



**ANALYZING POLITENESS STRATEGIES FOR  
IDENTIFYING LINGUISTIC CHARACTERIZATION  
OF JOHN WICK AND WINSTON IN *JOHN WICK*  
CHAPTER 4 (2023) 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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2026**

## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

I honestly state that this thesis was written by me without taking any work from other researchers in any university, in diploma degree, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degrees. I also ascertain that I do not take any material from other works except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 20 April 2026

Priscilla Mega Anindita



## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Do your best and let god do the rest.

**My beautiful mother.**



*This thesis is dedicated to*

*My beloved dad, mom, little sister, and grandparents*

*and those whom I love the most*

## APPROVAL

**ANALYZING POLITENESS STRATEGIES FOR IDENTIFYING  
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IN *JOHN WICK CHAPTER 4* (2023) MOVIE**

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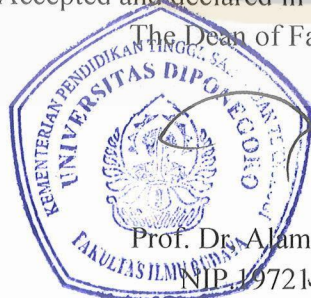
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This thesis is, of course, still in need of improvement since I realize that this is far from being perfect. Thus, any recommendation and constructive suggestion would always be welcomed and appreciated. Finally, I hope that this thesis will be helpful for those who want to learn about politeness strategies or any related linguistic field in general.

Semarang, 20 April 2026

Priscilla Mega Anindita



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATION

FTA:	Face Threatening Act
P:	Relative Power
D:	Social Distance
R:	Rank of Imposition



## ABSTRACT

John Wick movies tell the story of a retired assassin, John Wick, who, with help from a friend, Winston, fights for freedom. Both fight for power differently: one through physical means, while the other helped pave the way through administrative channels. This study aims to explore their differences through a linguistic lens and to analyze whether their use of politeness strategies can reveal their characterization. This research is descriptive in nature and uses the comparative method to compare and contrast the two characters' choices of strategies and circumstances in which they happened. Using Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory as a framework, it is discovered that John Wick prefers a more direct approach, primarily using a bald-on-record strategy, while Winston uses both bald-on-record and off-record strategies equally. Their respective preferences also revealed their linguistic characterization, with John Wick being straightforward and Winston meticulous. This research provides an additional view that shows the possibility of different politeness strategies being used by two individuals under similar circumstances that complements the existing studies on linguistic characterization.

Keywords: *John Wick, politeness, politeness strategy, characterization, linguistic*

