

**A SOCIOPRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF APOLOGIZING EXPRESSIONS  
IN ENGLISH DRAMA MOVIES**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education  
in English Department

by

**EMMY MARTHA PRATIWI**  
A 320 050 307

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

**2010**

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Conveying thoughts, feelings, intentions and desires to other people means speaking a language. When a speaker speaks a language, he or she is performing speech act. A speech act is an utterance that serves a function of communication such as apology, request, or greeting. One of the speech act is apologizing. According to Olstain and Cohen (in Wolfson and Judd, 1983: 20), the act of apologizing is called or when there is some behavior which has violated social norms, whether the offence is real or potential. When an action or utterance has resulted that one or more persons perceive themselves as the offended, they need to apologize. Yet different degrees of severity in the action or different circumstances related to the behavior may call for the different types of apologies in different intensities of such apologies in different social context. It means that the apologizer should aware to the situation of the conversation and the relationship between the participants. Thus, the social context, formality and the relationship between the participants, which are called social factors, will influence the way of the apologizer convey their apologies.

Furthermore, talking about social factors means entering into the politeness scope. Politeness is one of the most important aspects of human communication. It is an expression of concerns of other people feeling. It

involves complex mix of appropriate words, grammar, intonation and tone of voice when people speak to others. Holmes asserts many decisions about what is or is not considered polite in any community; therefore she involves assessing social relationship along dimensions of social distance and solidarity, and relative power or status. Being polite may also involve the dimensions of formality (1992:297). The speaker is expressing respect towards the person to whom he talks to and avoiding offending him. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the social values of society to speak politely.

Leech (in Trosborg, 1995:29) states that politeness is a communication strategy that people use to maintain and develop. Furthermore, Leech points out the different types of situation call for different degree of politeness and attempts a classification according to how illocutionary function relate to social goal of maintaining community.

The apology is a politeness strategy which has the effect of paying attention to the addressee's negative face (in Coates and Cameron, 1988: 30). An apology pays attention to the negative face of the addressee by acknowledging a potential imposition, it threatens the speaker's own positive face by admitting a transgression. Holmes state that an apology is a polite speech act used to restore social relations following an offence. Apologies therefore redress face-threatening behavior, and they acknowledge the need of the addressee not to be imposed upon or offended.

Apologies are not only strategies for avoiding conflict, but also function to maintain the social relation between participants.

Brown and Levinson (1978) define politeness as maintaining hearer's face, that is, being unimposed on and approved of in certain respects. There are two kinds of politeness, positive politeness and negative politeness. Positive politeness leads to the expressions of solidarity or friendliness toward other, while negative politeness pays people respect and avoids intruding on them, threatening their face. From that definition, therefore, apologizing can be define as negative politeness since by apologizing for doing a face-threatening act, the speaker indicate his or her reluctance to impinge on the hearer's negative face and thereby partially redresses that impingement. However, Marina Sbisa states that apologizing can also be positive politeness, since it shows the expression that concerns for the addressee's well-being, needs, interest, feeling and so forth.

Brown and Levinson (1987: 15) assert that a politeness strategy is employed by the 'weightiness'. The weightiness is calculated by the speakers from the power difference between speaker and hearer (P), the perceived social distance between speaker and hearer (D), and ranking of imposition (R). thus, the choice particular strategy or combination strategies for conveying an apology supposes the consideration of the relationship of power and distance between the participant and the seriousness of the offence. Holmes (in Bonvilian, 2003:107) found six typical offences. They are instances inconvenience, infringement on space, talk, time or possession

and social gaffes. Meanwhile, Shaver and Boster identified four types of offences. They are deception, innocuous offence, physical injury, and property damage. Those kinds of offences are motivating the speakers to apologize toward the addressee.

Related all explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the act of apologizing in the films entitled “The Village”, “It’s a Wonderful Life”, “The American President” and “Princess Diaries 2”. There are some phenomena of apologizing expressed characters with different social background and different situations, topics and also setting that can be analyzed in relation to politeness strategy.

An example of the conversation taken from the film “It’s a Wonderful Life” below may help to understand the statement above clearer:

*As George and Mary go toward kitchen.*

Tommy : (tugging at George’s coat) Excuse me, excuse me...

*They come through the door.*

George : (annoyed) Excuse you for what?

Tommy : **I burped!**

Mary : All right, darling, you’re excused. Now go upstairs and see what little Zuzu wants.

*Tommy leaves, and Mary turns to the stove.*

From the conversation above the topic is an apologizing performed by Tommy toward George and Mary. The setting of the dialogue is in the kitchen of George’s house. The background knowledge is Tommy is a son of George and Mary. He is 5 years old. The situation is when George and Mary are talking, and then Tommy burps. He says sorry for his mistake of burping. The purpose of the event is Tommy wants to apologize to his parent because of burping. Tommy

knows that after he burps and he has to say sorry. The polite word of sorry said by Tommy makes his apologizing accepted by his parent.

Based on the phenomenon above, it is interesting to analyze apologizing expressions by reveals the implied meaning behind it and the politeness strategy that is used by the participants in the films entitled “*The Village*”, “*It’s a Wonderful Life*”, “*The American President*” and “*Princess Diaries*”. The films are chosen as the films show various apology expressions expressed by the participants in different social context.

## **B. Previous Study**

The study of speech act of apologizing has been conducted by Erni Indrawati (2003) with the research entitled “*The Analysis of the Act of Apologizing in Oscar Wilde’s ‘The Picture of Dorian Gray’*”. This research employs socio-pragmatic approach. The researcher tried to find out the forms and the choice of strategies of apology. Furthermore, the researcher tried to reveal the factors that influencing the choice of strategies and the relationship between the participants relate to the act of apologizing function. In conclusion, it is found out that there are two forms to apologize. They are direct and indirect apologies. The strategies of apologizing found in the research are direct apology, taking on responsibility, giving explanation, offering a repair and giving concern. Most characters that have close relationship are more relax in using the strategy of apology. Then it is

found out that both remedial and non-remedial function of apologizing are intended to restore the broken social norm between participants.

Zahrah (2006) in her study “*An Analysis of Apologizing Utterance in Aristocratic Movie Manuscript*” clarifies the meaning and the reasons of apologizing utterance. Her findings are, first, there are four strategies and six sub categories that match with the available four strategies and eight sub categories in the underlying theory. Second, all the data of apologizing utterances have six intentions, they are declaring, describing, expressing sorrow, committing, informing and requesting. Third, apology is employed because the speaker really wants to apologize to the listeners and ask for forgiveness.

This research and the previous researches analyze the apologizing expressions using sociopragmatics approach. Both previous researches used speech act to analyze the data, while this research uses implicature to analyze the data. This research and Zahrah’s research both take the same field but different category of movie manuscript. Zahrah’s research uses aristocratic movie while this research uses drama movie. Indrawati’s tried to find out the forms and the choice of strategies of apology and Zahrah’s tried to find out the intention and the reason of apology. However this research focuses on implicature theory to find out the implied meaning of apologizing and to look deeper the act of apologizing expressions in the politeness scope

### C. Limitation of the Study

The research takes the conversation containing apologizing expressions in the films entitled *“The Village”*, *“It’s a Wonderful Life”*, *“The American President”* and *“Princess Diaries”*.

### D. Focus of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the writer tries to raise the research questions dealing with English apologizing expressions as follows:

1. What are the implied meanings of apologizing expressions the films entitled *“The Village”*, *“It’s a Wonderful Life”*, *“The American President”* and *“Princess Diaries”*?
2. What are the politeness strategies of apologizing expressions the films entitled *“The Village”*, *“It’s a Wonderful Life”*, *“The American President”* and *“Princess Diaries”*?

### E. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statement mention above, the writer has the following objectives as follows:

1. To clarify the implied meaning of apologizing expressions the films entitled *“The Village”*, *“It’s a Wonderful Life”*, *“The American President”* and *“Princess Diaries”*?
2. To clarify the politeness strategies of apologizing expressions the films entitled *“The Village”*, *“It’s a Wonderful Life”*, *“The American President”* and *“Princess Diaries”*?



## **F. Benefits of the Study**

The benefits of this research are divided into two parts: theoretical benefit and practical benefit. The expected benefits of the study both theoretical and practical benefit are:

### 1. Theoretical Benefit

This research will give contribution in Socio-Pragmatics study dealing with the implied meaning of apologizing expressions related to politeness scope.

### 2. Practical Benefit

The result of this research will give benefit to the other researchers, especially for those who are interested in analyzing the apologizing expressions, to use this research as additional reference and information for their further research connecting with the field.

## **G. Research Paper Organization**

This thesis is divided into five chapters, and each chapter consists of further division. The outline of this research is arranged systemically as follows:

*Chapter 1* is introduction. It presents background of the study, previous study, limitation of the study, problem of the study, objectives of the study, and benefits of the study and research paper organization.

*Chapter 2* is underlying theory. It deals with notion Pragmatics, principle of Pragmatics, notion of Socio-Pragmatics, notion of cooperative principle, notion of context, notion of politeness, and notion of apologizing.

*Chapter 3* is research method. It consists of type of research, data and source of data, method of data collection, coding of data and technique of analyzing data.

*Chapter 4* is data analysis n discussion. The data analysis elaborates the implied meaning of apologizing and the politeness startegies of apologizing expressions.

*Chapter 5* is conclusion and suggestion. It consists of conclusion and suggestion.