"A Socio-pragmatic Study of the Speech Act of Offering in Jordanian Arabic"

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Abstract

This study is intended to investigate the speech act of making, accepting, and declining offers in the Jordanian society. To this end, 180 male and female Jordanians were invited to participate in this study and were asked to respond to a 14-item Discourse Completion Task (DCT), which was especially designed to elicit the sought strategies of offers. The speech act of offering was analyzed in terms of some factors which could affect the type of the strategies employed: age, gender, social distance, and geographical location. The collected data were analyzed quantitatively. Data were classified into major categories of making, accepting, and declining offers. Results of the study highlighted the most recurring strategies of making, accepting, and rejecting offers and it was found that age, gender, social distance, and geographical location have a significant effect on the choice of the strategies used. The most frequently used strategies of making offers were Imperative, Query Preparatory and Mood Derivable. Results also showed that Jordanians prefer to use Thanking and Appreciating to express acceptance of offers, and Explanation/Justification the most when declining offers. The most commonly used strategies to emphasize an offer (reoffer) were Swearing and Repetition.

Key words: speech act, offer, acceptance, declining