

Positive Politeness Strategies in Jimmy Fallon interview with Angelina Jolie: Pragmatic Approach

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ABSTRACT

This research explores the application of positive politeness tactics during the conversation between Jimmy Fallon and Angelina Jolie on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. This study aims to classify the types of positive politeness strategies employed by each speaker and to demonstrate how both speakers used different forms of positive politeness in their dialogue. This study employed a qualitative methodology, gathering data from a publicly accessible YouTube video and examining the conversational data through the lens of Brown and Levinson's (1987) positive politeness theory related to language and the application of Language Forms or Argument Forms. As part of the analysis process, a detailed examination of the conversational exchanges between the two parties was conducted to identify and characterize instances of positive politeness, using language constructs such as words and phrases that reflect positive politeness. Out of the total 24 instances of data collected, 12 were identified as being specific positive politeness strategies used by one or the other conversational partner. The most frequently employed positive politeness strategy identified in the analysis was 'exaggeration,' which was identified five times. This discovery relates to the purpose of exaggeration as a means of demonstrating appreciation, approval and empathy for another person. From the information above, it is evident that positive politeness plays a crucial role when celebrities are interviewed in a casual and friendly way; moreover, there is scope for different approaches to leverage positive politeness as a means to foster an engaging and supportive atmosphere in interactions with others.

Keywords: Politeness; Positive Politeness; Strategies; Pragmatics

INTRODUCTION

Language is a basic tool for communication. It allows people to express emotions, thoughts, intentions, and attitudes during social interactions. In these interactions, politeness is key to building and maintaining good relationships. Brown and Levinson (1987) suggest that politeness is a strategic way of communicating. It helps to reduce conflict and protect face, which is the image people want to present to others. Politeness shows up through different speech strategies that consider others' feelings, independence, and social status.

Afiana (2025) points out that politeness is important for smooth communication and avoiding misunderstandings. Not using proper politeness strategies can cause communication breakdowns and damage relationships. So, it's crucial to understand how politeness works in spoken interactions, whether in daily conversations or in fictional or public situations.

Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory includes four main strategies: bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. This framework is one of the most important for analyzing politeness. Positive politeness focuses on building solidarity and acknowledging the hearer's need for appreciation. In contrast, negative politeness highlights respect for the hearer's independence and avoids imposing on them. Speakers adjust these strategies based on their goals, the social distance between them, and their power dynamics.

Although we often see politeness in everyday life, it also appears in film dialogue, which reflects real social interactions. Aziz and Hashim (2025) claim that films offer valuable insights into how politeness is developed, negotiated, and understood in communication. Movie scripts, especially those based on real situations, often showcase various politeness strategies that characters use to maintain relationships, influence others, or resolve conflicts. Besides daily interactions and film dialogues, researchers are increasingly looking at politeness strategies on digital platforms like social media, online interviews, and YouTube. These platforms allow real-time interactions and comments, providing meaningful data about how politeness strategies are used in modern communication.

This research aims to explore and analyze the positive politeness strategies used by Jimmy Fallon and Angelina Jolie during their conversation. The selected interview serves as an excellent example because it reflects natural spoken language in a professional setting while demonstrating interpersonal strategies relevant to real-life communication. Thus, the study is titled "Positive Politeness Strategies in Jimmy Fallon's Interview with Angelina Jolie: A Pragmatic Approach."

LITERATURE REVIEW.

Pragmatics

The study of pragmatics in linguistics focuses on the use of language in everyday situations. In contrast to semantics, which focuses on the literal meaning of words and sentences, pragmatics examines the implied meanings that emerge based on the speaker, the listener, and the context. According to Kroeger (2023), pragmatics is the study of invisible meaning, which means it investigates how people interpret meaning even when it isn't stated clearly. This

entails using context, tone, intention, and cultural norms to interpret language. We can comprehend how communication frequently depends more on shared knowledge and context than on words by using pragmatics.

The study of pragmatics focuses on how language is used in context, examining the meaning of words that are frequently influenced by the speaker, the listener, and the circumstance. It looks at how tone, intention, cultural norms, and the interaction's context affect communication, going beyond the literal meaning of words. Understanding how much communication relies on context and shared knowledge rather than just spoken words is made easier by pragmatics. By doing this kind of linguistic analysis, pragmatics shows how people manage conversations, negotiate social relationships, and interpret the more nuanced meanings in daily interactions. Pragmatics is crucial for comprehending how language functions in everyday contexts, where context and intent frequently matter more than the literal message, even though interpreting these meanings can be subjective.

Politeness

Politeness, as defined by Brown and Levinson (1987), refers to strategies employed to protect the "face" or self-image of others during communication. It plays a critical role in managing social relationships and preventing conflicts. Politeness is especially important when speakers perform face-threatening acts (FTAs) such as making requests, giving criticism, or offering suggestions. In these instances, speakers use face-saving strategies to reduce the risk of offense or embarrassment. According to Onebunne and Ugwumba (2024), face refers to the positive social value an individual claims in a given interaction, and politeness strategies are deployed to maintain this value. Brown and Levinson identified four primary strategies: bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record. These strategies reflect varying levels of effort by the speaker to protect the listener's face based on social context, the relationship between the participants, and the nature of the conversation.

Politeness strategies are especially crucial in formal or media settings, where maintaining rapport and mutual respect is essential for successful interaction. They are also increasingly significant in online and live environments, where immediacy and spontaneity can lead to unpredictable exchanges. In celebrity interviews, for example, both parties engage in politeness strategies to ensure a relaxed and positive atmosphere, avoiding potential social tensions. Politeness thus becomes a vital tool for smoothing social interactions, making communication smoother and more harmonious. By acknowledging and attending to the listener's face needs, speakers can reduce social distance and foster cooperation, ultimately enhancing the overall quality of communication.

Positive Politeness

Positive politeness, a key concept in Brown and Levinson's (1987) framework, aims to satisfy the hearer's desire for appreciation, affection, and a sense of inclusion. It emphasizes solidarity, mutual understanding, and the maintenance of a friendly relationship between the speaker and listener. Positive politeness strategies are used to minimize social distance and promote closeness, which is especially important in interactions involving familiarity or friendly rapport. These strategies involve reinforcing the social bond between participants by acknowledging their needs, showing interest in their desires, and expressing approval or admiration. Techniques such as exaggeration, compliments, and in-group identity markers are commonly used to convey positive feelings and foster cooperation. In celebrity interviews, where the tone is typically informal and engaging, these strategies help create a comfortable atmosphere for both the celebrity and the host, allowing for a more relaxed and pleasant interaction.

Brown and Levinson (1987) propose several sub-strategies for implementing positive politeness, including offering praise, seeking agreement, and asserting common ground. These tactics are designed to strengthen the social bond by showing the speaker's attentiveness to the hearer's wants and desires. For example, by offering compliments or exaggerating approval, speakers demonstrate respect and admiration, which makes the hearer feel valued and more willing to participate. Positive politeness is often evident in media interviews where the goal is to entertain and engage the audience, as well as to maintain a positive and friendly relationship with the guest. Through these strategies, celebrities and hosts can co-construct an environment that is both pleasant and engaging, reinforcing mutual respect and enhancing the interaction's overall success.

Previous Studies

Politeness strategies, especially positive politeness, have been widely studied in various contexts, including fictional settings and media interactions. For instance, Marfirah and Ambalegin (2023) analyzed positive politeness strategies in *Turning Red*, focusing on techniques like offering, exaggeration, and in-group identity markers. Similarly, Febriani et al. (2024) explored positive politeness in *Wish*, identifying strategies such as attending to the hearer's needs and exaggeration. While both studies contribute to understanding politeness in fictional dialogue, they do not examine the dynamic, real-time application of these strategies in actual live settings, such as celebrity interviews. Furthermore, these studies focus solely on scripted interactions, which lack the spontaneity and unpredictability found in unscripted interviews.

In contrast, Girsang et al. (2024) investigated *The Tonight Show* and highlighted the use of positive politeness strategies in a live interview setting.

Their analysis concentrated on the host's use of politeness strategies, but it overlooked the role of the guest in the interaction. This creates a gap in understanding how both participants collaboratively employ politeness strategies to foster a positive communication environment. Moreover, while their study identified positive politeness as the dominant strategy, it did not delve into the nuances of the interaction between the host and guest, particularly in how these strategies are co-constructed throughout the conversation.

This study seeks to address these gaps by exploring the interaction between Jimmy Fallon and Angelina Jolie in a live, unscripted interview. Unlike previous studies, which either focus on fictional contexts or analyze only one participant's role in a media interaction, this research investigates how both Fallon and Jolie collaboratively use positive politeness strategies to manage their relationship and maintain an engaging conversation. By examining both speakers' strategies in tandem, this study provides a deeper understanding of how positive politeness functions in dynamic, real-world celebrity interviews, offering new insights into the collaborative nature of politeness in media interactions.

METHOD

Design and Sample

This research uses a qualitative descriptive research design, which is well-suited for examining language phenomena in natural, real-world settings. The aim is to explore the use of positive politeness strategies in a live, unscripted celebrity interview. The sample consists of an interview between Jimmy Fallon and Angelina Jolie on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. This interview was selected because it reflects authentic, spontaneous communication between a talk show host and a celebrity guest, making it ideal for analyzing the use of politeness strategies in a public setting. The specific interview was chosen based on its accessibility through YouTube, ensuring that the conversation could be readily accessed for analysis. The duration of the interview was approximately 10 minutes, providing enough conversational content for a detailed examination of the interaction between the two speakers.

Instruments and Procedures

To collect data for the analysis, the interview recording was transcribed by hand. The transcription process was done by watching the interview multiple times to ensure accuracy in capturing the utterances spoken by both Jimmy Fallon and Angelina Jolie. The transcription was exact, with careful attention given to the details of each speaker's language, tone, and conversational context. The entire interaction was transcribed to guarantee no relevant instances of politeness

strategies were missed. Several factors influenced the choice of the video. First, the interaction needed to be between two individuals who shared some degree of familiarity and mutual respect, as this context would likely lead to the use of positive politeness strategies. Second, the interview needed to be publicly available, as the study aimed to analyze an unscripted real-time exchange. Ultimately, the selection was driven by the natural flow of conversation and the relevance of the participants to the study's focus. The video was sourced from YouTube and transcribed according to standard conventions, documenting speakers, pauses, and relevant non-verbal cues. The transcript was subsequently analyzed to identify instances of positive politeness strategies, guided by Brown and Levinson's (1987) framework.

Data Analysis

This research utilized a qualitative approach to meticulously scrutinize the transcript, aiming to pinpoint instances of positive politeness strategies. Drawing on Brown and Levinson's (1987) framework, the research classified these instances into specific sub-categories, such as exaggeration, intensifying interest, and the deployment of solidarity markers. By documenting both the frequency and the situational context of these tactics, the analysis examined how the interlocutors collectively cultivated a rapport grounded in friendliness and deference. The investigation prioritized verbal cues and the broader interactional tone to elucidate the influence of politeness on the structural dynamics of a media interview. To ensure the robustness of the findings, the researcher performed an independent evaluation, repeatedly validating the identified strategies against the source text. Ultimately, the distribution of these strategies was quantified to highlight usage patterns and provide a deeper understanding of the interaction's dynamic

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researcher outlines the findings regarding the use of positive politeness strategies during the interview between Jimmy Fallon and Angelina Jolie on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. The analysis centers on two key elements: the types of positive politeness strategies used in the conversation and the strategies that were most frequently employed by both participants. Drawing on the pragmatic framework developed by Brown and Levinson (1987), a range of positive politeness strategies were identified throughout the interaction. These include noticing the hearer's needs or interests, exaggerating interest or approval, intensifying interest to the hearer, using in-group identity markers, seeking agreement, avoiding disagreement, asserting common ground, joking, expressing concern for the hearer's wants, making offers or promises, expressing optimism, including both speaker and hearer in the activity, giving reasons, asserting reciprocity, and giving gifts in the form of praise, sympathy, or understanding.

No	Type of Politeness Strategy	Frequency	Percentages
1	Notice, Attend to Hearer (Interests, Needs, Wants, Goods)	4	16.67%
2	Exaggerate (Interest, Approval, Sympathy)	5	20.83%
3	Intensify Interest to Hearer	4	16.67%
4	Use In-Group Identity Markers	2	8.33%
5	Seek Agreement (Safe Topics, Repetition)	1	4.17%
6	Avoid Disagreement	1	4.17%
7	Presuppose/Raise/Assert Common Ground	0	0%
8	Joking	2	8.33%
9	Assert or Presuppose Knowledge of Hearer's Wants	0	0%
10	Offer, Promise	1	4.17%
11	Be Optimistic	1	4.17%
12	Include Both Speaker and Hearer in the Activity	1	4.17%
13	Give or Ask for Reasons	1	4.17%
14	Assume or Assert Reciprocity (Tit for Tat)	0	0%
15	Give Gifts to Hearer (Goods, Sympathy, Understanding, Cooperation)	1	4.17%
	Total	24	

Notice, Attend to Hearer (Interests, Needs, Wants, Goods)

The phenomenon of noticing and attending to the hearer's interests, needs, wants, or goods is demonstrated in several instances in the following exchanges. In these examples, Jimmy shows an acute awareness of what is important to Angelina, whether it's a personal need, a professional achievement, or a topic of mutual interest. This attentiveness allows the conversation to feel thoughtful and meaningful, as Jimmy engages with what truly matters to Angelina at each moment.

Jimmy : I noticed you are barefoot. Did you – did you – did you forget your shoes?

Angelina : No. I, uh, I broke my toe yesterday. (Data 1)

Based on the data above, Jimmy notices something unusual about Angelina—she is barefoot—and expresses curiosity about it. His question shows his concern for her and his attention to her immediate situation. By pointing this out, Jimmy demonstrates that he is observant and interested in something that might be significant to her. This serves to engage with Angelina's needs or circumstances and opens the door for her to explain.

Exaggerate (Interest, Approval, Sympathy)

The strategy of exaggerating interest, approval, or sympathy is used frequently to emphasize the speaker's admiration, excitement, or enthusiasm. Through the use of exaggerated expressions, the speaker elevates the emotional tone of the conversation, making the hearer feel highly valued and appreciated. These exaggerated expressions, whether aimed at a person's abilities, achievements, or overall presence, help to amplify positive feelings and reinforce a sense of recognition. The first instance of exaggeration appears in Jimmy's enthusiastic greeting, where he uses repetition and an excited tone to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere:

Jimmy : Welcome to this show. -Hi. Feel the love. Feel the love. Thank you for being here.
Angelina : Thank you. (Data 5)

According to the data above, Jimmy exaggerates the warmth of his welcome, repeating "feel the love" multiple times. This exaggeration serves to set a positive tone right from the start, making Angelina feel special and valued. His energetic and enthusiastic greeting not only creates a welcoming atmosphere but also establishes a positive frame for the rest of the conversation.

Intensify Interest to Hearer

The strategy of intensifying interest involves the speaker making the conversation more engaging by asking direct, curious, or expressive questions. By doing so, the speaker invites the hearer to delve deeper into topics, creating a more meaningful and emotionally resonant exchange. This approach helps the speaker connect with the hearer on a more personal level and fosters a more dynamic, interactive conversation. The first example of intensifying interest is seen when Jimmy asks about Angelina's motivations for producing *The Outsiders*. Instead of sticking to surface-level questions, he encourages her to reflect on her deeper reasons for taking on the project:

Jimmy : Uh, what made you want to produce The Outsiders?
Angelina : Oh, well, it's, um... (Data 10)

According to the data above, Jimmy's question invites a more thoughtful response from Angelina. By asking about her motivations, he shifts the conversation from a casual exchange to one that requires reflection and deeper insight. This not only intensifies the conversation but also creates an opportunity for Angelina to share her personal connection to the project, making the dialogue more engaging and layered.

Use In-Group Identity Markers

The strategy of using in-group identity markers involves the speaker incorporating

terms or references that highlight shared experiences, creating a sense of familiarity and solidarity between the speaker and hearer. By using specific language or expressions, the speaker draws the hearer into a shared space of mutual understanding, building rapport and a sense of belonging. In these exchanges, Jimmy uses subtle in-group markers to foster a more relaxed, familiar, and personal atmosphere with Angelina. In the first example, Jimmy uses an in-group tone to ease any tension and reassure Angelina, creating a shared understanding in a lighthearted manner:

Jimmy : No, this is not your thing. Don't worry about it. This is – all be fine.

Angelina : This is so not my thing. (Data 14)

Based on the data above, Jimmy's use of the phrase *this is not your thing* introduces a friendly, familiar tone, signaling that both he and Angelina are in the same social space. This phrase suggests that he understands her discomfort and reassures her in a way that feels non-judgmental, creating a shared space of camaraderie. The fact that Angelina responds with, "This is so not my thing," further affirms the mutual understanding between them, allowing the conversation to maintain a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Seek Agreement (Safe Topics, Repetition)

The strategy of seeking agreement often involves using safe, neutral topics and repetition to create a sense of alignment between the speaker and hearer. This not only ensures a smoother flow of conversation but also fosters a supportive and inclusive environment where both parties feel understood and validated. In the following exchange, Jimmy uses a simple yet effective method to seek agreement. By phrasing his statement as a question, he checks if both he and Angelina are aligned on the concept of being an "outsider":

Jimmy : I think it's good to be an outsider, right? (Data 16)

By adding *right?* at the end of his statement, Jimmy invites Angelina's affirmation, ensuring they are on the same page. This rhetorical question serves not only as a tool for validation but also for deepening the connection between them. The repetition of the word *outsider* further strengthens the alignment, creating a sense of shared understanding. Jimmy's phrasing makes the conversation feel more collaborative and inclusive, giving Angelina an opportunity to voice her agreement, while also maintaining a friendly, affirming tone throughout.

Avoid Disagreement

The strategy of avoiding disagreement is a technique often employed to maintain a harmonious and pleasant interaction. Rather than challenging or confronting differing opinions, the speaker may acknowledge multiple perspectives or offer neutral observations that keep the conversation smooth and free from tension. In the example below, Angelina employs this strategy by acknowledging the variety

of comfort levels that people have in public settings:

Angelina : So, some people are more comfortable with public. Some people are more comfortable on talk shows. (Data 17)

Based on the data above, Angelina carefully navigates the conversation by recognizing the diversity of experiences and comfort zones people have when it comes to public appearances. She doesn't offer a confrontational opinion or express disagreement with any particular group's preferences. Instead, she highlights the differences in a neutral, understanding manner, which helps to keep the conversation inclusive and respectful. This approach ensures that any potential disagreement is avoided, maintaining a peaceful and diplomatic tone.

Joking

The strategy of joking serves as a playful and lighthearted way to enrich a conversation. By introducing humor, the speaker can reduce any tension and create a relaxed atmosphere where both participants feel more at ease. Joking adds a touch of spontaneity and can strengthen the bond between the speaker and hearer, making the interaction feel more genuine and fun. In the first example, Angelina uses humor to downplay the gravity of her career:

Angelina : It's my fallback career. (Data 18)

Based on the data above, Angelina humorously refers to acting as a *fallback career*, which is clearly a playful understatement of her significant success in Hollywood. By making this joke, she demonstrates a light-hearted approach to her own profession. This not only makes her more relatable and approachable but also invites the audience to laugh with her. It humanizes her, showing that she doesn't take herself too seriously, and she's comfortable enough to share a joke about her career with Jimmy and the viewers.

Offer, Promise

The strategy of offering or promising involves providing assurance, signaling the speaker's willingness to help, support, or commit to something in the future. This strategy fosters trust and deepens the relationship between the speaker and hearer, demonstrating care and reliability. In the following exchange, Angelina reassures Jimmy with a simple but powerful phrase:

Angelina : I got you. (Data 20)

According to the data, when Angelina says *I got you*, she immediately offers Jimmy a sense of comfort and trust. This phrase is not only reassuring but also implies that she will be there for Jimmy, no matter what situation arises. It's a casual but meaningful offer of support, demonstrating a strong bond and commitment to standing by him. The simplicity of the phrase makes it feel genuine and sincere, while the promise embedded in it strengthens their connection.

Be Optimistic

The strategy of being optimistic revolves around expressing a positive outlook, encouraging hope, and instilling confidence in future events. This approach not only enhances the conversation but also fosters an uplifting, motivating atmosphere. In the following example, Jimmy expresses an optimistic view about the potential success of the film *Maria*:

Jimmy : I think this is going to be giant for the, uh, for the opera community.
(Data 21)

Based on the data above, Jimmy refers to the film as *giant*, underlining his belief that it will make a substantial impact on the opera community. His confidence in the film's success, particularly in the opera community, adds an element of excitement and positivity to the conversation. The use of words like “giant” amplifies the potential significance of the film, reflecting Jimmy’s belief in its greatness. This expression of optimism serves more than just a casual remark—it acts as a form of encouragement, not only validating Angelina’s efforts but also generating a hopeful and motivated atmosphere around the project. By framing the conversation in this way, Jimmy not only boosts the morale of the conversation but also reinforces the positive energy surrounding the film’s release and the hard work put into it.

Include Both Speaker and Hearer in the Activity

The strategy of including both the speaker and the hearer in the activity creates a sense of shared involvement, unity, and connection. By suggesting joint participation, the speaker fosters a feeling of mutual engagement, making the conversation more inclusive and collaborative. In the following exchange, Jimmy suggests an activity that involves both him and Angelina:

Jimmy : Let's go to the Bahamas and do it up. Yeah. (Data 22)

Based on the data above, Jimmy suggests going to the Bahamas, creating a shared activity for both of them. The casual and playful tone of “do it up” further emphasizes the lightheartedness of the suggestion, making it sound like an exciting, fun adventure they could both embark on together. By inviting Angelina into this shared hypothetical activity, Jimmy is fostering an inclusive dynamic in the conversation. The suggestion not only provides a playful moment but also helps strengthen their connection, as both parties are now involved in imagining a future event together. This strategy moves the conversation beyond simple dialogue into an imagined shared experience, which can create a stronger bond between the participants.

Give or Ask for Reasons

The strategy of giving or asking for reasons serves to enrich a conversation by

offering explanations or justifications for actions, beliefs, or thoughts. This strategy allows for a deeper understanding between participants, making the interaction more meaningful and reflective. In the following example, Angelina opens up about the personal reasons behind her career choice:

Angelina : My grandfather died, and I remembered thinking this is not how they should be. this should be a celebration of life. And since I'm not afraid of death and I was comfortable with it, I thought this would be a great career path for me. (Data 23)

Based on the data above, Angelina provides a deeply personal reason for her career path. The death of her grandfather prompted her to rethink life's celebration, and her comfort with death led her to pursue a career aligned with her perspective. By offering this explanation, she provides insight into her thinking and the factors that shaped her life choices. This strategy not only adds depth to the conversation but also fosters emotional intimacy between the speaker and hearer. Angelina's willingness to share the reasons behind her decision allows Jimmy (and the audience) to connect with her on a more personal level. It transforms the conversation from a simple exchange of words into a space for reflection and understanding.

Give Gifts to Hearer (Goods, Sympathy, Understanding, Cooperation)

The strategy of giving gifts to the hearer involves offering compliments or support to show appreciation and create a positive interaction. In the following example, Jimmy gives a compliment to Angelina:

Jimmy : You're phenomenal.

Based on the data above, through this compliment, Jimmy recognizes Angelina's extraordinary talent. This not only boosts her self-esteem but also strengthens their connection by showing respect and admiration. Compliments like these make the hearer feel valued and help foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation in the conversation.

The results of this research correspond with Brown and Levinson's (1987) theory of politeness, showing how positive politeness tactics, especially exaggeration, are essential in fostering a friendly and captivating dialogue between Jimmy Fallon and Angelina Jolie. Exaggeration (20.83%) was the most common technique employed by Fallon, underscoring his desire to express appreciation and admiration for Jolie. This method aligns with earlier research (e.g., Girsang et al., 2024) that highlights the role of exaggeration in celebrity interviews, as it helps create a warm and respectful environment. By increasing commendation, Fallon diminishes social distance, strengthening solidarity and mutual respect between the individuals involved. This is especially crucial in an environment like *The Tonight Show*, where cultivating rapport is essential for entertaining the audience and ensuring a comfortable atmosphere for the guest.

Moreover, techniques such as recognizing the listener's interests and enhancing engagement were often utilized, further highlighting Fallon's commitment to making Jolie feel appreciated and involved during the interview. Focusing on personal connection is characteristic of positive politeness strategies, which seek to fulfill the hearer's wish to feel liked and valued. Conversely, less common approaches such as seeking consensus or evading conflict indicate that Fallon's main aim was not to confront or argue, but to ensure a fun and pleasant interaction. These results illustrate the essence of talk show interviews, where fostering a cheerful and engaging atmosphere is frequently emphasized over more serious or contentious conversations. The findings add to the increasing comprehension of how positive politeness techniques can improve communication in media contexts, especially in celebrity interviews.

This research has important implications for language teaching and the study of language use. In language education, it shows that teaching positive politeness strategies can improve students' conversation skills. By focusing on empathy, relationship building, and proper social behavior, students can learn to interact better. Specifically, teachers can include strategies like exaggeration, finding common ground, and showing interest in their lessons. These tools help learners manage conversations more effectively, especially in informal settings or media situations. For researchers, this study helps explain how positive politeness works in real-life, unscripted situations. It provides useful insights into how both hosts and guests use these strategies during live interviews. Furthermore, the study suggests new directions for future research. It encourages looking at how politeness strategies are used across different media platforms, in various cultures, and in different types of interactions.

Although this research provides useful information, it is essential to acknowledge certain limitations. The research relies on a singular celebrity interview, which might not reflect the wider application of positive politeness strategies across various situations or with different individuals. Subsequent studies might increase the sample size by examining interviews from various shows or involving different hosts and guests to encompass a broader spectrum of conversational dynamics. Moreover, this research emphasizes positive politeness and does not investigate other politeness approaches, like negative politeness or off-record strategies. Integrating these approaches into upcoming studies may offer a more comprehensive perspective on the role of politeness in media engagements. Ultimately, the research focuses solely on verbal politeness strategies, suggesting that upcoming studies could incorporate non-verbal signals, like gestures or facial expressions, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the array of communicative strategies involved.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research shows the important role of positive politeness strategies in the interview between Jimmy Fallon and Angelina Jolie on The

Tonight Show. By using strategies like exaggeration and showing strong interest, Fallon created a warm and friendly conversation. This helped build a good relationship and mutual respect with his guest. These findings show that positive politeness is key in media settings. In celebrity interviews, it is essential to keep the conversation fun and supportive to entertain the audience and make the guest feel comfortable. Moreover, this study is helpful for language teaching and research. It suggests that teaching positive politeness strategies can improve students' communication skills, especially in informal or media situations. Future research should look at a wider range of interviews, include other types of politeness strategies, and explore how different cultures view politeness. Also, looking at non-verbal cues like body language and facial expressions would give a fuller picture of how politeness works in real life. This approach could lead to a better understanding of politeness in both theory and practice.

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