

## **POLITENESS IN THE LIMELIGHT: A CASE STUDY OF CHARLIE PUTH'S INTERVIEW ON "THE ELLEN SHOW"**

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### ***Abstract***

This study aims to identify the politeness strategies in the top-rated US show, The Ellen Show, where Charlie Puth appeared as a guest star. Using discourse analysis method, the research focuses on audio-visual data from The Ellen Show's YouTube channel. The analysis highlighted the two aspects: the politeness strategies used by the interviewer and the guest star. The study's findings indicate a significant difference in the politeness strategies used by the host and the guest star. The host predominantly utilized "bald on-record" and "negative politeness" strategies while the guest star tended to employ "positive politeness" and "off-record" strategies more frequently. The results highlight that social variables influence the variation in politeness strategies in the conversation and the relationship dynamics between the presenter and the guest star. This research has proven that the interview pattern used by Ellen as a host is different from other talk shows. Generally, interviewers will give the role of a speaker who has lower power than a guest star. However, the research results obtained were the result of interviewers who had different characteristics because the interviewers ignored the interview rules, which aimed to make the guest stars comfortable.

***Keywords:*** Politeness Strategies, Interview, Talk Show

### **INTRODUCTION**

The phenomenon of interaction in society can be challenging. Interaction is an integral aspect of human life, and during conversations, speakers need to be mindful of the language they use with their interlocutors. In some extent, the interlocutors need to consider the politeness aspect when delivering several ideas and opinion. Specifically, the relationship between interaction and politeness can be found in various phenomena such as giving opinions, interviews, rejection, and others. In conversational context, politeness strategies play a crucial role in facilitating smoother conversations. Politeness is a way of showing respect to others (Brown & Levinson, 1987; Holmes, 1995) and aims to reduce or prevent conflicts while maintaining a balanced conversation between the speaker and the interlocutors (Lakoff, 1975; Siffianou, 1992; Leech, 1983; Fitri, 2022). The statement was

supported by the newest research that stated that politeness has a crucial role and process in constructing politeness due to incorporation into social relationships (Nurrahma et al., 2020).

Among the various forms of interaction, the focus of this study is on the interview. Interviews serve to obtain information from reliable sources directly, especially for validating or confirming ambiguous matters. Popular talk shows, such as The Ellen Show in the United States, often interview well-known figures, including political figures, artists, and celebrities. For this study, the researcher has chosen to analyze an interview from The Ellen Show featuring the renowned singer, Charlie Puth. The decision to study this particular episode stems from the controversy surrounding his song "Attention," which was speculated to be a satire against an actress. This song told the story of a man's disappointment in the woman he once loved in his past. The lyrics showed that the man felt deceived by a woman who gave him fake expectations. Then, society related this song to the singer's private life, with one of the actresses rumored to have a special relationship with the singer.

In line with the phenomena above, this study tries to expose the linguistic codes of politeness reflected in the interview. Politeness, a significant aspect of communication, has been studied and defined differently by various linguists. Yule (2002) conceptualizes politeness as sensitivity to other people's emotions during interactions. This definition suggests that being polite involves being considerate and mindful of how one's words and actions affect others' feelings. On the other hand, according to Osman et al. (2018), politeness in language pertains to the use of courteous and respectful language during oral communication. This definition emphasizes that politeness is instrumental in creating a positive impression and fostering positive relationships between individuals.

Terada et al. (2021) take a different perspective on politeness, viewing it as a set of strategies or tactics individuals employ to express their demands without threatening the other person's 'face.' In this context, 'face' refers to a person's social identity and dignity, and preserving it is crucial to maintain harmonious interactions. Brown & Levinson (1987) offer a more comprehensive categorization of politeness strategies, classifying them into four forms. The first is 'off-record,' where the speaker hints at their intentions rather than expressing them explicitly, allowing the interlocutor to infer the message indirectly. The second form is 'on-record baldly,' which involves straightforward communication without employing politeness strategies. The third and fourth forms are 'on-record with positive politeness' and 'on-record with negative politeness.' In 'on-record with positive politeness,' the speaker emphasizes friendliness, appreciation, and compliments to maintain rapport and minimize potential threats to the interlocutor's face. In contrast, 'on-record with negative politeness' involves using politeness markers to mitigate the imposition on the interlocutor's autonomy or social space, respecting their individuality.

Additionally, Brown and Levinson (1987) point out that these politeness strategies are influenced by three vital social variables: power, distance, and imposition. Power refers to the relative status or authority of the interlocutors in the social context, which can affect

the choice of politeness strategy. Distance represents the level of familiarity or social distance between the individuals engaged in the conversation, influencing politeness choices. Imposition refers to the degree of imposition or inconvenience the speaker's request or action places on the interlocutor, affecting the level of politeness required. Notably, the cultural background of the speaker plays a significant role in determining which politeness strategies are considered appropriate and effective in a given context. Different cultures may prioritize specific forms of politeness or value certain social variables more than others, leading to variations in politeness norms and practices across cultures.

In the field of research, there have been previous studies that explored politeness strategies in the context of the entertainment world, such as movies and variety shows. These studies were conducted by Mustiari et al. (2017), Suyono and Andriyanti (2021), Hutahaean et al. (2021), Rahmawati et al. (2020), and Martisa et al. (2021). Each of these studies focused on different aspects of politeness, examining how it manifests in various forms of communication within the entertainment industry. Some researchers specifically delved into positive or negative politeness strategies, while others took a broader approach by analyzing all politeness strategies employed in interviews. The researcher chose this topic due to its inherent interest and potential for insights. Investigating politeness strategies in *The Ellen Show* offered a unique perspective compared to other interview shows, where hosts typically rely on positive politeness. This distinction piqued the researcher's curiosity, as it indicated that politeness patterns might differ among talk shows. Additionally, the selection of Charlie Puth's episode for analysis was intentional, driven by the controversy surrounding his single release, "Attention." This element added an intriguing dimension to the research, enabling a deeper exploration of how politeness strategies might have played a role in addressing sensitive topics during the interview.

The primary objective of the research is to uncover and analyze the politeness strategies employed by Ellen DeGeneres (the host) and Charlie Puth (the guest star) during their interview on *The Ellen Show*. By scrutinizing their language and communication choices, the study aims to show how politeness facilitated a prosperous and harmonious conversation between the two interlocutors. Additionally, the research seeks to explore the potential relationship between social variables, such as power, distance, and imposition, and the specific politeness strategies utilized by Ellen and Charlie Puth. This investigation will contribute to a deeper understanding of how cultural backgrounds and social dynamics influence the application of politeness strategies in talk show interviews.

## **METHOD**

This study employed qualitative research methods to explore the politeness strategies used in *The Ellen Show*, which involved both audio and visual data. This study decided to include the visual data because the video relating to the facial expressions of the speakers can give the pragmatic meanings of the utterance. To gather the necessary

information, the researcher utilized note-taking during the data collection process (Creswell, 2014). Note-taking allowed the researcher to document relevant observations and details from the qualitative audio and visual materials effectively. The primary data for the study was obtained from The Ellen Show's YouTube channel. The data consisted of the spoken utterances of both speakers, namely the host (Ellen DeGeneres) and the guest (Charlie Puth). The data collection process involved three stages. Initially, the researcher listened to the relevant episodes of The Ellen Show to familiarize themselves with the object of research. Subsequently, the conversation between Ellen and Charlie Puth was transcribed to have a written record of their interactions. After transcription, the researcher double-checked the accuracy and completeness of the transcribed data before proceeding to the data analysis stage.

The data analysis process also comprised three stages. The first step involved tidying up the transcribed data to ensure it was well-organized and easily manageable. Next, the researcher categorized the data based on the types of politeness strategies utilized in each utterance through the term politeness theory proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). This categorization aimed to identify and differentiate the specific politeness strategies employed by both Ellen and Charlie Puth throughout the conversation. Finally, the study applied the analysis results with three social variables: power, distance, and imposition. These social variables were used to examine how they influenced the choice of politeness strategies by both interlocutors. By following this rigorous data collection and analysis process, the study sought to gain insights into how politeness strategies were employed in The Ellen Show and how they related to the social dynamics between the host and the guest. The application of qualitative research methods and the inclusion of social variables allowed the researcher to delve deeper into the complexities of politeness in this specific talk show setting.

## **FINDINGS**

The study's findings present ten selected utterances from The Ellen Show interview between Ellen (the host) and Charlie Puth (the guest star), showcasing the politeness strategies used by both speakers. The data has been divided into two parts, with Data 1 to 5 belonging to Ellen and Data 6 to 10 belonging to Charlie Puth. Before analyzing the data, the researcher identified three social variables—power, distance, and imposition (Brown & Levinson, 1987)—relevant to the politeness strategies observed in the interview.

In terms of power, Ellen holds a higher social status than Charlie Puth due to factors such as age difference, with Charlie being younger than Ellen. Additionally, considering their professional roles, both Ellen and Charlie work in the entertainment industry. However, Ellen's position as the host grants her a more expansive territorial zone, establishing her in a higher position than Charlie in the interview. Regarding social distance, the relationship between Ellen as the host and Charlie Puth as the guest star did not appear to be close, evident in how Charlie communicated with Ellen. It suggests there was a certain level of distance between them during the interview. Lastly, regarding

imposition, the researcher found that the utterances from Datum 1 to 5, spoken by Ellen as the host, had a high level of imposition on the speech partner (Charlie Puth). Conversely, the utterances from Datum 6 to 10, delivered by Charlie Puth as the guest star, had a lower burden on the speech partner (Ellen).

Overall, the analysis of the data and the examination of the social variables highlight the varied use of politeness strategies by both Ellen and Charlie Puth in the interview. Ellen, as the host with a higher social status and a certain level of territorial authority, displayed different politeness strategies compared to Charlie, who adjusted his speech to navigate the distance between them and minimize any imposition on the host. These findings provide valuable insights into the dynamics of politeness in talk show interviews and how social variables influence the communication choices of the participants.

The explanation of each datum will be represented as follows;

### **Datum 1**

*"Attention is about who?" - (Ellen)*

In Datum 1, Ellen, as the host, asked, "Attention is about who?" This utterance was categorized as politeness without a strategy (on record baldly). Ellen directly and straightforwardly posed the question without employing specific politeness markers or strategies. As a television presenter, Ellen's role in the interview is to ask questions that typically revolve around the guest star's latest works, such as new songs or projects. However, in this particular context, Ellen's question appeared to be quite direct and attacking, as it touched upon the sensitive topic of the song "Attention" and its potential association with someone from the guest star's personal life. The question delved into the guest star's love life, which is considered private and sensitive.

The interviewer's decision to inquire about this topic might have caused discomfort for the guest star. Such an on-record bald question could be seen as invasive and potentially embarrassing for Charlie Puth, considering the speculation and comments surrounding the song "Attention" on his YouTube channel. The lack of a specific politeness strategy in this utterance, such as using positive politeness to soften the impact of the question, could be a misstep in maintaining a balanced and respectful conversation. Ellen's approach, in this case, may have failed to effectively consider the guest star's 'face,' which refers to his social identity and dignity. As a result, this direct question created an uncomfortable atmosphere during the interview, potentially affecting the overall dynamics between the host and the guest.

### **Datum 2**

*"Which young lady would that be about?" - (Ellen)*

In Datum 2, Ellen continued the line of questioning about the inspiration behind Charlie Puth's song "Attention" by asking, "Which young lady would that be about?" The context and theme of the question remained the same as in the previous datum. Ellen persisted in probing for information regarding the person who served as the songwriter's inspiration for the song. The utterance in Datum 2 was again categorized as politeness without a strategy (on-record baldly). Ellen asked the question without employing any politeness markers or softening language. The question was direct and to the point, without any hesitation or circumlocution. The repetition of the question was prompted by Charlie Puth's initial response, which seemed surprised and evasive, as he did not answer directly. As the host, Ellen may have felt the need to press for a response and clarifications.

However, this direct and insistent questioning could be seen as a potential threat to Charlie Puth's 'face.' By repeatedly asking about the inspiration behind the song, Ellen might have inadvertently put the guest star in an uncomfortable position, primarily if the topic was related to his personal life or a sensitive matter. Additionally, the lack of politeness strategy might not have sufficiently minimized the Face Threatening Act (FTA) in this interaction. Ellen's straightforward approach might have created tension or discomfort in the conversation, impacting the overall dynamics between the host and the guest. As a result, the interview might have yet to achieve the desired balance of politeness and respect for the guest star's privacy and comfort.

### **Datum 3**

*"You are not going to say it, but it is somebody."* - (Ellen)

In Datum 3, Ellen responded to Charlie Puth's previous answer, where he avoided directly mentioning the person who inspired the song "Attention." Ellen's response, "You are not going to say it, but it is somebody," reflects her curiosity and desire to elicit more information from the guest star. The utterance in Datum 3 was categorized as politeness without a strategy (on-record baldly). Ellen's response was straightforward, without using explicit politeness markers or attempts to soften her statement. She clarified that she knew Charlie Puth was unwilling to reveal the specific person mentioned in the song, but she inferred that the song was about someone. By using politeness without a strategy, Ellen might have unintentionally threatened Charlie Puth's 'face' in this interaction. Her straightforward response could have created a sense of discomfort for Charlie, as she essentially acknowledged his reluctance to disclose further details while reiterating the song's topic. It might have made Charlie feel put on the spot and potentially embarrassed.

Using on-record bald politeness could have affected the rapport between the host and the guest star, as it did not effectively mitigate the Face Threatening Act (FTA). In interviews, the host must strike a balance between inquiring about exciting topics and

respecting the guest's boundaries and privacy. Overall, Datum 3 illustrates the importance of using appropriate politeness strategies to maintain a respectful and harmonious conversation, especially when discussing sensitive or personal matters with a guest. A more tactful approach helped alleviate discomfort and foster a more open and relaxed interview environment.

#### **Datum 4**

*"You are single right now, right?" - (Ellen)*

In Datum 4, Ellen asked Charlie Puth, "You are single right now, right?" The context of the question revolved around the topic of Charlie's love life. This question was posed before the host initiated a game segment called 'Who'd you rather?' which involved comparing some female celebrities. Ellen's statement can be seen as a form of anticipation for the impact of the upcoming game. The utterance in Datum 4 was categorized as a positive politeness strategy. Ellen directly and straightforwardly asked, "You are single right now, right?" However, the addition of the word "right" at the end of the question serves to involve the interlocutor, Charlie Puth, in the conversation and seek his agreement on the given question. By using a positive politeness strategy, Ellen aims to minimize the social distance between herself and Charlie, making the conversation feel more inclusive and engaging. Adding "right" implies that Ellen expects Charlie to confirm or agree with her statement, creating a camaraderie between them.

The use of a positive politeness strategy in this context helps to establish a comfortable and friendly atmosphere, particularly when discussing a sensitive topic like a person's love life. It demonstrates Ellen's consideration of Charlie's feelings and privacy while still addressing the subject matter of the upcoming game. Overall, this politeness strategy effectively achieves the balance of addressing an exciting topic without making the guest uncomfortable. It highlights the importance of using appropriate politeness strategies to create a harmonious and engaging conversation during a talk show interview.

#### **Datum 5**

*"Are you on dating websites?" - (Ellen)*

In Datum 5, Ellen asked Charlie Puth, "Are you on dating websites?" The context of the question is still related to the topic of Charlie's love life, following the discussion in Datum 4. In this instance, Ellen employed politeness without a strategy (on record baldly). The utterance in Datum 5 was characterized by its directness and lack of explicit politeness markers or strategies. Ellen asked the question straightforwardly without showing much consideration for the potential Face Threatening Act (FTA) involved. The question delves into the personal realm, inquiring about Charlie's potential use of dating websites. It can

be seen as a sensitive topic for some individuals, as it may involve their privacy and personal choices. The lack of a specific politeness strategy in this question suggests that Ellen did not take extra measures to soften the potential impact of the question on Charlie Puth. She did not apologize or seek permission before asking the question, which might have made Charlie feel put on the spot and uncomfortable.

Given the nature of the topic and the potential sensitivity surrounding the use of dating websites, the direct and bald manner of the question might have caused Charlie to feel uneasy or embarrassed. While using dating websites is common in contemporary society, some people still consider it a private matter, and discussing it on a public platform like a talk show could evoke discomfort. In this case, the lack of a specific politeness strategy was not the most considerate approach. A more tactful and sensitive phrasing of the question helped alleviate any potential discomfort for the guest. Therefore, the utterance is considered politeness without a strategy (on-record baldly). It does not employ any explicit means to minimize the FTA and may lead to an uncomfortable or embarrassing feeling for the interlocutor.

#### **Datum 6**

*"Well, my heart's racing right now. My-- this is where you realize that I'm not going to say it, and I'm freaking out right now because —"* -(Charlie Puth)

In Datum 6, Charlie Puth responded to Ellen's previous question with a statement that his heart was racing, indicating that he felt uncomfortable and panicked because of the question. Charlie conveyed his discomfort indirectly, not directly expressing it to the interlocutor (Ellen). This indirect response is a form of politeness known as Off-Record politeness. Charlie's use of Off-Record politeness suggests that he respected Ellen, the older and more established figure in the interview. Due to the age difference and the social norms associated with respecting elders or those in higher positions, Charlie chose not to convey his discomfort to Ellen directly. Instead, he subtly hinted at his uneasiness through his body language and the statement about his racing heart. By employing Off-Record politeness, Charlie conveyed his feelings in a manner that was not confrontational or disrespectful. It allowed him to maintain a certain level of distance while still expressing his discomfort indirectly. Off-record politeness is a strategy commonly used in conversations where the speaker wants to convey their feelings or intentions subtly without causing offense or disrupting the harmony of the interaction.

This use of Off-Record politeness exemplifies how social factors, such as age and hierarchical relationships, can influence communication choices in interactions. Charlie's indirect response reflects his consideration of the social dynamics of the interview and his



desire to maintain a respectful and polite conversation with Ellen. Overall, Datum 6 demonstrates how Off-Record politeness can be employed in talk show interviews to navigate potentially uncomfortable situations while still showing respect and deference to the interlocutor. It reflects the complex interplay of social variables and politeness strategies in communication dynamics.

### **Datum 7**

*"I think somebody who thinks it might be written about them, they're sadly mistaken. It's not written about them. It's actually-- sorry." - (Charlie Puth)*

In Datum 7, Charlie Puth answered the host's question about the woman behind the song "Attention." The background context involves much speculation and slanted news about the song, alluding to a celebrity who reportedly had a love affair with Charlie. The suspected woman indirectly addressed the situation by uploading stories on her Snapchat app. Charlie's statement clarified that the song was not written about the woman suspected of being the character in the song's video. His response is a form of negative politeness strategy, where he seeks to minimize the face-threatening act (FTA) and show respect both for the interlocutor (host) and the woman who was speculated to be the subject of the song. By employing a negative politeness strategy, Charlie respectfully addresses the host's question while also acknowledging the sensitive nature of the topic. He indirectly distances the woman in question from the song's inspiration, indicating that the speculation is not accurate. This approach helps maintain privacy and avoids causing offense or discomfort to both the host and the woman involved.

The use of negative politeness is exemplified in Charlie's expression of apology at the end of the utterance with the word "sorry." By including this apology, Charlie softens the impact of his response and minimizes any potential offense that may arise from clarifying the situation. Overall, Datum 7 demonstrates how negative politeness can be used to handle sensitive topics with care and respect during talk show interviews. Charlie's choice of language and the inclusion of an apology reflect his efforts to preserve the dignity and privacy of those involved while still addressing the host's question in a polite and considerate manner.

### **Datum 8**

*"I'm sweating right now." -(Charlie Puth)*

In Datum 8, Charlie Puth said, "I'm sweating right now." The utterance reflects a form of disguised politeness strategy, specifically Off-record politeness. The word "sweating" in this context is not to be taken literally; rather, it signifies a feeling of

nervousness or discomfort experienced by the speaker. Charlie's response indicates that he is feeling anxious or uneasy in response to the question posed by the host. By using Off-record politeness, Charlie indirectly conveys his uncomfortable feelings without directly expressing them. Instead of explicitly stating his nervousness, he uses a metaphorical expression to communicate his emotional state. This indirect approach allows Charlie to protect his own 'face' by not openly displaying vulnerability or discomfort in a public setting like a talk show.

Disguised politeness strategies like Off-record politeness are common in social interactions, especially in formal or public situations, where individuals may hesitate to express their true feelings or emotions directly. Instead, they may use veiled language or metaphors to convey their sentiments while maintaining distance and decorum. By using Off-record politeness in Datum 8, Charlie Puth tactfully communicates his emotional state without explicitly pointing it out or causing any awkwardness in the conversation. It demonstrates his ability to navigate sensitive topics subtly and respectfully while maintaining a harmonious and polite interaction with the host. Overall, this example illustrates the nuanced nature of politeness strategies in conversation and how individuals can use indirect language to preserve their 'face' and avoid potential discomfort or embarrassment in certain situations.

#### **Datum 9**

*"Is it weird that I do not know what she's been in? I know she's a very famous actress. Sorry.." -(Charlie Puth)*

In Datum 9, Charlie Puth's response during the game segment 'Who'd you rather?' reflects a combination of politeness strategies, including politeness without a strategy and negative politeness. The statement, "Is it weird that I don't know what she's been in?" exemplifies politeness without a strategy. Charlie indirectly conveys his lack of knowledge about the actress in question. Instead of directly stating that he is unaware of her work, he poses a question, softening the impact of his ignorance and avoiding potential offense to the actress or the host. Additionally, when Charlie says, "I know she's a very famous actress," he employs negative politeness strategies. By acknowledging the actress's fame, he demonstrates respect and consideration for her status as a well-known public figure. This use of negative politeness aims to minimize any potential face-threatening act (FTA) by showing appreciation for the actress's fame, even though he is not familiar with her body of work.

Furthermore, including the word "Sorry" at the end of the statement further emphasizes Charlie's use of negative politeness strategies. The apology shows his respect for the actress and the host, acknowledging that he may not be well-informed about the

actress but still maintaining a polite and respectful tone in the conversation. By combining politeness without a strategy and negative politeness, Charlie tactfully handles the topic during the game segment, navigating it carefully. He avoids any potential awkwardness or discomfort while still acknowledging the actress's prominence and offering a polite response. In summary, Datum 9 exemplifies how individuals can employ a mix of politeness strategies to maintain a harmonious and respectful conversation, particularly when they may need more information or familiarity with specific topics or individuals.

#### **Datum 10**

*"Girl, who I'm seeing that I'm not going to name, I'm very sorry for this. But you'll understand, you're a cool girl."* -  
(Charlie Puth)

In Datum 10, Charlie Puth responded during the game segment 'Who'd you rather?' by addressing one of the women mentioned in the game. His statement reflects a combination of negative politeness and indirect politeness strategies. The phrase "I'm very sorry for this" serves as part of a negative politeness strategy. By apologizing, Charlie aims to express his embarrassment or discomfort with the game, which compares female actresses and singers. This apology demonstrates his consideration of the feelings of the women mentioned in the game and his desire not to offend anyone. It is a way of minimizing any potential face-threatening act (FTA) and showing respect for the women involved. Furthermore, Charlie uses an indirect politeness strategy in the last sentence: "But you'll understand, you're a cool girl." In this statement, he praises the woman without explicitly naming her, conveying that he appreciates her without singling her out. By employing indirect language, he avoids any potential awkwardness or discomfort that may arise from specifically mentioning one person's name.

The use of indirect politeness strategies is also a way for Charlie to handle the social distance between him and the women mentioned in the game. Since some of the names mentioned might be unfamiliar to him, he anticipates potential misunderstandings and seeks to maintain a positive and respectful atmosphere through his statements. In summary, Datum 10 showcases how Charlie Puth used a combination of negative politeness and indirect politeness strategies to navigate a potentially sensitive situation during the game segment. He aims to avoid offense, show respect for the women involved, and maintain a harmonious and considerate conversation.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Based on the findings, it is proven that the Ellen Show has a different concept compared to other variety shows. Ellen's character as a host starkly contrasts the host's role in other interviewers. Compared with the previous studies, the interviewer mostly

has a powerless feeling to provide comfort to the guest stars through the use of off-record politeness strategies or negative politeness, such as research by Mustiari et al. (2017) and Rahmawati et al. (2020). However, this study found that Charlie Puth, as a guest star, showed more off-record politeness than the host. Generally, to show respect to the interviewee, the host should use negative politeness in order to follow the rule of the interviewer as being neutral. The general finding of using negative politeness in the role of the interviewee was also shown in the research by Kristina (2022). The result gave the conclusion that as the moderator, Rosiana Silalahi presented 18 kinds of negative politeness, focusing on four forms of negative politeness. However, Aini and Kristina (2022) show that the finding result of politeness strategies also depends on the research topic. Aini and Kristina (2022) concluded that the host covered the clumsy situation with positive politeness through joking because the host tried to cover the contra reaction. Meanwhile, compared with Suyono and Andriyanti (2021), this finding can produce inverse results because it shows that the social distance between the two is not too close. The host still chose to produce positive politeness more often than negative politeness.

In addition, this research delivered the explication of politeness strategies of both guest star and the host are caused by social variables. Nevertheless, the social variable found in this case was about the power of the host. Generally, in the case of interviewing, the guest star should be the one who has more power than the host because they are the person who is needed to give the information of what the show needs, but the Ellen Show gave a different role for the host and the guest star. It resulted in the host preferring to use positive politeness. When it was related to the ethics of interviewing, it caused an uncomfortable situation, especially for the guest.

## CONCLUSION

In summary, the study on politeness strategies employed by the host (Ellen) and the guest star (Charlie Puth) in The Ellen Show interview revealed contrasting communication patterns. Ellen predominantly utilized bald on-record and negative politeness strategies, while Charlie Puth leaned towards positive and off-record strategies in his responses. Throughout the interview, a noticeable difference in politeness strategies between the host and the guest star emerged. While the host is expected to create a comfortable atmosphere, some of Ellen's questions discomfort Charlie Puth. His off-record politeness strategies indicated his subtle attempts to express uneasiness and respect a certain distance between them. Social variables played a role in shaping the interaction between Ellen and Charlie. Ellen, holding higher social status as the host, showed more distance in her frequent use of negative politeness strategies, perhaps respecting Charlie's boundaries.

In contrast, Charlie's choice of positive and disguised politeness strategies (off-record) reflected his efforts to maintain a friendly and respectful tone while maintaining a certain distance. His consideration of the feelings of the interlocutors or individuals he mentioned demonstrated a low level of imposition in his utterances. In conclusion, the study on politeness strategies in The Ellen Show interview sheds light on the intricacies of social

interactions. It emphasizes the significance of cultural backgrounds and social variables in shaping communication patterns. The differences in politeness strategies used by Ellen and Charlie Puth provide valuable insights into how individuals navigate conversations and maintain interpersonal relationships across various contexts. Politeness is pivotal in fostering balanced and harmonious interactions between speakers and interlocutors.

This research limits the politeness phenomenon in interviewing, especially in The Ellen Show. The researcher suggests future research to study other unique phenomena relating to politeness strategies. Moreover, future research can also compare one phenomenon, for instance, in interviewing and rejection, to create novelty and a new perspective on politeness studies.

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