

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

This study has provided an in-depth analysis of positive and negative politeness strategies as exhibited in the utterances of the movie script “*The Banshees of Inisherin*” (2022). By employing Brown and Levinson's politeness theory, it was possible to explore how interpersonal relationships between characters are portrayed through language, particularly in moments of conflict, intimacy, and negotiation. The findings highlight the complexity of human communication and the nuanced ways politeness is used to navigate social dynamics.

Firstly, positive politeness strategy in the movie script often underlines efforts to strengthen relationships and reduce social distance. This strategy is evident in scenes where characters express friendship, give compliments, or appeal to shared values. For example, the use of jokes and inclusive language demonstrates efforts to maintain or restore harmony, even in situations of tension. Such strategies are crucial in showing affection or a longing to connect, even amid isolation. This reflects the human need for belonging and emotional support, themes that are central to the narrative. Factors such as interpersonal relationships (social distance), social hierarchy (relative power), and situational context (degree of coercion) significantly influence the use of these strategies.

Otherwise, negative politeness strategy highlights the characters' attempts to respect autonomy or manage potential conflict. These strategies were often employed during moments of tension or when addressing sensitive topics. Indirectness, hedging, and formal expressions of deference illustrated a desire to minimize imposition and acknowledge social boundaries. In particular, scenes of apology and avoidance demonstrate the characters' reluctance to overstep or worsen an already strained relationship. This not only serves to preserve individual dignity but also underlines the fragility of their relationship.

This study also quantified the frequency of these strategies, revealing that positive politeness strategy was the most frequently used, with 62 instances recorded, encompassing all strategies identified in the framework. In contrast, 49 negative politeness strategy was noted, involving only eight strategies. The predominance of positive politeness reflects the characters' attempts to maintain solidarity, express concern, and reinforce social bonds in a tight-knit community. These strategies were particularly evident in emotionally charged or interpersonal contexts, where fostering connection and mitigating tension were essential. On the other hand, negative politeness strategies highlighted the characters' efforts to respect autonomy and navigate conflicts with indirectness or deference. This balance underscores the nuanced interplay between maintaining harmony and addressing individual needs within the movie script's rural Irish setting.

Moreover, the movie script's unique Irish cultural context added layers of meaning to the use of politeness strategies. The dialogue was imbued with linguistic features and cultural nuances reflective of rural Ireland, where community ties and social norms heavily influence communication. The interplay of directness and subtlety, coupled with culturally specific expressions, enriched the analysis, offering a glimpse into how politeness operates within this specific socio-cultural framework.

In conclusion, the study of politeness strategies in "*The Banshees of Inisherin*" movie script not only highlights the intricate dynamics of the characters' relationships but also underscores the universal yet culturally specific nature of politeness in language. Through its nuanced depiction of human relationships, the movie provides an interesting case study for understanding the role of politeness in storytelling and its impact on audience perception.

I hope that future research could build on these insights by exploring similar themes in other cultural or cinematic contexts, thus enriching the discourse on manifestations in different forms of media. For example, analyzing politeness strategies in cross-cultural settings or different genres, such as comedy or tragedy, could provide a broader understanding of how different social norms and narrative styles shape the use of politeness.