

**POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN THE CHARACTERS'
APOLOGIES IN THE WHALE MOVIE**

A THESIS BY:

**Presented to Universitas Bina Darma in
Partial Fulfillment of Requirements
for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)**

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS BINA DARMA**

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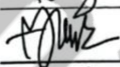

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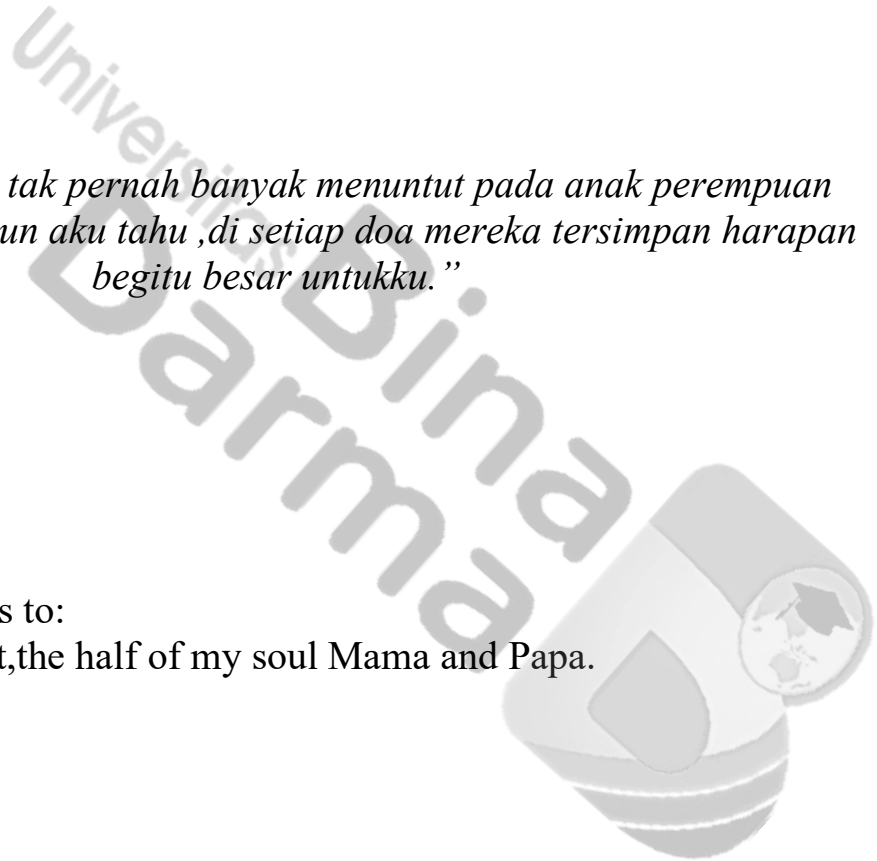
MOTTO

“ It always seems impossible until it’s done.”
(Nelson Mandela)

“Orang tua tuaku tak pernah banyak menuntut pada anak perempuan bungsunya ini,namun aku tahu ,di setiap doa mereka tersimpan harapan begitu besar untukku.”

I dedicated my thesis to:

1.My beloved parent,the half of my soul Mama and Papa.



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Palembang, 19 September 2025

The Writer,

Zona Asia

Abstract

This study analyzes politeness strategies in the apology expressions of the characters in *The Whale* (2022) using Leech's (2014) Politeness Principle. A descriptive qualitative method was applied, with the data consisting of dialogues containing both explicit and implicit apologies. The findings reveal 25 apology expressions, including 16 explicit and 9 implicit forms. All six politeness maxims were identified in the film, with the tact maxim as the most dominant, followed by sympathy, approbation, modesty, generosity, and agreement. These strategies served to minimize cost to the hearer, show empathy, maintain harmony, and contribute to repairing and rebuilding interpersonal relationships among the characters. The results indicate that politeness strategies in apologies function not only as linguistic acts but also as essential tools for sustaining and restoring social bonds in emotionally complex contexts.

Keywords: politeness strategies, apology expressions, Leech's Politeness Principle, *The Whale* (2022), pragmatics

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