



## THE POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED IN THE Q INTERVIEW: ADELE OPENS UP ABOUT 30

Tito Dimas Atmawijaya 1), Amelia Efrayanti 2).  
 Universitas Pamulang, English Department 1,2)  
 South Tangerang, Indonesia

e-mail address: [dosen02078@unpam.ac.id](mailto:dosen02078@unpam.ac.id) 1), [ameliaefryanti@gmail.com](mailto:ameliaefryanti@gmail.com) 2).

Article History	Abstract
Submitted date: 2022-07-07 Accepted date: 2022-07-11 Published date: 2022-09-10 <b>Keywords:</b> Politeness strategies, payoffs, circumstances, The Q Interview	The goal of this research was to investigate the politeness strate that were utilized throughout the interview, which included exchanges that were capable of being examined with the help of the themes covered in this study. The video interview with Adele titled “The Q Interview: Adele Opens Up about 30” (2021), which was uploaded to the Q channel on the CBC YouTube Channel, will serve as the focus of this investigation. In order to conduct an analysis of politeness strategies, the author followed the guideline provided by P. Brown and S. C. Levinson (1987) and their theory. In this study, qualitative research methodologies were employed to produce an analysis, which was then either written or illustrated. According to the findings of this research, both the host and the guest star utilized four distinct sorts of politeness strategies when delivering their respective utterances. These strategies included off-record, bald on-record, positive politeness, and negative politeness respectively. Payoffs and circumstances were among the other elements that had a role in shaping their statements. During the course of the interview, the type of politeness strategy that was most used is positive politeness. In addition, the factors that most influenced them were payoffs and social distance factors.

### Introduction

Language is the medium via which humans express their words when communicating with one another. Language is also an essential component in the process of constructing social ties amongst individuals in a society. Because of this, it is necessary for people to keep using their language because they have the ability to shape it according to their own desires. When it comes to deciding what language is appropriate, humans have complete authority. According to Yule (2010), human beings are capable of reflecting on the language that they employ. It demonstrates that humans, like other animals, need to take into account their language while speaking with others because the way a statement is interpreted by each individual is unique, which can lead to misunderstandings. As a result, selecting an appropriate language to communicate in is an essential step in preserving the social bond that exists between human beings, as suggested by Pragmatics. It is a study that examines the various behaviors people use to communicate. People must choose how to utilize their language in relation to the social group they belong to. According to Birner (2013, p. 3), pragmatics relates to our understanding of how to use language effectively because it controls how we produce and interpret both our own and other people's language. It implies that there are guidelines for communication so that it is acceptable to express oneself and discern the intentions of others. As a result, they also

need to pay attention to how they choose their language. One way to do this is to employ the politeness techniques covered in the Pragmatics.

The study of pragmatics focuses on the different kinds of behaviors that people engage in during the communication process. People have a responsibility to select how to use their language appropriately, taking into account the social group to which they belong within society. According to Birner (2013), Pragmatics is the knowledge on how to use language effectively because it assists in regulating the language while generating and interpreting our own language as well as the language of others. It indicates that there are guidelines that people may follow in order to improve their communication skills and ensure that they do not misunderstand the motives of others. In addition to this, individuals also need to pay attention while determining their language, one of the ways in which they can do this is by employing methods for politeness, which are also covered in Pragmatics.

People employ strategies of politeness in their communication with one another in order to protect the 'face' they project to the world. This statement is consistent with the purpose of politeness, which is to prevent conflict, as Leech (1983, as quoted in K'ad'ar & Haugh, 2013, page 17) explained that even though the way it operates varies from culture to culture. Nevertheless, people might still be made to feel threatened and lose face if the words they hear do not match up with what is anticipated of them based on the appearance of their faces. As a result, the strategy of politeness is carried out in order to decrease the number of things that can cause someone to lose face as a result of face-threatening activities. The Face Threatening Act (FTA) is a legal provision that makes it possible for someone to suffer a face loss. Brown & Levinson (1987, as referenced in K'ad'ar and Haugh, 2013), FTA is certain activities that potentially threaten face are considered FTA. It implies that anything that occurs during communication that was not predicted by either the speaker or the listener can be classified as a threat. This applies to both verbal and nonverbal forms of communication. Therefore, the use of politeness tactics can help reduce the amount of FTA that occurs during communication.

Researchers are increasingly interested in investigating various politeness strategies. Numerous pieces of research have been carried out on the subject in question. However, because politeness strategies are used increasingly in social interaction throughout time, there is still a possibility for the advancement of politeness research. The interview is one of these strategies. One of the interviews that is currently attracting a lot of interest is the Q Interview which invited Adele as their guest and broadcasted on the Q on CBC's YouTube channel. Numerous people have done attention-grabbing interviews with well-known figures.

The Q Interview is a show that has talked to well-known musicians and artists. Tom Power, who hosts the show, has built a reputation for being a trustworthy interviewer thanks to the in-depth chats he has with his guests. One of them is Adele's interview hosted by him, who has currently achieved currently achieved popularity through her newest album, "30". It is well known that she is a vocalist who has the ability to encourage other women to be powerful. In addition, this interview goes into detail about her personal life; hence, the topic at hand is touchy because some people are uncomfortable talking about their own private lives.

Numerous researchers have researched at studies on politeness strategies. Several studies focused on various politeness strategies. Although many research have been done in the past on different politeness methods, there are still very few that explore the elements that influence the utilization of different politeness strategies. The vast majority of studies have only concentrated on the many types of politeness techniques and the one that is employed the most. As a result, it ends up being the reason why the writer uses the aspects that influence the employment of politeness strategies.

## **Methodology**

Because the data that was evaluated came from discussions that took place during an interview and includes both utterances and words, this research was carried out using a qualitative methodology. After that, the obtained data will be discussed in an essay format. According to a summary provided by Taylor, Bogdan, and DeVault (2016), research that derives descriptive data from spoken, written, and observed activities is known as a “qualitative approach”. Additionally, according to Creswell (2009), qualitative processes are carried out based on the researchers’ interpretation of the data using specific categories applied to text and image data. This interpretation was used to guide the researchers while they carry out qualitative procedures. In addition to this, this is accomplished by the use of particular data analysis stages, such as transcription, classification, categorization, interpretation, and labeling of the data. Because it is consistent with the strategy for evaluating the data that was applied, its application in this investigation is not only possible but also recommended.

This study concentrated on descriptive qualitative research, and it followed what has been discussed in order to ensure that the data acquired will be written in a qualitative way. According to Taylor, Bogdan, and DeVault (2016), rich descriptive data can be found in any qualitative investigation. This indicates that qualitative studies typically contain a great deal of text in order to describe the information that was gleaned through the writer's observations. Hence, it has been decided that this study will apply a descriptive qualitative approach.

The data was compiled from an interview that was presented on Q on the CBC YouTube Channel and was entitled The Q Interview. The well-known artist Adele appeared in the video that was hosted by Tom Power and titled “The Q Interview: Adele Opens Up about 30, Her Divorce, and Her Struggle with Fame”, which was broadcast on November 20, 2021. Therefore, the statements that participants in the interview made that incorporated politeness strategies served as the sources of data for this study.

The writer conducted this study after collecting the essential data in a number of stages. The author got started by viewing “The Q Interview: Adele opens up about 30” on the CBC’s Q YouTube channel. Second, the writer produced a written transcript of the conversation between the guest star and the interviewer. In the third step of the procedure, the author identified and arranged the video interview's words that contained the politeness strategy and the time stamp. Based on the analysis of the data and the theory of Brown and Levinson (1987), the writer identified four categories of politeness strategies: bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. Additionally, the collected data were examined specifically to identify the sub-strategy and the factors determining its implementation. Then, a detailed essay was written describing every aspect of analyzed data.

## **Finding and Discussion**

The authors provided an analysis of the data findings in regard to the research questions in this section. Within the scope of this research, two different statements of the problem were presented. The various forms of politeness strategies that Adele employed during her interview with Q were the first statement of the problem. The factors influencing the use of politeness strategies in Adele's Q interview were the issue of the second problem statement. This claim relates to the second aspect of the issue.

### **A. Bald on Record**

Data 1 - Non-minimization of the face threat | Payoffs and power relation

Tom: *“It’s a song punctuated by recorded conversations between you and your son and then it ends with sort of you speaking personally.”*

Adele: *“Yeah, it’s a voicemail that I left with my best friend.”*

Tom: *“Yeah, tell me about the decision to put those recordings on the side.”*

The statement made by Tom was interpreted as posing the face threat's non-minimization to the communication's ability to function at its highest possible efficiency. By telling Adele what to do explicitly and using the phrase "tell me", he did not reduce FTA in this situation. His statement was impacted by the payoffs of the bald on record as well as power relations. He made it simpler for Adele to comprehend his instructions, ensuring that Tom would quickly have the response he desired. In addition to this, Tom, in his role as host, held more sway than the guest star. During the interview, the interviewer has control over the topic of discussion and the flow of the conversation (Thompson, 2009). As a result, he had the authority to command or request an answer from his guest regarding his remark.

Data 2 - Non-minimization of the face threat | Payoffs and rank of imposition

Tom: *"There's my favorite song, the song where I feel like you're talking to yourself. "Hold on" is one."*

Adele: *"Yeah. I am talking to myself in that one."*

Tom: *"What was the story that you wanted to tell yourself, oh hold on my god, you can talk whatever you want."*

The statement that Tom made was categorized as not being a minimizing of the face threat. As a manifestation of his concern for Adele, he offered reassuring counsel in the form of the phrase "hold on," which she may or may not wish to answer. His statement was impacted by the payoffs of the bald on record as well as the rank of the imposition. Although Tom didn't want Adele to feel pressured to say what he wanted her to say, he was able to get his point over. According to Media Guide (2015), the interviewee is entitled to her own opinion. In addition, he did not want Adele to be distracted from responding the truth by his statements since he did not want his words to have that effect.

B. Positive Politeness

Data 3 - Exaggerate | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *"I suppose I should start with congratulations. It's really a really great record."*

Adele: *"Thank you very much. Thank you, I appreciate it."*

It was determined that Tom's statement piqued the listener's curiosity to an excessive degree. When complimenting Adele's record at the beginning of the presentation, in an effort to boost her good face, he used the phrase "really really great." Tom's statement was impacted by the benefits of maintaining positive politeness while maintaining social distance. He was able to maintain Adele's upbeat demeanor. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), all forms of positive politeness are marked by aspects of exaggeration to demonstrate a desire to fulfill the interlocutor's face. In addition to this, he is able to reduce the social difference between himself and Adele.

Data 4 - Intensifying interest to the hearer | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *"I can't get over how big it all is, there's a convenience store next to my house in Toronto and there's a big 30 posters up everywhere there, you know?"*

Adele: *"Right."*

Tom's statement was classified as one that increases the listener's interest by creating his own narrative and including Adele by asking, "you know?" at the conclusion to highlight Adele's positive face. Tom created his own narrative and included Adele in it to achieve this. His

statement was impacted by the benefits of maintaining positive politeness while maintaining social distance. During the course of the interview, Tom helped Adele maintain a good attitude by putting her at ease. As a result, the two of them can become even closer. According to Leech (2014, page 66), the formation of a relationship can be accomplished by placing discourse markers at the beginning or conclusion of an utterance. Discourse markers include, among others, well, you know, right, then, and I mean. It signified that Tom was trying to engage Adele in conversation by incorporating her into the discussion, which he achieved by enticing her to take part.

Data 5 - Intensifying interest to the hearer | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *"So, how are you with it all?"*

Adele: *"I'm good. I mean I'm kind of settling back into it. It's been like maybe three weeks now since I've felt like it's all kicking off and stuff like that. At first, I was like exhausted and overwhelmed, a bit teary all the time."*

In her conversation with Tom, Adele's remark was categorized as an attempt to heighten the level of interest she generated for the listener by providing an overstated truth in the form of the phrase "all the time." This was done so that she could make her story more dramatic. Adele's speech was affected by the payoffs of positive politeness and social distance in order to enhance Tom's positive face. This was done in order for her to boost Tom's positive face. The statement made by Adele can be characterized as hyperbole. As Claridge (2011, page 161) stated, hyperbole can influence relationships, such as when avoiding or softening face-threatening acts (FTA). Hyperbole can also play a function in expressing emotions. Their social distance shrank as a direct result of their conversation taking on a more interesting tone.

Data 6 - Intensifying interest to the hearer | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *"It is a bit strange, isn't it?"*

Adele: *"Yeah, it's really strange. It's not normal."*

Tom's statement was classified as intensifying interest to the hearer him by inviting Adele to participate in the conversation by using the phrase "isn't it?" to pique the listener's attention. Tom mentioned it to express his understanding of Adele's perplexing thoughts about her success. Tom said it to show his sympathy for Adele's strange feelings about her popularity. Tom's statement was informed by the benefits that come with maintaining pleasant civility as well as maintaining social distance. According to Leech (2014), tagged questions can alter the persuasive power of a statement that has been made previously since the speaker is attempting to elicit the hearer's approval of what has been expressed. This causes the statement to lose its original force. In order to decrease the social distance between them and help them comprehend one another, he is able to keep Adele's positive face as a listener and give off the idea that he listens well.

Data 7 - Exaggerate (Interest with hearer) | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *"I suppose we should start with the song. The first song and it's gorgeous and it's beautiful and why did you want that one to be the one?"*

Adele: *"Well. I just thought it was a good um indicator of what to expect lyrically from the rest of the album. It was the first song I wrote for the album."*

Tom's statements can be categorized as having exaggerated attention because when he said things like "the first song is gorgeous and beautiful," he was demonstrating his interest in

Adele's song with phrases that were overly dramatic. His statement was impacted by the benefits of maintaining positive politeness while maintaining social distance. Adele came to value the importance of maintaining a cheerful expression thanks to him. According to Leech (2014, page 96), intensification, such as the word "beautiful," might boost the courteous effect of an agreement. As a consequence of this, the social distance between them shrank as he attempted to make Adele pleased and at ease.

Data 8 - Seeking agreement | Payoffs and relative power

Adele: *"It just felt like the right tone to be where I'm at in terms of relationships falling apart now so yeah."*

Tom: *"It's the right tone for where I am with relationships falling apart now."*

Tom repeated Adele's statements to underline his agreement with her, which was interpreted as him seeking agreement. According to K'ad'ar and Haugh (2013, p. 29), citing Brown and Levinson (1987), it is possible to seek agreement when the listener repeats what the speaker just said. Then, in an effort to maintain Adele's positive face, Tom consented to it.

His words were impacted by the payoffs of positive politeness and power relations. Adele can maintain a positive face by feeling that her point of view is understood if He accepts it. Additionally, Tom must respect his guest star's opinion as the host by accepting it and staying away from arguments against it.

Data 9 - Exaggerate (Approval with hearer) | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *"I thought it was very hopeful."*

Adele: *"yes, exactly yeah."*

Because she used the word "exactly" to demonstrate that she completely agree with Tom's assessment, Adele's statement was interpreted as an attempt to overstate the degree to which the listener approved of it. Her declaration was impacted by the benefits of maintaining positive politeness while maintaining social distance. Because Adele gave the impression that She shared Tom's same way of thinking, it appeared as though she was concerned about Tom's positive face. According to what was written by Leech (2014), people have a tendency to agree with the opinion of the other person while they are having a conversation by employing approval reinforcement for the sake of politeness. In addition, Adele demonstrates that she would want to decrease the social distance between them and become more acquainted with Tom by thinking the same things.

Data 10 - Intensifying interest to the hearer | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *"You know what I mean, like I think we tend to polarize relationships, yeah beginning there, they begin and then they end, but my god, there's so much in the middle and to me, I've never heard a record that's so much about the middle before."*

Adele: *"I definitely agree with the middle thing."*

The response to Tom's speech was marked as one that would pique the listener's curiosity further. Tom extended an invitation to Adele to participate in the discussion by phrasing his perspective as a question beginning with "you know what I mean?" His statement was impacted by the benefits of maintaining pleasant civility while maintaining social distance. It gave the

impression that Tom cared about his guest star since he checked to see whether or not she comprehended what he was saying when he said it. Inviting her to participate in the discussion was another indication that he wished to deepen their connection to one another.

Data 11 - Joking | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *"Is that a tattoo?"*

Adele: *"Oh yes"*

Tom: *"I thought it was the stamp they gave you to get in."*

When Adele showed Tom the mountain tattoo that she had on her hand, Tom realized that what he had just said was a joke. In jest, he believed it to be a stamp of the sort that is typically provided to guests just before they enter a tourist destination. After that, Adele and Tom had a chuckle, which revealed that they thought Tom's statements were a joke and that they understood each other.

The payoffs of positive politeness and social distance were the factors that affected him. He was influenced by these factors. By acting in this manner, Tom gives off the impression of being a sociable and interesting person. According to Mullan and Béal (2018), the use of humor in dialogue can promote intimacy through various forms of teasing and the collaboration of nonsensical speech in communication. In addition to this, his joke demonstrated that Tom wished for them to end their relationship with each other.

Data 12 - Seeking agreement | Payoffs and relative power

Adele: *"So yeah, I would agree with the middle thing very much, but life is never like the living of life never ends when you're in it, you know?"*

Tom: *"Living this life never ends when you're in it."*

The statement that Tom made was interpreted as an attempt to find common ground with Adele's viewpoint by repeating it in such a way as to imply that he shared her thoughts. The benefits that come from maintaining favorable power relationships and being polite were the driving forces behind his statement. Because Tom did not challenge Adele's viewpoint, she was able to keep up her upbeat demeanor. In addition, Tom should avoid voicing an opinion that is contrary to that of his guest star. It demonstrated the power dynamic in which the host is required to take into account the viewpoint of each of the guest stars.

Data 13 - Presuppose/raise/assert common ground | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *"Are you a different person now than when you started the record?"*

Adele: *"It was early 2019. Yeah, very very much, I'm way calmer, I've learned habit of patience in all are-as, and I'm just very chilled out in any scenario that where normally I would definitely be frazzled and I also won't do anything I don't want to do like at all ever again. I don't think."*

Tom: *"I find that that's a hard one."*

The statement made by Tom was interpreted by Adele as an attempt to switch to her personal center in the form of a personal-center switch. He expressed his compassion by putting himself in Adele's shoes and stating, "I find it to be challenging." When she talked about the challenges she had faced in the past, I could tell she had been through a lot. His statement was impacted by the benefits of maintaining positive politeness while maintaining social distance. Tom gave off the impression of being someone who cared about his guest star and attempted to

comprehend his plight. It's possible that speakers are paying attention to the other person's face because they want to strike a healthy social balance while they're communicating with each other (Locher, 2004, p. 59). In addition to that, it was evidence of his aim to reduce the social space between them.

Data 14 - Avoiding disagreement | Pay-offs and rank of imposition

Tom: *"Presence is the big one for me, even getting ready for this one with you, I was just like I don't want to have any expectations going into this."*

Adele: *"Yes, but I think that also comes of getting older."*

It was determined that Adele's statement was an attempt to avoid disagreeing with Tom's viewpoint of mental health by using the phrase "yes, but..." It appeared as though Adele made an effort to sidestep criticism rather than openly voicing her disapproval of the statement. Her statement was impacted by the benefits of positive politeness as well as the level of imposition. It seems as though Adele was the type of person who values the perspective of others. In each and every interview, the interviewer and the interviewee will on occasion have opposing points of view (OnaEthics, 2022). In addition, because of the rank imposition factor, Adele did not try to find a way to couch her opinion in a way that would not disturb Tom.

Data 15 - Intensifying interest to the hearer | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *"I think what also helped is finding out that other people had gone through it, you know what I mean? like I thought I am alone in this. I have never ever no one has. I can't talk about it because I've never experienced and that is a great gift on this record."*

Adele: *"I agree with that thank you."*

When Tom was talking about the things that helped him deal with his nervousness, Adele was the one he invited to express her opinions by asking, "you know what I mean?" This type of inquiry is known as a "intensify to hearer" question. His statement was impacted by the benefits of maintaining pleasant civility while maintaining social distance. Adele's good reputation would not be harmed if Tom were to talk to her, which would prevent Adele from having the impression that she is being ignored. According to Morse (1991), who was cited in Lorraine (1992), page 99, an "interview" is defined as a discourse in which at least two persons participate into each other's situations with their personal experiences. The fact that Tom included her in the talk later on demonstrated that he was attempting to reduce the social space between them.

C. Negative Politeness

Data 16 - Give deference | Payoffs and relative power

Tom: *"It's so, uh, personal and vulnerable, but it's also like just a lot of really interesting textures and I kind of want to talk about the sound of the record."*

Adele: *"Yes."*

The statement made by Tom was characterized as showing deference. Tom struggled to express the words "personal" and "vulnerable," which would best describe the lyrics of Adele's song. This indicated that Tom was hesitant to use the phrase he had in mind. Tom was obviously attempting to avoid offending Adele by making a decision that may reflect her negative face. The payoffs of negative politeness and relative power influenced his statement, which was influenced by those payoffs. It would be in Tom's best interest to use heightened caution to avoid causing Adele any further embarrassment. According to Brown and Levinson (1987,



page 187), FTA can be accompanied with a speech that shows hesitation, reluctance, or incompetence. Because Adele was a guest star on the program Tom was hosting, Tom felt bound to honor Adele in this role, which was related to his desire to raise Adele above him.

Data 17 – Question and hedge | Payoffs and rank of imposition

Adele: *“It’s not a song about anyone hurting each other It’s a song about being like it’s just we love each other so much but it’s not working so the tone of this is kind I think, maybe you disagree?”*

Tom: *“No, I don’t think it is.”*

Adele's remark was characterized as a question, and she hedging by using the phrase "I think" when discussing the tone of her song to show that it is only based on her opinions and is not always accurate. Then, she gave Tom the option of agreeing with her or not by stating, "maybe you disagree," which allowed Tom to express his own viewpoint even if it was in opposition to Adele's. Her declaration was affected by the payoffs of impoliteness and the rank of imposing herself. Tom was relieved by Adele's perspective since it released him from the obligation to agree with it. It was a clear indication that Adele wanted to keep her FTA to a minimum and avoid putting any pressure on Tom.

Data 18 - Question and hedge | Payoffs and social distance

Tom: *“I would say you don’t hear many songs in the canon of pop music with that sort of respect between all parties.”*

Adele: *“Exactly that’s exactly.”*

When Tom expressed his view based on his idea, he hedged his statement by saying, "I would say." This caused the speech to be interpreted as a question. It suggested that Tom's statements were based on his opinions rather than being necessarily true. Tom's thoughts were based on his experiences.

The payoffs of negative politeness and special distance influenced his utterance, which was influenced by those payoffs. Because Tom did not insist that Adele fully endorse his viewpoint, he was successful in preventing her from assuming a pessimistic attitude. A quantifier that indicates degrees when used in utterance is called a hedge. A quantifier might be viewed as a polite gesture rather than an indication of uncertainty, according to Bonnefon and Villejoubert (2006, as quoted in K'ad'ar & Haugh, 2013, page. 218). Additionally, it can lessen their social gap from one another.

Data 19 - Question and hedge | Payoffs and rank of imposition

Tom: *“The sound of the song is lovely. When I first heard it, it was very Ade-le, but then, when you listen to the rest of the record, it’s quite varied.”*

Adele: *“Yeah, it was weird, it’s dark, and it’s like oh yeah.”*

Tom's statement was interpreted as a hedging device to suggest that he now thinks something different from what he did before hearing the rest of the song. If you were to tell Adele that the song she just released did not have the same tone as her other work, you might hurt her feelings. As a result, Tom gave the impression that the distinctions were not substantial but rather only superficial. The pay-offs of negative politeness and the rank of imposition influenced his utterance, which was influenced by those utterances. Tom was attempting to minimize the potential for causing Adele offense or annoyance with his utterance by lowering the FTA. In

addition, he might continue to keep Adele's bad face by being more cautious with his comments.

Data 20 - Minimize the imposition | Payoffs and rank of imposition

Tom: *"Now, I wanted to ask you about a song in the record, but I want to be gentle about it because I'm not in the business of getting you to talk about anything you don't want to talk about."*

Adele: *"Yeah. Umm."*

Tom remarked, "I wanted to question you about a song in the record, but I want to be kind about it," when he wanted to ask Adele about a her song. This statement was interpreted as Tom trying to minimize the burden he was placing on Adele. In addition, he clarified that Adele was under no obligation to share any information that she did not voluntarily disclose. His statement was affected by the payoffs of impoliteness and the rank of imposing himself. Tom might avoid Adele's negative face from getting damaged by his inquiry by allowing her the opportunity to talk about whatever she chose. This would prevent her from being uncomfortable with his question. According to Locher (2004), while people are communicating, they may soften their statements in order to protect their face. In addition to that, he did his best to avoid disturbing Adele with his queries by putting as little pressure as possible on her.

D. Off Record

Data 21- Rhetorical question | Pay-offs and relative power

Tom: *"What did you want the record to sound like?"*

Adele: *"Just all my favorite types of music, kind of the same vibe as always. Well, it would be cool at some point maybe, down the line to do a record that all has one sound going through it. But, I'm not they yet. I still don't have a favorite type of music I like listening to. I like all types of music so why can't I still be a fan when I'm being an artist?"*

The question that Adele posed was deemed to be a rhetorical question, which means that it does not require a response from the listener. Adele expressed her confusion to stress the point that she was a lover of all genres of music despite the fact that she was also an artist who was capable of creating her own music even though she liked all genres of music. Because Adele's inquiry was merely a statement to highlight the fact that she was both a fan and an artist, Tom was not required to provide an answer to Adele's query. It was clear that Adele employed a tactic that was off the record since she let Tom guess what the purpose of her inquiry was. Her inquiry was colored by the benefits of speaking off the record and the relative strength of the parties involved. Because Adele gave Tom the opportunity to interpret for himself what she meant, the meaning of what she said is contingent on Tom's perspective. In addition to this, Adele elevated herself in comparison to Tom. As a result, Adele either permitted or even requested that Tom provide his own interpretations of her inquiry.

Data 22 - Give association clues | Payoffs and rank of imposition

Tom: *"I wanted to ask about the song with you and your son in it."*

Adele: *"My little love yeah."*

Tom wanted to ask Adele about a song from her album, therefore when he said something about a song, it was perceived as sending association signals. Tom gave a hint about the song that related to Adele's son but did not instantly state the title of the song he intended. Adele

was able to interpret what Tom had meant for herself because Tom had clearly used an off-record strategy.

His statement was affected by the benefits of being off the record as well as the rank of imposition. If Tom were to let Adele interpret what he said, he would be freed from the obligation of caring about Adele's appearance. If you ask Adele about the song "My Little Love" and how it relates to her relationship with her kid, she may choose to keep that information secret. An interview that focuses on a touchy subject might make for an emotionally taxing experience for both the interviewee and the interviewer, which could be detrimental to both parties (Chambers, 2009). As a result, Tom attempted, through the use of off record, to reduce the likelihood that this would occur.

Data 23 - Be ambiguous | Payoffs and social distance

Adele: *"I've got my little mountain I climbed that's what might happen."*

Tom: *"What's that?"*

Adele: *"It's a mountain."*

The statement that Adele made was seen to be an off-the-record strategy since she referred to the mountain that is shown on her body as a "small mountain," which may also be understood to refer to a real mountain. Due to the fact that the 'mountain' that Adele mentioned is ambiguous, it is possible for other people to misunderstand what she meant by it. Because Adele's statement used unclear language, she gave Tom the opportunity to choose its meaning for himself.

Her statement was impacted by the benefits of speaking off the record as well as the social distance between them. Adele was successful in getting Tom to collaborate in their discussion, so she gave Tom the opportunity to interpret what she said. According to Brown and Levinson (1987, page 225), a certain amount of ambiguity was utilized for the purpose of politeness. In addition to this, it revealed Adele's candor because she displayed it to Tom face-to-face and even explained the significance of her tattoo to him, which demonstrated the depth of their relationship

## **Conclusion**

The conclusions drawn after doing the analysis are presented in this section. There were a total of 30 data results, including 3 data that were off record, 13 data that were positive politeness, 5 data that were negative politeness, and 2 bald on record data. Therefore, positive politeness became the method that Adele utilized the most in The Q Conversation, whereas bald on record became the strategy that Adele utilized the least throughout the interview.

There are also some factors that affected politeness strategies. According to Brown and Levinson's (1987) hypothesis, this study found that two elements, namely payoffs and circumstances, influenced politeness methods. These factors include: Seventeen of the thirty data findings were affected by payoffs and social distance elements, seven of the thirty data findings were affected by payoffs and relative power factors, and six of the thirty data findings were affected by payoffs and rank of imposition factors.

The hosts and guest stars in the interview utilized a strategy of politeness that was most heavily impacted by the payoffs of the positive politeness component as well as the social distance factor. This strategy of politeness was most heavily impacted by the payoffs of the positive politeness component. Because of its significance as an a priori consideration element, the payoffs factor most frequently appears in politeness strategies. This is because the speaker is expected to have given it some thought before employing a particular politeness strategy. The

study revealed that these two features emerged as a single unit because the choice of each approach is based on two factors—the pay-offs and the circumstances that are relevant to its application—and because these two factors are interrelated. This was because the selection of any strategies is dependent upon both of these factors (Brown & Levinson, 1987). It indicated that because situations and their components were interconnected, they were important factors to take into account while deciding how to utilize politeness strategies.

To summarize, "The Q Interview: Adele Opens Up about 30" is an interview which was conducted by creating a greater sense of closeness between the two parties. It is evident from the fact that regular constructive tactics for civility are implemented. It was consistent with the benefits of the politeness factor, which was used most frequently in this interview. Usually, this was done to create a more relaxed and intimate atmosphere between the speaker and the listener. Additionally, it was supported by the social distance element, in which Tom and Adele tried to bridge their social distance. We also covered other subjects throughout our discussion, including Adele's private life, which is a really sensitive matter. Tom and Adele made an effort to make the interview session less daunting and more pleasant because they understand that not everyone enjoys or wants to talk about it with others. This was done in light of the fact that not everyone does so.

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