

## Abstract

### The Linguistic Politeness Strategies in Javanese Political Debate

by

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This paper is inspired by a widespread belief that since the fall of Suharto in 1998 the Members of Parliament (MPs) in Indonesia have been likely more impolite in their interactions than they were during Suharto's era, when traditional Javanese politeness systems were still deeply applied. The paper will investigate the linguistic politeness strategies in Javanese political discourse, especially in the speech acts employed by the MPs of the Provincial Parliament of Yogyakarta Special Territory (DPRD I DIY).

The theoretical framework will be that of politeness theory as introduced by Leech (2014), along with Poedjosoedarmo's (2009) Javanese nuanced politeness theory as characterised by *unggah ungguh* 'Javanese politeness norms'. In the paper, I will introduce some basic concepts of traditional Javanese politeness such as *sumanak* (friendly), *tanggap* (responsive), *tepa selira* 'considerate', *andhap ashor* 'modest, humble', *empan papan* 'agree for the setting and speech event', *nuju prana* 'suit the heart, try to please H', *cekak* 'brief', *aos* 'full of content, compact, comprehensive', and *runtut* 'arranged in a well structured manner'. I will then discuss issues of political debate in contemporary Indonesia, attempting to discover if these Javanese politeness norms are still applied, and whether the perception of increasing 'rudeness' in political debate is accurate.