



## Politeness Strategies for Interviewing Michelle Obama in *The Ellen Show* and *The Late Late Show*

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### Abstract

This study explores the politeness strategies employed by Ellen DeGeneres and James Corden in their interviews with Michelle Obama, utilizing Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory as a guiding framework. The research explicitly compares their use of bald-on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record strategies. A qualitative case study methodology involved transcribing interviews from "The Ellen Show" and "The Late Late Show with James Corden." The data were systematically categorized into primary politeness strategies and their respective sub-strategies, allowing for a detailed comparison of each host's communicative approach. The analysis revealed similarities and differences in how Ellen and James employ these strategies. Ellen demonstrates a relatively balanced use of politeness strategies, with a slight preference for the Off-Record strategy. This balance indicates her ability to navigate interactions with a mix of directness and subtlety, reflecting her personable and engaging hosting style. In contrast, James predominantly relies on Bald-on Record strategies, which aligns with his more direct and energetic approach to hosting. Despite these differences, both hosts aim to maintain rapport with their high-profile guests, albeit through different communicative techniques. This study contributes to the theoretical understanding of politeness strategies in media communication by highlighting how distinct hosting styles influence politeness in interviews. Additionally, it provides practical insights for media professionals and educators, suggesting effective strategies for managing politeness in high-profile interviews. The findings emphasize the importance of understanding cultural norms and individual hosting styles in shaping audience engagement and interaction.

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## INTRODUCTION

Politeness is fundamental to effective communication, ensuring smooth, respectful, and without misunderstandings. Speakers must convey their messages in a manner that is both appropriate and considerate, thus fostering a comfortable communication environment. The importance of politeness extends to respecting others and oneself with polite, systematic, organized, clear, and straightforward language reflecting an upbeat personality. Conversely, harsh language, such as blaspheming, cursing, and mocking, indicates a negative personality. In this light, the study of politeness strategies becomes essential for understanding how individuals navigate social interactions while minimizing face-threatening acts (FTAs).

Various scholars, including Robin Lakoff, Geoffrey Leech, Brown, and Levinson, have extensively studied the concept of politeness. Lakoff (1973) posited that rules regulate politeness to avoid conflict and foster social harmony. Leech (1983) expanded on this concept by introducing the Politeness Principle, which encompasses tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy. Brown and Levinson's (1987) Politeness Theory is perhaps the most influential, outlining four primary categories of politeness strategies: bald on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record. Bald on-record strategies are direct and unambiguous, while positive politeness reduces the threat to the hearer's positive face. Negative politeness focuses on minimizing imposition, and off-record strategies involve indirect communication that allows for plausible deniability of FTAs.

Previous studies have explored politeness strategies in various contexts, including talk shows. For instance, Husni (2017) examined politeness strategies in "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," highlighting how these strategies can be used as teaching materials for students. Other studies have analyzed politeness in different cultural settings, such as the Rosiana Silalahi

Talk Show (Nurul et al., 2022), Indonesia Lawyers Club (Muslim, 2017), Face to Face with Desi Anwar (Ihsan, 2019), Ellen DeGeneres's Talk Show (Dharmayanti et al., 2018; Ruansyah & Rukmini, 2018; and Husni, 2017), James Corden's Interview on Recode Decode Talkshow (Mahayani & Rahayuni, 2018), and Oprah Winfrey Talk Show (Rabab'ah et al., 2019; Utami, 2014). These studies provide a comprehensive understanding of how politeness strategies vary across cultures and settings, offering insights into the dynamic interplay of politeness in diverse talk show environments.

In the American context, talk shows have significantly influenced societal views on race, gender, and class, extending American culture globally (Encyclopedia.com). "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" and "The Late Late Show with James Corden" are notable for their unique approaches to entertainment and audience engagement, often producing viral content on social media. For example, segments such as "Ellen and First Lady Michelle Obama Go to CVS" and "First Lady Michelle Obama Carpool Karaoke" illustrate different interaction contexts, providing a rich ground for analyzing politeness strategies. These segments also highlight the adaptability of politeness strategies in varying contexts, particularly when interacting with high-profile guests like Michelle Obama.

Despite the extensive research on politeness strategies in talk shows, there remains a gap in comparative studies that specifically focus on how different hosts employ these strategies with their unique styles. Understanding the distinct hosting styles of Ellen and James is crucial because it reveals how each host navigates social interactions and manages politeness with high-profile guests like Michelle. By comparing these two hosts, this study highlights the differences in their politeness strategies. It sheds light on how these differences reflect broader cultural norms, particularly between American and Indonesian cultures. The significance of this research lies in its ability to bridge theoretical insights with practical applications, offering a deeper understanding of how politeness strategies are adapted in various cultural contexts.

Additionally, this comparative analysis contributes to the field of cross-cultural communication by providing valuable insights into the dynamics of politeness, which is essential for media professionals, educators, and anyone interested in the subtleties of interpersonal communication across cultures.

In conclusion, this research aims to analyze the politeness strategies used by Ellen and James during their interactions with Michelle Obama. It seeks to comprehensively understand how these strategies vary in different contexts and cultural settings, bridging the gap between theoretical and practical aspects of politeness in communication. By exploring these dynamics, the study will contribute to the academic field of linguistics and the practical application of politeness strategies in everyday communication.

## METHOD

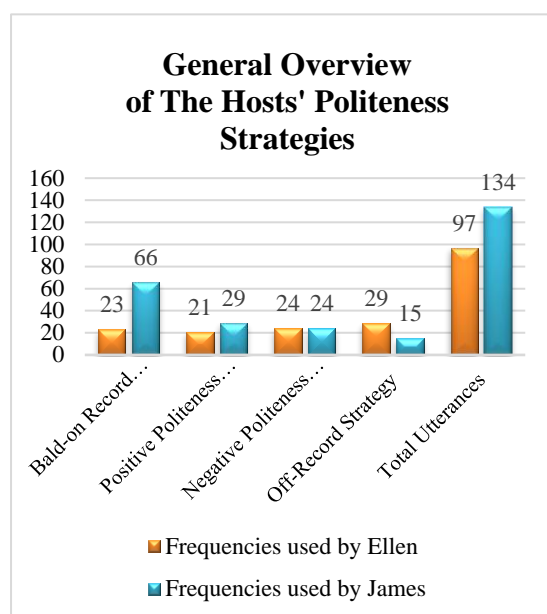
The study explored Ellen and James's politeness strategies in their interviews with Michelle Obama through a qualitative case study design. It hypothesized that Ellen mainly employed positive politeness strategies, creating a warm and welcoming environment. Conversely, James favoured the off-record indirect strategies, aligning with his comedic and playful demeanour. The researchers collected and analyzed interview transcriptions from their official YouTube channels. The author organized these transcriptions into primary and secondary clauses to pinpoint politeness strategies using Brown and Levinson's (1987) framework, which encompasses bald on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record strategies. The research involved collecting and analyzing data from the hosts' shows and supplementary information from various resources to compare their interview approaches with Michelle Obama.

The study utilizes a qualitative case study approach to explore and compare the politeness strategies of Ellen DeGeneres and James Corden during their interviews with Michelle Obama. Data collection commenced with transcribing interview segments from their official YouTube channels, specifically "Ellen and First Lady

Michelle Obama Go to CVS" and "First Lady Michelle Obama Carpool Karaoke." The transcriptions were carefully organized into primary and secondary clauses for a detailed analysis. Using Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness framework, the utterances were categorized into four main politeness strategies: bald on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record. Additionally, the analysis extended to sub-strategies within each category—eight sub-strategies for bald-on record, fifteen for positive politeness, ten for negative politeness, and ten for off-record—providing a nuanced understanding of how each host navigated politeness in their interactions. The comparison of these strategies was focused on the contexts and manners in which they were used, emphasizing the qualitative aspects of how each host's distinct style shaped their approach to politeness. Supplementary information from academic literature and previous studies on talk show discourse was integrated to provide a richer contextual understanding, ensuring the robustness and reliability of the findings.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The analysis of Ellen and James's interviews with Michelle reveals distinct patterns in politeness strategies, reflecting their unique hosting styles. As shown in Figure 1, Ellen displays a balanced approach, employing a relatively even distribution of Bald-on Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off-Record strategies. This balance highlights her role as a considerate and versatile host, adept at maintaining a warm and engaging atmosphere. In contrast, James heavily favours the Bald-on Record strategy, which indicates his direct and energetic style and aligns with his playful and forthright persona.



**Figure 1.** General Overview of The Hosts' Politeness Strategies

This overview provides a foundation for a more detailed analysis, where each host's specific use of these strategies will be examined. The subsequent sections will delve into the nuances of Ellen's and James's politeness strategies, with illustrative examples and a comparative discussion to uncover the differences in their approach to engaging with Michelle Obama.

#### Politeness Strategies in The Ellen Show

In her interview with Michelle, Ellen's use of politeness strategies reveals a thoughtful approach to engaging her guest while maintaining a lively and respectful interaction. The analysis of 97 utterances demonstrates that Ellen's strategies are relatively balanced, with a slight preference for the Off-Record strategy. This balance is indicative of Ellen's ability to navigate social interactions with both directness and subtlety, reflecting her expertise in media discourse.

#### Ellen's Bald-on Record Strategy

Ellen employs the Bald-on Record strategy 23 times during her interview with Michelle Obama. This strategy, characterized by directness and clarity, aligns with findings from previous studies that emphasize the importance of clear communication in media contexts (Pasaribu et al., 2021). For instance, in her utterance "Shelly,

you slide it in, and then you put your pin number in," Ellen's straightforward instruction exemplifies her task-oriented approach, which aims to expedite interactions without ambiguity.

In other instances, Ellen uses the "Great urgency or desperation" sub-strategy, such as in utterance, "With Rachel," to convey immediacy and enthusiasm. This mirrors the use of urgency in political discourse, as analyzed by Prayitno et al. (2019), where directness captures attention and conveys the message's significance promptly.

Ellen's adaptability in various settings, including unconventional ones like a CVS store, is evident in utterance, "Why not? What if I don't like it? Well, then let's put it back," where her directness ensures clear and engaging communication. This reflects the findings of Halil et al. (2021) on the importance of maintaining engagement and clarity in online contexts. Overall, Ellen's use of the Bald-on Record strategy not only facilitates clear communication but also enhances the interaction by making it lively and engaging, which is a hallmark of her media persona.

#### Ellen's Positive Politeness Strategy

Ellen employed Positive Politeness strategies 21 times during her interview with Michelle Obama. This strategy aims to create a friendly and close atmosphere, as discussed by Brown and Levinson (1987). These strategies encompass 10 sub-strategies, such as "Notice, attend to the hearer," where Ellen saying "Oh, there you are.", showing attention and involvement in the conversation. This aligns with the findings by Putra and Parthama (2018), who noted the use of similar strategies to build emotional connections in the animated film "Finding Dory."

Ellen's use of exaggeration, seen in her response "I'm a great person to shop with.", is humorously applied to alleviate Michelle's frustration. Abbas (2013) found that Positive Politeness strategies maintain social harmony in literary discourse, similar to how Ellen fosters a positive atmosphere during the interview. Additionally, Ellen intensifies interest in the hearer with questions "What's your name?", akin to strategies employed by James Corden in his

interviews, as discussed by Mahayani and Rahayuni (2018).

Despite not employing sub-strategies such as "Seek agreement," "Joke," "Be optimistic," "Give (or ask for) reasons," and "Give gifts to the hearer," Ellen's Positive Politeness strategies effectively create a pleasant and interactive conversation. This supports the findings by Jucker and Landert (2023) also noted that the increasing use of Positive Politeness in American and British films from 1930 to 2019 helped create more relatable characters, aligning with Ellen's approach in her interview with Michelle Obama.

In conclusion, Ellen DeGeneres' strategic use of Positive Politeness in her interview with Michelle Obama underscores the significance of these approaches in fostering amicable and engaging interactions.

#### Ellen's Negative Politeness Strategy

Ellen used 24 instances of Negative Politeness strategies out of 97 utterances during her interview with Michelle. This suggests that Ellen frequently employs this strategy to maintain politeness and avoid imposing or pressuring Michelle, allowing her the freedom to respond comfortably.

Ellen employed six of the ten Negative Politeness sub-strategies in her interview with Michelle. For the sub-strategy "Be conventionally indirect," Ellen's question "Do you want us to sign the baby?" exemplifies her indirect approach, aligning with Pathanasin and Eschstruth's (2022) findings that conventional indirectness is used to avoid impoliteness.

Lastly, in "State the FTA as a general rule," Ellen's statement "I'm good at bagging." reduces tension by presenting her abilities without challenging Michelle's authority, supporting Shin's (2017) findings on the effectiveness of this strategy in reducing tension. Ellen did not use four sub-strategies: "Nominalize to distance the actor and add formality," "Go on record as incurring a debt," "Apologize," and "Impersonalise S and H," possibly because they were not relevant in maintaining the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of the interview (Senowarsito et al., 2016).

Overall, Ellen's use of Negative Politeness strategies, particularly those that avoid imposing on Michelle, demonstrates her effort to create a respectful and comfortable interview environment where Michelle can respond as she wishes.

#### Ellen's Off-Record Strategy

Ellen used the Off-Record strategy 29 times, the highest frequency among the four politeness strategies. This approach aligns with her style of creating light-hearted yet meaningful dialogue through ambiguous language, which invites multiple interpretations and deeper audience engagement. For example, in "Can you get my face on money?" Ellen uses the "Give hints" sub-strategy to subtly express a desire for recognition without a direct request, consistent with Prayitno et al.'s (2021) findings on the effectiveness of indirect speech in fostering thoughtful communication in social media discourse.

Ellen also employs the "Give association clues" sub-strategy in "I'm just scratching your back" paralleling Adel et al.'s (2016) observations on how associative clues enhance understanding in EFL learners' blog interactions. The "Presuppose" strategy is used in "It's not bribes," where Ellen sets expectations indirectly, aligning with Eshghinejad and Moini's (2016) findings that presuppositions enhance pragmatic competence in teacher-student text messaging.

Additionally, Ellen's use of "Understate" in "No, I turn all the lights out, and I close all the drapes" demonstrates humorous understatement, resonating with Febrianto's (2019) analysis of humorous phatic utterances in creating a relaxed, communicative atmosphere. Her rhetorical questions, like "Why?" invite contemplation without expecting direct responses, similar to Nurrahmah et al.'s (2020) findings in student debaters' politeness strategies that promote critical thinking and engagement. Lastly, the sub-strategy "Be ambiguous" is evident in "Let's sign the baby" demonstrating how ambiguity fosters open-ended dialogue. This is supported by Oyadiji's (2020) study on ambiguous language in Nigerian news-based virtual communities, which facilitated inclusive communication.

In conclusion, Ellen's use of Off-Record politeness aligns with broader research findings, emphasizing the effectiveness of indirect communication in fostering engagement and maintaining a positive, humorous interaction. Studies such as those by Prayitno et al. (2021), Adel et al. (2016), and Eshghinejad and Moini (2016) corroborate this, highlighting the relevance and application of such strategies in various communicative contexts.

### **Politeness Strategies in The Late Late Show**

#### **James's Bald-on Record Strategy**

James predominantly uses Bald-on Record strategies in his interview with Michelle, with 66 out of 134 utterances reflecting a preference for directness and clarity. This approach aligns with Flores-Salgado and Castineira-Benitez's (2018) findings on the efficiency of direct communication in maintaining clear discourse, as seen in James's utterance, "When I say miss, OK, two questions," where he offers Sympathetic advice or warning in a direct yet empathetic manner, similar to Ammaida's (2020) analysis of online comments balancing politeness with directness.

James's directness is further evident in "Just the idea is to be able to pick up the phone," aligning with AlAfnan's (2014b) emphasis on efficiency in business communication. Such direct communication is essential in a talk show to keep the conversation lively and engaging, as highlighted by Zahid and Johari (2018).

James's empathetic approach in Bald-on Record strategies, such as "When was the last time you got to do this, have a good rock out in a car?" reflects Sulu's (2015) research on balancing directness and empathy to create a positive environment. By relating to Michelle's personal experiences, James fosters mutual respect and camaraderie, enhancing the conversation. Lastly, James's appreciative remarks in "That's the beauty" align with Alakrash and Bustan's (2020) study on the importance of appreciation and positivity in politeness strategies, enhancing the conversational dynamic and creating a pleasant experience for Michelle and the audience.

In summary, James's use of Bald-on Record strategies in his interview with Michelle demonstrates a balance of directness, empathy, and efficiency, aligning with various studies on politeness strategies and highlighting their effectiveness in maintaining engaging and respectful communication.

#### **James's Positive Politeness Strategy**

James's use of Positive Politeness Strategies in Carpool Karaoke with Michelle Obama aligns with existing literature, particularly in his use of Presuppose/raise/assert common ground, as seen in "I have a tour of the White House." This approach mirrors Kamlasi's (2017) findings, where students used similar strategies to build rapport and solidarity in conversations. James's use of exaggeration techniques, such as "This is a treat for all of us!" parallels Rabab'ah et al.'s (2019) observations in the Oprah Winfrey Talk Show, where exaggeration was a tool for expressing enthusiasm and building solidarity, indicating its universality across contexts.

James's use of in-group identity markers, like referring to Missy Elliott by her first name, "So Missy, you're on this song, Dianne Warren-Rother," is consistent with Jeanyfer and Tanto's (2018) findings on fostering belonging and camaraderie through familiar terms. It also reflects James's strategy to create an inclusive atmosphere. The strategy of avoiding disagreement, as in "You know what I mean?", contrasts with Muslim's (2017) findings in the Indonesia Lawyers Club, where avoiding disagreement is less common. However, James uses this approach to maintain harmony and positive rapport, highlighting the context-dependent nature of politeness strategies.

Lastly, the absence of sub-strategies like Seeking agreement and Jokes contrasts with Musyafa'ah et al.'s (2022) findings in "Pride and Prejudice," where these strategies were used frequently. Overall, Corden's application of Positive Politeness Strategies in his interaction with Michelle Obama reflects a nuanced and contextually adaptive approach to fostering a positive, conversational environment, aligning with and sometimes contrasting with various findings in existing politeness research.

### James's Negative Politeness Strategy

James Corden employs 24 instances of Negative Politeness Strategies in his Carpool Karaoke with Michelle Obama, utilizing only three of the ten sub-strategies identified by Brown and Levinson. The most frequently used sub-strategy is "Minimize the imposition," which appears 13 times, such as "Can we just talk about the ones in the first lady's locker?" This reflects James's effort to reduce Michelle's burden, aligning with the principle that effective communicators prioritize minimizing imposition in high-stakes interactions.

James's use of the sub-strategy "Be conventionally indirect" is illustrated nine times, as seen in utterances like "You're going to do the 145 Tour?". These indirect approaches allow Michelle the flexibility to respond without feeling pressured, consistent with findings by Sulistiyaningsih et al. (2021) that indirectness in casual conversation helps maintain politeness by reducing imposition on the hearer. The sub-strategy "Do not assume a hearer is able or willing to comply with any acts imposed on him" is employed twice, for instance, in the utterance "Well, I..." which demonstrates hesitation and a reluctance to impose on Michelle. This approach aligns with Nurul et al.'s (2022) analysis of talk shows, where hesitation and non-committal responses are used to maintain politeness and respect the guest's autonomy.

James does not employ sub-strategies such as "Be pessimistic about the ability or willingness of a hearer to comply," "Give deference," or "Apologize," among others. This selective approach suggests that James balances directness with politeness, avoiding excessive formalities or deference. This contrasts with AlAfnan and Cruz-Rudio's (2023) findings, where a broader range of negative politeness strategies were used in hierarchical settings like student-teacher email requests.

In conclusion, Corden's use of Negative Politeness Strategies in his interaction with Michelle Obama shows a nuanced approach to maintaining respect and reducing imposition. It highlights the importance of context and audience in the strategic use of politeness, which

aligns with broader findings in politeness research across various communication settings.

### James's Off-Record Strategy

James Corden employed 15 instances of the Off-Record politeness strategy in his "Carpool Karaoke" with Michelle Obama, the least frequent compared to other strategies. The most commonly used sub-strategy is "Be incomplete, use ellipsis," demonstrated in utterances like "We were in the beehive." These examples show James's ability to create anticipation and invite further engagement by leaving statements open-ended.

James also utilizes the sub-strategies "Give hints" as seen in utterances "I host a TV show, the late, late show." These strategies align with Silitonga and Pasaribu's (2021) findings on indirect hints in maintaining politeness on social media, ensuring respectful and engaging interactions without imposing direct requests. Additionally, James's use of "Presuppose," as in "Now can we talk about Secret Service code names?" supports Edstrom and Ewald's (2019) findings on presuppositions in communication, facilitating smooth conversational transitions. The sub-strategies "Be vague," shown in "Got a good opening this good stabs" maintain a light tone without directness, resonating with Ihsan's (2019) research on pragmatic politeness in interviews.

Overall, James's use of Off-Record strategies demonstrates a nuanced understanding of maintaining respectful and engaging interactions, particularly in high-profile public settings. This highlights the importance of indirectness and non-imposition in effective communication.

## Comparison Politeness Strategies in The Ellen Show and The Late Late Show

The research identifies key similarities and differences in their communication styles based on Brown and Levinson's politeness theory.

### Similarities in Politeness Strategies

This research identified several key similarities in the politeness strategies employed by Ellen DeGeneres and James Corden during their interviews with Michelle Obama. Both hosts

displayed flexibility in their communication approaches, adeptly switching between different politeness strategies depending on the context and Michelle's responses. Ellen frequently utilized off-record strategies to make suggestions in a humorous and non-imposing manner, as illustrated in the utterance, "You know, Michelle, you should try this product; it's amazing, but no pressure!". On the other hand, James directly engaged Michelle in fun activities using bald-on record strategies, as seen in the utterance, "Michelle, just sing along with me in this part!". This flexibility in strategy use helped maintain a natural and dynamic flow in the conversations, a point supported by prior studies on influential talk show hosts (Husni, 2017; Ruansyah & Rukmini, 2018).

Another similarity between Ellen and James was their use of positive politeness to build rapport with Michelle Obama. Both hosts frequently employed compliments and expressions of familiarity to create a warm and friendly atmosphere. Ellen's compliment, "You look fantastic today, Michelle. That colour really suits you!" and James's admiration, "Michelle, I love that story about your time at the White House. It's so inspiring!" are examples of this strategy. These techniques helped foster emotional closeness and made Michelle feel more comfortable during the interviews, aligning with findings by Mahayani and Rahayuni (2018).

Furthermore, both hosts demonstrated respect through the use of negative politeness strategies. Ellen and James often softened their requests and maintained a level of formality to avoid imposing on Michelle. Ellen's cautious approach, "I hope you don't mind me asking, but could you share a bit about your current projects?" and James's respectful inquiry, "I don't want to pry, but how did you manage to stay so grounded during your time in the White House?", exemplify this strategy. This approach is crucial in maintaining professionalism and respect, particularly in interactions with high-profile guests (Dhamayanti et al., 2018; Ibnu & Mujiyanto, 2018).

In conclusion, the similarities between Ellen's and James' use of politeness strategies

indicate that flexibility, positive politeness, and negative politeness are vital components in creating effective and enjoyable interviews. This research contributes to a broader understanding of politeness and interpersonal communication in high-profile public settings. It offers insights into how hosts can adapt strategies to foster friendly and respectful interactions with their guests.

### Differences in Politeness Strategies

A thorough analysis of the politeness strategies used by Ellen DeGeneres and James Corden during their interviews with Michelle Obama revealed three key differences that reflect their distinctive communication styles. The first notable difference is in the frequency of Bald-on Record and Off-Record strategies. Ellen uses Off-Record strategies more frequently (29 times) than Bald-on Record strategies (23 times). This approach aligns with her relaxed and humorous style, allowing her to convey messages indirectly, often with a touch of comedy. In contrast, James predominantly employs Bald-on Record strategies (66 times), with far less reliance on Off-Record strategies (15 times). This indicates a more direct and assertive communication style consistent with his energetic and straightforward persona. As Song (2014) notes, an individual's personality and communication style can significantly influence their choice of politeness strategies, and this is evident in how Ellen and James tailor their approaches to fit their hosting styles.

In addition to differences in strategy frequency, the distribution of politeness strategies also varies significantly between the two hosts. Ellen's strategies are more evenly distributed across the four types—Bald-on Record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off-Record—creating a dynamic and balanced interaction with Michelle Obama. This balanced use of strategies reflects Ellen's intention to maintain a respectful yet light-hearted atmosphere throughout the interview. On the other hand, James exhibits a more focused approach, heavily relying on Bald-on Record and Positive Politeness strategies. This pattern suggests that James prioritizes creating a lively and engaging environment, often through direct



communication and positive reinforcement. The study by AlAfnan and Cruz-Rudio (2023) supports these findings by highlighting how context and communication goals can influence the choice of politeness strategies, illustrating how each host's approach reflects their specific communicative objectives.

The third difference lies in their approach to formality and warmth. Ellen often employs Off-Record and Negative Politeness strategies to foster a relaxed yet respectful interaction, creating an informal and warm atmosphere. Her approach allows her to maintain a welcoming and considerate tone, encouraging Michelle Obama to share her thoughts without feeling pressured. In contrast, James frequently uses Bald-on Record strategies to balance warmth with a degree of formality. His direct and assertive communication style contributes to a high-energy yet professional interaction. This difference underscores how each host adapts their approach to suit their personality and the expectations of their audience, which is consistent with Dewi's (2014) findings that cultural and social contexts significantly influence perceptions of politeness.

## CONCLUSION

This study reveals the distinct politeness strategies employed by Ellen DeGeneres and James Corden in their interviews with Michelle Obama, highlighting how their unique hosting styles influence their communicative approaches. Ellen's politeness strategies are relatively balanced across the four main types, with a slight preference for the Off-Record strategy. This balance reflects her ability to navigate social interactions directly and subtly, aligning with her personable and adaptable hosting style. In contrast, James predominantly employs the Bald-on Record strategy, reflecting a more direct and energetic approach, which aligns with his dynamic and engaging style. These findings contribute to the theoretical understanding of politeness strategies within media contexts by demonstrating how different hosting styles impact communication. The study offers practical insights for media professionals and

educators, suggesting effective techniques for managing politeness in high-profile interviews. Additionally, it underscores the importance of understanding the interplay between hosting styles and politeness strategies in shaping audience engagement, providing valuable implications for language study in media and educational settings.

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