

VERBAL EXPRESSIONS OF POLITENESS SHOWN BY  
FEMALE CHARACTERS IN 'DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES'  
TV DRAMA SERIES

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the *Sarjana Pendidikan* Degree in  
English Language Teaching



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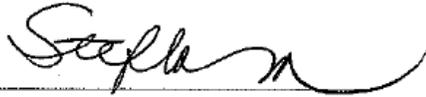
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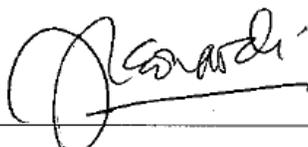
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## Abstract

Nathanael, Maria Grace. 2009. *Verbal Expressions of Politeness Shown by Female Characters in 'Desperate Housewives' TV Drama Series*. S1 Thesis. English Department, Teacher Training Faculty of Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya

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**Key words:** Verbal Expressions, Politeness, Verbal Expressions of Politeness, 'Desperate Housewives' TV Drama Series, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness.

Verbal expressions are the main instruments of communication that make human beings interact with one another. In interacting with others, people do not only make use of cooperative principles to maintain an effectiveness of communication but also politeness principles in order to achieve successful communication.

The aims of this study are to identify types of verbal expressions of politeness and to discuss the politeness maxims applied in the daily conversations by female characters in 'Desperate Housewives' TV Drama Series. The data of this study was taken from the utterances of the female characters of 'Desperate Housewives' TV Drama Series and analyzed by using the parameters of positive politeness and negative politeness, along with the politeness maxims of Robin Lakoff ('Don't Impose', 'Give Options', and 'Make Your Receiver Feel Good'). The research found out that there are 53 verbal expressions of politeness encountered in the 10 conversation analyzed. Out of these 53 verbal expressions of politeness, 37 (69,81%) belong to positive politeness and 20 (37,73%) belong to negative politeness. The use of Politeness Maxims is also revealed from the 53 verbal expressions of politeness. There are 19 (33,96%) verbal expressions of politeness belongs to the maxim of 'Don't Impose', 11 (20,75%) verbal expressions of politeness as 'Give Options' and 27 (49,05%) verbal expressions of politeness belongs to the maxim of 'Make Your Receiver Feel Good'. From the results of this study, it could be concluded that female characters of "Desperate Housewives" TV Drama Series speak politely. In line with Brown and Levinson's theory of politeness (1987), they tend to use positive politeness rather than negative politeness. Based on Politeness Maxims by Lakoff (1973), female characters use the maxim of "Make Your Receiver Feel Good" more than the other two maxims.

This study is far from being perfect. Therefore, the writer suggests that the future researchers of the same topic be carried out with using broader data source including real life verbal communication in real life speech events and real life speech communities.