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Simon's Biloxi Blues: A pragmatics reading

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The present paper explores Culpeper's impoliteness strategies in selected extracts from Neil Simon's Biloxi Blues to reveal how Culpeper's impoliteness strategies are realised in dramatic texts from a pragmatics perspective. Impoliteness is a new field of study and an uncharted field of pragmatics. It also aims to provide a framework for implementing impoliteness strategies in the play to interpret it from different perspectives and to ascertain the impoliteness strategies that are relevant to face attack. Impoliteness strategies can cause disharmony and conflict between characters in a dramatic text. The interactions exchanged by the characters in the play are analysed according to five impoliteness strategies: bald on record impoliteness, positive impoliteness, negative impoliteness, sarcasm or mock politeness, and withhold politeness. This comedy was chosen for four reasons: first, drama is a mirror to life, and real-life speech events, second, drama is a useful medium for analysing speech events, third, impoliteness strategies give us a resource to analyse and interpret impolite interactions between the characters, fourth, dramatic dialogues are resourceful enough to interpret verbal and non-verbal impoliteness strategies. This study adopts a qualitative textual analysis method from a pragmatics perspective.

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