

Phatic Expressions in the *Riverdale* TV Series Season 1

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze and classify the function of the six main characters' phatic expressions related to Jason Blossom's death in the *Riverdale* TV Series Season 1 using Jumanto's theory (2017), namely breaking the silence, starting a conversation, making small talk, gossiping, keeping the talk, expressing solidarity, creating harmony, offering comfort, expressing empathy, expressing friendship, expressing respect, and expressing politeness. The result shows that a total of 195 data of all types of phatic functions are found. Keeping the talk, with 61 occurrences, is the most used strategy by the six main characters since they want to maintain the conversation to get information about Jason Blossom's death. This research also classifies the response types and analyzes whether their responses to those phatic expressions can stop or continue the conversations. When the conversations can be continued and maintained, the characters could get more information about Jason Blossom's death and even the murderer.

Keywords: *functions, phatic expression, pragmatics, responses.*

INTRODUCTION

In daily conversation, phatic expressions are often used between speakers and listeners. This communication is widely known because of Malinowski's concept (1923) about phatic communion. Malinowski stated that phatic communion is a kind of discourse where exchanging words makes a union (1923, p. 315). Jumanto (2017, p. 34) claimed that phatic communion is verbal communication that maintains a social relationship and does not emphasize informational content. In other words, phatic communication is more directed to social functions rather than informative functions.

Phatic communication is often considered unimportant. Cruz (2007, p. 2) mentioned that some linguists have argued that phatic communication is

unimportant because it is made more to recognize the listeners than to give information. However, this communication aims to strengthen a good relationship between speakers and hearers.

The present research investigates the use of phatic communication in the TV series *Riverdale* (Moranville, 2017), primarily because in this series, phatic expressions are used in conversations that contain casual as well as serious topics, in this case, Jason Blossom's death. By analyzing the phatic expressions about Jason Blossom's death, this study attempts to show that a serious topic can contain phatic expressions that may serve some functions. In other words, this study aims to examine the functions of phatic expressions produced by the six main characters in the *Riverdale* TV series.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A number of studies about phatic communication and its functions have been conducted previously. For example, Parastika (2009) examines the forms of phatic expressions in the movie *Juno* and analyses them using Aitchison's theory (1996). The analysis found all forms of phatic communion: ritual words that are exchanged when people meet with 8 data, standard topic of conversation with 5 data, supportive chat with 10 data, and meaningless words or misunderstood words with 5 data.

Another study, Hamdin (2016), examines the kinds, explains the uses, and elucidates phatic functions found in the play *The pillars of the community*. Hamdin employed Malinowski's theory of types, use, and functions of phatic expressions (1923), supported by the theory of phatic functions proposed by Jakobson (1960) and the theory of context by Hymes (1974) to understand the conversation. The result shows that 40 phatic communions are found, and they are divided into ten types.

Next, Situmorang (2017) investigates utterances in casual conversations containing small talk produced by three pairs of Indonesians and foreigners who come from Libya, Wales, and Germany. The results show that there are 382 utterances in 22 types of conversation topics, and also 11 phatic expressions were employed.

Then, Ilyas (2017) analyzes the phatic functions that focus on the kinds and the roles in the novel *Fault in our stars* by John Green. The theory proposed by Laver (1975) was adopted to describe the types and roles of phatic functions in the novel. The findings of this paper show all kinds of phatic functions in the novel.

Finally, Sabata and Ibrahim (2018) analyze phatic expressions in the novel *A portrait of the artist as a young man* by James Joyce using Jakobson's theory. The finding shows that there are 96 phatic expressions used to serve different functions in the novel.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study applies the theory proposed by Jumanto (2017) about the functions of phatic expressions. Jumanto (2017, pp. 99-100) proposes twelve functions of phatic communication: breaking the silence, starting a conversation, making small talk, gossiping, keeping the talk, expressing solidarity, creating harmony, offering comfort, expressing empathy, expressing friendship, expressing respect, and expressing politeness. Each of these functions is described in detail below.

Breaking the Silence

Breaking the silence is used by the speakers when meeting or separating from someone with superiors or subordinates. It can be realized by greetings, saying goodbye, mentioning the name or title or both, and commenting on something obvious (Jumanto, 2017, p. 101-103).

Starting a Conversation

Starting a conversation is used to start a conversation. Usually, the speakers start a conversation by calling someone's names, titles, or both, greeting, saying goodbye, commenting on something obvious, interrupting, and apologizing (Jumanto, 2017, p. 104-105).

Making Small Talk

Making small talk is used to create a conversation freely. Usually, the topic is not about serious or important things. It is divided into three parts which are opening, content, and closing (Jumanto, 2017, p. 106-107).

Gossiping

Gossiping is only used in informal situations to talk about someone's life. This function has three parts: opening, content, and closing (Jumanto, 2017, p. 110-111).

Keeping the Talk

Keeping the talk is used to make a situation alive and also to make the conversation continue. It is expressed by interrupting, avoiding silence when talking, changing the topic of conversation, or expressing listening noises (Jumanto, 2017, p. 112-113).

Expressing Solidarity

The speakers can express their solidarity with others' feelings or thoughts by making wishes, congratulating, agreeing on something, apologizing, thanking, complimenting, criticizing indirectly, saying bad words, mocking, and joking (Jumanto, 2017, p. 115-120).

Creating Harmony

People can use phatic expressions to create a pleasant circumstance that can create harmony in conversation. The expressions may include wishes, congratulating someone, agreeing on something, apologizing, thanking, complimenting, criticizing indirectly, saying bad words, mocking, and joking in informal or formal situations (Jumanto, 2017, p. 122).

Offering Comfort

Offering comfort means that phatic expression can be used to make a comfortable situation when the speakers and the listeners are in a conversation. This expression can make someone feel better by expressing wishes, congratulating, agreeing on something, apologizing, thanking, complimenting, criticizing, saying a bad word, mocking, joking, calming someone down, and giving encouragement (Jumanto, 2017, p. 124-125).

Expressing Empathy

This function means that the speakers can understand the other's feelings by expressing empathy. It includes congratulating, expressing wishes, agreeing on something, complimenting, apologizing, thanking, criticizing, saying bad words, mocking, joking, calming someone down, giving encouragement, and expressing sympathy (Jumanto, 2017, p. 127-128).

Expressing Friendship

Expressing friendship is used to show that the speakers and the listeners have a good relationship and also to begin or maintain a friendship. It can be expressed by agreeing on something, expressing wishes, apologizing, thanking, complimenting, criticizing, saying bad words, mocking, joking, congratulating, calming someone down, giving encouragement, and expressing sympathy (Jumanto, 2017, p. 130-131).

Expressing Respect

Expressing respect is used to respect others in conversation. However, people more often use it to address a person with an unknown or higher status. This function is shown by expressing wishes, congratulating, agreeing on something, apologizing, thanking, complimenting, criticizing, saying bad words, mocking, joking, calming someone down, giving encouragement, and expressing sympathy (Jumanto, 2017, p. 133).

Expressing Politeness

This function includes the functions that have been mentioned before, except gossiping, and it can be used in an informal or formal situation (Jumanto, 2017, p. 135-136).

METHODS

The data sources of this research are all the episodes in the first season of the *Riverdale* TV series (Moranville, 2017). There are 13 episodes in the first season, running for a total of 9 hours, 20 minutes, and 22 seconds or an average of 43 minutes and 11 seconds. Legal access to the movies was obtained from Netflix. In addition to these movies, their subtitles were also consulted. They were obtained from www.subscene.com.

The first step for collecting the data is by watching the TV series as well as reading the subtitles. Then, the six main characters' use of phatic expressions when they talk about the topic related to Jason Blossom's death were collected, identified, and classified based on their functions. In addition, the

contexts of the conversations and the timestamp when the dialogues containing phatic expressions were found were written down. The data were analyzed, identified, and classified based on the phatic functions using Jumanto's theory (2017). Next, the data were coded according to the episode number and timestamp when the dialogues occurred. The episode number and the timestamp were separated by the forward-slash "/". Then, following the episode number and the timestamp was the code for each of the phatic functions: PF1 for breaking the silence, PF2 for starting a conversation, PF3 for making small talk, PF4 for gossiping, PF5 for keeping the talk, PF6 for expressing solidarity, PF7 for creating harmony, PF8 for offering comfort, PF9 for expressing empathy, PF10 for expressing friendship, PF11 expressing respect, and PF12 for expressing politeness. The utterance containing a phatic expression in each dialogue was printed in bold. Below is an example illustrating the coding system used in this study.

(1) 3/ 00:06:09,769 --> 00:07:15,670 (PF3)

Context: *Betty and Jughead are in the room where the students usually write school articles called Blue and Gold. She asks him about the novel he writes, which is about Jason Blossom. And then she asks him to write an article about it.*

Betty: **You're writing a novel, right? About Jason Blossom's murder?**

Jughead: I am. Riverdale's very own In Cold Blood.

In the example above, 3 indicates the episode number in the first season of the series, and 00:06:09,769 --> 00:07:15,670 indicates the timestamp in which the dialogue occurs. PF3 shows the function of the phatic expression **You're writing a novel, right? About Jason Blossom's murder?**, i.e., to make small talk.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overall, a total of 195 phatic expressions were found in the *Riverdale* TV Series Season 1. All types of phatic functions were found in the TV series. Table 1 shows the frequency of the functions of phatic expressions found in the series. The table shows that

phatic expressions were most commonly used to keep the talk (31.28%) and gossip (29.47%). They were least commonly used to express politeness (1.03%) and respect (0.51%). The results seem to suggest that the characters in the TV series tend to use phatic expressions to keep the conversations going, and to gossip, probably because of their close relationships.

Table 1. The frequency of phatic function in the *Riverdale* TV Series Season 1

No.	Phatic Functions	Token	(%)
1.	Breaking the Silence	4	2.05
2.	Starting a Conversation	21	10.77
3.	Making Small Talk	13	6.67
4.	Gossiping	58	29.47
5.	Keeping the Talk	61	31.28
6.	Expressing Solidarity	6	3.08
7.	Creating Harmony	5	2.56
8.	Offering Comfort	9	4.62
9.	Expressing Empathy	6	3.08
10.	Expressing Friendship	9	4.62
11.	Expressing Respect	1	0.51
12.	Expressing Politeness	2	1.03
Total		195	100.00

Breaking the Silence

Phatic expression can also be used to avoid silence when a conversation happens. The conversation is illustrated as follows.

(2) 11/ 00:41:09,608 --> 00:41:32,528 (PF1)

Context: *No one can contact Jughead after his father gets arrested for killing Jason Blossom, so Betty goes to Pop's Bar to find him. There, she meets Veronica and Archie, and they begin to tell her that Jughead's father is being framed.*

Veronica: **Betty...** Thank goodness.

Archie: We were gonna call you.

Betty: I'm not talking to you, either of you, ever again.

Archie: It's about Jughead.

Veronica: Kevin called me. And he said his dad found a gun, the gun that killed Jason, in a lockbox in FP's closet.

Archie: But Betty, we searched FP's trailer. We looked through that closet. And there was no lockbox. Someone put it there after we left. He's being framed.

This scene shows when Veronica calls another character's name, "**Betty...**". Besides the intention to start a conversation with her, this utterance also aims to break the silence between them. This is because there is a silent moment when they look at each other before Veronica calls her name. Archie then continues to talk to maintain the conversation.

Starting a Conversation

The purpose of the expressions belonging to this category is to start a conversation. The following is an example of the conversation containing this function.

(3) 4/ 00:05:02,960 --> 00:05:09,488 (PF2)

Context: Betty, Veronica, Kevin, and Jughead are in the Pop's Bar. And then Archie, his father, and Ms. Grundy enter that bar. Betty comes to them and asks Archie to talk to her outside to confirm that Archie and Mrs. Grundy were in the Sweetwater River when Jason was killed.

Mr. Andrews: Hey, Betty.

Betty: Hi, Mr. Andrews, Ms. Grundy. **Archie, can I talk to you?**

Archie: Sure. I'll call you later?

This scene happens when Betty sees Archie and wants to talk to him about Grundy. However, he is with his father and Grundy. Therefore, she interrupts them by saying, "**Archie, can I talk to you?**" to start a conversation with him before she asks to talk outside. This is included as starting a conversation because she uses this expression as a strategy to start the conversation with him.

Making Small Talk

This function is to create free and unfocused conversation. According to Jumanto's theory,

making small talk is divided into three parts which are opening, content, and closing (2017, p. 106).

Opening

(4) 1/ 00:41:59,771 --> 00:42:14,444 (PF3)

Context: Archie comes to Pop's Bar to find Betty, but she is not there. Then, he sees Jughead sitting in a chair in that bar, working on his computer. He decides to sit with him and asks what he is doing.

Archie: Uh, can I sit, Jughead?

Jughead: *If you want.*

Archie: What are you working on?

Jughead: My novel. It's about this summer, and Jason Blossom.

Archie: Seventeen years old and how will he be remembered?

After seeing Jughead, Archie wants to talk to him because Jughead is his friend. So, he makes a small talk about opening the conversation with him by asking, "**Uh, can I sit, Jughead?**" This is classified as the opening of making small talk because this expression is to begin the small talk with Jughead.

Content

(5) 1/ 00:41:59,771 --> 00:42:14,444 (PF3)

Context: Archie comes to Pop's Bar to find Betty but she is not there. Then, he sees Jughead sitting in a chair in that bar, working on his computer. He decides to sit with him and asks what he is doing.

Archie: Uh, can I sit, Jughead?

Jughead: *If you want.*

Archie: **What are you working on?**

Jughead: My novel. It's about this summer, and Jason Blossom.

Archie: Seventeen years old and how will he be remembered?

In this scene, after asking to sit with Jughead, Archie sees Jughead working on his computer. He wants to talk to him and also wonders what he is doing. Then, the utterance "**What are you working on?**" is said by Archie to build the conversation. It is

considered as the content of making small talk because the topic is a safe or an unimportant topic that can be developed by them.

Closing

(6) 11/ 00:30:53,972 --> 00:31:05,648 (PF3)

Context: Veronica and Archie are late for the Homecoming Dance because they go to FP's trailer before to find any evidence about Jason Blossom's death. Betty is looking for them, and she sees them talking to her mother. She wonders why they are late and what they and her mother are talking about.

Betty: Where were you guys?

Archie: We stopped... We stopped at Pop's.

Betty: And what were you just talking to my mom about?

Veronica: Betty...

Archie: **Guys, can we table this? We gotta get ready. Come on.**

In this scene, Archie knows that their answer to Betty's question will make her angry and disappointed because her mother asks them to find information about Jughead's father without her knowing it. Besides, he and Veronica have to perform at the Homecoming Party. So, he uses it as the reason to stop the conversation by saying, "**Guys, can we table this? We gotta get ready. Come on.**" It is categorized as the closing of making small talk because that expression aims to end the small talk that Betty starts. His utterance makes the conversation stops.

Gossiping

This function has the purpose of talking about someone else's life, excluding the speakers and the listeners, in an informal situation. Jumanto divided gossiping into opening, content, and closing (2017, p. 110-111).

Opening

(7) 4/ 00:17:56,376 --> 00:18:10,585 (PF4)

Context: After finding a gun and Mrs. Grundy's fake ID, Betty and Veronica go to Archie's house to tell him about that. They tell him that Mrs. Grundy might be involved in killing Jason.

Betty: We were just in Grundy's car...

Archie: What? You were in her car?

Veronica: Yeah, and thank God we were. We found a gun.

Archie: What?

Betty: And an ID with the name Jennifer Gibson.

This is proof Ms. Grundy is not who she says she is.

The example above shows that Betty and Veronica tell Archie what they found in Grundy's car. They found her fake ID and a gun. Then, Betty opens the gossip about Grundy by saying "**This is proof Ms. Grundy is not who she says she is.**" It is categorized as the opening of gossiping because this statement opens the conversation about the possibility that Grundy might have killed Jason.

Content:

(8) 4/ 00:18:09,456 --> 00:18:23,501 (PF4)

Context: After finding a gun and Mrs. Grundy's fake ID, Betty and Veronica go to Archie's house to tell him about that. They tell him that Mrs. Grundy might be involved in killing Jason.

Archie: Then who is she?

Veronica: Obviously some sketch-queen named Jennifer Gibson.

Betty: **Archie, what if she had something to do with Jason's murder?** She taught him, she made you lie about him, we know she was at the river, she has a gun.

Archie: So does Dilton Doiley, but you never thought he killed Jason.

In this conversation, Betty tries to convince Archie that Grundy might have killed Jason when she says "**Archie, what if she had something to do with Jason's murder?**" This part is the most important part of the gossip as she gives what she thinks of as evidence of Grundy's involvement in the murder.

Closing

(9) 4/ 00:23:53,293 --> 00:24:15,598 (PF4)

Context: Archie and Betty walk on the roadside while Archie is explaining to her the reason why Ms. Grundy has a fake ID and a gun that is not related to Jason Blossom's murder.

Betty: You're in over your head, Arch. You're in this relationship with this person who is cutting you off from everyone else in your life. Just think about what you're doing, Archie. Not for your sake, but Ms. Grundy's. Is this really what's best for her?

Archie: **I am gonna deal with this, but on my terms, not yours.**

In this conversation, Betty tries to make Archie believe that he and Grundy cannot be together. Archie does not like to talk about it anymore, so he gives the reason that he wants to solve the problem with his way to stop that topic by saying, "**I am gonna deal with this, but on my terms, not yours.**" This utterance is the ending of gossiping because it makes Betty stop talking about Grundy.

Keeping the Talk

This function aims to keep the talk between the speakers and listeners. This function becomes the most used by the six main characters with 61 data. The example below shows the use of a phatic expression to serve this function.

(10) 5/ 00:03:48,043 --> 00:04:05,825 (PF5)

Context: Betty, Jughead, and Kevin are in the Gold and Blue room that they use as their room to make the murder board of Jason Blossom. While talking about the murder board, Trev comes and talks to Betty about their date.

Kevin: Going on a date with Trev? Does Mama Cooper know about that?

Betty: Kev, I'm not on house arrest. Okay, she's out of town at a Women in Journalism spa retreat. **Anyway, it's not a "date" date.**

Jughead: You just called it a date. You literally said, "It's a date."

In this scene, Kevin asks Betty if her mother knows about her date, and Betty says she does not. It then leads to a talk about her mother. Then, Betty changes the topic by saying "**Anyway,**" which indicates that she wants to talk about another topic, and she continues saying "**it's not a "date"**" which shows that she changes the topic from her mother to the topic about her date that related to Jason's death. This utterance functions to keep the talk because she aims to use it to keep the conversation going.

Expressing Solidarity

This function is used to give support to the feelings and thoughts of others. Below is an example of the conversation.

(11) 12/ 00:34:03,381 --> 00:34:16,005 (PF6)

Context: Jughead, Betty, and Kevin find a bag that contains Jason's football jacket. Then, they bring it to Archie's garage. Archie and Veronica join them. They start discussing why Jughead's father said it is dangerous for him.

Archie: This is meant to help FP?

Kevin: I don't know. Looks like more incriminating evidence to me.

Jughead: **Yeah.** This just confirms that my dad torched Jason's getaway car.

Kevin: And that his confession was true.

In this conversation, Archie, Betty, Kevin, and Jughead do not know why Jughead's father told Joaquin that Jason's jacket could be dangerous for them. At first, they think it can give a clue about the murderer. However, Kevin says that the jacket is more like incriminating evidence. After hearing Kevin's statement, Jughead says, "**Yeah,**". It is included as expressing solidarity because his utterance shows that he agrees and supports Kevin's opinion about Jason's jacket.

Expressing Harmony

This function aims to create a pleasant situation that can create harmony between the speakers and the listeners. An example of the conversation can be seen below.

(12) 2/ 00:33:02,106 --> 00:33:34,708 (PF7)

Context: *After playing in a football tournament with the school football team, Archie sees Jughead and runs to him to inform him that he is going to tell the school Principal about the gunshot that he heard on July 4th in the Sweetwater River.*

Jughead: Girl trouble? You?

Archie: Grundy and me. We're telling Weatherbee. At least, I am. And also, I didn't mean all that crap I said to you. I'm sorry.

Jughead: It's cool. **We're not gonna hug in front of this whole town.** (LAUGHS)

This scene shows that after playing football, Archie comes to Jughead. He tells him that he wants to tell the School Principal about the gunshot he heard. Also, he apologizes to him for their argument about Grundy the day before. After accepting Archie's apology, Jughead and Archie seem to be awkward with each other. Then, Jughead makes a joke by saying, "**We're not gonna hug in front of this whole town.**" This utterance expresses harmony because he uses this utterance to make the situation comfortable for them.

Offering Comfort

This function has the purpose of making others feel better and creating a comfortable situation when the speakers and the listeners are in a conversation. The conversation can be seen as follows.

(13) 8/00:30:53,407 --> 00:31:15,661 (PF8)

Context: *Betty and Jughead are in Veronica's house, and she just comes back from a room where Polly sleeps. Jughead feels sorry for her because he does not tell her about his father, who is a Serpent.*

Jughead: I should've told you about my dad when I had the chance.

Betty: So, why didn't you?

Jughead: I was ashamed.

Betty: **Jughead, if we're gonna be together, I want to know who you are. All of it.**

Jughead: Okay.

This scene shows that Jughead feels sorry for Betty because he does not tell her that his father is a Serpent. She knows that he sincerely feels sorry, and

she understands the reason why he does that. So, she tries to make him feel better by convincing him that he does not need to hide anything from her by saying, "**Jughead, if we're gonna be together, I want to know who you are. All of it.**" It is included as expressing comfort because she says that to make him feel better.

Expressing Empathy

The purpose of this expression is to make people understand others' feelings. The following is the conversation that includes an expression of empathy.

(14) 5/00:15:07,277 --> 00:15:22,424 (PF9)

Context: *Betty and Jughead are in the student lounge. She tells him about what her father told her about Jason and Polly's relationship and why Polly is in the social group. And then, this conversation leads to the topic of Jason.*

Jughead: Betty, I'm sorry. That's hardcore.

Betty: I asked my dad if I could call Polly. He said she was doing better. But then, when she heard about Jason's death, she had a big setback. He doesn't want to risk another one.

Jughead: Why does a rich kid sell drugs?

In this conversation, after Betty tells Jughead about Polly's condition, Jughead expresses his empathy to her by saying, "**Betty, I'm sorry. That's hardcore.**" It is an expression of empathy because he knows she is sad about what happened to Polly, so he says it to tell her that he understands her feeling.

Expressing Friendship

This function has a purpose to show that speakers and listeners have a good relationship and also to begin or maintain a friendship. The conversation is illustrated in the following details.

(15) 2/ 00:33:02,106 --> 00:33:34,708 (PF10)

Context: *After playing in a football tournament with the school football team, Archie sees Jughead and runs to him to inform him that he is going to tell the school Principal about the gunshot that he heard on July 4th in the Sweetwater River.*

Jughead: Girl trouble? You?

Archie: *Grundy and me. We're telling Weatherbee. At least, I am.* And also, I didn't mean all that crap I said to you. I'm sorry.

Jughead: It's cool. We're not gonna hug in front of this whole town. (LAUGHS)

In this scene, Jughead sees Archie talking to Grundy. Then, Archie sees Jughead and walks to him. When Archie comes to him, Jughead makes a joke by saying, "**Girl trouble? You?**" This is an expression of friendship because, as a friend, Jughead wants to tease Archie about his relationship with Grundy by saying that.

Expressing Respect

This function has the purpose of respecting each other in the conversation. The example is in the following details.

(16) 11/ 00:15:17,590 -->00:16:25,569 (PF11)

Context: *Archie and Jughead are in Archie's room. Jughead begins talking about Archie's parents, and then he gets excited to talk about his father, who has changed to be a better person. He also tells Archie that his father is interested in the mystery of Jason Blossom's death.*

Jughead: Stranger things have happened, man. Like for instance, my dad shaved. Which is the equivalent of tectonic plates shifting. I was thinking, maybe it's time I go back and live with him again.

Archie: Based on the fact that he shaved?

Jughead: Well, he also hasn't missed a day of work, and he quit drinking.

Archie: That's... **That's great, Jughead . But maybe you should** wait a little bit longer just to make sure it sticks.

Jughead: No, dude, I'm telling you, something has shifted. I mean, he even asked to read my work. The essays, the articles I wrote about Jason.

This scene shows that Jughead wants to go back to his father and live with him. Even though Archie does not agree with Jughead's plan to go this fast, however, he gives compliments first to show respect for his decision by saying, "**That's great, Jughead**" and

then he continues to criticize him indirectly. And he also uses the words "**But maybe you should...**" before criticizing him for avoiding Jughead being offended and make him feel his decision is still respected by Archie. Thus, this utterance is classified as expressing respect.

Expressing Politeness

The purpose of this function is to present politeness in conversation. This function includes the functions that have been mentioned before, except gossiping (Jumanto, 2017, p. 135-136). The conversation is as follows.

(17) 2/ 00:11:19,661 --> 00:11:45,128 (PF12)

Context: *Archie is in the same class as Cheryl. When they sit together, he begins talking about Jason to Cheryl.*

Archie: Cheryl, we haven't talked since the summer. I just want to say, I'm really sorry about your brother.

Cheryl: Jason was the best.

Archie: **If I can do anything to help.**

Cheryl: **That's sweet, Archie, but unless you were at Sweetwater River and know who shot Jason...**

Archie: Do, uh, do you know if the police have any leads?

In this scene, Archie starts the conversation with Cheryl by calling her name and expressing his empathy. After she gives a response to it, he offers her help by saying, "**If I can do anything to help.**" This utterance aims to express his politeness in conversation by offering comfort to Cheryl, a person who is in sadness, and he hopes it can make her feel better by knowing that he will help her if she asks. She does not know he was in the Sweetwater River when Jason was killed, and she thinks he cannot help her because he does not know anything about what happened to his brother. So, she gives the dispreferred response that elaborates with another account, an appreciation, by saying, "**That's sweet, Archie,**" before she declines his offer by saying, "**but unless you were at Sweetwater River and know who shot Jason.**" Her response also expresses politeness because she compliments and gives an appreciation

for his good intention to help her when she says, “That’s sweet, Archie.”

CONCLUSION

This study has explored the functions of phatic expressions produced by the six main characters in the first season of the TV series *Riverdale* when they talk about Jason Blossom’s death. The result shows there are 195 data on the phatic expressions of various functions in 13 episodes of this TV series. Keeping the talk is the most frequently used with 61 data because the characters want to maintain the conversation to get information about Jason Blossom’s death. Further, gossiping is the second most used function in this research with 58 data. The characters often gossip, especially Betty, because there are some people whom they suspect as the killer of Jason Blossom, so they often talk about those people’s life.

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