

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusions

The researcher can conclude that there are two politeness studies applied in this novel. This study analyzes Kya's utterance as the main character to other characters in Delia Owens' novel *"Where the Crawdads Sing"* using an interpersonal pragmatic framework and politeness theory. Of the total 212 data points identified by the researcher, 86 (approximately 20%) were selected and analyzed, representing each category of politeness strategies and principles.

This study has examined Kya's speech in the novel *"Where the Crawdads Sing"* through the lens of interpersonal pragmatics and politeness theory, with a particular focus on Leech's Politeness Principle. The findings indicate that Kya employs various politeness strategies, including 'bald on record' strategies, positive politeness, negative politeness, and 'off-record' strategies, depending on the context and her relationship with other characters. Each strategy reflects how she manages social interaction while protecting both her own face and the hearer's face.

In terms of principles of politeness or the Maxim of politeness, Kya often applies the Tact Maxim, Modesty Maxim, Approbation Maxim, Agreement Maxim, Sympathy Maxim, and Generosity Maxim. Her application of these principles demonstrates a consistent tendency to minimize the burden on others, express empathy, and maintain harmony in communication. Even when she expresses fear, trauma, or emotional distance, her language remains controlled and considerate; she shows that her politeness is not only linguistic but also a deeper connection to her personal experiences and how she arranged the language.

From an interpersonal pragmatics perspective, Kya's communication reflects her development of emotional resilience. Growing up in isolation and facing repeated abandonment,

she learns to navigate interactions carefully. The researcher identified 4 categories of emotional resilience: Reaching out, Self-protection, Emotional Regulation, and Survival. The predominance of Reaching Out indicates that Kya's emotional resilience is expressed not only through her ability to endure adversity but also through her willingness to rebuild interpersonal relationships. Her use of negative politeness often shows her desire to avoid burdening others, while her positive politeness reflects her effort to build a connection despite her past. Therefore, politeness in her speech becomes a strategy for both self-protection and social adaptation.

The findings show that Kya applies all major politeness strategies, including bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record strategies. Among these, the negative politeness strategy is the most frequently used, indicating her tendency to minimize imposition and maintain distance in interaction. In terms of politeness principles, Kya demonstrates various maxims such as tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy. However, the tact maxim appears as the most dominant maxim in her utterances. This suggests that Kya consistently attempts to reduce cost to others and avoid burdening them in communication.

In conclusion, this study concludes that the strategies of politeness employed by Kya are closely linked to her emotional journey. This illustrates how language can serve as a tool for managing relationships, expressing vulnerability, and maintaining dignity in difficult life situations. Overall, the study highlights that Kya's use of politeness is not random, but closely linked to her psychological condition and life experiences.

4.2 Limitations and Suggestions for Future Research

Based on the findings of this study, several suggestions can be offered for different groups. Future researchers are encouraged to expand the scope of analysis by examining a larger portion of the data or even the entire dataset of 212 utterances identified in the novel.

A more comprehensive analysis may provide deeper and more balanced findings regarding the distribution of politeness strategies and maxims.

In addition, future research could compare the use of politeness strategies among different characters to examine how social background, relationships, and power dynamics influence language use. Researchers are also encouraged to integrate politeness theory with other approaches, such as discourse analysis or psychological perspectives, to examine the relationship between language, emotions, and character development in greater depth.

For linguistics students, this study can serve as a reference for understanding how pragmatic theories, particularly politeness strategies and politeness principles, are applied in literary texts. Students are encouraged not only to focus on the structural aspects of language but also to consider context, intention, and interpersonal meaning in communication. This can help them develop a more critical and analytical perspective when studying language in use.

For teaching and learning practices, it is recommended that teachers utilize literary dialogues as authentic materials in the classroom. Through these materials, students can learn how politeness strategies are applied in real-life situations, including how to make requests, refuse requests, express gratitude and show empathy appropriately. This approach can enhance students' pragmatic competence and make the learning process more meaningful and contextual.

In the end, for the general reader, this study can broaden their understanding of how language reflects emotional experiences and personal struggles. By understanding how politeness strategies are employed by the main character, readers can gain insight into how communication can be influenced by past experiences, particularly in situations involving vulnerability and resilience. This awareness can also help readers adopt more thoughtful and effective communication strategies in their day-to-day interactions.