

A Contrastive Study of Compliments in English and Arabic

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to explore the likenesses and contrasts with respect to English and Arabic Twitter compliments; to be specific, exquisite expressions. As English and Arabic are not one or the other hereditarily cognate nor are related socially, Twitter compliments' definitely commit botches in this respect. The think about comes up with the truth that the Middle easterner compliments pick misrepresentation more than the English individuals do (Cedar,2006:135). This study illustrates however compliments and compliment response strategies dissent across gender among celebrities . The objective of the study is to spot the functions and topics of compliments, and additionally the patterns and methods of compliment responses across gender among celebrities on Twitter .

Celebrities consisting of males and females were elected and therefore the information were collected from their Twitter accounts. A complete compliments and compliment responses were extracted from the celebrities' tweets to make the corpus for investigation. The results indicate many variations in how compliments and compliment responses are utilized by men and women. Women favor to compliment on appearance, whereas men like to compliment on possession. The results also reveal variations in ways utilized by the celebrities to retort to compliments. Feminine addressees adhere to the primary principle that ruled the act of politeness, that is, to just accept the compliment so as to grant a face to the complimenter. However, male addressees tend to use comment acceptance once receiving compliments. The study provides proof for vital differences within the use of compliments and compliment responses across gender. In addition, society differences also are mentioned briefly (Chen,1993:86) .

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1. Introduction:

Compliments is considered as one of the subgroup of speech act which is used to express the speaker's feelings and attitudes. Therefore the researcher will tackle the following questions : 1) what are the topics and functions of compliments? 2) what are the methods and patterns of compliments responses among celebrities on Twitter? So ,this study hypothesizes that compliments makes a difference for individuals to

precise their ideas, trade data, or sentiments and ,also, it's hypothesized that the individuals use Twitter in various ways to express their feelings and attitudes toward others .

Dialect is one of the foremost critical gadgets of social behavior. So, paying compliments is commonly utilized in all dialects. Each dialect has its possess way(s) to compliment. English and Arabic are not an exemption. "Compliment is a speech act which almost explicitly gives special prestige to the addressee via praising" (Holmes, 1988, p. 485). Wolfson and Judd (1983, p.85) view that compliment is used to provide a reward to encourage a certain situation.

As the world is experiencing globalization and due to quick progression in innovation, Twitter could be a prevalent stage utilized by a great number of celebrities all around the world to set up a great compatibility with fans. By being dynamic on Twitter, their fans can associated with them, and they can moreover overhaul on any most recent movement they are included in with their fans (Al-Khateeb,2009:56)

Numerous celebrities presently have a Twitter account where fans can associate with them. As ready to watch, celebrities as a rule get numerous compliments with respect to their aptitudes, appearance, and execution from their fans. Subsequently, it is imperative for celebrities to be thoughtful in tolerating compliments in arrange to preserve cheerful affinity with fans. At the same time in tolerating the compliment in spite of the fact that, the celebrities must not show up to be pompous since they ought to reflect themselves as a great part show to the open (ibid.)

Up to the present, most ponders on compliments and reactions relating to cross-cultural and cross-gender are done by collecting and inspiring reactions from subjects through surveys or interviews. In comparison, not numerous thinks about evoke compliments and related reactions from other sources of information such as movies. The contrast between the discussion within the real-world and discussion in chat rooms and other social systems such as blogs or Twitter is that the previous is talked, but the last mentioned is composed. Indeed in spite of the fact that the discussion in chat rooms and social systems is in a composed shape known as composed discourse, it still has the dialect of talked discussion (Ebadi& Salman,2015:49) .

Literature Review

Many researchers have been explored various expressions for conducting compliments .Manes and Wolfson (1981:161) found that the predominant patterns of complaints are realized in set of adjectives and verbs .80%of the compliments in the American English fall into syntactic patterns.Moreover, they concluded that 2/3of the adjectival expressions employ fixed adjectives.Focusing on anthropology, Herbert (1990:207) tackled American compliments for praising, compliment forms and relationship between complimenter and complimentee .Ye (1995) conducted a discourse completion to 96 native speakers of Chinese in China. Lee (2008) examined the act the act of compliments among Singaporean Chines using 300 compliments .The study focused more on responses to compliment, and didn't present a comprehensive analysis of complaints among Sing Chinese.

Compliment in English: Definitions

Investigating the definition of compliments according to Donald O. B. et al, 1992:200): "a verbal expression of courteous praise// an action showing praise and respect// a formula of greeting". This definition looks at the subject from one point, verbal compliment. Burrowing more profound, this will separate compliments into two primary categories: verbal and non-verbal compliments.

Compliment equations require descriptive words to show the sender's positive assessment. The foremost repeating descriptive words utilized to show lauding are: Pleasant, lovely, beautiful, and great. Regularly, such verbs as like and love are utilized to show positive assessment with respect to what's being said or written. Meanwhile, some compliments which don't make utilize of a descriptive word or verb, lauding is passed on through such things as virtuoso and blessed messenger or an intensifier well. (Wolfson and Judd, 1983: 90).

Most of the past works on compliments have been investigated from one point of view, verbal behavior. Manes and Wolfson (1981, p.117) explored the complimenting viewpoints in American English. They found that the transcendent designs of compliments are realized in a set of descriptive words and verbs. 80% of the

compliments in American English drop into certain syntactic designs. Moreover, they concluded that 2/3 of the descriptive expressions utilize settled descriptive words.

Types of Compliments

1. Compliments as Behabitive Acts Austin (1962) was the first to give the formulation of what is called speech act theory (henceforth SAT). He classifies illocutionary acts into five categories taking into consideration English verbs (cf. Austin, 1962: 150-162). These categories are as follows:
 - 1- Verdictives: They are typified by giving a verdict by a jury.
 - 2- Exercitives: They are typified by exercising powers, rights or influences.
 - 3- Commissives: They are typified by assuming of an obligation or declaring of an intention.
 - 4- Behabitives: They are typified by adopting of an attitude.
 - 5- Expositives: They are typified by clarifying of reasons or arguments.

Austin (1962, p.159) lists the speech act of 'compliment' within behabitives and states that "behabitives include the notion of reaction to other people's behaviour and fortunes and of attitudes and expression of attitudes to someone else's past conduct or imminent conduct". Examples of this category are: 'apologies', 'thanks', 'greetings', 'compliments', etc.

2- Compliments as Expressive Acts: Expressive acts are recognized from other sorts of illocutionary acts by the sorts of mental conditions they express. Norrick (1978, p. 279) focuses out that expressions don't express convictions or eagerly, but feelings these feelings emerge in reaction to given states of issues. Concurring to the Searlean approach, the illocutionary point of this class is to specific "psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about the state of affairs specified in the propositional content (Searle, 1979, p.15). Since the speaker communicates a mental state brought approximately by a state of issues that includes the execution of an expressive act sets up an interpersonal relationship between them. Therefore, Haverkate (1984, p.23) considers expressive acts to be "speaker and hearer centered". Expressive acts have no direction. The speaker simply expresses a mental state about a state of affairs represented in the propositional content (Vanderveken, 1994, p.106).

Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p.19) state that a 'compliment' is an expressive drive of the frame. In addition, Searle (1979, p. 15) relates the genial course to his course of expressive acts. Hence, 'compliments', have a place to the expressive category. 'Compliments' are moreover related to the expressive acts distinguished by T.Gorgis (1992). Thus, they are classified as courteous equations-based discourse acts. (Al-Rassam, 1999, p. 6).

Compliment Response Category Instance

A- Agreement

1- Acceptances

- **Appreciation Token** Thanks; thank you; [smile].
- **Comment Acceptance** Thanks, it's my favorite too.
- **Praise Upgrade** Really brings out the blue in my eyes, doesn't it?

2- **Comment History** I bought it for the trip to Arizona.

3- Transfers

- **Reassignment** My brother gave it to me.
- **Return** So's yours.

B- Non-Agreement

1- **Scale Down** It's really quite old.

2- **Question** Do you really think so?

3- Non-acceptances

- **Disagreement** I hate it.
- **Qualification** It's all right, but Len's is nicer.

4- **No Acknowledgement** [Silence]

C- Other Interpretations

Request You wanna borrow this one too?
(Herbert1986: 79)

Compliment in Arabic: Definitions

The theoretical background of compliments was developed in the previous section, with examples taken from English. This section, however, is about Twitter compliments in Arabic. This includes contrasting and comparing compliment devices and their use in the languages in question. In Arabic, compliments are classified into three fundamental classes: verbal, non-verbal, and non/verbal. The primary is related with such themes as honorifics, charm, money-related terms, devout terms, analogy, or transliteration. Non-verbal compliments, in any case, are realized in such symbols as kissing, shrilling, moving, heart spreading, bowing, or rose-spreading. The third sort is clear in amalgamating the verbal and non-verbal to make a half breed sort, non/verbal (Al -Khateeb,2009:36) .

1- Verbal Compliments:

Honorifics are conventionalized forms employed by addressers to express their respectful attitudes towards the addressees. In this connection, Brown and Levinson (1987, p. 179) pointed out that honorifics are "direct grammatical encodings of relative social status between participants and persons or things referred to in the communicative event". As far as verbal compliments are concerned, Irvine (1995, p. 1) points out that "linguistic honorifics are forms of speech that signal social deference, through conventionalized understandings of some aspects"

Notably, some scholars view honorifics as highly associated with 'power' more than 'solidarity'. For example, Agha (1994, p. 294) demonstrates that the honorifics in all languages are governed by the social status of the addressees. Socially speaking, the above-mentioned scholar tries to generalize that the degree of respect is confined to 'power'. This study, however, refutes this view since most of the social media friends are not governed by self-interest, kinship or the like. They, however, express politeness towards each other.

Superlative form+ title أجمل فنانة

Superlative form+ title+name (أحمد احلى استاذ)

Endearments: statements referring to intimacy among the locutors. They are realized in such phenomena as diminution, metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, superlative degrees and/or emphasis. To demonstrate so, consider the following expressions:

Superlative + diminutive form.

' وردة أبو سالم 'As lovely as a rose, Abu Salim'.

Metaphor + emphasis

برنسياسة (princess)

ملكة (queen)

Indirect Praise:

شمعة (shining), اطلالة حلوة (looking good), وردة (rose), قمممر (mooon), ذهب (precious), قمر (moon), عسل (honey)

Request:

Greeting + hyperbole:

صباح العسل / صباح الفل (good morning, hello, hi, etc.).

2- Non-verbal:

Rose/spreading, heart, shrilling, dancing, clapping, laughing, etc.

اعلامي مبدع ♥

Honorific term + Name + ♥

افضل صديق للابد (my best dude ever)

Superlative form +noun + lovely iconicity

♥ أحلى حمودي (The most handsome Hammoody)

Superlative form +diminutive form + lovely iconicity

(Farghal& Salman,2006: 57)

Methodology and data analysis

This thinks about collecting subjective information and coding it for quantitative examination. The SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) was utilized to look at the information. The SPSS yield made a

difference the researcher to get to and get ready the information to outline the comes about in tables which included the frequencies and rates of answers in specific categories, and the comes about of inferential measurements tests. Using the foremost frequently used measurable tests within the SPSS bundle, the display ponder applied descriptive insights counting the recurrence of compliments advertised by members, and of their responses to compliments from others.

In expansion, it was vital to apply an inferential statistics test to the non-parametric information. In this case the fitting test was the Chi-square test. The Chi-square test was utilized to compare the watched recurrence of the participants' reactions to compliments over their sex categories (male or female) with the anticipated frequencies.

Compliments in total

Frequencies and percentages for all compliments among the participants in situations :

	Description	Sources	References	Percentage
Bound semantic formulas				
Advice	Giving a recommendation	1	14	2.65
Contrast	Opposing	0	16	3.03
Explanation	Providing further information	1	22	4.17
Future reference	Referring to the upcoming			
Information question	Requesting more	1	31	5.87
Request	Asking to have the item	0	2	0.38
Non-complimentary replies				
Non-compliment	Non-related to the situation	0	2	0.38
Opt out	No response	0	0	0
Unbound semantic formulas				
Explicit compliments	Statements with at least one positive carrier	1	280	53.03
Implicit compliments	General statements	1	137	25.95

It can be seen that “explicit compliments” were the most frequent type of compliment strategy(53.03% of all strategies), followed by “implicit compliments” (25.95%), subtitles of bound semantic formulas “information question” (5.87%), future reference (4.54%), “explanation”(4.17%), “contrast” (3.03%) and “advice“ (2.65%). This result shows that speakers are perceived to be most likely to be explicit when expressing their positive feelings in compliments.

Results:

The inquire about found that the prevailing shapes of compliments were unbound semantic equations that comprised either unequivocal or verifiable comments. This does not show up to be diverse from the

findings of compliment utilization among other social bunches (Pour & Zarei, 2016; Yuan, 2002). The shape utilized was unaffected by the social connections between the members. Where the social setting of the compliment included a circumstance that was sensitive, the members tended to use more verifiable compliments than express ones.

This recommends that the devout requirements regarding courteousness within Arabic and English context expanded the probability that implicit compliments would be utilized. Bound semantic equations will be more predominant in this social situation. Discussions of objects instead of individuals tend to advance more prominent utilize of bound semantic formulas.

A critical result was that the cohort appeared a tall level of variety within the run of compliments that were utilized, which there was no settled design to their use. The cohort used adjectives as compliments instead of verbs. This finding is compatible with the inquiry about Qanbar (2012). It does show up that the utilize of compliments amongst English and Arabic Celebrities' is unequivocally impacted by the social have to be not cause offense to the other individual.

There was no prove to bolster the discoveries of Farghal (2006) that the relevant circumstance influences the length of the compliment among Arabic speakers. The length of the compliments utilized was reliable over all situations. The utilize of both compliments and compliment reactions isn't affected by the nature of the social relationship that exists between the individuals communicating. Compliments require a return compliment and are utilized to set up social uniformity and common regard.

Conclusion:

Although both English and Arabic utilize the most sorts of compliments: verbal and non/verbal, the dialects beneath examination reveal stamped contrasts in their utilizing of such gadgets. In other words, both English and Arabic utilize complimentary expressions, but they vary in utilizing the subtypes. Strikingly, these contrasts can be ascribed to two focuses: dissemination and recurrence.

The present research does not support previous findings that the Arab culture tends to favour longer forms of compliments. One possible reason for this may be that the cohort of younger Saudi people had been influenced by western linguistic practices. It has also been found that Arabic speakers tend to use a fixed pattern of compliment usage that had a low degree of variation, this study found the reverse to be true. This may be due to the nature of the cohort that was used in this research.

Twitter users have to be prepared within the utilize of compliments in other social settings. This comes with the peril that has been distinguished in this investigate. More prominent introduction to social and etymological contrasts within the utilize of compliments and compliment reactions may be instrumental in starting linguistic-cultural alter. This presentation may result in less preservationist and religious-based social articulations. This investigate has identified the beginnings of a social alter in how youthful individuals are utilizing compliments and reacting to compliments.

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