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A Sociolinguistic Study of Greetings and Apologies Used by Yarmouk and Zarqa University Students

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To

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My Parents,

My Sister

And

My Fiancée
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Abstract

A Sociolinguistic Study of Greetings and Apologies Used by Yarmouk and Zarqa University Students

This study deals with greetings and apologies as a function of language in Jordanian Society. It tries to investigate the effect of the used greeting and apologies in the Jordanian society among undergraduate students in governmental and private universities, namely Yarmouk University and Zarqa University.

The study tries to test some hypotheses such as “University students are more polite than school pupils.” and “Female students resort to apology strategies more and thus apologize more than male students”. Data were collected through conducting a questionnaire; this questionnaire have been refereed and judged by professors from both universities. The questionnaire was applied to a sample of 200 undergraduate students from both universities. The data were analyzed through the SPSS (Statistical Package of Social Science) software, to get the frequency and percentage of each formula and item.

The results of the data analysis reveal that some findings such as: First, the undergraduate students, regardless gender, are more polite than school students in greeting and apology. Second, the view towards females in the Jordanian society is different from that in the past. Third, there is no clear difference between city and village students in their responses concerning greetings and apologies, except for rare cases. Finally, the study provides conclusions and recommendations for further studies.