

**FACE THREATENING ACT STRATEGIES IN JERRY SEINFELD'S  
*I'M TELLING YOU FOR THE LAST TIME* STAND-UP COMEDY SHOW**

**THESIS**

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**Presented to  
Universitas Brawijaya  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree *Sarjana Sastra***

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## ABSTRACT

Noviadhista, Ulwan Fakhri. 2014. **Face Threatening Acts Strategies in Jerry Seinfeld's *I'm Telling You for the Last Time* Stand-up Comedy Show**. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Nurul Chojimah; Co-supervisor: Fatimah.

**Keywords:** Politeness, Face, Face Threatening Act (FTA), Stand-up Comedy.

Face threatening act (FTA) is inseparable from verbal communication. As a result, both speaker's and the hearer's faces are in danger. This leads to a huge problem for stand-up comedians, who only rely on verbal jokes to make their audiences listen and pay attention. The writer then chooses Jerry Seinfeld, an American stand-up comedian whose genre is observational comedy, as the object of this study. This study aims to find out what strategies that are performed by Jerry Seinfeld in his stand-up comedy show entitled *I'm Telling You for The Last Time* in threatening his and the audiences' faces.

Qualitative approach is used in this study to collect and examine the data. In addition, this study applies document analysis to analyze and interpret the utterances produced by Jerry Seinfeld that contain face threatening acts and their strategies based on the face threatening act strategies theory proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987).

The findings of this study reveal that all face threatening strategies are used by Jerry Seinfeld in his act, with domination in strategies with redressive actions, in particular negative politeness strategy. This strategy is more exploited as he wanted to respect his hearers' want to stay free and be funny by stating his own insights inside his jokes at the same time. Moreover, the least used strategy is bald on record, as it is too unsafe to state opinions without softening the speaker's intention. This indication shows that in his comedy performance, the stand-up comedian still considers respecting his own and audiences' faces when he performs verbal communication through his jokes.

Based on the results, the writer suggests that the next researchers analyze different genre, gender, or nationality of various stand-up comedians on how they perform their face threatening act strategies in their comedy performance.

## ABSTRAK

Noviadhista, Ulwan Fakhri. 2014. **Strategi Tindakan yang Mengancam Reputasi dalam *Stand-up Comedy Show* oleh Jerry Seinfeld**. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing 1: Nurul Chojimah; Pembimbing 2: Fatimah.

**Keywords:** Kesantunan, Reputasi, Tindakan yang mengancam reputasi, *stand-up comedy*.

Tindakan yang mengancam reputasi tidak bisa dipisahkan dari komunikasi verbal. Hal ini menyebabkan reputasi pembicara dan pendengar berada dalam ancaman. Ini bisa menjadi masalah bagi para komika, karena mereka hanya memiliki lelucon verbal yang digunakan untuk membuat penonton mendengarkan sekaligus memperhatikan mereka. Penulis kemudian memilih Jerry Seinfeld, komika dari Amerika yang beraliran observasional komedi, untuk dijadikan objek dalam studi ini. Studi ini bertujuan untuk menemukan strategi apa yang diterapkan oleh Jerry Seinfeld untuk mengancam reputasinya sendiri dan penontonnya dalam penampilannya di pertunjukan *stand-up comedy* berjudul *I'm Telling You for The Last Time*.

Studi ini memberlakukan pendekatan kualitatif untuk mengumpulkan dan menganalisa data. Sebagai tambahan, studi ini menerapkan analisa dokumen dalam melakukan analisa dan interpretasi ucapan Jerry Seinfeld yang berisi tindakan yang mengancam reputasi beserta strateginya berdasarkan teori strategi tindakan yang mengancam reputasi yang dikemukakan oleh Brown dan Levinson (1987).

Temuan dalam studi ini mengindikasikan bahwa semua strategi tindakan yang mengancam reputasi diterapkan oleh Jerry Seinfeld ketika berkomed, terutama strategi kesopanan negatif, yang termasuk dalam strategi dengan aksi penghalus. Strategi ini sering diterapkan karena ia ingin menghormati keinginan penontonnya untuk tetap tak terkekang dan berkomed dengan mengungkapkan opini dan wawasannya secara bersamaan. Sedangkan strategi yang paling jarang digunakan adalah *bald on record*, karena strategi ini terlalu riskan untuk beropini tanpa memperhalus intensinya. Indikasi ini menunjukkan bahwa dalam pertunjukan komedi, komika masih mempertimbangkan untuk menghormati reputasinya sendiri dan penontonnya ketika melakukan komunikasi verbal melalui leluconnya.

Berdasarkan temuan ini, penulis menyarankan peneliti selanjutnya untuk menganalisa aliran, jenis kelamin, atau kebangsaan komika yang beragam tentang bagaimana mereka menerapkan strategi tindakan yang mengancam reputasi dalam pertunjukan komedi mereka.

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