LINGUISTIC REALIZATION OF REFUSALS IN PERSIAN BY IRANIAN FARSI SPEAKERS

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2011
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DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LINGUISTICS

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KUALA LUMPUR

2011
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LINGUISTIC REALIZATION OF REFUSALS IN PERSIAN BY IRANIAN FARSI SPEAKERS
Field of Study: Pragmatics
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ABSTRACT

This study investigates variations in the linguistics realization of the speech act of refusal in Persian language. It also aims at exploring the role of two social variables; namely ‘social distance’ and ‘power’ in the production of refusals. The data were collected using ethnographic observation, and were both field noted and recorded wherever possible. The results yielded 208 acts of refusals. These refusals were classified according to the refusal classification semantic formulae proposed by Beebe, Takahashi, and Uliss- Weltz (1990). The results showed that Iranian Farsi speakers employed indirect strategies and a combination of direct and indirect strategies more than direct ones in their refusals. Also, among the large number of indirect strategies, "reason, explanation or excuse" enjoyed the highest frequency, in refusals to requests, suggestions and invitations, and "gratitude" was the commonest strategy in refusing offers. The social distance and power did play a role and affected the linguistic realization of refusal. Finally, the possible justifications behind the variations in the production of refusals are discussed.

Key words: speech act, refusal, Persian, social distance, power
ABSTRAK


Kata kunci: tindak tutur, penolakan, Parsi, jarak sosial, kuasa
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In preparing this dissertation I enjoyed the support and kind help of many people to whom I owe my debt. My first gratitude goes to my Supervisor, Dr. Thilagavathi Shanmuganathan for her academic guidance throughout the entire process of writing this dissertation.

My greatest appreciation also goes to my family members who have helped me through the numerous challenges faced. I also acknowledge the help extended by all my lecturers at the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya. Sincere appreciation is also due to my participants and informants without whose cooperation this work would have never been completed.

Finally, this dissertation is dedicated to my loving family members especially to my husband and my beloved daughter.
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