A Sociolinguistic Study in
Giving Route Directions at Yarmouk University / Jordan

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Abstract

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The purpose of this study is to investigate giving route directions that are used by students at Yarmouk University. It is concerned with the most frequent demographic factors, namely, age, gender, level of education, college and place of residence on the choice of certain linguistic forms in giving route directions. The researcher used tape recording and note taking to collect the data. The sample comprises one hundred and ten students studying at Yarmouk University in Irbid in Jordan, they are native speakers of Jordanian Arabic and familiar with the target place asked about. It has been found that the students' gender, age, place of residence affect their use of certain linguistic forms in giving route directions, while other factors as college and level of education of the speakers do not have that impact on their employment of certain linguistic forms in giving route directions. In order to justify these findings it has been found that female students tend to be more accurate in giving route directions because of the frequent description of the target place. Moreover, male students used some linguistics forms which reflected their manhood and seriousness as they chose to employ utterances Of forgiveness for bothering,. The study ends with the conclusions and recommendations which have been come to.

Keywords: Route Directions, Sociolinguistics