of course. Yes, of course, of course.

Nancy: I don’t know what to say, I'm so sorry.

Penelope: Bring the blow dryer, please

In that dialog Nancy who feels unwell and dizzy suddenly vomits in Penelope’s living room. Some of Penelope magazines also get vomited. Penelope’s resentment increases when she knows her favorite magazines have been filled with Nancy’s vomit. Penelope and Michael decide to drain the magazine with a blow dryer. Nancy, who still feels a bit dizzy requests permission to use the bathroom. When Penelope takes her to the bathroom, Nancy tries to apologize for the incident, but when Nancy apologizes to Penelope he keeps quiet; he does not reply Nancy’s apology. Penelope only asks her to bring the blow dryer when they have done in the bathroom. Penelope’s attitude that ignores the apology of Nancy can be categorized into withhold politeness strategy. The factor that triggers Penelope to ignore Nancy apology is a conflict interest between her and Nancy. Penelope is angry because his favorite magazines have been filled with Nancy’s vomit.

2. Some factors influencing the use of impoliteness strategies

there are three factors influence the characters to produce impoliteness, the first factor is a conflict interest among the characters, the second factor is intimacy between the speaker an the hearer and the las factor is power distance between the speaker and hearer. The most dominant factor influence the character to produce impoliteness strategy is a conflict interest among the characters because the context of this movie
Conclusion

After analyzing and discussing impoliteness strategies used in *Carnage* movie script, the researcher can conclude that there are many impoliteness strategies applied in this movie script. There are five types of impoliteness strategies are found in the movie script, based on the finding of the study, there are 130 utterances can be considered as impoliteness strategies found in the script, the most dominant strategy used by the characters is bald on record impoliteness and the less dominant impoliteness strategy used by the characters of *Carnage* is withhold politeness. The result of the data are 46 data of bald on record impoliteness, 41 data of negative impoliteness, 34 data of positive impoliteness, 7 data of sarcasm or mock politeness and 2 data of withhold politeness.

The researcher also found that there are three factors influence the characters to produce impoliteness strategy. The first factor is a conflict interest between the speaker and the hearer, the second is intimacy or closeness between the speaker and hearer and the last factor is power distance.

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References


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