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The problems of the usage of compliments in the communication process

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Abstract: This article emphasizes the problems that speakers may face while using compliments while communicating with others. It also addresses to stylistic devices that can be used in compliments. Additionally, there are also given differences of compliment usage in both genders.

Keywords: Compliments, issues, speech acts, discourse, interlocutor, counterproductive, praise, illocutionary goals, communication.

Introduction

Compliments have their own socially decisive significance as speech acts. They not only do well in terms of appreciating others, but they also reflect various ideals in various groups. People come from various backgrounds and live in various civilizations.

“Compliments are speech acts that are used to negotiate solidarity in daily conversation, which are related to the concepts of face work in politeness theory,” in his thesis, Fujimaru used this term. In addition, he stated that compliments are formulaic since the words used in compliments are positive verbs and adjectives. Compliments, as Homes put it, are "social lubricants that develop or sustain rapport." As a result, they are mostly meant to have a positive impact. This is referred to as a positive function. Compliments, for example, can deepen the bond between the speaker and the listener. Furthermore, it is a vital means of concluding the discourse. Compliments serve a beneficial purpose.

In our dialogue, compliments have a good rating. Compliments are regularly used by interlocutors to start a discourse. Otherwise, they can be utilized to elegantly transition between distinct themes.

When people utilize them at the start of conventions, it's a terrific way to start as an ice-breaker and create a really relaxed mood. When you see an excellent buddy, for example, you can start a discussion by saying, "You look nice today!" Given the circumstances of its occurrence in a discourse, they may have become accustomed to satisfying the expectations of listeners. Such praises might help to alleviate any discomfort that may have happened throughout the conversation.

Research methodology

Compliments have a simple function of praising others. "You did a fantastic job!" or "Way to go!" All of these words are encouraging, since they inspire individuals to be more confident in their abilities. Finally, it is usually used to bring a discourse to a close. "Nice to chat to you!" or "I am delighted to talk to you!" is a simple statement that conveys the speaker's emotions. Compliments, as a positive

function, are a crucial part of having a good discussion and developing a good relationship between the persons involved.

Compliments might be counterproductive.

Discussion

There are benefits and drawbacks to everything. If the compliments, on the other hand, have a negative effect, they aren't the lubricants that are referred to as negative functions. The majority of the time, they are distinguished by the conversation's setting or atmosphere. If the compliments contain jealousy or any other unwelcome concept in the receivers' minds, they are not genuine sentiments from the speakers. Consider the following situation:

A juvenile error is made by one of our pals and we say, "You are so adorable!"

In this case, we may infer that giving praising meaning is impossible. As a result, it has the reverse connotation, implying that the speakers are laughing at the error or that they do not wish to criticize. In this scenario, compliments have a detrimental impact. The face of people will be threatened.

A compliment is a vital component of the spoken contact of communicants, helping to the creation of good ties between them, according to English communication practice. The subject of how to offer a compliment in order to optimize the efficacy of communication demands linguists' attention, and it is especially pertinent at this moment, when Russians' interactions with people from other cultures have grown dramatically.

Until recently, an example of the study of this problem in Russian linguistics was research in the field of speech etiquette, where a compliment was considered as a separate thematic group with a certain set of formulas and replies to them.

The linguistic study of a compliment was reduced to the allocation of structural models - the means of expressing a compliment and their consideration from the point of view of syntax and vocabulary. Recommendations for the use of such formulas in speech were limited to their simple enumeration, or an attempt was made to classify compliments on a thematic basis (such compliment topics as "Appearance"; "Clothes"; "Qualities of the addressee" were singled out, etc.). However, presenting to native speakers a list of compliments - cliches, compiled on the basis of manuals on English speech etiquette, English textbooks, shows that most compliments - cliches are not used in the process of natural speech interaction of native speakers, i.e. are inauthentic. Consequently, the problem of the linguistic study of a compliment cannot be closed within the framework of a structural approach to language, i.e. is reduced to the selection and description of models - means of expressing a compliment, but should be resolved taking into account extralinguistic factors, in the interaction of language and society.

Results

Do not forget that a compliment is a synonym for praise - one of the main goals of epideictic speech. The description of epideictic speech was first presented in Aristotle's Rhetoric. Depending on the addressee and the purpose of the speech act, Aristotle distinguishes three types of rhetorical speeches: deliberative, judicial and

epideictic. The goal of the latter he calls praise or blasphemy, and the object of uttering praise is beauty and virtue.

The problem of beauty is one of the main problems of Aristotle's rhetorical aesthetics. He says that what is important is not beauty in itself, but its desirability. Therefore, rhetoric, the purpose of which is persuasion, must convince someone of the beauty of this or that object or person. In addition, it is important to prove that this object is quite worthy of praise and at the same time it is not at all necessary that beauty is really inherent in it. It is enough to convince the listener of the desirability of this subject, and it will be perceived as beautiful. At the same time, it is important to note that for Aristotle, what is beautiful is primarily useful to others.

The object of a compliment is that which deserves praise.

The addressee of a compliment is the one who has some kind of virtue, i.e. an extreme degree of some positive quality.

When giving a compliment, the speaker must take into account the personality of the listener.

Compliments are most characterized by the use of such tropes as hyperbole, comparison, epithets and gradation.

In a compliment, considered as a speech act, three main aspects should be distinguished: speech action, psychological interaction and a way of linguistic implementation of speech action. The model of speech action integrates the provisions of the theory of speech acts, the theory of speech activity and the concept of politeness. We understand a complimentary statement as a linguistic means of achieving qualitatively different (speech and non-speech) communicative goals, as the implementation of a speech action, which is a complex unity of a locutionary act, an illocutionary act, a perlocutionary act and a social action.

The illocutionary goals of a compliment are to:

- to express the positive intentional state of the speaker, the representative content of which is an explicit or implicit positive value judgment;
- express the speaker's intention/aspiration/desire to please the addressee;
- Express a positive attitude of the speaker to the addressee.

The illocutionary act of a compliment is characterized by a wide range of expressed intentional states of the speaker - not only approval and admiration, but also respect, sympathy, love, affection, enjoyment, pleasure, etc.

The illocutionary act of a compliment is considered insincere when at least one of the expressed intentional states does not correspond to the actual one, and also when the positive value judgment that constitutes the propositional content does not correspond to the real assessment.

The perlocutionary purpose of a compliment is mainly to evoke a positive emotional reaction in the addressee, to give him pleasure. The impact on the recipient of a compliment is based on the satisfaction of his vital need to be recognized and appreciated by others. The quality of the perlocutionary effect, and, accordingly, the success of the perlocutionary act, is determined by such aspects of the illocutionary act of a compliment as the object of a positive assessment, the social role statuses of the communicants and the nature of the relationship between them, the circumstances

under which the illocutionary act of the compliment is carried out. Perlocutionary acts of compliment can be not only intentional (deliberate), but also non-intentional. Non-intentional perlocutionary acts of compliment take place in situations where the positive reaction of the addressee, caused by the statement, was not part of the speaker's goals.

Humans can be split into two categories based on many factors. If individuals are classified as men or girls, it is based on biological sex, which is determined by their sex organs and DNA. When using gender to separate humans, on the other hand, individuals might use a psychological and cultural word that includes subjective experiences of maleness and femaleness. Gender, on the other hand, relates to how society views conduct as masculine or feminine.¹

There are still considerable distinctions in the social aspects of voice between men and women. Men, according to Spender, frequently utilize a lower pitched voice due of both their anatomy and their desire to do so.²

Men will be ridiculed if they use a high-pitched voice, and their image will suffer as a result. In men's perception, lower-pitched voices are more confident and dominant than higher-pitched voices. Men are frequently the most powerful group in society. They are the dominant and dominant group in society, whilst women are typically the subservient ones.

Gender is viewed by linguists as a grammatical concept that is closely related to speech and dialogues. In the early 1970s, research on how women and men communicate became a focal point of discourse and gender studies. There are four ways to studying gender and language, according to Lakoff: deficiency, dominance, difference, and social constructionist approaches. The last one, which deals with gender relations and emphasizes doing gender rather than being gender, is preferred by most linguists. That implies a female can play the role of a man if she wants to, and a male can play the role of a female if he wants to.

Some absolute disparities in speech actions between men and women have been discovered after extensive research:

- 1) Women are more socially engaged, cooperative, and constructive than men;
- 2) Women are more silent in public than men, making them a muted group;
- 3) Women ask more questions than men in speech patterns;
- 4) Women are interrupted more frequently than men;
- 5) Women have different lexical items choices and frequency than men;
- 6) Women use more politeness behaviors than men, such as compliments, apologies, minimal responses, and tag questions.

In general, women's language is described as a kind of language that avoids direct and forceful statements and relies on forms that convey hesitation and uncertainty.

¹ Basow, Susan A. (1992) Gender. 3rd edition. USA: Brooks/ Cole Publishing Company.

² Graddol, David & Swann, Joan. (1989) Gender Voices. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

When it comes to compliments, various linguists have conducted several research depending on gender. Some discrepancies have been investigated based on their perspectives:

- 1) Women use compliments to each other more than men do, and men use compliments more than women do;
- 2) Women are more likely to get compliments than men. This suggests that complimenters may be conscious of the danger of offending men with an FTA;
- 3) Both women and men utilize the first form (NP is/looks (truly) ADJ) in terms of syntactic patterns. Men use the eighth form (ADJ NP!) more than women, whereas women use the seventh form (What (a) ADJ NP!) more than men.
- 4) Women compliment each other on appearance more than any other topic, whereas males compliment each other on possessions more frequently;
- 5) Compliments for males tend to focus on skills or performance as solidarity signals, whereas compliments for females reinforce appearance as solidarity signals;
- 6) Women and men interpret compliments differently. Compliments appear to be used by women to build, maintain, and deepen relationships, whereas compliments are used by males as encouragement or evaluation feedback.

Many linguists provide explanations for these occurrences:

- 1) In terms of personality, women want relationships and participation in dialogues, whilst males prefer independence and hierarchy.
- 2) In terms of socialization, women and men have had distinct early experiences. Women are more cooperative and close in their interactions than males, who are more competitive and control-oriented.
- 3) In terms of power and social prestige, males are typically the more powerful in society, and they are the focus of attention in public, regardless of their position in the economics, region, politics, or other fields. Because males are seen as more powerful than women, they are more competitive.³

The majority of people give compliments to make you feel good. If you're like most people, though, those well-intentioned pleasant comments might be difficult to hear at times.

Here are four reasons why accepting a praise might be difficult:

1. You have a low sense of self-worth.

People with poor self-esteem had the most trouble taking praises, according to a recent study published in the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*. If you believe you have some flaws or that you aren't good enough, you may find it difficult to comprehend how others can say such nice things about you.

Compliments, according to the study, are unlikely to alter your unfavorable self-image. Worse, if the adulation comes from a love partner, those well-intentioned words of praise might end up hurting your relationship. You may believe your spouse is lying, leading to a loss of trust.⁴

2. Your Self-Image Is Disparate

³ Holmes, Janet (1995) *Women, Men and Politeness*. London: Longman.

⁴ *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, Who can't take a compliment? The role of construal level and self-esteem in accepting positive feedback from close others. Volume 68, January 2017, Pages 40-49

Another reason compliments might make you feel uneasy is that the words you hear don't match how you view yourself. It's referred to as cognitive dissonance by psychologists, who use the term to characterize the discrepancies.

Assume a colleague says, "You're a genius. In your reports, you always mention exactly the appropriate things."

Hearing those statements could throw you into a spiral if you don't think of yourself as a clever, capable person. You'll be left wondering if you're lacking in insight or if the other person is lacking in judgment. This is frequently the reason for people's justifications in response to compliments. Saying something like, "Well, I simply got fortunate this time," might help alleviate some of the anxiety that arises when someone's depiction of you differs from how you characterize yourself.

3. You're anxious about high expectations.

People with poor self-esteem like to set the bar low, according to studies. They are then pleasantly delighted if their expectations are met.

You'll feel a lot of pressure if you receive a compliment that indicates you're expected to do well. Those sweet words from your employer, "I chose you for this assignment since you usually make your deadlines," might be intimidating.

When you believe others think highly of you, self-doubt might seep in and make you feel nervous. You may believe it's only a matter of time until you let someone down.

4. You Want to Be Humble

When someone says something like, "You're the best boss ever," or "You have amazing skill," it's difficult to know how to respond. "Yeah, I know," you'll undoubtedly come out as a jerk.

For many people, though, even a simple "Thank you" might be difficult. After all, boasting isn't a really appealing trait.

Humility has been related to a range of favorable outcomes, including enhanced self-control and successful leadership, according to studies. Accepting compliments, on the other hand, may sometimes feel more like a superiority complex than a polite acceptance.

Accepting compliments with difficulty might be a sign of a deeper issue. If you work on your self-esteem or your essential values, you could find that praises are easier to accept.

Even if taking a compliment makes you feel embarrassed, you don't have to act awkwardly. The greatest way to respond to a compliment is to express thanks.

Almost usually, a simple "thank you" is enough. Refrain from criticizing yourself, but acknowledge others who helped you achieve your goals.

Conclusion

The speaker can determine how successful or bad the speech acts of the compliment were in general by the interlocutor's reply, hence the article presents many reactions to a compliment. As a result, the primary communication purpose of a compliment is for the addresser to elicit favorable emotions in the interlocutor and impact his emotional area. It became revealed that vocal responses to compliments are more prevalent and widespread, since communicants may use words to

communicate a wide variety of sentiments and emotions. Nonverbal emotions, on the other hand, are solely communicated through visible manifestations such as facial expressions and gestures. However, similar responses do occur, albeit to a lower amount.

The majority of individuals consider politeness to be a pragmatic or communicative characteristic. When politeness is misread outside of pragmatics, it takes on a different connotation, which is why pragmatics is accused of seeing the world and society through the eyes of everyone being pleasant and good to everyone else. People utilize specific methods in specific situations, and data demonstrate that these techniques have been successful in specific situations. When people's communicative aims clash — that is, when their desire to avoid hurting someone's feelings clashes with their need to communicate the truth - they use indirectness.

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