CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presented the findings and the discussion. The researcher analyzes the data after the data were collected. The researcher tried to find out what politeness strategies in refusal are frequently used by Akeelah Anderson, Georgia Cavanaugh, Javier Mendez and Dylan Chiu in James W. Ellison's *Akeelah And The Bee*. Then, the objective of study could be achieved, that was to find out whether children refuse something from others directly or indirectly.

4.1.Findings

The researcher found 30 refusal utterances from James W. Ellison's Akeelah And The Bee novel containing 5 super strategies of politeness used by four children characters. The classification of refusal utterances based on politeness strategies were shown in the table below, which also explained the function of those refusals.

Table 1. Findings

NO.	The speaker and to whom he or she refuses to (S to H)	Politeness Strategy	Refusal function	Cases of refusal	Page
1	Akeelah to Mr. Welch	Positive Politeness – Avoid disagreement	Suggestion	**Mr. Welch:** "Akeelah, do you know who that was? Dr. Jhosua Larabee he used to chair the English department	22

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		(hedging opinion), offer of repair		at UCLA he and I went to college together. And get this, when he was a kid he went all the way to the national spelling bee. And now he's considering personally training you for the district bee." **Akeelah:** "Well, he better find someone else 'cause I ain't doin' no more spelling bees. I'm sick of people lookin' at me like I'm some kind of bug. I just wanna be left alone."	
2	Georgia to Akeelah	Positive Politeness – Avoid Disagreemen t (Hedging Opinion)	Invitation	**Akeelah:** "You coming Georgia?" **Georgia:** "I guess I'll go to the mall with kiana instead."	44
3	Akeelah to Georgia	Positive Politeness – Avoid disagreement (hedging opinion) and Offer, promise	Invitation	**Georgia:** "Hey, my mama said she wants to take us out to celebrate tonight. You can pick the restaurant." **Akeelah:** "Well, Javier's parents are taking me out, but maybe we can meet up later."	73

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4	Akeelah to Tanya	Positive Politeness – Claim common ground (Use in-group identity markers)	Command	**Tanya:** "Sounds like a war party to me. You got a big day tomorrow, so say goodnight." **Akeelah:** "Half an hour more. Please, mama."	90
5	Akeelah to Tanya	Positive Politeness – Give reason	Command	**Tanya:** "I just got a letter that says you gotta take summer school to make up for all the classes you skipped." **Akeelah:**"Summer school? But, Ma, I hate Crenshaw. It's boring, it's full of idiot, and nobody cares. I mean the student and the teacher."	40
6	Akeelah to Mr. Welch	Negative Politeness – Be pessimistic, uncertain	Request	**Mr. Welch:** "I'm just trying to stress the realities. I – we – we all have great believe in you." **Akeelah:** "I don't know. Maybe I should just give up now."	25
7	Javier to Roman (His friend)	Negative politeness – Be direct, conventionally indirect	Invitation	**Roman:** "Hey, Javier, we need another player!" **Javier:** "No that's okay. Count me out. Old war injury."	45
8	Akeelah to	Negative	Offer	**Ms. Cross**: "Would you like	11

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	Ms. Cross	Politeness – Be pessimistic, uncertain		it if I gave you advanced assignments?" **Akeelah**: "I don't know"	
9	Akeelah to Dr. Larabee	Negative Politeness – Be pessimistic, uncertain	Suggestion	**Dr. Larabee:** "And there are tons more to learn. Greek ones and Latin ones and French ones. If you learn them all, you can spell any word, no matter how seemingly big." **Akeelah:** "Uh, maybe we should go back to the essay reading"	50
10	Akeelah to Mr. Welch	Bald On Record – The cases of non-minimization of the face threat	Request	**Mr. Welch:** "Listen, there's a reporter outside who wants to talk to you. She's from channel 2, that big time akeelah." **Akeelah:** "I don't wanna talk to no reporter."	73
11	Dylan to Akeelah	Bald On Record – The cases of FTA-oriented bald on record usage	Suggestion	**Akeelah:** "And now you can have a first. I can do it next year" **Dylan:** "No way. I don't need any help from you."	99
12	Akeelah to Ms. Cross	Bald On Record – The cases of non-	Suggestion	**Ms. Cross**: "Well, I think you should sign up for it" **Akeelah**: "I'm not interested"	11

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		minimization of the face threat			
13	Akeelah to Devon (Her old brother)	Bald On Record – The cases of non-minimization of the face threat	Suggestion	**Devon:** "He also said you got an opportunity to go to a bigger contest next week." **Akeelah:** "I don't wanna do it."	23
14	Akeelah to Mr. Welch	Bald On Record – The cases of non-minimization of the face threat	Suggestion	**Mr. Welch:** "Akeelah, I'm just saying you're going to need to train hard, with Dr. Larabee." **Akeelah:** "Uh-uh I don't need no help from him, I can do this by myself."	25
15	Akeelah to Javier	Bald On Record – The cases of FTA-oriented bald on record usage	Offer	**Javier:** "Big time, hey, there's my mom. You need a ride?" **Akeelah:** "No, my mom's gonna pick me up, she should be here soon."	39
16	Akeelah to Tanya	Bald On Record – The cases of non-minimization of the face threat	Command	**Tanya:** "So if this spelling thing means sneakin' off to the suburbs by yourself then you can just forget about it. We're calling it off." **Akeelah:** "We can't call it off! I'm going to the regional bee."	40

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17	Akeelah to Dr. Larabee	Bald On Record – The cases of non-minimization of the face threat	Request	**Dr. Larabee:** "You've got it all, Akeelah. Word construction. Etymology. Memorization techniques. There's nothing left to go over. You just need to focus on the words now. I'm putting it in your capable hands." **Akeelah:** "But I can't learn five thousand new words by myself. No way!"	75
18	Akeelah to Georgia	Off Record – use rhetorical questions and overstate	Suggestion	**Georgia**: "You'd probably do really good, Kee. You ace those tests." **Akeelah**: "Can you see me getting' up in front of everybody? I'd pee my pants for sure."	13
19	Akeelah to Kiana (Her old sister)	Off record – give hints	Command	**Kiana:** "Mama's not in a good mood. You better get your skinny butt to the table" **Akeelah:** "I just got my highest score ever"	14
20	Akeelah to Dr. Larabee	Off record - Understate	Command	**Dr. Larabee:** "Keep going." **Akeelah:** "I'm a little out of shape."	65
21	Akeelah to Tanya (Her mother)	Off Record – Be ambiguous or	Offer	**Tanya:** "Baby, you know I work at the hospital Saturdays, maybe kiana can	29

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		vague		go with you." **Akeelah:** "I guess that's okay, if she doesn't bring that whiny baby with her."	
22	Akeelah to Myrna (Her classmate)	Off record – Understate	Request	**Myrna:** "Me and Elaine, we want for you to take care of our English homework. Everybody call you abrainiac" **Akeelah:** "Well everybody is wrong. I ain't no brainiac."	18
23	Akeelah to Mr. Welch (The headmaster)	Off Record – Use rhetorical questions	Request	**Mr. Welch:** "Well? What do you have to say? Have I made a convincing case?" **Akeelah:** "Why would everyone wanna represent the school that can't even put doors on the toilet stalls?"	19
24	Akeelah to Ms. Cross	Off Record – Use rhetorical questions	Suggestion	**Ms. Cross**: "Which is why you should be in the spelling bee" **Akeelah**: "Can I go now?"	12
25	Akeelah to Tanya	Off Record - Give hints	Command	**Tanya:** "Don't get smart with me, Akeelah. You're eleven and I'm still your mother." **Akeelah:** "I'm going, Ma. I have to."	40
26	Akeelah to Dr. Larabee (Her coach)	Off Record – Give hints	Command	**Dr. Larabee:** "Keep reading" **Akeelah:** "But I already know most of the words in	49

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				this speech”	
27	Georgia to Akeelah	Off Record – Use rhetorical question	Invitation	**Akeelah:** “You wanna go skating this weekend? I haven’t used my blades in months.” **Georgia:** “Why don’t you go with your friends from woodland hills?”	76
28	Akeelah to Ms. Cross (Teacher)	Off Record – Use rhetorical questions	Command	**Ms. Cross**: “See me after class” **Akeelah**: “Why? I ain’t done nothin’ wrong.”	11
29	Akeelah to Mr. Welch	Mixture strategy: Off Record – Use rhetorical question and Bald On Record –The cases of non-minimization of the face threat	Request	**Mr. Welch:** “Now I want you to do that spelling that bee today. I can’t order you to, but really want you to. Will you do that for the school?” **Akeelah:** “Why should I? So everybody can call me ‘freak’ and ‘brainiac’ and attack me in the hall or on the way home? Naw, Mr. Welch, I ain’t down for no spelling bee.”	19
30	Javier to Akeelah	Mixture Strategies: Bald On Record – The cases of	Suggestion	**Akeelah:** “Maybe we should invite him over.” **Javier:** “That jerk? Forget it. Beside, we’ve got curfew in fifteen minutes.”	91

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		FTA-oriented bald on record usage and Positive Politeness – Give reason			

4.2.Discussion

4.2.1. Positive Politeness

The four children characters in this novel employed Positive Politeness in their refusals when conversing with others. They wanted to appreciate the hearer's personality by making him or her feel part of an in-group and also save the positive face. Even though the characters were still 11-13 years old or it can be called as pre-teenager, they tried to refuse something from others in polite way. They refused something from others by talking about something related to them, calling the intimate name, giving reason and other efforts to make him feel comfortable. It can be seen in the data below the positive politeness super-strategy used by the four children characters.

Data 1

Mr. Welch **:** "Akeelah, do you know who that was? Dr. Jhosua Larabee he used to chair the English department at UCLA he and I went to college together. And get this, when he was a kid he went all the way to the national spelling bee. And now he's considering personally training you for the district bee."

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Akeelah : "Well, he better find someone else 'cause I ain't doin' no more spelling bees. I'm sick of people lookin' at me like I'm some kind of bug. I just wanna be left alone."

The conversation took place in the one of corridor of Crenshaw School. Mr. Welch as the headmaster of the school ran after Akeelah Anderson who escaped from Spelling Bee held by the school. Akeelah who have just won the competition was challenging by Dr. Larabee that he gave some big and difficult words to her. As an 11-years old child, Akeelah was really great that she could ace those words. Unfortunately, she missed one word and her friends Myrna and Elaine, who always bullying her, spoke up and laughed at her. Then Akeelah ran away out of that place, chased by Mr. Welch and got some wise words from Dr. Larabee that he believe in Akeelah's capability on spelling.

The excerpt contained refusal uttered by Akeelah to her teacher who was the headmaster. Akeelah's refusal had a function to refuse suggestion from Mr. Welch. It can be seen that Akeelah was difficult to say "no" by the occurrence of hedge form "well". Akeelah used strategy Avoid Disagreement by using Hedging Opinion. But then, she continued her refusal by offering solution to look for someone else. It demonstrated her good intention in satisfying hearer's positive-face. Then Akeelah also used Strategy 3 Offer of Repair. Thus, even though Mr. Welch was disappointed of Akeelah's refusal on his suggestion, but he still felt comfortable and it did not threat his face.

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In delivering her refusal, Akeelah employed positive politeness strategy and it influenced by some factors. The first was Payoff, that Akeelah got the advantage by applying this strategy. Akeelah could minimize the FTA aspects of her refusal to Mr. Welch by assuring him that absolutely Akeelah wanted to do the suggestion of him, but she did not think she can do it. The second factor was Size of Imposition that was included of Relevance Circumstances. In the situation when Akeelah refused Mr. Welch suggestion was that she imposed by Mr. Welch wants about joining Spelling Bee. Actually, she interested in spelling and all about words, but she lack of confidence and got a pressure when Mr. Welch wanted her to join in the competition. Thus, she tried to refuse Mr. Welch suggestion politely and did not make any distance between them.

Data 2

Akeelah : "You coming Georgia?"

Georgia : "I guess I'll go to the mall with Kiana instead."

Akeelah was invited to Javier's birthday party, then she came with her friend Georgia and her sister Kiana. When they arrived in Javier's house, Georgia looked around to the house that full of white-children. Georgia who was interested in that birthday party change her mind to join in, and decided to go to the mall with Kiana.

In her refusal utterance, Georgia used hedge word "guess" that shown the uncertainty of her decision. She did not want to disappoint

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Akeelah with her matter that made her refuse Akeelah's invitation, then she used Hedging Opinion to minimize the face threat of Akeelah. By using this strategy, Georgia did not made Akeelah feel uncomfortable and Akeelah saved Georgia's positive-face.

By employing this strategy, Georgia got the advantage that she saved the relationship between her and Akeelah and Georgia's face was not threatened. Thus, Payoff was the factor why Georgia applying this strategy. Another factor influenced the chosen strategy was Social Distance that was included of Relevance Circumstance. Georgia and Akeelah were close friend and they had the similar in terms of age and sex. Georgia used hedging opinion in her refusal to keep their good relationship.

Then the following data gave other explanation of the refusal that the speaker used hedging opinion followed by promise.

Data 3

Georgia : "Hey, my mama said she wants to take us out to celebrate tonight. You can pick the restaurant."

Akeelah : "Well, Javier's parents are taking me out, but maybe we can meet up later."

After made the cut in Southern California Regional Spelling Bee, Akeelah became very famous in her school, even her community. When Akeelah done with her words as the contestant of National Spelling Bee, Georgia came to her and invited her to celebrate her

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achievement. But Akeelah had accepted Javier's invitation to dine with his parents, then she refused Georgia's invitation.

In Akeelah's utterance "Well, Javier's parents are taking me out, but maybe we can meet up later." It can be seen that she felt regret that could not accept her best-friend's invitation. The hedge word "well" indicated the difficulty for Akeelah refused Georgia's invitation. Hence, she used strategy Avoid disagreement by using Hedging Opinion. After hedging, Akeelah continue her refusal by promising for meet up in another chance. Then she employed strategy Offer, Promise.

When delivering her refusal, Akeelah was influenced by some factors. The first was Payoff that Akeelah got the advantage by applying this strategy, to minimize the threatening of Georgia's face. She promised Georgia to meet up later on was the way to make Georgia felt comfortable even though she was a little bit disappointed. Another factor was Social Distance that was included of Relevance Circumstances. As explained before that Akeelah and Georgia were a close-friend, and they have similar terms of age and sex. That was why Akeelah employed this strategy to save their friendship.

Then the data 4 below explained that speaker refused the hearer's command using Claim common ground, Use in-group identity markers.

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Data 4

Tanya : "Sounds like a war party to me. You got a big day tomorrow, so say goodnight."

Akeelah : "Half an hour more. Please, mama."

Tanya : "Well, okey. Fifteen minutes."

The conversation took place in the room of hotel in Washington DC, it was the night before National Spelling Bee. Akeelah, Georgia and Javier was having fun and laughed away together. They were all in their pajamas. Javier popped open an Orange Crush and the soda fizzed across the carpet. The girls ducked for cover, Georgia laughing hysterically. The noisy made Tanya, Akeelah's mother, got in to the room and ordered them to go to bed soon, but Akeelah refused it.

The excerpt above was the refusal which has the function to refuse command. Akeelah called her "mama" in the refusal which indicated that Akeelah wanted to convey her mother such in-group membership. The address form "mama" that used by Akeelah was the character of Use in-group identity markers strategy. By employing this strategy, Akeelah could minimize her mother's face and lastly got the dispensation of time 15 minutes as the respond of Akeelah's refusal that wanted to stay 30 minutes more.

There were some factors influenced the chosen strategy in Akeelah's refusal. They were Payoff and Size of Imposition. Payoff was one of factors influenced Akeelah chosen this strategy, because Akeelah got the advantage from it. She refused her mother's command by using address forms and also a request to get dispensation. Akeelah

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wanted to stay longer with her friends that night, therefore she conveyed her mother to get closer relationship with her and then her mother could give them more times. Another factor was Size of Imposition that was included of Relevance Circumstances. The situation when Akeelah refused her mother's command was that she also wanted to get more times to have fun with her friends. Thus, Akeelah used this strategy to achieve what she wanted.

4.2.2. Negative Politeness

There were certain times that the children characters feels not to be connected with the hearers because of some factors. Thus, they applied Negative Politeness which are concerned with the desire not be imposed upon and is characterized by self-effacement and formality. By employing this strategy they made the hearers feel uncomfortable and have a distance. So, the children characters tended to show difference, emphasize the importance of the other's concerns, or even include an apology for the imposition in their refusal. The Data below was the example of refusals using Negative Politeness Strategy.

Data 6

Mr. Welch : "I'm just trying to stress the realities. I – we – we all have great believe in you."
Akeelah : "I don't know. Maybe I should just give up now."

The conversation took place in the headmaster's office. Akeeah finally decided to be the representative of the school in Spelling Bee

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competition. Mr. Welch was very excited with Akeelah's decision and tried to motivate her to train harder dealing with the Bee. He explained about how hard to get all the way to National Spelling Bee in DC. Then Akeelah felt she could not make it and wanted to give up.

In her sentence, "I don't know. Maybe I should just give up now." Akeelah used Be Pessimistic, Uncertain strategy. The word "I don't know" indicated the hesitation and uncertainty of herself to do something. She did not believe in herself to make the Bee, and it clarified with the next sentence "Maybe I should just give up now." Akeelah seemed pessimistic in her refusal, but it save Mr. Welch of face threaten because she did not refuse his request directly. Akeelah gave redress to Mr. Welch's negative face by explicitly expressing doubt that the conditions for the appropriateness of her refusal obtain.

There were some factors influenced the employing of this strategy, there were Payoff and Relevance Circumstance included Relative Power, Social Distance, and Size of Imposition. For going on this strategy, Akeelah could benefit in some ways: she could pay respect to Mr. Welch even though he was disappointed of her refusal, and she could thereby avoid incurring him and also maintain their social distance. Another factor was Relevance Circumstance that Akeelah and Mr. Welch's Social distance was not really close, and Mr. Welch was older than her. In case of Relative Power, Mr. Welch was the headmaster of Akeelah's school, then she must respected him as well.

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Then the Size of Imposition explained as the condition of hesitation and doubt made Akeelah refused Mr. Welch's request that way, using this strategy.

It was different with data 7 below that the speaker refused the hearer's invitation using Negative Politeness Strategy: Be direct, conventionally indirect.

Data 7

Roman : "Hey, Javier, we need another player!"
Javier : "No that's okay. Count me out. Old war injury."

In Javier's birthday party that held in his house, he invited Akeelah to look around his house. When they enjoy the house-touring, one of Javier's friend, Roman, asked Javier to join Playing football. But Javier refused him that he could not play football because of his injury in his hand. It made Akeelah questioning and laughing at that very moment.

Javier's refusal above had a function to refuse his friend's invitation. His sentence, "No that's okay." indicated that he employ Be Direct, Conventionally Indirect strategy. Javier's refusal showed that he was independent to refuse her friend's invitation without recognizing the connection or the distance between them. By applying this strategy, Javier was faced with opposing tensions: the desire to refuse Roman's invitation by being indirect, and the desire to directly refuse as in Bald On Record. Javier also could satisfy his friend's

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negative-face, but still maintaining claims of territory and his self-determination.

Javier realized that his Social Distance was same as Roman, they had the same term of age and sex. Then, this was the factor why Javier employed this strategy. They also was not in close relationship that Roman was only Javier's classmate, then Javier could independently refused his friend's invitation. He directly refused the invitation but conventionally indirect with the mitigating device after the word "No". Another factor influencing the chosen strategy was Payoff, that Javier got the advantage by employing this strategy: he satisfied Roman's negative-face that the refusal was direct but also indirect, and Javier still maintain his self-determination.

4.2.3. Bald On Record

Bald On Record is politeness strategy that provides no effort to reduce the impact of the FTA. The four children characters used this strategy in refusing something when they want to do the FTA with maximum efficiency more than to satisfy the hearer's face. Children in this novel could directly say "No", "I won't", "I can't" or another word that indicates the directness in refusal. Brown and Levinson (1987: 95) stated that there are different kinds or strategies of Bald On Record usage in different circumstances. Hence, the children also have different motives to do the FTA, whether non-minimizing the face

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threat or the case of FTA-oriented Bald On Record usage. The examples below showed the usage of Bald On Record super strategy by four children characters. The Data below was the example of refusals using Bald On Record Strategy.

Data 10

Mr. Welch : "Listen, there's a reporter outside who wants to talk to you. She's from channel 2, that big time akeelah."
Akeelah : "I don't wanna talk to no reporter."

When Akeelah made the Spelling Bee to National Bee in DC, she became very popular in her school, even in her community. The excerpt above was a conversation between Akeelah and Georgia in the crowd of enthusiasm of students in that school. Georgia invited Akeelah to dine with family to celebrate her achievement, but Akeelah could not accept it because he had an appointment with Javier's family. Akeelah's refusal was disappointing Georgia. Then suddenly Mr. Welch came and asked Akeelah to talk to the reporter for the school benefit. But Akeelah refused it because she felt reluctant to not accept Georgia invitation.

In Akeelah's utterance, "I don't wanna talk to no reporter." It indicated the usage of Bald On Record in her refusal. The word "I don't" was the character of Bald On Record that it was about refusing something directly. The directness of Akeelah's refusal threatened Mr. Welch's face that the refusal was in The case of non-minimization of the face threat. She used this strategy because she realized the situation was not good that Georgia in disappointed feeling towards her.

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Akeelah applied this unredress politeness strategies when the imposition of the FTA is small. She employed it because the situation was forcing her to refuse the request that way. The case of urgency and the desire to change the situation become normal caused her to apply this direct strategy of politeness. Thus, it indicated that Size of Imposition was the factor influenced the chosen strategy in Akeelah's refusal. Another factor was Payoff. The benefit that Akeelah derived from the using of this strategy was that she could support herself that the directness of her refusal would make Georgia feel better.

While, the data 11 below was different that speaker refused other's suggestion with the cases of FTA-oriented Bald On Record usage.

Data 11

Akeelah : "And now you can have a first. I can do it next year"
Dylan : "No way. I don't need any help from you."

The conversation took place in the stage of National Spelling Bee in Washington DC when the competition was going on. Looking at Dylan's father that pushed and forced Dylan to win the Bee, Akeelah thought hard that she can help him to make it. She believed that all the efforts she had done was not in vain, she could make the Bee next year. Then intentionally, she threw away the word "xanthosis" by spelling "zanthosis". Dylan who knew that Akeelah had already knew the word, because he ever told her before, was surprised at that very moment. Then he also decided to throw the word away to save

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Akeelah. When Dylan Asked for Akeelah's reason, she said that Dylan could have a first this year to make his father happy, but Dylan refused Akeelah's suggestion.

The utterance above was Dylan refusal that had a function to refuse Akeelah's suggestion. The refusal was oriented to face, that Dylan refuse the suggestion from Akeelah for the goodness of both two, then he used The case of FTA-oriented Bald On Record Usage strategy. Dylan did not want to win the competition because of such help from Akeelah, he also did not want Akeelah just threw away the opportunity to win. Even though this kind of refusal was indicated as doing FTAs, but the orientation to the hearer's face and benefit would make another notion of it.

There were some factors influenced the chosen strategy, they were Payoff and Size of Imposition. Dylan got some benefits from his directly refusal: the direct refusal indicated that he trusted Akeelah and wanted her to trust him too and he could ensure Akeelah about his opinion and made her do it. When Dylan refused Akeelah's suggestion, the imposition of the FTA was small, because of the urgency to make the situation running well compelled him to refuse the suggestion that way.

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4.2.4. Off Record

Off Record strategy also called Indirect Strategy that the employment of this strategy was uttering the refusal with indirect words. The indirectness of refusal will mitigate the FTA and remove the speaker from any imposition. Children in this novel could applied this strategy and tried to be more polite than merely refuse others' request directly. By employing Off Record strategy, children could avoid the direct FTA towards the hearer. The characteristic of this strategy is "hints" and "ambiguous or vague". Brown and Levinson (1987: 211) said that a communicative act is done Off Record if it is done such a way that it is not possible to attribute only one clear communicative intention to the act. Thus, if the children doing an FTA and want to avoid the responsibility of doing it, they doing off record and leave it up the hearer to decide how interpreting it. The following data was the example of refusal utterances using Off Record strategy.

Data 18

Georgia : "You'd probably do really good, Kee. You ace those tests."

Akeelah : "Can you see me getting' up in front of everybody? I'd pee my pants for sure."

Akeelah and Georgia was walking along a pavement, they on the way home. Georgia asked her about why Mrs. Cross ordered Akeelah to come to her office. Akeelah told Georgia that Mrs. Cross wanted her to join in Spelling Bee competition in the school, but Akeelah refused her request. Then Georgia suggest her to join in, and again Akeelah

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refused to join such competition that obliged her to show up in front of people.

The sentence, “Can you see me getting’ up in front of everybody? I’d pee my pants for sure,” indicated that Akeelah applied Off Record in her refusal. She refused Georgia’s suggestion indirectly, by using 2 strategies: Rhetorical Question and Overstate. Akeelah gave Georgia a question as the respond of her suggestion, “Can you see me getting’ up in front of everybody?” meant she could not getting up in front of people. Then, she could not do what Georgia suggested to her, that was joining Spelling Bee competition. If she did that, she would “pee my pants for sure.” It was an overstate sentence, that what Akeelah meant was not ‘really’ pee her pants but she would give a stress to her refusal statement before. Akeelah did not refuse Georgia’s suggestion directly, but giving rhetorical question and overstating something was helping her to refuse it, and she was removing herself any imposition in doing FTA.

The factors influenced Akeelah in choosing the strategy were Payoff and Size of Imposition. By employing this strategy Akeelah could profit in the following ways: Akeelah could get credit for being tactful, non-coercive and she could avoid the imposition for the potentially threatening interpretation. Hence, Akeelah applied this strategy because she was in the situation of hesitation and lack of confidence. And being indirectly would help her to not damage her

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friend's face, although she could do the FTA because Georgia was her close friend and they were in casual conversation.

Then, the data 19 showed that the speaker used Off Record with strategy Give hints in her refusal.

Data 19

Kiana : "Mama's not in a good mood. You better get your skinny butt to the table"
Akeelah : "I just got my highest score ever"

Akeelah was playing scrabble in her computer and she got high score as she was very great in that game. In the middle of her fun, Kiana called her and ordered her to get down and eat. But Akeelah refused it, she wanted to continue her game.

Akeelah's utterance was a refusal that had a function to refuse her sister's command. She did her refusal indirectly by saying "I just got my highest score ever", it indicated she gave hint to Kiana that she wanted to continue her game. The sentence could be meant "Let me continue my game, I'll get down 10 minutes later." Since the strategy that chosen by Akeelah was Give Hints from Off Record Strategy, many interpretations could be made, because the speaker left the hearer to interpret it. But, the purpose of the utterance could be identified that was refusal of the command.

Akeelah chosen the strategy because of some factors, they were Payoff and Relevance Circumstances included Social Distance and Size of Imposition. Akeelah got the advantage from her refusal strategy, she could mitigate the FTA that the refusal she did could be

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threaten Kiana's face. Then, the social distance of Akeelah and her sister also influenced her to choose this strategy. Although Kiana was older than her and even Kiana had a little baby, but they were close enough. It made Akeelah did her refusal indirectly, to be more polite to her sister but still in the close distance. While, The size of imposition when Akeelah refused her sister's command was weak.

It was different from data 20 that refusal used Off Record Strategy 4 that was Understate.

Data 20

Dr. Larabee: "Keep going."
Akeelah : "I'm a little out of shape."

Akeelah was trained by Dr. Larabee dealing with Spelling Bee competition. As a couch, Dr. Larabee had mastered the technique to spell, word construction, Etymology, and memorization techniques. While, he found the trick of memorize that Akeelah always do, keeping time, even though Akeelah did not realize it. Thus, Dr. Larabee gave the way to keep time that was jumping rope. Akeelah was jumping the rope and Dr. Larabee gave a word to spell. While she was stopped, Dr. Larabee ordered her to keep going but she refused her command.

From the excerpt above, could be seen that Akeelah did her refusal to Dr. Larabee's command indirectly. The word "I'm a little out of shape." was not made a sense if we looked at Dr. Larabee command. Dr. Larabee ordered her to keep jumping the rope, but Akeelah refused

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it by saying that she was a little out of shape. The refusal sentence could be meant "I've big enough to do this, don't ask me to jump this rope", or another interpretation. Akeelah refused the command by understating of herself that was not appropriate to do jumping rope, whereas she was just 11 years old. Understatements were one way of generating implicatures by saying less than required. This strategy could minimize the FTA that Akeelah did, so it did not threaten Dr. Larabee's face.

Akeelah and Dr. Larabee were not same in the terms of age and sex, Akeelah was lower than him. Thus, she did her refusal indirectly and it indicated that Social Distance was influencing the chosen strategy. Akeelah also got some benefits by applying this strategy in her refusal: by saying less than was required, Akeelah invited Dr. Larabee to consider why she refused his command, and it did not threaten Dr. Larabee's face although FTA was done by her. Then, Payoff also one of the factors influenced her to choose this strategy.

Data 21 below was the example of refusals in this novel used Strategy 5 that was Be ambiguous or vague.

Data 21

Tanya : "Baby, you know I work at the hospital Saturdays, maybe kiana can go with you."

Akeelah : "I guess that's okay, if she doesn't bring that whiny baby with her."

The conversation took place in Akeelah's room. She read and spelled many words because she was going to do the District Spelling

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Bee. Then Tanya, her mother, came to the room and asking what was she doing. Akeelah also asked her mother to accompany her at the Spelling Bee next day. But Tanya could not do it, and she suggested her to go with Kiana.

The sentence "I guess that's okay, if she doesn't bring that whiny baby with her." was indicating the usage of Off Record Strategy. Akeelah tried to be more polite by refusing her mother's suggestion indirectly, she employed strategy Be ambiguous or Vague. The sentence "I guess that's okay" was like Hedging opinion, but if we looked at the next sentence "if she doesn't bring that whiny baby with her." it was the ambiguity that could be interpreted as "I don't want go with Kiana, because she must bring her whiny baby." The ambiguity of her refusal did not made Tanya's face threatening, because it mitigated the FTA of the refusal.

The chosen strategy of politeness in Akeelah's refusal was influenced by some factors, they were Payoff and Social Distance. Akeelah could profit in the following ways: She could avoid the responsibility for the potentially face-damaging interpretation, and although she did the FTA but the hearer's face was not threatening. Then, the Social Distance between Akeelah and her mother also influenced the chosen strategy. Since Akeelah was younger than her mother, although their relationship was close but Akeelah still keep being polite with her.

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4.2.5. Mixture Strategies

The four children characters in this novel also mixed their strategies to refuse something from others. In certain times, the mixture strategy was needed to stress the statement of refusal. The example below was explained as Mixture Strategies used by the children characters in James W. Ellison's Akeelah And The Bee novel.

It could be seen in the Data 29 below that speaker mixed her refusal strategy, she used Off Record – rhetorical question and Bald On Record The cases of non-minimization of face threat.

Data 29

Mr. Welch : "Now I want you to do that spelling that bee today. I can't order you to, but really want you to. Will you do that for the school?"

Akeelah : "Why should I? So everybody can call me 'freak' and 'brainiac' and attack me in the hall or on the way home? No, Mr. Welch, I ain't down for no spelling bee."

The conversation was between Akeelah and Mr. Welch in his office. Mr. Welch asked Akeelah to come to his office, then he requested her to do the Bee for school benefit. Mr. Welch said that Akeelah was very good in spelling and always got A in the test. But Akeelah did not want to do that competition, so she refused Mr. Welch's request.

Akeelah's strategies in refusing Mr. Welch was varied, she mixed the strategies used. In delivering her refusal, Akeelah shifted from Off Record strategy to Bald On Record strategy. Akeelah firstly used

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Rhetorical Question "Why should I? So everybody can call me 'freak' and 'brainiac' and attack me in the hall or on the way home?" The question indicated that she refused the request. She meant that she had no reason why she would do anything for the school that was not comfortable for her. After she refused the request indirectly, then the direct way was used to stress the refusal, as in the sentence "No, Mr. Welch, I ain't down for no spelling bee." The word "No" indicated the directly of her refusal, she used The case of non-minimization of the face threat strategy. The mixture strategy was rather extreme that Akeelah shifted from indirect to the direct one. When indirect refusal was employed, the face threat was still mitigated and was not in high frequency. Then, it was difference when direct refusal was uttered, the face of Mr. Welch was threatening.

The factor influenced Akeelah to choose this strategy was Payoff. She got the advantage by mixing the strategies of her refusal that was she could stress her refusal by giving two strategies. It could be made Mr. Welch understand that she really did not want to do the Spelling Bee.

The result of the data analysis would be discussed here. This included the employment of politeness strategies in refusal and the factors influencing the characters to employ this strategy. Based on the findings above, there were 30 refusal expression containing 5 strategies of politeness, they were Positive Politeness, Negative

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Politeness, Bald On Record, Off Record and Mixture Strategies. The data were expressed in the different type of politeness strategies of refusal. The children characters in James W. Ellison's Akeelah and The Bee novel tried to employ politeness strategies as well in their refusal. It could be seen that all strategies of politeness were applied by them. The summary of frequency of each strategies that employed by 4 children characters was presented in the table below.

Table 2. Summary of frequency

No.	Strategies	Data	Frequency
1.	Positive Politeness	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5
2.	Negative Politeness	6, 7, 8, 9	4
3.	Bald On Record	10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	8
4.	Off Record	18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28	11
5.	Mixture Strategies	29, 30	2
Total		30	30

The table of summary above shows that the children characters employed all strategies in different frequency. It showed that the most used strategies of politeness was Off Record that proved the politeness of children character in this novel that they tried to mitigate the FTA when they refusing something from others. The children in this novel were just 11-13 years old, and they had tried to communicate as well

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by refusing politely. Even though refusal was kind of FTA, but the children characters could mitigate it and also save the hearer's face. In the case of communication, save other's face was needed in order to make the communication run well and go smoothly. While refusals also have function to what purpose it was refused, the refusal functions are: Command, Suggestion, Offer, Invitation and Request. Children employed politeness strategies of refusal in different frequency based on the function of the refusal. The following table showed the frequency of politeness strategies of refusal based on its function.

Table 3. Frequency of politeness strategies of refusal based on its function

No.	Refusal function / Strategies	Command	Suggestion	Offer	Invitation	Request
1.	Positive Politeness	2	1	-	2	-
2.	Negative Politeness	-	1	1	1	1
3.	Bald On Record	1	4	1	-	2
4.	Off Record	5	2	1	1	2
5.	Mixture Strategies	-	1	-	-	1
Total		8	9	3	4	6

The table above showed that different function of refusal also had different frequencies. In order to refuse someone's Command, the children characters employed Off Record more frequent; to refuse someone's Suggestion, they used Bald On Record more frequent; while in refusing other's offer, they applied Negative Politeness, Bald

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On Record and Off Record equally; then Positive Politeness was employed to refuse someone's Invitation; the last Bald On Record and Off Record were applied more frequent to refuse Request. The table also showed that children in this novel was employed Off Record strategy more frequent in refusing something, then Off Record was the prominent strategy especially in refusing other's Command.

From the result of the analysis above, it could be seen that there were two main factors, Payoff and the Relevant Circumstances which influenced the children characters employed politeness strategies of refusal. By employing politeness strategies of refusal the speaker could get any advantages as the influencing of payoff. Another possible payoff was that the speaker could avoid or minimize the implications of FTA especially in refusal. Then the Relevant Circumstance including Relative Power (P), Social Distance (D) and Size of Imposition (R) also influencing the chosen strategy by the children characters as explained in the data analysis above.

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