

## ABSTRACT

**SURATNO**, 2025. Cultural Influences on Communication Context: An Analysis of Communication Variables in The Great Gatsby and Implications for Teaching Speaking Skill. English Language Education, Graduate Program, Purworejo Muhammadiyah University. Advisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Titi Rokhayati, M.Pd. and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Junaedi Setiyono, M.Pd.

This study examines communication patterns in Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby* (2013), focusing on formality/informality, assertiveness/harmony, and power distance, and how these variables reflect cultural values, including moral decay and the hollowness of the upper class. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, the research analyses dialogues, verbal exchanges, and nonverbal cues to explore how social hierarchy and cultural norms shape communication. The findings indicate that formality/informality is shown through word choice, tone, and politeness strategies, with Gatsby using formal and polite speech, while Myrtle and Tom use blunt, informal language. Assertiveness/harmony is reflected in characters' approaches to expressing opinions and maintaining relationships: Tom is direct and assertive, Daisy maintains harmony, and Gatsby often communicates indirectly. Power distance emerges as the most dominant variable, guiding interactions between "old money" and "new money" characters and reflecting social hierarchy and cultural norms. Moral decay appears in arrogant, racist, and transactional language, while hollowness is revealed in superficial speech, materialistic displays, and emotionally empty interactions. Pedagogically, these communication patterns support teaching speaking skills by providing authentic material for modelling real-life conversations, politeness strategies, and cultural adaptation, helping learners develop practical and culturally aware communicative competence.

**Keywords:** *formality/informality, assertiveness/harmony, power distance, moral decay, hollowness, speaking skills*