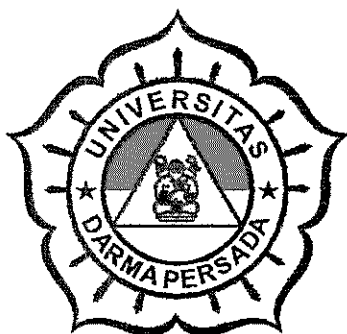


**THE ANALYSIS OF STAND-UP COMEDY BY EDDIE MURPHY BY  
USING POLITENESS THEORY, FACE THREATENING ACT**

**Term Paper**

**Submitted in part-fulfillment for Obtaining Strata One (S-1) Degree**



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**JAKARTA**

**2013**

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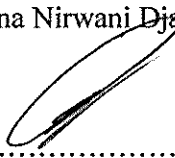
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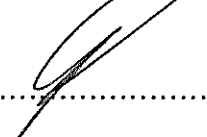
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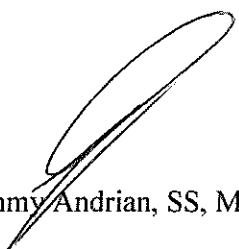
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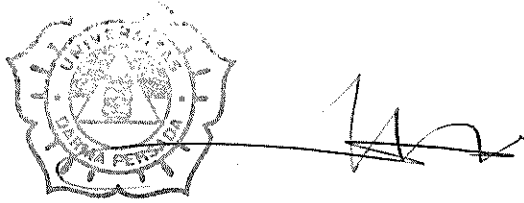
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## Preface

Praised be to Allah, I express my gratitude to Allah the almighty, who aids me with His strength, gives me wisdoms, inspirations and patiences to complete this term paper. Also, this term paper will not accomplished without the generous contribution of every single individuals and organizations. I am grateful very much to people who helps and supports me untiring.

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2. Mr. Tommy Andrian, SS, M.Hum, as well as the Head Office of English Department, includes my Academic Advisor who helps me to decide a decision when I was facing a doubt in my mind. He kindly read and critics my term paper to be valuable and deserve to be tested in court session.
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This Term-Paper is so far from perfection, suggestion and constructive critics are welcomed to improve this term-paper

Jakarta, July 5, 2013

The Writer

Ade Syahrin Hanifa

## *Abstrak*

*Nama* : Ade Syahrin Hanifa  
*Jurusan* : Sastra Inggris  
*Judul* : The Analysis of Stand-Up Comedy by Eddie Murphy by  
Using Politeness Theory, Face Threatening Act

*Skripsi ini membahas tentang stand-up comedy yang diperankan oleh Eddie Murphy. Setiap ujaran yang memiliki aspek komedi dianalisis menggunakan Politeness Theory. Teori yang digunakan pada materi ini adalah ilmu linguistik Politeness Theory yang berdasar pada Face Threatening Act. Melalui cara penyampaian yang dilakukan oleh Eddie Murphy dengan ujaran yang disertai gesture, prosody dan teks, penulis dapat mengaplikasikannya ke dalam Face Threatening Act. Skripsi ini menggunakan metode kualitatif yang berfokus pada penyampaian ujaran yang disampaikan oleh Eddie Murphy. Brown and Levinson sebagai pengembang ilmu dari Politeness Theory khususnya Face Theatening Act memberikan pemaparan atas teori yang diaplikasikan terhadap ujaran. Oleh karena itu, setiap ujaran yang disampaikan memiliki keterancaman citra dalam setiap candaan atau kelucuan di dalam penyampaian.*

*Kata kunci:*

Stand-up comedy, gesture, prosody, politeness theory, Face Threatening Act

## Abstract

Name : Ade Syahrin Hanifa  
Study of Program : Strata One (S1) Degree  
Title :The Analysis of Stand-Up Comedy by Eddie Murphy by using Politeness Theory, Face Threatening Act

This Term-paper explains about the Stand-up Comedy that is performed by Eddie Murphy. The Utterance that has comedy aspect or joke is the material that be analyzed with Politeness Theory in particular on Face Threatening Act. The way one delivering that is delivered by Eddie Murphy with the utterance that is completed by gesture, prosody and co-text applies with Face Threatening Act. This term-paper using qualitative mode that concentrates on the way of delivering message by Eddie Murphy. Brown and Levinson as the development science of Politeness Theory in specific Face Threatening Act describe explanation of theory that is applied on delivering. So, every single utterance have contained face Threatening in every jokes delivered.

Key words:

Stand-up Comedy, Gesture, Prosody, Politeness Theory, Face Threatening Act



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# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

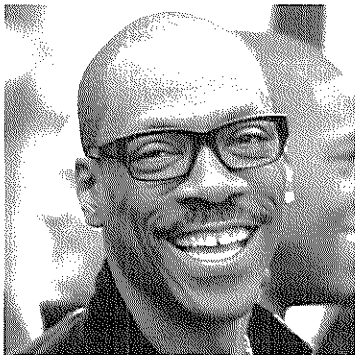
### 1.1 Background of the Problem

Stand-up comedy is the term for a special genre of comedy in which the performer, who is called the stand-up comedian, stands on the stage and speaks directly to the audience. In general, stand-up comedians are individual performers who plant themselves in front of their listeners with their microphones and start telling a succession of funny stories, one-liners or short jokes, and anecdotes, which are often called "bits", in order to make their audience laugh. The humorists' personalities, their interaction with the audience and their ability to spontaneously react to heckling are crucial aspects for successful stand-up comedy. Actually, there are so many steps and tricks to be a stand-up comedian. For example, they must prepare clearly the matter subject that they want deliver, the delivery of the matter subject must clear, and the timing of jokes must success. Then, stand-comedy have many terms on delivering the matter subject, like heckling, bit, punch and boom. In brief, stand up comedy is an expression that shows and delivers to the audience based on experiences and reflections of the way life with comedy aspect or comedy opinion.

In this section, the writer determines to analyze the stand-up comedy with politeness theory has relation with the messages that are delivered by stand-up comedian to the audience. In politeness theory, Brown and Levinson theorize that face must be continually monitored during a conversation because it is vulnerable. During a conversation face can be lost, maintained or enhanced. It is important to not only maintain one's own face but also the face of others. Interlocutors must be able to "save face" when they are confronted with a "face-threatening act" (FTA), which threatens the faces of the addressees.

Outline the four potential face-threatening acts, proposed by Brown and Levinson, as follows:<sup>1</sup>

- 1.1.1 Acts which threaten the audience's negative face: ordering, advising, threatening, warning
- 1.1.2 Acts which threaten the audience's positive face: complaining, criticizing, disagreeing, raising taboo topics
- 1.1.3 Acts which threaten speaker's negative face: accepting an offer, accepting thanks, promising unwillingly
- 1.1.4 Acts which threaten speaker's positive face: apologizing, accepting compliments and confessing



The stand-up comedian who is standing in front of the audience and deliver material subject of jokes is Eddie Murphy. Edward Regan "Eddie" Murphy (born April 3, 1961) is an American stand-up comedian, actor, writer, singer, director, and musician

Box-office takes from Murphy's films make him the second-highest grossing actor in the United States. He was a regular cast member on *Saturday Night Live* from 1980 to 1984 and has worked as a stand-up comedian. He was ranked No. 10 on Comedy Central's list of the 100 Greatest Stand-ups of All Time.

He has received Golden Globe Award nominations for his performances in *48 Hrs.*, *Beverly Hills Cop* series, *Trading Places*, and *The Nutty Professor*. In 2007, he won the Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor and received a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of soul singer James "Thunder" Early in *Dreamgirls*.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://linguistics.usask.ca/Ling347/webp/politeness2/index.html>

Eddie Murphy's work as a voice actor includes Thurgood Stubbs in *The PJs*, Donkey in the *Shrek* series and the Chinese dragon Mushu in Disney's *Mulan*. In some of his films, he plays multiple roles in addition to his main character, intended as a tribute to one of his idols Peter Sellers, who played multiple roles in *Dr. Strangelove* and elsewhere. Murphy has played multiple roles in *Coming to America*, Wes Craven's *Vampire in Brooklyn*, the *Nutty Professor* films (where he played the title role in two incarnations, plus his father, brother, mother, and grandmother), *Bowfinger*, *Norbit*, and *Meet Dave*.<sup>2</sup>

Murphy grew up in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Bushwick. His mother, Lillian, was a telephone operator, and his father, Charles Edward Murphy, was a transit police officer and an amateur actor and comedian. His father died when he was young. When Murphy's single mom became ill, the eight-year-old Eddie Murphy and his older brother lived in foster care for one year. In interviews, the actor and comedian says that his time in foster care was influential in developing his sense of humour. Later Murphy and his older brother Charlie were raised in Roosevelt, New York by his mother and stepfather Vernon Lynch, a foreman at an ice cream plant. Around the age of 15, Murphy was writing and performing his own routines, which were heavily influenced by Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor.

In stand-up comedy, there are so many tricks or the ways to deliver the meaning of subject material by stand-up comedian to the audience that be deserved to be analyzed with politeness theory. The interpretation of the audience is the essential problem of successfulness the meaning that is delivered by stand-up comedian to the audience. Then, the way stand-up comedian delivers the meaning with prosody, high pitch and gesture may cause the image that have contains in a story that is delivered by stand-up comedian. Finally, the Politeness Theory that has relation with image of face that save or threat apply on this material subject as the solving problem analysis.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.biography.com/people/eddie-murphy-9418676>

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background above stand-up comedy movie that was played by Eddie Murphy expressed the reflection of the way life in America. He satirizes the women, buttock, money, Michael Jackson and the black people indirectly or directly. So many dicourses that probably are analyzed by the expressions and words that said indirectly that can threat face someone or save it and have implicit meanings, for example: the words “So”, gesture that contains implicit meaning, and prosody that damages face. There are words that indicate the meanings that probably can be analyzed with Politeness Theory. The writer assumes that the stand-up comedian deliver the messages to the audience containing Face Threatening Act that damages or preserves image or face.

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on my identification of the problem, the writer limits the problem accordance with the politeness theory, because the messages that are delivered by stand-up comedian imply and refer to the personal and threat the face or image. For the way of deliver messages to the audience from stand-up comedian, the writer uses Politeness theory in Face Threatening act and Methods for Dealing with FTA's as the solving problem of the way on delivering the message.

## **1.4 Statement of The Problem**

The analysis deals with numerous questions, among which are most significantly the following :

- 1.4.1 Every utterances delivered by Eddie Murphy contain Face Threatening Act?
- 1.4.2 Every Utterances delivered by Eddie Murphy contain Positive-Face Threatening Act?

## 1.5 Objectives of the Research

Based on the above-mentioned problems, it can be stated that the general objectives of this study are:

- 1.5.1 To find out the utterances delivered to the audiences contain Face Threatening Act.
- 1.5.2 To find out the utterances delivered to the audiences contain Positive-Face Threatening Act

## 1.6 Framework of Theories

The writer focuses this study on implicative conversation. Brown and Levinson developed a theory of politeness that drew on Goffman's idea of face and expanded upon Lakoff's rules of politeness. According to Brown and Levinson there are two kinds of face, which reflect four different desires present in every interaction (Johnstone, 2008).<sup>3</sup>

- 1.6.1 *Negative Face* (desire to express one's ideas without resistance)
- 1.6.2 *Positive Face* (desire to have one's contributions approved of)
- 1.6.3 *Face threatening act*
  - 1.6.3.1 Threat to Audience's Negative Face (orders)
  - 1.6.3.2 Threat to Audience's Positive Face (complaining)
  - 1.6.3.3 Threat to Speaker's Negative Face (accepting offer)
  - 1.6.3.4 Threat to Speaker's Positive Face (apologizing)
- 1.6.4 Methods for dealing with FTA's
  - 1.6.4.1 Bald On – Record Politenes

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<sup>3</sup> <http://linguistics.usask.ca/Ling347/webp/politeness2/index.html>



1.6.4.2 Off – Record Politeness

1.6.4.3 Negative Politeness

1.6.4.4 Positive Politeness

## **1.7 Method of Research**

The methods that the writer will use to finish the the analysis are observative and qualitative. Qualitative method is the procedures that produce descriptive data in the form of words written or spoken of the people and behaviors that could be observed. Then the observative method is the observation method involves human or mechanical observation of what people actually do or what events take place during a buying or consumption situation. “Information is collected by observing process at work.”<sup>4</sup>

## **1.8 Benefit of the Research**

The benefits of the analysis give description completely about the stand-up comedy in delivery of the message that was delivered implicitly. Then the writer hope this analysis can be the referential information for the people who want to know more about the stand-up comedy including the theories that are applied in the analysis

## **1.9 Systematic Organization of the research**

Organizational Presentation would be presented with:

### **Chapter 1 Introduction**

This chapter is containing: Introduction, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, aim of analysis, theoretical frame work, method of research, and benefit of The Research

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<sup>4</sup>[http://www.managementstudyguide.com/observation\\_method.htm](http://www.managementstudyguide.com/observation_method.htm)

**Chapter 2            Politeness Theory and Methods for Dealing with FTA's  
in Stand – up Comedy by Eddy Murphy**

This Chapter is containing the explanation of Politeness Theory and little example in every single category. Then, the scheme of politeness theory including explanation.

**Chapter 3            The attraction of the Eddie Murphy in delivering the  
message to the audience by using Face threatening act  
aspect.**

This chapter is containing Face Threatening Act that applies to solve the problem that is indicated by the Stand-Up Comedian. The role of the game or appearance of the Stand-Up Comedian could analyze with the politeness theory generally as the complementary of the analysis.

**Chapter 4            Conclusion**

This is containing the conclusion of the Analysis of Politeness Theory in Stand-up Comedy by Eddy Murphy. Then the theories of the analysis that were used to solve the problem.