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Шутова М.О.

Науковий керівник:
Кандидат філологічних наук,
професор **Волкова Лідія Михайлівна**

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Master's Qualification Paper

COMPLIMENTS AS A MEANS OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION (A STUDY OF ENGLISH SERIALS)

NATALIIA OHYRENKO

Group MLa 55-22

Department of Germanic

Philology and translation

Research Adviser

Professor

LIDIYA M. VOLKOVA

(Ph.D. Linguistics)

Kyiv – 2023

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INTRODUCTION

Effective communication is the cornerstone of successful relationships, both personal and professional. Compliments, as verbal expressions of praise and admiration, play a pivotal role in enhancing communication dynamics. This research seeks to explore the relevance of compliments in modern society, drawing inspiration from their portrayal in English serials. Television series often serve as a reflection of societal norms and behaviors, making them an ideal medium for studying communication patterns.

Objectives:

To analyze the frequency of compliments in popular English serials.

To identify common scenarios in which compliments are exchanged.

To explore the impact of compliments on character relationships and plot development.

To extrapolate real-world implications for effective communication based on the findings.

Methodology:

This research will employ a qualitative content analysis approach to study a diverse selection of English serials. Episodes from different genres will be selected, and the occurrences of compliments will be systematically documented. Additionally, contextual information, such as the characters involved, the nature of the compliment, and the setting, will be considered. The analysis will be both quantitative (to measure the frequency of compliments), and qualitative (to understand the nuances of their usage).

Significance:

Understanding the dynamics of compliments in fictional narratives can provide valuable insights into their real-world applications. This research can contribute to our knowledge of effective communication strategies and their impact on relationships. By exploring the patterns in English serials, this study aims to offer practical recommendations for incorporating compliments into daily communication for improved interpersonal connections.

As communication continues to evolve in the digital age, the importance of positive verbal affirmations cannot be overstated. This research on compliments in English serials aims to bridge the gap between fiction and reality, offering a nuanced understanding of the role compliments play in effective communication. The findings of this study can serve as a foundation for future research and practical applications in diverse social contexts.

Subject of Research:

Investigating the use of compliments as a component of verbal communication in English TV series.

Object of Research:

English TV series, with a focus on their representation and the use of compliments in dialogues between characters and the development of the plot.

CHAPTER ONE. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR THE STUDY OF COMPLIMENTS IN PRESENT-DAY LINGUISTICS

1.1 Role of compliments in communication

Compliments are woven into the fabric of human communication, performing various roles that enhance social dynamics and personal well-being. Their ability to strengthen relationships is fundamental. When people express genuine admiration or appreciation through compliments, they create a positive connection, building trust and rapport. Compliments also hold a mirror to our self-esteem. Receiving sincere compliments can boost self-esteem, promote self-confidence, and foster a positive self-image. The impact of a well-timed compliment can be remarkable, making people feel valued and appreciated. (Jones & Buckingham, 2005). Positive reinforcement is another vital role of compliments. When someone receives recognition or praise for their efforts, it reinforces their behavior. In personal relationships, compliments can motivate people to maintain positive actions, while in the professional world, they can reinforce good practices and increase productivity. Furthermore, compliments are motivational and inspirational. By acknowledging someone's strengths and accomplishments, you can inspire them to set higher goals and work towards self-improvement. Compliments can serve as catalysts for personal and professional growth, motivating individuals to reach their full potential. Compliments are not just words; they are tools for conflict resolution. In situations of tension or disagreement, offering a compliment can defuse the situation and open the door for constructive dialogue. A well-placed compliment can validate the other person's perspective, paving the way for mutual understanding and compromise.

They contribute to creating a positive and inclusive atmosphere. When individuals feel valued and appreciated through compliments, it fosters a harmonious environment that is conducive to effective communication, collaboration, and teamwork. Such a positive atmosphere can lead to greater engagement and cooperation, whether in personal relationships or within a professional team. Regularly expressing

admiration, affection, and appreciation through compliments is key to maintaining healthy relationships. It strengthens the bonds between people, ensuring that they remain strong and resilient. In long-term relationships, such as friendships and romantic partnerships, compliments play an essential role in keeping the connection alive and thriving. In professional settings, compliments can be the stepping stones to career development. Recognizing the achievements and qualities of colleagues can lead to promotions, mentorship opportunities, and the expansion of professional networks. By acknowledging the efforts and talents of colleagues, you not only boost their morale but also create a collaborative work environment that fosters growth and innovation. Moreover, compliments can be integrated into constructive feedback, making it more approachable and well-received. This approach is often referred to as the "compliment sandwich," where constructive criticism is sandwiched between two compliments. It helps individuals feel more comfortable receiving feedback and makes it easier to absorb and act upon. Finally, compliments need to be delivered with cultural sensitivity. Different cultures have unique norms and expectations regarding compliments. Understanding these cultural nuances is crucial in cross-cultural interactions to avoid potential misunderstandings or misinterpretations. The compliment expression is frequently used in communication. Delivering and responding to compliments is a perfect tool to build and create good relationships between and among people when communicating. Compliments are used to establish harmonious communication. It is also considered a politeness strategy to make communication run in harmony. Generally, when someone is complimented, he or she naturally and psychologically feels excited and happy. However, few people are not excited due to many reasons. These two different feelings of response probably happen because responders have different perceptions and personal traits regarding the compliment itself. Also, the compliment and its typical responses are assumed to be influenced by culture. This paper is an attempt to elaborate theoretically on the concepts, functions, common topics, typical responses of compliment, and compliment and culture in communication and interaction.

In essence, a compliment can be described as an expression of praise or respect, according to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (1978). Webster's New World College Dictionary (1995) offers a slightly different definition, characterizing a compliment as a formal gesture or expression of courtesy, admiration, praise, or flattery, as well as to extend courteous greetings, convey respects, or show politeness. Additionally, compliments can encompass good wishes, congratulations, acts of civility, and displays of affection.

From these definitions, it becomes evident that the term "compliment" encompasses a variety of similar and interrelated concepts, including praise, respect, admiration, courtesy, flattery, courteous greetings, speech acts, and acts of politeness. This complexity underscores the power and versatility of the word "compliment," both in terms of its meaning and its practical application. Moreover, a compliment represents an expression of goodwill from the speaker to the listener.

To offer a more comprehensive and context-specific definition, Holmes (1986) defines a compliment as a speech act that explicitly or implicitly attributes credit to someone other than the speaker, typically the person being addressed. This attribution is for positive attributes such as possessions, characteristics, skills, and other qualities valued by both the speaker and the listener. Compliments, according to Holmes, are generally seen as emotionally positive speech acts designed to strengthen the bond between the speaker and the addressee, serving as a powerful tool for mutual solidarity and support.

Ye (1995) further elaborates by defining compliments as positive expressions and commendations that can uplift a person's spirits or boost their morale. Morales (2012) provides a more comprehensive perspective on compliments, stating that they not only convey honest admiration and highlight positive qualities but also serve as substitutes for greetings, expressions of gratitude, apologies, and means of minimizing potentially offensive or face-threatening actions. Compliments can also be used to facilitate communication. People usually use them as a means of communicating easily with each other, especially when they are not very

intimate. In addition, the giving of compliments is accepted as an excellent strategy to start a conversation and hence establish contact between the people and make them communicate more effectively. Also, by complimenting, speakers feel more confident, and this encourages them to be more effective in their interaction. By doing so, compliments function as good tools that help reduce the social distance between people, which, of course, makes them feel more comfortable interacting with each other. As Wolfson (1983b) points out, compliments used by middle-class speakers of American English may often serve to strengthen or even replace other speech act formulas. Thanks, apologies, and greetings, for example, are often accompanied by or substituted by compliments. Indeed, there are several situations in which compliments may function as an appropriate means of thanking. In this way, they are usually expressed as a response to the performance of a service. Wolfson (1983b:88) explains: In most traditional American families, for example, it is expected that the wife will prepare meals, and therefore it is inappropriate for the husband or children to thank her for this service. The appropriate expression of appreciation in this situation is a compliment on the tastiness of the food. When it comes to apologies, there are some cases where compliments are used as part of or in place of an apology. This sort of behavior is very typical in interactions involving intimates, but it may also frequently be used when status is unequal. More interestingly enough, compliments may also be used as a good device to soften criticism. This is particularly used when the interactants are in a relationship that is likely to continue and in which the maintenance of harmony is desirable. Such a combination is typical in work situations and in communication between close friends, where politeness often precedes honest assessment.

On the other hand, compliments can make the recipient feel uncomfortable because they may imply an element of envy on the part of the complimenter and a desire to get something that belongs to the addressee. This is observed to exist in several societies, but it is most obvious in some cultural contexts, such as the Samoan, where an expression of admiration for an object imposes an obligation on the addressee to offer it to the complimenter. Holmes (1988:449) provides the following example to

illustrate this phenomenon: Context: Pekeha (i.e., New Zealander of European origin) to Samoan friend whom she is visiting. C. What an unusual necklace. It's beautiful. R. Please take it.

The development of language reflects thinking, because with language, thoughts can be organized, and new thoughts can evolve. Self-awareness and a sense of social responsibility have arisen because of organized thoughts. Systems of ethics and law have been established. Man has become a self-conscious, responsible, social creature.

Speech and writing are by no means our only systems of communication. Social intercourse is greatly strengthened by habits of gesture — little movements of the hands and face. With nods, smiles, frowns, handshakes, kisses, fist shakes, and other gestures, we can convey the most subtle understanding. Also, we have economic systems for trafficking not in ideas but in material goods and services; the tokens of communication are coins, bonds, letters of credit, and so on. We have conventions of dress, rules of the road, social formalities, and good manners; we have rules of membership and function in businesses, institutions, and families. But life in the modern world is coming to depend more and more upon «technical» means of communication, such as the telephone and telegraph, radio, and printing.

Physically, we transmit signals or signs — audible, visual, tactile. But the mere transmission and reception of a physical signal does not constitute communication. A sign, if it is perceived by the recipient, has the potential to select responses in him. Physically, when we communicate, we make noises with our mouths, gesticulate, or exhibit some token or icon, and these physical signals set up a response behavior.

The theory of communication is partly concerned with the measurement of the information content of signals as their essential property in the establishment of communication links. But the information content of signals is not to be regarded as a commodity; it is more a property or potential of the signals, and as a concept, it is closely related to the idea of selection or discrimination. (Cherry, 1956).

A compliment is a form of communication intricately associated with multiple aspects of language and speech, as well as their cognitive and social environments,

with particular features that cannot be fully understood without considerable analysis and systematic organization. The topicality of the research is also determined by the fact that its subject is at the crossroads of several linguistic interests' discipline: socio-, pragma-, and psycholinguistics: ethnography of speech; theory of speech activity. However, among the various works in domestic and foreign linguistics that point out the challenges of these disciplines, there are none that evaluate the uniqueness of the compliment as a communicative phenomenon as a separate topic.

A compliment is an important component of the speech behavior of representatives of English-speaking and Ukrainian cultures. A compliment affects both the nature of interpersonal relations among communicators and the success of communication in general. A compliment is simple but a powerful tool that helps establish good relationships with other people. Compliments are given for different reasons, but they all usually bring pleasure and raise our self-esteem. Our sympathy for a person, as a rule, begins with what he was able to do, which emphasizes some of our dignity [2, 10].

When giving a compliment, we should be as honest and open as possible; our words should not contain strongly expressed flattery. When they say a sincere compliment, they focus on the other person, look for positive qualities in them, and their opinion of them increases. It is believed that when a person says nice words to another person, he raises his own self-esteem because it takes a certain amount of self-confidence to notice the good in other people and voice these thoughts. In addition, attentiveness, and the ability to observe positive qualities in others help us notice more good things in ourselves.

The primary illocutionary purpose of a compliment is to communicate not how the speaker evaluates the addressee but what feelings and emotions the man feels in connection with a positive evaluation; that is, this goal consists in conveying the speaker's optimistic psychological, or so-called intentional (according to J. Searle), state, the representative meaning of which is a positive assessment. Yes, uttering the statement "You are beautiful", "You look beautiful" with the illocutionary force of a

compliment, the speaker means approximately the following: I am glad, I am pleased, or I feel pleasure from the fact that you look good.

Usually, a compliment is described and analyzed as a certain speech form containing a certain set of functions. However, it is advisable to also consider a compliment as a unit of speech behavior, as a special type of speech act.

This approach makes it possible to reveal the nature of the dependence between the needs, motives, goals, desires, feelings, and emotions of communicators on the one hand and the form and content of the statements themselves on the other.

A speech act is a complex unity of activities directed at qualitatively distinct communicative purposes, forming a hierarchical structure in which illocutionary goals are reduced to social goals via perlocutionary goals. Therefore, when performing the speech act "compliment", the speaker performs three different actions, which are embodied in one statement. We can conclude that compliments are an important tool in creating a pleasant mood in society. A compliment should be light, playful, simple, natural, and, most importantly, true. If you say compliments infrequently and, at the same time, intelligently and subtly, they give the conversation the desired grace. And, on the contrary, when you hear preparation, claim, or arrogance in compliments, they become ridiculous and vulgar. (Rose, 2001; Tatsuki & Nishizawa, 2005).

In the 1980s, Wolfson and Manes collected over 1200 naturally occurring compliments in American English. More recent studies investigating compliments appearing in the current U.S. media also found a roughly comparable distribution of these grammatical structures (Rose, 2001; Tatsuki & Nishizawa, 2005).

The list of functions presented in this section is not by any means definite, as compliments may serve more than one function depending on many factors such as context, relationships between interlocutors, and, more importantly, the sex of participants. But it is of interest to note that the functions discussed are very fundamental in the sense that they help to establish good relationships and to emphasize positive politeness.

Complimenting is one of the speech acts that serves the function of yielding pragmatic success (Golato, 2004). In daily life situations, speakers often select the discourse strategies that make them appear polite. Compliment strategies are used to facilitate conversation and maintain the face of the speakers. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), speakers must consider the face that other people want and try to satisfy their facial desires. In producing compliments, speakers need to consider the utterances they produce and the language they use.

Politeness is a complex and crucial aspect of social behavior, reflecting our adherence to social norms and etiquette. Politeness plays a pivotal role in fostering positive relationships with others. It encompasses a range of positive traits such as generosity, modesty, and empathy, all of which demonstrate our consideration for others. In essence, politeness is the embodiment of good manners, emphasizing respect for others and the avoidance of offense. In everyday conversations, people may consciously or unconsciously save face, and the strategies employed for politeness can vary widely. Some individuals use politeness to create emotional connections, while others employ it to show respect or deference. This variance in the use of politeness is closely linked to social factors and dimensions.

Indeed, a person's gender and social status play pivotal roles in influencing how they use politeness. Paying compliments is one of the most common forms of positive politeness, and it also reveals a relatively clear gender distinction, especially when compared to other politeness strategies (Holmes, 1995 c. 116). Compliments, in general, signify a friendly gesture, falling under the category of positive politeness. However, the function of compliments is deeply influenced by social factors such as the individuals involved, the setting, and the topic of the conversation. The interpretation of compliments can vary depending on the context and the participants. For example, when a woman tells her female colleague, "You are beautiful," it might be intended to maintain a pleasant conversation, even though the literal meaning might hold less weight. On the other hand, if a woman says the same to her female boss, it may carry a different purpose or intent. The way in which people give compliments is

also intriguing, as there are noticeable differences in the compliments offered by women and men. An utterance must draw attention to something positively appreciated by the participants and attributed to the recipient to be acknowledged as a compliment. While this might seemingly allow for an extensive range of possible topics for compliments, most compliments revolve around a few broad themes, including appearance, abilities, and possessions (Holmes, 1986). Furthermore, the study will delve into how individuals respond to compliments, as compliments constitute a two-way interaction involving both the giver and the recipient.

Compliments play a role in how we view ourselves and in our perception of the intentions of others in a conversation. There are notable differences in the topics of compliments and the intentions behind them. Examples of compliment topics include appearance, material things, and personality traits. Existing research suggests that women often use compliments to build or strengthen relationships and boost self-esteem (Jones & Buckingham, 2005).

Compliments are frequently used in conversation to have and maintain social relationships with others, and sometimes people use a strategy called "manipulating compliments" to gain agreement with others (Grant & Fabrigar, 2010). People use this technique to make it easier for the other person to comply with their wishes or to get something out of them.

The researchers in this study focused on the motivation for giving compliments and the perceived intention to receive compliments. The findings of this study have the potential to significantly deepen our understanding of communication patterns and may provide valuable insights when used in conjunction with existing research. This study focused on the perception of intention in compliments. The study aimed to answer the following questions: 1) What are the intentions when praising others based on material possessions, physical characteristics, and personality traits, and 2) What are the perceptions of intention when compliments are based on material possessions, physical characteristics, and personality traits? Based on the data analyzed in previous studies, the researchers hypothesize that compliments based on physical characteristics are

received with flirtatious intentions, while at the same time, the overall intention in giving compliments is to be kind and authentic.

Gender differences in the types of compliments were also observed. For women, appreciation of one's appearance and human attractiveness is important. Men, on the other hand, are more sensitive to compliments related to intelligence, socioeconomic status, and resilience. Women need compliments more than men.

Communication is at the core of human interaction and is a multifaceted process that includes both verbal and nonverbal elements. In this context, compliments play an important role as a means of conveying positive emotions, building relationships, and fostering a sense of connection. In the dynamic world of English-language serial dramas, a diverse and evolving storytelling medium, compliments serve as a nuanced and powerful means of communication that can influence character development, plot progression, and audience engagement. This study delves into the art of giving and receiving compliments in English-language serial drama and explores how compliments are used as an effective communication tool in this narrative form. From expressions of sincere praise and support to conflict resolution strategies and character-building moments, compliments in serial drama function as multifaceted linguistic devices that reflect and shape the dynamics of interpersonal relationships on screen.

The purpose of this study is to dissect the role of eulogy in English-language serial drama and scrutinize its significance, variation, and meaning. The aim is to understand how eulogies contribute to effective communication in the context of scripted storytelling and how they resonate with the audience. Through an intensive analysis of selected English-language serial dramas, we hope to shed light on the complexity of this interpersonal interaction in the realm of entertainment media. Navigating the complex world of English-language drama serials, we will explore the different types of compliments, their impact on character relationships and plot development, and the cultural and gender dynamics that shape how compliments are given and received. The study also aims to provide lessons and insights beyond the realm of fiction as to what the use of compliments suggests about real-world

communication. Through this investigation, we hope to contribute to a better understanding of the role of compliments in communication, both in the realm of English-language serial drama and in a broader social context. Compliments are not just empty words; they are a component of human connection and an essential part of effective communication. Our research seeks to elucidate their significance and influence in the world of television storytelling.

Compliments and responses to compliments are among the most researched speech acts across languages. The key to being successful with compliment techniques is to be sincere.

Compliments express one's admiration or approval of others' work, appearance, tastes, abilities, and the like, and often function as a social lubricant, establishing and maintaining solidarity (Manes, 1983; Herbert, 1990; Golato, 2005). Compliments and the discourses that expand beyond single-statement compliments can also serve multiple purposes. Speakers may give compliments, which also function as various other speech acts such as greetings, thanks, apologies, and congratulations (Manes & Wolfson, 1981; Wolfson, 1989a). Compliments can also function to soften face-threatening acts such as apologies, requests, and criticism (Wolfson, 1983; Brown & Levinson, 1987) and serve as a conversation strategy for opening and sustaining conversation (Wolfson, 1983; Billmyer, 1990; Dunham, 1992). Through compliments, speakers can express gratitude for and appraise the performance or abilities of others (Golato, 2005) and reinforce desired behavior.

(Manes, 1983), or even flirt (Campo & Zuluaga, 2000). The major referents of compliments include attributes of the interlocutor such as: appearance or possessions (e.g. You look absolutely beautiful), performance or skills (e.g. Your presentation was excellent), and personality traits (e.g. You are so sweet) (Knapp et al., 1984; Nelson et al., 1993). In what follows, the linguistic realization of compliments and responses to compliments in American English is summarized, as well as pragmatic variation in sociopragmatic norms across languages.

1.2 Compliments in media and popular culture

Shaping Characters and Relationships: Compliments are a fundamental tool for character development in storytelling. In literature and film, characters receive compliments that reveal their qualities, strengths, and flaws. These compliments shape our understanding of the characters and their motivations. For instance, a character praised for their intelligence sets an expectation of their brilliance, while a character constantly complimented for their kindness is seen as virtuous. In popular culture, the way characters give and receive compliments often mirrors societal values, perpetuating ideals of beauty, intelligence, and success.

Narrative Tension and Conflict: Compliments can also serve as a source of narrative tension and conflict. In romantic storylines, compliments can create jealousy, competition, or misunderstandings, making them a central element of plot development. The classic love triangle, where multiple characters vie for the affection of one, often hinges on who receives the most compliments, showcasing the inherent drama that can arise from the power of praise.

Fostering Connections: In both fictional and real-life contexts, compliments are used to foster connections between characters and individuals. Friends bond over shared compliments, romantic relationships are often built on mutual admiration, and mentorships develop through praise for skills and potential. Compliments can also be used to defuse conflicts, bridge gaps between diverse characters, and create alliances. In media and popular culture, compliments become the building blocks of human relationships, reflecting the basic human need for validation and affirmation.

Reflecting and Challenging Social Norms: Compliments in media and popular culture mirror and, at times, challenge societal norms and stereotypes. They can reinforce traditional gender roles, where women may be predominantly praised for their looks and men for their achievements. However, they can also be a tool for subverting these norms by showcasing characters who receive compliments for defying expectations and challenging stereotypes. Compliments, therefore, serve as a powerful

medium for advocating social change and redefining conventional standards of beauty, success, and intelligence.

Self-Image and Self-Esteem: Perhaps the most profound significance of compliments lies in their impact on self-image and self-esteem. Media and popular culture constantly bombard us with images and stories of individuals receiving compliments, setting benchmarks for beauty, popularity, and success. The media's portrayal of compliments can influence how individuals perceive themselves and their self-worth. Positive compliments can boost self-esteem, while the absence of compliments or negative ones can lead to feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem.

Compliments play a pivotal role in media and popular culture, weaving their way into various forms of storytelling, including film, television, music, and literature. They serve as essential tools in crafting narratives, character development, and audience engagement. One of the most common uses of compliments in popular culture is in romantic storylines. Compliments are often used to create and deepen romantic connections between characters, from simple expressions of attraction to grand declarations of love. In this context, compliments are instrumental in building chemistry and emotional tension. Moreover, compliments are not limited to conveying affection. They also play a crucial role in character development. The way characters give and receive compliments provides valuable insights into their personalities and motivations. Characters who offer compliments freely may be portrayed as warm and empathetic, while those who struggle with compliments might be depicted as reserved or insecure.

The emotional impact of compliments is a fundamental aspect of storytelling, drawing the audience deeper into the narrative. Comedic genres often use compliments humorously or satirically. Characters may offer exaggerated or insincere compliments, leading to humorous situations or providing social commentary. This is a common device in satirical TV shows and films. The realm of popular music is also rich in compliments. Love songs are filled with lyrics that express admiration, affection, and compliments. These songs become anthems of love and resonate with many listeners.

In addition to their emotional impact, compliments can serve as tools for character growth and empowerment in the media. Characters may receive compliments that boost their self-esteem and motivate them to tackle challenges, reinforcing themes of personal development and empowerment. The media often explores cross-cultural depictions of compliments, highlighting how these expressions differ in various parts of the world. This portrayal sheds light on cultural norms and social dynamics, adding depth to the storytelling. Compliments can also be used to explore gender and power dynamics in the media. They may reveal complex dynamics of dominance, submission, or equality, contributing to the depth of the narrative. Furthermore, the media can employ compliments to resolve conflicts. Characters may use compliments to validate another character's perspective, leading to reconciliation and significant turning points in the plot.

Social media provides a different set of options. Because you're not having a face-to-face conversation in real time, the lag between the initial compliment and your response changes how compelled you might feel to respond. You might respond with a personalized message responding to each compliment or post a blanket "Thanks for the birthday wishes!" Social media also adds new ways of responding, such as "liking" a comment or responding with an emoticon, or—most notably—the option to not respond at all.

That's a big change from an in-person interaction. If you saw a friend at a cookout and congratulated them on their new job, only to be met with a blank stare, you might be concerned your friend is experiencing a break from reality. But the new norms of online interactions allow the receiver of a compliment to ignore the message, and that's often what people do. In 2014, a research was carried out to determine and categorize the variety of tactics used in responding to compliments in Persian about the relative status of praises and compliments.

Response	Total Number	Percentage
61.22	**401**	**A. Agreement**
48.39	*317*	*I. Acceptances*
28.09	184	1. Appreciation Token
14.50	95	2. Comment Acceptance
5.80	38	3. Praise Upgrade
4.58	*30*	*II. Comment History*
8.24	*54*	*III. Transfers*
4.27	28	1. Reassignment
3.96	26	2. Return
18.01	**118**	**B. Non-agreement**
4.42	*29*	*I. Scale Down*
6.56	*43*	*II. Question*
3.51	*23*	*III. Non-acceptances*
1.22	8	1. Disagreement
2.29	15	2. Qualification
3.51	*23*	*IV. No Acknowledgement*
4.12	27	**C. Other Interpretations**
4.12	27	*I. Request*
16.64	109	**D. Formulaic Expression**

Figure 1. The graphical representation of the responses to the compliments and its percentage

In another study of over 1,000 compliments posted to Facebook pages of American women, only 19% of compliments received a response. Of the roughly 200 responses that received a response, 26% were just a "like."

The researchers interviewed the women about what determines whether they craft a response. First off, where the message appears matters. For instance, women reported that a compliment posted directly to your Facebook wall merits a response more than a comment on a friend-of-a-friend's photo. They also report that the quality of a message matters: specific compliments, rather than a short, generic message like "nice," were more likely to garner a response, or comments that encouraged further interaction, like asking where the photo was taken. Research on Facebook birthday wishes also supports that sentiment, while canned "Happy birthday!" messages don't mean a lot to recipients; a personalized message makes people feel cared for, and personalized wishes that included an inside joke were most likely to drive the birthday person to respond. Cultural norms, too, may play a role in how people respond to compliments. Researchers report that during face-to-face interactions, people living in eastern cultures are more likely to reject compliments than to accept them, and from recent research, it seems they may also be more likely to respond to friends' well

wishes: a 2015 study of Iranian Facebook users found that 84% of compliments received a response (though the majority of responses were "likes" or emoticons), while a 2018 study found that English-Mandarin bilinguals responded to about two-thirds of the compliments they received on Facebook and Chinese social networking site Renren. (The researchers also found that on Facebook, these bilinguals were more likely to adopt Western values by "accepting" compliments but were more modest on Renren.) It's unclear exactly how these online interactions bleed into our IRL relationships. Facebook researchers report that Facebook interactions strengthen social relationships, so I asked María Elena Placencia, a researcher at the University of Birkbeck in London and a co-author of the American Facebook compliment study, whether giving or receiving a compliment online might strengthen social bonds. She said she wasn't aware of any research on the topic, but what we do know is that existing social bonds affect how people interact online.

In interviews with the Facebook users in the 2016 study, participants said they were more likely to respond to compliments from people they're close to—a comment from a middle school acquaintance might not get a response, but a former roommate might. When they're crafting a post, they say it's fine if they don't get responses; they concede that their friends may have just missed their posts while offline or were too lazy to type out a response on their phones. But Placencia says that might vary by age. Young women she's interviewed have said it's important for them to get compliments on social media, and in a soon-to-be-published study of Ecuadorian teenage girls, one girl said she expects her close friends and family to like and comment on their Instagram posts as a sign of their allegiance. "If she doesn't receive 'likes,' she feels bad, as it suggests that the picture that she had uploaded was not very good," says Placencia. Meanwhile, older participants haven't copped to their expectations for likes; whether that's an actual generational difference or just that older adults might be less likely to admit to their need for validation is yet to be determined. Either way, says Placencia, "there is likely to be some disagreement about what constitutes (in)appropriate or polite/impolite behavior." And as platforms roll out new features

that allow one-click interactions, like Facebook's "reactions" or Gmail's canned email replies, it will become harder for the recipient of a message to know how much thought the sender put into it—and how to reply appropriately.

Conclusion to Chapter One

In conclusion, compliments are multifaceted tools in human communication, deeply interwoven into the very fabric of our social interactions and personal growth. They play a crucial role in strengthening relationships, fostering trust and building rapport between individuals. The power of genuine admiration and appreciation expressed through compliments cannot be underestimated, as they contribute to the development of self-esteem, bolstering self-confidence and a positive self-image.

Moreover, compliments serve as a form of positive reinforcement, motivating individuals in both personal and professional realms to continue their positive actions and enhance productivity. They have the potential to inspire and drive personal and professional growth, encouraging individuals to set higher goals and strive for self-improvement.

Compliments also demonstrate their significance as conflict resolution tools, capable of defusing tension and paving the way for constructive dialogue. When offered in moments of disagreement, compliments validate the perspectives of others, promoting mutual understanding and compromise.

Beyond these interpersonal benefits, compliments create positive and inclusive environments, which are conducive to effective communication, collaboration, and teamwork. They are instrumental in maintaining the strength and resilience of long-term relationships, be it in friendships, romantic partnerships, or professional settings. Workplace compliments can serve as a catalyst for career growth, encourage teamwork, and boost motivation and productivity. Additionally, they promote a positive work ethic and inspire others to succeed in their careers.

Notably, compliments can be integrated into constructive feedback, making it

more approachable and well-received through the "compliment sandwich" approach. This technique eases the absorption and implementation of feedback while maintaining a positive atmosphere.

It's crucial to remember that cultural sensitivity is vital when delivering compliments, as different cultures have unique norms and expectations regarding them. Understanding these cultural nuances is essential for successful cross-cultural interactions.

Furthermore, compliments play a role in easing communication and establishing contact between individuals, particularly in less intimate or unfamiliar situations. They boost speakers' confidence, making interactions more effective and comfortable. Compliments can also replace or enhance other speech act formulas such as thanks, apologies, and greetings, depending on the context and relationship dynamics.

In some cases, compliments can also be used to soften criticism, particularly in relationships that are likely to continue and where maintaining harmony is desirable. However, it's important to note that compliments may occasionally make recipients uncomfortable, as they can imply envy or a desire to possess something belonging to the recipient.

Ultimately, compliments are more than just words; they are vehicles for positive human interaction, enhancing relationships, promoting personal and professional growth, and fostering mutual understanding. They are a testament to the power of language in shaping our thoughts, self-awareness, and social responsibility, making us more self-conscious, responsible, and social beings. In the grand tapestry of human communication, compliments play a vital role in connecting and enriching our lives.

CHAPTER TWO. ROLE OF COMPLIMENTS IN COMMUNICATION

2.1 Data collection and selection of serials

In the process of writing the Paper several research methods were applied. The generalization method was used to gather information from scientific articles, books, etc. and to look for media material for further analysis. The descriptive method was used to find out the linguistic peculiarities of every media material, to transcribe the speech, to group up speech interruptions in each case, and explain them in correspondence with the theoretical basis. The narrative analysis method was used in the second part of the study to collect and interpret the stories from chosen dialogues in TV series and films. The content analysis method was used to interpret and find the specific features and peculiarities of communication within the chosen dialogues from TV series and films to build up the whole picture of the subject of our study.

Contextual and conversational methods were used to analyze the circumstances under which the participants in the chosen dialogues tend overlap and interrupt each other. Also, we resorted to discourse analysis methods to find and distinguish the main causes of complimenting and praising each other. In addition, it helped to gain an understanding of how these processes influence the further development of the conversation. The paper's theoretical significance is due to the truth that we accumulated and classified the investigation of the final year on the topic of our study, which may help in further progress in this sphere. The theoretical basis of our research helped us to develop a proper classification of our own compliments.

The practical value of the Master's Paper can be explained by the fact that the results and conclusions of our work may teach (people who are beginners in the study of the language) students of English how to react when they receive compliments; our study can also help students of linguistic specialties understand that there are many types of compliments: true and false compliments, flattering compliments, positive and negative compliments, hidden compliments, and ironic compliments, which enrich our language and help us learn about the types of compliments. Also, students will be able to assess the appropriateness and sincerity of compliments and responses to

compliments, considering the relative social status of the interlocutors, their familiarity with each other, and the suitability of the referents of compliments. Moreover, they will be able to express their intentions by giving compliments using appropriate adjectives, referents, and syntactic categories, and by responding to various syntactic categories according to the context. The materials for the paper were taken from modern British and American TV series and films. First, each compliment is identified and collected after close listening to the audio-visual material of the filmed TV series. No written scripts have been used in this study. Second, compliments are classified as both those to others than the speaker and those to the speaker himself or herself. Based on the social factors (participant, setting, topic) and social dimensions, the compliments are analyzed and categorized as to their function. Third, compliments are divided into four groups: man-man, man-woman, woman-woman, and woman-man. Then, how men and women use compliments will be analyzed.

As previously mentioned, the nature of dialogue being interactive necessitates a theoretical framework for categorizing interruptions and overlaps within dialogue into specific groups. Our belief is that the most suitable approach for analyzing dialogue interruptions aligns with speech act theory, specifically focusing on the concept of "speech acts." A speech act is more than just an exchange of words; it encompasses the act of conveying information and, crucially, the act of accomplishing a specific purpose through speech. According to J. Austin's speech act theory, it transcends the mere exchange of phrases, delving into expressions like statements, questions, explanations, and descriptions, governed by established principles and behavioral rules (Austin, 1962). Furthermore, the structure of a speech act can be broken down into three components: the locutionary act (the act of speaking itself, including pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar), the illocutionary act (the communication of the speaker's intent, emphasizing that speech serves a purpose), and the perlocutionary act (comprising additional expressive elements that influence the interlocutor, such as threats or prohibitions) (Austin, 1962).

Within this theory, J. Austin identifies various types of speech acts derived from the concept of "nonverbal force," including the verbatim act, the explanatory act, the imperative act, the actor act, and the performative act. J. Searle, on the other hand, critiqued Austin's classification of performative acts, contending that it primarily categorizes English illocutionary verbs, not illocutionary acts. Building upon different criteria, such as the purpose of utterance, the distinction between speech and reality, the speaker's emotional state, propositional content, and its relationship with extra-linguistic institutions, Searle devised his classification of nonverbal acts: representation, instruction, command, expression, and declaration. D. Wunderlich incorporated Austin's and Searle's speech act classifications into his research, focusing on the functions served by speech acts. He categorized speech acts based on syntactic and semantic criteria into groups like exercitives, commitives, erotitives (questions), representatives, satisfactives, retractives, vocatives, and declaratives.

It is important to note that J. Austin's theory has undergone substantial criticism and development by numerous other scholars. A.Vezhbytska, V.G. Gak, V.Z. Demyankov, D. Gordon, J. Lakoff, J. Searle, V.P. Konetska, and L.M. Medvedev have all explored and extended this theory in their respective works. An additional noteworthy contribution to speech act theory comes from Hiroyuki Masaki's article "A Critique of J.L. Austin's Speech Act Theory." Masaki contends that Austin's theory predominantly adopts a "speaker-centered" model of communication, diminishing the role of the listener and disregarding the diversity of interpretations that real communication often involves. Masaki introduces a dynamic model of dialogue that views communication as a process realized through language. He scrutinizes Austin's theory in terms of the decentralization of meaning, highlighting ontological and epistemological concerns. Masaki importantly asserts that conventions are not a prerequisite for speech acts to occur, providing examples where convention is absent in communication. In conclusion, J. Austin's foundational speech act theory is well-established and aligns harmoniously with the classification of interruptions in dialogue. While Austin's initial classification remains valuable, it's essential to acknowledge the

contributions and critiques put forth by other scholars in this field, demonstrating the ongoing evolution of this theory.

2.2. Data analysis approach

During the process of composing this paper, several research methodologies were put into practice. The generalization method served the purpose of collecting data from scientific articles, books, and various sources, including the identification of media materials for subsequent analysis. The descriptive method, on the other hand, was employed to unveil the linguistic attributes inherent to each piece of media content. This entailed transcribing spoken content, categorizing interruptions in speech, and providing explanations in accordance with theoretical principles.

The narrative analysis approach was used in the following stage of the study to gather and analyze specific narratives derived from selected dialogues in TV shows and films. Furthermore, the content analysis approach was critical in interpreting and detecting various communication elements within the selected conversations from TV shows and films, all with an overall goal of developing an in-depth understanding of the investigated subject.

In the exploration of the circumstances leading to overlapping speech and interruptions among dialogue participants, contextual and conversational methods were employed. Diligent efforts were made to uncover the factors that precipitate such interruptions. The application of discourse analysis methods was also instrumental in revealing the primary drivers behind the exchange of compliments, shedding light on how these processes impact the development of subsequent conversations.

Given its compilation and methodical classification of research conducted in previous years, particularly as it applies to the subject matter of our study, this publication has theoretical significance. This contributes significantly to the ongoing progress in this field. The study is firmly anchored in a well-established theoretical framework, which facilitates the precise categorization of compliments.

In terms of practical value, this master's paper holds the potential to serve as a valuable resource for English learners, especially those in the early stages of language acquisition. It can guide them in understanding how to effectively respond when receiving compliments. Additionally, students pursuing linguistic specialties stand to gain insights into the rich tapestry of compliment types, encompassing true and false compliments, flattering compliments, positive and negative compliments, hidden compliments, and ironic compliments. This diverse array enriches our language and expands our comprehension of the dynamics of compliments.

Furthermore, students will develop the ability to assess the appropriateness and sincerity of compliments and responses, considering the relative social status of conversational participants, their familiarity with one another, and the suitability of the subjects of the compliments. Armed with this understanding, they will be able to indicate their objectives while offering compliments using appropriate adjectives, subjects, and syntactic structures, as well as crafting answers with varied syntactic structures, all tailored to the up-to-date conversational setting.

Data Analysis Approach: Compliments in English Serials

1. Data Collection:

● Gather a diverse set of English serials, including classic and contemporary examples, from various genres (comedy, drama, historical, sci-fi, etc.).

2. Transcripts and Contextual Information:

● Acquire transcripts of dialogues from the selected serials, along with contextual information about the serials, including year of production, genre, and target audience.

3. Coding Scheme:

● Develop a coding scheme to identify and categorize instances of compliments in the serials. This coding should encompass factors like compliment type (e.g., appearance, abilities, possessions), the characters involved, and the context in which the compliment is given.

4. Quantitative Analysis:

● Analyze the frequency and distribution of compliments in the serials. Determine the most common types of compliments and explore how they vary across different genres and target audiences.

5. Qualitative Analysis:

● Conduct qualitative analysis to delve into the context and nuances of compliments. Examine the specific content of compliments and the responses to them. Investigate how compliments contribute to character development and plot progression.

6. Cross-Referencing Data:

● Combine quantitative and qualitative findings to understand the role of compliments in different contexts, genres, and social dynamics. Identify recurring themes and patterns.

7. Contextual Analysis:

● Analyze the context in which compliments are given, considering the social, cultural, and situational factors that influence the use of compliments.

8. Social and Gender Dynamics:

● Investigate how social factors, such as gender and status, impact the usage of compliments in the serials. Explore whether there are gender-specific patterns in giving and receiving compliments.

9. Comparative Analysis:

● Compare and contrast the usage of compliments in different serials, considering the impact of genre, era, and cultural context.

10. Visualization:

● Create visual representations, such as graphs or charts, to illustrate the frequency and distribution of compliments across the selected serials.

11. Statistical Tests:

● Use statistical tests to determine the significance of observed differences or correlations, particularly in relation to gender-specific compliment patterns and contextual factors.

12. Interpretation and Discussion:

● Interpret the findings and discuss their implications. Analyze how compliments contribute to character development, relationships, and the overall narrative in English serials.

13. Conclusion and Recommendations:

● Summarize the research findings, draw conclusions regarding the role of compliments in effective communication, and offer recommendations for future research in this area or potential applications in media studies.

By following this data analysis approach, we will be able to explore the multifaceted role of compliments in English serials and gain insights into how they contribute to effective communication and storytelling in this popular form of media.

Conclusion To Chapter Two

While preparing this paper, a range of research methods were employed. The generalization method was utilized to collect information from various sources, such as scientific articles and books, and to identify media materials for further analysis. The method of descriptive analysis was used to discover the linguistic details present in each media component, which included transcription of spoken content and categorization of speech interruptions. The narrative analysis method was later used to collect and interpret specific stories derived from selected dialogues in TV series and films, while the content analysis method helped interpret and identify distinct communication features within these chosen dialogues.

The application of contextual and conversational methods allowed for the analysis of circumstances leading to overlapping speech and interruptions within dialogues, with the aim of uncovering the factors influencing or provoking such interruptions. Furthermore, discourse analysis methodologies were employed in order to determine the fundamental reasons of compliment exchanges and acquire a better

knowledge of how these processes influence the development of following conversations.

The theoretical significance of this paper lies in its comprehensive compilation and classification of research conducted in the preceding year on the subject, contributing to the ongoing progress in this field. The theoretical framework underpinning our research facilitated the development of a systematic classification of compliments.

Furthermore, the practical value of this Master's Paper is evident in its potential to aid English learners, especially those at the beginner level, in understanding how to respond effectively to compliments. It also offers valuable insights to students studying linguistic specialties, enlightening them about the diverse types of compliments, including true and false compliments, flattering compliments, positive and negative compliments, hidden compliments, and ironic compliments. This knowledge equips students to assess the appropriateness and sincerity of compliments and responses, considering the relative social status of conversational participants, their familiarity with each other, and the suitability of the subjects of the compliments. Students will also be more competent to explain their objectives while offering compliments by using suitable adjectives, subjects, and syntactic structures, as well as constructing answers with varied syntactic structures depending on the occasion.

The materials for this paper were drawn from modern British and American TV series and films. Compliments were identified without reliance on written scripts but rather from close listening to the audio-visual content. These compliments were categorized based on social factors (participants, setting, and topic) and social dimensions. Additionally, compliments were grouped into categories such as man-man, man-woman, woman-woman, and woman-man, and the usage patterns of compliments by men and women were analyzed. Due to one research, there was an analysis called "Distribution of Compliment Types by Participating Sexes". We established that women are more complimented by men than men are by women, yet women prefer to praise men more than men.
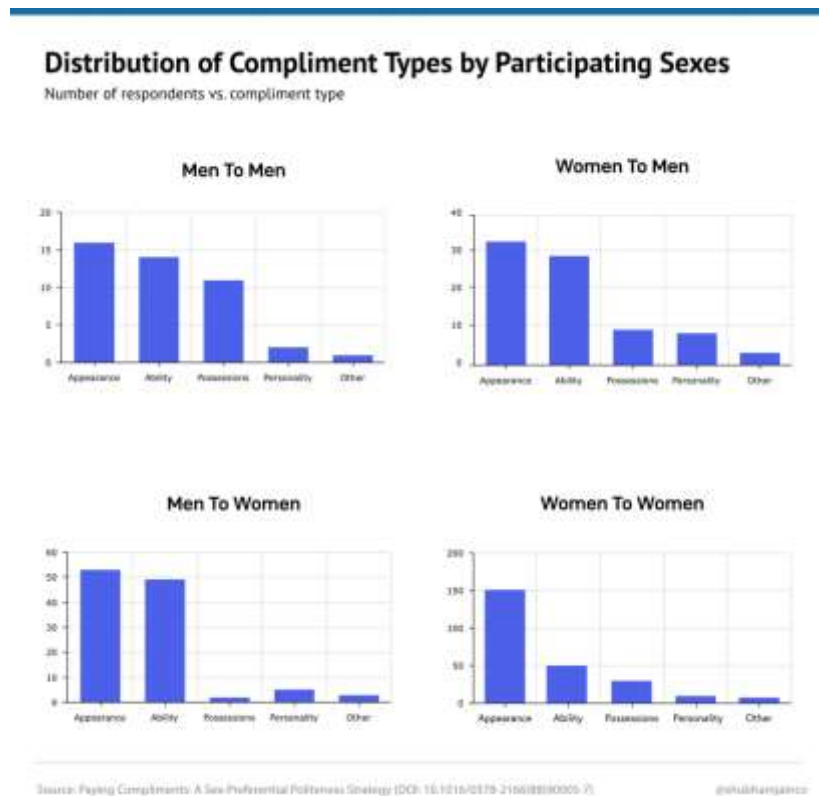
Figure 2. Distribution of compliment types by participating sexes

As mentioned earlier, the interactive nature of dialogue calls for a theoretical framework to categorize interruptions and overlaps within dialogue into specific groups. The most suitable approach for analyzing dialogue interruptions is rooted in speech act theory, which delves into the concept of "speech acts." Speech acts encompass more than just the exchange of words; they involve conveying information and achieving specific purposes through speech. The theory established by J. Austin, scrutinizes speech acts beyond the mere exchange of phrases, encompassing expressions like statements, questions, explanations, and descriptions. The structure of a speech act comprises the locutionary act, the illocutionary act, and the perlocutionary act, each of which plays a distinct role in conveying meaning and intent.

J. Austin's theory categorizes speech acts into various types, considering the concept of "nonverbal force." He introduces verbatim acts, explanatory acts, imperative acts, actor acts, and performative acts. J. Searle offers his categorization of nonverbal acts, including representation, instruction, command, expression, and

declaration. D. Wunderlich further categorized speech acts based on functions into groups such as exercitives, commitives, erotitives (questions), representatives, satisfactives, retractives, vocatives, and declaratives.

It is crucial to acknowledge that J. Austin's theory, while foundational, has evolved and been critiqued by numerous scholars in the field of pragmatics, including A. Vezhbytska, V.G. Gak, V.Z. Demyankov, D. Gordon, J. Lakoff, J. Searle, V.P. Konetska, and L.M. Medvedev. Hiroyuki Masaki's work introduces a dynamic model of dialogue, addressing the decentralization of meaning and highlighting ontological and epistemological concerns within speech act theory.

In conclusion, the methods and theories discussed in this paper contribute to a deeper understanding of compliments, communication dynamics, and interruptions within dialogue. They provide valuable insights for language learners and students of linguistic specialties, as well as contributing to the evolving field of pragmatics and speech act theory.

CHAPTER THREE. COMPLIMENTS IN MODERN AND OLD TV SERIALS

3.1 Types of compliments

There are many different classifications established by different researchers, for example, Rees-Miller J., Sly J., Weger R. J, etc. As a result of generalization of the theses from different sources, we propose to orient ourselves to this classification, which includes nine types of compliments. This classification is not ideal for neither the sociological nor the natural sciences, but it's convenient for the psychology of a person's motives, which can be an indicator for the analysis of storytelling.

1. The ambiguous compliment. Plenty of words in English (as well as other languages) can have double meanings. Take, for example, the complement "A good meal from you is a rare treat." While the hypothetical addressee meant to say that the meal was a treat that someone rarely is ever able to have from anyone else. But the meaning of some compliments may be misunderstood by the recipient. In this case, it may be understood that the addressee meant that it's rare for the cook to do a good job. The problem is that "rare" can have more than one meaning, making it lexically ambiguous. The motivation to use the double-meaning compliment can be either unintentional or intentional. In the latter case the what-it-seem-to-be a compliment becomes an insult.

2. The frequent compliment. Similarly, according to the laws of economics, the more compliments someone gives out, the less they mean. By giving nonstop compliments, the addressee seems insincere, especially to the kind of people who do not like the compliments in total. One other trait of frequent compliments is their expectedness. Should the addressee fail to notice something people would like to hear complimented, they'll think something is wrong. There is a reason for intuitive, based-on-ethical limitations on compliments for every subject in society. A person who does this consciously can show his or her ironic attitude to the recipient, showing his or her disrespect, while the person who does not understand this common sense of acceptable frequency may be just unsocial.

3. The inappropriate compliment. Unless the addressee is extremely close to his recipient, overstepping the boundaries of professional or even personal relationships by noting some aspect of an individual's appearance or talents can presume over-familiarity. In some cases, people may be trying to use the compliment to manipulate the situation so that they seem even closer than they are in reality, either in terms of their emotional connection or in terms of their status. Nevertheless, if two people are close relatives, lovers, or friends, inappropriate compliments can be a sign of closeness and comfort in their relationships.

4. The envious compliment. These compliments are usually driven by envy or jealousy. That means that the addressee almost certainly finds himself or herself in inner or outer conflict with the recipient. The effect of insincere compliments (regarding all types of compliments) on the recipient differs depending on the situation. If the recipient recognizes the true nature of the compliment, they may react adequately, flare up the conflict, or ignore it.

5. The awkward compliment. Many compliments in the above categories can produce a sense of awkwardness, but we still need to deal specifically with the cringe-worthy variety. This might be one given to one person in front of a set of other people who themselves are not being complimented. The other people wonder what is wrong with them, and the person getting the compliment feels bad that he or she's been singled out for your admiration.

6. The compliment on the wrong set of qualities. Praising people for qualities relevant to a situation may help motivate them and make them feel good about themselves. However, giving an off-topic compliment can get them off their game by leading them to develop self-doubt. In a study of compliments collected from college students, Rees-Miller (2011) found that men tend to praise other men for their competence and women praise each other for their appearance when in social situations. However, when working on work-related tasks, both men and women gave compliments directed at the other person's competence. If someone compliments people based on their appearance when, in fact, they would prefer to be complimented

on their performance, this reinforces the notion that their performance is not valued and they may doubt their own abilities. Compliments that reinforce a positive stereotype about a gender, racial, or ethnic group can also create bad relationships. Siy and Cheryan (2013) conducted a series of studies in which they showed that people can feel depersonalized by compliments such as "Asians are good at math" or "women are nurturing." This compliment, though it may be well-intentioned, makes the person feel less like an individual and more like a member of a targeted social group.

7. The unintentionally rude compliment. A compliment offered in a condescending tone of voice conveys the first person's belief, intentional or not, that he or she is surprised at the recipient's ability to do something well. Similarly, compliments can sound sarcastic if the addressee doesn't have the right emphasis: "Oh, what a great job you've done!" can imply the exact opposite if said in the wrong tone of voice. Someone who's had a major life change, such as losing, can also inadvertently insult the other person.

8. The sales pitch compliment. If it's clear that the addressee and the recipient stand to gain from your compliment, the compliment may seem insincere. The suck-up compliment is one of the oldest tricks in the book among salespeople and those in service industries, and it's not an unheard-of strategy to use on the families of prospective long-term relationship partners. A study by Seiter and Weger (2010) showed that dining room servers received higher tips if they flattered their patrons (up to a point). Similarly, Grant et al (2010) found that people are more likely to comply with those who flatter them. The other examples are compliments to the people who hold power.

9. The right compliment. The right compliment is sincere, respectful, meted out in the right doses, and provides no obvious benefit to the giver. This type of compliment is probably the most subjective because different people in different situations can treat the same compliment in diverse ways. So, the compliment achieves its primary goal only if the addressee means something and the recipient understands it.

In the 1980s, Wolfson and Manes collected over 1200 naturally occurring compliments in American English. More recent studies investigating compliments appearing in the current U.S. media also found a roughly comparable distribution of these grammatical structures (Rose, 2001; Tatsuki & Nishizawa, 2005). The nine categories that Manes and Wolfson (1981: 120) identified are listed below:

1. Your blouse is/looks (really) beautiful.

2. I (really) like/love your car.

3. That's a (really) nice wall hanging.

4. You did a (really) good job.

5. You really handled that situation well.

6. You have such beautiful hair!

7. What a lovely baby you have!

8. Nice game!

9. Isn't your ring beautiful!

Eighty-five percent of compliments were found to fall into one of the first three structures and 97% used one of the nine (Manes & Wolfson, 1981). The categories of compliments are general, and, for example, "the blouse" can be replaced by any kind of cloth or accessory—often directed to emphasize physical beauty; and "the car" can be replaced by any kind of person's possession. The most used adjectives in compliments according to Manes and Wolfson (1981) were: nice, good, pretty, great, and beautiful.

In terms of meaning, common reactions to compliments can be classified into three categories: acceptance, mitigation or deflection, and rejection, each having sub-categories. Below, we provide these categories and instances of responses to compliments (adapted from Pomerantz, 1978; Herbert & Straight, 1989; Nelson et al., 1996):

1. Acceptance

○ Expressing appreciation (e.g., "Thanks" or "Thank you")

○ Agreeing with a comment (e.g., "Yeah, it's my favorite, too")

○ Enhancing the compliment through self-praise (e.g., "Yeah, I can play other sports well too")

2. Mitigation/Deflection

○ Offering background information (e.g., "I bought it for the trip to Arizona")

○ Redirecting the credit (e.g., "My brother gave it to me" or "It really knitted itself")

○ Seeking reassurance (e.g., "Do you really like them?")

○ Reciprocating with a compliment (e.g., "So's yours")

○ Downplaying the compliment (e.g., "It's really quite old")

3. Rejection

○ Disagreeing or expressing self-doubt (e.g., "You look good and healthy" countered with "I feel fat")

4. No Response

5. Request for Interpretation

○ The recipient interprets the compliment as a request (e.g., "You wanna borrow this one too?")

It's worth noting that the interpretation of compliments and responses can vary across cultures. In some cultures, compliments are perceived as implicit requests, leading to responses where the complimented item is offered. In other cultures, a direct rejection of compliments is favored as a means of avoiding self-praise. Compliments on one's appearance or performance might be met with responses such as "No, I look like an old woman" (in Korean) or "No, that is not true" (in Japanese).

Moreover, in different languages, responses may incorporate equally positive compliments in a manner that may not align with English conventions. For instance, "Great, right?" in German. As these examples illustrate, responses to compliments can vary significantly across languages.

Prior research has explored classroom instruction, particularly regarding giving and responding to compliments, to assess the potential benefits for learners. Studies in

this area vary in terms of research design, aims, data collection methods, participant profiles, and instructional approaches. Billmyer (1990), for instance, examined the effects of tutorials on compliments and compliment responses for ESL learners. The findings revealed substantial improvements in their ability to use pragmatic language. Tutored learners showed an increase in the production of appropriate and spontaneous compliments, a broader use of semantically positive adjectives, and a greater adoption of strategies for deflecting compliments during compliment-inducing role-plays.

According to the film "Blade Runner," the lead actress Joi was thrilled to be with the main character 'K,' but she could additionally evolve into the ideal of a woman he craves. She was the embodiment of all his desires, and she had been created artificially to be able to shift from one image to another.

22.47-22.52 – I am so happy when I'm with you.

– You don't have to say that.

The product and the main character called 'Joi' was a perfectly designed product and was very realistic but not real.

32.32-33.27 – I'm here for Mr. Wallace. I'm Luv.

– He named you. Must be special.

– I see you are also a customer. Are you satisfied with the product?

– She is very realistic. Thank you.

'K' captivated Joi, and she believed he deserves a unique name. Below is an example of a fragment.

56.52-1.15.28 – A dangerous coincidence. I always knew you were special. Maybe this is how. A child. Of woman born. Pushed into the world. Loved. I always told you. You are special. Born. Not made. Hidden with care. A real boy now. A real boy needs a real name. Joe.

There are a lot of funny moments in the series Friends 1 season 1, especially when the opinion about a person changes over time and then you think that this person is very cool after talking to them a little.

The One with the Fake Monica

10.25 – I mean she is this astounding person…

10.19. – After you are with this woman for 10 minutes, you forget all that.

10.48 – No way! No way did you do this! Monana was very brave.

10.51 – It was so wild.

This fragment shows that for girls, it is important to look fashionable and fancy.

The One with the Birth

5.49 – Look at you, dressy-dress.

– Yeah.

– Did you go home and change?

– Yeah, well, it's an important day. I want to look nice.

The One with Ross's New Girlfriend

4.40 – Isn't that just kick-you-in-the-crotch, spit-on-your-neck fantastic?

– It is an expression.

This little piece shows that Monica Geller wanted to know how well the date went.

6.32-6.52 – Okay, so, uh, what did you find out?

– He said they are having a great time.

– I'm sorry.

– What?

– But the silver lining, if you wanna see it… is that he made this decision all by himself…without any outside help whatsoever.

This fragment shows how well all the participants get along with each other.

The One with the Breast Milk

3.26-3.29 – Hi, honey.

– Hey, sweetums.

– And hello to the rest.

– Hi.

The One Where Heckles Dies

19.22 – You are ready to take risks, be vulnerable and intimate with someone.

This fragment shows an irony by mentioning this phrase 'so incredibly boring'.

The One with the Fake Monica

12.01 – I was just like you. And then one day, I saw a movie that changed my life.

– Did you ever see Dead Poets Society?

– Uh-huh.

– I thought that movie was so incredibly… boring!

– I walked out of there, and I thought: "No, that's two hours of my life that I'm never getting back!". And that scared me more than all the other crap I was afraid to do.

This very moment shows that friends want to appease his friend and show that there are many and lots of women and that you have a variety of them to choose the best one for you.

The One Where Monica Gets a Roommate

11.19-11.52 – You know what's scary? What if there's only one woman for everybody?

– I mean, what if you get one woman and that's it? Unfortunately, in my case, there was only one woman for her.

– What are you talking about? One woman.

– That's like saying there is only one flavors of ice cream for you. Let me tell you something, Ross. There's lots of flavors out there. There is rocky road and cookie

dough and bing cherry vanilla. You can get them with jimmies or nuts or whipped cream. This is the best thing that ever happened to you.

Rachel Karen Green is amazed by the fact that she made a coffee and friends congratulated her and it is mentioned in this moment.

14.16-14.24 – Isn't this amazing?

– I mean, I have never made coffee before in my life.

– That is amazing.

– Congratulations!

– While you are on a roll, if you feel like you got to make a western omelet or something…

Here Rachel asks Monica Geller about Barry, and she sees Rachel is in love with Barry.

16.11-16.14 – Did you talk to Barry?

– I can't stop smiling.

– I can see that. You look like you slept with a hanger in your mouth.

Rachel tells about her interview and how it went, and her friends teased her a little, but Rachel improved her mood by buying a pair of boots.

18.19-18.28 – I was laughed out of 12 interviews today.

– Yet you've surprisingly upbeat.

– Well, you would be too, if you found Joan boots and David boots on sale… 50 percent off.

This compliment shows that that for men, the look of the woman is important. The beautiful look of women kills men's hearts.

The One with the Sonogram at the End

3.09-3.22 – You look great. I hate that.

– Sorry. Thanks. You look good too.

– Well, you know, in here, anyone who… stands erect…

– You know, as someone who's recently been dumped.

– Well, you may want to steer clear of the word "dumped". Chances are he is going to be this broken shell of a man. You know?

– So you should try not to look too terrific. I know it will be hard.

– I mean, didn't you think you were gonna meet someone… fall in love, and that'd be it?

This fragment also shows that people are amazed by the look and the story of the life.

The One with the Butt

2.15-2.17

— She is amazing! She makes the women I dream about look like short, fat, bald men.

4.41-4.45

– How was your date, Chandler?

– It was unbelievable!

– I have never met anyone like her. She's had the most amazing life.

For women, the qualities of the man are also important.

The One with the Bobbies

1.55-2.04

(1) – Isn't he great?

– He's so cute. And he likes you so much.

– I know, I know.

– He's so sweet. And so complicated, you know?

– And for a shrink, he's not too "shrinky." You know?

This kind of compliment is the most flattering because women spend a lot of time to look good, no, stop, to look amazing.

18.45-18.55

(2) – Did you see her?

– Yeah.

– You are ten times prettier than she's.

– That's sweet.

This big fragment from 'The One with the Candy Hearts' shows that women try to predict more and try to sweep small details.
16.59-18.42

(1) — I brought you something.

— Is it loaded? (Chad asks)

— Oh, little candy hearts! "Chan and Jan forever".

— I had them made special. Okay, Janice.

— Look, there's no way for me to tell you this. At least, there's no new way for me to tell you this. I just don't think things are gonna work out.
— That's fine.
— It is?
— Mm-hm.
— Because I know that this isn't the end.
— Oh, no. You see, actually, it is.
— No, it isn't. Because you won't let that happen.
— Don't you know it yet?
— You love me, Chandler Bing.
— Oh no, I don't.
— Then why do you think we keep ending up together?
— New Year's, who invited who?
— Valentine's, who asked who into whose bed?
— I did, but…

— You seek me out. Something deep in your soul calls out to me like a foghorn. Janice. Janice. You want me. You need me. You can't leave without me. And you know it.

Here is an example of a compliment to highlight women's charm and beauty in the series called Lie to me (2009-2011) Season 2 Episode 3 - Control Factor (21.02-21.12)

(2) – You are a very confident woman, Lola. I mean that in the most flattering way.

–Well, then call me flattered.

The following fragment from Episode 1 shows the headmaster's/principal's exalted/noble respect for those wishing to enter the Nevermore School. We can also see Wednesday's ironic attitude towards schooling and her coldness towards previous schools.

8.21-8.59

(1) — Wednesday is certainly a unique name. I'm guessing it was the day you were born?

— I was born on Friday the 13th.

— Her name comes from a line from my favorite nursery rhyme "Wednesday's child is full of woe."

— You always had a unique perspective on the world, Morticia.

— Did your mother tell you we were roommates back in the day?

— And you graduated with your sanity intact? Impressive.

— You certainly had a very interesting educational journey. Eight schools in 5 years.

— They haven't built one strong enough to hold me. I bet this place won't be any different.

— What are daughter is trying to say is that she greatly appreciates the opportunity.

— Nevermore doesn't usually accept students mid-term but given Wednesday's perfect grades and your family's long history with the school, I've spoken with the board and we've made an exception.

— Larissa, what about Wednesdays, um… therapy sessions? The court ordered them.

— Hmm. The school has a relationship with a therapist in Jericho.

— She can meet twice a week.

— Did you hear that, my little storm cloud? You're in excellent hands.

— We'll see if she survives the first session. (Wednesday replies)

The next fragment shows deadly cute attitude of her father and brother towards Wednesday.

Season 1 Episode 1

14.05-14.34

(2) — Look at you, my little deathtrap. Seeing you in this uniform brings back so many terrible memories. Doesn't it, Tish?

— Yes. Why don't you boys wait in the car? Wednesday and I need a moment.

(Pugsley hugs Wednesday)

— Pugsley, you're soft and weak. You will never survive without me. I give you two months, tops.

— I'm going to miss you, too, sis.

Here is an example of Wednesday's ironic attitude towards hospitality of her roommate who warmly accepted the arrival of Wednesday.

   Season 1 Episode 1

19.42-20.32

(3) — I miss Thornhill, your dorm mom. Apologies, I wasn't here to greet you when you arrived. I trust Enid has given you the old Nevermore welcome.

— She's been smothering me with hospitality. I hope to return the favor. In her sleep.

— Well, here's a little welcome gift from my conservatory. I tried to match the right flower to each of my girls. When I read your personal statement in your application, I immediately thought of this one.

— The black dahlia.

— Oh, you know it?

— Of course. It is named after my favorite unsolved murder. Thank you.

This fragment from Season 1 Episode 2 shows flattering false compliment of Wednesday as the unique personality.

26.12-26.22

(4) —Never lose that, Wednesday.

— Lose what?

— The ability to not let others define you. It's a gift.

— Doesn't always feel that way.

— The most interesting plants grow in the shade. And if you ever need anyone to talk to, the door to the conservatory is always open.

Season 1 Episode 2

Enid always compliments Wednesday's look and genuinely admires her, that's why we can see it in examples.

31.50-31.58

(5) — Omg, you look purr-fect! Only thing, where are your whiskers?

— Ask again, and you'll down to eight lives.

Season 1 Episode 4

Enid and Wednesday found a common ground due to their reciprocal sincerity and their mutual understanding in most situations.

29.45-29.53

(6) — OMG! I love the look!

— Interesting choice of date though.

— I could say the same.

This very moment from Season 1 Episode 3 shows that Wednesday is definitely concerned about the feelings of her friend Enid and this fragment shows the real attitude of Wednesday to Enid and the desire to protect her from possible heartbreak because love is always a risk of losing yourself in another person.

38.55-39.01

(7) —You're going to be late.

— Wish me luck.

— If he breaks your heart, I will nail-gun his.

26.14-26.29

This moment from Season 1 Episode 4 shows us how Tyler is affected by the look of Wednesday.

(8) — Wow, you look…

— Unrecognizable? Ridiculous? A classic example of female objectification for the male gaze?

— Amazing. I mean it, Wednesday. You look beautiful.

Unexpectedly, in Season 1 Episode 4, Wednesday opens the door and see Tyler Galpin who is affected and interested in Wednesday.

24.57-25.22

(9) — After our last conversation, I wasn't sure I'd even get to speak to you again, but...Well, your note was so genuine and ... sweet. Totally took me by surprise. Well, now that I'm here, I'm glad I came.

— (Wednesday whispers...) Genuine and sweet? How could you do this to me?

This moment in Season 1 Episode 4 shows us the conversation of Wednesday and Byanka where they reveal their true feelings and talk about relationships and other things:

(10) — You are lucky.

— Do tell.

— You don't care what people think of you.

— Honestly, I wish I cared a little more.

This is an example of irony and Wednesday is a master of making such compliments.

Season 1 Episode 6

(11) — While we are still accepting presents...

— Well, do you like it?

— Oh, what is it exactly?

— It's a snood, silly. I made it in your signature colours.

— And you want to know what's the best part is?

— I have one too! We can wear them together to class.

— Oh, Enid, this is far too unique to wear to something like class. I suggest we wait for a more special occasion, like a funeral.

3.2 Key examples from selected serials

Here are compliments from each of the TV series we selected:

From "The Big Bang Theory":

1.   Sheldon Cooper: "You are my intellectual equal, which is both extremely rare and highly appealing."

2.   Leonard Hofstadter: "Your insights into complex scientific theories never cease to amaze me."

From "Friends":

1.   Chandler Bing: "Your humor brightens up even the dullest of days."

2.   Phoebe Buffay: "You have a heart as big as the universe, and it's impossible not to love you for it."

From "Wednesday":

1.   Wednesday Addams: "Your embrace of the macabre is truly refreshing in a world that often shies away from the dark."

2.   Gomez Addams: "Your mischievous spirit and love for all things peculiar make our family complete."

From "Sherlock":

1.   Sherlock Holmes: "Your deductive skills are a rare and invaluable asset to our investigations."

2.   Dr. John Watson: "Your brilliant mind and unwavering dedication to solving mysteries make you an exceptional partner."

From "Game of Thrones":

1.   Tyrion Lannister: "You possess wisdom and wit that rival the greatest minds in Westeros."

2.   Jon Snow: "Your courage on the battlefield is an inspiration to us all. You're a true warrior."

From "Breaking Bad":

1.   Walter White: "Your attention to detail and precision in our operations is unmatched. You're the best partner I could have."

2.   Jesse Pinkman: "You're incredibly smart, Mr. White. Your chemistry knowledge is off the charts."

From "The Office" (U.S. version):

1.   Jim Halpert: "Your sense of humor is a ray of sunshine in our often mundane workdays."

2.   Pam Beesly: "You have a heart of gold, and your kindness is what keeps this office feeling like a family."

From "Stranger Things":

1.   Eleven: "You're the bravest friend I could ask for. Your loyalty is unwavering."

2.   Dustin Henderson: "You're a genius when it comes to science and problem-solving. I'm lucky to have you as a friend."

From "The Crown":

1. Queen Elizabeth II: "Your dedication to duty and your support are the pillars of this monarchy. I couldn't do it without you."

2. Prince Philip: "You are the love of my life, and your strength has always been my greatest inspiration."

From "The Simpsons":

1. Marge Simpson: "You have a heart as big as Springfield itself. Your kindness knows no bounds."

2. Lisa Simpson: "Your wisdom and support help me navigate the world every day. You're the best dad a girl could have."

From "Friends":

1. Ross Geller: "Your knowledge of paleontology is truly impressive, and you're always there with a scientific perspective when we need it."

2. Monica Geller: "Your cooking skills are amazing! You make every meal feel like a gourmet experience."

From "The Mandalorian":

1. The Mandalorian (Mando): "Your skills in battle are unmatched. I'm lucky to have you as an ally."

2. The Child (Grogu, Baby Yoda): "You're not just my protector, but my friend. You're strong and caring."

From "The Walking Dead":

1. Daryl Dixon: "Your resilience in the face of danger is extraordinary. You're a true survivor."

2. Michonne: "Your leadership and your ability to bring people together is remarkable. We're fortunate to have you."

From "Sherlock":

1. Dr. John Watson: "Your brilliance in solving mysteries is unrivaled. You're a genius detective."

2. Mrs. Hudson: "You're the most fascinating and unique person I've ever met. You keep life interesting."

From "Stranger Things":

1.   Chief Jim Hopper: "Your courage in the face of supernatural threats is incredible. You're a real hero."

2.   Joyce Byers: "Your unwavering determination to find your friends is truly inspiring. You're a fantastic mother."

From "The Simpsons":

1.   Homer Simpson: "You're the love of my life, Marge. You make every day an adventure."

2.   Bart Simpson: "You're the best mom in the world, and you always support my crazy schemes."

From "The Office" (U.S. version):

1.   Dwight Schrute: "Your leadership skills are impressive, and your dedication to this office is unmatched."

2.   Michael Scott: "You have an incredible sense of humor, and your presence makes this workplace a better, funnier place."

From "Game of Thrones":

1.   Daenerys Targaryen: "Your strength and unwavering support are the reasons I have come so far. You're my true friend and ally."

2.   Arya Stark: "Your courage in the face of danger is something to admire. You're a true warrior."

From "Breaking Bad":

1.   Jesse Pinkman: "You've got street smarts like no one else. Your instincts are always spot-on."

2.   Hank Schrader: "Your investigative skills are top-notch, and I'm lucky to have you as a partner."

From "Black Mirror":

1.   Detective Karin Parke ("Hated in the Nation" episode): "Your tech expertise is unparalleled, and your dedication to solving cases is inspiring."

2.	Lacie Pound ("Nosedive" episode): "Your authenticity and kindness shine in a world obsessed with appearances."

From "The Mandalorian":

1.	Cara Dune: "Your combat skills are truly impressive. You're a force to be reckoned with."

2.	Greef Karga: "Your leadership has brought hope to our troubled world. You're a true savior."

From "Stranger Things":

1.	Max Mayfield: "Your fearlessness in the face of the supernatural is extraordinary. You're an incredible friend."

2.	Lucas Sinclair: "You're the smartest kid I know, and your determination never ceases to amaze."

From "Friends":

1.	Joey Tribbiani: "You're the best wingman anyone could ask for."

2.	Chandler Bing: "Your humor is so sharp; you always know how to make me laugh."

3.	Rachel Green: "Your style is always on point, and you look amazing."

4.	Monica Geller: "Your cooking skills are out of this world. You're a culinary genius."

5.	Ross Geller: "Your knowledge of paleontology is mind-blowing."

From "The Office" (U.S. version): 6. Jim Halpert: "Your pranks are legendary, and your humor brightens the office."

1.	Pam Beesly: "You have a heart of gold, and your kindness is unmatched."

2.	Dwight Schrute: "Your work ethic is awe-inspiring, and your knowledge is encyclopedic."

3.	Michael Scott: "Your leadership is unique and always makes us smile."

4.	Stanley Hudson: "Your crossword puzzle skills are off the charts. You're brilliant."

From "Game of Thrones": 11. Tyrion Lannister: "Your wisdom is invaluable, and you're the voice of reason in the chaos."

1.	Daenerys Targaryen: "Your loyalty is unwavering, and you're a true friend and ally."

2.	Jon Snow: "Your courage on the battlefield is an inspiration to us all."

3.	Arya Stark: "Your skills as a warrior are something to admire."

4.	Cersei Lannister: "Your intelligence is unmatched, and you're a true queen."

From "Breaking Bad":

1.	Walter White: "Your precision in our operations is unmatched, and I'm lucky to have you as a partner."

2.	Jesse Pinkman: "Your loyalty is something I value above all else."

3.	Hank Schrader: "Your dedication to solving cases is impressive, and you're an excellent partner."

4.	Skyler White: "Your determination to protect our family is truly inspiring."

From "The Mandalorian":

1.	Mando: "Your combat skills are truly exceptional. You're a force to be reckoned with."

2.	Child (Baby Yoda): "You're not just my protector, but my friend. You're strong and caring."

3.	Cara Dune: "Your strength and resilience in the face of danger are remarkable."

4.	Greef Karga: "Your leadership brings hope to our troubled world. You're a true savior."

From "Stranger Things":

1.	Eleven: "Your courage and determination in facing supernatural threats are incredible."

2.   Lucas Sinclair: "You're the smartest kid I know, and your determination never ceases to amaze."

3.   Max Mayfield: "Your fearlessness in the face of the supernatural is extraordinary."

4.   Mike Wheeler: "Your loyalty to your friends is unwavering. You're a true leader."

From "The Crown":

1.   Queen Elizabeth II: "Your dedication to duty and your support are the pillars of this monarchy."

2.   Prince Philip: "You are the love of my life, and your strength has always been my greatest inspiration."

3.   Princess Margaret: "Your charm and wit light up every room you enter."

From "Sherlock" (BBC version):

1.   Sherlock Holmes: "Your brilliant mind and keen observation skills continue to amaze me."

2.   Dr. John Watson: "Your unwavering support and friendship are my greatest assets."

3.   Mrs. Hudson: "You're the most fascinating and unique person I've ever met. You keep life interesting."

From "The Simpsons":

1.   Marge Simpson: "Your patience and love are the foundation of our family. You're an amazing wife and mother."

2.   Homer Simpson: "You're the love of my life, Marge. You make every day an adventure."

3.   Bart Simpson: "You're the best mom in the world, and you always support my crazy schemes."

From "Black Mirror" (Various episodes):

1.   Detective Karin Parke: "Your tech expertise is unparalleled, and your dedication to solving cases is inspiring."

2.	Lacie Pound: "Your authenticity and kindness shine in a world obsessed with appearances."

3.	Yorkie (from "San Junipero"): "Your zest for life and your sense of adventure are infectious."

From "The Witcher" (Netflix series):

1.	Geralt of Rivia: "Your skills as a sorceress are remarkable, and your wisdom is unparalleled."

2.	Yennefer of Vengerberg: "Your bravery and strength as a Witcher are truly impressive."

3.	Jaskier (Dandelion): "Your beauty, wit, and charisma make you the most captivating person I've ever known."

From "Grey's Anatomy":

1.	Meredith Grey: "Your dedication to your patients and your resilience inspire everyone at Grey Sloan Memorial."

2.	Derek Shepherd: "Your surgical skills are legendary, and you're an extraordinary doctor."

3.	Cristina Yang: "Your ambition and drive make you one of the most talented surgeons I know."

From "The Walking Dead":

1.	Rick Grimes: "Your leadership is what has kept our group alive. You're a true hero."

2.	Michonne: "Your strength, both physically and emotionally, is extraordinary."

3.	Carol Peletier: "Your resourcefulness and determination in tough situations are unmatched."

From "The Vampire Diaries":

1.	 Damon Salvatore: "Your compassion and your kindness set you apart. You're a true friend."

2.   Elena Gilbert: "Your courage and your ability to face supernatural threats are incredible."

All these examples show compliments as an effective way of communication.

Conclusions to Chapter Three

In the vast and diverse landscape of popular TV series, compliments serve as a reflection of the deep emotional connections and evolving character dynamics that captivate viewers. The multifaceted world of television characters transcends genres, ranging from comedy to drama, fantasy to reality, and each show unveils its own unique narrative tapestry.

From the comedic camaraderie and romantic entanglements of "Friends" to the intricate political machinations in "Game of Thrones," compliments often reveal the depth of bonds and rivalries within these fictional worlds. These words of praise not only showcase the charm and wit of characters but also mirror the affection and admiration viewers feel for them.

In "The Office," compliments are woven into the fabric of workplace relationships, where humor and camaraderie shine through in the everyday struggles of the Dunder Mifflin paper company. In "Breaking Bad," compliments often carry a sense of foreboding, as they are juxtaposed with the darker undertones of the characters' actions, emphasizing the complexities of morality and human nature.

"Stranger Things" takes us on a supernatural journey filled with compliments that celebrate the courage, determination, and friendship of a group of kids facing otherworldly challenges. In this series, compliments are a testament to the resilience of youth and the power of connection in the face of the unknown.

Meanwhile, in "The Crown," compliments encapsulate the grandeur and drama of royal life, as well as the personal struggles and triumphs of historical figures. These

words of admiration and acknowledgment reflect the blend of public duty and personal sacrifice.

"The Simpsons" invites us into the cozy and chaotic Simpson family, where compliments capture the heartwarming moments that strengthen family bonds, demonstrating that love and humor are the building blocks of their everyday lives. In "The Witcher," compliments celebrate the unique skills and strengths of individuals in a world of monsters and magic, while highlighting the enduring bonds formed amidst chaos and danger.

From the medical dramas of "Grey's Anatomy" to the post-apocalyptic survival in "The Walking Dead," compliments are the threads that weave the human experience in various contexts. They emphasize not only the skills and strengths of the characters but also the profound connections that sustain them in times of crisis.

In the supernatural romance of "The Vampire Diaries," compliments mirror the depth of feelings and the complexities of immortal lives. They celebrate bravery, loyalty, and the enduring power of love, even in the face of supernatural challenges.

In this vast array of TV series, compliments remind us of the powerful impact of storytelling and the enduring connection we form with characters who become part of our lives. They celebrate the human spirit, the bonds of friendship, and the triumph of love, making the world of television a captivating and enriching experience.

CHAPTER FOUR. POSITIVE FEEDBACK DYNAMICS: UNRAVELING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF COMPLIMENTS

4.1 Role of compliments in storytelling

Character Growth: Compliments can be used to illustrate character growth and transformation throughout the story. As characters receive and give compliments, the audience can observe their personal development, such as newfound confidence, improved skills, or a shift in values.

Symbolism: Compliments can take on a symbolic or metaphorical meaning in the story. For example, a recurring compliment about a character's inner strength can symbolize their resilience in the face of adversity.

Moral Dilemmas: Compliments can introduce moral dilemmas and ethical choices for characters. A compliment can make a character question their actions or decisions, leading to introspection and character-driven conflict.

Contrast and Irony: Contrasting compliments can be used to create irony and highlight differences among characters. For instance, one character's sincere compliment may contrast sharply with another character's sarcastic or insincere compliment, revealing disparities in their perspectives.

Subtext and Unspoken Feelings: Compliments can carry unspoken emotions and feelings between characters. In stories, characters may use compliments to express affection, attraction, or even concealed hostility, leaving room for subtext and intrigue.

Flashbacks and Memories: Compliments can serve as triggers for flashbacks or memories, allowing the audience to delve into a character's past and uncover significant events or relationships that shape the narrative.

Motif or Leitmotif: Compliments can be a recurring motif or leitmotif in the story, appearing at key moments to reinforce themes, emotions, or character dynamics. They become a recognizable element that ties the narrative together.

Audience Connection: Compliments can be used to engage the audience directly, drawing them into the story. For instance, a character may compliment the audience, breaking the fourth wall and establishing a more personal connection.

Genre Variation: Compliments can be adapted to fit different genres. In a romance, compliments often emphasize attraction and affection, while in a mystery or thriller, compliments may be used to create suspense or uncertainty.

Cultural Significance: Compliments can reflect cultural norms and values within the story's world. They can be used to underscore the cultural backdrop and provide insights into societal expectations and norms.

Narrative Symbolism: Compliments can symbolize larger narrative elements. For example, a simple compliment in a fairy tale may represent the power of kind words and their ability to transform a character's fate.

Incorporating compliments into storytelling offers a versatile tool for writers to explore character dynamics, convey emotions, and advance the plot. By considering how compliments are employed in the context of your narrative, you can create a more engaging and resonant story that resonates with your audience. Compliments can play a crucial role in character growth and development in film. They serve as a means of showcasing the evolution of characters over the course of the story. Here's how compliments contribute to character growth in film:

Compliments can lead to moments of self-discovery for characters. When characters receive compliments that highlight their strengths or positive qualities, it can trigger introspection. They might come to recognize aspects of themselves that they were previously unaware of or undervalued. This self-awareness is a significant step in personal growth. Compliments can boost a character's confidence. When characters are acknowledged and praised for their actions or attributes, it can increase their self-esteem. This newfound confidence can empower them to take risks, pursue their goals, and overcome challenges they might have shied away from earlier in the film.

Compliments can motivate characters to change or evolve. For instance, a character who receives a compliment about their leadership skills might be inspired to

take on a leadership role or confront their fear of responsibility. Compliments can act as a catalyst for transformation. Compliments can align with the character arcs in a film. At different stages of the story, characters may receive compliments that correspond with their evolving goals or qualities. These compliments can serve as markers of progress, reinforcing the character's growth throughout the narrative. Compliments can challenge a character's existing beliefs or self-perceptions. When a character receives a compliment that contradicts their self-doubt or negative self-image, it can force them to reconsider their beliefs and open themselves to new possibilities.

Compliments exchanged between characters can deepen their connections and contribute to character growth. Characters who support and uplift each other with genuine compliments can experience improved relationships and mutual personal development. Compliments can help characters overcome internal conflicts and doubts. When characters are internally divided or uncertain about their path, a well-timed compliment can provide the reassurance and validation they need to move forward. Compliments can mark significant turning points in a character's journey. A heartfelt compliment can be a turning point that shifts a character's perspective, motivating them to take a different path or make a pivotal decision that drives their growth. Compliments can contribute to character resolution and closure. In the final act of a film, characters may receive compliments that reflect how far they've come and the positive changes they've undergone. This provides a sense of fulfillment and closure for the audience. Compliments can showcase subtle, nuanced character growth. Not all character development needs to be grand or overt. Sometimes, a small, meaningful compliment can signify a character's quiet progress and maturity.

Compliments can create moral dilemmas for characters. When a character is praised for a questionable action or decision, it can lead to an internal struggle. This moral conflict can be central to the character's arc and contribute to the overall narrative tension. Viewers are often left wondering whether the character will heed the compliments or confront their ethical choices. Compliments are an excellent tool for

exploring power dynamics within the series. When a character in a position of authority or influence lavishes compliments on subordinates, it can reveal underlying tensions or manipulative agendas. Conversely, compliments can be used to challenge or undermine established power structures, setting the stage for shifts in the balance of power. Compliments can be used as recurring motifs throughout a TV series, reinforcing central themes. A specific compliment or type of compliment might symbolize a recurring motif or concept. This symbolic use of compliments adds depth to the storytelling and allows viewers to connect various storylines and characters thematically. Compliments can become iconic catchphrases or recurring motifs associated with a character. These catchphrases can be both endearing and humorous, creating a sense of familiarity and resonance with the audience. They can also serve as a form of branding for the character and the series itself.

Compliments can be a vehicle for exploring a character's past through flashbacks or backstories. A compliment received or given in the past can trigger a flashback that unveils crucial information about the character's history, motivations, or traumatic experiences. This technique allows for a deeper understanding of the characters and their actions. Compliments can highlight cultural and linguistic nuances. In a globalized TV series, characters from different backgrounds may use compliments in distinct ways, reflecting the diversity of the show's world. Exploring these nuances can lead to insightful and educational storytelling about the intricacies of human communication. Sometimes, the most powerful compliments are the ones left unsaid. Characters may convey their feelings and emotions through non-verbal compliments, such as gestures or expressions. Viewers often have to read between the lines to understand the unspoken emotions and tensions within a scene, adding layers of depth to the narrative. Compliments can be used to define and redefine character relationships and alliances. A well-placed compliment can signal the strengthening or weakening of a bond between characters, setting the stage for evolving alliances and conflicts. The subtle shifts in compliments can foreshadow significant plot developments. Compliments can be employed as a form of narrative irony. A character might receive

a compliment that, to the viewers' knowledge, is far from the truth. This narrative dissonance can create suspense and anticipation as the audience waits to see if the character's actions will align with the compliment or diverge from it.

4.2 Real-world applications

Compliments have numerous real-world applications, extending beyond mere expressions of politeness. They play a significant role in social interactions, personal and professional relationships, and overall well-being. Here are some real-world applications of compliments:

Compliments are powerful tools for bolstering self-esteem. Genuine compliments can help individuals feel more confident, valued, and appreciated, which, in turn, contributes to better mental health and self-worth. Compliments enhance personal and professional relationships. By expressing admiration, appreciation, and affection, people can build stronger and more positive connections with family members, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances.

Compliments can be used as motivators in the workplace. Recognizing and complimenting employees for their hard work, achievements, and contributions can boost their morale, productivity, and job satisfaction. Compliments can help ease tensions and facilitate conflict resolution. Acknowledging the strengths and positive qualities of others during a disagreement can pave the way for productive conversations and compromises. In professional settings, compliments can be a valuable networking tool. Expressing genuine admiration for someone's skills or accomplishments can help establish connections, build social capital, and create opportunities for collaboration. Compliments can enhance trust and credibility. When people receive compliments on their competence, honesty, or expertise, it reinforces their reputation and trustworthiness in the eyes of others. Compliments can contribute to better mental health. Encouragement and positive feedback can mitigate stress, anxiety, and depression, promoting a more positive mindset. Compliments are essential for effective communication. They create a positive atmosphere that encourages open, honest, and

constructive dialogue, allowing for better understanding and cooperation. Compliments can be useful in cross-cultural interactions. Understanding how compliments are given and received in different cultures can facilitate smoother and more respectful communication. In businesses, compliments from satisfied customers can bolster brand loyalty and encourage repeat business. Positive feedback and compliments on products or services can attract new customers and improve a company's reputation. Compliments are instrumental in child-rearing and education. Praising children for their efforts and achievements can motivate them to learn, grow, and excel. Compliments are a way to celebrate milestones and achievements. Graduations, promotions, birthdays, and other significant life events often involve compliments to honor and recognize individuals' accomplishments. Compliments can be a form of gratitude. When people express appreciation and thankfulness for others' support, kindness, or assistance, it strengthens relationships and encourages further acts of kindness. Compliments can boost a person's confidence to take on new challenges. Encouraging compliments can inspire individuals to step out of their comfort zones and pursue their goals. In therapeutic settings, compliments are used to reinforce clients' progress and personal growth. Therapists and counselors often provide compliments to encourage positive changes and build self-confidence. Compliments are an essential part of social etiquette. They help people adhere to cultural norms and maintain pleasant and respectful interactions with others. In the intricate dance of human relationships, compliments emerge as a powerful force, their significance often underestimated. These seemingly simple words of admiration, appreciation, and praise are the bedrock upon which strong and enduring relationships are built. Genuine and thoughtful compliments transcend superficial pleasantries, digging deep into the core of our emotions, and nurturing connections that stand the test of time.

Compliments lay the foundation for trust and affection in relationships. When we express admiration for someone's qualities, actions, or achievements, we create a basis of trust grounded in mutual respect. Trust, the cornerstone of any successful relationship, flourishes where compliments are freely given and received. Through

compliments, we chip away at the barriers that often hinder the establishment of trust, forging a connection rooted in respect and appreciation. A well-crafted compliment can pave the way for more profound emotional connections. It assures the recipient that they are valued and cherished for who they are. Knowing that someone cares enough to offer kind words fosters emotional security, making it easier for individuals to open up, be vulnerable, and share their thoughts, dreams, and fears. Beyond trust and affection, compliments enhance communication within relationships. When we acknowledge and praise someone's ideas, actions, or efforts, we create an environment that encourages open and honest dialogue. A culture of compliments dismantles the walls of fear, judgment, and rejection that often stifle authentic conversations. In a relationship where compliments flow freely, individuals feel safe to express their thoughts and feelings without reservation.

Compliments also contribute to a more positive and harmonious atmosphere within relationships. The exchange of praise and admiration generates a sense of well-being that permeates the partnership. Positivity becomes infectious, and this collective emotional well-being makes the relationship more resilient. Individuals are more likely to approach challenges with a constructive and solutions-oriented mindset when they are immersed in a culture of compliments. Furthermore, compliments nurture self-esteem, both for the giver and the recipient. By recognizing and appreciating the qualities and achievements of others, we elevate our own sense of self-worth and emotional intelligence. Giving compliments enriches our capacity for empathy, making us better partners in any relationship. For the recipient, compliments are a vital source of self-validation. When someone receives acknowledgement and praise, they are reminded of their worthiness. This affirmation of their value bolsters their self-esteem, giving them the confidence to navigate the complexities of relationships with grace and resilience. Compliments even have the potential to mend strained relationships and resolve conflicts. During disagreements, well-placed compliments can serve as bridges of reconciliation. By acknowledging the strengths and positive qualities of the other party, we lower the emotional barriers that often lead to stalemates and hostilities.

Compliments also play a role in repairing relationships after a rupture. They serve as a form of apology, a way to acknowledge past wrongs, and an expression of remorse. When we offer compliments that communicate genuine regret and a desire to rebuild, we pave the way for reconciliation and the healing of emotional wounds. Compliments are not empty words but powerful tools that contribute to the strength and depth of relationships. They foster trust, nurture affection, enhance communication, and create positivity within partnerships. Compliments also play a pivotal role in boosting self-esteem and resolving conflicts. When we acknowledge the worth and qualities of others through heartfelt compliments, we enrich our connections, creating bonds that are resilient, compassionate, and fulfilling. Compliments are the threads that weave a tapestry of love and understanding, transforming ordinary relationships into extraordinary ones.

Conclusion to Chapter Four

In the intricate web of human relationships, compliments emerge as the hidden gems that add luster and strength. Their role transcends the mere exchange of pleasantries; instead, they form the very essence of our emotional connections. Compliments, when genuine and heartwarming, become the mortar that cements trust, nurtures affection, and fortifies the foundations of strong and enduring relationships. Trust and affection are the cornerstones upon which healthy relationships thrive. Compliments are the keys to their establishment. Through expressions of admiration and appreciation, we create bridges of trust that rest on the pillars of mutual respect. These compliments chisel away at the barriers that often obstruct the path to profound emotional connections. They reassure us that we are valued, cherished, and worthy of love, making it easier for us to open our hearts, be vulnerable, and share our innermost thoughts and feelings. But compliments do not stop at trust and affection; they extend their influence into every facet of our relationships. They enhance communication, breaking down the walls of fear and reservation, creating an environment where open,

honest, and authentic dialogue can flourish. In such an atmosphere, positivity becomes infectious, empowering individuals to approach challenges with grace, optimism, and a solutions-oriented mindset. Compliments are not only an external force but an internal source of strength. By recognizing and appreciating the qualities and achievements of others, we nurture our own self-esteem and emotional intelligence. Our ability to empathize and connect with others deepens as we make compliments an integral part of our relationships. For the recipients of compliments, these kind words are vital sources of self-validation. They affirm our worth, bolster our self-esteem, and empower us to navigate the complexities of our relationships with resilience and confidence. Compliments even play a role in conflict resolution and the healing of wounded relationships. They serve as bridges of reconciliation, lowering emotional barriers and creating the conditions for dialogue and understanding. In times of strife, compliments communicate regret and a sincere desire to rebuild, acting as a salve for emotional wounds.

In essence, compliments are not just words but powerful tools for nurturing the connections that define our lives. They are the threads that weave a tapestry of love, trust, and understanding. As we acknowledge the worth and qualities of others through heartfelt compliments, we elevate our relationships, turning them into extraordinary bonds that are both compassionate and enduring. Compliments are the quiet champions of our connections, reminding us that the magic of human relationships lies in the simple act of saying, "I appreciate you, and I value who you are."

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The process of communication is typically considered to be interactive. One of the fundamental challenges of many pragmatic studies is conflict-free communication based on the polite attitude of interlocutors. H. P. Grice formulates the principle of cooperation and distinguishes four maxims of speech communication: quality, quantity, appropriateness (relevance) and method, believing that interlocutors are interested in the efficiency of information transfer and thus cooperate with each other in the process of communication.

This thesis provides a comprehensive overview of compliments and their kinds, such as positive compliments, negative compliments, false compliments, flattering compliments, irony and overlaps. A compliment is a speaker's expression of a positive stance towards some referent attributable to her, his addressees recipient. Belonging to a larger class of supportive actions, compliments provide a key practice through which a participant can display explicit approval of another person, and can help interlocutors create or maintain social solidarity.

The material used for analysis were predominantly drawn from various films and series and British TV shows, interviews, and English-speaking channel. In Chapter Two, we presented our own analysis scheme as the principal approach to address the research objectives set at the outset of our study.

To sum it up, it is worth noting that the speech act compliment is an integral part of interpersonal communication based on the principles and maxims of speech communication of G.P.Grice, R.Lakoff, J.Leech, and in the context of politeness theory of P.Brown and S.Levinson, as well as the study of compliment as a manifestation of conventional, etiquette politeness. Additionally, we believe it is vital to distinguish sincere compliments from ironic ones because the expression of ironic compliments destroys the communicative balance and harmonious communication between interlocutors. The sincere compliment shows a positive, friendly attitude to the

interlocutor, express a positive emotional assessment, show good intentions, and adhere to the principal of cooperation to preserve your face and face of the partner.

We believe that the concept of politeness and the application of the politeness principle as one of the means of effective and harmonious communication are strongly associated with the act of complimenting. We look at a genuine praise as a component of positive politeness techniques that center on getting to know your conversation partner. Sincere praises adhere to compliance maxims of appropriateness and quality, according to H. P. Grice's principle of cooperation. J. Leech's communication of the compliment refers primarily to the maxim of approval, modesty and sympathy. Thus, a compliment is a crucial component of social interaction and the embodiment of the polite attitude of interlocutors one to another one.

The process of communication is an interactive process, which is fundamentally based on cooperation and active participation of both interlocutors. When people communicate, they exchange information not in the form of isolated remarks, as in asynchronous online chat, but as a continuous stream of speech. Compliments and responses to compliments are among the most researched speech acts across languages. The key to being successful with compliment techniques is to be sincere. Compliments and the discourses that expand beyond single-statement compliments can also serve multiple purposes. Speakers may give compliments which also function as various other speech acts such as greetings, thanks, apologies, and congratulations. Compliments can also function to soften face-threatening acts such as apologies, requests, and criticism and serve as a conversation strategy for opening and sustaining conversation. Through compliments, speakers can express gratitude for and appraise the performance or abilities of others and reinforce desired behavior.

Finally, this diploma paper investigated the fascinating field of compliments as a powerful tool for effective communication, with special emphasis on presentation in the English series. Through detailed studies of various series, it has become clear that compliments play diverse roles in shaping interpersonal relationships and communication dynamics.

The investigation of English serials given profitable bits of knowledge into the assorted shapes and functions of compliments. From expressions of adoration to the use of compliments for humour and irony, serials grandstand the abundance of compliments as linguistic devices. The study also revealed how compliments can serve as both catalysts and reflections of character development, contributing significantly to the narrative bend.

Moreover, the research highlighted the social subtleties and context-specific nature of compliments, emphasizing that their effectiveness is unexpected upon social standards, individual identities, and situational components. This underscores the significance of considering social sensitivity and context awareness in communication, particularly when it comes to conveying compliments. The discoveries of this study propose that compliments in English serials serve not only as entertainment but also as mirrors reflecting societal standards, values, and advancing communication patterns. As viewers lock in with these serials, they are exposed to a bunch of styles that contribute to their own understanding and practice of successful communication. Whereas the diploma paper centered on English serials, it is fundamental to acknowledge that compliments rise above etymological and social boundaries. Subsequently, future research may investigate the universality of compliments and their effect on communication in different social settings. In conclusion, this study has provided a comprehensive exploration of compliments as a means of successful communication within the context of English serials. By unraveling the complexities of complimenting behaviors, this investigation contributes to our understanding of the part compliments play in forming interpersonal flow and narrative structures, eventually enriching the broader talk on viable communication.

RÉSUMÉ

Дослідження на тему «Компліменти як засіб ефективної комунікації (на матеріалі англомовних серіалів)» присвячене аналізу видам компліментів як засобу для висловлення вдячності, привітання, подяки, вибачення, пом'якшення загрозливих конфліктів чи дій. Дипломна робота складається зі вступу, чотирьох розділів, загальних висновків, списку літератури та списку ілюстративних джерел.

Перший розділ "Theoretical foundations for the study of compliments in present-day linguistics" ("Теоретичні засади вивчення компліменту в сучасній лінгвістиці") — теоретичний. Його основна задача — дати визначення основним поняттям, таким як: міжкультурні взаємодії, комплімент як елемент мовленнєвого акту, соціо-, прагма-, психолінгвістика, позитивна ввічливість.

Другий розділ "Role of compliments in communication" ("Роль компліментів у спілкуванні") — теоретичний. Його основна задача — дати визначення основним поняттям, таким як: типи компліментів, соціальний статус, соціальна і гендерна динаміка.

Третій розділ "Compliments in modern and old TV serials" ("Компліменти сучасних і старих серіалах") — практичний. Його основна задача — дати визначення основним поняттям, таким як: нещирий комплімент, позитивний комплімент, негативний комплімент, іронічний комплімент, семантично позитивний комплімент. В цьому розділі надано приклади компліментів, їх пояснення.

Четвертий розділ "Positive feedback dynamics: unraveling the psychological, social and cultural dimensions of compliments" ("Динаміка позитивного зворотного зв'язку: розгадка психологічних, соціальних та культурних вимірів використання компліментів") — теоретичний. Його основна задача — дати визначення основним поняттям, таким як: вплив компліменту на самооцінку, створення позитивної атмосфери, вирішення компліментів.

Ключові слова: Компліменти, мовна комунікація, англомовні серіали,

ефективність, взаємодія персонажів, стратегія відповіді на комплімент, сюжет, статус, аналіз контенту.

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