

Gender Difference in the Use of Request Strategies by Urdu/Punjabi Native Speakers

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Abstract : Requests strategies are considered as a part of the speech acts, which are frequently used in everyday communication. Each language provides speech acts to the speakers; therefore, the selection of appropriate form seems more culture-specific rather than language. The present paper investigates the gender-based difference in the use of request strategies by native speakers of Urdu/Punjabi male and female who are learning English as a second language. The data for the present study were collected from 68 graduate students, who are learning English as an L2 in Pakistan. They were given an online close-ended questionnaire, based on Discourse Completion Test (DCT). After analyzing the data, it was found that the L1 male Urdu/Punjabi speakers were inclined to use more direct request strategies while the female Urdu/Punjabi speakers used indirect request strategies. This paper also found that in some situations female participants used more direct strategies than male participants. The present study concludes that the use of request strategies is influenced by culture, social status, and power distribution in a society.

Keywords : gender variation, request strategies, face-threatening, second language pragmatics, language competence

Conference Title : ICLLL 2018 : International Conference on Linguistics and Language Learning

Conference Location : Lisbon, Portugal

Conference Dates : September 24-25, 2018