

**POLITENESS ANALYSIS OF MAIN CHARACTER “THE DESCENDANTS”  
MOVIE DIRECTED BY ALEXANDER PAYNE**  
(A Linguistic Analysis)

**Danang Dwi Harmoko**  
**Sastra Inggris**  
**STIBA Nusa Mandiri**  
Jl. Ir. H. Juanda No. 39 Ciputat  
Danangjuventini11@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT**

*Rudeness and impoliteness are becoming an actual issue in recently days. That is way analyzing impoliteness becoming the interesting topic to be analyzed. Politeness is a way for someone in maintaining conducive environment for conversation so that the purpose of the conversation can be delivered well. Politeness can be formed in utterance (direct and indirect), face-expression, or body language. But sometimes, people are intentionally hurting somebody else by his or her words with a specific purpose. This case is called by violation on politeness maxim. In this research, the writer analyzes politeness degree in social interaction, especially the relationship between parents and their children. This research is grounded by the Politeness theory from Leech (1983). This research uses descriptive-qualitative method. Meanwhile, theories and the supporting data are gained by using library research. Those are purposed to get a comprehensive understanding about Politeness and its part inside. The dialogue of “The Descendants” movie is contained some maxims’ violation from politeness principles. Besides that, some indicators of impoliteness are also discovered such as, the usage of curse words, deprecate, and lying. Moreover, the writer also found the connection between broken family and children’s rudeness.*

**Keywords:** *Politeness, Utterance, The Descendants.*

**I. INTRODUCTION**

An effective conversation needs a cooperation between speaker and hearer. It needs to build up a good understanding and the message can be delivered well. According to H.P. Grice (1975: p.41-58) in conversation both speaker and hearer must follow four maxims: quality, quantity, relevance, and manner, which represents how people are anticipated to perform in a conversation, in general.

During conversation, there are many possibilities of inconvenience such as debate and miss-understanding. Normally, people avoid to make an unpleasant condition to their partner in conversation. So, they use some words and phrases to reduce miss perception.

This is common in a dialogue between the higher social status and lower social status, father and son, older and younger, and a new person that according to our sense needs to be acted politely.

Leech in his book *Principles of Pragmatic* (p.131-139) introduces his idea that in conversation we not only have to obey the *Conversational Principles* but also we have to pay attention on the *Politeness Principles*. It consists of: tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy maxim. Personal sense and territorial cultural are influencing the form of politeness. This discussion is becoming interesting because of its role in communication process.

**II. THEORETICAL REVIEW**

**2.1. Pragmatics**

The successful human interaction may be

occasioned by verbal and non-verbal. Verbal factors are about contain or topic of

conversation, intonation, utterance, and diction. While, non-verbal factors are mostly discuss about the external side of communication such as expression, environment, condition (formal or informal), and social status. Sometimes, non-verbal language can be the “executor” of conversational process. Meaning from non-verbal language becomes the object of pragmatics field.

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the structure externally. In the other words, it learns how the unit of language used in communication. It has a close relationship with semantics. Both of semantics and pragmatics are focusing on the meaning of a statement. But, if we do further analysis, we can find a clear difference between them. Crystal (2001: 102) explains that “The focus of the modern subject (semantics) is on the way people relate words to each other within the framework of their language”. Whereas, “Pragmatics is the systematic study of meaning by virtue of, or dependent on, the use of language”.

In simple explanation, semantic focuses on the meaning of a statement or sentence by concerning to the structural words. While, pragmatics sees the meaning not only from structural words, but also by involving the conversation environments, such as topic, setting, social status, situation (formal or informal).

According to Yule (1996: 03) “Pragmatics is a concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and interpreted by a listener.”

He argues that there are four definition about pragmatics:

- a. Pragmatics is the study of the speaker meaning
- b. Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning
- c. Pragmatics is the study of how more gets communicated than is said
- d. Pragmatics is the study of the expression of relative distance.

From Yule’s idea above, we can assume that pragmatics is emphasizing in personal awareness about the other implicit purpose in communication process. Both speaker and hearer must aware the conversational environment such as social status, topic of conversation, setting, and

cultural roles in interaction.

Mey (1993: 43) said that, “Pragmatics is the study of the condition of human language uses as these are determined by the context of society.” This statement is clearly gives us an understanding that social environment strongly influences in determining the result of communication. He also brings us beyond our perception about language because learning a language is not only about its grammatical structure, but also about its relationship with culture in certain community. The implication of this theory is people who involves in conversation process have to in the same understanding with the cultural roles which they use.

It may become an advantage if both speaker and hearer in a same cultural background. But, if they are not a same culture and each of them does not know how to behave in conversation, it may cause a serious problem. For instance, Americans typically deal with facts and opinions rather than personal feeling, but keeping personal convenient feeling is more important than a fact in friendship. So, it is important to learn cross cultural communication in order to avoid miss perception in communication process. While other expert, Levinson (1983: 09), “Pragmatics is the study of those relations between language and context that are grammatically, or encoded in the structure of a language.”

Based on those definitions above, the writer assumes that pragmatics is the study of language in human communication and it has a relation with context of language.

## **2.2 Politeness**

Discussing about politeness we have to correlate it with culture, because each culture has their own rules in interaction process. For instance, the communication pattern in Indonesia is different with in U.S America. When children in Indonesia have to be polite with the older person in every manner, American usually are less respect. Therefore, understanding foreign culture is important before communicating with them. Each interaction rule in a certain community has their own politeness pattern. But, in general, politeness is related to the avoiding inconveniences situation during conversation, using appropriate words, and proper

expression. According Levinson (1983: p.101-129) Politeness is divided into positive and negative politeness. Both of them can be used to maintain a good conversational environment.

### 2.2.1 Positive Politeness

Based on the argument of Levinson (1983: 101) "Positive is redress directed to the addressee's positive face, his perennial desire that his wants (or the actions/ acquisitions, values resulting from them) should be thought of as desirable." There are some strategies in building a positive politeness, they are:

- a. *Notice, attend to H (his interests, wants, needs, goods)*
- b. *Exaggerate (interest, approval, sympathy with H)*
- c. *Intensify interest to H*
- d. *Use in-group identify markers*
- e. *Avoid disagreement*
- f. *Presuppose/ raise/ assert common ground*
- g. *Joke*
- h. *Assert or presuppose S's knowledge of and concern for H's wants*
- i. *Offer, promise*
- j. *Be optimistic*
- k. *Including both S and H in the activity*
- l. *Give (or ask for) reasons*
- m. *Assume or assert reciprocity*
- n. *Give gifts to H (goods, sympathy, understanding, cooperation).*

### 2.2.2 Negative Politeness

"Negative politeness is redressive action addressed to the addressee's negative face, his wants to have his freedom of action unhindered and his attention unimpeded", stated by Levinson (1983: 129).

Like positive, negative politeness is also using some strategies, such as:

- a. *Be conventionally indirect*
- b. *Hedging*
- c. *Pessimistic*
- d. *Indicating difference*
- e. *Apologize*
- f. *Impersonalize S and H*
- g. *Normalize*

According to Lakoff (1990: 34) politeness is "A system of interpersonal relations designed to facilitate interaction by minimizing the potential for conflict and confrontation inherent in all human interchange." Through this theory, Lakoff

stated that politeness is a systematical tool to reduce conflict which might be happened during the conversation. It means that, politeness is not naturally appears in society, but it has been built through daily interaction then it is influenced by the development of culture, technology, and massive society movement. So, the compilation of those factors arises politeness. The cultural varieties for each community (ethnic, race, or country) also have a portion in determining the politeness pattern.

While, Richard (2003: 06) says that "Politeness is how the language shows the social distance between the speakers and the relationship of their role in a society." From this statement, we can interpret that politeness can play a role as an indicator of social status from the speaker and the addressee. Moreover, the distance of social status from the people who are involved in a conversation, more formal the language that is used. For instance, an employee will use a various polite language to show his admiration to the manager. So, politeness helps to maintenance the relationship among different social status.

Yule (1996: 60) gives his thought about politeness. He defines politeness in interaction as "The means employed to show awareness of another person's face." The word "face" in his theory means the public self-image of a person. It refers to that emotional and social sense of self that everyone has and expects everyone else to recognize. This theory can be interpreted that naturally, everyone in conversation want keep the other positive "face" and try to avoid positioning the other in inconvenient condition, such as feel guilty, being the victim, touch their sensitive feeling, reveal their bad memory, etc.

Mills (2003: 06) has a close argument with George Yule. She defines politeness as "the expression of the speaker's intention to mitigate face threats carried by certain face threatening acts toward another." It means that, politeness has an essential function in keeping the harmony of social life.

The other founder of politeness theory, Leech in his book "Principles of Pragmatics" (1983: 80) renewing the previous theory about conversational principle which is stated by H.P. Grice. He argues that CP (conversational principle) still cannot answer why people are often so indirect in conveying what they mean.

Like the example below, a conversation between students in a classroom, here is the dialogue:

*X: Someone has stolen my pencil on my desk*

*while I'm out the class.*

*Y: I was not me.*

From the example dialogue above, actually X wants to accuse Y as the suspect. But, he tries to reduce the friction that might happen with using pronoun “someone”. For accusing someone, actually he can use subject “you”, but it is too risky without any prove. In other sides, Y tries to make a defense of becoming an accused guy. Therefore, he says “it was not me”. If we see the Y’s answer using the correlative maxim, of course it is not relevant for the X’s question. But, if we do further analysis, we can determine the meaning of Y’s utterance. He conveys that he is not steal the X’s pencil and he also does not know who is the suspect.

Thus, Leech (1983: 131) introduces the *Politeness Principles* which has a purpose to maintain the social equilibrium and the friendly relations which enable us to assume that our interlocutors are being cooperative in the first place. There are two ways to formulate a politeness language. First, by minimizing (other things being equals) the expressions of impolite beliefs’. Second, by maximizing (other things being equals) the expressions of polite beliefs’.

Based on those theories, we can conclude that politeness is a social tool which has an essential role to maintenance a good relationship between speaker and hearer. Furthermore, politeness is expected to keep the balance of social equilibrium in a society.

### 2.3. Politeness Principles

The Politeness Principle is a series of maxims, which Geoffrey Leech has proposed as a way of explaining how politeness operates in conversational exchanges. Leech defines politeness as a type of behaviour that allows the participants to engage in a social interaction in an atmosphere of relative harmony.

Leech explains that politeness of language basically has to pay attention to the six maxims of politeness namely, tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim,

modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim.

#### 2.3.1. The Tact Maxim

Tact maxim, according to Leech (1983: 132) is a maxim of politeness principle which is focusing on minimizing cost to H and maximizing benefit to H.

The example:

*It's a good idea I think if you attend to Ron's party, because except you can meet with Alice, you'll have a chance to introduce yourself to her friend.*

From the sentence above. The speaker tries to maximize the benefit that H can get if he attend to the party. “It’s a good idea I think” shows to “humble” side of the speaker. So the sentence above is categorized into polite statement. It also show us the purpose of this maxim that is avoiding inconvenience situation during message exchange.

#### 2.3.2. The Generosity Maxim

The generosity maxim of Leech’s politeness principle (1983: 132) is having a characteristic that is minimizing benefit to self and maximizing cost to self. This may occurs when the speaker has a lower social status that the hearer.

Here the example:

*It will be my pleasure, if you give me a trust to handle that big project.*

*It's okay for me to go home late due to this project. I'll try do my best.*

In the example above, S maximizes the cost to himself with handling a big project, even he has to go home late due that project. That statement shows us the generosity maxim.

#### 2.3.3. The Approbation Maxim

The purpose of this maxim is to maximize praise to H and maximize dispraise to self. It can be comprehend from the origin purpose of successful interaction that there is the same understanding between S and H in conversation. Both S and H have the intension in informational exchange.

The example:

*That's impressive, Buddy. I thought, I would never pass your record.*

Based on the example above, it can be assumed that S wants to give a praise related to H’s achievement. The utterance “I would

never pass your record” is emphasizing the dispraise of S. Therefore, it can be categorized as the approbation maxim.

#### 2.3.4. The Modesty Maxim

Leech (1983: 132) stated that the main function of modesty maxim is minimize praise to self and maximize dispraise to self.

The example:

*That was an easy test actually, but I failed. How stupid I am.*

The example above shows us the usage of modesty maxim. S regret to himself because he failed passing an easy test. He uses word “stupid” which is addressed to himself.

#### 2.3.5. Agreement Maxim

Agreement maxim maintenance the cooperation between speaker and hearer. Its purpose is minimizing disagreement and maximizing agreement.

Here the example:

A : *I think Manchester United will success on the next season, even though Sir Alex Ferguson has announced his retirement.*

B : *Yes, I think so. The successor of Ferguson is a capable coach.*

In the first example, we can see the agreement maxim in both A and B. In this case, the agreement maxim is fulfilled. In second example, if we use the correlative maxim from Grice, this statement is correct. But, if the dialogue above is applied using agreement maxim, those statements is incorrect or violate the maxim.

#### 2.3.6. The Sympathy Maxim

The sympathy maxim involves minimizing antipathy and maximizing sympathy between self and other. It can also be found in polite speech as to congratulate, commiserate of condolence expression. Here is the example:

*I'm sorry to hear about your father.*

*I'm sorry to hear about your father's death. (impolite)*

The first example is accepted based on sympathy maxim, because that statement shows the correct sentence quantity (not exaggerated). Actually, in the second example, the condolence statement is correct, but violates the quantity maxim (Grice) and sympathy maxim (G. Leech).

#### 1.4. Modern American Culture

Discussing about politeness pattern in U.S. America, we are not supposed to ignore the discussion about their culture. It is becoming unavoidable that culture has been changing in this era. So, the writer gives the explanation about modern culture. The explanation will be limited on the personal relationship. It's include friendship, parent and their children, and adult relationship.

Because of “The Descendants” is mostly telling about children impoliteness, the writer will discuss the development of children's impoliteness words and acts in U.S. America. As we seen on the television programs, movies, news, magazines, and the other sources, U.S child are seems so rude and less respect to their parent.

There are so many factors causing children rudeness in America such as less attention from their parent, technology's development (makes children less attention to their social environment), and modern life style. The combination of those factors will construct the character of children. Social environment gives the biggest effect to the development of children's character. Because, children is easier imitating what they see in the real-life than listening to the teacher or reading a book.

Peveteaux

(<http://thestir.cafemom.com/toddler/114766/>)

said that “American children today are raised in an environment that is far more hostile than the environment that nurtured today's adults. Children today are exposed to behaviors, profane language, hostilities and stress from which we adults, raised a generation ago, were carefully shielded.” From this statement, we can assume that today's American kids indirectly is driven to a rudeness by the condition.

According to Webb (2001: 04) children are developing their character from their family, it is assumed that parents have a big role in their children first stage of character's construction. But, if children is entering the “new world” school, they will face two different culture. The strongest one will dominate children's character. Unfortunately, U.S students are coming from a different culture and behavior, so it has a high risk of rude attitudes.

Talan (2008: 79) argues that “rudeness is insensitivity to the wishes and feelings to others”. This may reflect a high level of self-centeredness, a sudden or chronic angry state, or poor social skills. In this case, children may have poor social skills due to poor social training or some impairment that keeps your

### III. METHOD OF RESEARCH

In analyzing the problem this research uses descriptive qualitative method. The data is collected from the script of the movie then carefully analyzed by the writer.

### IV. RESEARCH AND FINDING

#### 4.1.1. Impoliteness Expression in the Dialogue.

There are several conversation and expression in the movie that is indicating impoliteness. Those are stated through curse word, such as: *fuck, shit, goddammit, suck, fucking fuck-head, dope, and retarded*. Besides that, impoliteness also be implied through insinuation, for instance, “Maybe if you spent more time with her, she wouldn't act like such a complete *spaz*. Get her out of town -- go camp on Kaua'i. That's what mom did with me I was losing it.” Alexandra said to her father. The example above is indicating the insinuation statement from Alexandra (Matt's older daughter) to Matt, she actually wants to accuse her father for what happened to her personality.

Based on the dialogue in “The Descendants” movie, there are so many rude words and expression. Most of the rude expressions are expressed by the main character (Matt) with his two daughter (Alexandra and Scottie). In other words, it can be categorized as parental relationship impoliteness.

The writer uses three sources to determine impolite words and expressions, they are, “NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expression” from Richard Spears (2000), “The Big Black Book of Very Dirty Words” created by Alexis Munier (2010), and [www.urbandictionary.com](http://www.urbandictionary.com).

Based on the collected data, the expression of impoliteness in “The

child from grasping (intellectuality or emotionally) the rules of proper social relations. So, it can be concluded that social environment has a vital role in the children's character building.

Descendants” movie can be classified based on how does it stated in an utterance and the trigger activity in a conversation which causes impoliteness. Below is the explanation of both categories.

First, if it is seen from how does impoliteness appears in an utterance, based on the dialogue in this movie, it can be stated by using word, phrase, and sentence.

#### A.1. Word and Phrase

There are a lot of impolite words and phrases that is appear in the dialogue. Those words are, *fuck, damn, goddamn, shit, tampon, spaz, retarded, dope, stupid, hell, chicken-head, half-pipe, motherless whore, and suck*. They are also be used in different purposes, for instance:

[1] Matt: “Paradise can go *fuck* itself.”  
(Monologue, script page 2).

[2] Matt: “*Goddammit*, Scottie, stop fighting me on everything.”  
(Script page 7).

The usage of impolite word in the example [1] and [2] has different function. In [1], word (*fuck*) is used to describe to real condition of Hawaiian that is far from “paradise” like people assumption. The [2] example is shown us a different usage of impolite word “*Goddammit*”. It is used to give an emphasizing for Matt's anger toward his youngest daughter.

#### A.2. Sentence

Unlike word, impoliteness in the form of sentence in the dialogue of this movie is not vulgarly stated but it is in implicitly. The examples below will give us a clearer understanding.

[3] Matt: “*You could be a therapist. Very keen powers of observation.*”  
[4] Alexandra: “*Hi, Mom. Sorry for being bad. For wasting your money on expensive private schools. Money you could have used on facials and massages and sports equipment.*”

(Script page 55)

Example [3] as implicitly Matt is going to say that Kai is giving him a foolish question. In this context, Matt's rude utterance has a function to emphasizing an anger feeling. Unlike in [3], example [4] shows us the implied meaning Alexandra's statement. If we see from the diction, it looks like normal and there is impolite word. But behind those words, Alexandra actually wants to blame her mother for her, Scottie, and Matt condition.

Secondly, based on the movie, impoliteness can be triggered by some activities and behaviors.

### B.1. Rudeness in a Family

Rudeness in family is usually happened between parent and their child. It can be coming from children and vice versa.

For instance:

Alexandra: "You'll think of something. You're a lawyer."

Matt : "I'm sorry for *sucking* you into this.

I should be doing this alone. It's selfish of me."

(Script page 90)

The example above is the category of parent's impoliteness, because Matt uses curse word "*sucking*". Moreover, as we usually found in daily life there is a lot of children impoliteness actions such as, *lying, deprecating, and curse word.*

Another form of children impoliteness to their parent is by an action (means: body language). Like in "The Descendants" movie, there are some fragments that shows the impoliteness, such as confronting every their father's command, and ignoring to talk with.

### B.2. Exaggerating an Opinion.

Exaggerating an opinion about something even that is true can be impolite. It is because giving an additional exaggerate opinion about what happened to the other person live open a chance in violating personal feeling. For example [6],

Mrs. Thull: "Mr. King, we see this every day --children acting out at school when something's wrong at home. *And your family is facing a devastating crisis.* Have you been engaging Scottie in really talking about what's going on? Encouraging

her to express her feelings? That's crucial."

Matt : "No... Oh yeah. Yeah. Absolutely."

(Script page 4)

Example above demonstrates us how exaggerate opinion can hurt someone feeling. Mrs. Thull in [6] is stating an exaggerate words "*And your family is facing a devastating crisis.*" It directly touches Matt's sensitivity. It can be seen from his response "*No... Oh yeah. Yeah. Absolutely.*" with face expression which shows in inconvenience.

### B.3. Giving an Inappropriate Answer.

A successful communication needs a mutual symbiosis among people who are involved into it. It covers good communication environment (setting, time, topic, and bearer) and the correlation between question and answer. Example [7] below will give us an illustration about impoliteness caused by inappropriate between question and answer.

Matt : "First of all, your mother's very sick, but she's not dying. Second, you don't share personal stuff like that with strangers. What's going on with Mom is private."

Scottie : "I'm hungry. Can we get burgers?" (Script page 5)

From case [7] we can see the inappropriate between Matt's statement and Scottie's response.

### 4.2. The Violation on Maxims of Politeness Principles

Some violations of the maxims of politeness principles from Leech (1983) are found during the conversation in the movie. Those maxims are tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy maxim.

#### 4.2.1 Violation of Tact Maxim

This maxim is focusing on maximizing benefit to hearer and minimizing cost to hearer.

a. Data 1

Barb Higgins: "*I don't care about the back-story, Mr. King. My daughter comes home from school in tears.*"

(Script page 13).

Barb Higgins in statement above violates tact maxim because she maximizes the cost to hearer, in this case Matt. She uses “I don’t care” in showing that she is not interested on what Matt’s reason. In short, she puts all cost to Matt.

b. Data 2

Barb Higgins: “*You need to say you’re sorry*, and you need to mean it. No dicking around. I have a ton of work to do tonight. Do you have any idea how behind I am? You made her cry. Why would you want to be so mean to someone?”

Scottie : (irritated) “I don’t know!”

(Script page 14)

In her statement, Barb maximizes cost and minimizes benefit toward Scottie. It reverses with the function of tact maxim itself which emphasizes the benefit and tries to minimize cost to hearer. The words that indicate the violation of tact maxim is “You need to say you’re sorry, and you need to mean it.”

#### 4.2.2 Violations of Generosity Maxim

This maxim gives much attention on the maximizing cost and minimizing benefit to self.

a. Data 3

Sid : “I’m not so bad. *I’m smart.*”

Matt : “*You’re about a hundred miles away from Smartville.*

No offense.”

(Script page 78)

The dialogue above shows us about the violation of generosity maxim because Sid maximizes benefit to himself and minimizes cost to himself. “I’m not so bad. I’m smart.” becomes the indicator generosity maxim’s violation.

b. Data 4

Matt : “*I don’t need a couple days. I have the authority, and this is what I want.* I haven’t wanted something in a long time. We have other businesses we’re

converting to corporations. We can figure it out.”

(Script page 107)

Expression above contains a violation of generosity maxim because Matt maximize his benefit by using “I don’t need a couple days. I have the authority, and this is what I want.” According to generosity maxim, Matt against the rule of this maxim.

#### 4.2.3 Violations of Approbation Maxim

Approbation maxim has a pattern that is minimize dispraise and maximize praise to other. This maxim pays much attention on the character building of being honest and keep humble.

a. Data 5

Alexandra: “*What the fuck? Get out of*

my underwear, *you freak.*”

Scottie : “Ooo, la la! Don’t I look divine?”

(Script page 33)

By using a curse word “freak” in naming her younger sister, it is indicating a violation on approbation maxim because she maximizes dispraise to Scottie and she does not give any respect. She should use more proper word like call her sister by the name. Except violates approbation maxim, Alex’s expression above also infringes tact maxim. The indicator expression is “Get out of my underwear, you freak.”

b. Data 6

Matt: (to Kai) “And you what? You probably egged her on. Add some drama to your life without any actual risk. Whom do you think you’re protecting anyway? She doesn’t need your protection – it’s over. She’s going to die.”

(Script

page 40)

In this case, Matt’s utterance violates approbation maxim. It can be determined from the diction. By means of implicit, Matt is going to say that Kai is doing a fool thing by protecting Elisabeth. He is asking about



position of Kai in his family. It is indicated with “Whom do you think you're protecting anyway? She doesn't need your protection.” He actually can use expression which more polite and acceptable, such as “I appreciate you for taking care of my wife, but now it doesn't make any sense.” or “Thanks everything you've done to Elisabeth, but now she wants to fly away to the better place.”

#### 4.2.4. Violation of Modesty Maxim

This maxim pays attention in self modesty. In this maxim, people who involves in conversation have to minimize praise and maximize dispraise to self.

a. Data 7

Matt : “It's just that all that sugar makes you cranky.”

Scottie : “I'm not cranky!”

(Script page 8)

In the chat above, Scottie violates modesty maxim, because she ignores her father accusation about her character that has become a quick-tempered person. She uses “I'm not cranky!” to defense herself. In short, she minimizes dispraise and maximizes praise to herself.

b. Data 8

Alexandra: “You want me to go around with you and tell everyone that Mom's going to die? What's the point of that? Breaking the news, watching them cry, dealing with their emotions. How depressing is that going to be? Just call them.”

(script page 34)

In her remarks above, Alexandra infringes modesty maxim because she puts herself in high position. She maximizes praise and minimizes dispraise to herself. The words that indicate violation is “You want me to go around with you and tell everyone that Mom's going to die? What's the point of that?”

#### 4.2.5. Violation of Agreement Maxim

In agreement maxim, people who involved in communication and message exchange. People have to follow the rules of this maxim that is maximize agreement and minimize disagreement.

a. Data 9

Matt : “You know what your mother is hearing right now? You refusing to talk to her. Is that what you want?”

Scottie : “I'm starving. And I'm thirsty. I want a soda.”

(Script page 7)

The Scottie's answer above violates maxim of agreement because she gives unsuitable answer to Matt's question. It also indicates that Scottie feels unpleasant with the topic that is being discussed, so she tries to change it with her statement. Based on the theory of agreement maxim, she does not fulfil the requirement of this maxim. She maximizes disagreement and minimize agreement.

b. Data 10

Alexandra: “So you had to prove to that *twat* that Mom's in a coma? *What the fuck is in your skull, a bunch of stupid pills?*”

Scottie : “*Shut up, you motherless whore!*”

(Script page 59)

Everyone who involves in a conversation wants to the message exchange runs effectively, therefore it needs the agreement between both sides. But in the dialogue above, there is not agreement between Alexandra and Scottie. Means that, they violate agreement maxim. Firstly, Alex trigs the disagreement by stating *What the fuck is in your skull, a bunch of stupid pills?*”. Then, as a response to Alex, Scottie shows her disagreement with “*Shut up, you motherless whore!*”

#### 4.2.6. Violation of Sympathy Maxim

The sympathy maxim involves minimizing antipathy and maximizing sympathy between self and other.

a. Data 11

Matt : “You need to come home and see Mom.”

Alex : “*Fuck mom*”

(Script page 30)

The dialogue above is the example for violation on sympathy maxim. It can be seen that Matt tries to invite his daughter to come

home and see her mother in the hospital, but Alex refuses the invitation with impolite statement “Fuck mom”. It indicates that Alex is maximizing her empathy and minimizing her sympathy.

b. Data 12

Sid: “I’m sorry, man. I was just laughing. It’s funny, I think she knows she’s being funny” (He laughs

## V. CONCLUSION

After analyzing politeness in the dialogue of “The Descendants” movie, the writer realized that politeness is still has a vital roles in modern society, especially in the smallest unit of a society that is family. Children politeness to their parent has been decreasing by the time. It can be seen from their attitude, word, and expression to parent. They such as ignoring the parent’s authority.

In the dialogue in the movie, the writer found some words and expression that indicated impoliteness, such as, *fuck, damn, goddamn, shit, tampon, spaz, retarded, dope, stupid, hell, chicken-head, half-pipe, motherless whore, and suck*. Except that, the impoliteness is also be indicated by some actions or behaviors for instance, *ignoring to talk and confronting parent’s argument*.

Some violation on maxims of politeness principles is also be discovered during the conversation in the movie. The maxims are tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy. The usage of curse words, intimidating, mad, and deprecating the other are causing the violation on politeness principles. It happens because the speaker maximizes cost, dispraise, disagreement, empathy to hearer.

Based on the dialogue in the movie, impoliteness is not always be uttered clearly through statement, but also it can be delivered

at Alice (Alex’s grandmother)  
because of her senility)  
(Script page 45)

In this case, Sid is laughing at Alice’s (Alexandra’s grandmother) senility. From sympathy maxim, he maximizes empathy and minimizes sympathy to Alice. So, it is impolite.

implicitly by using the expression of *insinuate, indirect blaming, and deprecate*.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brown, P. and Steven C. Levinson. 1978. *Politeness: Some universals in language use (Studies in interactional sociolinguistics;4)*. Great Britain: Cambridge University Press.
- Crystal, David. 2001. *Language Play*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Grice, Paul. 1975. *Logic and Conversation*. California: California University Press.
- Leech, Geoffrey. 1983. *Principles of Pragmatics*. London: Longman.
- Lakoff, Robin. 2005. *Broadening the Horizon of Linguistic Politeness*. Philadelphia: John Benjamin Publishing.
- Mey, Jacob L. 2001. *Pragmatics: second edition*. UK: Blackwell Publishers
- Mills, Sara. 2003. *Gender and Politeness*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Peveteaux, April. 2011. *How We’re Creating Rude American Children*. Taken from: <http://thestir.cafemom.com/toddl er/114766/>. (January, 9<sup>th</sup> 2011)
- Watts, Richard J. 2003. *Politeness (key topic in linguistics)*. UK: Cambridge University Press.