Summary of Dissertation in English	
Dissertation Title	Politeness among Bemba Speakers in the Copperbelt Region
Name	Subila Chilupula

This study presents a descriptive sociolinguistic analysis of politeness in the Bemba language as spoken in Zambia's Copperbelt Province. It investigates politeness strategies (verbal and non-verbal) used by Bemba speakers from the Copperbelt community in various social interactions. The study has two primary objectives: first, to describe the linguistic markers and strategies that convey politeness in Copperbelt Bemba and secondly, to determine which sociological variables determine the degree of politeness used. The study's secondary objective is to discover whether a generational and gender gap exists in the use and attitudes towards politeness.

The research applies Brown and Levinson's (1978) politeness theory as the primary analytical framework to examine key concepts such as positive and negative face and various politeness strategies, including bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off record. In the Introduction, first, the concept of politeness is introduced, followed by an overview of the sociolinguistic situation and a descriptive grammar of Bemba, and finally, the purpose and objectives of the study are outlined, along with the specific research questions that address these objectives, and the rationale or significance of the study. Chapter 2 is a comprehensive theoretical and empirical literature review. Chapter 3 outlines the methodology applied in this study; the data collection involved three methods: guided online interviews conducted via Zoom and WhatsApp, a Google Form questionnaire addressing taboos, and the researcher's insights as a native speaker. Four individuals participated in the online interviews (two on Zoom and two on WhatsApp), while 14 responded to the

questionnaire. Respondents were selected across diverse age groups, educational backgrounds, and linguistic profiles to achieve a balanced representation of gender and age. Chapter 4 presents the findings that affirm previous studies on Bantu languages, notably using the class 2 noun prefix *ba-* as an honorific marker and plural agreement. Additionally, the locative noun class 17 clitic *=ko* emerged frequently as a politeness marker, particularly in requests. Linguistic analyses revealed that kinship terms are often extended to non-kin adults and that teknonymy is commonly used to address elders or individuals of high social rank. Notably, while Bemba speakers generally exhibit politeness towards the elderly and those of higher status, this behaviour varies significantly with context and audience. Furthermore, negative politeness strategies used to avoid FTAs (Face Threatening Acts), such as indirect requests and avoidance, were uncovered. Positive politeness strategies, including the use of in-group markers, praise and respect, were also observed. In addition, a generational and gender gap in attitudes toward linguistic taboos and overall politeness was observed. Finally, the study highlights the critical role of non-verbal politeness strategies, which complement verbal face-saving acts in communication.

Keywords: *honorifics, politeness, sociolinguistics, face, avoidance, non-verbal politeness strategies*