



**THE USE OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES
BY THE MAIN CHARACTER TO ILLUSTRATE
POWER RELATION IN DARKEST HOUR (2017)
MOVIE**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for S-1 Degree Majoring Linguistics in the English Department,
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

Submitted by:

Chesia Ferdiana

NIM 13020122120017

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

2026

PRONOUNCEMENT

PRONOUNCEMENT

I hereby declare that this thesis is my own original work and has not been previously submitted for an academic degree, whether at the bachelor's, master's, or doctoral level, at any other institution. All sources of information used in this thesis have been properly cited and referenced.

Semarang, 08 May 2026



Chesia Ferdiana

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Whether great or small, once a problem has passed, let it pass. Do not let the heart be filled with attachment. Return to the emptiness of your heart; there lies true freedom.”

- Unknown



*I dedicate this thesis to
my beloved parents.*

APPROVAL

APPROVAL

THE USE OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES BY THE MAIN CHARACTER TO ILLUSTRATE POWER RELATION IN *DARKEST HOUR* (2017) MOVIE

Written by:

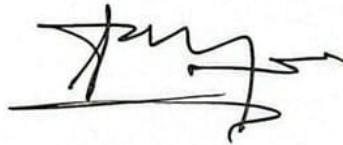
Chesia Ferdiana

NIM: 13020122120017

Is approved by the thesis advisor

on 08 May 2026

Thesis Advisor



Dr. Drs. Catur Kepirianto M.Hum.

NIP. 196509221992031002

The Head of English Department



Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Candra M.Hum.

NIP. 196710041993031003

VALIDATION

VALIDATION

THE USE OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES BY THE MAIN CHARACTER TO ILLUSTRATE POWER RELATION IN *DARKEST HOUR* (2017) MOVIE

Submitted by:

Chesia Ferdiana

NIM: 13020122120017

Approved by

Strata I Thesis Examination Committee

Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

on 12 June 2026

Chairman

Prihantoro S.S., M.A., Ph.D.

NIP. 198306292006041002

Member

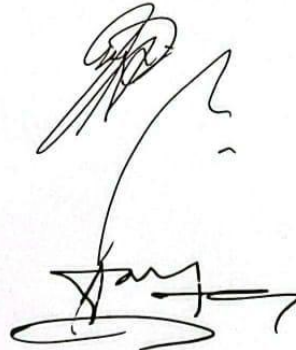
Dr. Mualimin Dip.Tesl, M.Hum.

NIP. 196111101987101001

Member

Dr. Drs. Catur Kepirianto M.Hum.

NIP. 196509221992031002



Accepted and declared in Semarang on 12 June 2026

The Dean of Faculty of Humanities



Prof. Dr. Alamsyah S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 197211191998021002

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude and thanks to God for blessing me with the ability, strength, patience, and guidance to complete this thesis. With God's help and blessings, this thesis has been successfully completed.

I would also like to express my gratitude to:

1. My beloved family, especially my parents and my brother, for all their prayers, support, and advice. Their trust and hope are my greatest source of motivation.
2. My thesis advisor, Dr. Drs. Catur Kepirianto M.Hum., for all the time, guidance, feedback, and support you provided throughout this thesis process.
3. All lecturers of English Literature at Diponegoro University, for all the knowledge and valuable guidance they have given.
4. My best friends in English Literature, especially Ruth, Yosefine, Jesslin, and Syafna, who have been with me since the beginning of my studies and have continued to stand by my side, offering me endless help and support.
5. My best friend, Alycia, who has been there for me and is always willing to listen to all my stories and problems, giving me support and encouragement.
6. My friends from KMBD UNDIP, especially Varis, Shifra, Mettha, and Chalvin, who have accompanied me and brightened my days throughout my time at university.

This thesis is the result of all the support I am deeply grateful for.

Semarang, 08 May 2026

Chesia Ferdiana

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRONOUNCEMENT	ii
MOTTO AND DEDICATION	iii
APPROVAL	iv
VALIDATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
ABSTRACT	ix
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Background of the Study.....	1
1.2. Research Problems	2
1.3. Objectives of the Study	3
1.4. Previous Studies	3
1.5. Scope of the Study	6
1.6. Writing Organization.....	7
CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD	8
2.1. Theoretical Framework	8
2.1.1. Politeness Strategies.....	8
2.1.2. Types of Politeness Strategies.....	9
2.1.2.1. Bald on Record.....	9
2.1.2.2. Positive Politeness.....	10
2.1.2.3. Negative Politeness	11
2.1.2.4. Off Record.....	11
2.1.3. Factors that Influence the Use of Politeness Strategies	12
2.1.3.1. Social Distance.....	12
2.1.3.2. Relative Power	13
2.1.3.3. Rank of Imposition.....	13
2.1.4. Politeness Strategies and Power Relations.....	13
2.2. Research Method.....	14
2.2.1. Data, Population, and Sampling Technique	15
2.2.2. Method of Collecting Data.....	15
2.2.3. Method of Analyzing Data.....	16

CHAPTER III RESULT AND DISCUSSION	17
3.1. Result	17
3.2. Discussion	18
3.2.1. Types of Politeness Strategies used by Winston Churchill	19
3.2.1.1. Bald on Record.....	19
3.2.1.2. Negative Politeness	22
3.2.1.3. Positive Politeness.....	24
3.2.1.4. Off Record.....	27
3.2.2. Power Relations Illustrated through Winston Churchill's Use of Politeness Strategies.....	29
3.2.2.1. Power Relations Based on Dominance through Bald on Record.....	29
3.2.2.2. Power Relations Based on Deference through Negative Politeness .	31
3.2.2.3. Power Relations Based on Solidarity through Positive Politeness ...	33
3.2.2.4. Power Relations Based on Indirectness through Off Record.....	35
3.2.3. Factors Influencing Winston Churchill's Choice of Politeness Strategies.....	36
3.2.3.1. Bald on Record.....	36
3.2.3.2. Negative Politeness	37
3.2.3.3. Positive Politeness.....	38
3.2.3.4. Off Record.....	40
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION.....	42
REFERENCES.....	44
APPENDICES	46

ABSTRACT

This study explores politeness strategies found in the movie *Darkest Hour* (2017), focusing on the main character Winston Churchill. The aims of this study are to identify types of politeness strategies that Winston uses, to describe the power relations between Winston and other characters, and to explain the factors influencing Winston's choice of politeness strategies. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method grounded in the politeness strategy theory of Brown and Levinson, and the data in this study consist of Winston's utterances containing politeness strategies throughout the movie. Based on the analysis, it is found that in his interactions with other characters in the movie, Winston employs four types of politeness strategies, namely bald on record, negative politeness, positive politeness, and off record. The use of these four types of politeness strategies illustrates the power relations between him and other characters and is influenced by factors including social distance, relative power, rank of imposition, as well as context and communication goals. This analysis of Winston's character demonstrates how politeness strategies can describe power relations while also managing social relationships.

Keywords: Darkest Hour; main character; politeness strategies; power relations; Winston Churchill

