

## Investigating (Im)Politeness Strategies in Email Communication: The Case Algerian PhD Supervisees and Irish Supervisors

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**Abstract :** In pragmatics, politeness is regarded as a feature of paramount importance to successful interpersonal relationships. On the other hand, emails have recently become one of the indispensable means of communication in educational settings. This research puts email communication at the core of the study and analyses it from a politeness perspective. More specifically, it endeavours to look closely at how the concept of (im)politeness is reflected through students' emails. To this end, a corpus of Algerian supervisees' email threads, exchanged with their Irish supervisors, was compiled. Leech's model of politeness (2014) was selected as the main theoretical framework of this study, in addition to making reference to Brown and Levinson's model (1987) as it is one of the most influential models in the area of pragmatic politeness. Further, some follow-up interviews are to be conducted with Algerian students to reinforce the results derived from the corpus. Initial findings suggest that Algerian Ph.D. students' emails tend to include more politeness markers than impoliteness ones, they heavily make use of academic titles when addressing their supervisors (Dr. or Prof.), and they rely on hedging devices in order to sound polite.

**Keywords :** politeness, email communication, corpus pragmatics, Algerian PhD supervisees, Irish supervisors

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