

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The researcher organizes chapter one into six subchapters to provide an overview of the study. These subchapters will cover the following topics: background of the study, research problem, the objective of the study, previous studies, the scope of the study, and the writing organization of the thesis.

1.1 Background of the Study

Annalise Keating is the main character in the television series *How to Get Away With Murder* (HTGAWM) she has a successful career as a criminal defense attorney and law professor. Her role as an attorney and mentor for legal interns brings to the complexities of the legal profession. Her ability to navigate the sophistication of the law while guiding the legal interns with several conflicts makes her a captivating subject for analysis. Throughout her dual careers, Mrs. Keating exemplifies the dynamic of the legal field as an opportunity to explore the distinctive communication strategies employed in such a professional environment.

Within the world of HTGAWM, Mrs. Keating as a criminal defense attorney who also mentors the legal interns is an interesting environment to examine the relevance of politeness strategies in her professional interactions. Politeness strategies serve as a tool for managing face and navigating sociological dynamics

to maintain social harmony including professional relationships. Therefore, the researcher aims to examine how sociological factors within the legal environment in the television series HTGAWM influence the main character's politeness strategies choice using the politeness strategy theory by Brown and Levinson (1987). The theory by Brown and Levinson (1987) is able to facilitate this research because it provides a more extensive exploration of the concepts of face and FTA, and offers a more comprehensive model of social variables.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What kind of politeness strategies are found in Annalise Keating's professional interactions?
2. Why does Annalise Keating use typical politeness strategies for different group interlocutors?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To explain politeness strategies employed by Annalise Keating in her professional interactions.
2. To explain Annalise Keating's use of politeness strategies towards different groups of interlocutors is influenced by sociological factors.

1.4 Previous Studies

To conduct comprehensive research, a review was conducted on ten relevant previous studies that serve as references. These studies have been categorized into three groups based on their primary focuses. This subsection of the research provides a concise summary of the previous research, presenting various viewpoints and ideas derived from the selected studies.

In relation to movie characters, the research conducted by Wardani and Ariyanti (2014), Muftiarizqi (2015), Fadhillah and Sari (2022), and Pratama (2022) utilized Brown and Levinson's theory of politeness strategy (1987). The primary objective of these studies was to examine the various politeness strategies employed by movie characters, while also to investigate the influence of individuals' personalities on the utilization of such strategies. Through their analyses, these studies identified the certain types of politeness strategies employed by movie characters and how personal traits can impact their usage.

Previous studies with different main focuses were conducted by Sari (2015), Mustiari et al. (2017), Pratiwi et al. (2018), and Ardyansyah (2018). The main focus of these researches was the use of politeness strategies in particular speech acts on social interaction. These studies resulted in a conclusion about how characters use politeness strategies in social interaction and speech acts.

Some studies discuss Annalise Keating as the character in the series HTGAWM analyzed by Shamar (2018) and Le (2018). These studies explore the

portrayal of Annalise Keating, particularly emphasizing her identity as a black woman and the exploration of racial stereotypes.

Previous studies have mostly focused on specific characters and speech acts when studying politeness strategies, leaving a gap in understanding sociological factors in certain settings, such as in professional interactions in the legal environment. This research aims to fill the gap by analyzing how an attorney uses politeness strategies to handle FTA in her professional interactions and also discovering the typical politeness strategies used by Annalise Keating toward different groups of interlocutors with varying sociological factors using Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness strategies theory.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study concentrates on the theory of Politeness Strategy by Brown and Levinson (1987) in the series *How to Get Away With Murder* season 1. This study is limited to the examination of politeness strategies employed by Annalise Keating in her professional interactions with the interlocutors that have different levels of power, distance, and rank of imposition.

1.6 Writing Organization

This study comprises several essential parts that are grouped into four chapters.

CHAPTER I: Introduction

Provides an overview of this study that consists of the background of the study, research questions, objectives of the studies, previous studies, scope of the studies, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II: Theory and Method

Explains the theoretical framework and research method applied in this study.

CHAPTER III: Result and Discussion

Explain the findings of the study in the form of data presentation and the discussion.

CHAPTER IV: Conclusion

Provides the conclusion of this study.