

## A Pragmatic Study of Courtesy in Selected American Political Interviews

TIBA ABDUL-RAZZAQ HASAN

ASST. PROF. FIRS ABDUL--Munim

College of Education for Human Sciences,  
University of Babylon

College of Education for Human Sciences,  
University of Babylon

Teebarosette1993@gmail.com

### ملخص البحث

تتقصى هذه الرسالة موضوع الكياسة في المقابلات السياسية الامريكية خلال ثلاث افعال كلامية وتحديدًا المجاملة و الثناء والشكر من منظور تداولي يتلخص البحث بما يلي : (١) تقصي تصنيف الكياسة تداوليا . (٢) تحديد كيفية اداء التعابير الكيسة كوسيلة لإظهار الاحترام في المقابلات السياسية الامريكية . (٣) التعرف على الطريقة الغالبة لإظهار الكياسة في المقابلات السياسية الامريكية.

تتبنى الدراسة الفرضيات الآتية : (١) اعتبار الكياسة سلوكًا مهذبًا. (٢) يتم تقديم عبارات الكياسة خلال العديد من الافعال الكلامية التي تظهر الاعتبارات في المقابلات السياسية الأمريكية. (٣) المجاملة هي الطريقة الأكثر أداءً لإظهار الكياسة في المقابلات السياسية الامريكية .

ولأثبت مصادقية هذه الدراسة ولتحقيق اهدافها فقد اتبعت الدراسة الاجراءات الآتية

(١) استعراض ما قد تم طرحه حول موضوع الكياسة (٢) تحليل عينة الدراسة المختارة وهي مقابلات سياسية أمريكية . حيث ان اجمالي عدد المقابلات المختارة هو اربعة مقابلات مع سياسيين أمريكيين ويتم اختيار المقاطعات من أقوال الأشخاص الذين تمت مقابلتهم والتي تحتوي على تعابير كيسة أثناء المقابلات. العدد الإجمالي للمقطعات هو اربعة عشر مقطعا.

**الكلمات المفتاحية :** التداولية، الكياسة، المجاملة، الثناء، الشكر، مقابلات سياسية.

### ABSTRACT

This study investigates courtesy in American political interviews through three speech acts, namely, compliment, praising and thanking . The main hypotheses of the study are : (1) courtesy can be regarded as a way to show considerations and polite behaviours ;(2) courteous expressions are presented by several speech acts to show considerations in American political interviews;(3) compliment is the mostly performed way to show courtesy in American political interviews. To test the validity of these hypotheses , these procedures will be followed : (1) surveying the relevant literature on courtesy ;(2) analysing the data of the study which is represented by four American political interviews by adopting Searle's (1969) model , the extracts are taken from American political interviewees' speech that contains courteous expressions .The total number of the extracts is fourteen.

**Key Words:** Pragmatics ,courtesy ,compliment , praising ,thanking ,a political interviews.

### 1-Introduction

Generally, a speaker uses language not only to express but also to create a representation of himself/herself in relation to others with whom s/he is interacting. So any language has a wide range of respectful behaviours and positive attitudes , which means that courtesy is regarded as one personal characteristic to show respect and politeness. Oxford dictionary refers to "courtesy " as the showing of politeness in one's attitude and behaviour towards others. Gregory( 2001: 2) indicates that "courtesy" in three words "to LISTEN", "to SMILE" and "take TIME" to deal with each other. That highlights that 'courtesy' is a national culture and a universal phenomenon, by which verbal factors are performed to smooth the coordination of the communication factors. That means courtesy can be expressed by

different speech acts whether they are directives, commissives, declaratives, representatives, or expressives. Accordingly, the present study tries to find answer to the following questions: (1) how is courtesy classified pragmatically? (2) how are courteous expressions performed as a way to show considerations in American political interviews? (3) what is the mostly performed way to show courtesy in American political interviews? The present study aims at (1) investigating how courtesy is classified pragmatically (2) identifying how courteous expressions are performed as a way to show considerations in American political interviews (3) recognizing the mostly performed way to show courtesy in American political interviews. Consequently, it is hypothesized that (1) courtesy can be regarded as a polite behaviour. (2) courteous expressions are presented by several speech acts to show considerations in American political interviews. (3) compliment is the mostly performed way to show courtesy in American political interviews. To fulfill the above aims, and verify their hypotheses, the following procedures will be adopted (1) surveys the literature on pragmatics and courtesy. (2) analyzing Four political interviews which represent the data of the current paper by adopting Searle's (1969) model for speech acts and following qualitative and quantitative analysis. (3) drawing a number of conclusions.

## **2-Pragmatics**

A subfield of linguistics that has developed since the late 1970s is "Pragmatics" which studies how people communicate by acts or certain speech acts in concrete speech situations. That was approximately described as "the study of the meaning of linguistic utterances for their users and interpreters" (Leech and Thomas, 1985: 173). So at the limit of linguistics and philosophy, the study of conversational postulates, "speech acts", and "implicatures" (Austin, 1962, Grice, 1975, 68 – 134; Searle, 1969) for the first time not only to focus on the role of social action in language use, but also to describe the formal contextual conditions of the appropriateness of utterances, as one of the characteristics of the new cross-discipline of pragmatics.

May (1993) mentions a view that is related to the beginning of Pragmatics that the first effort to establish something like a pragmatic approach to linguistics dates back to the late of sixties and early seventies. So at that time there had been a move from theoretical grammar (syntax) to the language user (pragmatics) the practical phase of linguistics.

Through its development, pragmatics has been steered to keep its independence as a linguistic subfield by maintaining being practical in treating the meaning of everyday communication.

Pragmatics characterizes two intents or meanings in each verbal communication. The first is the "informative meaning" of the sentence, and the other is the "communicative meaning" or speaker's meaning (Leech, 1983; Sperber & Wilson, 1986). Therefore, Pragmatics is the study that explains the use of language in its appropriate context. It is related to the speaker's meaning and not the utterance meaning as it seeks to explain the interactions of social language.

The same idea is emphasized by Yule (1996:3) as he suggests that Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as it is said by an addresser and interpreted or comprehended by the addressee. It has, consequently, more to do with the interpretation of what the speakers adopt by their utterances than what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves.

Alternatively , Varga's (2010:77) points out that " Pragmatics is the study of various aspects of language use; it deals with the ways in which language users use and interpret words and utterances in particular situations".

And that's why Pragmatics is interested in language users and their behaviour rather than language itself. Generally, Pragmatic meaning is a result of the communication between the linguistic and non-linguistic aspects that's to say the situational context (Hansen,2008:13) . So that indicates that Courtesy is related to the user's behaviour that can be expressed by speech acts .

### 3-Speech Act Theory

According to the American language philosopher Searle (1976) speaking a language is to perform speech acts , acts such as producing statements, asking questions , commands , or giving promises . Searle (ibid) says that all linguistic interaction contains several acts. More explicitly, speech acts represent the basic or the minimal units of linguistic communication . They are not ordinary or artificial linguistic constructs as it may sound, but they are often fundamental for decoding the whole utterance and its proper meaning to understand the context in which they are performed . The speech acts are used in standard exchanges as well as in jokes or drama for instance .

Searle (1976) adds that 'explaining',' apologizing', 'thanking',' congratulating', etc.. are speech acts., and "Characteristically, a speaker performs one or more of these acts by uttering a sentence or sentences; but the act itself is not to be confused with a sentence or other expression uttered in its performance."

### 4-Searle's Speech Acts Classification

Searle (1969) suggests five types of speech acts : declarations (e.g, appointing), representatives (e.g. asserting) , expressives (e.g. thanking) , directives (e.g. requesting) , and commissives (e.g. promising). The principle according to which he classifies the five categories concerns the illocutionary force of the speech act . That is derived from the essential conditions of an act (the condition that defines what the act 'counts' as) . Thus , courtesy is expressed by different speech acts as it represents a polite sense that can be shown by various speech acts . The following is the classification of speech acts according to Searle (1969) :

**a-Declarations:** speech acts that serve to change the world or a given reality via their utterance .

**b-Representatives:** speech acts that the speaker uses when he believes to be the case or not. Therefore, they convey statements, assertions, conclusions and descriptions .

**c- Expressives :** speech acts that state what the speaker feels (psychological states). For example, expressing pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, sorrow, etc . They can be caused by something the speaker does or the hearer does, but they are about the speaker's experience . In using an expressive "the speaker makes the words fit the world (of feeling)".

**d- Directives :** speech acts that when speakers use , they get someone else to do something . They express what the speaker wants . As orders, requests, commands, suggestions, etc . They can be either positive or negative. When using a directive, the speaker attempts to make the world fit the words (via the hearer) .

**e- Commissives :** speech acts that speakers use to commit themselves to some future action . They can be uttered to express what the speaker intends to do . For example, threats, promises and refusals. They are produced by the speaker alone or as a member of a group .When using a commissive, "the speaker undertakes to make the world fits the words (via the speaker)".

## **5-Performatives**

"Performatives" are historically the first kind of speech acts to be tackled in the theory of speech acts .

Austin (1962) defines a performative as an utterance which contains a special kind of verb (a performative verb) of which it performs an action . In other words they mean to act something by utterance. Wardhaugh (1992: 283) mentions that in using performatives, a person is not just saying something but he is actually doing something by words . Austin (1962) further states that a performative, unlike a constative, cannot be true or false (it can only be felicitous or infelicitous) and that it does not describe , or report anything . He (ibid) also claims that from the grammatical point of view, a performative is the first person active sentence in the simple present tense.

In English a set of verbs, which Austin (1962) terms performative verbs, are used to perform an act directly, for example : "I sentence you to ten years in prison", "I warn you to obey", "I beg you to help me." . In these examples the speaker performs the intended acts by using the performative verbs explicitly . Performatives are of two types : *explicit* or *implicit* .As Cook ( 1989:36) exemplifies that ' in ordering someone to do something the verb 'order' is used .Thus, the utterance becomes an *explicit* performative' as in:

- "I order you to clean your boots ."

While an *Implicit* performative is shown in the following :

- " Clean your boots! "

The assumption is that underlying every utterance (U) there is a clause containing a performative verb (Vp) which makes the function explicit .

## **6- Felicity Conditions**

The term "felicity conditions" was proposed by Austin (1962) who explains them as follows " There must exist an accepted conventional procedure having a certain conventional effect, that procedure to include the uttering of certain words by certain persons in certain circumstances" (p:14 – 15).

That means a certain conventional procedure must exist with appropriate circumstances and persons involved in the context. Thomas (1995: 37) says it must be done completely and correctly. The term felicity conditions ,as Searle (1969) says : covers an appropriate circumstances for the performance of a speech act to be realized as intended . Working on 'originally Searle's (1969) assumptions to felicity conditions', he classifies them as:

- a) **Propositional conditions** "specify the kind of meaning which is expressed by the propositional part of an utterance. "
- b) **Preparatory conditions** "describe the conditions which are essential to the performance of the speech act. "
- c) **Sincerity conditions** "outline the conditions which must be attained if the speech act is to be performed sincerely. "
- d) **Essential conditions** "convey what the speech act must conventionally count as. "

Courtesy is not regarded as an explicit speech act , yet it can be performed by different explicit speech acts like thanking, praising and compliment which each one has its own felicity conditions . This research will adopt Searle's model for the selected speech acts in the data analysis as they represent courtesy .

## **7- Implicature**

Horn and Ward (2006:3) define implicature as " a component of speaker meaning that constitutes an aspect of what is meant in a speaker's utterance without being part of what is said". Scientifically, Paul Grice (1975) clarifies the subject of mutual speaker-hearer comprehending and says that people are able to converse with one another because common goals are recognized in conversation and there are specific ways of achieving these goals. So in any conversation, Wardhaugh (1992: 289) mentions that only certain kinds of moves are possible at any particular time because of the constraints that operate to govern exchanges . That attempt to explain in detail how the hearer understands what is said and what is meant is what Grice (1975) comes up with the theory of implicature . He thinks that there is a set of over-arching assumptions guiding the conduct of conversation which arise from basic rational consideration . Tracing implicature deeper , May (1993) ,Yule (1996) and other linguists recognize two types of implicature. They are :

### 7.1 Conversational implicature

It is the way in which the utterance is interpreted according to a particular conversation in which the interlocutors are engaged.

Concerning this type of implicature ,Cruse (2006:71) mentions a distinction that can be drawn between its two kinds , namely: *generalised implicature and particularised implicature*. He (ibid:71) proposes that *generalised implicature* is when the implied meaning does not depend on the context, and he mentions the following examples :

'Some of the parents came to the meeting . '

This sentence denotes that not all of them did. But in :

'Some of the parents, if not all of them, came to the meeting. '

It denotes that the implicature 'not all' is cancelled.

While *particularised implicature* , as Cruse (ibid) proposes, is one that depends on specific contexts .Yule (1996:43) cites the following that requires a particular context:

"A: Hey, coming to the wild party tonight?"

"B: My parents are visiting."

To get the exact interpretation ,the hearer needs to draw on the assumption that "A" expect his parents to visit him ,so he cannot attend the party.

### 7.2 Conventional implicature

Birner (2006:66) refers to *conventional implicature* as "a defining feature of implicatures that they do not affect the truth conditions of the sentence".

*Conventional implicatures* according to Grice (1975) , they do not depend on the context, instead they are consistently attached to a particular linguistic expression and they are carried by a restricted number of words like : but, even, therefore, yet.

### 8- Courtesy

Cambridge academic dictionary defines "courtesy" as a polite behaviour or polite action. While Oxford dictionary refers to "courtesy " as the showing of politeness in one's attitude and behaviour towards others. . Thus, a speaker uses language not only to express but also to create a representation of himself/herself in relation to others with whom s/he is interacting. So any language has a wide range of respectful behaviours and positive attitudes , which means that those behaviours and attitudes which is regarded as one personal characteristics to show respect and politeness.

Mills(2003) mentions that "courtesy " is generally subsumed in most people's accounts under the general heading of politeness and it can be expressed differently according to the culture , as Leech (1983) characterises courtesy as a universal phenomenon . So it is a form of behaviour which conventionally consists of behaviours such as opening doors for women, helping them on with their coats, walking on the outside on the pavement, giving up a place on the bus, and so on.

Semantically , English language has a rich vocabulary to refer to and courteous behaviour. This is true not only for Present-day English but also for older stages of the language. Jucker et al.(2012) investigates the development of the semantic field of courtesy and politeness in the history of the English language, and they found that the Middle English period was particularly rich in new courtesy and politeness related vocabulary . It appears, therefore, that Middle English is a very important period for the development of the English politeness vocabulary, and that it seems worthwhile to investigate manifestations of courtesy and politeness in the Middle English period. Many of the new terms of courtesy and politeness were imported from French, and it is likely – given the structure of society in England during the Middle English period – that patterns of behaviour were also borrowed from France.

Finally, Gregory( 2001: 2) summarizes "courtesy" in three words "to LISTEN", "to SMILE" and "take TIME" to deal with each other. That highlights that 'courtesy' is a national culture and a universal phenomenon, by which verbal factors are performed to smooth the coordination of the communication factors .As there are many acts regarded as courteous for example : asking, listening, noticing, complimenting, thanking, hugging, and so on. This indicates the following definition which is adopted by the present study that "courtesy" is a polite behaviour which is performed by uttering different and various speech acts whether they are directives, commissives, declaratives+, representatives , or expressives. For example to say "thank you" , "please" or "pleasure to meet you" all carry courteous behaviour towards the addressee. The present study will focus only on the " expressive" speech act . Particularly, it will deal with four classes of expressive speech acts, namely, "greeting" , "compliment", "praise" and "thanking".

### **9-Courtesy as an Expressive**

The present study shows that courtesy can be realized as the umbrella of some expressive acts that carry a polite behaviour since politeness is expressed by many speech acts .For example: to thank someone , to make a compliment , to greet, and to excuse , ect... Those expressive speech acts represent different ways to express courtesy and to show politeness , so the present study states that there is no specific act to show courtesy , yet it can be expressed by many acts. Those acts carry politeness by their utterance or performance and can be introduced as follows :

#### **9.1Thanking**

In Leech (1983:104), 'thanking' falls under his 'convivial' taxonomy of speech acts, that is, a speech-act which is basically polite or courteous.

The expressions 'thank you' and 'thanks' are seen as speech acts to express feelings and polite markers . As Lakoff (1973:298) indicates that thanking is like other polite formulas, is also confirming and strengthening relationships between interlocutors .The choice of a gratitude expression relays on how the "thanker" appraises what the benefactor does for him/her and how the expressions function.

While the major and general effect of thanking is, like the speech act of complimenting, to enrich the rapport or solidarity between interlocutors by making the other party feel appreciated. The acts of thanking and complimenting have the influence of developing rapport between the interlocutors. 'Thank you' expression is basically used to express appreciation of benefits. 'Thanking' includes a set of conditions which distinguish it from other acts. They are as proposed by Searle (1969:66-67) :

Propositional content: Past act A is done by H.

Preparatory condition: A benefits S and S believes A benefits S.

Sincerity condition: S feels grateful or appreciative for A.

Essential condition: A Counts as an expression of gratitude or appreciation.

## 9.2 Compliment

Complimenting, as regarded by Searle (1975:63) is "a very common expressive speech act which can be used by/ to anyone in daily situations and in many circumstances". Compliment according to Gorelov and Sedov (2005:180-181) arise to evoke positive feelings in people as everyone should know his recognized and good individual features. Making compliment differs according to people's age, the closeness between the interlocutors and mainly , it depends on the appropriate situation. Compliment is considered as a speech act that is used to praise someone for good (possession , skills , features, etc.) which are valued positively by the speaker when making a good comment .Holmes (1988:485) proposes this example :

-You did a great job cleaning up the house.

According to Searle's four conditions Jacobs et al. (1993:6) provide the following felicity conditions for compliments:

The Propositional Conditions: where S must indicate a positive value for an attribute, state, or event.

The Preparatory Conditions: A must have positive value, the attribute must be noteworthy, and H must be able to take credit for the attribute .

The Sincerity Condition : S must approve of the attribute, state or event being mentioned.

The Essential Conditions: A counts as a recognition and approval of the attribute, state, or event credited to the hearer.

## 9.3 Praising

Leech (1983:104) categorizes 'praising as 'convivial' speech act, Austin's (1962) classification put it within the behabitive class , while Searle (1969) suggests it to be in the ' expressive' group. These three different classifications carry only one meaning that is ' Praising' is uttered to express the speaker's feelings and attitudes. Thus, praising someone means expressing his approval and admiration about something. On one hand Manes and Wolfson (1980:106) regard every praise should indicates at least one term which is filled with a positive semantic evaluation. So to 'praise' means to make an approval about persons or objects that one sees excellence or worth in Praising. Concerning that semantic evaluation Reborts (1968:35) sees that praising to express commendation is performed by uttering different adjectives that may be related to appearance, performance, polite manners , or intelligence. On the other hand , Wolfson (1989:50) classifies three different types of praise according to the fact that 'praise' is to donates a positive value to a person's attitude. The first type is the social praise when praising is uttered to make someone feel good and to express friendship. Second , when praising is uttered by different people , as teachers with their students, parents and employers

with their employees. Thus, it is performed to build self-esteem, to motivate others. Third, praising is to encourage cooperation and build relationships. So it creates a set of circumstances that develop relationships between people which cause them to cooperate.

Some linguists suggest that praise may overlap with the speech act of compliment; thus, they show that difference between them. Tannen (1993), cited in Al - Abodi (2005:21), points that 'compliment' is an interactive speech act whereas praising is a statement. Lewandowska - Tomaszczyk (1989), cited in Al - Rassam (1999:8), strengthens the same idea by stating that compliments appear only in face-to-face interaction, and it always involves a human addressee.

Moreover, Herbert (1990), cited in AL - Rassam (1999:9), in an analysis of over a thousand American compliments suggests that 'compliments' may function as 'praising' in the way that 'praising' is usually to be directed downwards from superordinate as a teacher's compliment about student's performance.

Holmes (1986:486) affirms that the positive evaluation or praising does not count as a compliment, because the possessor of the attribute praised is not being addressed directly, nor he/she is related to the person praised. In other words, praising does not satisfy the preparatory condition which requires that the hearer must be able to take credit for the attribute. While a compliment indirectly attributes a certain good value to the recipient, that means compliment is directly attributable to the person addressed and the person addressed compliment and gets the credit. According to what has been mentioned above by the linguist, praising has a slight difference, which difference is carried by the preparatory condition with keeping the other three conditions the same. So the present study modifies the following felicity conditions of the speech act of praising which the present study applies them in the analysis of the empirical part.

The Propositional Conditions: where S must indicate a positive value for an attribute, state, or event.

The Preparatory Conditions: S expresses A regarding H who is not being addressed directly.

The Sincerity Condition : S must approve of the attribute, state or event being mentioned.

The Essential Conditions: A has to count as a recognition and approval of the attribute, state, or event credited to H.

### **1- The Suggested Model**

The present study will adopt Searle's (1969) model for classifying speech acts. According to Searle's (1969) model, speech acts are classified into five classes of macro speech acts of representatives, directives, commissives, expressives and declaratives. The present study is limited to the expressive speech acts which represent the main point of this study, namely, courtesy. It chooses three micro expressive speech acts that carry the meaning of courtesy, namely, thanking (as mentioned in 7.1), compliment (as mentioned in 7.2) and praising (as mentioned in 7.3) and. So the data is analysed according to the formal felicity conditions of each speech act which are suggested by Searle (1969) and mentioned in (7.1, 7.2, 7.3).

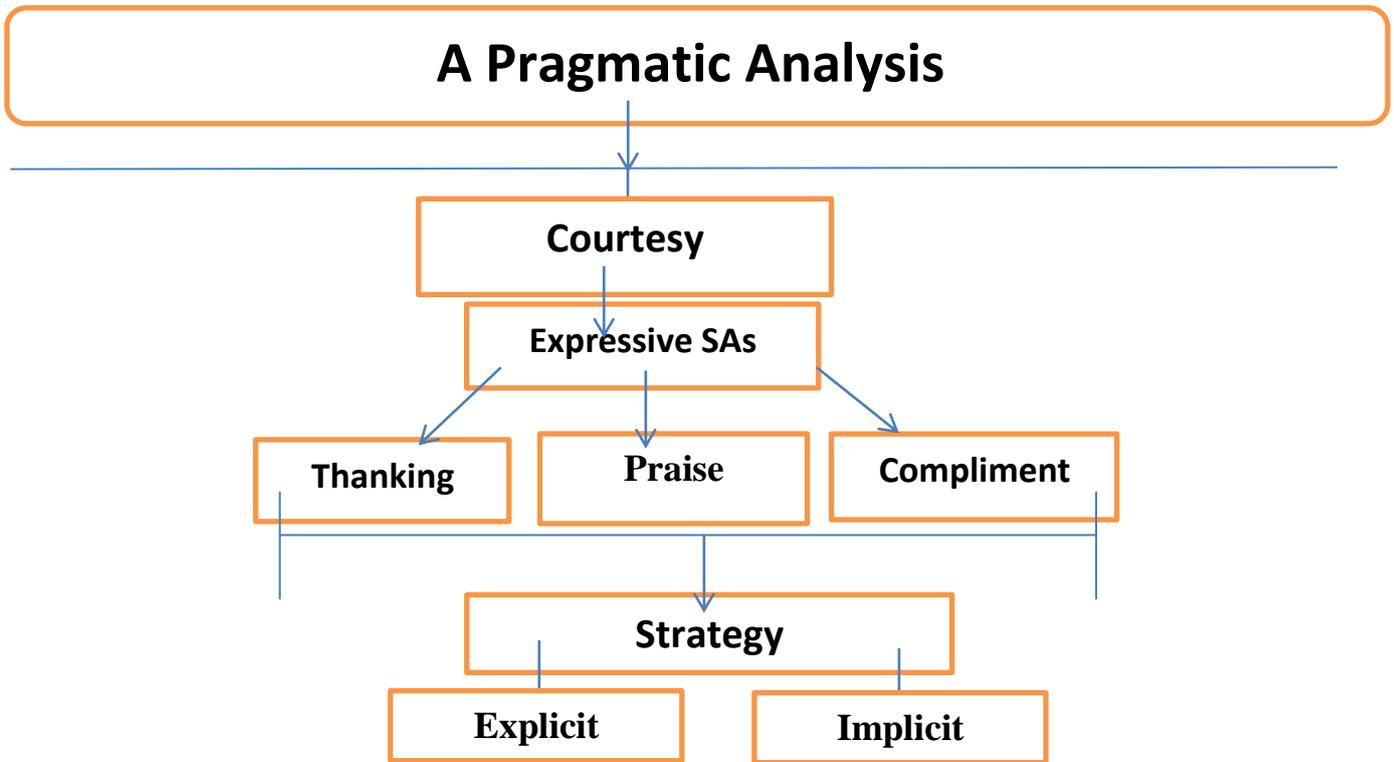


Figure (1) A Pragmatic Analytical design

### 11-The Data of the Study

The sample of the present study is limited to American political interviews chosen from *Larry King Live* programme. Larry King Live programme is an American talk show that was hosted by Larry King on CNN from 1985 to 2010. It was CNN's most watched and longest-running programme, with over one million viewers nightly. "

"Larry King" mainly conducts "interviews" from the studio, but he also interviewed people on-site in the "White House", their prison cells, their homes, and other unique locations. "Critics"

have claimed that "Larry King" asks "soft" questions in comparison to other interviewers, which allows him to reach guests who would be averse to interviewing on "tough" talk shows. His reputation to ask "easy", and "open-ended" questions made him attractive to some important figures who like to state their positions while avoiding being in challenge on contentious topics."

The present study focuses on performing 'courtesy' by the political interviewees through their speech. The number of the selected interviews is four, classified as two male interviewees and two female interviewees. The total amount of the selected extracts is fourteen. The selected characters in the sample of the present study are: Trump, B. Clinton, Rice and Pelosi.

## **12- Data Analysis**

The data will be analyzed according to Searle's (1969) speech acts by adopting the suggested felicity conditions for each speech act. The extracts that carry the courteous sense are selected from the interviewees' speech only.

### **12.1 Speech Act of Compliment**

1-TRUMP: I love doing your show, I'm having a good time. I mean I really am having a great time."

Trump is uttering the courteous expression after the welcoming part which is presented by Larry. Trump is showing consideration to Larry by making compliment about him and his programme. Compliment has been presented implicitly by showing admiration about the programme by the interviewee without using performatives.

Propositional condition: Trump indicates a positive value about Larry and the programme.

Preparatory condition: the attribute has a positive value, and Larry feels proud to take credit for the attribute that is mentioned by Trump.

Sincerity condition: Trump approves of the positive state and mentions it sincerely.

Essential condition: compliment counts as an approval credit to Larry.

2-"KING: We're honored to have you."

"B. CLINTON: I'm glad to be here Happy anniversary."

A courteous expression is uttered by Clinton towards Larry. The courteous utterance is represented through "compliment". Implicitly, the interviewee presents a compliment about being a guest in the programme.

Propositional condition: Clinton shows a positive value for Larry and his programme.

Preparatory condition: the attribute carries a positive value. Larry feels proud of taking credit for the attribute by Clinton.

Sincerity condition: Clinton approves the positive state and mentions it sincerely.

Essential condition: compliment counts as a recognition and approval credit to Larry.

### **12.2 Speech Act of Praising**

1-TRUMP: "Carolyn ran a small country club for me and she did nicely on "The Apprentice" and so did George. I mean they did great. The show became this great success".

Through this part of the interview, Trump is answering the question about two persons who worked in his country club. Trump is describing them as great, so he is making courteous expression by praising both of them. The following are felicity conditions of the speech act of praising. The interviewee makes praising implicitly by showing his admiration about the two persons' work.

Propositional condition: Trump makes a positive value about two persons worked in his club.

Preparatory condition: Trump expresses praising to the two persons who are not being addressed directly.

Sincerity condition :Trump approves the positive state and mentions it sincerely .

Essential condition : praising counts as a recognition and approval credit to the two persons .

٢-"KING: *Your decision to fire Carolyn Kepcher, why?"*  
TRUMP: *" Well, Carolyn is a very nice person and she ran one of my golf clubs and it's a terrific club, Trump National in Westchester. And, she did a good job. But when she went on*  
*" "The Apprentice". "*

Trump in this quote is answering the interviewer's question as he is asking him about one of his officers namely ; Carolyn Kepcher . Trump is answering courteously which admits a positive utterance towards Carolyn Kepcher, so he is making courtesy by praising her . Again , the interviewee is praising *Carolyn* implicitly by presenting his positive impression about her.

Propositional condition : Trump indicates a positive value about his officer Carolyn Kepcher.

Preparatory condition : Trump expresses praising to Carolyn Kepcher who is not being receiving that praise directly.

Sincerity condition :Trump approves a positive state and mentions it sincerely .

Essential condition : praising counts as a recognition and approval credit to Carolyn Kepcher.

3-"B. CLINTON: *If she got elected, she would be fabulous. She would be magnificent. And I know she would be great for America.*

*I give you the person who, for 35 years, I have always that would be the best American offer.*  
"

Clinton is showing his consideration towards the intended addressee who is Hillary Clinton . Clinton is producing courtesy through "praising" her. Praising here is presented implicitly , as the interviewee shows his positive view about the intended addressee without using performatives .

Propositional condition : Clinton indicates a positive value about Hillary Clinton .

Preparatory condition : Clinton expresses praising to Hillary Clinton who is not being directly addressed by Clinton.

Sincerity condition : Clinton approves a positive state and mentions it sincerely.

Essential condition : praising counts as a recognition and approval credit to Hillary Clinton.

4-"B. CLINTON: *I still think Senator McCain is a very durable character. He's a very admirable man. He paid a great price to serve this country. And whether I agree or disagree with him on everything, you've got to respect him.*"

Clinton is expressing his courtesy through praising one of the American statesman and military officer, namely ; Senator McCain.

Propositional condition : Clinton indicates a positive value about Senator McCain .

Preparatory condition : Clinton expresses praising to Senator McCain who is not being directly addressed by Clinton.

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Sincerity condition : Clinton approves a positive state and mentions it sincerely .

Essential condition : praising counts as a recognition and approval credit to Senator McCain.

5-"King : *We're in the Treaty Room, as we said. We're sitting right by the picture of the first secretary of state, a guy name Thomas Jefferson. What does that feel like, you and he, same job?"*

"CONDOLEEZZA RICE, SECRETARY OF STATE": *"Well, it's pretty extraordinary. Thomas Jefferson, of course, such a towering figure in American policy, but also, at a time when the march of democracy is the most important element of our foreign policy, someone who wrote eloquently about human rights, about the rights of men. One of my favorite quotes from Thomas Jefferson is:" "The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time."*

As the Larry is asking the Rice about the x-American Secretary of State *Thomas Jefferson* . Rice presents a courteous utterance to answer the question *about Thomas Jefferson* . Rice is Praising *Thomas Jefferson* implicitly and showing how she admires him by describing him as *pretty extraordinary and a towering figure.*

Propositional condition : Rice indicates a positive value about *Thomas Jefferson*.

Preparatory condition : Rice expresses praising to *Thomas Jefferson* who is not being directly addressed by Rice

Sincerity condition : Rice approves a positive state and mentions it sincerely.

Essential condition : praising counts as a recognition and approval credit to *Thomas Jefferson*.

1-"KING: Even when they're critical of each other?  
RICE: *Even when there's criticism, even when there's difficulty or difference of opinion, it's always respectful and even friendly. And of course, they have such an easy relationship."*

Rice is answering a question with a highly courteous sense ,as the Larry is asking about the relation between the "American president Bush" and the "Russian president Putin". Rice is presenting courteous expressions in describing that relation as respectful and great and that through praising them implicitly without using any performatives.

Propositional condition : Rice indicates a positive value about the two presidents Bush and Putin.

Preparatory condition : Rice expresses praising to the two presidents Bush and Putin who are not being directly addressed by Rice.

Sincerity condition : Rice approves a positive state and mentions it sincerely.

Essential condition : praising counts as a recognition and approval credit to two presidents Bush and Putin.

7-"RICE : I thought that John, with whom I'd had a lot of experience in his diplomacy over the last four years, would be a strong voice at the U.N. He's been critical of the United Nations from time to time, but in some ways that is a great benefit because, at a time when the U.N. is undergoing a considerable discussion about reform, looking at what needs to be done, it's a good thing to have somebody who's thought both about the good and the bad at the U.N."

Rice is expressing courtesy towards the American ambassador *John Bolton* . She is showing courtesy through praising him implicitly without producing performatives.

Propositional condition : Rice indicates a positive evaluation about the *John Bolton*.

Preparatory condition : Rice expresses praising to *John Bolton* who is not being directly addressed by Rice.

Sincerity condition : Rice approves a positive state and mentions it sincerely.

Essential condition : praising counts as a recognition and approval credit to *John Bolton*.

▲-"KING: Do you think Geithner should be confirmed?"

"PELOSI: Yes. I think he's very talented and he has the confidence of the president of the United States."

As Larry is asking the interviewee Pelosi about the American banker *Geithner* , Pelosi is expressing her admiration about *Geithner* and she is showing courtesy through praising him implicitly without using performatives .

Propositional condition : Pelosi makes an evaluation about *Geithner* positively.

Preparatory condition : Pelosi expresses praising *Geithner* who is not being directly addressed by Pelosi.

Sincerity condition : Pelosi approves a positive state and mentions it sincerely.

Essential condition : praising counts as a recognition and approval credit to *Geithner*.

9-"PELOSI: I have enormous respect for the judgment of Barack Obama. And so whether it's in his decisions or his personnel choices -- policy decisions or personnel choices, my attitude is to take his lead on them."

The interviewee is producing courtesy toward the American president *Obama* . Courtesy is represented by praising him implicitly without using performatives.

Propositional condition : Pelosi makes an evaluation about *Obama* positively.

Preparatory condition : Pelosi expresses praising Obama who is not being directly addressed by Pelosi.

Sincerity condition : Pelosi approves a positive state and mentions it sincerely.

Essential condition : praising counts as a recognition and approval credit to *Obama*.

### **12.3 Speech Act of Thanking**

1-"*LARRY KING, HOST: We welcome Bill Clinton, the 42nd president of the United States He's been on this programme many times. And a great pleasure to welcome him back.*"

"*B. CLINTON: Thank you, Larry.*"

At the beginning of the episode , Clinton is presenting his thanking towards Larry for his welcoming expressions. Thanking represents courtesy towards Clinton and it is produced explicitly.

Propositional condition : As Larry Welcomed Clinton and hosted him in his programme ,Clinton is presenting his gratitude to Larry.

Preparatory condition : being hosted and welcomed by Larry , Clinton believes to be a guest in the programme benefits him.

Sincerity condition : Clinton feels grateful for being a guest in the programme sincerely .

Essential condition : thanking count as an expressive of appreciation and gratitude.

2-"*KING: Thank you, Madame Secretary. Always good seeing you.*"

"*RICE: Thank you.*"

At the end of the interview , Rice is thanking Larry for having this interview. Courtesy is shown through thanking which is said explicitly.

Propositional condition : As Larry hosted Rice in his programme. She is thanking him.

Preparatory condition : being hosted by Larry , Rice believes to be a guest in the programme benefits her .

Sincerity condition : Rice feels grateful for being a guest in the programme sincerely .

Essential condition : thanking count as an expressive of appreciation and gratitude.

3-"*KING: Good seeing you, Nancy.*"

"*PELOSI: My pleasure. Thank you.*"

Pelosi at the end of the interview is showing courtesy toward Larry by thanking him by using performatives and producing thanking explicitly.

Propositional condition : As Larry hosted Pelosi in his programme. She is thanking him.

Preparatory condition : being hosted by Larry , Pelosi believes to be a guest in the programme benefits her.

Sincerity condition : Pelosi feels grateful for being a guest in the programme sincerely .

Essential condition : thanking count as an expressive of appreciation and gratitude.

**Table (1) the frequency of occurrence of "compliment", "praising" and "thanking" in American political interviews**

| Compliment |       | Praising |     | Thanking |       | Total |      |
|------------|-------|----------|-----|----------|-------|-------|------|
| Freq.      | P.C   | Freq.    | P.C | Freq.    | P.C   | Freq. | P.C  |
| ٢          | 14.5% | ٩        | 64% | ٣        | 21.5% | ١٤    | 100% |

### 13-Results

The final results of the data analyzed show that there are differences in expressing courtesy through the selected speech acts ; namely , compliment , praising and thanking . The highest frequency of occurrence to express courtesy is made by the speech act of "praising" which has been expressed nine times out of fourteen and all were produced implicitly, as it is noticed in table (1) since American politicians highly like to mention advantages and good points about the intended addresses . The speech act of "Thanking" comes after "praising" and takes the second high percentage with three times of occurrence which were used explicitly as American politicians express their gratitude to the interviewer at the end of the interview to thank him for hosting them .

The speech act of "Compliment" is lower than the other two speech acts that contain a courteous sense ( praising and thanking ) that was produced implicitly , as it has been used two times only out of fourteen since American politicians when making compliment through their speech they need a face to face interaction in the interview. That is why compliment has been made by the interviewees only towards the interviewer to show respect and consideration.

### 14- Conclusions

The present study concluded that :

- Courtesy can be considered as a social behaviour ; it can be expressed through different macro-speech acts (directives, representatives, commissives, expressives and declaratives ). So through the expressive speech acts , courtesy is indicated through the selected micro-speech acts of compliment, praising and thanking.
- In political American interviews , the political interviewees showed more tendency to show courtesy by performing different expressive speech acts .
- "Praising" forms the frequent part which shows courtesy. Since American Political interviewees usually praise other people through the interview to shade the light on their advantages .

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- d. "Thanking" and "complimenting" are used to show courtesy towards the interviewer only to be courteous with him for hosting them ,therefore these two speech acts (thanking and compliment) represent the lowest frequency of occurrence to express courtesy.

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**Web Resources:**

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0505/11/lkl.01.html>

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0612/25/lkl.05.html>

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0704/22/lkl.01.html>

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