

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

Based on the research findings and discussion presented in the previous chapter, the researcher draws two conclusions in accordance with the research objectives as follows.

1. Regarding the politeness strategies employed by Detective Benoit Blanc in *Knives Out*, the findings show that all four politeness strategies proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987) are employed throughout the film, namely Bald on Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off-Record strategies. Among these strategies, Bald-on-Record is the most dominant strategy used by the main character. This predominance indicates that Blanc frequently delivers clear, direct, and efficient utterances while conducting investigations, giving instructions, and obtaining information from other characters. Nevertheless, the presence of Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off-Record strategies demonstrates that Blanc adjusts his communication according to different interactional contexts, employing these strategies to maintain cooperation, minimize face-threatening acts, establish rapport, and encourage other characters to provide information voluntarily. Taken together, these findings suggest that the use of politeness strategies in *Knives Out* is shaped by the communicative goals and situational demands encountered during the investigation, a pattern that

becomes even more meaningful once it is linked to the construction of masculinity discussed in the second conclusion below.

2. Regarding the representation of masculinity reflected through Detective Benoit Blanc's politeness strategies, the findings reveal that masculinity is represented not merely through directness and authority but also through strategic and adaptive communication. Blanc's dominant use of Bald-on-Record strategy reflects confidence, decisiveness, and leadership, while his use of Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off-Record strategies demonstrates empathy, interpersonal awareness, emotional composure, and strategic thinking. These findings indicate that Blanc's masculinity is constructed through a balanced combination of assertiveness and respect for others rather than through dominance alone. Overall, this study concludes that masculinity in *Knives Out* is represented as a multidimensional and culturally situated concept. Blanc's combination of courtesy and directness reflects a consistent masculine identity shaped by his cultural background, in which authority is balanced with empathy, cooperation, and communicative competence. Therefore, politeness strategies function not only to maintain interpersonal relationships but also to represent and construct masculine identity throughout the film.

B. Suggestions

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the researcher proposes several suggestions for readers, future researchers, and English education students.

1. The Readers

This study is expected to enrich readers' understanding of politeness strategies and their role in everyday communication. Readers are encouraged to recognize that politeness strategies are not merely linguistic forms used to maintain interpersonal relationships but are also influenced by social contexts, communicative goals, and individual identities. Furthermore, this study provides insights into how masculinity can be represented through language use, showing that masculine identity is constructed not only through authority and directness but also through empathy, cooperation, and strategic communication. Therefore, readers are expected to become more aware of the relationship between language, identity, and social interaction in both fictional and real-life contexts.

2. Future Researchers

This study focuses on the politeness strategies employed by Detective Benoit Blanc and their representation of masculinity in *Knives Out*. Therefore, future researchers are encouraged to explore broader aspects of politeness and identity by examining different theories, research perspectives, or media. Future studies may investigate politeness strategies using other pragmatic frameworks or analyze different social identities, such as femininity, power relations, or professional identity. Researchers may also employ different research objects, including television series, interviews, podcasts, or real-life conversations, to provide richer insights into the relationship between language use and identity construction. In

addition, future researchers are expected to examine larger datasets to obtain more comprehensive findings and contribute further to sociolinguistic and pragmatic studies.

3. English Education Students

This study is expected to serve as a useful reference for English education students, particularly those interested in sociolinguistics and pragmatics. By understanding politeness strategies through authentic dialogues in films, students can develop greater awareness of how language functions in different communicative situations and social contexts. Moreover, this study demonstrates that films can be valuable learning resources for analyzing language use, interpersonal communication, and identity representation. Therefore, English education students are encouraged to apply pragmatic theories in analyzing authentic language data and to use films or other audiovisual media as alternative learning materials to enhance both linguistic competence and critical thinking skills.