

**POLITENESS STRATEGIES IN ROMANTIC COMMUNICATION OF
THE CHARACTERS IN KRISTEN ROUPENIAN’S “CAT PERSON”**



Intelligentia - Dignitas

THESIS

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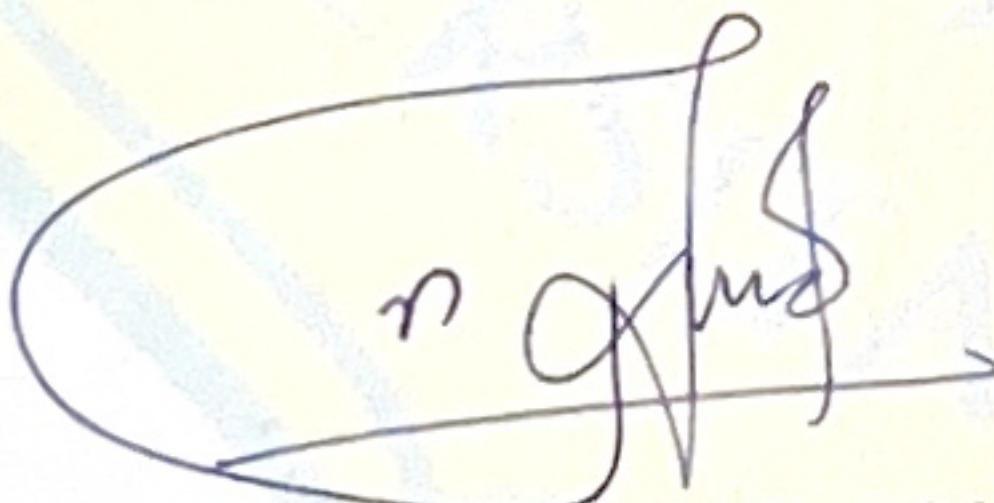
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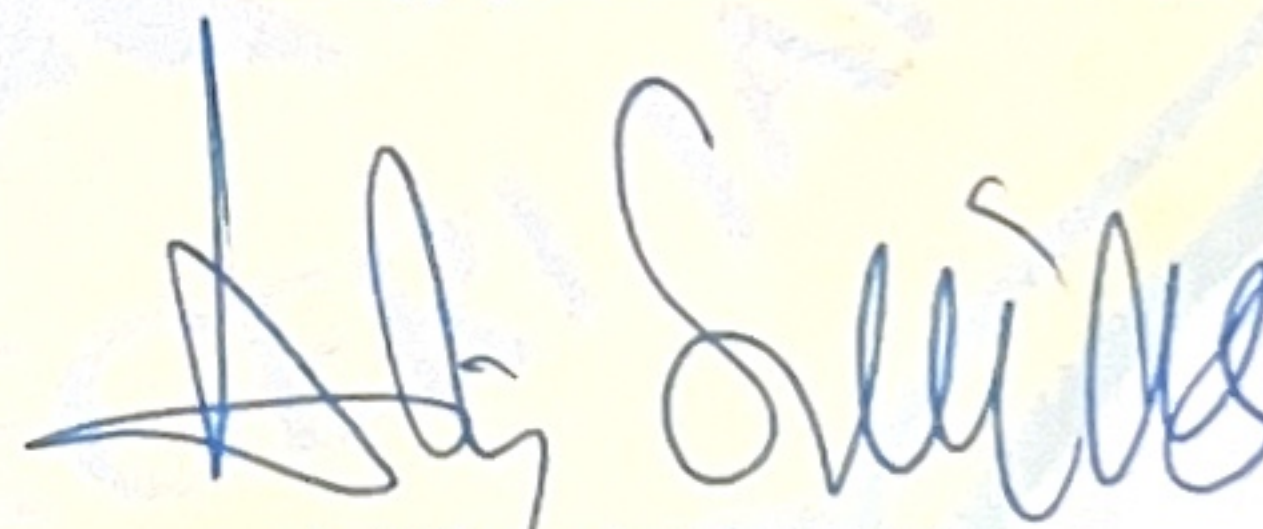
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ABSTRAK

Hapsari, P. B., 2026. Strategi Kesantunan dalam Komunikasi Romantis Tokoh-Tokoh dalam "Cat Person" karya Kristen Roupenian (2026). Skripsi Sarjana: Jakarta, Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

Penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana strategi kesantunan berfungsi dalam komunikasi romantis antara Margot dan Robert dalam cerita pendek "Cat Person" karya Kristen Roupenian. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis strategi kesantunan yang digunakan kedua karakter sepanjang tahapan hubungan mereka, menganalisis bagaimana kekuasaan, jarak sosial, dan tingkat pembebanan berfungsi sebagai alat negosiasi dalam interaksi mereka, dan mengkaji bagaimana strategi tersebut merefleksikan pola komunikasi melalui konsep report talk dan rapport talk Deborah Tannen (1990) serta Model Perkembangan Relasional Knapp. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif interpretatif dengan menerapkan teori kesantunan Brown dan Levinson (1987), teori gaya komunikasi Tannen (1990), dan tahapan relasional Knapp (1978) untuk menganalisis 156 data yang diperoleh dari narasi dan dialog. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa bald on record (28,8%) dan positive politeness (28,2%) merupakan strategi yang paling sering digunakan, diikuti oleh negative politeness (25,6%) dan off record (17,3%). Robert secara konsisten menggunakan bald on record dan report talk di sepanjang tahapan relasional, yang mencerminkan orientasi yang stabil terhadap kontrol alih-alih penyesuaian situasional, sementara rapport talk Margot secara bertahap bergeser dari upaya membangun kedekatan menjadi penyalahan diri dan akhirnya berujung pada keheningan total pada tahap terminating. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa strategi kesantunan dalam "Cat Person" tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai penanda kesantunan, tetapi juga sebagai alat dinamis untuk menegosiasikan, mempertahankan, dan pada akhirnya menyelesaikan asimetri kekuasaan berbasis gender melalui penarikan diri komunikatif Margot.

Kata Kunci: Cat Person, strategi kesantunan, komunikasi romantis, negosiasi kekuasaan, komunikasi gender

ABSTRACT

Hapsari, P. B., 2026. Politeness Strategies in Romantic Communication of the Characters in Kristen Roupenian's "Cat Person" (2026). Undergraduate Thesis: Jakarta, English Literature Study Programme, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.

This study examines how politeness strategies function in the romantic communication between Margot and Robert in Kristen Roupenian's short story "Cat Person." The study aims to identify the types of politeness strategies employed by both characters across the stages of their relationship, analyze how power, social distance, and rank of imposition function as negotiation tools in their interaction, and examine how these strategies reflect communication patterns through Deborah Tannen's (1990) concepts of report talk and rapport talk and Knapp's Relational Development Model. This research uses a descriptive interpretative approach, applying Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory, Tannen's (1990) communication style theory, and Knapp's (1978) relational stages to analyze 156 data points drawn from narration and dialogue. The findings show that bald on record (28.8%) and positive politeness (28.2%) are the most frequently used strategies, followed by negative politeness (25.6%) and off record (17.3%). Robert consistently relies on bald on record and report talk throughout all relational stages, reflecting a stable orientation toward control rather than situational adjustment, while Margot's rapport talk gradually shifts from connection-building to self-blame and finally to complete silence in the terminating stage. The study concludes that politeness strategies in "Cat Person" function not merely as markers of politeness but as dynamic tools through which gendered power asymmetry is negotiated, sustained, and ultimately resolved through Margot's communicative withdrawal.

Keywords: Cat Person, politeness strategies, romantic communication, power negotiation, gendered communication

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Jakarta, June 2026



Prishiella Belinda Hapsari

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEMBAR PENGESAHAN.....	I
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN	II
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS.....	III
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS.....	IV
ABSTRAK	V
ABSTRACT.....	VI
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	VII
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	IX
LIST OF TABLES	XII
LIST OF FIGURES.....	XII
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 <i>Background of The Study</i>	1
1.2 <i>Research Question</i>	5
1.3 <i>Objective of the study</i>	5
1.4 <i>Scope of the study</i>	6
1.5 <i>Significance of the study</i>	8
1.6 <i>State of the Art</i>	10
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW	12
2.1 <i>Politeness and Power in Romantic Communication</i>	12
2.2 <i>Pragmatic</i>	13
2.2.1 <i>The Role of Context in Pragmatics</i>	14
2.3 <i>The Concept of Politeness</i>	15
2.4 <i>Gender and Communication Style</i>	19
2.5 <i>Knapp's Relational Development</i>	22

2.6 <i>Cat Person (2017) Short Story</i>	24
2.7 <i>Previous Studies</i>	26
2.8 <i>Theoretical framework</i>	31
CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY	34
3.1 <i>Research</i>	34
3.2 <i>Data Source</i>	35
3.3 <i>Data</i>	36
3.4 <i>Data Collection Procedures</i>	36
3.5 <i>Data Analysis Procedure</i>	37
CHAPTER IV FINDING AND DISCUSSION	41
4.1 <i>Findings</i>	41
4.1.1 <i>Types of Politeness Strategies Between Robert and Margot</i>	42
4.1.2 <i>Power, Distance, and Rank of Imposition as Negotiation Tools in Gendered Interactions</i>	54
4.1.2.1 <i>Power Dynamics in Gendered Interaction</i>	55
4.1.2.2 <i>Social Distance Between Robert and Margot</i>	58
4.1.2.3 <i>Rank of Imposition in Gendered Interaction</i>	62
4.1.3 <i>Communication Patterns Reflected in the Romantic Relationship of Margot and Robert</i>	65
4.1.3.1 <i>Report Talk and Rapport Talk Robert and Margot's</i>	66
4.1.3.2 <i>Relational Stages of Communication Pattern</i>	67
4.2 <i>Discussion</i>	69
4.2.1 <i>Bald on Record as Robert's Dominant Strategy</i>	71
4.2.2 <i>Bald on Record and Off Record as Ambiguous Control of Robert</i> ...	73
4.2.3 <i>Margot's Negative Politeness and the Limits of Face Management</i> ..	75
4.2.4 <i>Margot's Bald on Record and Robert's Strategic Politeness Reversal</i>	77
4.2.5 <i>Politeness Escalation and Communicative Silence as Relational Endpoints</i>	80

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION	83
5.1 Conclusion	83
5.2 Suggestion	86
REFERENCE	88
APPENDICES	92
DAFTAR RIWAYAT HIDUP	113



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LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1. Collecting utterance of politeness strategies	37
Table 3.2 Percentage dominant	38
Table 3.3 contextual variable	39
Table 3.4 Relational Development Model	39

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Theoretical framework Diagram.....	33
Figure 4.1 Types of Politeness Strategy.....	42
Figure 4.2 Type of Politeness Strategies between Robert and Margot	43
Figure 4.3 Power Dynamic between Robert and Margot.....	56
Figure 4.4 Social Distance Between Robert and Margot	59
Figure 4.5 Rank of Imposition Between Robert and Margot.....	63
Figure 4.6 Politeness Strategies and Communication Patterns Across Relational Stages	70

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