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POLITENESS PRINCIPLES IN “MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS” FILM: PRAGMATIC STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the application of the principle of politeness in the film "Murder on the Orient Express" using a pragmatic approach. This study analyzes how each dialogue spoken by the characters in the film can be defined as part of the principle of politeness maxims proposed by Geoffrey Leech. There are 6 maxims of politeness principles, namely the maxim of tact, the maxim of generosity, the maxim of agreement, the maxim of politeness, the maxim of agreement, and the maxim of sympathy. Of all these maxims, this study analyzes the order in which these maxims appear in the dialogue conversations in this film, along with possible reasons. The research method used by the author in this study is a qualitative descriptive research method that can examine evidence of the emergence of speech that implies the principles of politeness maxims in it. In this study, the author found (2) maxims of tact, (5) maxims of generosity, (9) maxims of agreement, (8) maxims of politeness, (6) maxims of agreement, and (3) maxims of sympathy. In conclusion, this study demonstrates the relevance of politeness principles in understanding communication dynamics in a fictional context, highlighting how these principles contribute to character development and plot development. Further research is recommended to explore the application of politeness principles across cultures in film and other media.

Keywords: *Politeness Principles, Geoffrey Leech, Maxim, Minimize-Maximize.*

INTRODUCTION

In everyday life, humans are endowed by the divine with the extraordinary ability to engage in discourse and socialize with their fellow beings. It is within this framework that conversations, the fundamental building blocks of human interaction, emerge. Interacting with others through everyday language becomes one of humanity's needs. Generally, humans interact and behave under the self-image they have constructed in public. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), the act of maintaining face or image in pragmatic politeness includes actions to save face and image in public.

Delving into the intricacies of conversational messages, each word and sentence carries inherent meanings that contribute to the overall tapestry of communication. These meanings can traverse a broad spectrum, ranging from positive to negative, forging impressions that human minds effortlessly capture. Individuals possess the ability to discern expressions as either polite or impolite. An attractive definition provided by Crystal (1997, p. 301) describes pragmatics as a study that learns and states pragmatics is “the study of language

from the point view of users, especially of the choices they make, the constraints they encounter in using language in social interaction and the effects their use of language has on other participants in the act of communication”. Everyone can be affected by language and from their point of view, social interaction means making a good self-image as an output of each person. The politeness of an interaction can lead to a good image, matters to how language is used, and talked to whom.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Pragmatics

Concerning pragmatics, a politeness theory that can lead to meaning about how being polite. The relation between language and context has a powerful meaning: polite as a context. Politeness Principles the theory presented by Geoffrey Leech is theory maintains interpersonal rhetoric, which involves using language in a manner that is effective by primarily minimizing the expression of impolite values while maximizing the expression of polite values (Zaib Warda et al., 2021). Politeness principles, discuss how someone chooses and considers talking polite way to others instead of an impolite way, even if the situation of the conversation is not good. Knowing in social life, politeness is a crucial element in communication, it can lead a speaker to make a good impression in the environment.

Politeness Principles

The definition of Politeness Principles, means the speaker trying to make a good impression of the conversation, rather a bad impression. The theory has a relation with language intuition. Basically, as a human, humans can speak with the brain which plays the main role in the human body. When humans speak, they release their language intuition, or follow their brain's intuition. Many sciences study language intuition. Linguistics has language intuition, which learn how intuition works in every human interaction. A good impression becomes reinforced and strengthened when the proficiency using language of the speaker, is an innate or subconscious competence. Becomes higher level when intuition plays a favorable role in language use. If seems to be automatically become a communication barrier, or can create a bad impression, intuition select the most relevant context to express to achieve a success communication (Shi & Xie, 2022).

Generally, we accept the inferences of what a speaker says based on the assumption that the speaker is adhering to the Cooperative Principles (McManis 1988: 197). A misunderstanding with a bad assumption received by the listener often occurs in a

conversation. This ineffective meaning due to various factors, including the differing backgrounds and understandings of the participants, which often lead to misunderstandings in society. This issue arises when the communication of information is not executed properly, resulting in errors during the information reception stage. (Monalisa Purba & Ayomi, 2022).

Maxims are categorized to regulate conversation to be effective and polite. This inference system is essentially an unintended result of adhering to the conversational principles. These principles exist primarily to regulate and guide conversation. As a result, these principles serve as rules that help determine the level of cooperation that speakers demonstrate when they provide information during a conversation. In essence, these principles serve as guidelines for assessing whether speakers are being cooperative and polite to create a good context for their communication efforts, and if a sentence of conversation does not refer to good communication and creates a bad impression then a maxim can be said to have been violated.

Maxims are an integral component of cooperative principles, which include the quantity maxim, the quality maxim, the relation maxim, and the manner maxim (Grice, 1975). The principles of politeness provide guidelines for effective communication, emphasizing the importance of sharing information cooperatively and courteously. Within these principles lies the concept of maxim violation, which occurs when a speaker deviates from expected norms. The application of politeness principles highlights the social aspects of communication, suggesting that these principles collectively enhance cooperative interactions.

Maxims are also stated by Geoffrey Leech as a principle of politeness where a speaker is expected to speak politely for a cooperative and polite context to emerge. According to Leech (1983:131), politeness involves the relationship between two individuals, referred to as self and other. Consequently, Leech (1983:132) categorized this principle into six maxims, which are as follows: tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim.

a. The Tact Maxim

The Tact Maxim, *minimize cost to other, maximize benefit to other* (Leech 1983:132). highlights the importance of effective communication, urging individuals to use expressions that convey messages while prioritizing the listener's comfort and positive perception. It stresses the significance of avoiding potentially offensive language to create a favorable impression. To enhance the impact of communication, it promotes the intentional selection of words that are not only accurate but also polite and tactful. If an utterance aligns with the

formula, it means the utterance adheres to the maxim. However, if it does not align with the formula, it indicates a violation of the maxim (Sarwin, 2021). By employing considerate and respectful language, communicators improve the overall quality of interactions, fostering understanding and cooperation.

Example:

Instead saying “You're always late for school!”, might say “Could you please wake up earlier to get ready for school?”

The example below explains that the theory formulated by Geoffrey Leech can occur, a tact maxim appears when someone faces a condition that is considered bad but, in this case, why someone speaks by choosing a sentence that is issued more politely so that the listener can get a good impression. In this example, a speaker tries to minimize reprimands that can cause disputes. The speaker does not follow his intuition to reprimand in a way that he thinks is not good, the speaker prefers to use “Could you” which is more polite than reprimanding to the point of saying “You're always late for school”. - Instead of saying “You're always late for school!”, might say “Could you please wake up earlier to get ready for school?”

b. The Generosity Maxim

The Generosity Maxim, *minimize benefit to self, maximize cost to self* (Leech 1983:132). Encapsulates a communicative principle wherein the speaker emphasizes maximizing the benefits directed towards the listener. In contrast to the Tact Maxim, this approach diverges by placing the speaker's focus on self-interest and positioning themselves ahead of the listener in the conversation. Adhering to the Generosity Maxim involves the conscious effort of the speaker to amplify the positive outcomes or advantages accruing to the listener.

Example:

- Instead of saying, “I don't have time for your problems right now,” you might say, “I understand you're going through a tough time. Let me know how I can help when I have a moment.”

The sentence “I don't have time for your problems right now” directly reveals the speaker's personal limitations and closes the conversation, without considering the listener's needs or offering any support. If this sentence were to be used, it would maximize the speaker's benefit by focusing on their own problems and minimize the listener's benefit, which might be perceived as condescending or inconsiderate. In its entirety, the leech's maxim provides mutually acceptable benefits in that one person will make a good impression with

the words used. The speaker would choose to say “I understand you're going through a tough time. Let me know how I can help when I have a moment” which, while still acknowledging the speaker's lack of availability, shifts the focus to the listener's needs. The speaker minimizes discomfort by not committing to taking action to consider the other person's needs by maximizing the listener's benefit by offering assistance, when possible, when the speaker is not immediately available, while also maintaining politeness and maintaining social relations.

c. The Approbation Maxim

The Approbation Maxim, *minimize dispraise to other, maximize praise of other* (Leech 1983:132). The communication scenario described involves a strong mutual approval and positive affirmation between the speaker and listener, characterized by an unspoken exchange of agreement on the subject matter. This implicit approval enhances the interaction, creating an environment of shared understanding and positive reception. The reciprocity in this unspoken agreement adds complexity to the conversation, highlighting a cooperative connection where both parties contribute actively. The approbation maxim plays a key role by encouraging positive expressions and compliments, fostering social harmony. In everyday language use, this maxim manifests through statements that invite agreement from others.

Example:

- Instead of saying, “Your idea is completely wrong,” you might say, “I appreciate your perspective, but have you considered this alternative approach?”

When the speaker says, “Your idea is completely wrong,” it directly criticizes the listener's ideas, which can seem harsh and confrontational, maximizing blame and minimizing praise. This violates the Approbation Maxim of politeness, as it can harm the listener’s self-esteem and hinder open communication, potentially causing conflict. To avoid this, a more polite expression of disagreement is preferred. By saying, “I appreciate your perspective, but have you considered this alternative approach?”, the speaker acknowledges the listener’s efforts and introduces an alternative viewpoint without dismissing their ideas. This approach encourages constructive dialogue, minimizes conflict, and demonstrates the Approbation Maxim by balancing praise with constructive criticism, fostering positive interactions and mutual respect.

d. The Modesty Maxim

The Modesty Maxim, *minimize praise of self, maximize dispraise of self* (Leech 1983:132). Advises speakers to downplay their accomplishments or attributes and refrain from overt self-praise, aiming to maintain a demeanor of humility. This approach is designed

to create an atmosphere where all participants feel equally appreciated, preventing any potential discomfort or feelings of inferiority in the listener stemming from perceived arrogance on the part of the speaker. By strategically avoiding excessive self-promotion, speakers contribute to the establishment of a balanced and respectful interaction. In essence, the application of the modesty maxim reflects a nuanced comprehension of social dynamics, highlighting the significance of mutual respect and consideration in effective communication.

Example:

- Instead of saying, “I’m the best at this job”, you might say, “I’ve been fortunate to have some success in this role, but there’s always room for improvement.”

Statements “I’m the best at this job”, explicitly praise the speaker as a statement of pride in oneself, but they can come across as arrogant. It can violate the Modesty Maxim by focusing only on the speaker's accomplishments without acknowledging the possibility of improvement or the contributions of others. When used, Modesty Maxim shows a person's simplicity and can be called humble. If there is an impression of arrogance in a statement, a modesty maxim has been violated. Instead of claiming to be “the best”, the speaker humbly attributes their success to luck “I’ve been fortunate to have some success in this role, but there’s always room for improvement”. This shows humility, avoiding arrogance, keep conversations polite and respectful, adhering to the Maxim of Politeness

e. The Agreement Maxim

The Agreement Maxim, *minimize disagreement between self and other, maximize agreement between self and other* (Leech 1983:132). Speakers intentionally align their perspectives with those of listener, emphasizing the promotion of agreement as crucial for fostering harmony in communication. It encourages individuals not only to acknowledge but also genuinely endorse and support the opinions or ideas expressed by others, contributing to a cooperative and harmonious communication environment. This intentional alignment strengthens mutual understanding and respect. In the use of agreement maxim in the language we use every day is agreeing a statement or a thing from the speaker to hearer, and put the hearer's comfort first.

Example:

- Instead of saying, “I don’t agree with your point of view,” you might say, “I see where you’re coming from, and I think we share some common ground. However, have you considered this aspect?”

The statement “I don’t agree with your point of view” clearly expresses disagreement

and can come across as confrontational. It highlights the differences in opinion between the speaker and the listener, which maximizes disagreement and leaves little opportunity for collaborative dialogue. This approach can foster division and potentially lead to conflict or defensiveness. To mitigate such situations, the speaker employs the Maxim of Agreement, aiming to minimize disputes and enhance mutual understanding. By saying, “I see where you're coming from, and I think we share some common ground. However, have you considered this aspect?”, the speaker creates an opportunity for a respectful exchange of ideas while maintaining a polite and cooperative tone.

f. The Sympathy Maxim

The Sympathy Maxim, *minimize antipathy between self and other, maximize sympathy between self and other* (Leech 1983:132). An essential guideline in effective communication, underscores the importance of genuinely expressing care for the listener's emotions and experiences. It urges speakers to actively demonstrate empathy and understanding, particularly in challenging or emotional circumstances, fostering a communication atmosphere characterized by compassion and support. This type from all type above has a different because it's showing a sympathy from the speaker to hearer. In the used of sympathy maxim in the language we used every day is an utterance like saying congratulation and condolences.

Example:

- I am sorry to hear about your father

This statement expresses genuine sympathy and heartfelt concern for the listener's situation, which is particularly important during times of difficulty or loss. By saying “I am sorry,” the speaker not only acknowledges the listener's feelings but also demonstrates a deep sense of empathy and understanding. This thoughtful approach is in line with the Sympathy Maxim, as it aims to minimize the listener's distress by offering emotional support and validation.

Leech's theory emphasizes a speaker's effort to achieve successful communication by fostering a positive conversational atmosphere. The speaker aims to maintain a good dialogue without causing misunderstandings, thereby establishing effective interaction with the listener. This process has a relation with language intuition theory which is guided by the speaker's language intuition and helps them choose appropriate expressions and avoid those that might create negative impressions during the conversation. Therefore, Leech's theory of politeness principles aligns with the theory of language intuition, as both aim to achieve

successful communication (Shi & Xie, 2022).

METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the script in every dialogue that shows the six maxims of politeness principles. (Nazir, p. 10, 2013) asserted that the qualitative descriptive method is employed by researchers to uncover knowledge or develop theories relevant to a specific period in their research. The application of descriptive research is sometimes critiqued in terms of scientific rigor. (Doyle et al., 2020).

Focused on the study of politeness in communication which is politeness principles formulated by Geoffrey Leech and data script of “Murder on The Orient Express” film. This research will focus on observing and analyzing the emergence of Politeness Principles contained in the script in the film “Murder on The Orient Express”. This research aims to understand whether Leech's theory can indeed be depicted in film-mediated data and taking the script, and common expressions that are often expressed can be depicted in films, so even in everyday life the politeness principles can be proven.

The outlined research process focuses on the study of pragmatics, specifically the principles of politeness proposed by Geoffrey Leech. It begins with selecting the topic, followed by conducting preliminary studies to gather background information. The next step involves formulating a specific research question that will guide the investigation. Researchers then choose a descriptive qualitative method for data collection and analysis. After collecting relevant data, it is classified according to the research topic. The classified data is then analyzed in detail based on the previously established research questions. Finally, conclusions are drawn from the analysis of the collected data, summarizing the findings related to Leech's politeness principles and their application in communication.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The exploration of Politeness Principles theory by Geoffrey Leech in the movie "Murder on the Orient Express" reveals the intricate dynamics of communication between characters, showing how these principles influence interactions and shape relationships. Politeness has emerged as a significant focus in the field of linguistics, leading many analysts to rely on it for interpreting others speech (Eshreteh & Badran, 2020). By analyzing each dialogue in the film, we can observe how the characters manage their social lives, balancing the need for effective communication and the desire to achieve successful and positive

communication, narrowed down and grouped into the perspective of a Politeness Principles theory.

During the film and dialogue, throughout the conversation in this film, researchers found six types of maxim politeness principles, which are used in this film. These six maxims emerge to meet the need for communication with each other in every situation to achieve success in communication. It was found that there were: tact maxim 2 data out of 33, generosity maxim 5 data out of 33, approbation maxim 9 data out of 33, modesty maxim 8 data out of 33, agreement maxim 6 data out of 33, and sympathy maxim 3 data out of 33. Each maxim contributes uniquely to the conversation dynamics, reflecting the characters intentions and relationships.

Tabel 1. Findings

Types of Politeness	Quantity
The Tact Maxim	2
The Generosity Maxim	5
The Approbation Maxim	9
The Modesty Maxim	8
The Agreement Maxim	6
The Sympathy Maxim	3
FINDINGS	33

The data for this study were collected utilizing the framework established by Geoffrey Leech (1983), which outlines various types of politeness principles maxim. This theoretical approach provides a comprehensive understanding of how politeness operates within conversational exchanges. To enhance clarity and emphasis, the data have been presented in a bold style, specifically highlighting the utterances that exemplify each type of politeness maxim. This presentation method not only aids in distinguishing the different maxims but also facilitates a more engaging analysis of how these principles manifest in communication. By applying Leech's theory, we gain valuable insights into the dynamics of politeness and its significance in fostering effective interpersonal interactions.

The Tact Maxim

Tact maxim is one of the maxims that prioritizes the good impression received by the listener, by maximizing the benefits received by the listener and minimizing the costs (Sarwin, Rizki S, p. 710, 2021) received by the listener. With tact maxim, a speaker can choose to speak better to create a good impression, even in bad circumstances. This type of maxim supports someone to be able to speak more wisely to the person they are talking to.

Data 1



Figure 1. A photographer asks for take a picture

Photographer : I saw you dance in Monte Cristo. Could I take your photograph?

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 00.14.16)

The use of the phrase “Could I..” in the photographer's question reflects a polite and considerate approach. By choosing the word “Could” the photographer not only expresses his intention to take a photograph but also allows the listener to feel comfortable in responding. This indicates that the photographer respects the boundaries and preferences of others and is willing to accept an answer that may not align with his hopes.

The utterance clearly to make a request fosters a positive interaction atmosphere, making the listener feel valued and acknowledged. This approach increases the likelihood of a positive response and is especially important in communication when asking for permission or assistance. This approach reflects politeness and empathy, showing that the photographer is considering the feelings and comfort of the person being spoken to, which is essential for building good relationships and mutual respect in a social context. The dialog can be validated by the definition of tact maxim itself, by minimizing cost to others, maximizing benefit to others. With this definition, a photographer can give a question statement using more polite words rather than making a bad impression of himself in front of the other person.

Data 2



Figure 2. Poirot finds evidence in Schmidt's room

Schmidt : It's not mine. I told you of the man in the uniform, why would I tell you if it was me?

Poirot : You wouldn't. Which makes your compartment the ideal place to hide it.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 01.05.59)

The response from the conversation above states the response to the speaker's suspicious question. In the dialogue above, there is a dialogue that determines the use of the Tact Maxim. This response is intended to minimize the implications of guilt or suspicion directed at himself, thus minimizing the negative impact of the impression. There is a difference, in this dialogue the tact maxim appears in the dialogue that occurs when the response given by the listener to the question asked by the speaker. Poirot's answer, "You wouldn't. Which makes your compartment the ideal place to hide it" indirectly shows that Schmidt's denial states something suspicious, which can be considered damaging to Schmidt's condition. Poirot's answer saves Schmidt, by saying that Schmidt is not the criminal.

The Tact Maxim emphasizes minimizing a cost, and maximizing the benefits obtained. In this case, Poirot answers Schmidt's suspicious question by stating that it is not what he thinks. Although in the situation in the film Poirot is interrogating and searching Schmidt's room, Poirot prefers to answer that he does not suspect Schmidt, because something he suspects is not certain and is afraid of worsening the situation and the suspicion that could occur.

The Generosity Maxim

A speaker can choose to speak better and more politely to create an impression by showing generosity. Minimize benefit to self, maximize cost to self (Sarwin, Rizki S, p. 710, 2021). This maxim shows the respect received by a listener from a speaker or vice versa and can be used in certain situations that support someone to be detected using the Generosity Maxim.

Data 1



Figure 3. Dr. Arbuthnot helps to repair the boat's broken engine

Dr. Arbuthnot : I'm shouting in English, and now Im doing it louder and slow. Very silly, forgive me. May I help? Let me help.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 00.08.47)

The dialogue that shows the Generosity Maxim is in the utterance “*May I Help? Let me help*”. In this utterance, it is in line with the principle of the *Generosity Maxim* which shows a speaker, Dr. Arbuthnot, has the will to prioritize the needs of others. In this dialogue, there is an implied context of the speaker offering help to the listener, even though the speaker does not get any benefit for himself. In this context, it is supported by the utterance “I’m shouting in English, and now I’m doing it louder and slow. Very silly, forgive me” where Dr. Arbuthnot acknowledges his own triviality and is complemented by the next sentence which shows Dr. Arbuthnot's intention to prioritize the comfort and welfare of the listener above his own interests.

The Maxim of Generosity, as defined by Leech, focuses on minimizing benefits to oneself and maximizing costs to oneself (Trisnaningtyas & Budiwaty, 2021). Dr. Arbuthnot's offer of assistance, especially coupled with his apology for speaking loudly and slowly, is an example of this maxim by demonstrating his willingness to put himself at a disadvantage for the sake of another's understanding and comfort.

Data 2



Figure 4. Mrs. Hubbard admitted wrongdoing.

Mrs. Hubbard : No one should hang for this, but me. It was my plan! Tell the police it was me, alone. There is no life left in me anymore.

They have a chance now. Helena, I pray has a chance. They can go live. Find some joy somewhere. Let it end with me.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 01.33.15)

The dialogue from the data above shows the alignment with the maxim politeness principles of the *Generosity Maxim* type, that appears in almost all of the dialogues, and in the context, it is said by Mrs. Hubbard. In this context the speaker admits his mistake as the perpetrator of the murder, by not wanting his other friends to be declared suspects, and keeps all the blame to himself. The statement “*No one should hang for this, but me. It was my plan! Tell the police it was me, alone*” proves that the Generosity Maxim appears in this situation,

where the speaker is willing to take responsibility for himself so that others can be given the opportunity to live and be happy in the sentence "They have a chance now. Helena, I pray has a chance. They can go live. Find some joy somewhere". Supported by the statement "There is no life left in me anymore" which shows a despair and silliness to oneself which is continued by making a cost to oneself with the statement "*Let it end with me*". Mrs. Hubbard's words exemplify this by her explicit acceptance of responsibility and her desire to shield others from harm, thus placing their well-being far above her own. This starkly contrasts with the Generosity Maxim which highlights the speaker's selflessness.

The Approbation Maxim

The meaning of praise given by someone intentionally in good or bad situations can show harmony with the definition of Approbation Maxim put forward by Geoffrey Leech. By minimizing dispraise to other, maximizing praise of other (Sarwin, Rizki S, p. 710, 2021) can prove that Approbation can occur in conversational situations between two or more people. Approbation is also one of the maxims that can show respect from the speaker, but in the form of praise that is delivered.

Data 1



Figure 5. Bouc asks Poirot to search for the murderer

Bouc : You are the only one who can bring justice.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 00.39.10)

The utterance "*You are the only one who can bring justice*" is one of the dialogues that shows the *Approbation Maxim*. In the context of the dialogue above, Bouc expresses his desire for Poirot to help him, by using a request sentence as well as praise rather than criticism. This is in line with the definition of the approbation maxim, which maximizes praise rather than dispraise given by a speaker to the listener in certain cases. From Bouc's statement to Poirot, it can be seen that Bouc respects and trusts Poirot and asks Poirot for help politely. Bouc also tries to minimize criticism based on his request so that Poirot can accept the request well, and gives the impression of a good request utterance by Bouc.

Data 2



Figure 6. Poirot interrogates Ms. Debenham

Poirot : You have a clear mind and I thought you might produce an insight.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 01.19.26)

In the context of the dialogue above, Poirot intends to interrogate Ms. Debenham for the second time. In the context of the film, Poirot's intention from the statement he made was that he needed answers to his unanswered questions. Ms. Debenham was asked to talk to Poirot because Ms. Debenham was one of those who had an open mind according to Poirot. In the context of the statement “*You have a clear mind...*” conveyed by Poirot to Ms. Debenham is a form of praise from Poirot because he asked Ms. Debenham to accompany him to discuss the case that was happening. Although Poirot asking to talk to Ms. Debenham is one of the parts of the interrogation that could end badly, Poirot still chooses to politely ask Ms. Debenham to be able to talk to him. This is in line with the definition of the *Approbation Maxim* put forward by Geoffrey Leech which states that a speaker tries to maximize praise rather than criticism. In the dialogue above, Poirot can prove that he can create a positive atmosphere in his communication with Ms. Debenham.

The Modesty Maxim

While praise is generally deserved for good work, the Modesty Maxim dictates minimizing self-praise and maximizing self-dispraise (Sarwin, Rizki S, p. 710, 2021), or being humble. This maxim encourages speaking humbly, even when praised, to maintain politeness.

Data 1



Figure 7. Poirot interrogates McQueen

McQueen : I'm lawyer about education, not for disposition. I was downright awful at it.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 00.42.38)

In the statement “*I was downright awful at it*” explains a speaker in the dialogue above that the profession he previously pursued did not go well. Although the profession he pursued was an honorable job. McQueen as a speaker in the context of his dialogue, he was being interrogated by Poirot and Bouc. And he explained everything he could explain including his own background. However, in his statement that said “I’m a lawyer about education, not for disposition”, followed by a supporting sentence that seemed humble. The context of the dialogue above can be aligned with the understanding of the *Modesty Maxim* itself, where McQueen maximizes self-dispraise, rather than praise for himself.

Data 2



Figure 8. Poirot interrogates Ms. Debenham again.

Ms. Debenham : A constant Mary, when I'm not employed as Miss Debenham. Left-handed. Unusual I know.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 00.57.29)

The utterance “*Left-handed. Unusual, I know*” shows one of the maxims of politeness, namely the *Modesty Maxim*. Based on the context of the utterance uttered by Ms. Debenham in the dialogue above, it reflects the behavior of a person's politeness with humility. In the

context of this dialogue, Ms. Debenham admits that she is left-handed, which is generally considered unusual, but she conveys this followed by a sentence that humbles herself. This is also in line with the understanding of the Modesty Maxim, by minimizing self-praise and maximizing self-dispraise.

The Agreement Maxim

Difference with approbation maxim, the agreement maxim is a maxim that states an agreement between two parties. A speaker can state a question or statement and a listener is required to agree with it. The agreement maxim appears when both parties try and create an agreement by minimizing disagreement between self and other, maximizing agreement between self and other dispraise (Sarwin, Rizki S, p. 710, 2021).

Data 1



Figure 10. Train accident make passengers confused.

McQueen : How long are we supposed to just sit here?

Ms. Debenham : Yes, someone must be doing something.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 00.35.06)

The dialogue above shows an agreement to a question from someone. The question was asked by McQueen, and Ms. Debenham validated and justified the question by saying “*Yes, someone must be doing something*”. In this situation, Ms. Debenham as the listener expressed her agreement to McQueen's question. The data shows the emergence of a dialogue that contains an agreement maxim in it. *Agreement maxim* focuses on the agreement that arises by trying to maximize agreement between two parties, rather than disagreement.

Ms. Debenham's response directly aligns with this principle, avoiding any contradiction of McQueen's implied concern and instead reinforcing the need for action. This positive politeness strategy seeks to build solidarity and rapport between the speakers.

Data 2



Figure 9. Poirot agreed the cake was delicious

Poirot : You liked my cake, didn't you?

Ratchett : The cake was excellent.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 00.30.50)

The response to the question asked by Ratchett can make a good impression without causing misunderstanding and disharmony. Ratchett's statement asking for an opinion “*You like my cake, didn't you?*” can be answered well by Poirot by saying “*The cake was excellent*” rather than saying a sentence that can lead to disagreement. Although the actual situation in the film, Ratchett gets rejected for his offer of cooperation, but Poirot in the context of the dialogue above can try to choose to answer politely. The dialogue above can show the emergence of *agreement maxim*, a situation that requires efforts to minimize disagreement and maximize agreement between two parties.

The Sympathy Maxim

Maxim that has one of the principles of politeness that is closely related to sympathy, is Sympathy Maxim. Sympathy maximizes the form of sympathy and minimizes antipathy (Sarwin, Rizki S, p. 710, 2021) from a situation. This maxim can be used to avoid bad impressions of something that happens, and can help build empathy in social interactions.

Data 1



Figure 11. Announces a murder on the train

Ms. Debenham : Good god, murder here?
Poirot : Yes, madam.
Ms. Pilar : God rest his soul.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 00.40.16)

The sentence “*God rest his soul*” can show sympathy for something that happened. In this dialogue, Poirot delivers news that there has been a murder on the train, and Ms. Pilar says a sentence that shows sympathy for what has happened, in the form of condolences. This is in line with the sympathy maxim, which shows an effort to maximize sympathy between oneself and others, and minimize antipathy. Although, in the previous sentence with the words “Oh god murder here?” can cause shock and panic, Ms. Pilar can show sympathy for what happened.

Data 2



Figure 12. Poirot interrogates Mr. Masterman

Poirot : Mr.Masterman. I am sorry about – the toothache.

(Murder on the Orient Express, 2017: 00.53.27)

Poirot as the speaker in the dialogue above expresses sympathy for what is happening to Mr. Masterman. Poirot says "Mr. Masterman. I am sorry about - the toothache" which shows sympathy and forgiveness to Mr. Masterman for the suffering that Mr. Masterman is experiencing. In the context of the dialogue situation above, Poirot is interrogating Mr. Masterman when Mr. Masterman has a toothache, and Poirot shows an expression of apology or concern. This is in line with the definition of sympathy maxim, as an effort to minimize antipathy between oneself and others, and maximize sympathy between oneself and others.

CONCLUSION

The author found all the maxims of politeness principles stated by Geoffrey Leech in the film "Murder on the Orient Express". The six maxims are Tact Maxim, Generosity

Maxim, Approbation Maxim, Modesty Maxim, Agreement Maxim, and Sympathy Maxim. The author found two of tact maxim, five of generosity maxim, nine of approbation maxim, eight of modesty maxim, six of agreement maxim, and three of sympathy maxim. From the findings, the author can conclude that all the maxims of politeness principles that appear occur for a reason in each dialogue. And each maxim that appears occurs with full awareness from each character when expressing a dialogue of conversation. Each character proves to try to speak politely in order to make successful communication and run well and based on politeness. For further research, it would be beneficial to explore the cultural nuances affecting the interpretation and application of Geoffrey Leech's maxim in any data. By considering the various nationalities of each character, to the background of a culture or something that can affect the perception and use of the maxim of politeness principles so that it can open up new and broad insights with diverse explanations.

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