



**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**

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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

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**THE USE OF POLITENESS STRATEGIES BY THE MAIN CHARACTER
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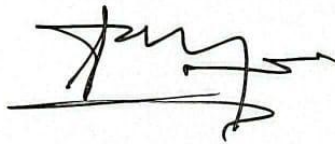
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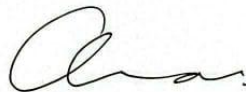
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ABSTRACT

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

