

THE EFFECT OF COMPLIMENT TOPICS AND GENDER ON THE PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSES TO THE COMPLIMENT MADE BY JORDANIAN ENGLISH FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNERS (JEFL), JORDANIAN ARABIC SPEAKERS (JALI) AND ENGLISH NATIVE SPEAKERS (ENSS)

Mohammad Mahmoud Abu Alsallal
Dr. Haliza Binti Harun
Dr. Ramiaida Binti Darmi

ABSTRACT

This study aimed at determining investigating how the compliment topics and gender affect the participants' response to compliment made by Jordanian English foreign language learners (JEFL), Jordanian Arabic speakers (JALI) and English native speakers (ENSS). A descriptive research design was adopted for this study based on a sample comprised 30 participants distributed as follow: 10 (JEFL), 10 (JALI) and 10 (ENSS). The instrument of this study adopted a discourse completion test (DCT) based on ten different situations. The responses of DCT were analyzed quantitatively - using percentages and frequencies –and qualitatively – using content analysis. The findings proved that there was a slight difference between males and females in their responses towards the social situations. JEFL males practiced agreement compliment responses more than females as (82%) of compliment responses were given by males whereas (76%) were given by females. In addition, JALI males practiced agreement compliment responses more than females as (84%) and (79%) consecutively. Furthermore, ENSS males (81%) practiced agreement compliment responses more than females (78%). In the three groups, “praise” was the most compliment topic agreed by the majority of participants. They study suggested doing further research on the effects of gender and social distance on Arabic Speakers' compliment responses in social situations.

Keywords: pragmatic transfer, compliment responses, social distance

INTRODUCTION

Speaking to others is a social activity. By virtue of their membership in a specific community, individuals research the competencies essential for everyday social interaction. There are many nearly computerized styles in the shape of conversation, and these computerized sequences are referred to as routines. They always consist of a primary part and a second element, produced by way of extraordinary audio system. The first component that incorporates a request is normally made inside the expectation that the second one component might be an attractiveness. Although it might be a culturally specific problem, but a popularity is structurally more likely than a refusal. This structural probability is known as preference. Preference shape divides second parts into preferred and dis-favored social acts (Chen, 2010).

The favored is the structurally expected next act and the dis-favored is the structurally surprising next act. Specifically, up to now some conversation analysts have determined that there may be a scientific interaction preference towards affiliate actions and have tested that the popularity or rejection of such moves as an invitation, offer, assessment, and praise, etc. aren't usually of same status (Bu, 2010).

Many humans who speak across linguistic and cultural barriers have experienced communication breakdowns with humans from specific first language (L1) backgrounds. Sociolinguists recognize that such intercultural miscommunication is partly due to distinctive cost structures underlying every speaker's L1 cultural group. Different price structures are pondered in speech acts; thus, exceptional interpretations of a positive speech act every so often cause misunderstandings of the speaker's intention. Compliment responses have acquired interest from communication analytic perspective, to investigate their underlying structures (Katsuta, 2012).

Certain studies have been demonstrated that speakers of different languages and language types follow exclusive patterns whilst responding to compliments. Since then, many linguists have targeted their interest and drawn insights into the phenomenon of praise response. As a whole, research on compliments show that a compliment is a dependent speech act that displays social values inside the culture. Among the huge frame of research concerning this topic, are a few research and little empirical studies on Non-native compliments and praise responses (Huysmans, 2011).

A trouble with the referred to research on Non-native compliment responses is that, the complexity of the phenomenon of compliment responding has now not been absolutely considered. Very often, they have been studied in a completely general manner and had been concluded that the praise response styles utilized by Non-native audio system are one of a kind from those used by English audio system. The loss of empirical observe to make difference between the one of a kind classes of compliment responses that composes them and to show the frequency distribution of various patterns of compliment response among Non-native audio system is obvious (Turri, 2010).

For those reasons, the present have a look at attempted to investigate frequency distribution of various patterns of compliment response amongst a collection of Non-native audio system. In addition, via adopting Herbert's classification of compliment

responses, the researcher would try and examine the praise response patterns utilized by a Non-native participant within the present study, with those utilized by English speakers as referred to in Herbert look at. In addition to variations among cultures, it is essential to take the difference between sexes into account, as a result, the look at also supposed to observe gender variation in responding to compliment amongst Non-native speaker (Butler, 2013).

This can be performed by means of the following steps; in the first part of this paper, a brief review of some studies on the speech occasion of complimenting, especially inside the areas of compliment responses, is given. The second element presents methodological troubles and the effects of the present examine regarding compliment responses in Non-native (Salguero, 2010).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Compliment

Compliments are fantastic expression or assessment, which explicitly or implicitly attributes credit score to a person for some aspect valued absolutely through the speaker and the hearer, or even the whole speech community. It was stated that who continues that compliments are complicated aggregate of powerful evaluation which, showcase good emotions and implicit friendliness. Based on those interpretations, it seems feasible to treat compliments as interpersonal and interactive speech acts (Harnish, 2009) Compliments should characteristic as honestly affective speech acts and may be taken into consideration as phatic communion, a form of speech with ties of union which are created by using a mere exchange of words. In each day lives, we generally trade compliments as an attempt to preserve relationships solid. In extraordinary words, compliments are speculated to be for rapport rather of file and for cooperation alternatively of competition in Tannen's terms (Phoocharoensil, 2012)

In reading the American data, the primary feature of compliments is "the reinforcement or introduction of harmony" among the speaker and addressee. Meanwhile, compliments function as "social lubricates which growth or consolidate the solidarity among interlocutors. The speech act of complimenting is basically a fine and polite strategy; as it lets the addressee is aware of that he or she is being liked. As definitely affective speech acts, the maximum obvious characteristic of compliments is to shine the social relationship, pay attention to fine face wants, and thus growth or integrate group spirit between people (Razi, 2013).

However, a few compliments are indirect, implicit, or even unexpressed and the speech act of complimenting can be very complicated and confusing, not simplest cross-culturally, but even within the identical cultural group. Hence, a manner to pay appropriate compliments, pick out them and give appropriate responses is a crucial aspect of communicative competence everybody in a given society desires to develop in order to keep away from pragma-linguistic and sociopragmatic failure. Failures of conversation in the process of interaction is probably resulting from versions in cultures, charge systems, and speech norms that the interlocutors harbor (Roberts, 2013).

One essential consciousness of studies on complimenting activities has been on praise responses. It was claimed that in American English, the recipient of a compliment faces two conflicting situations that pose a dilemma while responding to it: (A) Agree with the speaker and (B) Avoid self-reward. In any conversational exchange, she suggested, the favored second part will gift an agreement with the previous utterance. There is, thus, stress on the recipient to trust the complimenter and accept the compliment. On the other hand, there is strong pressure on speakers to keep away from or limit self-praise. American statistics reveal that a large quantity of praise responses did not satisfied the constraint of accepting compliments, and actually show an incidence of disagreements and rejections (Gass & Neu, 2009). The entrepreneurial experience of females may form a construct of their attitude towards compliment responses (Topimin et al, 2019).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Sampling

A descriptive research design was adopted for this study based on a sample comprised 30 participants distributed as follow: 10 (JEFL), 10 (JAL1) and 10 (ENSs). The instrument of this study adopted a discourse completion test (DCT) based on ten different situations. The responses of DCT were analyzed quantitatively - using percentages and frequencies –and qualitatively – using content analysis.

FINDINGS

The following section presented the analysis of compliment responses of JAL based on gender and social distance. DCT was used to determine the types of their responses, and the quantitative analysis - based on frequencies and percentage – was used to interpret the compliment responses.

The analysis of responses based on gender

The quantitative analysis of JAL male responses

The table below shows the frequencies and percentages of compliment responses given by JAL five males towards ten situations.

Table 1: male responses

Compliment Response strategy	Valid Percentage					
	JEFL Males	JEFL Females	JAL1 Males	JAL1 Females	ENSs Males	ENSs Females
Appreciation Token	20 %	13 %	23 %	23 %	22 %	24 %
Comment Acceptance	10 %	12 %	22 %	12 %	13 %	13 %
Praise	32 %	40 %	28 %	30 %	30 %	29 %
Reassignment	11 %	6 %	2 %	6 %	5 %	6 %
Return	9 %	5 %	9 %	5 %	10 %	2 %
Total agreement	82 %	76 %	84 %	79 %	81 %	78 %
Scale Down	2 %	4 %	3 %	4 %	5 %	2 %
Question	5 %	3 %	4 %	5 %	4 %	6 %
Qualification	3 %	8 %	4 %	4 %	4 %	7 %
Total non-agreement	10 %	15 %	11 %	13 %	13 %	15 %
Other interpretation	2 %	4 %	2 %	3 %	4 %	5 %
Request	6 %	5 %	3 %	5 %	2 %	2 %
Total Other interpretation	8 %	9 %	5 %	8 %	6 %	7 %

As shown in table 1, males practiced agreement compliment responses more than females as JEFL males practiced agreement compliment responses more than females as (82%) of compliment responses were given by males whereas (76%) were given by females. In addition, JAL1 males practiced agreement compliment responses more than females as (84%) and (79%) consecutively. Furthermore, ENSs males (81%) practiced agreement compliment responses more than females (78%). In the three groups, "praise" was the most compliment topic agreed by the majority of participants. They study suggested doing further research on the effects of gender and social distance on Arabic Speakers' compliment responses in social situations.

On the other hand, females gave non-agreement compliment responses more than males. (15 %) of non-agreement responses were given by JEFL females whereas (10 %) were given by JEFL males. (13 %) of JAL1 females practiced non-agreement responses with (2%) more than JAL1 males (11%). As for ENSs group, Females practiced non-agreement responses more than males (15%) and (13%) respectively.

As for compliment topic, the most compliment topic given by males was praise. In JEFL group, praise was practiced by (32 %) males and (40 %) by females, followed by Appreciation token topic. In addition, JAL1 males practiced praise topic as the highest one (28 %), and (30%) of females practiced it. Similarly, praise topic was the most given response by ENSs males (30 %) and females (29%).

content analysis of the previous results

The previous results offer a range of qualitative findings that can be formed in the following themes: participants' active response, gender implications in social communication

Participants active response

The responses in all situations showed that agreement strategy was higher than non-agreement and other interpretation strategies; regardless gender. It points out that the three groups have moderate communication skills and care about social obligations. It illustrates also that they are reluctant to make other embarrassed and take care of others' feelings.

Gender implications

The findings of this study proved that gender played a role in determining the compliment response in social situations. The females' disagreement compliment responses were higher than males. This result suggests that females cannot respond easily to social environment; especially when the situations occur with people they don't know well. On the other hand, males became more ready to create positive social relationships with people they don't have warm relationship.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed at determining investigating how the compliment topics and gender affect the participants' response to compliment made by Jordanian English foreign language learners (JEFL), Jordanian Arabic speakers (JAL1) and English native speakers (ENSs). The study suggested that females are more reluctant to give compliment agreement responses than males. The participants also tended to give praise more than any other complimentary topic in the social situations. The responses in all situations showed that agreement strategy was higher than non-agreement and other interpretation strategies; regardless gender. The findings of this study proved that gender played a role in determining the social interaction. The findings proved that there was a slight difference between males and females in their responses towards the social situations. JEFL males practiced agreement compliment responses more than females. In addition, JAL1 males practiced agreement compliment responses more than females. Furthermore, ENSs males practiced agreement compliment responses more than females. In the three groups, "praise" was the most compliment topic agreed by the majority of participants. They study suggested doing further research on the effects of gender and social distance on Arabic Speakers' compliment responses in social situations.

REFERENCES

- Bu, J. (2010). A study of pragmatic transfer in compliment response strategies by Chinese learners of English. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, 1(2), 121-129.
- Butler, J. (2013). *Excitable speech: A politics of the performative*. Routledge.
- Chen, R. (2010). Compliment and compliment response research: A cross-cultural survey. *Pragmatics across languages and cultures*, 79-101.
- Harnish, R. (2009). Internalism and externalism in speech act theory. *Lodz Papers in Pragmatics*, 5(1), 9-31.
- Huysmans, J. (2011). What's in an act? On security speech acts and little security nothings. *Security dialogue*, 42(4-5), 371-383.
- Katsuta, H. (2012). The role of compliment topics in compliment response. *Dissertations and Theses*. Paper 466.
- Gass, S., & Neu, J. (Eds.). (2009). *Speech acts across cultures: Challenges to communication in a second language* (Vol. 11). Walter de Gruyter.
- Phocharoensil, S. (2012). L2 English compliment responses: An investigation of pragmatic transfer. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature*, 1(6), 276-287.
- Razi, N. (2013). A contrastive study of compliment responses among Australian English and Iranian Persian speakers. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 70, 61-66.
- Roberts, A. J. (2013). How to do things with word marks: a speech-act theory of distinctiveness. *Ala. L. Rev.*, 65, 1035.
- Salgueiro, A. B. (2010). Promises, threats, and the foundations of speech act theory. *Pragmatics. Quarterly Publication of the International Pragmatics Association (IPrA)*, 20(2), 213-228.
- Topimin, S; Fabeil, N; Abdullah, A. (2019). Women's Business Survival: Challenges and Strategies for Single Mother Entrepreneurs. Vol 3 (2019): Vol 3 (Special Issue for Melaka International Conference on Social Sciences, Science and Technology 2019), December 2019
- Turri, J. (2010). Epistemic invariantism and speech act contextualism. *Philosophical Review*, 119(1), 77-95.

Mohammad Mahmoud Abu Alsallal
Faculty of major language studies
Islamic Science University of Malaysia (USIM), Negeri Sembilan, Nilai, Malaysia
Email: mmabualsallal@yahoo.com

Dr. Haliza Binti Harun
Faculty of major language studies
Islamic Science University of Malaysia (USIM), Negeri Sembilan, Nilai, Malaysia
Email: haliza@usim.edu.my

Dr. Ramiaida Binti Darmi
Faculty of major language studies
Islamic Science University of Malaysia (USIM), Negeri Sembilan, Nilai, Malaysia
Email: ramiaida@usim.edu.my