

**A sociolinguistic study of compliment response strategies  
among Punjabi speaking university students**



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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this modest attempt, the fruit of my thoughts to  
*MY GREAT PARENTS, MY LOVELY SON ABDULLAH BIN TAHIR*

*And*

*MY SWEET DAUGHTER HIBBAH BINTE TAHIR*

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## List of Tables and Figures

### Tables

<b>Table 3.1</b>	Herbert's (1986) Taxonomy of Compliment Response Strategies and their possible realization	47
<b>Table 4.1</b>	Distribution of compliment responses in English and Urdu by Punjabi-speaking University Students	50
<b>Table 4.2</b>	Comparison of compliment strategies in English and Urdu between male and female respondents	52
<b>Table 4.3</b>	Frequency Distribution of Compliment Strategies in English and Urdu Interacting with a Social Distance Factor	54
<b>Table 4.4</b>	Frequency Distribution of Compliment Strategies in English and Urdu Interacting with a Social Status Factor	57

## ABSTRACT

The use of the compliment strategies of Punjabi-speaking university students in Pakistan is investigated in the present study. The quantitative approach is used in this study. The sample of the study is selected using *non-random, purposive and convenience* sampling procedures. For data collection, Two Discourse Completion Tests (Urdu DCT and English DCT) were used. The results of the study show that Punjabi-speaking university students used the same type of semantic formulaic patterns both in English and Urdu. There were not significant differences between male and female respondents (both in English and Urdu) in the use of compliment strategies. Results clearly indicate that respondents translated Urdu strategies into English, and at the same time transferred cultural trends of using more strategies for (close and equal) social distance and (equal and lower) social status and a few for social distant and higher social status level. Moreover, the findings also exhibit that Punjabi-speaking university students only used “Agreement” strategies and avoided the use of “Disagreement” and “Request” strategies.

**Keywords:** sociolinguistics rules of speaking, pragmatic competence, Pakistani learners of English, Pakistan.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Chapter 01 Introduction</b>	
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Purpose of the Study	7
1.2 Objectives of the Study	7
1.3 Statement of the Problem	7
1.4 Research Questions	8
1.5 Significance of the Study	8
1.6 Outline of the Study	9
<b>Chapter 02 Literature Review</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Pragmatic Competence	10
2.2 Classical Work on Speech Acts	13
2.3 Austen’s Theory of Speech Act	13
2.4 Searle’s theory of speech acts	15
2.5 Direct and Indirect Speech Acts	17
2.6 Compliment and politeness	17
2.7 Speech Act of Compliment	21
2.8 Compliment Responses	23
2.9 Compliments across cultures	26
2.10 Three concentric circles of world English’s	29
2.11 Compliments and Gender studies	33
2.12 Research on Compliments	34
<b>Chapter 03 Research Design and Methodology</b>	<b>47</b>
3.1 Overview of the Chapter	47
3.2 Theoretical Underpinnings	47
3.3 Data Collection	47
3.3.1 Population and Sample	48
3.3.2 Nature of Data	48
3.3.3 Validation of the Instruments – DCTs	49
3.3.4 Ethical Considerations	50
3.4 Data Analysis	50
<b>Chapter 04 Results</b>	<b>52</b>
4.1 Overview of the Chapter	52
4.2 Data Analysis Techniques	52

4.3 Results	52
4.3.1 Overall distribution of CRs	53
4.3.2 Gender based similarities or differences in the use of CRs	55
4.3.3 Effect of social distance in accepting CRs	56
4.3.4 Effect of social power in using CRs	60
4.4 Summary	63
<b>Chapter 05 Findings, Discussion and Conclusion</b>	<b>66</b>
5.1 Overview of the Chapter	66
5.2 Findings	66
5.3 Discussion	67
5.3.1 Overall Compliment Strategies	67
5.3.2 Gender Issues	68
5.3.3 Social Distance	68
5.3.4 Social Status	70
5.4 Conclusion	71
5.5 Contribution of the study	73
5.6 Limitations of the study	74
5.7 Direction for future research	74
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>88-96</b>
<b>A.</b> English Discourse Completion Test (EDCT)	82
<b>B.</b> Urdu Discourse Completion Test (UDCT)	86
<b>C.</b> Informed Consent Sheet	89

## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction**

#### **1.1 Overview of the Chapter**

This research aims to study and compare compliment as a speech act in English and Urdu and investigate pragmatic strategies of English used by Punjabi-speaking EFL university students. This chapter presents an overview of sociolinguistic issue which leads to this research i.e. speech act of compliment, English language learning in Punjabi-speaking context, purpose of the study, implications of the study, objectives of the study, statement of the problem, research questions, summary and an outline of the study.