

Speech Acts and Politeness Strategies in an EFL Classroom in Georgia

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Abstract : The paper deals with the usage of speech acts and politeness strategies in an EFL classroom in Georgia (Rep of). It explores the students' and the teachers' practice of the politeness strategies and the speech acts of apology, thanking, request, compliment/encouragement, command, agreeing/disagreeing, addressing and code switching. The research method includes observation as well as a questionnaire. The target group involves the students from Georgian public schools and two certified, experienced local English teachers. The analysis is based on Searle's Speech Act Theory and Brown and Levinson's politeness strategies. The findings show that the students have certain knowledge regarding politeness yet they fail to apply them in English communication. In addition, most of the speech acts from the classroom interaction are used by the teachers and not the students. Thereby, it is suggested that teachers should cultivate the students' communicative competence and attempt to give them opportunities to practice more English speech acts than they do today.

Keywords : english as a foreign language, Georgia, politeness principles, speech acts

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