

## The Pragmatics of the Evil Eye: Compliment Response Strategies in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic

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**Abstract :** The present study aims at identifying compliment response strategies used by Egyptian students when responding to a problematic and cultural-specific type of compliments: those allegedly provoking the evil eye. Discourse Completion Tasks (DCTs) and interviews were used to collect the data. both The participants were 21 female and 16 male Egyptian graduate and undergraduate students at the American university in Cairo. The results revealed a number of both common and different main and sub-categories of responses utilized by participants of both genders. Pedagogical implications are discussed.

**Keywords :** Arabic pragmatics, compliment responses, evil eye pragmatics, pragmatics in Egypt

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