

**THE USE OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED BY OPRAH
WINFREY'S 2020 VISION TOUR VISIONERS INTERVIEW WITH
MICHELLE OBAMA**

THESIS



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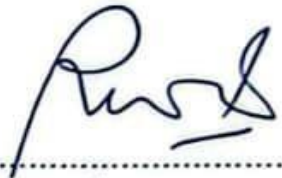
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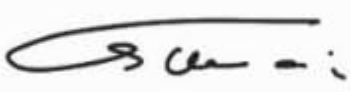
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Surabaya, July 7th, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ajeng Nazilatul Karima', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ajeng Nazilatul Karima

MOTTO

And whoever puts their trust in Allah, then He 'alone' is sufficient for them.
Certainly, Allah achieves His Will. Allah has already set a destiny for everything.

Al-Quran [65:3]

Say, 'Nothing will befall us except what Allah has decreed for us; He is our
Protector.' And upon Allah let the believers rely.

Al-Quran [9:51]

It always seems impossible until I's done

[Nelson Mandela]

Be like a tree: grounded, growing, and giving, even when the world throws stones.

ABSTRACT

Karima, Ajeng Nazilatul, 21620017. *The Use of Politeness Strategies Used by Oprah Winfrey's 2020 Vision Tour Visioners with Michelle Obama*. Thesis, Department of English Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Wijaya Kusama Surabaya University, 2025.

Politeness strategies, as introduced by Brown & Levinson are ways in which speakers minimize face-threatening acts and maintain harmony in communication. The strategies have attracted the attention from the researcher since it is claimed as a crucial tool in building a good communication in social interaction such as interviews. This strategy plays an important role in shaping the interaction between host and the guest in order to build harmonious relationship.

This research aims to analyse the use of politeness strategies by Oprah Winfrey in her 2020 Vision Tour interview with Michelle Obama. This research focuses on identifying the types of politeness strategies particularly positive and negative politeness and determining which type is the most frequently used. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method and applies Brown & Levinson's (1987) politeness strategies theory as the primary framework.

The data were taken from Oprah's utterances during the interview and were analysed based on the classification of politeness strategies proposed by Brown & Levinson's theory. The findings show that Oprah used 77 politeness strategies utterances in total, including 51 positive politeness and 26 negative politeness. It reveals that Oprah Winfrey used positive politeness strategy as the most frequently used. Furthermore, the findings demonstrate that Oprah applied positive politeness which aimed to satisfy the hearer's positive face to be liked, approved, and respected as the most reason why she employed a strategy to maintain her close relation with her guest.

Keywords: *Politeness Strategies, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, Talk Show, Oprah Winfrey*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL SHEET I.....	i
APPROVAL SHEET II	ii
SURAT PERNYATAAN KEORISINILAN SKRIPSI	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
MOTTO.....	vi
ABSTRACT	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	viii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Research Questions.....	7
1.3 Objectives of The Research	7
1.4 Scope and Limitation	7
1.5 Significants of The Study	8
1.6 Operational Definition	9
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	10
2.1. Language.....	10
2.2. Pragmatics.....	11
2.3. Politeness	11
2.4. Face Threatening Acts (FTA).....	13
2.5. Politeness Strategies	16

2.5.1.	Bald On Record Strategy	16
2.5.2.	Positive Politeness Strategy	18
2.5.3.	Negative Politeness Strategy	23
2.5.4.	Off Record Strategy	26
2.6.	Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in 2020 Vision Interview	30
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODS		33
3.1	Research Design	33
3.2	Source of Data	33
3.3	Data of Research	34
3.4	Research Instrument	34
3.5	Procedure of Data Collecting	35
3.6	Procedure of Data Analysis	36
CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION		40
4.1.	Findings	40
4.1.1.	Types of Politeness Strategy applied by Oprah Winfrey in the 2020 Vision Tour Visioners interview with Michelle Obama.....	41
4.1.2.	The Most Frequent of Politeness Strategy applied by Oprah Winfrey in the 2020 Vision Tour Visioners interview with Michelle Obama.....	65
4.2.	Discussion.....	67
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION		73
5.1.	Conclusion	73

5.2. Suggestion.....	74
5.2.1. The English student	74
5.2.2. English teachers.....	75
5.2.3. Future researchers.....	75
REFERENCES	76
APPENDIX	78