A Soci-pragmatic Study of Compliment Response Strategies in Social Networks among Iranian EFL Learners

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Development of technology including computers and the Internet has introduced new channels of sharing ideas and beliefs in social networks all over the world. Despite a huge number of studies on compliment, this verbal behavior has not received sufficient attention in such contexts as online communication in social networks. This study aimed to investigate the realization of Persian and English compliment response strategies by Iranian English as Foreign Language (EFL) learners on social networks. To this end, a sample of 30 Iranian EFL learners studying at Islamic Azad University, Khorasgan Branch (IAUKB) was selected from friend's list on social networks. Observing ethical issues, participants' compliments and compliment response strategies were recorded, classified, analyzed in terms of frequency and percentage, and interpreted. Compliment response strategies were also examined across genders. The findings revealed that the most frequent response strategy to English compliments was acceptance strategies, while in Persian compliments it was non-acceptance strategies. The findings suggested that participants applied their Persian cultural schema less in English compliments. The findings of this study may benefit teachers, linguists, language learners, and others interested in language learning and teaching.