



**THE USE OF IMPOLITENESS STRATEGIES ON *SHELDON COOPER'S* UTTERANCES IN SELECTED EPISODES OF *THE BIG BANG THEORY* TV SHOW**

**THESIS**

**Written by**

**Herybertus Fadly Irawan  
NIM 050110101022**

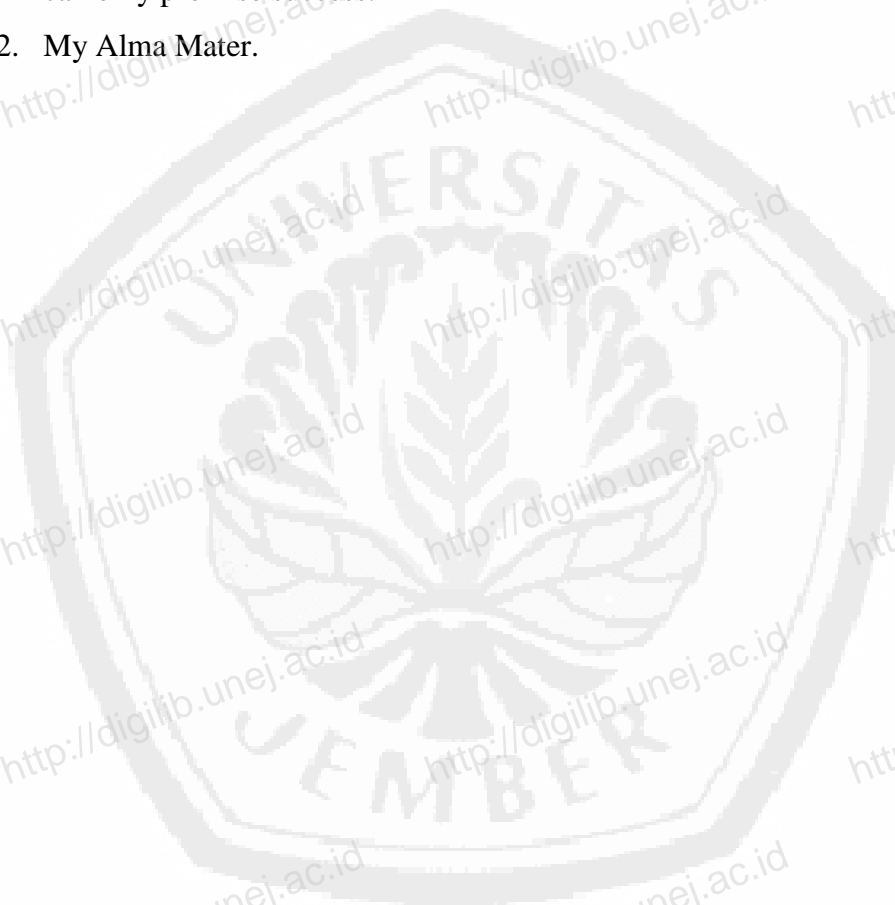
**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
JEMBER UNIVERSITY**

**2011**

## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to:

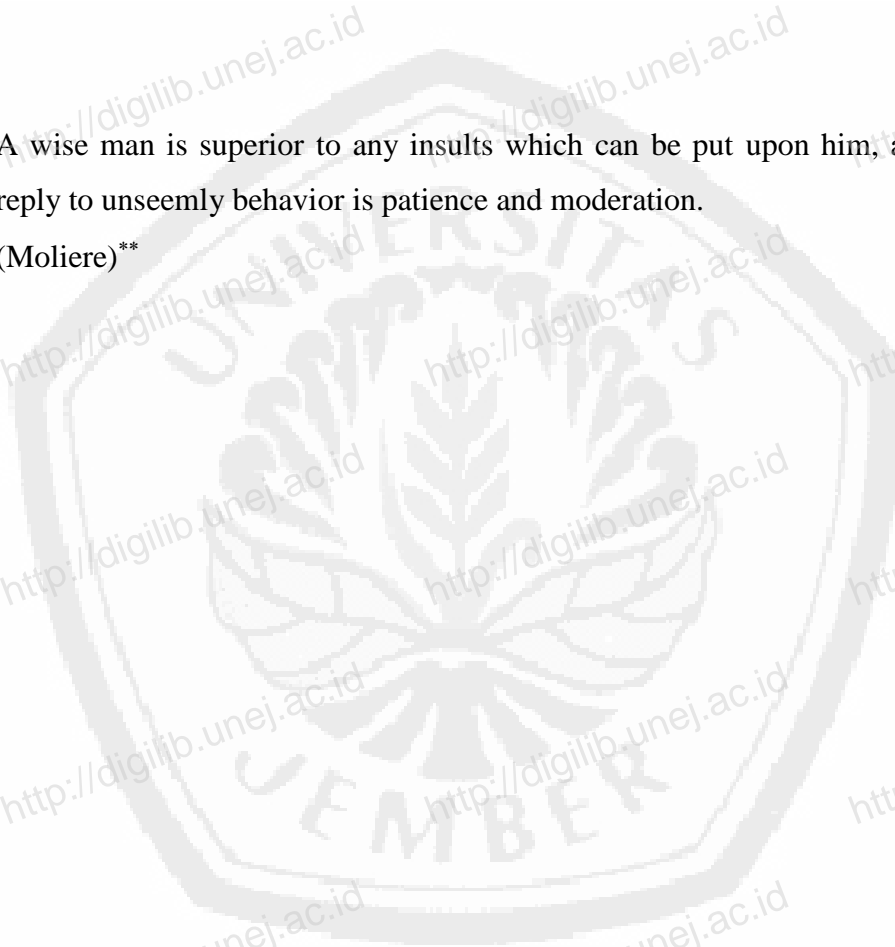
1. My father, Yohanes Sugi, and my mother, Regina Imbut, for your unconditional love, support, and patience. I can never thank you enough. I can only promise success.
2. My Alma Mater.



## MOTO

A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.  
(Nelson Mandela)\*

A wise man is superior to any insults which can be put upon him, and the best  
reply to unseemly behavior is patience and moderation.  
(Moliere)\*\*



---

\* <http://www.nelsonmandelas.com/mandela-quotes.php>

\*\* [http://linguaspectrum.com/quotations/by\\_author\\_english.php?quoteoftheday\\_author=Moliere](http://linguaspectrum.com/quotations/by_author_english.php?quoteoftheday_author=Moliere)

## DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled *The Use of Impoliteness Strategies on Sheldon Cooper's Utterances in selected episodes of The Big Bang Theory TV Show* is an original piece of writing. I declare that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publications. I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011

The Writer

**Herybertus F. Irawan**

**050110101022**

## APPROVAL SHEET

Approved and received by the examination committee of The English Department, the Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Day : Friday

Date : 23 September 2011

Place : The Faculty of Letters, Jember University

Secretary,

Dra. Supiastutik, M.Pd  
NIP. 196605141998032001

Jember,

Chairman,

Dr. Hairus Salikin, M.Ed  
NIP. 196310151989021001

The Members:

1. Prof. Dr. Samudji, M.A (.....)  
NIP. 195909181988021003
2. Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A (.....)  
NIP. 194808161976031002
3. Drs. Hadiri, M.A (.....)  
NIP. 194807171976031003

Approved by the Dean,

(Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A)  
NIP. 194808161976031002

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

All praises to the Lord for the blessings that enables me to finish writing the thesis. This thesis is written as one of the compulsories in Linguistics study as well as the requirement of achieving the Sarjana Sastra Degree at the Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

I would like to express my upmost thank to my first and second supervisors, Prof. Dr. Samudji, M.A and Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A for their remarkable advices, guidance, and valuable assistance. I thank them for their patience in correcting my thesis. I would also like to especially thank Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A, the Dean of Faculty of Letters, and Drs. Moh. Ilham, M.Si, the Head of English Department, for awarding me with a chance to write this thesis.

My sincere gratitude is also dedicated to the lecturers of the English Department, Faculty of Letters who have given me the valuable knowledge and input both directly and indirectly.

My deepest gratitude goes to Ika Vita Jayanti; my best friend and my source of inspiration. I thank you for giving me the strength to finish everything I do, for everything you teach me. I will always learn from you.

I would like to thank all my friends in USEF, and Faculty of Letters for the support, help, and inspiration. It is also expressed towards those who have offered me so much help along the way.

May God bless everyone mentioned and I wish all of them day to day success. At last, I do expect that this piece of writing will contribute to the study of linguistics, particularly in my beloved Faculty of Letters.

**Jember, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011**

**HERYBERTUS F. IRAWAN**

## SUMMARY

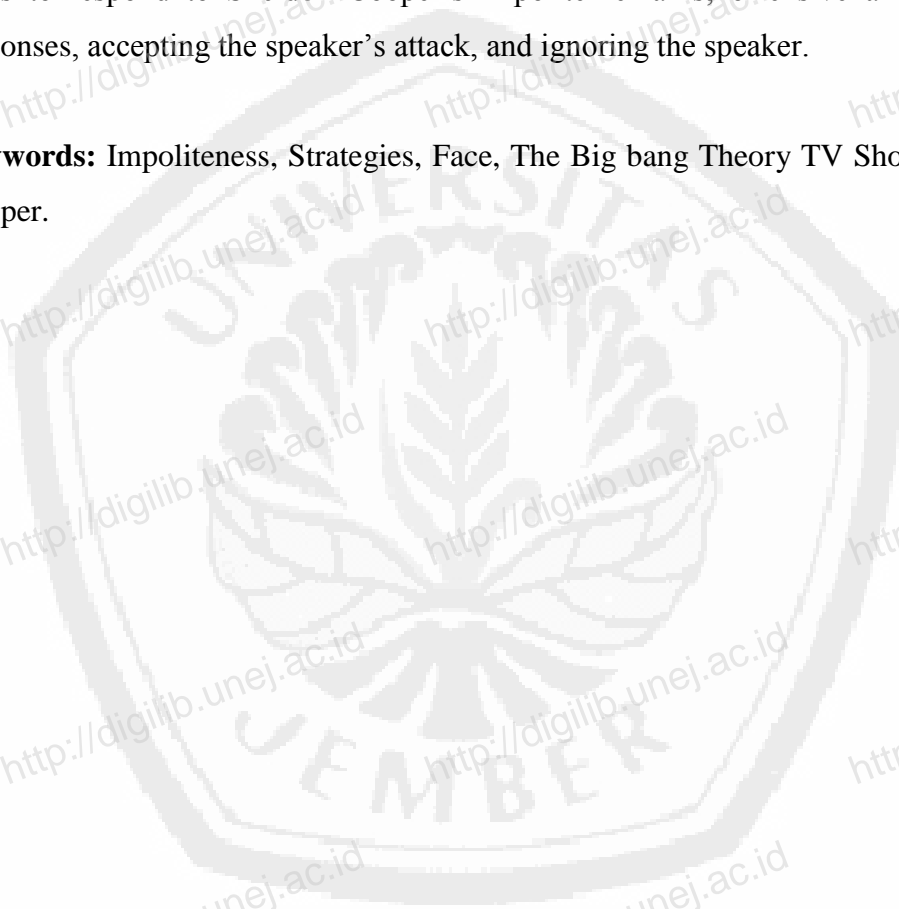
**The Use of Impoliteness Strategies on Sheldon Cooper's Utterance in Selected Episodes of The Big Bang Theory TV Show;** Herybertus Fadly Irawan, 050110101022; 2011: 80 pages; English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Compared to Politeness, Impoliteness is a study in linguistics that linguists and scholars pay less attention to. However, there are some experts and theorists who start to think about discussing impoliteness in language. Culpeper (1995, 2002) is one of the experts who have given much focus to it. One of his famous work is compiled in a term called *Impoliteness Strategies*. Taking Brown and Levinson's (1995, 2002) Politeness Strategies as the departing point, Culpeper proposes five strategies and sub strategies which a speaker could use in attacking the hearer's face. Face itself is an idea that was previously coined by Goffman (1967). It refers to someone's image and someone's freedom to act; both of which is substituted with positive and negative face term respectively.

In this thesis, the Impoliteness Strategies are used to analyze the interaction between Sheldon Cooper with other main Characters in *The Big bang Theory TV Show*; an American situational comedy. The nature of the study is descriptive. Thus, the aim is to describe what impoliteness strategies Sheldon Cooper uses and how they are performed throughout the show. The responses of the other characters are also subject to research. This thesis uses the library research in analyzing the qualitative data. The data are transcribed from the actual conversation between Sheldon Cooper and the other main characters from the selected episodes of the show. The collected data are then split into 16 extracts containing certain scenes in which different contexts and different participants are involved.

The results of the discussion present many different impoliteness strategies used by Sheldon Cooper in his utterances. Bald-On record impoliteness, positive impoliteness, negative impoliteness, and mock impoliteness are all evident. Withhold impoliteness does not appear to be used by the character. The other characters, who have become the victims of the Impoliteness Strategies, perform all three possible ways to respond to Sheldon Cooper's impolite remarks; offensive and defensive responses, accepting the speaker's attack, and ignoring the speaker.

**Keywords:** Impoliteness, Strategies, Face, The Big bang Theory TV Show, Sheldon Cooper.





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

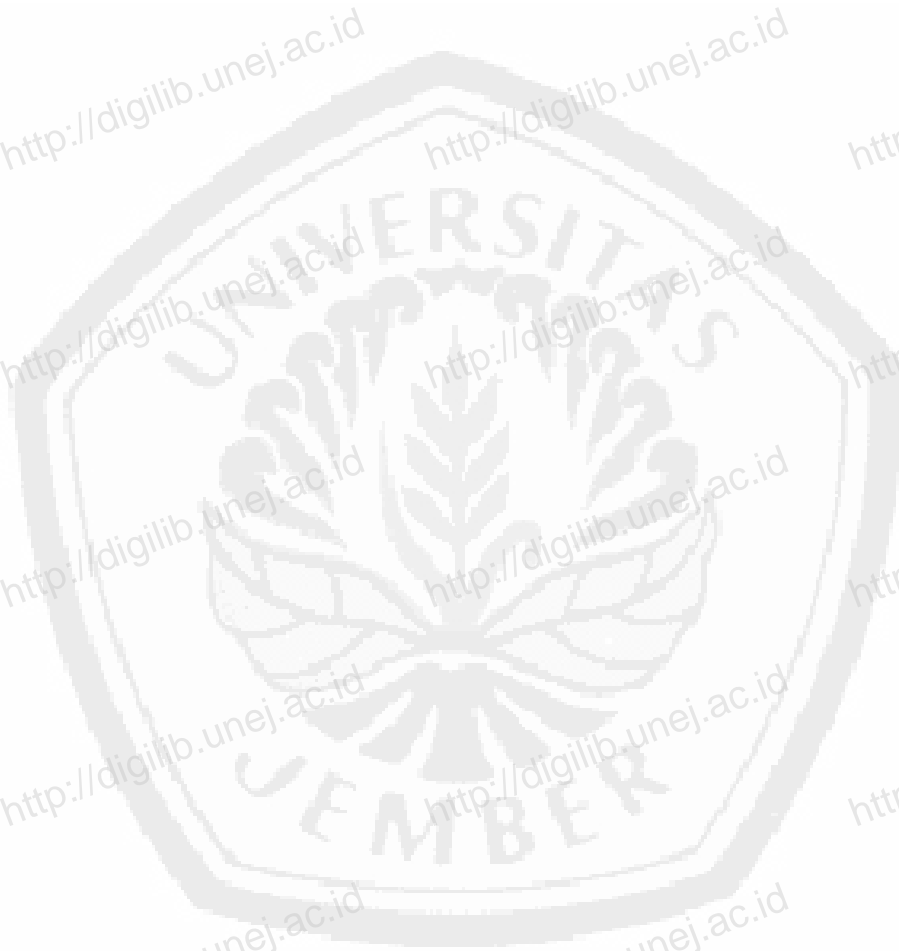
	Page
<b>FRONTIESTPIECE .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>MOTTO .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>DECLARATION.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>APPROVAL SHEET .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>LIST OF APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 The Background of the Study .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 The Problems of the Study .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1.3 The Scope of the Study .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.4 The Goals of the Study.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.5 The Significance of the Study.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.6 The Organization of the Study.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2. THEORETICAL REVIEW.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2.1 Defining Linguistic Politeness .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2.2 Brown and Levinson’s Model of Politeness Study .....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.2.1 Face .....	11
2.2.2 Face Threatening Acts.....	11
2.2.3 Politeness strategies.....	14

<b>2.3 Leech's Politeness Principles vs.</b>	
<b>Grice's cooperative Principles</b> .....	17
<b>2.4 Impoliteness</b> .....	19
2.4.1 Inherent impoliteness .....	22
2.4.2 Mock impoliteness .....	22
2.4.3 Circumstances determining the occurrence of Impoliteness .....	23
2.4.4 Culpeper's Impoliteness Strategies .....	25
2.4.5 Responses to Impolite Strategies .....	27
<b>2.5 Speech Acts</b> .....	28
<b>2.6 Context</b> .....	29
<b>CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHOD</b> .....	30
<b>3.1 Type of Research</b> .....	30
<b>3.2 Type of Data</b> .....	30
<b>3.3 Data Collection</b> .....	31
<b>3.4 Data Analysis</b> .....	31
<b>CHAPTER 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION</b> .....	33
<b>4.1 The Summary of "The Big Bang Theory"</b> .....	33
4.1.1 The Description of Sheldon Cooper and Four Other Main Characters .....	34
<b>4.2 The Interpersonal relationship between         Sheldon Cooper and the other main characters</b> .....	37
<b>4.3 The Impoliteness Strategies Analysis</b> .....	38
4.3.1 Extract 1 .....	39
4.3.2 Extract 2 .....	41
4.3.3 Extract 3 .....	42
4.3.4 Extract 4 .....	44

4.3.5 Extract 5 .....	45
4.3.6 Extract 6 .....	47
4.3.7 Extract 7 .....	48
4.3.8 Extract 8 .....	51
4.3.9 Extract 9 .....	52
4.3.10 Extract 10 .....	54
4.3.11 Extract 11 .....	57
4.3.12 Extract 12 .....	61
4.3.13 Extract 13 .....	63
4.3.14 Extract 14 .....	64
4.3.15 Extract 15 .....	65
4.3.16 Extract 16 .....	68
<b>4.4 The Victim's Responses to Sheldon's Impolite Strategies</b> .....	<b>70</b>
4.4.1 Leonard's Response .....	70
4.4.2 Penny's Response .....	72
4.4.3 Howard's Response .....	73
4.4.4 Rajesh's Response .....	73
<b>CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>75</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	<b>78</b>
<b>APPENDIX</b> .....	<b>81</b>

**LIST OF FIGURES**

2.2 Possible Strategies for Performing FTAs..... 17  
2.4 A Summary of Response Options..... 27



## LIST OF APPENDICES

A. The List of Characters in <i>The Big Bang Theory</i> .....	82
B. The Analyzed Extracts from the Selected Episodes .....	84

