POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACT
BY OPRAH WINFREY AND MICHELLE OBAMA IN SUPER SOUL SUNDAY TALK SHOW

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS
Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra
in English Letters

By
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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
FACULTY OF LETTERS
UNIVERSITAS SANATA DHARMA
YOGYAKARTA
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FTA : Face Threatening Act
S  : Speaker
H  : Hearer
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ABSTRACT


Super Soul Sunday is an inspirational American talk show hosted by Oprah Winfrey. The episode “Becoming” is chosen as the object of the study. In this episode, Michelle Obama came as the guest to share her story about the memoir she just published entitled “Becoming.” Michelle is the former first lady of the U.S. episode is chosen because the interaction between Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in the talk show is interesting to discuss since Michelle comes to the talk show for a non-state event. Furthermore, in 2008, Oprah endorsed Barack Obama in the presidential election.

There are two objectives of this study. The first one is to find out the types of politeness strategies in directives speech applied in Super Soul Sunday talk show. The second is to reveal the sociological variables illustrated in each politeness strategy in the talk show.

This study is qualitative research by employing a pragmatic approach to answer the two research problems. The data were collected by choosing the utterances containing directive speech acts uttered by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in the talk show. Furthermore, the utterances were categorized into each type of politeness strategy. The result of the first findings was later analyzed using the theory of sociological variables to answer the second objective.

The researcher found twenty-one utterances containing politeness found in the talk show. Based on the analysis, it can be concluded both Oprah and Michelle did not apply off-record strategy, negative politeness strategy was absent in Michelle's utterances, and the most used strategy is positive politeness strategy. Furthermore, the sociological variables illustrated in each politeness strategy showed in communicating with people who have a higher power, the speaker has a tendency to use negative politeness strategy. Meanwhile, when the speaker and the hearer were familiar with each other, they tend to use the least polite strategy in their conversation as in positive politeness strategy and bald on record strategy.

Keywords: politeness strategies, talk show, sociological variables, utterance
ABSTRAK


Terdapat dua tujuan dalam penelitian ini. Pertama, untuk menemukan dan mengelompokkan prinsip kesopanan dalam kalimat direktif yang digunakan dalam gelar wicara Super Soul Sunday. Kedua, untuk mengungkapkan variabel sosial yang dilustrasikan di dalam tiap kategori prinsip kesopanan dalam gelar wicara tersebut.


Penulis menemukan dua puluh satu ungkapan yang mengandung prinsip kesopanan di dalam gelar wicara tersebut. Berdasarkan analisis, dapat disimpulkan bahwa baik Oprah dan Michelle tidak menggunakan strategi kesopanan tidak langsung, strategi kesopanan negatif tidak ditemukan di dalam ungkapan-ungkapan yang diutarakan Michelle, dan strategi kesopanan yang paling sering digunakan adalah strategi kesopanan positif. Selanjutnya, variabel sosial yang digambarkan dalam tiap strategi prinsip kesopanan menunjukan bahwa dalam berkomunikasi dengan orang yang memiliki otoritas lebih tinggi, pembicara cenderung menggunakan strategi kesopanan negatif. Sedangkan, ketika pembicara dan pendengar familier dengan satu sama lain, mereka cenderung menggunakan strategi kesopanan yang paling rendah yaitu strategi kesopanan positif dan strategi kesopanan langsung.

Kata kunci: politeness strategies, talk show, sociological variables, utterance
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Talk show is a structured television talk. There are some characteristics of a talk show that differentiate it with other television programs. According to Timberg and Eller (2010), talk show is host-centered, the conversation is experienced in the present tense, spontaneous but highly structured, product commodity, churned out within the strict formulas and measured segments of costly network time, and designed to air topics appealing to the widest possible audience (p. 5).

Super Soul Sunday is a daytime American talk show hosted by Oprah Winfrey. The talk show debuted on October 16, 2011. In every episode, Super Soul Sunday invites an inspirational guest, including philosophers, authors, visionaries, and spiritual leaders. It delivers insight and inspiration from the story of its guests. The episode Becoming is chosen as the source of the object for this research. The episode airs on November 18, 2018 and has Michelle Obama as the guest to talk about her memoir entitled Becoming that release on November 13, 2018. Oprah Winfrey is chosen as the subject of this study because the researcher aims to examine how Oprah, who endorsed the former president of the United States, Barack Obama in 2008, applies politeness strategies while talking to Michelle Obama, who is the former First Lady of the United States. Meanwhile, Michelle Obama is chosen because the researcher is willing to know how Michelle Obama used politeness strategies in a non-state event.
There are some forms of speech that the participants use in *Super Soul Sunday* talk show to make other participant to do something. The speech is in the form of asking, commanding, advising, permitting, and defying. These forms of speech can be found in directive speech act. Searle (1985) states, directive speech act is an act to get someone else to do something. It is in line with the focus of this research where politeness is used to lessen the face-threat towards other. Directive speech act can threaten another participant’s public self-image if it is not used in the right context. Therefore, politeness is essential to maintain the participants’ wants to be seen to have particular public self-image since talk show is aired and being watched by the public.

Politeness is part of pragmatics study. According to Brown (2015, p. 326), "Politeness is essentially a matter of taking into account the feelings of others as to how they should be interactionally treated." In the interaction with society, we have a desire to be seen in a certain way by others. An image that we present to other people is called face. According to Goffman (1967), "Face is the positive social value a person effectively claims for himself by the line others assume he has taken during a particular contact." (p.213). Face can be gained through positive acts and speech toward other people. Face approval can be recognized in the way other people response.

Brown and Levinson (1987) divide face into two categories, negative face, and positive face. Negative face is someone's wants not to be imposed in his or her actions. Meanwhile, positive face is the wants to be approved or liked. Both negative and positive faces can be threatened either by the speaker and the hearer.
The act of the speaker, which potentially imposes the speaker's freedom of action, is face-threatening to the negative face. Meanwhile, the speaker's action, which potentially leads to the conclusion that the speaker does not want what the hearer's wants, is called face-threatening to the positive face.

To avoid face threatening-acts, the capability of choosing proper and polite language has an important role. Politeness strategies can be applied to lessen the face-threatening act. Brown and Levinson categorized politeness strategies into four strategies, negative politeness, positive politeness, bald on record, and off record.

The choice of applying certain politeness strategy is influenced by the sociological variables. Holtgraves (2002) states, the motives of applying politeness strategies are to communicate efficiently and to manage face. The greater the face threat, the greater the willingness of the speaker to perform a more polite strategy. The weightiness of the face threat lies in sociological variables. The sociological variables that Brown and Levinson (1987) propose are social distance, power, and rank of imposition. These variables reveal the factors of the application of certain politeness strategy in communication.

B. Problem Formulation

There are two research questions formulated as follows:

1. What politeness strategies do Oprah and Michelle use in *Super Soul Sunday* in the episode *Becoming* used?

2. How are the sociological variables illustrated in each politeness strategy?
C. Research Objectives

This part presents the objectives of the study based on problem formulation. There are two objectives explained in this research. The first objective of the study is to analyze the application of politeness strategies used by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in *Super Soul Sunday* aired on November 15, 2018. The second objective is to discover the sociological variables illustrated in each politeness strategy.

D. Definition of Terms

There are some terms that will be used by the researcher in analyzing the research problems.

**Politeness** is a matter of taking into account the feeling of others, including how they should be interactionally treated and behaved in a manner that demonstrates appropriate concern for their social status and social relationship (Brown, 2015).

**Politeness strategy** is the strategy to soften the face threatening-act by the use of redressive action. Brown and Levinson divide politeness strategy into four strategies. Those are bald on record strategy, positive politeness strategy, negative politeness strategy, and off-record strategy (Brown and Levinson, 1987).
**Talk show** is structured television talk, whether in its act or conversation. A talk show is anchored by a host or a team of hosts. The host has the responsibility to guide and set the limits on the talk show that elicited from the guest. A talk show is spontaneous but highly structured. Talk show maintains the illusion of present tense, whether it is live, taped, or rerun (Timberg, Erler, & Newcomb, 2002).
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter consists of three parts, namely, review of related studies, review of related theories, and theoretical framework. The review of related studies is the part to review the previous studies done by other writers. The review of related theories presents the theory applied in this research. The theoretical framework explains the contribution of the theories in the process of answering the research questions.

A. Review of Related Studies

There are several studies about politeness strategies that have been done. The first study conducted by Aryani (2017) entitled, "The Politeness Strategies Used by The Main Characters of Twilight Movie." The study analyzed the politeness strategies used by the main character in Twilight movie. The study uses movie script as the object of the study. The first finding of the study shows the four main characters in Twilight movie frequently used positive politeness. The second finding of the study shows the factors influencing four main characters used politeness strategies are payoffs and sociological variables, including social distance, relative power, and rank of imposition (pp. 87-88).

The difference between this study and the current study are the object and objective of the study. Even though, the topic of both studies is politeness strategies,
the object of the study is different. This study uses movie as the data source of the object, meanwhile, the researcher’s study uses talk show.

Another study is written by Rahastri (2017) entitled "Politeness Strategies Used by Ellen Degeneres and U.S Politicians in The Ellen Show." This study has two findings. First, the most frequently used politeness strategy is positive politeness strategy from the conversation between Ellen Degeneres, Barack Obama, and Hillary Clinton. It proves Ellen and the U.S. politician to save each other's positive face in their conversation. Second, the factors influencing the participants used positive politeness strategies are payoffs of the politeness strategies and the sociological variables (pp. 65-67).

The similarity between Rahastri’s with the current study is, both studies use talk show as the source of the object of the study. The focuses of these studies are the utterances produced by the hosts and the guests of the talk show. The difference between Rahastri uses utterances carrying politeness strategies, meanwhile this study uses utterances in the form of directive speech act as the data. Rahastri analyzes politeness strategies and the factors influencing it from clips from some episodes of The Ellen Show. Those clips are taken from the episodes of Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton in 2014. Meanwhile, this study analyzes only one episode from Super Soul Sunday talk show which involving only two participants, Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama.

The third previous study is conducted by Retnowaty (2017) in an academic journal entitled "Politeness Strategies Used by Colter Stevens as the Main Character in 'Source Code' Movie." The finding shows Colter Stevens applied all types of PL AGIAT MERUPAKAN TINDAKAN TIDAK TERPUJI
politeness, which are bald on-record strategies, positive politeness strategies, negative politeness strategies, and off-record strategies. The most frequently used strategy employed by Colter Stevens in the movie is positive politeness. The motive for particular politeness strategies applied by Colter Stevens mostly to minimize the threat to the hearer's face to avoid conflict because of the social distance between Colter Stevens and the hearers (pp. 706-707).

The difference between Retnowaty’s and this current study lies on the aims of the study and the data source. Retnowaty’s study aims to find out the politeness strategies and the factors influencing the strategies. Meanwhile, the aims of this study are to determine the types of politeness strategies use in the talk show and realize how sociological variables illustrated in each politeness strategy. Retnowaty used a movie entitled Source Code as the source of the data. Meanwhile, this study used a talk show named Super Soul Sunday.

B. Review of Related Theories

This part provides sever theories that will be used to analyze this research. The theories are the theory of pragmatics, speech act, directive speech act, maxims of politeness, face-threatening act, politeness and politeness strategies, and sociological variables in politeness strategies.

1. Pragmatics

Yule (1996) defines pragmatics as the study of speaker meaning (p.3). Pragmatics is related to the utterance uttered by the speaker and interpreted by the
listener. It focuses on the meaning of people’s utterances rather than the meaning of
the words or the phrases in the utterances.

"Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning" (Yule, 1996, p.3). Pragmatics
is the interpretation of what the speaker means in a particular context and how the
context influences what the speaker says. The context is associated with the
situation with whom the speaker is talking to and where, when, and under what
circumstances.

"Pragmatics is the study of how more gets communicated than is said" (Yule,
1996, p.3). The listener made inferences from the utterances uttered by the speaker
to arrive at an interpretation of the speaker’s intended meaning.

Yule (1996) states, pragmatics is "the study of relative distance." The speaker
is the one who decides how much utterance to be said based on the closeness of the
speaker and the listener. Yule (1996) describes the closeness between the speaker
and the hearer lies on the physical, social, conceptual, and implied shared
experience.

Leech (1983) adds pragmatics concern with the meaning used by the speaker
in relation to a speech situation. The theory is in accordance with the focus of this
study, which is pragmatics in contextual meaning. It concerns how people use
language in communication and why they use it in a particular context. To make
the conversation runs well, the participants of the conversation have to be mindful
in doing their action, either their physical gestures or utterances.
2. Speech Act

In communication, people do not only produce the utterances containing grammatical structures and words, they perform actions via those utterances. The action performed via utterances is called speech act (Yule, 1996, p. 47). Yule (1996) mentions there are five types of speech acts, namely declaration, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive.

Declaration is speech act that change the world via the utterances. It is performed in specific context where the speaker has a special role in order to make an appropriate declaration. For example, in a priest who has role to marry off the bride and the groom says, “I now pronounce you husband and wife” (Yule, 1996, p. 53).

Representative is speech act that state the speaker believe to be the case or not. The verbs denote representative speech act are statement, assertion, conclusion, and description. For example, “The earth is flat” (Yule, 1996, p. 53).

Expressive is speech act that state what the speaker feels. It states the phycological states of the speaker. It could be joy, sorrow, pain, pleasure, like, or dislike. For example, “Congratulations!” (Yule, 1996, p.53).

Directive is speech act that used to make other people to do something. It could be in the forms of command, request, suggestion, or order. For example, “Could you lend me a pen, please?” (Yule, 1996, p. 54).

Commissive is a speech act that express what the speaker aims to do in the future. It could be promise, threat, refusal, or pledges. For example, “I will be back” (Yule, 1996, p. 54).
Speech act is the part of social actions. Therefore, speech acts cannot be performed without taking politeness into consideration. In order to maintain a good relation, politeness must be applied in communication since politeness links the language use and the social context (Holtgraves, 2002, p. 38). However, the focus of this study is directive speech act used by the participants in *Super Soul Sunday* talk show.

3. Directive Speech Act

Directive speech act is a category of speech act that speakers use to get someone else to do something. The verbs denoting this category of speech act are asking, ordering, commanding, requesting, begging, pleading, praying, entreating, inviting, permitting, advising, daring, defying, and challenging (Searle, 1985, p. 14). In the usage of directive speech act, the speaker makes the world fit the words. The example of directive speech act of giving command can be seen in, "Give me a cup of coffee. Make it black" (Yule, 1996, p.54).

4. Face

Yule (1996) states face in politeness is the public self-image of a person (p. 60). It refers to that emotional and social sense of self that everyone has and expects everyone else to recognize. Everyone has a certain public self-image that they want people to see.

In accordance with Yule's definition of face, Goffman, as cited in Holtgraves (2002) states, “Face is the positive social value a person effectively claims for
himself by the line others assume he has taken during particular contact” (p. 38).
Moreover, he divides the face into two types, namely negative face and positive face.

Negative face is defined as, the want of every 'competent adult member' that his actions be unimpeded by others. It means a person has an eagerness not to be interrupted in his or her actions by others. Meanwhile, positive face is defined as, “The want of every member that his wants be desirable to at least some others” (Brown and Levinson, 1987). For example, when someone asks for help from someone else, if the person applies negative face, he says, "Would you mind opening the door?" However, if the person aims to show positive face he will say, "The room is hot, how about opening the door?"

In conversation, people have expectations concerning their public self-image to be respected, which called face wants. Some actions might threaten some individual expectations of public self-image. This action is described as Face-Threatening Act (FTA) (Yule, 1999, p. 61).

Brown and Levinson (1987) state any intended acts in verbal or non-verbal communication threatening the participants' face is called as face-threatening act. However, this study focuses on verbal communication. FTA is the act that can damage either the speaker or the hearer's face. FTA is a situation when a person avoids freedom in action (negative face) and the want to be accepted (positive face).

As an example, FTA on negative and positive face, "Why haven't you done the dishes yet?" (Holtgraves, 2002, p. 40 The speaker is threatening both the hearer's negative and positive face. The speaker threatens the hearer's negative face
by requesting the hearer to do the dishes. Moreover, the speaker threatens the hearer's positive face by criticizing the hearer for not already having done the dishes.

5. Maxims of Politeness.

Politeness principle is used to minimize the expression of impolite beliefs, and there is a corresponding of positive version which to maximize the expression of polite beliefs, which is somewhat less critical. The politeness principle has functions to maintain social steadiness and friendly relations, which enable us to assume that the participants in the conversation are cooperative (Leech, 1983, p. 81). Moreover, Leech (1983) proposes six maxims of politeness. Namely tact maxim, generosity maxim, approbation maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim, and sympathy maxim. Maxims of politeness are "other" oriented. When the speaker being "self" oriented, it can be concluded that the speaker is violating the maxim of politeness.

The maxims represent polite beliefs. Each maxim has its function. Firstly, tact maxim is minimizing cost to other and maximizing benefit to others. For example, "Could you possibly answer the phone" is considered more polite than, "Answer the phone." Second, generosity maxim minimizing benefit to self and maximizing cost to self. The utterances "Could I borrow this?" is more polite than "Could you lend me this?" Third, approbation minimizing dispraise to others and maximizing the praise of others. The example of maximizing dispraise to others is seen in the utterances "What an awful meal you cooked." Fourth, modesty maxim is
minimizing praise to self and maximizing the dispraise of self. For example, "How stupid of me." Fifth, agreement maxim is minimizing disagreement between self and other, and maximizing agreement between self and other. For example, "Yes, absolutely" is the expression to agree with the preceding statement. Sixth, sympathy maxim is minimizing antipathy between self and other, and maximizing sympathy between self and other. For example, "I am terribly sorry to hear your cat died." (Leech, 1983, p.132).

6. Politeness and Politeness Strategies

Yule (1996) states politeness means an act to show awareness of people’s face in interaction. Brown (2015) adds politeness is applied in the nature of human speech. By saying and doing things in less straightforward and considering other people's feelings means we are already polite. In other words, politeness means the speaker in an interaction puts an effort to not ruin the hearer's public self-image as much as the speaker does not want his public self-image to be ruined.

According to Brown (1998), politeness strategy is a strategy of doing an action and producing utterances in less straightforward ways. Politeness strategy is divided into four strategies, namely bald on record strategy, positive politeness strategy, negative politeness strategy, and off-record strategy. Besides applying Brown and Levinson (1987) theory of politeness, the researcher also applied the theory of politeness that conducted by Holtgraves (2002) to strengthen the argument from the previous theory by Brown and Levinson (1987).
a. Bald on Record Strategy

Bald on record is the least polite strategy. Bald on record represents the bonding to the Grice's maxims and hence maximally efficient communication (Brown and Levinson as cited in Holtgraves, 2002, p.42). Doing bald on record means the speaker aims to be clear by using straightforward and efficient utterances in expressing what the speaker aims. In bald on record, the speakers can directly address the speaker what they need using imperative forms (Yule, 2002, p.63).

For example, the speaker said, "Lend me your pen." The speaker threatens the hearer's negative face by requesting the hearer to do something. The speaker sets aside the impact of face-threatening act by being bald on record. On the other hand, the speaker is performed bald on record strategy by directly asks the hearer to lend the speaker to show great urgency or desperation.

b. Positive Politeness Strategy

Positive politeness strategy shows the speaker's intention to fulfill what the listener wants to hear. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), positive politeness is a strategy to satisfy the hearer's want by communicating what the participants in the conversation want in some respect. It is the speaker's desire for connection with the hearer. Positive politeness strategy implicates solidarity or closeness with the hearer (Holtgraves, 2002, p. 42).

Brown and Levinson, as cited in Holtgraves (2002), line three mechanisms of positive politeness strategies. First, to claim common ground with the other person. This mechanism can be accomplished by showing the speaker, and the hearer is
having something in common in group membership, similarity of interest, and values attitude. Second, to claim association by virtue of the fact that the speaker and the hearer are in some sense, cooperator. Cooperation can be conveyed by optimism, the use of inclusive terms, and explicitly noting reciprocity. Third, to fulfill the hearer's wants directly and substantially by giving gift, direct satisfaction of the hearer's desire for respect and sympathy.

Positive politeness strategy also can be accomplished by joking and using familiar address terms as used in group identity makers (Holtgraves, 2002, p. 43). For example, "Hey buddy, I'd appreciate it if you'd let me use your pen" (Yule, 2002, p. 64). This example can be a threat to the hearer's negative face because it is a request that can impede the hearer's freedom. The word 'buddy' indicates the speaker and the hearer closeness by sharing common ground. The term "buddy" also softening the imperative towards the hearer.

c. Negative Politeness Strategy

Negative politeness is the type of politeness strategies where the speakers and the hearer can have freedom in doing their activities without getting interrupted. The function of negative politeness is to minimize the particular imposition that face threatening-act cannot avoid. Negative politeness applied whenever the speaker wants to put a distance with his social interaction (Brown & Levinson, 1987).

There are five mechanisms of negative politeness strategies. First, to be conventionally indirect. It can be performed by questioning or asserting felicity
conditions underlying the act. Second, to avoid presuming or assuming anything regarding the hearer's beliefs or desires. This mechanism can be accomplished through the use of hedges. Third, it involves attempts to lessen coercion. This includes conveying pessimism, attempting to minimize imposition, humbling, and giving deference. Fourth, to explicitly communicate that one does not want to intrude on others. The mechanism can be accomplished by apologizing and indicating reluctant, indicating the impingement, or asking for forgiveness, avoiding the use 'I' and 'you,' using passive construction. Fifth, to simply go on record incurring a debt by disclaiming any indebtedness on the part of the hearer (Brown and Levinson as cited in Holtgraves, 2002)

Another example, "You do not have any spare paper, do you?" this statement threatens the hearer's positive face by criticizing the hearer. The statement shows the speaker is pessimistic to the hearer by using a question tag. The speaker presupposes the hearer does not usually have spare paper. Since the speaker does ask, the question presupposes that it is reasonable to assume the hearer may have spare paper.

d. Off-Record Politeness Strategy

Off-record politeness is indirectly addressed to the other (Yule,1996, p. 63). Brown and Levinson, cited in Holtgraves (2002), adopt Gricean maxim for categorizing off-record strategies. Off-record strategy can be categorized into each group of Gricean maxim according to the specific maxim it violated. First, violation of quality maxim can result in sarcastic irony, metaphor, and rhetorical questions.
Second, violation of manner maxim results in the use of euphemism and vagueness regarding FTA. Third, violation of quantity maxim results in understatement and overstatement. Fourth, violating maxim of relation can raising an issue that can trigger the hearer to an interpretation. It also can be violated by responding to questions that are potentially face-threatening.

For example, violation of relevance maxim where the speaker says something that is not explicitly relevant, "I am thirsty." It can threaten the hearer's negative face by indirectly requesting something. The utterance can be interpreted as "Can you get me a drink?" instead of directly asking for a drink, the speaker leaves the hearer to search for an interpretation of what the speaker want. Another example of applying quantity maxim, "Nothing wrong with him." This statement threatens the hearer's positive face by showing disagreement. This is an understatement which the speaker used to express his or her thought where the speaker does not think the person whom the speaker is talking about is very good.

7. Sociological Variables in Politeness Strategies

Brown and Levinson (1987) argue the participants of a conversation will not choose the same politeness strategy under different circumstances. Therefore, sociological variables are the factors influencing the use of politeness. There are three factors in sociological variables, namely social distance, relative power, and ranking of imposition.
a. Social Distance

Brown and Levinson (1987) define social distance as, “A symmetrical social dimension of similarity or difference within which the speaker and hearer stand for the purpose of this act” (p. 76). Social distance reflects the social closeness between the speaker and the hearer. Social distance can be measured by stable attributes such as age, sex, social class, and ethnic background. The conversation between friends can be informal since there is no great social distance. In contrast, the higher the social distance will trigger the participant in the conversation to apply a higher degree of politeness strategies. The realization of social distance can either far distance or close distance.

As an example, the conversation between friends, "Got the time, mate?” asks the speaker to his friend. The first example is applied because the speaker is close with the hearer, or the speaker and the hearer know each other. Meanwhile, when the speaker talks to his manager, he applies a higher degree of politeness, "Excuse me, sir, would you buy any chance have the time?” The second example is used because the speaker and the hearer are distant (Brown and Levinson, 1987, p. 80)

b. Relative Power

Brown and Levinson define power as the degree to which the hearer can impose his plans and his self-evaluation (face) at the expense of the speaker's plans and self-evaluation. The source of power is coming from material control, which including economic distribution and physical force, and metaphysical control, which including the actions of others and the virtue of metaphysical force subscribe
to by those others (p. 77). The power illustrated in politeness is rated base on the
power that the hearer has over the speaker. Therefore, power is divided into three
category those are, low to high power, equal power, and high to low power.

For example, "Excuse me, sir, would it be alright if I smoke?" This example
might be said by an employee to his boss to ask permission. The second example
of power, "Mind if I smoke?" This utterance might be told by the boss to the
employee, the power of the speaker is greater than the hearer (Brown and Levinson,
1987, p. 80).

c. Ranking of Imposition

Ranking of impositions is the degree which considered interfere the hearer’s
positive and negative faces" (Brown and Levinson, 1987, p. 77). There are two types
of the rank of impositions, ranks order requiring services and ranks order requiring
goods. The interference is the FTA that done by the speaker. The higher the FTA,
the greater the imposition will be.

For example, "I'm terribly sorry to bother you, but would you lending me
just enough money to get a railway ticket home?" The speaker does the FTA on the
hearer's negative face by requesting for lending money from the hearer. The speaker
does the imposition that requires goods.

C. Review of Related Background

Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama are good friends. They had met several
times for interviews before Michelle was invited to Super Soul Sunday talk show to
talk about her memoir. In some parts of the talk show, they even dropped formality when speaking to each other. Furthermore, in the talk shows there were some moments when Oprah could relate to Michelle's story about the struggles being the first black family who got to live in the white house because they belong to the same race background, which is Afro-American. Also, back in 2008, Oprah endorsed the former elected U.S. President Barack Obama, who is Michelle's husband. Those facts prove Oprah and Michelle maintain a good relationship from time to time.

D. Theoretical Framework

The focus of this research is the utterances that the participants use in the talk show. The researcher applies pragmatics theory to get better comprehension of the language use in context. Furthermore, speech act theory, specifically directive speech act is applied as the guide in collecting the utterances which are going to be used as the data. Moreover, face theory is applied to realize the FTA that the participants in the talk show done. In addition, the theory of maxims of politeness is used to discover if there is any effort from the participants of the talk show to soften the use of language in communication that will be related to the application of politeness theory.
The theory of politeness strategies helps to answer problem formulation number one in classifying the type of politeness strategies applied by the participants in the Super Soul Sunday talk show in the episode Becoming. Furthermore, Brown and Levinson's theory of sociological variables is applied as a guide for the researcher to find out how sociological variables illustrated in the use of particular politeness strategies in the talk show.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter consists of three parts, namely the object of the study, the approach of the study, and the method of the study. The object of the study describes the information about the data that was studied in this research. The approach of the study explains the approach that was used in analyzing the data. The method of the study shows the procedure in analyzing the data.

A. Object of the Study

The object in this study is the utterances produced by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in Super Soul Sunday talk show episode Becoming. Super Soul Sunday is an American talk show aired on OWN or Oprah Winfrey Network. Oprah Winfrey is the host of the talk show. Super Soul Sunday aired its first episode in 2011 in the episode The World Beyond with Jonas Elord as the guest. The talk show has won many awards since 2012, such as the outstanding special class series in 39th, 41st, and 44th Daytime Emmy Awards, the outstanding special or variety of 2012 in Gracie Awards, and the outstanding talk show of 2016 in Gracie Awards.

The episode of Becoming was aired on November 18, 2018. The duration of Becoming episode was one hour and fifteen minutes. The episode has Michelle Obama as the guest. Michelle Obama came as the guest in order to talk about her memoir, which just released on November 13, 2018. The utterances in the form of
directive speech act produced by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama were chosen as the object of the study.

B. Approach of the Study

This study applied a pragmatic approach in analyzing the object of the study, which is Super Soul Sunday talk show episode Becoming. In the talk show, the host might threaten the guest's public self-image, whether intentionally or intentionally. The phenomenon could be analyzed by a pragmatic approach, which was politeness. Pragmatics deals with meaning and context. The sociological variables illustrated in the use of particular politeness strategies were answered using politeness theory. Politeness theory also applied to categorize the type of politeness used by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in Super Soul Sunday talk show episode Becoming.

C. Method of the Study

1. Data Collection

This study applied a purposive sampling type heterogeneous as the data collection method. Maxwell (1997) states, "Purposive sampling is a strategy in which particular settings, persons, or events are deliberately selected for important information they can provide that cannot be gotten as well from other choices" (p.235). Holloway and Wheeler, as cited by Ritchie and Lewis (2014) describe heterogeneous sampling as, "A deliberate strategy to include phenomena which vary widely from each other. The aim is to identify central themes which cut across
the variety of cases or people." The researcher chose utterances containing directive speech act as the data.

The data are collected from a video of *Super Soul Sunday* talk show episode *Becoming*. The video was taken from *Super Soul Sunday*’s official Facebook page. The length of the video was one hour and fifteen minutes. Furthermore, the researcher took the episode’s transcript from www.listennotes.com. Later, directive speech act utterances are collected as the data. The researcher found twelve utterances applying directive speech from Oprah Winfrey, and nine utterances from Michelle Obama.

2. Data Analysis

Firstly, the researcher watched the video and read the talk show script. Later, the utterances which indicated the use of directive speech act that have politeness purposes is chosen as the data. Secondly, the utterances were analyzed whether or not there was a violation of politeness maxims. This step was done to discover the effort from the speaker to soften the face threatening-act in the utterances they produced. Thirdly, the researcher examined what face the participants threatened in each utterance to decide the mechanism of politeness strategy in the utterances. Lastly, the utterances were classified into each type of politeness strategy. This step was done to answer the first problem of this study. Furthermore, the findings in the first problem formulation were analyzed using the theory of sociological variables to answer the second problem formulation to reveal how politeness strategy illustrated in each politeness strategy.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter discussed the two main problems of this research. The first problem is to find out the politeness strategies used by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in *Super Soul Sunday* episode *Becoming*. The second problem is to reveal how sociological variables illustrated in each politeness strategy in the talk show.

A. Politeness Strategies Used by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in *Super Soul Sunday* Talk Show Episode *Becoming*

This part unveils that Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama used several politeness strategies in their conversation in the talk show. The researchers find out there are three types of politeness strategies applied in the talk show. Those are bald on record strategy, positive politeness strategy, and negative politeness strategy. The table below presents the findings of the types of politeness strategies in *Super Soul Sunday* talk show episode *Becoming*. 
Table 1. Politeness Strategies Applied by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in *Super Soul Sunday* Talk Show Episode *Becoming*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Type of Politeness</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Oprah</th>
<th>Michelle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bald on Record</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Negative Politeness</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Off Record</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are four types of politeness proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). Oprah applied three politeness strategies. They are bald on record, positive politeness, and negative politeness. The most used strategy by Oprah is positive politeness strategy. Off-record strategy is absent in Oprah's utterances.

Meanwhile, the politeness strategies applied by Michelle are bald on record and positive politeness. Positive politeness is the most used strategy by Michelle in the talk show. Negative politeness and off-record strategies are absent in Michelle's utterances.

3. Positive Politeness Strategy

The function of positive politeness is to satisfy the hearer's positive face. In this strategy, the speaker aims to fulfill what the hearer wants to hear. Other motives for applying positive politeness are to show interest, and sympathy. Positive
politeness represents the solidarity or closeness between a group of friends or people who know each other well. The researcher found six utterances containing positive politeness strategy from Oprah Winfrey and eight utterances from Michelle Obama.

The researcher found some patterns in positive politeness utterances. The directive speech found in Oprah utterances are asking, and defying. There is no violation of maxims of politeness in those utterances. All of the utterances threaten the hearer's positive face. Meanwhile, directive speech found in Michelle’s utterances are commanding, advising, and permitting. Directive speech in commanding utterances violates tact maxims, advising utterances do not violate maxims of politeness, and permitting utterances violating modesty maxim. Commanding and advising utterances threaten the hearer's negative face, while permitting utterances threatening positive face.

The first mechanism of positive politeness strategy found in this research is claiming common ground. This mechanism involves the speaker claiming common ground with the hearer by indicating that the speaker and the hearer share specific wants, including goals and values. The analyzes of this mechanism are presented in the data below.

**M/Defying/00:07:11**
Michelle: I know whether we like it or not, Barack and I, my husband and I, we are role models. And you know I hate when people who in the public eye and even seek the public eye, I want to step back and say I'm not a role model because I don't want that responsibility. Too late, you are. And that means young people are looking at you. And I don't want young people to look at me here and now as Michelle Obama and think, well she never had it rough, she never had challenges, she never had fears, she never got…

**Oprah:** Well, we're not going to think that after reading this book.
Michelle: **Oh, no, you're not.**

Michelle is violating maxim of modesty since she accepts Oprah's compliment on her book. Michelle is minimizing threats towards Oprah's positive face by avoiding disagreement. Seeking agreement is a strategy for doing positive politeness. The agreement can be stressed by repeating on the part of the previous speaker said. In the conversation above, Oprah asked Michelle about her feeling when she wrote her private life in the memoir. She tells Oprah people might think of her as a woman who never experiences any struggle in her life because they see who she is now. Responding to Michelle's story, Oprah shared her opinion that people will not think like that after they read the memoir. Furthermore, Michelle agreed with Oprah's opinion by repeating Oprah's previous utterance. The positive politeness strategies that applied in this utterance has purpose to show interest to other participant because they are involved in the same activity at the moment.

Another claiming common ground mechanism found in the talk show is the point of view flip, which shown in the conversation below.

**M/Advising/00:11:22**

Oprah: But in reading "Becoming," I can see how every single thing because I do believe this, that everything you're doing right now in your life in your classroom is preparing you for the moments and years ahead and...

Michelle: I guess if you think about it that way.

Oprah: Yeah.

Michelle: **You know, I really want you girls to understand this if you view yourself as a serious person in the world not having fun, but the truth is every decision that you make really does build who you are going to become.**

The sample above shows the directive speech act in the form of advising.

There is no violation of maxims of politeness found in the utterances above. The
example also indicates Michelle is threatening Oprah's negative face by giving advice. As Michelle indicates by giving advice to Oprah, there is a chance that Oprah has to take the advice she gives. Michelle applies positive politeness strategy by claiming common ground point of view flip. The strategy is seen in the use of the expression, "you know." The expression is functioned as a device to bring the hearer and the speaker points of view together (Ajimer, 2002). In the preceding utterances, Oprah praises how good Michelle painted the ambiance in her book. Thus, make Oprah feels like she was there sitting with Michelle's family. Before Michelle explains more about her childhood life, she draws Oprah's attention into her story using "you know" at the beginning of her sentence. Positive politeness in the form of advising in this datum has function to show sympathy to the hearer. Directive speech act in the form of advising only appears in Michelle's utterances. The pattern of advising speech act shows there is no violation of maxim and negative, and no face of the hearer is threatened. This datum follows the pattern of advising directive speech act. Positive politeness strategy by applying point of view flip also found in Oprah utterances.

O/Asking/00:18:23

Oprah: But you know, one of the great indications of your personality to calm, was in the first grade. Was a first-grade kindergarten? When you, when you missed "the word."

Michelle: It was kindergarten.

Oprah: Kindergarten. You missed the way. You missed “the word.”

Michelle: Right.

The datum above is a directive speech act in the form of asking. There is no violation of maxims of politeness in the Oprah utterance. By applying positive politeness strategy, Oprah is lessening the FTA towards Michelle’s positive face.
Oprah is applying positive politeness strategy by claiming common ground personal point of view flip. The strategy is marked by the use of “you know.” The expression is applied at the beginning of the sentence to bring the hearer’s attention to the conversation. Another strategy for claiming common ground found in the talk show is exaggerating approval. This strategy is presented in the conversation below.

**M/Permitting/00:16:16**

Oprah: But the picture that you painted so beautifully. And becoming is that you all each were part of a corner of the square and that your family was the square. The four of you together represented that.

Michelle: Yes, absolutely.

Oprah: And I could feel that the pieces of ice cream that you got.

Michelle, in the conversation above, applies directive speech by explicitly giving permission to Oprah to continue her utterances. Michelle violated maxim of modesty as she agrees with Oprah’s commendation towards her memoir. Michelle avoids threatening Oprah’s positive face by exaggerating her approval towards Oprah's preceding utterances. Exaggerating approval is one of the strategies for claiming common ground. Michelle is exaggerating her approval by using the expression "absolutely," which, according to Brown and Levinson (1987), "absolutely" is part of exaggerated expressions (p. 106). The analyzes above present the datum follows the pattern of Michelle's permitting directive speech in positive politeness strategy where there is a violation of modesty, and the positive face of the hearer is threatened.

The second positive politeness mechanism found in the talk show is conveying the speaker and the hearer are cooperators. This mechanism defines as the want to convey that the speaker and the hearer are cooperatively involved in a
relevant activity. If the speaker and the hearer are cooperating, it means they share goals in the same domain. The analyzes are presented in the conversation below.

**O/Asking/00:59:52**

Michelle: Just as a reminder, if he gets killed or hurt, there's an ambulance with him all the time. You know, all of that was very sobering, and I was like this is our new life, and they said, "Yes, Ma'am, please get in the car." We were shot out of the cannon added, and you know, that became our life for the next day.

Oprah: Did you feel the pressure being the first black family? Because you know what, we've all been raised with, you got to work twice as hard to get half as far, and before you came out, it was saying meticulous, not a misstep.

Oprah uses directive speech act in the form of asking. She demands an answer from Michelle. There is no violation of the maxims of politeness. Oprah is minimizing the FTA towards Michelle's positive face by saying she and Michelle are facing the same struggle as black people. This act might threaten Michelle's positive face because Oprah may misidentify Michelle in an offensive or embarrassing way, intentionally or accidentally. The conversation above shows Oprah and Michelle in some sense, are cooperators. The used of positive politeness strategy in the datum is to show familiarity. It is marked by the use of the expression "we" which has function to include both she and Michelle in the same experience as "we" refers to "you" and "I." The expression "we" presents togetherness among Oprah and Michelle. Directive speech act in the form of asking only appears in Oprah's utterances. The datum follows the pattern where no maxim violation is found, and the positive face of the hearer is threatened. Another strategy for conveying the speaker and the hearer are cooperators found in the talk show is being optimistic.
M/Commanding/01.14.46

Oprah: So, you feel optimistic for our country?
Michelle: So, yes, we have to be.

Michelle applies the directive speech act by giving command. She violates tact maxim by giving command, which considered putting a cost to the hearer. Michelle is threatening Oprah's negative face as she states that they have to be optimistic about their country. The use of the expression "we have to be" confirms Michelle is so presumptuous to assume that Oprah also wants what she wants as "we" refers to "you" and "I." Being optimistic is a strategy for conveying the speaker and the hearer are cooperators. Oprah and Michelle talk about Donald Trump, the president elected. Oprah brings the conversation into Michelle's book, where she is blatantly writing about Donald Trump declares a notion that Barack Obama was not born in the U.S. The idea has misled the public. It put the Obamas life at risk. However, Michelle still feels optimistic about the future of the U.S under Donald Trump's leadership. The finding presents the datum follows the pattern of commanding directive speech in positive politeness strategy. Applying positive politeness strategy by being optimistic also found in Oprah's utterance.

O/Asking/00:11:49

Michelle: You know, and I really want you girls to understand this if you view yourself as a serious person in the world, not having fun. But the truth is, every decision that you make really does build to who you are going to become.
Oprah: Yes, and I can see that from you in the first grade when you were at an achiever with a plus, plus, plus.
Michelle: My mother said I was a little extra as a little extra
Oprah: Yes. And so, you write in the book how getting those little gold stars. I don't think you get gold star anymore, right?
Oprah is using a directive speech act by asking. The conversation above does not violate any maxims of politeness. Oprah is threatening Michelle’s positive face by bringing a topic which quite sensitive for Michelle when she was a child. According to Brown and Levinson (1987) "right" is considered an optimistic expression. Oprah is optimistic by inserting the expression "right" after her statement. The finding shows the datum follows the pattern of the directive speech act in the form of asking.

The last positive politeness strategy mechanism found in this research is fulfilling the hearer's want. This mechanism involves the speaker want to satisfy the hearer's positive face by directly fulfilling some of the hearer's wants. This mechanism can be done by giving gifts to the hearer. The give in this mechanism is not only tangible gifts, but also human-relations wants.

O/ Asking/00:02:15

Oprah: Let me just say, I, as you know, I love books, nothing makes me happier than sitting down with a good read and so when I started to read this and realize like in the preface what an extraordinary book was forthcoming I was so proud of you. May I say? You landed it. You landed it. The book is tender. It is compelling. It is powerful. It is raw. And I was struck actually by the beautiful cover ‘Becoming’ Michelle Obama, so struck that I have now made it Oprah’s book club. And I had, I think you are seventy-nine book choice and Leigh Haber, whose editor of books I said, “Leigh, I love this book so much.” But Michelle and I are friends. I don't know can I do that how’s I got a look.

Michelle: Yes.

The highlighted utterance appears at the beginning of the talk show. The directive speech act is found in the form of asking. There is no violation on the maxim of politeness. Oprah is minimizing the FTA towards Michelle’s positive face by applying positive politeness strategy. Positive politeness strategy is applied
by giving gifts to the hearer. In this context, the gift refers to compliment that Oprah gives to Michelle about how good Michelle’s memoir “Becoming.” Another example of positive politeness by giving gifts is presented in the example below.

O/Asking/00:13:36

Oprah: And you mentioned this phrase I love so much, I think it should be on a t-shirt or something, you say "Failure, it is a feeling long before it becomes and actual result. It is a vulnerability that breeds with self-doubt and then escalated often deliberately by fear." And that, this idea stuck with me that failure is a long before it becomes an actual result, you knew this when?

Michelle: First grade.

Oprah is using directive speech act by asking. There is no violation of maxims of politeness in her utterances. She is minimizing FTA towards Michelle's positive face by giving a compliment to Michelle. From the conversation above, Oprah is clearly trying to satisfy Michelle's positive face by complimenting a phrase that she loves so much from the book. This form of mechanism is done not by the action of gift-giving but more like human-relations by satisfying the hearer's wants to be liked and admired. The analyzes show the datum follows the pattern of directive speech act in the form of asking.

The findings present some characteristics used by Oprah and Michelle in positive politeness strategy. All of Oprah's positive politeness utterances are threatening the hearer's positive face and violating no maxims. Meanwhile, in Michelle's utterances, most of her utterances are threatening the hearer's negative face, except for the use of directive speech of permitting is threatening the hearer's positive face. In giving command, Michelle violates tact maxims, while in granting permission, she violates modesty maxims.
4. Bald on Record Strategy

Bald on record is considered as the least polite strategy because of the absence of politeness to maximize the efficiency of communication (Holtgraves, 2002, p. 42). Bald on record is performed when the speaker aims to be clear by using straightforward and efficient utterances in expressing what the speaker aims. The first mechanism of this strategy is the non-minimization of FTA.

Directive speech of commanding is used in all of the bald on record strategy. In their utterances, both Oprah and Michelle violate tact maxim. They also threaten each other negative face by being bald on record.

O/Commanding/00:52:03

Michelle: I want young couples as they read this to sort of see themselves and to see the choices that they’re making as they go along and if they can see that in me and Barack, you know, maybe it will give them something to think about when they hit the bumps in their own lives.

Oprah: I love that, and I love how you were always rationalizing between Mary Tyler Moore. Look her up, Google! Mary Tyler Moore being Mary Tyler Moore and Marion trying to balance that, which every woman is still trying to do.

The directive speech act is done by giving command to the audience that comes to the talk show. Oprah is violating tact maxim, rather than maximizing benefit to the audience, Oprah is putting a cost on the audience by giving a command. She threatens the audience's negative faces, as she expects them to do as her command. Oprah applies bald on record of non-minimization FTA by using imperative. The strategy is employed when Oprah talks about Mary Tyler Moore. She instructs the audience who do not know Mary Tyler Moore to search for Mary Tyler Moore on Google. The analyzes above present the datum follows the pattern.
of commanding directive speech act in bald on record strategy. Another bald on record strategy applied by Oprah also seen in the utterances below.

O/Commanding/00:56:45

Oprah: Describe for us that moment when you're standing with Cornelius. I call it we're not in Kansas anymore. You're standing with Cornelius and you see the motorcade for the first time.

Michelle: Cornelius was one of my Secret Service Agents at the time. We had gotten because of death threats, and all this in the campaign, I think Barack was one of the earliest presidential candidates to be assigned a secret service detail, and eventually, I was assigned it because my crowds over the course of the campaign it gotten big.

The sample above is a directive speech act in the form of commanding. Following the pattern of bald on record strategy, Oprah is violating the tact maxim of politeness. The maxim is violated by giving a command to Michelle to explain something. Therefore, the negative face of Michelle is threatened, as Oprah is imposing Michelle’s negative face by giving command. The bald on record strategy is applied in the form of imperative, as Oprah demands an explanation from Michelle about the motorcade experience she had with Cornelius, her Secret Service Agent. Another imperative strategy found in the talk show also applied by Michelle presented in the conversation below.

M/Commanding/01:03:06

Michelle: If you tap into your true story and share that truth, it resonates with nothing.

Oprah: Well, that *Becoming* does. Color, and location, and region, and those are all that stuff is stuff. You know what you know. You know how good this book is?

Michelle: How good? Tell us all

Michelle applies the directive speech act by giving command. She violated tact maxim by do not maximize the benefit to Oprah. Michelle also threatens
Oprah's negative face as she asks Oprah to do something for her. Bald on record of non-minimization of FTA is applied by using imperative in the conversation above. Michelle instructs Oprah to tell how good her memoir is. The finding presents the datum follows the pattern of commanding directive speech act in bald on record strategy.

This study identified two characteristics in the use of bald on record strategies. All the characteristics present in both Oprah and Michelle's utterances. The two identifiable characteristics in bald on record are FTA toward negative faces and violation of tact maxims.

5. Negative Politeness Strategy

Negative politeness strategy is performed to address the hearer's negative face that includes the want to have freedom in action. It results in the indirectness of giving instructions. There are five mechanisms of negative politeness strategy proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). However, the researcher found two mechanisms from 2 utterances which applied negative politeness strategy. Negative politeness strategy in this research appeared only in Oprah's utterances, and negative politeness is absent in Michelle's utterances.

Directive speech in Oprah utterances found in the talk show is in the form of asking. There is no violation of the maxims of politeness in Oprah's utterances. Oprah threatens Michelle's negative face by applying negative politeness strategy.

The first mechanism found in this research is being conventionally indirect. This form can be done by questioning or asserting a felicity condition underlying
the act (Holtgraves, 2002). The data below shows Oprah apply negative politeness strategy by being conventionally indirect.

O/Asking/00:05:34

Michelle: And if I stop looking, I would have missed out on so much. So, I'm still becoming, and I hope all of us know that we are constantly evolving. So, this is the story of my journey of becoming, and hopefully, it will spark conversation among a lot of people, especially young people, about what their journey looks like.

Oprah: You know, there's so many private revelations in this book that I was surprised by. And I was wondering was writing about your private life was that scary? And did you lose sleep about want to put that in, want to put that out?

The directive speech act is applied by asking. There is no violation of the maxims of politeness in the conversation. Oprah is threatening Michelle's negative face as she thinks Michelle ought to answer her question. Oprah delivered her question indirectly by inserting the word "wondering" to decrease the face-threatening act by the use of direct questions. Rather than directly delivered her question with the expression "Was writing about..." Oprah applied, "I was wondering, was writing about..." which considered more polite. The analyzes present Oprah follows the pattern of commanding directive speech act in bald on record strategy

Another negative politeness mechanism found in the talk show is lessening coercion. The mechanism does not only include conventional indirectness but also conveys pessimism regarding the appropriateness of the act to be performed. The mechanism is marked by the use of the subjunctive, tag questions, remote possibility makers, and attempts to minimize imposition.
O/Asking/ 00:07:22

Oprah: Millions of people have been wondering, how you are, how you doing the transition? And I think in your story of Becoming, in the very beginning of the book that there's no better example of how you are than the toast story. **Can you share the toast story?**

Michelle: It's probably one of the first the first weeks that we moved into our new home after their transition in our new home in Washington, and we live in a really nice neighborhood.

The directive speech act is applied by asking questions. Oprah does not violate any maxims of politeness in utterance above. She threatens Michelle's negative face as she thinks that Michelle might answer her question. Oprah was talking about Michelle's story of making toast when she was still the first lady of the U.S. that Michelle shared in her memoir. The data above showing pessimism in Oprah's utterances. The pessimism is marked by the use of "can you." This form leaves the freedom to Michelle whether she would like to share the story or not. The negative politeness used by Oprah indicates she is aware of Michelle's negative face. Despite directly told Michelle to share her story, Oprah applied negative politeness strategies to lessen the face threat towards Michelle's negative face. The finding shows Oprah follows the pattern of commanding directive speech in bald on record.

Negative politeness strategy is only found in Oprah's utterances. There are two identifiable characteristics used by Oprah in negative politeness strategy. Firstly, all the negative politeness strategies are threatened the hearer's negative faces. Secondly, there is no maxim violated in the utterances.
B. Sociological Variables Illustrated in Each Politeness Strategy

Each politeness strategy has a motive in its application to minimize the face-threatening act. The seriousness of a face-threatening act can be measured by three possible sociological variables, namely social distance, relative power, and rank of imposition (Brown and Levinson, 1987). All utterances must consist of all three sociological variables.

Each politeness strategy has its own patterns of sociological variables. In positive politeness strategy, the directive speech found in Oprah utterances mostly has close distance, equal and low to high power, and low rank of imposition. Meanwhile, Michelle's utterances mostly have close distance, high to low and equal power, and high and low imposition.

In bald on record strategy, all the directive speeches are in the form of giving command. The pattern of sociological variables of distance both in Oprah and Michelle are close. The power in Oprah utterances is equal and high to low. Meanwhile, the power in Michelle's utterances are equal and low to high. The rank of imposition in both Oprah and Michelle's utterances are high.

Negative politeness strategy only applied by Oprah. The directive speech utterances are in the form of asking. The pattern of sociological variables in Oprah's negative politeness utterances shows far distance, low to high power, and low rank of imposition.
1. Sociological Variables Illustrated in Positive Politeness Strategy

There are some patterns in sociological variables in positive politeness utterances. The directive speech found in Oprah utterances are asking, commanding, and defying. Most of the utterances have equal and low to high power, close distance, and low rank of imposition, except in directive speech in the form of asking. Four of them identified have far distance and low rank of imposition, and the other one has close distance and high rank of imposition.

Meanwhile, directive speech found in Michelle's utterances are commanding, advising, defying, and permitting. Most of the utterances have close distance, high to low and equal power, and high rank of imposition except in directive speech in the form of advising, two of them are identified have a high rank of imposition, the other one has low-rank imposition. In a directive speech in the form of permitting, three of them are identified to have a low rank of imposition. The sociological variables illustrated in positive politeness strategies are explained below.

**O/Asking/00:02:15**

Oprah: Let me just say, I, as you know, I love books, nothing makes me happier than sitting down with a good read and so when I started to read this and realize like in the preface what an extraordinary book was forthcoming. *I was so proud of you. May I say? You landed it. You landed it.*

The datum portrays Oprah applies positive politeness strategy by giving gifts to Michelle's positive face. Oprah positioned herself has equal power by uttering the highlighted utterances because she is the host of the talk show. The distance between Oprah and Michelle seems far, but there is a tendency Oprah is trying to lessen the distance by applying positive politeness strategy by satisfying Michelle's
positive face. The far distance may apply to keep the formality of the talk show. The highlight indicates the utterance has a low rank of imposition because Oprah is trying to minimize imposition by asking is it possible to give a compliment on Michelle's book in front of her. Another example of sociological variables in positive politeness of directive speech act by asking is presented below.

**O/Asking/**00:59:52

Oprah: Did you feel the pressure being the first black family? *Because you know what we've all been raised with, you got to work twice as hard to get half as far, and before you came out, it was saying meticulous, not a misstep.*

The positive politeness strategy is applied by including Michelle in the same experience. The social distance between Oprah and Michelle is presented to be close as Oprah identifies Michelle and her belong to the same race background, which is Afro-American. The power also is seen to be equal, as Oprah and Michelle have the same racial background. The rank of imposition is high because the racial topic is quite sensitive to be brought up in conversation.

**O/Asking/**00:18:23

Oprah: But you know, one of the great indications of your personality to calm, was in the first grade. Was a first-grade kindergarten? *When you, when you miss "the word."*

Oprah is talking about the experience Michelle’s had in her school days. Michelle wrote in the memoir that there was one word she could not read even though she already can read at that time. The word they are talking about is “white.” They still use the expression “the word” instead “white” in the talk show. The social distance is close because Oprah and Michelle are sharing familiarity by using a term that only they can understand. Oprah puts herself has equal power with Michelle
since they are sharing common knowledge. The rank of imposition is low since Oprah is minimizing the FTA towards Michelle’s positive face by applying positive politeness by claiming common ground. Another example of sociological variables illustrated in positive politeness strategy also found in Michelle’s utterances.

M/Advising/00:51:05

Michelle: **I am like a lit match like phooof.** And he wants to rationalize everything, you know, that is what you learn in a relationship. So you also have to learn how to argue he has to learn to give me like a couple minutes or hour before he should even come in the room when he's made me mad and he has to understand that he can't convince me out of my anger that he can't he can't logic me into some other feeling that my feelings.

Michelle is talking about her household. At the beginning of the sentence, she is joking about the personality differences between her and Barack Obama, her husband. It can be said Michelle is trying to lessen the distance between her and Oprah by using jokes as a joke is used to show intimacy between the speaker and the hearer. Michelle also ignores her power as the former first lady of the U.S. by joking. She considers herself to be equal with Oprah, who is the host of the talk show. It shows the utterances have low imposition as joking is used to minimize the FTA towards Oprah's negative face since the highlighted utterance later is followed by advice. Another example of sociological variables illustrated in positive politeness strategy is seen in commanding.

M/Commanding/01:13:53

Michelle: **Yes, and we have to feel that optimism for these kids.**

Michelle shows her intention to lessen distance through the act of positive politeness by being optimistic. The expression "we have to be" made sense of
optimism in Michelle's utterance. The use of "we" indicates the distance is close between Michelle and Oprah as "we" stands for "you" and "I." Michelle puts herself to be equal and has higher power than Oprah at the same time. It can be seen Michelle positions herself equal with Oprah by the use of "we." Meanwhile, by giving command, she puts herself has higher power than Oprah because she gives a command to Oprah since she is the former first lady whose husband Barack Obama, whom Oprah endorsed in 2008. The imposition is seen to be high since commanding can threaten Oprah's negative face.

2. Sociological Variables Illustrated in Bald on Record Strategy

Bald on record strategy is used when the speaker aims to do FTA with maximum efficiency more than he or she wants to satisfy the hearer's face (Brown and Levinson, 1987, p. 95). In other words, the strategy is applied when the speaker aims to be clear and efficient in making utterance without taking FTA into consideration.

The directive speech found in Oprah and Michelle's utterances are commanding. All of the utterances have close distance and high rank of imposition. The difference lies in power. Oprah bald on record strategies have equal and low to high power. Meanwhile, Michelle bald on record strategy has equal and high to low power.

O/Commanding/ 00:45:11

Oprah: Tell us about the pivotal moment you had in counseling. I thought that was crucial.
The highlighted utterance applies bald on record strategy by directly giving a command. Bald on record is a strategy that indicates the closeness between the speaker and the hearer. Moreover, the distance between Oprah and Michelle is close as Oprah is the host of the talk show. It means she has the authority to ask the guest to do something even when the guest is Michelle Obama, who was the former first lady of the U.S. She considered herself has equal power with Michelle. By directly using imperative, she considers Michelle as her friend. Furthermore, the imposition in this strategy is high because Oprah directly asks Michelle to do something that can threaten Michelle's negative face.

**O/Commanding/00:56:45**

Oprah: **Describe for us that moment when you're standing with Cornelius.**
I call it we're not in Kansas anymore. You're standing with Cornelius, and you see the motorcade for the first time.

Oprah applies bald on record strategy in the form of imperative. The highlighted utterance follows the pattern of sociological variables found in bald on record strategy. The social distance is close since bald on record is applied when the speaker and the hearer are sharing some familiarity. The power is identified as equal, and delivered by lower power speaker to higher power hearer. The rank of imposition is high because giving command is considered as imposition towards the hearer's negative face. Sociological variables illustrated in bald on record strategy also found in Michelle's utterance.

**M/Commanding/01:03:06**

Michelle: How good? **Tell us all.**

The social distance is close since the use of bald on record strategy is used to minimize the distance as it shows familiarity between the speaker and the hearer.
In the preceding utterance, Oprah was talking about how good Michelle’s memoir is. Later, Michelle demanded Oprah elaborates more about how good the memoir by telling her and the audience in the talk show. By being bald on record, Michelle decreases the distance between her and Oprah as they are sharing familiarity. The power is found equal and delivers by a higher power speaker to lower power hearer. It is equal because bald on record strategy is the least polite strategy. Bald on record strategy only applied in familiar relationships such as between friends. Michelle and Oprah have met in several interviews, and they become friends because of that. The utterance delivers by a higher power speaker, Michelle is the former first lady of the U.S. It means she has more power compared to Oprah in giving a command. The imposition is found high since giving command is an act to instruct people to do something. This act can directly impose Oprah’s negative face.

3. Sociological Variables Illustrated in Negative Politeness Strategy

Negative politeness is seen as the politest strategy. Negative politeness is oriented to negative face, which can be interpreted as the want to be independent in action and freedom from imposition. The sociological variables illustrated in negative politeness strategy only found in Oprah's utterances.

The sociological variables illustrated in negative politeness strategy by Oprah. All of negative politeness strategy utterances are in the form of asking. All of the utterances have far distance, low to high power, and low rank of imposition.
O/Asking/00:05:34

Oprah: You know, there's so many private revelations in this book that I was surprised by, and I was wondering was writing about your private life was that scary? And did you lose sleep?

Oprah applied negative politeness strategy by being conventionally indirect. The question Oprah delivered was an innocent question that provoked curiosity. It shows by delivering her question indirectly, Oprah is aware that she has to be polite toward Michelle. Because she has higher power than Oprah as she is the former first lady of the U. S. It explains the distance is far since Oprah applied the politest strategy in her utterances. The imposition towards negative face is low because the politest strategy is applied. Another example is presented below.

O/Asking/ 00:07:22

Oprah: Millions of people have been wondering, how you are, how you doing the transition? And I think in your story of Becoming, in the very beginning of the book that there's no better example of how you are than the toast story. Can you share the toast story?

Being pessimistic is the realization of negative politeness. In the utterance above, Oprah showed her pessimism by doubting. As being pessimistic, Oprah was aware Michelle might refuse to answer Oprah's question as much as she wants to keep her negative face wants. The pessimism in Oprah's utterance explained that Michelle has more power than Oprah. The social distance is presented to be far since this utterance consists of the politest strategy. Because of the use of the politest strategy, the imposition towards Michelle's negative face is low since she has options whether to lose or to keep her negative face wants.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This part presents the conclusion of the two problem formulations. The first problem is to find the types of politeness strategy used by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama in *Super Soul Sunday* talk show episode *Becoming*. The second problem is to reveal how sociological variables illustrated in each politeness strategy.

The researcher found there are three types out of four politeness strategies proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987) from the talk show. There are twenty-one utterances containing politeness strategy found in the talk show. Oprah applied positive politeness strategy for six times, bald on record strategy four times, negative politeness strategy two times. Meanwhile, there are nine utterances carried politeness strategy by Michelle Obama containing eight positive politeness strategies, and one bald on record strategy. Off record strategy is absent in both Oprah and Michelle's utterances, and negative politeness strategy is absent in Michelle's utterances. Positive politeness strategy is the most used strategy either by Oprah or Michelle. Besides has role to satisfy the hearer's positive face, positive politeness strategies present familiarity, interest, and sympathy.

The sociological variables illustrated in each politeness strategy indicates in communicating with people who have a higher power, the speaker has a tendency to use negative politeness strategy. Meanwhile, when the speaker and the hearer are familiar with each other, and in specific topics, they tend to use the least polite
strategy in their conversation as in positive politeness strategy and bald on record strategy.

Politeness can be found in daily conversations, movies, books, plays, and talk shows. These examples can be a source for future researchers to observe the politeness strategy. However, this research provides an example of the application of politeness strategy found in the talk show called Super Soul Sunday. The researcher hopes this research can help future researchers to understand the application of pragmatics, especially in the field of politeness.
REFERENCES


APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The Full Transcript of the Talk Show

Oprah: Please welcome Michelle Lavaughn Robinson Obama.
Michelle: Hi, guys, how are you guys doing? Look at these ladies. Thank you so much.
Oprah: Let me just say, I, as you know I love books, nothing makes me happier than sitting down with a good read and so when I started to read this and realize like in the preface what an extraordinary book was forthcoming I was so proud of you. May I say? You landed it. You landed it. The book is tender. It is compelling. It is powerful. It is raw. And I was struck actually by the beautiful cover ‘Becoming’ Michelle Obama, so struck that I have now made it Oprah’s book club. And I had, I think you are seventy-nine book choice and Leigh Haber, whose editor of books I said, “Leigh, I love this book so much.” But Michelle and I are friends. I don't know can I do that how’s I got a look.
Michelle: Yes.
Oprah: And he said what do you love the book I go I love, I love the book so much that I don't just want to choose it as my book club I want all the book clubs around the world because it is their book club. Hi, Jimmy Fallon, and all of the great book clubs. Why did you choose the word ‘becoming’? Because when I was like eighteen, nineteen, I wrote this point bad points on becoming because of this notion of evolving, and I know you had a choice for multiple titles.
Michelle: We actually had a blooper list of titles that we won't go into things that would be funny only to us. But “Becoming” just summed it all up in the preface, you will call one of the things I say that is a question that adults ask kids that I hate. I think it's the worst question in the world is, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Is it from growing up is finite as if you become something, and that is all there is? And my journey is the journey of always continually involving that there is never a point where you arrive at a thing and if you do that's kind of sad you know if you think that there is a point in your life where you stop growing and stop learning that's sort of sad because what else is left.
Oprah: You know, I never thought of it that way before until I read the questions I would have never asked anybody that sense what you want to be when you grow up because we are you grow up and you are many different things as you have been many different things.
Michelle: And I don't know what the next step will be and I tell young people that all the time who are trying to figure it all out because you think at some point you just know that there's going to be a light that turns off in your twenties or you know you young women here probably have some magic age of what number you'll be when you'll feel like a grown-up
you know, and that’s generally when you think your mother will stop telling you what to do but the truth is, that for me each decade has just uncovered something amazing that I would have never imagined.

Oprah: And it keeps getting better.
Michelle: And if I stop looking, I would have missed out on so much. So, I’m still becoming, and I hope all of us know that we are constantly evolving, so this is the story of my journey of becoming, and hopefully, it will spark conversations among a lot of people, especially young people about what their journeys look like.

Oprah: You know, there’s so many private revelations in this book that I was surprised by, and I was wondering was writing about your private life was that scary, and did you lose sleep?
Michelle: Yeah actually no. Because here’s the thing that I realize, people always ask me, “Why is it that you’re so authentic? How is it that people connect to you?” And I think it starts because I like me, and I like my story and all the bumps, and blue bruises, the highs, and the lows. I’m not afraid of them I sort of think that’s what makes me uniquely me. So, I’ve always been open with my staff, with young people with my friends. There isn’t much people know me don’t know about me because I’m so used to sharing that part of me because I think that even the tough spots are important for me to examine and explore, so it wasn’t hard the other thing. That I know that, whether we like it or not, Barack and I, my husband and I, we are role models. Yeah, and you know I hate when people who are in the public eye and even seek the public. I want to step back and say I’m not a role model because I don’t want that responsibility. Too late you are, and that means the young people are looking at you, and I don’t want young people to look at me here, and now as Michelle Obama and think well, she never had it rough she never had challenges she never got…

Oprah: Well, we’re not going to think that after reading this book.
Michelle: Oh, no, you’re not.
Oprah: No, we’re not going to think that. I love the way you divide the sections into “Becoming,” “Becoming me,” “Becoming us,” and “Becoming more”. And millions of people have been wondering how you are how you doing how the transition and I think in your story of becoming in the very beginning of the book that there’s no better example of how you are than the toast story. Can you share the toast story?
Michelle: It’s probably one of the first, the first week that we moved into our new home after their transition in our new home in Washington. And we lived in a really nice neighborhood. Let me just say, this it’s a couple miles away from the White House right down the street from the vice president’s residence and it’s a beautiful brick home, and you know you sort of realize the first home regular house with a door and the doorbell that I’ve had in about eight years. So, the toast story is one of the first nights I was alone by myself with no one there. My kids, the kids were out. Malia was on her gap year. I think Barack was traveling. And I was
alone for the first time which as First Lady you're not alone much because there are people in the house always their men standing guard. There is a house full of SWAT people in there. You can open your windows, and you can't walk outside without causing a fuss. You know I lived in this bubble for eight years and...

Oprah: Can’t open a window?
Michelle: Can’t open a window, not without a really big conversation. Which Sasha actually tried to do one day. Well, Sasha and Malia they both. Because their rooms face the north side of the White House where the protesters are. And Malia said, “I enjoyed studying to the sound of the protesters.” She said, “Mama been listening to amend couple few good points.” But you know then we got the call to shut the window, so, here I am in my new home. And it's just me. I do a simple thing. I go downstairs and opened the cabinet to my own kitchen, which you don't do in the White House because there's always somebody. I made myself toast. And I made myself cheese toast, and then it's up my toast, and I walked out into my backyard. I open my door, and I stepped outside to fresh air, and I sat on the stoop, and there were dogs barking in the distance. And I realized how Bow and Sunny reacted because I realized they had really never heard neighbor dogs either.

Oprah: So, they were like the only dogs in the neighborhood?
Michelle: I was like, “Yep, we're in the real world now.” And it’s very quiet moment of me settling into this new life this life you know having time to think about what just happened over the last eight years because what I came to realize is, that there was absolutely no time to reflect on the eight years we were in the White House we moved at such a breakneck pace from the moment we walked into those doors until that moment we left. It was day in and day out because we, Barack and I, really felt like we had an obligation to get a lot done. So, we were busy, and we were raising kids, and we were dealing with national crisis, and we were trying to console, and we were trying to heal and help and you know you look up Monday what happened I would forget on Tuesday what happened on Monday I forgot whole countries. I visited literally whole countries, but there was no time to reflect. And so, this is the moment that I had time to think about these eight years and my journey of “becoming.”

Oprah: But in reading “Becoming,” I can see how every single thing. Because I do believe this, that everything you're doing right now in your life in your classroom is preparing you for the moments and years ahead and…
Michelle: I guess if you think about it that way, you know and I really want you girls to understand this if you view yourself as a serious person in the world, not having fun, but the truth is every decision that you make really does build to who you are going to become.
Oprah: Yes. And I can see that from you in the first grade when you were an achiever with a plus, plus, plus.
Michelle: My mother said I was a little extra.
Oprah: Yes. And so, you write in the book how getting those little gold stars. I don't think you get gold stars anymore, right? Now they don't even have books. I don't okay everything on a computer using the star on your computer. But that that you were, that those gold stars meant something to you.

Michelle: Yeah. I mean in, in looking back on those stories. I realized there was something about me that understood context and understood even at a young age I think this, “Was I talk a lot about my parents parenting and how they sort of gave us the freedom to have a voice and have thoughts and ideas very early?” And I say this to parents it's like you know teaching your kids and their voice starts the minute they can hear your voice. My parents took that responsibility pretty seriously, so I was aware of...

Oprah: And they basically let you and Craig figure it out.

Michelle: Whoa gosh, yeah. They did sometimes painstakingly. But you know what I realized was that achievement matter and then if you didn't demonstrate particularly as a black kid on the south side from working-class backgrounds. People were already ready to put you in a box of underachievement. So, for me, even at a very early age not achieving what I needed to achieve, I didn't want people to think that I was a not a hard-working kid. I didn't want them to think I was one of those kids because I understood that people do tend to put kids into those kids. These the bad kids, the kids that don't want to learn, and what I talk about is the fact that there are no bad kids. They're bad circumstance

Oprah: And you mentioned this phrase I love so much, I think it should be on a t-shirt or something. You say, "Failure, it is a feeling long before it becomes an actual result. It is a vulnerability that breeds with self-doubt and then escalated often deliberately by fear." And that, this idea stuck with me that failure is a long before it becomes an actual result. You knew this when?

Michelle: First grade. I can see my neighborhood changing around me. I grew up when we moved to my neighborhood, which was south shore on the south side of Chicago. It was in the nineteen seventies way back a long time ago. It was still TV but only seven channels and when we moved, there and lived with my great aunt in very little apartment over home she owned because she was a teacher and my uncle, my great uncle was a Pullman Porter said they were able to purchase a home in what was then a predominately white community. But we came in at the period of transition which historically has been known as white flight, and one of the things I try to do in my book is put context around my life, so this is not just telling stories, but I want people to understand what was going on politically and socioeconomically

Oprah: But you do that beautifully, you painted this picture. I could feel the space. There's you in Craig's room, and then there's the family space.

Michelle: A little play area. So, our apartment was so small. That probably what
was the living room was divided up into three rooms. That two rooms
were me and my brothers that fit like a twin bed, and it was wood
paneling that separated us, and there was no wall you could talk right
between. It's like crazy up, “I'm up you up?” we would throw a sock
over the opening as a form of the ramp…

Oprah: Where did the family actually meet other than the kitchen?
Michelle: There was another room outside that turned into the living room. But
our bedroom was our two bedrooms and a little play area that became
our study room in that house seem so big when we were little. But it
was tiny little space. And my grandfather, who was a carpenter, my
grandfather southside who I talk about was a carpenter who did all the
construction.

Oprah: But the picture that you painted so beautifully and becoming is that you
all each were part of a corner of the square and that your family was the
square. The four of you together represented that.
Michelle: Yes absolutely

Oprah: And I could feel that the pieces, and the ice cream that you got after you
know, a great report card. The family sitting at the little table
celebrating success.
Michelle: Oh yeah, you know we lived a humble life. But it was a full life. And
we didn't require much. You know, if you did well, you did well
because you wanted to do well. You know, we got a reward. Maybe it
was pizza, pizza night, or some ice cream that was this a clue from my
parents that we had done well. But in this neighborhood, and I was
saying that was changing that was predominately white, when we
moved in. By the time I went to high school, it was predominately
African American, and in the seventies, there something known as
white flight where a lot of the white families would move out into the
suburbs as black families moved in. And I actually grew up seeing that
transition. I put some school pictures, class pictures in the book that
shows my first-grade class, and then my eighth-grade class that shows
that flight happening. And those kids were our friends. I mean, I grew
up when I was in kindergarten and first grade. I had friends of all
backgrounds. From my first kiss was a little boy, Teddy Ford, who was
Korean American one of my little friends. A little redhead named
Susan. Girl across the street, Rachel. All these kids were in my class.

Oprah: And by the time you were in high school…
Michelle: But the flight happened so quickly, as like one day they were there, and
the next day the white people were gone. And you started to feel the
effects in the community. And you started to feel it in the school. I felt
it as a first grader. I felt they didn't disinvestment, and when we talk
about failure is a feeling. This notion that kids don't know when they're
not being invested in this notion. That when kids are in broken schools
and broken communities that they don't know. I'm here to tell you as a
first grader I felt it.
Oprah: But you know, one of the great indications of your personality to calm, was in the first grade. Was a first-grade kindergarten? When you, when you miss "the word."
Michelle: It was kindergarten.
Oprah: Kindergarten. You miss the way you missed “the word.”
Michelle: Right.
Oprah: Tell us that story.
Michelle: This is sort of like one of your first tests. You were supposed to be able to read your colors, and I came into kindergarten reading. Of course, my mother took us to the public library. I knew how to read. I was a good reader; spelling was still another thing. And I was still, but the one of the first things you had to do was do site readings. And read your colors by you know red, blue, to hold up a card, Mrs. Berle, my kindergarten teacher, still remember her to this day. It was my turn to get up and I read the cards red, and blue-black and I got to white and I froze. And it was the first time I remember choking because it was a straight-up show. I mean, I knew the word, but I just couldn't.
Oprah: The W. W.
Michelle: I was, yeah, I was getting there, and then it was like sit down, and I didn't get my star. And I thought this can't be. I know how to read. And Mrs. Berle is going to think that I'm one of the kids who can't read. And my two best friends got their stars that day. And I went home, and I lost sleep. And I talked to my mom I said I don't know what happened. I can read and I can, I mean, I could read the word, and I know the word, and I have to go back, and I have to prove myself because I felt like that would be a defining moment for me. That if I was one of the kids who couldn't read the words on the first try that I'd be…
Oprah: Labeled.
Michelle: Be labeled. So, I went back, and I argued with Mrs. Berle, who had no intention of re-reading the words until next week. And I was like, “Oh no, Mrs. Berle.” with an attitude and doing this today. And you know, in re-recounting this story and thinking about it, like well, I'm sorry, Mrs. Berle. I know we're supposed to playtime, but I need to re-do my words today. And I convinced her to let me do it and the kids who had to sit there while I read those cards. But I got my start. I was like, “Okay, life can go on.” But that was very much me, and my mom will tell you this, she doesn't even know where that came from. I think she had way more to do with who I was, and she gets…
Oprah: I think so too because you say our parents invested in us, you know they didn't own their own home.
Michelle: They invest...
Oprah: They didn't vacation, they didn't go…
Michelle: My mom didn't go to the hairdresser. She did around nails. I talk about one time when she turned her hair green and was like, “Mom, you can't do this. You can go to the hairdresser.”
Oprah: Yeah.
Michelle: She didn't buy herself new clothes. She stayed home. She made sacrifices for us. My father was a shift worker. You know, I could see my parents sacrificing for us. It was apparent.

Oprah: Did you know at a time it was sacrifice?

Michelle: Maybe I wouldn't call it sacrifice at the time. And our parents didn't guilt-trip us. But I had eyes. You know, I saw my father going to work in that uniform every day.

Oprah: Your family did the same thing, my family. Your father had elected to twenty-five sort of. My father would like you to do some of quarters

Michelle: Here's a whole section on the do some of the recorders.

Oprah: Do some recorder and driving around looking at homes on the on the weekend?

Michelle: Yeah, we had our little aspirational moments where we drive to the nicer neighborhoods. And we look at the homes that had beautifully line flowers in two cars in the driveway. Talk about a time when we visited one of our families who fled out, and we had an experience of visiting one of our friend families in a suburb. And it wasn't a positive experience when you leaving our neighborhood, but the deuce in the quarter for my father represents more than just a car because my father was disabled, he had trouble walking for quite some time. And this is more reflective knowing now looking back. I could see how much this car meant to him because this car was his wings. They gave him the ability to take us around in a way that he couldn't walk us around. So, there was power in that car. That car was a metaphor for I am with the call and a little capsule that my family would be in. And we could see the world in a way.

Oprah: You know, the thing I was most impressed with because I'd genuinely appreciate it the way you were able to reveal so much of not just what happened to your family will. It's what's going on with all families you know, we often talk about how systemic racism impacts generations. The way you write about your grandfather for me…

Michelle: Which one? because I had…
Oprah: The perfect way to explain it….

Michelle: To grow up with two of the...

Oprah: Wasn't southside?

Michelle: Okay, Dandy.

Oprah: Dandy, okay. You write on page thirty-eight, I thought this was so beautiful “Gradually he downgraded his hopes letting go of the idea of college thinking he trained to become an intellectual shin instead, but this too was quickly thwarted if you wanted to work as an electrician or is a steelworker a carpenter or a plumber for that matter on any of the big job sites in Chicago you needed a union card and if you were black the overwhelming odds were that you were going to get one discrimination altered the destinies of generations of African Americans including many of the men in my family limiting their income their opportunity and eventually their aspirations.” First of all,
I don't think I've ever heard more gut-wrenching truth explained in such simple human terms, and did your parents sit you and Craig down at some point and explained that the world isn't always fair?

Michelle: Yeah, we would have conversations all the time. In that section, I talk about my paternal grandfather. We called him Dandy. My whole family, by the way, we lived within a five-block radius. And I lived downstairs from a great aunt. My mother's father lived two blocks away with aunts. My father's parents live maybe five minutes away. And that's how you grew up on the south side of Chicago. You grew up with your family right there. Great aunt who taught me to play the piano, Robbie. She's one of the first stories she was one of my first adversaries. A little bit at the age of four when I thought I would be a great pianist, and she just didn't appreciate it. But I talk about Dandy, my paternal grandfather, who again we would go visit Dandy and grandma every Sunday. That was part of the ritual there. We had dinner in my father's parents' house. So, we had a lot of traditions and routines in our little poor little way. Barrack is always called us the cleavers with the picket fence and the father with the suit and said my father had a blue uniform. But it was a very, you know, it was a very tight-knit situation but Dandy, I noticed, was a very grumpy man. He was angry and bitter in ways, that were unexplainable, and a lot of times, he would take that anger out on my grandmother not in a physical way but just in a grumpy cranky count a way. But Dandy was a brilliant man. He grew up in South Carolina in the south, and he was one of the many millions of black folks who migrated north in hopes of getting jobs but couldn't get a job. He was smart. He should have gone to college. He probably should have been a professor. But that was the plight of black men and still is today in a culture of racism and inequality, where a lot of people don't get the opportunity even if they have the skill. And what my parents help me to realize is that there's something that happens to a person who knows deep inside that they are more than what their opportunities allow them to be. And for Dandy, it bubbled up in a discontent that he couldn't shake. And I was taught to understand this about my grandfather very early on. So, that I can have the compassion and the empathy for him because, as I said, what's important in this book is context, and I try to put context in this book because everybody's life has content. There's context you can't judge somebody or know somebody just based on their actions. You have to know the full of their experience. It is my parents taught me that.

Oprah: What I got from it is, whether was Robbie downstairs or Dandy or many other people that you mentioned in the book, that a lot of people are carrying their own broken dreams. And when people are carrying their broken dreams, you have to make room for their broken dream. But I thought you know so often you getting conversations particularly with white people who have said to me when I was doing shows on racism, like that was then and what we have to do with slavery. I wasn't there,
then your explanation of what happens to a family that isn't allowed to have the opportunities. I think you know.

Michelle: And I think of what networking opportunities. What additional information. What exposure I missed because my grandfather didn't have the opportunity. And still, here I am. And this is one of the things I want people to know the rawness of my story, especially young girls. Because I was that kid that didn't have networks, didn't have grandfathers with trust funds in big fancy names, and that doesn't define who you are. And didn't find them sadly they didn't know that they didn't have the opportunity, the love in the support that I had. That's what they do.

Michelle: That’s why they weren't working so hard to make sure you have a work.

Michelle: That’s why they work so hard to change our lot. And that's one thing I understood that, when I saw my grandparents and heard their sacrifice, my notion was, “Little girl, you better get that star.”

Oprah: Yeah.

Michelle: Because they're counting on you to get that started.

Michelle: You can pay for. And then when you were ten years old, you had this experience, and I've talked about this to you, had this experience where cousin…

Michelle: Oh, yeah.

Oprah: A cousin, a distant-relatives, says to you how come you talk like a white girl.

Michelle: Oh, yeah. Talking like a white girl, which is something that a lot of white people, “Oh, what you mean” was that sound like.

Oprah: Yeah. Look at the girls' look. Anybody heard that before? Anybody say you talk, talking like a white girl?

Michelle: And I talk about that incident as one of the challenges that you have as a striving kid. You know I grew up in a black community. But the truth is that if you grow up in a community other than the one that you're striving that your view moving away from that community sometimes is a pullback where folks don't understand like where do you think you're going.

Michelle: Who do you think you are? And I confronted that question early and often. And it was disconcerting at ten because you're trying to be just a regular ten-year-old kid. You don't want to be the kid at the family barbecue that's that kid.

Oprah: Talking all white.

Michelle: Talking all white. And so, in many ways, when you grow up or at least when I grew up, I had to learn how to be bilingual. I had to learn how to talk in a way that would get me to school without get my butt kicked.
I had to talk in a certain way that would allow me to continue to strive and get those gold stars and to you know push towards what my parents and grandparents hope for me because also the way I talked with something that was drilled into me by Dandy. Dandy was the one, was like we talk proper English in this house. You can walk into that house. You know, since flip and slide, learned and done, and you know he was such a force intellectually. He shaped us into who we had to be as intellectuals.

Oprah: And later, when Barack Obama entered the public stage, you say you watch the same sentiment lay out with him. Why you talk like that? So why?

Michelle: And that always comes with any black person that you see striving and understanding that contacts or any person from an underserved experience. There is always that pull up pulling away from who you are. You know, what I talk about the fact that in Barack's first congressional race, which was a sad disappointment to me. They major attack with him that he was too smart, he was too educated, that we couldn't trust him. And those kinds of attacks worse than anything anybody from any other party or any other said about to have your own community tell you that you aren't black enough. That you weren't good enough. That you don't fit in is probably one of the most hurtful things you can do, especially as a young person, when in your mind, you were doing exactly what you thought the community wanted you to do right excel a chief and serve.

Oprah: Yes.

Michelle: So, I put that out there because it's an important thing for communities of color to think about, you know, it's one thing to call.

Oprah: All the girls are nodding their heads.

Michelle: Because they know this is the life. This is why I'm saying. I am…

Oprah: You heard that right.

Michelle: Heard it in your own families. Maybe in your own in your own houses it is something that we all deal with. And it's important for the rest of the world to understand this is they understand the challenges in the potential anger. The disappointment that comes in this country when you were striving against who you are supposed to be. And who were you come from and all those identities getting mashed up together?

Oprah: And trying to navigate all.

Michelle: Trying to navigate it all and doing it throughout your entire life.

Oprah: My big concern was being able to talk about everything I wanted to talk.

Michelle: Right. Okay, I'm going to think that we're going to move it.

Oprah: After high school and I was sorry when it ended actually, after high school, you went to Princeton and Harvard Law School, and then you join this prestigious law firm in Chicago. Now, this, when I read this, I put three circles around it, two stars and I went oh my god you write on page one thirty-two, “I hated being a lawyer.”

Michelle: Oh, God, yeah.
Oprah: “I wanted a life...”
Michelle: Sorry, lawyer.
Oprah: “I wanted to shout that from the mountain tops because I know I thought so many people going to read this who are in jobs that they hate but they feel like they have to continue.” And I was wondering, your parents have invested everything you've led us through everything they've given up a sacrifice. How did you come to that decision? did it happen all at once you go to work? Or do you start feeling it and then just when they say I hate being a lawyer.
Michelle: It took a lot to get to that point to be able to say that to myself.
Oprah: Yes.
Michelle: Out loud to myself because I still couldn't say it to the world. But in the book, I take you on the journey of who that little girl this striving star getter became. Which is what a lot of many hard-driving kids become I became a box checker. I became someone who understood that there was pay off for effort. And I enjoyed that just like you know what you want to be when you grow up. I want to be a lawyer. Well, that sounds good. And I responded to the reaction that I got without thinking about who I wasn't even knowing that I had to write the think about it. So, I went through much of my life until I became a lawyer, checking boxes, get good grades. I can do that check. Apply to the best schools in the country, get into Princeton check, get there what's your major let me do something that's going to get me good grades so I can get into law school. I guess did it, check. Got through law school, check. I was checking boxes and not thinking about who I was going to be. In the book, I talk about some of the things that made me wake up because I wasn't a swore, or I wasn't somebody that was going to take risks. I became risk-averse and all this talent, and all this opportunity, I narrowed myself to being this thing. I thought I should be added took loss. I talk about losses that I had in my life that made me think have you ever stop to think about who you wanted to be. I realize that I had not, but where was I was sitting on the forty-seventh floor of a high-rise office building going over cases and writing memos.
Oprah: What I loved about it is, it says to every person reading the book, and at the end, beyond that, you have the right to change your mind.
Michelle: You have the right to change your mind. Oh gosh yes
Oprah: Have the right to change your mind
Michelle: Here's a thing because when you're becoming, and you're always becoming these little moments, this is just part of the story. So, I had to tell myself even though I'd invested a lot of money and time and becoming a lawyer, that's okay that was worth it.
Oprah: Were you afraid?
Michelle: For a little bit I scared to death
Oprah: Okay.
Michelle: Because my mother, she didn't comment on the choices that we made. She would just like live and let live you gotta make your choices. But
there's a scene where I'm really struggling with, and I finally share with her. That I'm not happy and passionate. And for the first time, a mother driving me from the airport, after I was doing document production in Washington DC. I was like, I can't do this with the rest of my life. I can't sit in a room and looking documents. I won't get into what that is for the young people, but it's deadly, deadly, boring document production. And I shared with her in the car that I'm just not happy, and I don't feel my passion. And my mother, my uninvolved live and let live mothers said, make the money worry about being happy later. And I was like, “Okay.” But then in the book, I talk about how indulgent that must've felt to my mother.

Oprah: Yes.
Michelle: To hear me talking about passion and what I cared about when she had sacrificed. In my parents’ sacrifice, they didn't put it like that. And I don't think she was thinking about it in those terms. But when she said that I thought where did I come from with all my luxury, and wanting my passion...

Oprah: And luxury to even be able to decide.
Michelle: In luxury to even be able to decide. Where my mother didn't get to go back to work and start even finding herself until after she got us into high school, she made that sacrifice. So, yes. It was hard, and I feel guilty, and I started writing a journal. And then I met this guy, Barack Obama.

Oprah: Barack Obama.
Michelle: He was also part of the shaking up my little check box-checking world because he was the opposite of a box checker. He was swerving all over the place. I didn't even know it's like how did you get here and what did you do that he was doing the opposite of what I was doing in my life.

Oprah: You write what about meeting him, “I have constructed my existence carefully talking and folding every Lucinda's or leave bit of it as a building some tight in airless piece of origami. Barack was like a wind that threatens to unsettle everything.” At first, she didn't like being unsettled.

Michelle: Oh, God, no. No, unsettled. That was a lack of control. You know Barack slowly taught me to unwind a little bit that part of what you aren't part of his work of becoming in making the sacrifices that you can try. Some things you can step outside the box, and things won't fall apart. But when you're a little kid from the south side of Chicago and every dime matter, and you know you can be categorized in dropped and you can lose opportunities, I felt like I didn't have the luxury.

Oprah: This, I love so much from page 112. You described a moment that cracks me out, I tell you. You said, “I woke one night to find him, Barack, staring at the ceiling, his profile lit by the glow of the streetlights outside, he looked vaguely troubled, as if he were pondering something deeply personal. Was it our relationship? The loss of his father? “Hey, what're you thinking about over there?” I whispered. He
turned to look at me, his smile a little sheepish. “Oh,” he said. “I was just thinking about income inequality.”

Michelle: That's my honey. That was Barack, you know, I mean, you know, this guy. And at the time, I was a young professional, this is what I was coming into my own, right? I had a job that paid more than my parents ever made in their lives. I was rolling with bushwa class met my friends own condos. I had a Saab, which was a cool car back then. I don't know what’s cool these days. I got a Saab back in the day. Oh, yeah, I had a Saab, and you know, that was a sort of, that was the next step sort of okay, you get married you have a lovely home and on and on and on and yes, the bigger problems of the world were important. But the more important thing was where you were going in your career. I talked about Barack meeting some of my friends and how that didn't really play out and because this serious sort of income inequality and my friends are like I do.

Oprah: You really let us in into the relationship, I mean down to the proposal in everything you let us in and you also write about some major differences between the two of you when you started out do you say “I understood it was nothing, but good intentions would leave him to say I'm on my way or almost home.”

Michelle: Oh, gosh yeah.

Oprah: And for a while, I believed those words. “I give the girls their nightly bath but delay bedtime, so they could wait up to give their dad a hug.” And then you describe the scene where you waited up. He says, “I'm on my way. I'm on my way.” He doesn't come, and then you turn out the lights. I could hear them click off the way you wrote. You went to bed, and you were mad.

Michelle: I was mad. This was in the time when we married, and he was in politics, and you know, I had to go through the struggle. Then now, we skipped parts where I actually started to swerve and started to shape my own career.

Oprah: Yes.

Michelle: But at a point when you get married, and you have kids, you know your whole plan once again get some an ended. Because now, you’re mom. And I love being a mother. I love being at home with my girls. I was a working mother, juggling everything. I still had my careers. I was running a nonprofit organization. I went on to have you know, some wonderfully interesting opportunities and career opportunities, but that reality of when you get married, especially you get married to somebody who has a career that swallows up everything which is what politics is. I talked about the challenges.

Oprah: And finding your footing.

Michelle: Finding my footing, finding my voice in a very powerful. With a very powerful personality. Barack Obama who taught me how to Swerve, but he also, his swerving just sort of, you know. And flailing in the wind and now I've got two kids, and I'm trying to hold everything down. And
he's traveling back and forth from Washington or Springfield or whatever. It was given whatever office he was holding at the time, and he had this wonderful optimism about time, you know, that he thought there was way more of it than there really was. If you would fill it up constantly and I talked about how he constantly was. He's a plate spinner. I described it somebody that you know in the circus you got plates on a stick, and you know, it's not exciting unless one's about to fall. And if there isn't anything you put another plate up in your spinning it and that's my husband. That's who the Box Checker married, and now we have two kids, and his idea of coming home, I learned, was very different from idea of coming home. He would be optimistic and say I'm on my way, but then I'd learned that he was in a banquet hall, you know. And hadn't liked gone to the valley to get the car when he told me he was on his way home in 20 minutes. But it's 20 minutes, and it's actually an hour. So, I had to learn how to deal with that. And we talked about the work that we had to do as a couple counseling. We had to do this kind of work through this stuff.

Oprah: How was about that pivotal moment you had in counseling? I thought that that was crucial. And I know that so many people reading becoming or going to see themselves. If not in that particular story. You say after couples counseling instead of making a case against Barack. Would you go to counseling thinking once you told the counselor?

Michelle: Because it was people what in counseling does. You go because your counselors going to tell the other person. Would you tell him about himself? And she’s like, would you tell her about herself? And behold counseling wasn't that at all? It was about me exploring my sense of happiness and my voice the notion that you come to a relationship hole in that. I couldn't look to Barack, and he couldn't look to me to be everything that we had to make our everything's on our own, and what clicked in me was that I need support, and I need some from him. But I need to figure out how to build my life in a way that works for me and going to. So, what we decided to do in bedtime, I started setting hard and fast because the kids were little at the time. And anybody with little kids knows that bedtime is magical. You do not keep up the kids up because mothers need their children to go to sleep, and my kids were good sleepers. They went to bed at 7:30. And after that, I had my life. So, 7:30 was bedtime, and it was like if you want to see them and if you want to be here, then you have to get here. We're not waiting for you. You got to catch up to us. And I think I say that I knew that in this life this husband I was with, the swerving dervish of a person that I would have to ground myself and my kids firmly somewhere and have him catch up to us.

Oprah: But what the most important thing. I think you said about this was that we live by the paradigms we know. And then Barack child whose father disappeared, his mother came and went. She was devoted to him but was never really there for him. As far as he was concerned. There was
nothing wrong with that, and there you grew up you all are the floor you’re the square, and meanwhile, you've been raising…

Michelle: The four of us.

Oprah: The tight weave of your own family.

Michelle: Tight weave of all my extended family. And Sunday dinners, and birthdays, and the way things are, and this guy it's like whoa, how you made it? You know, his mother was in Indonesia. He was raised by his grandparents. He didn't know his father and still in even with his context. He was a solid guy. You know realizing that there are so many ways to live this life.

Oprah: So, his Paradigm meant that he approached family different like what you did?

Michelle: Exactly.

Oprah: That’s what you realize.

Michelle: I wasn't better or worse. It was different.

Oprah: But you also said, “When it came down to it, I felt vulnerable when he was away me. While I've been raised inside this tight weave.” And I thought that was kind of amazing to hear a modern woman first lady admit that.

Michelle: Well, yeah. I mean, that's a real emotion vulnerability and this notion that you can feel vulnerable. I feel vulnerable all the time. And learning how to express that to my husband that part of my frustration. But you know, I got you could play the tough woman, which is what we a lot of us do it's like what act like I can do it all. And I don't miss, you know, it's good you can travel, and you know, when I started to tap into those parts of me that missed him, and the sadness that came from that, you know, so that he could understand that in a way that he didn't understand distance. In the same way, he grew up without his mother in his life for most of his years. And he knew his mother loved him dearly, right? I always thought love was up close. This is love. Love is the dinner table. You know, love is 3 pints of ice cream for your report card. Love is consistency. It is present. So, I had to share that vulnerability that you know. You also learn to love. You love differently, and I share that in the book because I think that's an important part of my journey of becoming understanding how to become us.

Oprah: Yes. And you know, what was so valuable to me and I think for everyone else who reads, it is that nothing really changed you just changed.

Michelle: I change my perception.

Oprah: You change your perception of what was happening. And that makes you happy.

Michelle: Yeah, and young couples. I know I talked to young couples all the time, especially with, you know, we are surrounded by young people that are starting their relationship and starting families. And a lot of the reason why I share this is because people looked at me, and Barack is the ideal relationship. I know there's hashtag relationship goals out there, and it,
wow people slow down. Marriage is hard. And I think it that we have a responsibility to sort of talked about that the journey of having a good strong relationship. I tell young people all the time that in a marriage, if you were lucky to be married 50 years and 20 of those years are horrible, you're doing great, you know. And when you say that to a young couple that go with what I want to do that for because I'm like 30 of those years are awesome. Awesome. What you build together can be awesome. But I say that to say that marriage isn't a catwalk. It's hard, and they're going to be bumps and bruises. And you have to rediscover yourself in order for your relationship and grow you have to constantly be growing, and changing, and evolving, and becoming, and hopefully, they have a partner give it to you.

Oprah: You even said you are arguing differently.

Michelle: Yes, yes. I am like a lit match like poof. And he wants to rationalize everything, you know, which is what you learn in a relationship. So you also have to learn how to argue he has to learn to give me like a couple minutes or hour before he should even come in the room when he's made me mad and he has to understand that he can't convince me out of my anger that he can't he can't logic me into some other feeling that my feelings.

Oprah: And him being rational just makes you more irritated.

Michelle: Oh, yeah. And you know, these are things I share because I share them with my friends anyway because that's the only thing how you talk through. That's how you get through those moments, and I want young couples as they read this to sort of see themselves and to see the choices that they're making as they go along and if they can see that in me and Barack, you know, maybe it will give them something to think about when they hit the bumps in their own lives.

Oprah: I love that, and I love how you were always rationalizing between Mary Tyler Moore, who, look her up google! Mary Tyler Moore being Mary Tyler Moore and Marion trying to balance that which every woman is still trying to do.

Michelle: Mary Tyler Moore, like Oprah was my idol from TV days. Because she was the only woman who wasn't trying to get married and have kids, and even though I always wanted to get married and have kids, there was something about her independence in that day and age where she was battling with Mr. Grant.

Oprah: Yes.

Michelle: You know, she wasn't the typical Mrs. Cleaver. And you know, there was she wasn't just in an apron. And she wasn't even thinking about getting married. But then I had this other role model of a woman which was Marion Robinson, my mother, who was the sacrifice her. And she was my role model, and she didn't work until we went away to school and there were those competing notions of who I wanted to be as a modern-day woman with choices that neither Mary Tyler Moore or Marion Robinson ever had the choices. I know that I have is a modern-
day woman in the freedom, the changing societal Norms. Sometimes makes it harder to choose. My mom would always say, you know, I don't know how you do it, you young people, you have so many choices, and there is something about choice sometimes that is difficult. But sometimes if you know what you're supposed to be and there's a limit to what you can be, you just be that. And a lot of my parents and our grandparents’ generations. That's how they say that they treated life. My mother was like, I can be a secretary, or I can be a teacher. Those were basically her options growing up. There was Ruth Bader Ginsburg. I mean, those women in their generation were so rare, which is why you need to know who these women are because for them to be where they are given, where they come from, you know, that is an incredible oddity. But now I'm of the generation of choice and what comes with choice is the challenge of the choice because you can't have it all at the same time and that one thing, especially the young girls. You can't have it all at the same time. It's impossible to have everything at the same time, but you can have things in moments in time, and you learned to embrace those moments and get ready for the next phase of when you can have more or something different.

Oprah: You've never been a fan of the swerve. You said that.
Michelle: I've learned.
Oprah: You learned. So, what was the argument or the conversation that got you to swerved to say yes to him running for the presidency because every time you mentioned in the book that every time someone would ask him, he'd say, “Well, it's a family decision.” Which was code for, if Michelle says I can, I can.
Michelle: Yeah. Imagine having that burden, but what ultimately every time he would run for something, and you know, I talked about that question that would come, “Could he? Should he? Would he?” that was, you know, that happened when he wanted to run for state senate, and then he wanted to run for Congress, and then he was running for the U.S. Senate, and I never wanted to be involved in politics. I had seen politics. I grew up in Chicago rough-and-tumble politics. And I knew that Barack was a decent man, you know smart as all get-out, but politics was ugly and nasty. And I didn't want. I didn't know that my husband's temperament would mesh with that night. And I didn't want to see him in that environment. But then on the flip side, you see the world in the challenges that the world is facing, you know by then, I'd started working in public service. I've worked in the city. I saw the inequalities I saw the challenges that the longer you live in read the paper and live in the world, you know that the problems are big and complicated and I thought what person do I know who has the gifts that this man has the gifts of decency first and foremost of empathy second of high intellectual ability this man reads and remembers everything, you know is articulate had worked in the community, you know.
Oprah: And in quiet moment. Just thinking about income inequality.
Michelle: And really, passionately feels like this is my responsibility. How do you say no to that? So, I had to take off my wife's hat. And put on my citizen hat as I've said and say, how can I stand in the way if I know that this man could do good because the choice for him not to do it would help me and my girls, and that felt selfish. And I couldn't be the person that stopped it.

Oprah: Describe for us that moment when you're standing with Cornelius. I call it we're not in Kansas anymore. You're standing with Cornelius, and you see the motorcade for the first time.

Michelle: Cornelius was one of my Secret Service agents at the time. We had gotten because of death threats and all this in the campaign, I think Barack was one of the earliest presidential candidates to be assigned a secret service detail, and eventually, I was assigned it because my crowds over the course of the campaign it gotten big. And there was you know discontent, and I go through that there's a whole chapter where I talked about the bumps in the bruises that I dealt with on the campaign trail. But we both had Secret Service. And this was the day after Barack was elected. He was President-elect. It was the day that we went to visit the White House to visit the sitting President George and Laura Bush and to give you a sense of how abrupt the transition is, even though you're running for this office for 2 years. But that's all you're doing, and it's just really just a blur because you never think about any don't have time, nor are you allowed the opportunity to even imagine what you need to do if you win. Because then you'd be called presumptuous. So, you can't really even plan your life, and then the election happens in the next day. Your husband is president-elect of the United States of America, and your life blows up like that. It is over, and the first sign of that was I was standing in signature at Reagan National. I was meeting Barack in Washington. So, I had flown in, and he was meeting me at the airport. One of my detailed leaders at the time Cornelius said, “Ma'am, your life is about to change.” Whatever the quote is in the book and then the presidential motorcade pulls up and if any of you have ever had the experience of seeing a presidential motorcade and all the people who think I want the president to come visit me and it's like to have you seen what it's going to do to your town have the commander and chief of the United States of America in your neighborhood. Well, this was a 20-car. I mean it came it was it was comical. I was standing there, and there was one car and another car, and then there was a police car, and two limousines, that were like tanks with flags on them, and then there was a car with men with black suits with machine guns—all of the windows down guns out in the back. Like, I will kill you. And then, there was a brown car in a clown car, and I had, and at the end to top it all off, there was an ambulance. So, just so you know the president United States. Just as reminder if he gets killed or hurt. There's an ambulance with him all the time, you know, all of that was very sobering and I was like, “This is this is our new
life,” And they said, “Yes, ma’am. Please get in the car.” We were shot out of the cannon added, and you know that that became our life for the next day.

Oprah: Did you feel the pressure being the first black family? Because you know what we've all been raised with, you got to work twice as hard got to work twice as hard to get half as far, and before you came out, it was saying meticulous, not a misstep.

Michelle: Do you think it was an accident?
Oprah: I didn’t think it was an accident, but did you feel the pressure of that?
Michelle: Absolutely. We felt the pressure from the minute we started to run. We talked about that and just how first of all we had to convince our base that a black man could win. It wasn't even winning over Iowa. We first we had to win over black people because black people like Dandy, my grandparents, are once again who understand the context. They'd never believe this could happen. They wanted it. They wanted it for us, but their lives at told them no, never Hillary was the safer bet for them because she was known you know that the opening your hearts up to the hope that America would put down its racism for black man that I think that hurt too much. And it wasn't until Iowa that when Barack won Iowa that people thought okay, maybe so…

Oprah: Did you believe it in the beginning? Because you said, you didn’t believe he could win.
Michelle: No, no, one of the reasons I said yes was like, okay, we're going to do this. He's going to lose, and that is bad. So, I thought I had it all figured out. It's like okay, one more time, my friend? Because I experienced and it was you know that the act of letting go of my assumptions and misperceptions about people and walking in back then, I was just Michelle Obama. Nobody knows Obama Barack Obama. We were going into Iowa people, you know, Iowa the most Midwestern state in the Union and we went all over Iowa, and we started in little living rooms where I was talking to mom and grandpa. And what I did in those moments as I told my story and what I want these kids to understand was like I'm completely told those stories to people, and it resonated. Who I was them, the story of my grandfather in the working-class struggle in growing up. Poor and wanting to do the best and living up to the standards of your parents and hard work and honesty being at the core of how we were raised. Can you see people's faces turning every time I talk to people they be like I thought I and then oh, I know I know her I understand her I get her.

Oprah: Coz, you're just like me.
Michelle: Just like me.
Oprah: You just like me
Michelle: If you tap into your true story and share that truth, it resonates with nothing.
Oprah: Well, that becoming does. Color and location and region and those are all that all that stuff is stuff. You know what, you know how good this book is?
Michelle: How good? Tell us all.
Oprah: This book is so good. That it reminded me of going to see Bruce Springsteen if you all have never seen Bruce Springsteen's show, Bruce Springsteen does this amazing thing on stage where he unveils his life in such a way. I’m like crying about my hometown
Michelle: Well there were times I listening coz I was at some of the passages. After listening to Bruce’s, a storytelling, I went back, and I was like, “That's how that's what they know.” So, thank you, Bruce.
Oprah: That makes me think about my own becoming, and I think everybody who reads it will think that this is what was so poignant to me. There was only one time during the presidency that your husband some into you were at some event, and you got the message that he wanted to see you in the office, and that was for.
Michelle: The Newtown shooting. When which is probably the hardest day of his presidency and mind you to put it in context, we had been grieving losses all throughout our presidency shooting since the shootings over and over again on military bases in theaters in mosques in religious. We were so exhausted from not the grieving with the families and with the victims, but with the inevitable in action, that would follow.
Oprah: How many times you have to do it before?
Michelle: And it fell into a pattern that I don't know that the rest of the country understood was happening. There would be a tragedy tragic shooting senseless because somebody had an automatic weapon, something that you wonder. What do you what do you need that for? Whether you hunt or whatever somebody had an automatic weapon and they went somewhere, and they were unhinged, and they killed a lot of people, and no one can stop them until too many people were killed. And there's outrage and shock, and there's news coverage for three days, and there's talk about doing something to ban something, and then the NRA runs ads and then a week goes by there's a funeral, there's morning, there's pictures of the dead, and then a week two weeks later we move on. And when you when you have to go through this. You see that pattern. And you see it becoming a pattern the media turns it into the pattern the politicians turn it into the pattern. And citizens who are not harmed turn it into a pattern, and we thought new town was going to be different not to mention all the shootings that we're going on in neighborhoods in my neighborhood all over the place kids being killed every day by assault weapons that don't even get reported by kid. You assume we're just gang bangers and just nobody's and we thought well, maybe the suburban white kids quite frankly babies. Shot in their classroom at school would be different. And that's when Barack called me in because it just happened.
Oprah: And he had seen the pictures?
Michelle: When you're the president of the United States, you see everything, and you know everything, and you know, its engraved detail.

Oprah: My question is when the weight of the world is on his shoulders, and you are the shoulders if he's leaning on how did you carry that? How do you carry that?

Michelle: Trying to be the calm in his swerve. And I'm doing what I was taught was that you know, when the leaves are blowing in the wind is rough having a being a steady trunk in his life and creating that order that he didn't have that brings calm, you know family dinners. One of the things I brought into the White House was that strict code of you got to catch up with us. This is when we're having dinner. Yes, you were president, but you can bring your butt from the law office and sit down and talk to your children because children bring solace and being able to turn your sights off of the issues of the day and focus on you know, saving the tigers. This is that was one of Malia's primary goals. She advocated throughout his presidency to make sure that the tigers were saved hearing about what happened with what school friend, you know falling into other people's lives immersing yourself into the reality and the beauty of your children and your family and those are the kind of things that I tried to provide.

Oprah: To keep you stable.

Michelle: Plus, on the East Wing side Armada was we have to do everything excellently. If we do it because of the first lady doesn't have to do anything, we were clear that what we were going to do was going to have impact. And it was going to be positive because the West Wing had enough going on. So, we wanted to be the happy side of the house and we were literally. We were happy side. You'd have National Security advisors coming over to brief me about something they fall into my office that was actually beautifully decorated lots of flowers and apples, and we were always laughing, and they sit down for a briefing, and they wouldn't want to leave, and it's like we're done, gentlemen. I are not want to go back. I are not want to go back to the West Wing.

Oprah: I got to get you. I got to get you this section…

Michelle: I tried to be calm for my husband and not add to his stress.

Oprah: That’s how you were the shoulder.

Michelle: That's what I tried to do.

Oprah: There's a section of the book that's obviously going to be tied with lots of lots of the book is going to be talked about. A lot of your personal revelations. But this one I can just see them on certain news channels going to have a field day with this you write about Donald Trump stoking the false notion that your husband was not born in this country on page 353. You say, “Donald Trump, with his loud and reckless innuendos, was putting my family's safety at risk, and for this, I'd never forgive him.” Why was it important for you to say back at this time?
Michelle: Because I don't think he knew what he was doing. That for him. It was a game and for the commander, and chief, which he now is the threats and security risks that you face and the commander and chief not even within your home country. But around the world are real, and your children are at risk, and the difference is when you now in that position, do you understand that while you live in a bubble, your children have to live outside of the bubble? And in order for my children to have a normal life, even though they had security, they were in the world in a way that we weren't. And so, to think that some crazed person who was ginned-up to think that somehow my husband was a threat to the country's security and to know that we have shootings. Anyway, turn in to know that my children. Every day had to go to a school that was guarded but not secure that they had to go to soccer games and parties and travel and go to college that this person would not take into account. This is not a game. It's something that I want the country to understand. You know, I want the country to take this in a way that I didn't say out loud, but I'm saying it now it was reckless and it put my family in danger, and it wasn't true and he knew it wasn't true and we have to stop for a moment people of all persuasions of any political party. We have to wonder, what are we doing? So, yes, I put that in the book intentionally, and I hope it is discussed and I hope that were very careful as we disagree with each other because again, we can disagree we can disagree with the president of the United States without putting him In harm's way and anytime someone makes threats like that or accusations that can unhinge people. You're putting him in jeopardy. We had a bullet shot during her tenure there a high-powered weapon several streets down by then security hadn't shut the streets down facing the Truman balcony. That far, because up until then, people didn't have access to high-powered machine guns. So, the distance of closure that they had the level of Patrol didn't go far back enough. Will, there was a lunatic that came and park right in front way down? I can't remember which street on Constitution shot from Constitution. The bullet hole hit the upper left corner. I see it to this day the window of the Truman balcony where my family set. Those are really the only place we can get outdoor space and fortunately nobody was out there the time no one was hurt. Thankfully the shooter was caught. But I lived with that reality maybe got reported a little bit. I don't even know if people remember, but it took months because to replace that glass because it's bomb-proof glass, it took months to replace it. I had to look at that bullet hole as a reminder of what we were living with every day. Now the current president didn't see that hole. He didn't live through it. He was an outside agitator playing a game, and we cannot play games like that in this country in this time. We are not going to do anything about high powered assault weapons. We can't play those games with each other, not just with the president of the United States, but we can't play those games with one another because bad things happen when people are
afraid and when they're made to be afraid. So yeah, I wanted to talk about that.

Oprah: You in the book say you talked about. Also, what will last you at you or mulling over this question of what will last and one of the things that has lasted with you say is the sense of optimism. I continue to keep myself connected to a force that's larger and more potent than any other election or leader or news story, and that's optimism for me. This is a form of faith and an antidote to fear. You say someone to ask you, do you feel that same sense of optimism for our country? Who we are as a nation are becoming do you feel that?

Michelle: Yes, and we have to feel that optimism for these kids. We're setting the table for them, and we can't hand them crap. We have to hand them. I hope progress isn't made through fear. We're experiencing that right now, and fear is false fear is the coward's way of leadership. But all these kids are they, and they are born into this world with a sense of hope and optimism no matter where they're from how tough their stories are. They think they can be anything because we tell them that. So, now we have a responsibility to be optimistic and to operate in the world in that way. So, yes.

Oprah: You feel optimistic for our country?
Michelle: Yes, we have to be.
### Appendix 2: Politeness Strategies Used by Oprah

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Utterances</th>
<th>Violation on Maxims of Politeness</th>
<th>Face Threatened</th>
<th>Distinctive Characteristics</th>
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<td>O/Asking/00:02:15</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Let me just say, I, as you know I love books nothing makes me happier than sitting down with a good read and so when I started to read this and realize like in the preface what an extraordinary book was forthcoming, I was so proud of you. May I say? You landed it, you landed it.</td>
<td>Tact: - Generosity: - Approbation: - Modesty: - Agreement: - Sympathy: - Negative: - Positive: v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Fulfilling the H wants: give gifts to H</td>
<td>Positive politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Asking/00:05:34</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>You know, there’s so many private revelations in this book that I was surprised by and I was wondering was writing about your private life was that scary? And did you lose sleep?</td>
<td>Tact: - Generosity: - Approbation: - Modesty: - Agreement: - Sympathy: - Negative: v Positive: -</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Be conventionally indirect</td>
<td>Negative politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Commanding/00:45:11</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Tell us about the pivotal moment you had in counseling. I thought that was crucial.</td>
<td>Tact: v Generosity: - Approbation: - Modesty: - Agreement: - Sympathy: - Negative: v Positive: -</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Non-minimization of FTA: imperative</td>
<td>Bald on record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Asking/00:07:22</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Millions of people have been wondering, how you are, how you doing the transition? And I think in your story of Becoming, in the very beginning of the book that there's no better example of how you are than the toast story. Can you share the toast story?</td>
<td>Tact: - Generosity: - Approbation: - Modesty: - Agreement: - Sympathy: - Negative: v Positive: -</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Do not coerce H: be pessimistic</td>
<td>Negative politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Utterances</td>
<td>Violation on Maxims of Politeness</td>
<td>Face Threatened</td>
<td>Distinctive Characteristics</td>
<td>Politeness Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>O/Commanding/00:52:03</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>I love that and I love how you were always rationalizing between Mary Tyler Moore. Look her up, Google! Mary Tyler Moore being Mary Tyler Moore and Marion trying to balance that. Which every woman is still trying to do.</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>Non-minimization of FTA: imperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Commanding/00:18:36</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Tell us that story.</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Non-minimization of FTA: imperative</td>
<td>Bald on record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Asking/00:18:23</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>But you know, one of the great indications of your personality to calm, was in the first grade. Was a first grade kindergarten? When you, when you miss &quot;the word&quot;.</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Positive ground: point of view, personal centre switch</td>
<td>Positive politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Asking/00:13:36</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>And you mentioned this phrase I love so much, I think it should be on a t-shirt or something, you say &quot;Failure, it is a feeling long before it becomes and actual result. It is a vulnerability that breeds with self-doubt and then escalated often deliberately by fear. And that, this idea stuck with me that failure is a long before it becomes an actual result, you knew this when?</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Fulfilling the H wants: give gifts to H</td>
<td>Positive politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Defying/00:07:099</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Well, we’re not going to think that after reading this book.</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Conveying S and H are cooperator: include both S and H in the activity</td>
<td>Positive politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>O/Commanding/00:56:45</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Describe for us that moment when you’re standing with Cornelius. I call it we’re not in Kansas anymore. You’re standing with Cornelius and you see the motorcade for the first time.</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Non-minimization of FTA: imperative</td>
<td>Bald on record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Asking/00:59:52</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Did you feel the pressure being the first black family? Because you know what, we’ve all been raised with you got to work twice as hard to get half as far and before you came out it was saying meticulous not a misstep.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Conveying S and H are cooperators: include both S and H in the activity</td>
<td>Positive politeness</td>
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## Appendix 3: Politeness Strategies Used by Michelle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Utterances</th>
<th>Tact</th>
<th>Generosity</th>
<th>Approbation</th>
<th>Modesty</th>
<th>Agreement</th>
<th>Sympathy</th>
<th>Face Threatened</th>
<th>Distinctive Characteristics</th>
<th>Politeness Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M/Advising/00:11:22</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>You know, I really want you girls to understand this, if you view yourself as a serious person in the world not having fun, but the truth is every decision that you make really does build who you are going to become.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Claiming common ground: point of view, personal centre switch</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/Advising/00:04:39</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>I don’t know what the next step will be. And I tell young people that all the time, you think at some point you just know that there’s going to be a light that turns off in your twenties or you know, young women here probably have some magic age of what number you’ll be when you’ll feel like a grown up. You know, and that’s generally when you think your mother will stop telling you what to do. But the truth is that for me each decade has just uncovered something that I would have never imagined.</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Claiming common ground: point of view, personal centre switch</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/Permitting/00:16:16</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>Yes, absolutely.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Claiming common ground: exaggerate</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/Permitting/00:37:03</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>You have the right to change your mind. Oh, gosh. Yes.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Claiming common ground: seek agreement</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/Defying/00:07:11</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>Oh no you’re not.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Claiming common ground: seek agreement</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Utterances</td>
<td>Violation on Maxims of Politeness</td>
<td>Face Threatened</td>
<td>Distinctive Characteristics</td>
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<tr>
<td>M/Advising/00:51:05</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>I am like a lit match, like phoof. And he wants to rationalize everything, you know, that is what you learn in a relationship. So you also have to learn how to argue he has to learn to give me like a couple minutes or hour before he should even come in the room when he's made me mad and he has to understand that he can't convince me out of my anger that he can't he can't logic me into some other feeling that my feelings</td>
<td>Tact: -  Generosity: -  Approbation: -  Modesty: -  Agreement: -  Sympathy: v  Negative: -  Positive: -</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Claiming common ground point of view, personal centre switch</td>
<td>Positive politeness</td>
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<tr>
<td>M/Commanding/01:13:53</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>Yes, and we have to feel that optimism for these kids.</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Convey S and H are cooperators: be optimistic</td>
<td>Positive politeness</td>
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<tr>
<td>M/Commanding/01:03:06</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>How good? Tell us all.</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Non-minimization of FTA: imperative</td>
<td>Bald on record</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>M/Commanding/01.14.46</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>So yes, we have to be.</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Convey S and H are cooperators: be optimistic</td>
<td>Positive politeness</td>
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Appendix 4: Sociological Variables Illustrated in Each Politeness Strategy by Oprah

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Utterances</th>
<th>Sociological Variables Illustrated in:</th>
<th>Social Distance</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Rank of Imposition</th>
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<td>O/Asking/00:02:15</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Let me just say, I, as you know I love books nothing makes me happier than sitting down with a good read and so when I started to read this and realize like in the preface what an extraordinary book was forthcoming. I was so proud of you. May I say? You landed it, you landed it.</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
<td>v</td>
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<td>v</td>
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<td>O/Asking/00:05:34</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>You know, there's so many private revelations in this book that I was surprised by and I was wondering was writing about your private life was that scary? And did you lose sleep?</td>
<td>Negative Politeness</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Asking/00:11:49</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>So, you write in the book how getting those little gold stars. I don't think you get gold star anymore, right?</td>
<td>Bald on Record</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Commanding/00:45:11</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Tell us about the pivotal moment you had in counseling. I thought that was crucial.</td>
<td>Social Distance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
<td>Negative Politeness</td>
<td>Bald on Record</td>
<td>Far</td>
<td>Close</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>O/Commanding/00:18:36</td>
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<td>Tell us that story.</td>
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<td>O/Asking/00:13:36</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>And you mentioned this phrase I love so much, I think it should be on a t-shirt or something, you say “Failure, it is a feeling long before it becomes and actual result, it is a vulnerability that breeds with self-doubt and then escalated often deliberately by fear.” And that, this idea stuck with me that failure is a long before it becomes an actual result, you knew this when?</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Defying/00:07:09</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Well, we’re not going to think that after reading this book.</td>
<td></td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
 Describe for us that moment when you're standing with Cornelius. I call it we're not in Kansas anymore. You're standing with Cornelius and you see the motorcade for the first time.

 O/Asking/00:59:52

 Oprah

 Did you feel the pressure being the first black family? Because you know what, we've all been raised with you got to work twice as hard to get half as far and before you came out it was saying meticulous not a misstep.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Utterances</th>
<th>Sociological Variables Illustrated in: Social Distance</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Rank of Imposition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O/Commanding/00:56:45</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Describe for us that moment when you're standing with Cornelius. I call it we're not in Kansas anymore. You're standing with Cornelius and you see the motorcade for the first time.</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
<td>Bald on Record</td>
<td>Far</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O/Asking/00:59:52</td>
<td>Oprah</td>
<td>Did you feel the pressure being the first black family? Because you know what, we've all been raised with you got to work twice as hard to get half as far and before you came out it was saying meticulous not a misstep.</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
<td>Bald on Record</td>
<td>Far</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Appendix 5: Sociological Variables Illustrated in Each Politeness Strategy by Michelle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Social Distance</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Rank of Imposition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M/Advising/00:11:22</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>You know, I really want you girls to understand this, if you view yourself as a serious person in the world not having fun, but the truth is every decision that you make really does build who you are going to become.</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Negative Politeness</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bald on Record</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Social Distance</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Power</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rank of Imposition</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/Advising/00:04:39</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>I don't know what the next step will be. <strong>And I tell young people that all the time</strong>, you think at some point you just know that there's going to be a light that turns off in your twenties or you know, young women here probably have some magic age of what number you'll be when you'll feel like a grown up. You know, and that's generally when you think your mother will stop telling you what to do. But the truth is that for me each decade has just uncovered something that I would have never imagined.</td>
<td>Positive Politeness</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Negative Politeness</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bald on Record</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/Permitting/00:16:16</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>Yes, absolutely.</td>
<td>Social Distance</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Power</td>
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<td>Rank of Imposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>M/Permitting/00:37:03</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>You have the right to change your mind. <strong>Oh gosh. Yes.</strong></td>
<td>Social Distance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Power</td>
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<tr>
<td>M/Defying/00:07:11</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td><strong>Oh no you're not.</strong></td>
<td>Social Distance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Power</td>
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<tr>
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</table>
| M/Advising/00:51:05 | Michelle      | *I am like a lit match, like phooof.*
                        | And he wants to rationalize everything, you know, that is what you learn in a relationship. So you also have to learn how to argue he has to learn to give me like a couple minutes or hour before he should even come in the room when he's made me mad and he has to understand that he can't convince me out of my anger that he can't he can't logic me into some other feeling that my feelings | V             |                              |                  | v   | v     | v          |       |              | v    | v   |
| M/Commanding/01:13:53 | Michelle | *Yes, and we have to feel that optimism for these kids.* | V                               |                         |                  | v   | v     | v          | v     | v          | v    | v   |
| M/Commanding/01.14.46 | Michelle       | *How good? Tell us all.*                        | V                               |                         |                  | v   | v     | v          | v     | v          | v    | v   |
| M/Commanding/01.14.46 | Michelle | *So yes, we have to be.*                             | V                               |                         |                  | v   | v     | v          | v     | v          | v    | v   |