

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data in the play, *Mulatto A Tragedy of the Deep South* by Langston Hughes, with regard to the violations in address terms and politeness, I arrive at the following conclusion.

First, in this play I find a lot of violations both in address terms and politeness. From my analysis, I discover that address terms and politeness are closely related. They have a relationship that positive politeness is used by people to show their solidarity or minimize their status difference; therefore, people address each other by using first name (FN), nick name (NN). While negative politeness is used to make a distance between their relationships or respect the others; as a result, they address the others by using title (T). People may use different address terms for different purposes or functions.

Second, I notice that the violations occur between a husband and a wife, a father and a daughter, a father and a son. Although they are members of a family, they have a difference in status. The father is white but their children are mulattos because the mother is a black woman. As a father, Colonel Norwood

feels that he is superior to his children and wife; as a result, he demands that they should respect him by addressing him with title.

As a daughter from a white father, Sallie is aware that she has the same status as her mother's. Black people have a lower status than white; therefore, she is obliged to respect Colonel Norwood by addressing him with title although, actually, she is Norwood's daughter and has very light skin that can pass for white people.

Robert, who is the younger brother of Sallie, refuses to be regarded as subordinate by Colonel Norwood because he knows and feels that he is the son of Colonel Norwood, the owner of the biggest plantation in Georgia, South America. He rebels and fights against the Colonel to get his status as Colonel Norwood's son. So, through address terms we can know about the relationship between their families. They have known each other for a long time, yet there is still a distance between them.

In addition, violations occur outside the family. I notice that there are two cases of violation, namely between Talbot and Cora and the second is Sam and Cora. They have a difference in status, superior and subordinate. From those two cases, I notice that the violations occur because of the slavery, which causes racial discrimination in Georgia, South America. Although Cora is superior to Talbot in Norwood's plantation, Talbot does not respect Cora because she is a black woman while Talbot is a white man. The same thing happens to the Undertaker's helper, who is a white man, while Robert is the black man. Again racial discrimination becomes the core of the violations in address terms. On the other hand, it is interesting to see the case of Sam and Cora. Cora is higher in

status in Norwood's plantation. Actually, Sam should respect Cora. Yet, due to the social distance scale Sam addresses Cora only with her first name. He wants to show to Cora about his social background. In fact, he has the same social background with Cora as a slave in the plantation. I can see that in this case the social distance scale is more emphasized than the status scale; on the other hand, the solidarity dimension is given greater weight.

From my analysis, I find out that there are four social factors that contribute to the violations. They are the participants, setting, topic and function. In addition, the setting of place, Georgia, South America where discrimination still prevails, the white people demand that the black people address them with titles because they feel superior to the black. On the other hand, in this play we can see that the racial discrimination can influence the way people address each other. Besides that, we can reveal someone's status by address terms. Commonly, we address our superiors with their titles or occupations and address our subordinate only with their first names. In this play, Robert, Sallie, and Cora are considered to have a lower status than colonel Norwood, who is a white man. Therefore, they have to respect the Colonel by addressing him with title.

Third, I get to know that someone expresses their feelings through address terms and politeness. Furthermore, people do the violations in addressing another by using swear words to express a message. For example, there are some data in table 3 and 4 which contain swear words, like 'you black bastard', you black bitch. They not only want to show their anger but also show their power and superiority. Therefore, people often call the others by a variety of names depending on how they feel towards them.

In this play, the use of address terms and politeness are often violated because of slavery. The difference of skin colours can cause a different status, which results in the racial discrimination. Although in some cases the violations occur in the Colonel Norwood plantation, the social distance scale is more emphasized than the status scale. Through address terms, we can know the condition of Georgia, South America, which is greatly influenced by racial discrimination between black and white people.

Finally, I get some advantages from doing my research on address terms and politeness. The linguistic theories, especially politeness and address terms in Sociolinguistics have given me deeper insight that politeness and address terms can reflect the relationship between the occupation, participant, setting, topic, and function. So, I become more aware of addressing another to make a relationship either closer or to make a distance. I also realize that people can express their feeling by using address terms, or by swear words.