



## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Politeness strategy is commonly found in the movie conversation, which sometimes used by characters. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), the purpose of politeness strategy is to minimize the threatened face of the hearer. They divide politeness strategy into two: positive politeness strategy and negative politeness strategy. Positive politeness strategy refers to minimizing the threat of the positive face of hearers so that they feel pleasure (Brown & Levinson, 1987). On the other hand, the negative politeness strategy refers to the avoidance of imposing one's wishes on hearers (Brown & Levinson, 1987). In addition, hedging belongs to the category of negative politeness strategy. Hedging in the negative politeness strategy uses modals to minimize imposition in the utterance of asking for something from the hearer (Brown & Levinson, 1987). Moreover, conversations in popular media such as movies certainly contain this politeness strategy. Therefore, this study aims to examine hedging negative politeness strategy in one of this century's best movies, *One Piece Live-action* (2023).

The most popular movie in 2023 was the “One Piece Netflix series”. As a matter of fact, "Critics praise the One Piece series for being able to adapt the story well" (CNN Indonesia, accessed on 04/10/2024). “One Piece, a masterpiece composed by Eiichiro Oda, is a live-action television series based on the manga of the same name, produced by Tomorrow Studios for the streaming service Netflix, that the first season was released on August 31, 2023” (One Piece Live Action Wiki, 2023, accessed on 04/10/2024). In this movie, there are eight episodes in the first season: 1) "Romance Dawn; 2) The Man in the Straw Hat; 3) Tell No Tales; 4) The Pirates are Coming; 5) Eat at Baratie!; 6) The Chef and the Chore Boy; 7) The Girl with the Sawfish Tattoo; and 8) Worst in the East." After watching this series, in each episode, Luffy found a new character and asked them to become his crew. When recruiting them, he

tried his best to reassure them and did not force his ambition. One of his strategies in recruiting his crews is the hedging strategy. By doing so, crew candidates' faces are not threatened because of Luffy's query.

Hedging of negative politeness strategy by Brown & Levinson (1987) is used to analyze Luffy's utterances because their explanation of this strategy is comprehensive. There are four types of negative politeness-hedging strategies (Brown & Levinson, 1987). The first is "Hedges on Illocutionary Force." To reduce the threatened faces, it uses words or phrases, such as "I think, I thought, perhaps, maybe, etc." The second is "Hedges Encoded in Particles," such as "well", "you know", "sort of", or "kind of. The third is "Adverbial-Clause Hedges," such as "if you don't mind" or "if it's not too much trouble." The fourth is "Hedges Addressed to Grice's Maxims," using phrases such as "as far as I know, as far as I can, as far as you want" or "to the best of my knowledge." With these types of hedging, this study can identify how Luffy gives offers to others to join his team. It source that luffy recruited his crew without threatening their faces. The following is an example of data analysis based on the descriptive qualitative research method. This means that the data analysis is descriptive.

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The context of the example conversation occurred on the boat between Luffy and Cobi. They debate about what they should do after beating Alfida pirate. Luffy decided to go to Grand Line, but he does not have the map. Therefore, Cobi asked him how to solve his problem. The following is their conversation,

"Koby: Do you know how to get there?"

Luffy: Hmm.

Koby: You can't navigate. You don't even have a map!

Luffy: Good point. We should **probably** pick one up."

In the conversation between Luffy and Koby, the word "probably" is categorized as "Hedges on Illocutionary Force" because it expresses uncertainty or caution. Luffy initially suggests that they should pick up a



map, which implies a level of certainty. However, he adds "probably" to his statement, indicating that he is not entirely certain that picking up a map is the definite course of action. By using "probably," Luffy is hedging his statement, acknowledging the possibility that there might be other options or that their decision could change in the future. This hedging softens the assertion and allows for flexibility in their decision-making process. It's a way of being polite and open to other ideas without imposing a firm stance.

There are several previous studies that have the same topic. The first prior study, "*Negative Politeness Strategies Applied in the Movie Charlie's Angels 2019*," focused on the use of negative politeness strategies by characters in the specific context of the movie Charlie's Angels 2019 (Yolanda, Udayana, & Mulyana, 2022). Additionally, Juliani, et al., (2022) study, "*Politeness and Impoliteness Strategies Used in the "Sleeping Beauty" Movie*," used the concepts of Brown and Levinson, Geoffrey Leech, and Bousfield and Locher related to pragmatics study to identify and analyze the politeness and impoliteness strategies. The third previous study, "*Pessimistic Strategy in Negative Politeness Study in Thor: Ragnarok Movie*," focused on analyzing the types of pessimistic strategies used in negative politeness, such as negative, subjunctive, and remote-possibility markers (Listyari, et al., 2022).

Although it have similar topics, there are differences as well. The differences become the research gaps from previous studies that can be identified in-depth. The first prior study did not explore the effectiveness or impact of the negative politeness strategies used by characters in the movie Charlie's Angels 2019. The second prior study did not investigate the impact or effectiveness of the identified politeness and impoliteness strategies in The Sleeping Beauty Movie. This last previous study has the same topic but did not provide a detailed analysis of the specific politeness and impoliteness strategies used in The Sleeping Beauty Movie.



All in all, this study aims to explore the hedging of negative politeness strategy in Luffy's utterances to his potential crew in "One Piece Live-Action Series Season One." This study will be conducted because it can contribute to a new perspective different from previous studies and the knowledge of hedging in negative politeness strategy by analyzing the utterance of one main character in a famous movie series. Therefore, this study uses the descriptive qualitative research method to analyze the data and answer the statements of the problem below.

### **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

1. What are the types of hedging negative-politeness strategies are used by Luffy as main character in *One Piece Live Action Series*?
2. How does Luffy use the hedging negative-politeness strategies in *One Piece Live Action Series*?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

1. To identify the types of hedging negative-politeness strategies used by Luffy as main character in *One Piece Live Action Series*.
2. To explain how Luffy uses the hedging negative-politeness strategies in *One Piece Live Action Series*.

### **1.4 Significance of the study**

#### **1.4.1 Theoretically**

Contribution to Politeness Theory: By concentrating on the negative politeness strategy and closely examining the employment of hedging by key character in the One Piece live-action series, this study makes a distinctive contribution to politeness theory. Comprehending the functioning of hedging in negative politeness might enhance our understanding of linguistic politeness strategy in various settings, augmenting the current knowledge in politeness theory.



### 1.4.2 Practically

Practically, this study is useful for researchers in developing an understanding and application of hedging strategies in the context of polite and non-threatening communication. By observing how the character Luffy uses hedging in the One Piece Live-Action series, researchers can learn how to apply similar strategies in real communication situations, such as when wanting to convey opinions, requests, or criticisms without threatening the other person. In addition, this study can also enrich the researcher's insight into the relationship between language, culture, and popular media, especially in how Japanese cultural politeness values are transformed into a global context through movie adaptations. This study also helps researchers in building more effective interpersonal communication skills, because through hedging strategies, anyone can learn to express what they're trying to communicate in a more polite, subtle, and non-confrontational way. It also trains sensitivity in choosing the right words or phrases so that the message is conveyed well without offending the listeners.

### 1.5 Scopes and Limitations

The scope of this study is pragmatics. This study uses Brown and Levinson (1987) theory of negative politeness-hedging strategy. This study will focus on Luffy character utterances in using negative politeness hedging strategy when trying to recruit his potential crews.

### 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

#### 1) Pragmatics:

According to Yule (1996), The study of meaning as it is communicated by a writer or speaker and interpreted by a hearer or reader is known as pragmatics.

#### 2) Politeness Strategy:

Face-threatening behaviors (FTAs) are social interaction methods that lessen the perceived threat to listeners' faces (Brown and Levinson, 1987)



### 3) Negative Politeness Strategies:

The various techniques reduce face-threatening activities (FTAs) and maintain social standing.

(Brown and Levinson, 1987)

### 4) Hedging:

A word, phrase, or particle that affects the degree of membership of a predicate or noun phrase in a set is called a "hedge." (Brown and Levinson, 1987)

