

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to present my personal opinions concerning the findings that have been discussed in Chapter Four, which is about how the main characters of the movie series do some miscalculation of politeness strategy that occurs in *The Last Kingdom* movie series Seasons 1 – 4. Besides, the findings also show how the miscalculation of the politeness strategy intensifies the conflicts between the characters.

In this thesis, there are eight scenes analyzed and in total there are twenty-eight data of politeness strategy miscalculation that cause direct conflicts. All the conflicts in the eight scenes give great impacts instantaneously to the characters in the scenes that are discussed. The conflicts themselves are important in the storyline of the movie series as they usually relate to the main political issues that become the main issues of the story. As a result, in my opinion, the plot becomes more interesting because the changes of situation are shown immediately.

Next, regarding the factors that contribute to the miscalculation of politeness strategies that cause the intensification of conflicts, I find that all the three factors, namely rate of imposition (R), distance (D), and power (P) are more or less equal in the number of occurrences, with twenty-eight R, twenty-four D,

and twenty-four P. The high R factor that appears in all data indicates that the theme and atmosphere of this movie series are serious and tense. It is understandable as the story revolves a kingdom with its many political problems and intrigues. In addition, the different social statuses of the characters are obviously depicted in this movie series. Thus, the intensification of conflicts will most probably happen when a character does not well consider the higher power owned by the one of interlocutors. The P factor in the movie series is also supported by the different social distance between characters. That is why, it can be concluded that all the three factors are interrelated in making the conflicts intensify.

Regardless of some politeness strategies are found in this movie, the interesting point is the fact that only two out of five types of politeness strategies are miscalculated in this movie series, namely the off record politeness strategy (fifteen data) and bald on record politeness strategy (thirteen data). Considering the number of data, the miscalculation of these two politeness strategies can be said to be equally important in building the plot of the story as they may intensify the conflicts, so the plot depends on how the conflict is resolved. However, in my opinion, this also makes the conflicts in this movie seem quite monotonous as the form of every conflict is more or less similar to each other. In this way, the audience can expect whether the conflict will get worse or not.

Furthermore, based on the eight scenes analyzed, I find that an off record politeness strategy is mostly used by the characters when they feel reluctant to deliver the points of their utterance to a superior, or when they want to express

their displeasure toward a superior. Yet, this strategy is not appropriate to use because they talk to the higher-powered hearers who are supposed not to guess the implicit meaning that the speakers make in the serious situations, which means that the rate of imposition is high. Moreover, expressing displeasure toward a superior is not a good manner as it may be seen as disrespectful to the superior. For instance, in scene 2 data 1, Uhtred does not want to discuss further the matter that King Alfred is trying to discuss with him. Thus, he uses an off record politeness strategy by giving association clues in his utterance “Lord, I am weary of this--”. This utterance obviously makes the King upset.

Moreover, I am also of the opinion that a bald on record politeness strategy is usually applied in the eight scenes when the speaker rejects the hearer’s idea. Mostly the data show that the bald on record politeness strategy is used when there is a high distance between the participants with the hearers who have higher power, or there is a high distance between the participants who have equal power. This strategy causes the conflict to intensify as the speaker blatantly delivers their purpose which indicates a rebuttal to the hearers who have higher power. Besides, it shows that the speaker’s rejection of the hearer makes the high distance between him and the hearer even higher.

Overall, Uhtred is one character in the movie series who miscalculates the politeness strategies most often. As the protagonist of this movie, Uhtred is portrayed as a man who always follows his faith and destiny. He always does what he believes is good. Yet, as a warrior of Wessex, definitely, Uhtred still has lower power than the King, so he has to obey the King. In my opinion, the

miscalculation is often done by Uhtred because there is a collision between his nature and his desires to take over Bebbanburg. Taking over Bebbanburg is not in line with Alfred's desire to unite all the kingdoms, including Bebbanburg, to become the Kingdom of England. The Kingdom of Wessex will be the beginning of England.

While conducting this research, there are some limitations. First, due to time constraints, the theory used is limited only to Brown and Levinson's politeness strategy. As a result, there are some important conflicts that cannot be analyzed. In further research, it can be suggested that there should be more theories applied, such as Austin's Speech Act Theory, in order to have more complete findings.

Second, it can also be suggested that further research should discuss not only movies with a past setting of time like *The Last Kingdom*, but also movies with a present setting of time. It may be interesting to have a comparison of how politicians in the past and present time do the miscalculation of politeness strategies.

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