CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter covers the analysis of data and the discussion of findings regarding to the research problems. It is focused on the analysis of both men's and women's utterances in Gossip Girl Season1 moviescript containing bald-on-record politeness strategies.

4.1. Bald-on-record Used in Man's Language

In this classification, there are twelve data analyzed representing the sub-strategies of bald-on-record used in man's language which indicate the differences between men and women.

4.1.1. Implication Used in Man's Language

Here, six data containing implication used in man's language are analyzed. There are two data representing status vs. support, one for advice vs. understanding, two for information vs. feeling, and one for orders vs. proposals.

4.1.1.1. Implication Indicating Status vs. Support

Data 1

Context: Lily (H) worries about Serena, her daughter who seems to fall in love with Dan, Rufus' son. So, she asks Rufus (S) to meet her at a restaurant. At first, they are talking about their children's relationship but their conversation turns into a nostalgia

when Rufus begins to talk about their relationship and memories they had when they were couple. Then, he asks Lily if she has met someone new and drag Bart, Lily's boyfriend into the conversation.

RUFUS : Are you seeing someone?
LILY : No, not really.
RUFUS : Uh-huh, not serious...or he's married. That is your type.
LILY : That's enough, Rufus.
RUFUS : **What's his name?**
I've read about him in Forbes or Rolling Stone?

(Gossip Girl, Episode 2)

Analysis:

Rufus and Lily must have unforgetable sweet memories that breaking up and marrying the other man or woman cannot remove the memories they had before. Rufus' question **Are you seeing someone?** does not mean Rufus does not know if Lily has found someone new. It is only a bridge he makes to tease Lily. Actually, Rufus knows that Lily is courting Bart boyfriend that he finally asks **What's his name? I've read about him in "Forbes" or "Rolling Stone"?** Forbes, an American business magazine, refers to a magazine in which news of Bart is reported, whereas Rolling Stone, a American music magazine, refers to news of Rufus's band.

For Rufus, it is hard to forget how they were separated just because Lily's mother thought that Rufus is not rich enough to keep up with Lily. Indeed, fame, friends, and fund can lead someone to be accepted socially. Therefore, in his

utterance, Rufus wants to show Lily that he also can look great in his way as being reported in a popular magazine makes Rufus feels so proud. He knows that he is not as rich and famous as Bart but he proofs that being a millionaire is not the only way to be accepted socially. Therefore, Lily only needs to choose between the millionaire and the musician. Rufus utterance is showing Rufus' effort to build **status**.

Rufus wants Lily to notice that he is also fabulous. However, he does not do it directly; he only implies his fame that he and his band are reported in Rolling Stone. Thus, Rufus' utterance is called **implication**. Despite of being told on-record, the real message contains an indirect meaning.

The explanation above, then, leads to a conclusion that the data proves that man's language is characterized with a seeking of status. Thus, it supports a claim in difference theory that men tend to seek for status.

Data 2

Context : Dan (S) terribly ends his first date with Serena. Instead of taking her to the front door, he only waves his hand and goes. On the next day, when Jenny (H) asks about the date, Dan tells her that he regrets his foolish action.

DAN : You only get one shot with a girl like Serena. I got mine, and I blew it.

JENNY : Which means you have nothing to lose.

DAN : (sighs) No, **nothing except my last shred of dignity**.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 2)

Analysis:

Having a perfect date is everyone's dream. However, not everyone does his/her best to make it perfect, including Dan in this data. Dating the girl on whom he has been crushing since sixth grade in elementary school has made Dan both very excited and nervous. As the result, after having a fascinating conversation, Dan waves his hand and goes home.

For most people, it is really a silly decision ending a date only with a wave. In this data, Dan is telling how regretful he is not to walk Serena to the door and make a sweet goodbye. He just waves and goes home, instead. Then, Jenny says that there is no need to regret what he did. In contrast, for Dan, it is a fatal mistake since he knows it is like a miracle dating an Manhattan popular girl like Serena and only dumb man breaks it. Dan's utterance **No, nothing except my last shred of dignity** shows the mistake he does it causes him to lose his dignity. As it can be seen in this data, Dan hates it when he loses his pride in front of a girl, not to mention the girl he likes. Therefore, creating a good impression is crucial for it can maintain his **status** as a real man.

Dan's utterance is called **implication** since through his utterance, he tells indirectly his feelings. By mentioning that he has lost his dignity, he wants Jenny to see how great the risk of the mistake he has done.

In accord with the explanation above, it is known that the data supports the difference theory in which Deborah Tannen states that men use language mostly to

seek status. Dignity is something sacred for men, it has to be maintained. Men will never let anyone or anything take it from them.

4.1.1.2. Implication Indicating Advice vs. Understanding

Data 3

Context: Jenny (H) looks sad because finally, she is overwhelmed trying to act and dress like her new rich and fashionable schoolmates. Then, Dan (S) comes to cheer her up.

JENNY : You know, I thought I could trade the dress, and wear it that night and return it but just...

DAN : Look, it's your birthday, so I think we should get some ice cream and we can talk about all this stuff later, okay?

JENNY : (nods and smiles)Okay

DAN : I'll just let Dad know what we're gonna do.
(about to leave and stops for a while) Jen, you--you have so much more to offer than the things that those girls have, really.You've got so much more to bring to the table. **You just need to find a way to believe that**.

JENNY smiles

(Gossip Girl, Episode 14)

Analysis:

Many girls dream to always look fashionable with branded stuffs, so does Jenny. However, branded stuffs are usually sold with an expensive price. Thus, people often say, being fashionable and famous costs a lot. Jenny needs a lot of

money to buy branded clothes, bag, and other girl's stuff. At first, she enjoys being one of popular girls in school, but finally she cannot deny that it is overwhelming to be more she can be.

As a brother, Dan notices the change that happens to Jenny. His little sister is no longer a simple girl, she is one of the gang now. Some people likes changing for it can lead them to new things, system, and lifestyle. However, there are also destructive changes, which happens to Jenny and Dan does not like it. Thus, as seeing Jenny lying at her bed with a sad face, he thinks it is the right time to talk with her. From the data above, it can be seen, Dan gives Jenny an **advice**. Dan's utterance shows his opinion of Jenny that she gets more uniqueness to show to people. She just does not realize yet that she is also beautiful without wearing branded clothes. She should not try hard to be another girl for the sake of social acceptance. Having branded clothes is not the only way to be famous. In short, Dan suggests Jenny to be herself.

By saying the utterance, Dan hopes Jenny will realize that she is special in her own way. Uniquely, Dan's suggestion appears in **implication** form as one of bald-on-record sub-strategy the data shows it is delivered indirectly.

In accord with the analysis above, it can be concluded that this data supports Tannen's theory in which she observes that men tend to give advice as solution to a problem.

4.1.1.3. Implication Indicating Information vs. Feeling

Data 4

Context: Eleanor is preparing herself to go to bed when Laurel, her assistant and the photographer she hires for her fashion line's photoshoot. The photographer (S) tells Eleanor (H) that Blair, her daughter, has no competence in being a photo model.

ELEANOR : What's the emergency? Apart from my not getting my sleep before the big day, Laurel and why could we simply have discussed over the phone?

LAUREL : Cause if we didn't meet in person, I couldn't show you these (put Blair's photos on the table.)

PHOTOGRAPHER : I dont think this girl is what you're trying to say, unapproachable,controled, perfect.

ELEANOR : She is not unapproachable. She is poised. She's regal.

PHOTOGRAPHER : **Look, I know she's your daughter, and I don't want to make problems...but your girl is rigid like a twig. You know, she's afraid to let you in, so your works of art and she fails to achieve what's the word?**

ELEANOR : Symbiosis.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 4)

Analysis:

As Eleanor's clothing line gets famous, she needs a model of her clothing line. She tells that she is looking for someone like her. Based on her assistant's advice, she chooses Blair, her daughter, as the model. She believes that Blair will be the best representation of her line. A proverb says "like mother, like daughter", but in this data, it does not work.

For the photographer, Blair has no ability a model supposed to have. However, telling the bad news is not an easy task because it will lead to Eleanor's confusion choosing between her daughter and her line's future. In this data, the photographer opens the conversation by saying **Look, I know she's your daughter, and I don't want to make problems** to show that he only inteds to tell the bad news even though it will hurt someone's feeling. In addition, word 'look' at the beginning of the utterance, which plays a role as the **attention-getter**, indicate the message to tell is very important. The photographer's utterance also shows that regardless of the fact that Blair is Eleanor's daughter, it is the photographer's duty to tell Blair's failure in representing the line as Eleanor wants. Therefore, the photographer's utterance is classified into **information-oriented message**.

By telling Blair's failure, the photographer wants Eleanor to hire another experienced model. Uniquely, the photographer does not express his wish directly, he only tells his opinion about Blair's performance, so at the end, Eleanor may consider to look for another model if she still wants her line go public. Thus, the photographer's utterance is an **implication.**

This data supports the claim in difference theory telling that men use language to seek for and tell information in most conversation. The analysis above makes it clear that the photographer as a man aims to tell information despite of the information will hurt either Eleanor or Blair.

Data 5

Context: On their first date, Dan (S) takes Serena (H) to watch the concert of Lincoln Hawk, his dad's band. Then, Serena asks for Dan's opinion of her outfit.

SERENA : So, I'm a little overdressed, aren't I?

DAN : **Honestly, I don't really have a problem with your appearance.**

(Gossip Girl, Episode 1)

Analysis:

As a fashionable girl, Serena always uses attractive outfits wherever she goes. On the first date with Dan, Serena looks beautiful as wearing a glittering blouse with a scarf and holds a clutch. However, knowing that Lincoln Hawk is a rock band, she thinks she chooses an improper outfit. She may thinks that she should wear a casual outfit. Fortunately, Dan does not mind for in his eye, Serena is the most beautiful girl and she is and will always be beautiful in every cloth she wears.

In Serena's utterance, it can be assumed that Serena expresses her feeling that she is not too confident to watch a rock band concert wearing an outfit she chooses. On the other hand, the data shows Dan's utterance may means that he notices Serena is overdressed, but he does not take it as a problem. For him, the most important is not Serena's appearance, but her presence. Taking Serena on a date is more than enough; he could not ask more than that. Moreover, Serena's utterance is a question requiring a yes/no answer, but Dan answers in a different way instead. Actually, he does not answer the question as he should, as it can be seen in the data, he only tells that whether Serena is overdressed or not, he does not mind.

Based on the explanation above, it is known that through his utterance, Dan only tells **information** to Serena. In addition, Dan's utterance actually contains a command. By telling the information, Dan aims to ask Serena to not to worry of her appearance for it is not the point. Uniquely, at a glance, it does not seem as a command. The command is not delivered directly, indeed. It is called **implication.** Implication is one of sub strategies of **bald-on-record** by which the speaker

minimizes face threat. In using implication, the speaker usually tells what he/she thinks or needs.

Since this data shows that Dan expresses only information through language. Thus, this data also clearly proves that Deborah Tannen's claim in her difference theory is correct telling that in most cases, men tend to seek for and tells information.

4.1.1.4. Implication Indicating Orders vs. Proposals

Data 6

Context : After weeks, Serena and Dan (S) have never had sex because they find no better place to spend time together. They finally have sex at Dan's home when everybody is going out. Suddenly, Vanessa, Dan's ex-girlfriend (H) comes through Dan's room window as usual when the date is just going to its top. Immediately, Dan leads Vanessa to the front door and tells her that she has to use the door to come in.

VANESSA : (coming from window) Hey Dan, hungry?
DAN : Hello
VANESSA : (to SERENA) Hi
SERENA : Hi, Vanessa, right? Good to see you
VANESSA : Good to see you
DAN : And good to see you seeing us seeing you.
(to SERENA)Excuse me
(grab VANESSA out his bedroom) **You really need to start using that door**. (pointing the front door)

(Gossip Girl, Episode 7)

Analysis :

A date will usually turns into an awkward moment when someone come in interrupting the romance. That is what happens to Serena and Dan when seeing Vanessa comes in a sudden through Dan's room window. She used to do it since she was Dan's girlfriend. Of course, Dan is irritated that his romantic moment has been interrupted just because Vanesssa is coming. Leading Vanessa to the front door, he tells Vanessa that she should get in through the front door. Dan's utterance can be categorized as an **order** because he wants Vanessa to do as he wishes. In addition, by telling so, he wants Vanessa to know that Vanessa's coming is unexpected. He hopes Vanessa will understand that he is no longer the guy she can meet anytime she wants, he is falling in love deeply with Serena and now his time belongs to Serena. Vanessa is still welcome at his home but she should try a new way of getting in since keep getting in through window clearly shows that she still loves him.

Dan may do it in anger, since it is clearly Vanessa's mistake getting in through Dan's room window whereas she can use the front door. However, instead of comanding Vanessa rudely, Dan tells it in an **implication** by which he expresses his wish indirectly.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that Dan's utterance in this data support what Tannen proposes in her theory that to ask someone to do something, men tend to use order forms.

4.1.2. Direct Imperatives Used in Man's Language

Here, four data containing direct imperatives used in man's language are found and analyzed. There are two representing advice vs. understanding, one for orders vs. proposals, and one for information vs. feeling.

4.1.2.1 Direct Imperatives Indicating Advice vs. Understanding

Data 7

Context: Bart, Chuck's Dad, holds a brunch attended by Manhattan's elites. Being forced by her mother, Serena also attends the brunch. Chuck (S) knows Blair (H) worries that Nate will meet and talk to Serena secretly. Then, Chuck walks towards Blair and give his suite key.

Chuck comes approaching BLAIR

BLAIR : I can't believe Serena comes to this brunch.
I told her to stay away.

CHUCK : You worried about Nate? I think you know what you need to do to get his attention

BLAIR : And what's that? (looking at they key in CHUCK's hand)

CHUCK : The key to my suite, Nate's heart and your future happiness. (hands over a key) **Just grab Nate and finish this.** Report back with details.

BLAIR smiles and goes.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 2)

Analysis:

Nowadays, an affair between a boyfriend and a bestfriend is not a suprising news, but still, it is irritating. That happens to Blair. Knowing that her bestfriend have

had sex with the only boy she loves must causes a great pain for her. As seeing Serena attends the brunch, she worries Nate will reconnect with Serena.

To mend a broken heart, one cannot take medicines. Chuck believes that love and sex are the cures. As a friend, he knows what Blair feels, so he walks towards Blair and offer a solution. With a key in his hand, he says **Just grab Nate and finish this**. The key he gives to Blair is his suite key. Thus, Chuck's utterance simply means that there is no need to worry about Nate's and Serena's affair, all Blair needs to do is taking Nate to Chuck's suite and have sex. In short, for Chuck, Blair had better do something instead of keep worrying. Thus, Chuck's utterance is a kind of **advice.**

Concerning the sentence form and the meaning contained within, it can be concluded that Chuck's utterance is a **direct imperative** since Chuck commands Blair to do something. Moreover, the analysis obviously reveals that the data supports a claim proposed in difference theory that men mostly speak to tell information.

Data 8

Context : After being seperated for several years ago, Rufus (S) still loves his first love, Lily (H) and is sure that Lily has the same way too. Knowing that Lily is getting married with Bart, Rufus immediately comes to Lily's apartment and tells her not to make another wrong decision.

RUFUS : I don't know exactly what it would even mean for us to be together. But can you look at me and tell me you're not the least bit curious? You're at the same crossroasds you were years ago. **Claim your life this time. Live it the way you want to live it.**

LILY smiles

(Gossip Girl, Episode 12)

Analysis :

People say first love never dies, it is hard to be forgotten. That is what happens to Rufus, although both he and Lily have had their own family, his love for Lily will last long. As he gets a news of Lily and Bart's wedding which will be held on a few weeks later, Rufus comes to Lily's apartment to show how great his pain is when he know he is going to lose Lily for the second time. Breaking up just because of social status and wealth must have been a painful memory for Rufus. Rufus' utterance **Claim your life this time. Live it the way you want to live it"** merely means Rufus is not sure that Lily willingly wants to marry Bart and Lily should think twice before marrying Bart. By saying it, Rufus hopes that he will be the one Lily choose. In addtion, Rufus asks Lily to do something for the sake of Lily's benefit, so his utterance is an **advice.**

In this data above, it is obviously shown that Rufus ask Lily directly to do something, which is living her life with none have a finger in the pie. Rufus' utterance can be named as **direct imperative**. Direct imperative is one of **bald-on-record politeness startegies**. Even if Rufus is doing a bald-on-record strategy in his utterance, but it contains a positive effect for the hearer.

In her difference theory, Tannen states that when knowing someone has a problem, men usually give advice. The data above proves it because in this data, Rufus conveys his advice to Lily.

4.1.2.2 Direct Imperatives Indicating Orders vs. Proposals

Data 9

Context : Dan (S) and Serena (H) is spending their second date playing billiard at Dan's favorite billiard pool. Having a lack of playing billiard skill, Serena asks Dan to teach her playing billiard.

DAN : **All right, come here. Now you have to remember, in pool, it's all about— Take this stick—Remember, it's all about the angles, the right angle, of course.**

SERENA : Mm-Hmm.

DAN : **Take the shot**.

SERENA : Okay.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 4)

Analysis :

Here, Dan is making an **order** since he is taking a role to teach and give Serena instruction. It takes a clear statement to teach so the one being taught will understand what to do. Otherwise, if Dan uses a very polite statement like "Would you please take this stick?" or "Take the shot, if you want." Serena may have an opportunity not to obey his instruction.

Another case of **bald-on-record** use is found in this data. As mentioned in the data, Dan commands Serena to **come here, take this stick, remember,** and **take the shot**. It means Dan commands Serena to do something. An utterance which is

used to command someone to do or not to something is called **direct imperative**. There are several purposes of bald-on-record use, in this data, bald-on-record formed in direct imperative is used to give instructions. An example taken from our everyday experience are instructions printed in instant noodle package, such as boil the water and pour the seasoning, are mostly formed in direct imperative. Forms like **"Boil the water, if you want"** or question like **"Can you boil the water?"** will not be suitable. In order to give a clear instruction, direct imperatives do better. It may minimize probability of making an ambiguous utterance. As it can be seen, by being told directly, Serena, in this data, get what Dan tells her to do. Serena's answer **Mm-Hmm** and **Okay** indicate that she understands the command.

Since this data shows that Dan directly asks Serena to do something, so it is clearly shown that Deborah Tannen's claim in her difference theory is correct telling that in most cases, men tend to seek for and tells information.

4.1.2.3 Direct Imperatives Indicating Independence vs. Intimacy

Data 10

Context: Dan (S) is going to meet Serena. After dressing up, he takes time to talk with Jenny(H) and asks for Jenny's opinion of his apperance.

DAN : Do I look okay?
JENNY : Definitely, second shot material
DAN : Allright, then, I'm gonna go.
(about walking out the door but stops for a while) Oh, um, and about what happened, you know, with, uh, Chuck? **If you wanna talk to someone, n-n not your brother, just let me know**.

JENNY : (nods) Okay.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 2)

Analysis:

At the previous night, Chuck tries to rape Jenny at the party thrown up by Blair. Fortunately, Dan comes at the right time to save her and bring her home. The terrible moment has been a nightmare not only for Jenny but also for Dan. As a brother and the eldest child of the family, Dan thinks it is his responsibilty to make sure that his sister is allright. Nobody will ever harm people he/she loves. Thus, for the sake of Jenny's safety, Dan reminds her to always let him know whenever she wants to talk to someone. He thinks by knowing people to whom Jenny talks to, he may be able to keep an eye on Jenny. Thus, it can be concluded that Dan preserves **intimacy**. As Dan keeps checking up on Jenny's activity, he will be able to be around Jenny, so Jenny should not affraid of any harm anymore. In addition, in most tales, a woman usually depicted as the weaks and there is always a man comes as a hero to save her. Commonly, people think, women is weak and has less power to defend themselves from any harm. That is what Dan thinks too. He doubts that Jenny will be able to keep herself without Dan's help, so Dan decides to always be ready to help Jenny.

Dan's utterance belongs to **direct imperative** because utterance shows that he asks Jenny to do something. Seeing what Dan says to Jenny, we may know that Dan conveys he cares about Jenny by giving a **warning**. In giving warning, direct

imperative is mostly used, as it seen in the data, direct imperative helps Dan delivers his message clearly with no ambiguous meaning, so that Jenny will get what he means. Dan does not want such incident happen again.

Tannen claims that men usually does not put their focus on building intimacy they are prepared to be independent. However, the data shows an unusual fact. As it can be seen, Dan tries to build intimacy instead of letting Jenny be independent.

4.1.3. Softened Imperatives Used in Man's Language

Here, only two data containing softened imperative used in man's language are found and analyzed. There is one data for advice vs. understanding and one for orders vs. proposals.

4.1.3.1 Softened Imperatives Indicating Advice vs. Understanding

Data 11

Context: Dan comes to Jenny's room to ask for her opinion of his appearance because he is going to meet Serena.

DAN : **Do I look okay?**
JENNY : Definitely second-shot material
DAN : Allright, then, I'm gonna go.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 2)

Analysis:

Everyone wants to look good. People may as attractive as they can be, so they may feel more confident to meet their special ones, so does Dan. Dan realizes that he has done a big mistake by ending the date without walking her to the door, so he is

going to apologize and ask her for a second date. For him, meeting a girl like Serena is not as simple as meeting other people. It requires the best proper outfit and the best impression. Serena is the most favorite girl in Manhattan, so she deserves the best. Thus, in order to make sure if he looks good enough to meet Serena, he asks Jenny to give her opinion of his appearance. In other words, Dan seeks for an **advice**.

Dan's utterance **Do I look okay?** is merely an order for Jenny to consider Dan's outfit. We know, it is a question. However, it implicitly indicates an imperative as Dan asks for Jenny's opinion. Thus, the utterance is classified into **softened imperative**, considering that it is in the question form.

As specified before, Dan needs Jenny's advice, so it is true what Tannen states in difference theory that commonly, men will both seek and give an advice for problems or decision-making.

4.1.3.2 Softened Imperatives Indicating Orders vs. Proposals

Data 12

Context : In the afternoon, Jenny phones Nate to borrow $8,000 to rebuy her friend's mother's gown she has stolen and sold. Then, Nate asks Dan if he knows that her sister needs $8,000. Soon, Dan comes home and finds Jenny lying on her bed with a sad face. Dan ask Jenny to tell him why she needs $8,000.

DAN : You okay? **You wanna tell me why you needed to borrow $8,000?**
JENNY : Not really. I can't believe Nate told you.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 14)

Analysis :

As both the eldest child and the only child of the family, Dan knows it is his responsibility to take care of his sister. When he knows that Jenny, his sister, borrows $8,000 from Nate, he goes home right away. Seeing Jenny's sad face, he assumes Jenny is facing a big problem. As seen in the data above, Dan asks Jenny to explain what leads her to borrow $8,000. In politeness strategy, a utterance which aims to ask or command someone to do something is called **bald-on-record**. In doing bald-on-record, one may use question, like Dan uses in this data, to ask someone to do something. Question form may belongs to **softened imperative**.

Talking to someone who is in bad mood is not an easy task. Commanding them to share their stories may irritate them. We should use a softer form so that the hearer feel more comfortable to share stories. Such strategy is used in Dan utterance printed in this data. Dan knows it is hard for Jenny to tell to other people what problem she faces. Therefore, he decides to ask Jenny if she wants to tell him the problem. Dan's utterance is supposed to be like "(Do) **you wanna tell me** why you needed to borrow $8,000?" Such question expects a yes or no as the answer. That is why it is called yes-no-question. In addition, here, **"Do you..?"** is used to soften the order. Such form is called **mitigating device.**

Despite of being constructed to be a ruler, men do not always use an order in conversation. In this data, Dan's utterance can be called as **a proposal** because he asks Jenny politely to share her problem. Thus, the data oppose Tannen's opinion that men's language is usually characterized with order.

4.2. Bald-on-record Used in Woman's Language

In this classification, just like man's language, there are 11 data analyzed representing the sub-strategies of bald-on-record used in woman's language which indicates the differences between men and women.

4.2.1. Implication Used in Woman's Language

There are six data containing softened imperative used in man's language are found and analyzed. In this sub-section. each of the gender differentiation is represented in each softened imperative. In other words, there is a softened imperative for a classification of the gender differentiation.

4.2.1.1 Implication Indicating Status vs. Support

Data 13

Context: Jenny and Rufus is cooking food when Dan comes home with a sad face as he finds he is not chosen as school representative for Ivy Week just because he is not the son of Ivy League School alumnus. Rufus goes after Dan to cheer him up. Then, when he comes back to resume the cooking, Jenny confesses what she feels of her family.

RUFUS goes to the kitchen

JENNY : [1]**We're Humphreys, Dad, not exactly royalty uptown**.

RUFUS : Are you okay with that?

JENNY : (shaking head) [2]**No, but I'm used to it.**

(Gossip Girl, Episode 3)

Analysis:

Fame and money can take you everywhere. Who does not know this classic popular quote? Even though it is contradictive, it is true somehow. This data above shows it. Dan and Nate apply to study at Dartmouth, one of the eight most respected colleges in America composed in a group called Ivy League. The term Ivy League tends to be identical with social elites and academic achievement. However, Dan is so

sure he jumps off the pages that he will be selected as school representative in Ivy Week, where deans and other important people of the Ivy League Colleges come to the high school of students considering going to those colleges. The fact is not always as sweet as what he wishes. The result of interview posted on the announcement board showing that he is not selected as school representative in Ivy Week has successfully made him terribly sad. He gets more disappoint when he finds out that Nate, whose father is the alumnus of Dartmouth, is selected. It seems that being a legacy is like having the world in the palm of one's hand. Whereas thousands of students queue to reach their dream, the legacies has already get in through VIP gateway.

Dan realizes that to be student of Ivy League, brilliant brain is just not enough to dazzles. He, then comes home with a miserable look and immediately get in to his room. Feeling curious, Rufus follows to know what makes his son sad. After talking to Dan, Rufus goes back to kitchen and resume the cooking he do with Jenny. Then, Jenny says **We're Humphreys, Dad, not exactly royalty uptown** which clearly shows that the Humphreys is not a part of social elites. Jenny realizes that she and Dan are not the children of neither wealthy nor famous parents. In this world where fame and money is the best vehicle to a bright future, they are and will always be 'the second'. Everybody wants to get the best, either does Jenny. When Rufus ask if she does not mind being a Humphrey, she answers **No**. Jenny's answer obviously indicates her desire to build **status**. For her, being 'the second' is not fascinating. As a girl, of course, she wants to buy branded girl stuffs and looks beautiful in wearing

those stuffs at school. Besides, she would have been the most respected and popular girl in her school if she had appeared fashionable. Furthermore, the data shows that she honestly tells her father that she is not fine being labeled as the lower class but she is used to it. She tries to accept the facts.

Here, her desire of achieving status is told indirectly. In politeness, the strategy she uses is called **implication**. In using implication, the speaker does not show his/her need clearly but implies the condition he/she faces just like Jenny does in this data.

Regarding the explanation above, it can be assumed that it is not only men, but also women who have a desire to achieve status. It differs from Tannen's claim introduced in her difference theory that achieving status is one of men's characteristics. Therefore, this data opposes Tannen's theory.

4.2.1.2 Implication Indicating Advice vs. Understanding

Data 14

Context: Serena invites Dan to watch Blair's photo-shoot for introducing Eleanor's clothing line without knowing that Eleanor has replaced Blair with her. As finding out that Serena takes her place, Blair gets mad. Dan also gets confuse as finding Serena in a photo-shoot outfit for she says that they will only watch Blair. Then, he comes following Serena to the fitting room.

DAN : I thought you wanted to be on the sidelines here. I thought you wanted to be here for your friend Blair. You know, we're gonna go the craft service and I'd have your full attention?

SERENA : Say it.

DAN : I don’t think I have to.

SERENA : **So my best friend doesn't believe me, and neither does the guy I like. Look, Dan, Blair's mom basically tricked me into coming here because she didn't want Blair. [2]How do you tell your bestfriend something like that?**

DAN : I-I didn't—I guess I didn't-

SERENA : Look, you know what, Dan? Just go, okay? I-I need to clean up, and I just need to get out of here.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 4)

Analysis:

As a best friend, Serena supports Blair for being the model of Eleanor’s clothing line. She is even excited to watch the photo-shoot. Thinking of her second date with Dan which is once canceled, she invites him to the photo shoot, at which she promises they can hang out on the side as Blair poses.

The mess begins when Eleanor is told that Blair, her own daughter, is not good enough to represents her line and is given choices to keep hiring Blair or rehire a better model. The last choice is chosen. Based on the photographer’s recommendation, she replaces Blair with Serena. Not all good-looking girls are born to be a photo-model, but a model must be good-looking. Serena has it all, a photo-model skill and a beautiful face. That is why she is recruited as the model to represents Eleanor’s clothing line. Serena agrees because she is told that she will do it

together with Blair. Blair will always be Blair; “defeated” is a word people never learn to say to her. She is born to win. As she knows that she is replaced by the other model, she goes anyway to the photo-shoot spot to mock the skinny girl replacing her. She arrives only to find Serena there wearing a photo-shoot outfit. She gets mad at Serena for Serena has taken all that supposed to be hers. Dan, who just arrives, overhears Blair and Serena’s conversation. Then after Blair leaves, Dan comes to meet Serena.

At first, she thinks that Dan is the one she could run to when there is no one believes her. Apparently, Dan comes only to bill Serena’s promise to hang out with him and tells that he get confuse when all the plans are changed in a sudden since she is hired as the model. Serena is too depressed to hear any other comment or flutter; she feels that Dan’s coming just adds her burden. Serena’s utterance **So my best friend doesn't believe me, and neither does the guy I like** simply expresses her needs for **understanding**. In such condition, the only thing she needs is an understanding. She may needs a shoulder to cry on, not a mouth full of critics. She needs someone who will stay with her no matter what happens. In addition, Serena’s question make it clearer when she asks Dan **How do you tell your bestfriend something like that?**, she actually wants Dan to place himself in her shoes first before judging her. By asking Dan to do so, she hopes that Dan will understand her position. In this data, Serena uses an **implication** to express her need because she does not express it directly.

The explanation above finally leads to an assumption that when a woman tells her problem, she indeed seek for understanding. Thus, it can be said that this data supports Tannen theory of gender-differentiated styles for she states that in most cases, women used to either seek for or give understanding.

4.2.1.3 Implication Indicating Information vs. Feeling

Data 15

Context: Serena comes to Ostroff Center, where Eric, her brother stays for physical treatment. At Eric's room, Serena shares her story about Dan and the first date with him.

SERENA : **The last thing I need in my life is a new guy. He was just so smart, though and--and funny...** (smiles)

ERIC : It sounds like you like him.

SERENA : **and really nice.**

(Gossip Girl, Episode 2)

Analysis:

When someone falls in love, there are always a lot of stories to be shared. It seems that he/she will never run out of stories about someone he/she loves. That happens to Serena. She comes to Eric only to share her stories about Dan. Serena's utterance **He was just so smart, though and--and funny...** shows her opinion about Dan. It means Dan has created a great first impression on their first date even though

at the end of date, he only waves awkwardly his hand and goes home without walking her to the door first.

Hearing what Serena thinks about Dan and seeing Serena's delightful face, Eric assumes That Serena has a feeling towards Dan that he says **It sounds like you like him**. However, instead of responding what Eric says, Serena continues her testimony. It indicates that Serena only needs someone to share her stories. The way Serena tells about Dan and her will to take the distance between Serena's apartment and Ostroff Center, where Eric stays, only to share her stories reveal her desire to share a **feeling**.

Uniquely, the data shows that the feeling is not told clearly for a feeling is not something visible, it only can be felt, even Eric feels it. Hence, Serena's utterance is an **implication**. In addition, by expressing her feeling, she hopes Eric will understand what she tries to deliver, so she does not have to respond Eric's assumption.

4.2.1.4 Implication Indicating Orders vs. Proposals

Data 16

Context: Since Serena forgets to bring her mobile phone on a date with Dan, Lily has no other choice than going to Dan's home where she hopes she can find another way to get in touch with Serena. When she arrives at Dan's home, she meets Dan's father, Rufus, who is also her ex-boyfriend. Actually, after breaking up several years ago, they become enemies. They often mock at each other's life.

LILY : (takes a seat) And I'll pass on a glass of that non-premium liquor

that you're drinking. **But I will take something to eat.** Thank you for offering.

RUFUS looks at her

LILY : What? You still know how to cook, don't you?

(Gossip Girl, Episode 4)

Analysis :

Meeting and talking with an ex-boyfriend or ex-girlfriend is an awkward moment for some people, including Lily and Rufus in this data. As has been explained before, Rufus and Lily become enemies since they broke up several years ago. Whenever they meet, they often talk sarcastically. It is seen on Lily's utterance **"And I'll pass on a glass of that non-premium liquor that you're drinking"** which merely means her social class is higher than Rufus'. In addition, since they are no longer either couple or friends Lily may feel awkward to ask Rufus directly to serve food or just to tell that she is straving yet, Rufus does not offers her both drink and food. Thus, Lily prefers expressing her need indirectly "**I will take something to eat"**.Lily's uttterance is an **order** because she ask Rufus to server her something to eat.

Lily may be too worry about Serena, so goes in a hurry with an empty stomach. She needs to eat. Her need to eat is told baldly on-record, but the utterance merely contains an indirect meaning. Therefore, the data above shows the use of **implication**.

One of classifications in Tannen's difference theory tells that women encourage the use of very polite forms to express their demands. In contrast, this data shows that Lily uses an order form to ask Rufus to do something for her. To sum up, this data oppose the existing theory.

4.2.1.5 Implication Indicating Conflict vs. Compromise

Data 17

Context: At a Chuck's dad's brunch, Nate corners Serena and asks her to wait in Chuck's suite key for a secret talk. Serena has no other choice than lying to Dan that she wants to go to the toilet then she goes to the suite to wait for Nate. Meanwhile, Chuck gives his suite key to Blair since he notices that Blair worries Nate and Serena will secretly meet. Then, Blair grabs Nate and goes to the suite only to find that Serena has been there. Getting mad, Blair threatens to tell Dan that Nate and Serena promise to meet secretly.

SERENA : **I can't believe you told her.**
NATE : You just expected me to keep it a secret?
SERENA : Yes, Nate. There's nothing wrong with keeping a secret if the truth is gonna hurt someone.
NATE : That's a hell way of look things.
SERENA : **Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realize all of a sudden you're the most honest guy on the planet.**

(Gossip Girl, Episode 2)

Analysis:

Sometimes, keeping a secret is difficult to do for some people. Nate feels it too that he cannot keep covering the fact of his affair with Serena. Actually, Nate and

Serena have decided not to reconnect, they agree to be friends. However, he thinks that living a lie is not good for his relationship with Blair, so he decides to tell Blair the truth. Of course, Blair gets dissapointed finding out that the boy he love for all of her life has had sex with her bestfriend. She also worries that Nate will reconnect. At Chuck's dad's brunch, Chuck sees Blair anxiety. Bringing his suite key, he tells her to bring Nate to the suite to have their quality time. Meanwhile, as Nate sees Serena comes with Dan, he takes Serena to the corner to plan to meet for a ten-minute talk in Chuck's suite. He simply wants to tell Serena that he has told Blair about the affair. Unfortunately, while he is trying to escape from the brunch, Blair immediately grabs and leads him to Chuck's suite where Serena has been there waiting for Nate. As the result, Blair gets very mad and threatens to tell Dan that Serena secretly meets Nate. Nate and Serena immediately run following Blair who has run first to meet Dan at the brunch.

As they walk down the stair, Serena begins to argue, she says **I can't believe you told her** to indicate that she is horribly annoyed because it is unnecessary to tell Blair about what has happened in the past. Nate takes a silly decision because admitting is just causing another problems than solving problems. The data shows that Nate defends himself, but still, Serena claims that he has ruined everything. Moreover, in her utterance **Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realize all of a sudden you're the most honest guy on the planet**, Serena expresses that she is going to face a big problem because of his confession. She worries that if Dan knows the truth, a good relationship she just build with Dan for these recently days comes to the end. In this

data, Serena keeps telling her opinion of Nate and his silly decision, so she wants Nate to understand how great the risk Serena has to face. Thus, in this data, Serena begins the **conflict**.

Serena's desperation is delivered indirectly even though it is said baldly on-record. By saying in sarcasm, Serena wants Nate to clearly see the effect of what he has done. Therefore, her utterance is an **implication**.

This data is contrastive with Tannen's claim in her theory that women usually refuse to assert, they are not prepared to argue their opinion. Thus, it can be said that this data opposes Tannen's theory.

4.2.1.6 Implication Indicating Independence vs. Intimacy

Data 18

Context: Jenny is ready to go to school. As walking out the door, Rufus tells that he will go with her. She is irritated knowing that Rufus wants to go with her.

RUFUS : I'm coming with you.

JENNY : **What? You're walking me to school? I made one mistake. It doesn't mean I need a human ankle monitor**.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 14)

Analysis:

Jenny once tries so hard to be accepted socially. She even has stolen her friend's mom's gown to be exchanged by a new gown so she can wear the new gown at her birthday party. However, as time goes by, she realizes that what she has done is harmful. She gets back to live her life normally as usual, but not for Rufus. As a parent, exactly a single parent who really loves his only daughter, he cannot just take

it for granted. He thinks he should strengthen his control on Jenny, so seeing Jenny is about to leave, he offers himself to go with her. Even though someone gets older, he/she is never too old to get parents' care. Parents always want to take care of their children, neither does Rufus. By offering himself to go with Jenny, he shows his care towards Jenny.

For Rufus, walking together with his own daughter is the proof of his love to her. On the other hand, Jenny sees it as Rufus' effort to suffocate her. Instead of feeling secure, Jenny feels uncomfortable walking with Rufus to school. For a girl at her age, it is embarrasing to being under parents' control. Just like the other teenagers, Jenny seeks for **independence**. By saying **What? You're walking me to school? I made one mistake. It doesn't mean I need a human ankle monitor**, she wants Rufus to know that she is no longer a little girl, she is growing up to be a real woman. The utterance also contains a certainty that Jenny can take care of her own self, so Rufus should stop worrying about her.

Indeed, Jenny says the utterance in an anger, but actually, the utterance contains an indirect meaning. Therefore, Jenny's utterance is categorized into **implication**. By using implication, Jenny does not have to express her need directly.

As it can be seen in the data, Jenny has a desire to be independent. It opposes Tannen's theory for she states that women tend to build intimacy rather than seeking for independence.

4.2.2. Direct Imperatives Used in Woman's Language

There are four data containing softened imperative used in man's language are found and analyzed. Each of the four data represents status vs. support, advice vs. understanding, information vs. feeling, and orders vs. proposals.

4.2.2.1 Direct Imperatives Indicating Status vs. Support

Data 19

Context: Dan takes Serena to a date. He rents a limo to bring them to a luxurious French restaurant. Serena knows that the price is so expensive, so she helps Dan by taking care of the payment.

DAN : (to the waiter) Okay, well, then we'll just get the check, please.
SERENA : Uh, actually I already took care of that earlier.
The WAITER leaves.
DAN : What?
SERENA : Mm-Hmm. Yeah, I-I just charged it on my mom's card. It's--It's not a big deal. **Don't worry about it**.
DAN : You know, I can pay. It's not like I don't have the money.
SERENA : Yeah, I'm--I'm sure you do. You just shouldn't have to spend it here.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 4)

Analysis:

The only thing coming up in Dan's mind when he knows that he is going to have a date with Serena, the most popular girl in the city, is a perfect date. Dating her happens once in a blue moon. The first date does not go well since in their first date, Dan only takes her to a rock band concert and does not walk her to the door at the end of the date. Thus, he thinks, by planning a perfect second date, he may be able to recompense his mistake. Coming in a formal outfit and with a limo he rents, he feels confident to take Serena to dine in a luxurious French restaurant. Serena does know that the price must be so expensive, too expensive for Dan, so she initiatively covers the payment using her mother's credit card. Serena does what she can do to help Dan. The data shows that the way a man and a woman see things is totally different. Whereas Dan takes it as an effort to push him down or to embarrass him that he says **You know, I can pay. It's not like I don't have the money**, Serena sees her heroic act as her **support** to Dan.

As it can be seen in this data, Serena says **Don't worry about it** after explaining that she has covered the payment. By saying the utterance, she aims to tell Dan that he does not have to feel discomfort or thinks that he owes a lot for it is not a big deal for her. The message contained in the utterance is delivered directly, so Serena's utterance is a **direct imperative.** Furthermore, in politeness, it is also classified into **comforting advice**. By telling that there is no need to worry about, Serena aims to comfort Dan.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that Serena's utterance in this data support Deborah Tannen's claim that women see the world as a place for everybody to help each other. Thus, in most cases, women do not only tend to seek for a help, but also be ready to offer a help.

4.2.2.2 Direct Imperatives Indicating Advice vs. Understanding

Data 20

Context: Serena and Blair plan break in to the school to hold a secret party around the swimming pool. Their classmates are all invited. Also, Serena invites Dan to come. Unfortunately, one of their classmates accidentally falls into the swimming pool and get injured. The accident automatically leads the teachers to find out that there is a secret party has been held in the school area. Thus, the headmistress gathers the naughty students to punish them. Dan become very worries about his study, but Serena tries to sooth him.

SERENA : Everything is gonna be fine
DAN : Were you just in the same assembly as me?
SERENA : Do you really think she's gonna expel two-thirds of the junior class? Look, I got you into this. I'm gonna get you out of it, okay? **Trust me**.

SERENA kisses DAN and goes**.**

(Gossip Girl, Episode 12)

Analysis:

The data above is taken from the conversation between Serena and Dan after they and their classmates being scolded and punished by the headmistress since they broke into the school holding a party on the previous day. Seeing her boyfriend, Dan, began worrying that he will lose his scholarship or even being expelled, by saying **Do you really think she's gonna expel two-thirds of the junior class?**. It simply means Serena tells what she believes and wants Dan to also believe as she does that no one of junior class, including Dan, will be expelled. Moreover, she also says **Look, I got you into this. I'm gonna get you out of it, okay?** which simply indicates her guilt and her will to take charge of the risk Dan will face since she is the one who has invited Dan to the party. Then, when she says **Trust me**, she merely aims to give Dan an **advice** to stop worrying because she will be responsible for the risk of bringing Dan into the problem.

It is also can be seen that Serena's utterance **Trust me** is a **direct imperative** because she expresses her demands directly to Dan to be calm and let her find a win-win solution. In addition, by saying the utterance, Serena promises Dan a certainty and hope.

Deborah Tannen claims that women used to seek for and give understanding. In contrast, this data above shows that a woman give an advice rather than understanding, so it can be concluded that this data oppose the claim.

4.2.2.3 Direct Imperatives Indicating Information vs. Feeling

Data 21

Context: Serena comes late so she misses the assembly held before the class begins. As she arrives, she meets Dan and asks him if the assembly has been over or not, but Dan thinks she talks about their relationship.

SERENA : (sighs) **Oh God! Please, don't tell me it's over.**
DAN : What? You were there. I would say it's pretty over.
SERENA : **I mean, the assembly.**
DAN : Oh, right. No, yeah, no, it just ended now.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 3)

Analysis:

A good relationship between Serena and Dan which has just been built for days is broken instantaneously just because the incident at the brunch held by Chuck's dad when he finds out that Serena secretly met Nate behind him. It must be a great pain for Dan knowing that the girl he loves for all of his life has disappointed him. Since the incident just happened on the previous day, it is still hard for him to move on. It is seen in the data above when Serena coincidentally meets him at the arcade and asks if the assembly has been finished, Dan answers **What? You were there. I would say it's pretty over** instead which refers to the incident at the brunch.

Serena's utterance **I mean, the assembly** makes it clear that she is not talking about their relationship. She talks about the assembly. Hence, it is known that Serena puts her focus on **information**.

To get the information, she asks directly and when Dan gets it wrong, again, she tells directly that she asks about the assembly. Regarding the way Serena tells her need, it is revealed that Serena's utterance belongs to **direct imperative**.

Tannen says that women's talk is commonly feeling-oriented. However, Serena's utterance in this data proves it wrong as she speaks to get information about the assembly.

4.2.2.4 Direct Imperatives Indicating Orders vs. Proposals

Data 22

Context: Chuck and Serena are talking at the kitchen of the apartment where she stays. Since the apartment is the property of his dad, Chuck feels free to commands all the kitchen crew to go home earlier. When there is no one except them in the kitchen, Chuck tells Serena that he has found her having sex with Nate and threatens her to tell Blair, so Serena has no other choice than asking for Chuck's guard.

CHUCK : (standing) I think you're more like me than you'd admit.
SERENA : (sitting) No. no,that--that was then. I... I'm trying to change.
(CHUCK begins to rape SERENA)
SERENA **:** (pushing CHUCK away) **Chuck, stop it. Stop. No! Chuck, stop it!**

(Gossip Girl 1, Episode 2)

Analysis:

Sexual intercourse used to be seen as a sacred thing. However, nowadays, doing sex is a common thing done by everyone even without marriage and love. It is only used to satisfy one's sexual desire or as solution of problems. The data above shows how Chuck sees sex as a superficial thing. Since he finds out the affair between Serena and Nate, he bets Serena will count on him rather than confessing it. Counting on Chuck equals to willingly doing everything he asks to do, including

having sex with him. **Like me** in Chuck's utterance actually means having sex with him. It is also proved that Chuck approaches to hug and kiss Serena. However, as she tries to push Chuck away, she says **Chuck, stop it. Stop. No! Chuck, stop it!** indicating Serena's refusal to have sex with him. Serena's utterance contains an **order** since in this data she asks Chuck to stop doing his misdeed.

Serena's demand is told directly. She expresses it straight to the point without talking too much. Thus, her utterance is a **direct imperative**.

According to the explanation above, the data above shows a contrast interpretation with a claim that women encourage the use of very polite forms. It is all because the condition pushes her to do so. In such condition, asking politely indirectly like "Would you please stop it?" will not be effective since it can decrease the communicated urgency.

4.2.3. Softened Imperatives Used in Woman's Language

There is only one data containing softened imperative used in man's language are found and analyzed. The data represents independence vs. intimacy.

4.2.3.1 Softened Imperatives Indicating Independence vs. Intimacy

Data 23

Context: As getting Jenny's emergency message, Dan immediately comes to meet Jenny. As he arrives on the boutique where Jenny have been waiting for him, Dan is annoyed when finding out that the emergency is simply a fashion emergency.

DAN : What's wrong?
JENNY : **Do you like this on me?**
DAN : Wait--wait a second. Is that why you needed me? I thought this was an emergency.
JENNY : A fashion emergency.

(Gossip Girl, Episode 1)

Analysis:

Blair throws an annual party, named "Kiss On The Lips Party". Only those who receive the invitation are welcome to join the party. Jenny is one of the party attenders. After have been waiting for a long time, she is finally invited. Of course, she feels so excited and does not want to spoil the chance given to her. Since it is her first time to join the party, she wants to make it perfect. A party is used to be seen as a bridge to fame, fun, and even a dream date. This is why Jenny really concerns on her apperance. Just like the Cinderella who comes to a ball and get all the eyes on her, Jenny wants to dazzle. However, as she has found a red dress she thinks is perfect, she feels doubt if other people thinks the same way, so she asks Dan to come by telling him it's an emergency. Immediately, Dan goes to see Jenny. He arrives only to see Jenny handling a dress and asking **Do you like this on me?** Dan automatically gets annoyed when he knows it is an emergency, he worries if Jenny is facing a big trouble such as having her bag stolen or meeting the drunk men teasing her. For him,

it is really a waste of time and energy to go in a hurry only to be his sister fashion stylist. He bets Jenny can decide even without his suggestion. However, Jenny prefers asking for Dan's suggestion since she wants to be sure and feel confident wearing the dress. In addition, Jenny have no close girl mate, she only has Dan as her brother on whom she always can count. Hence, Jenny builds **intimacy** by discussing her choice.

It can be seen that Jenny's utterance is a question. Certainly, a question needs an answer. Thus, when Jenny asks **Do you like this on me?**, she hopes Dan tells her what she thinks of the dress. She requests Dan to give his opinion. A request delivered in a question form can be classified into **softened imperatives** because it contains an demand, but in a soft one.

The data shows that Jenny tries to seek intimacy. It tells the same as Tannen's claim that women appreciate discussion since it helps them to build intimacy.