

ABSTRACT

The focus of this research is to explore politeness strategies among interethnic interactions to see how language roles overcome the cultural clash that happened between the Greek American family and the Anglo-American family conversations caused by various contextual diversity. By using the theory of politeness strategies by Brown and Levinson (1987) and the Contextual Theory of Interethnic Communication by Young Yun Kim (2017), this research integrated power (P), distance (D), rank of imposition (R) factors with eight concept of Contextual theory to see the decision of politeness strategies use and the function of politeness strategies. The result is that associative behavior of communication can be considered as politeness strategies that mitigate conflict and maintain harmony in interethnic communication. This leads to the use of politeness strategies, including positive politeness, bald on record, and negative politeness, on how language can mitigate conflict between different backgrounds and cultures. Therefore, studying politeness strategies can give insight into how to communicate with people of different ethnicities around the world.

Keywords: Politeness strategy, Power, Distance, Rank of imposition, Interethnic Communication, Contextual Background, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*