

A Pragmatic Study of Congratulation Responses in Iraqi Arabic

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Abstract:

The present study is a pragmatic study of congratulation responses in Iraqi Arabic. It aims at finding out the main and sub- responses strategies in the Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses, figuring out the most frequent types of positive politeness strategies used in Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses and investigating the influence of gender on expressing the Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses concerning the questions above. The researcher hypothesizes that there are different responses strategies used in the Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses. In the Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses, there are positive politeness strategies more frequently used than others, and the congratulation responder's gender affects his / her Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses. By using a discourse completion test(DCT), the researcher verifies these hypotheses to be conducted on 60 students(males/females) at University of Mosul/ College of Basic Education/Department of English as a sample for the research. The test consists of ten happy situations, and the participants have to imagine the situations that his/her friend is congratulating him/her and to write their responses in Arabic. , the data have to be analyzed in terms of the taxonomy proposed by Elwood (2004) and then by the positive politeness strategies stated by Brown and Levinson (1987). Based on the results of the current study, it has been found that there are different responses strategies used in the Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses, there are positive politeness strategies more frequently used than others, and finally, males and females employ somewhat similar congratulation responses strategies but with varying frequencies and realizations.

Key Words: Congratulation, Speech Act, Politeness Strategies.

دراسة تداولية لردود التهنة باللغة العربية العراقية

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ملخص البحث:

الدراسة الحالية هي دراسة تداولية لردود التهنة باللغة العربية العراقية . تهدف الدراسة إلى معرفة استراتيجيات الردود الرئيسية والفرعية في ردود التهنة بالعربية العراقية ، ومعرفة الأنواع الأكثر تكرارا لاستراتيجيات التأدب الإيجابية المستخدمة في ردود التهنة بالعربية العراقية، والتحقيق من تأثير الجنس في التعبير عن ردود التهنة بالعربية العراقية من ناحية الاسئلة المذكورة اعلاه. يفترض الباحث أن هناك إستراتيجيات ردود مختلفة تستخدم في إجابات التهنة باللغة العربية العراقية. في ردود التهنة بالعربية العراقية ، هناك إستراتيجيات مهذبة إيجابية يتم استخدامها بشكل متكرر أكثر من غيرها ، ويؤثر جنس المستجيب للتهنة على ردود التهنة بالعربية العراقية. باستخدام اختبار استكمال الخطاب (DCT) يتحقق الباحث من هذه الفرضيات على ٦٠ طالباً وطالبة في جامعة الموصل / كلية التربية الأساسية / قسم اللغة الإنجليزية كعينة للبحث. يتكون الاختبار من عشر مواقف سعيدة وعلى المشاركين تخيل المواقف التي يهنئها صديقه / صديقتها وكتابة ردودهم باللغة العربية. أخيراً ، يجب تحليل البيانات من حيث التصنيف الذي اقترحه Elwood (٢٠٠٤) ثم من خلال استراتيجيات التأدب الإيجابية التي ذكرها Brown and Levinson (١٩٨٧). بناءً على نتائج الدراسة الحالية ، وجد أن هناك استراتيجيات ردود مختلفة مستخدمة في ردود التهنة بالعربية العراقية ، وهناك استراتيجيات تأدب إيجابية تستخدم بشكل متكرر أكثر من غيرها ، وأخيراً ، يستخدم الذكور والإناث استراتيجيات ردود تهنة متشابهة إلى حد ما ولكن بانماط وتكرارات متفاوتة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التهنة, فعل الكلام, استراتيجيات التأدب.

I. The Theoretical Part

1. Introduction

In all human speech communities, congratulation responses strategies and their verbal expression are present, but controlled by these societies' socio-cultural values. It is quite rare to find language that shares formulas with the same content, function, distribution and frequency, due to such factors as the social organization of the community, and the structure of their language. It is common for others to express positive thoughts and emotions about a person when something good happens, which is considered as a positive politeness strategy stated by Brown and Levinson (1987). When the other person who receives the good news does not show or express his pleasure in what happened to the addressed person, it is considered a sign of envy. In this study, congratulations are seen as an acknowledgement of the achievement or good fortune of another. Elwood's study (2004) of congratulation, includes 45 English American students, 45 Japanese English students and 45 Japanese writers in Japanese who complete a discourse completion test in seven scenarios where three conditions were linked to reacting to joyous news, such as awards, promotion and wedding. According to her, in a favourable news scenario, most speakers attempt to show their satisfaction and happiness by saying "congratulation," but their strategies and words often vary considerably from situation to another.

2. The Research Questions

1. What are the main and sub- responses strategies used in Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses?
2. What types of positive politeness strategies that are more frequently used in Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses?
3. What is/are the basic gender difference(s) in expressing Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses concerning the questions above?

3. The Hypotheses

Based on the above research questions, the following hypotheses are drawn:

1. It is hypothesized that there are different responses strategies used in Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses.
2. In Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses, there are positive politeness strategies more frequently used than others.
3. It is hypothesized that gender affects the Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses.

4. The Aims

1. To Specify the main and sub- responses strategies used in Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses.
2. To figure out the more frequent types of positive politeness strategies used in Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses.

3. To investigate the influence of gender on the pragmatic performance of Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses.

5. The Scope

This study focuses on the congratulation responses in Iraqi Arabic. More specifically, it is confined to the responses strategies used in Arabic congratulation responses as expressed by Iraqi students namely, the congratulation responses written by responders at University of Mosul / College of Basic Education/ Department of English. Besides, the study examines the influence of politeness principles and gender to investigate the differences, if any, between the responses of the responders (males/females) under study.

6. Congratulation Speech Act

Congratulations is defined as the act of expressing feelings to others (Searle, 1969). It is an act desirable for someone to do something, which reflects the speaker's happiness. If somebody is congratulating, he/she shows and/or shares the joy of the other. According to Searle (1979: 67), to congratulate the listener means: there is an event related to the addressee, the event is in the addressee's interest, and the speaker believes the event is pleased and it is an expression of happiness.

For Leech (1983: 132), congratulations are associated with the approbation and modesty maxims. With the approbation maxims, the speaker minimizes dispraise of the addressee and maximize the praise of the addressee while the modesty maxim requires that the speaker minimize the praise of himself and maximize the dispraise of himself. Thus by congratulating the speaker maximizes the praise of the addressee.

According to Emmison (1987: 93), congratulations are a ritual activity, which presupposes an event, for example, graduation, marriage, awards, etc. The individuals congratulate one another over time and during social occasions, celebrations and holidays. In Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary (2003, p. 262), congratulations are described differently. The first definition reads as "to express pleasure to (a person) on the occasion of success or good fortune"; the second one is "to express sympathetic pleasure at (an event)"; and the third defines congratulation as "to express salute or greet."

The speech act of congratulations was listed by Brown and Levinson (1987) as one of the positive politeness strategies. The illocutionary force behind congratulations is intrinsically polite and positive; hence, congratulations are termed 'convivial' by Leech (1983). According to Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (2003, p. 262), there are two types of congratulation: congratulation for doing, e.g. "Congratulations on your new job!" and ritual congratulation, e.g. "Wishing you a happy birthday."

6.1. Types of Congratulation

Oraiby (2018) divides congratulations into two kinds. The first type is congratulations on doing something that wishes to compliment us. Merriam Webster's Dictionary (2003:262) states that congratulations are used to make other people happy or happy on their occasion. Teachers will say congratulations to students on their performance, and colleagues will say: we congratulate you on winning the race. These forms of congratulations are used to promote autonomy among the partners and to help them achieve further success. Ritual Congratulation is considered the second type and is entirely linked to pleasant social circumstances that were deemed obsolete by the school of Merriam Webster (2003:262). In this sort of congratulations, the speakers congratulate each other for showing gratitude for other happy occasions on routine occasions. People also need a social setting, including the wedding, the jubilee and the new year, to congratulate. In this form, they celebrate, by saying: "Blessed Birthday and Happy New

Year." The goal is to establish relationships and promote cooperation with them. This can provide a variety of situations in which to establish relationships that promote collaboration between individuals and become part of the community. So congratulations, gratitude and appreciation lead to these ties. When people applaud others for what they did, they thank them for what they did.

6.2. Congratulation and Politeness

Every day, people in a society communicate, and conflict is inevitable. Every culture has established such laws, which are called 'politeness rules,' to help minimize conflict and preserve peace and social harmony (Watts: 2003:61). Helping people attain smooth contact is then the lubricant. Politeness has been considered to be somewhat challenging to understand as it ensures that the language and the social and cultural values of its speaker group should be understood.

In term of politeness, Leech (1983: 106) categorizes congratulation as being "convivial". This refers to the kind of illocutionary purpose that correlate with the intrinsically friendly social target, while communicating its "illocutionary goals". Congratulations can be seen as an expression of language as one of Brown and Levinson's positive politeness strategies (1987:70). Positive politeness means that people have a good self-image, that they want at least a few other people to respect and support (ibid.:67). So, a speaker seeks to view his audience as a friend or as someone to be interested in the talk through constructive, positive politeness techniques. Perhaps the most successful way to help people, inspire people and develop a community is by honest congratulations.

II. The Practical Part

1. Population and Sample

The population of the current research includes 232 students at the 3rd stage/ Department of English/ College of Basic Education for the academic year (2019-2020). The sample comprises 60 male and female students chosen randomly from the population.

2. Data Collection

To achieve the researcher's aims, a discourse completion test (henceforth DCT) of ten happy situations has been formulated and prepared to verify the hypotheses given and to answer the research questions stated, and then to draw the conclusion of this study. The DCT has then distributed to 60 Iraqi Arabic students: 30 males and 30 females.

The students have been asked to read and imagine the ten happy situations in which his/her friend is congratulating him/her and to write his/her responses in the Arabic language. The data have been analyzed according to the taxonomy of congratulation strategy by Elwood (2004), and further according to the classification of positive politeness strategies proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987).

3. Data Analysis, Results and Discussion

In the forms of congratulation responses of ten happy situations, the research data have been collected by using the DCT. Then, the data have been analyzed according to their functions whether they are wishes, thanks, invocations depending on the taxonomy of congratulation by (Elwood, 2004). Further, the researcher has identified the positive politeness strategies used in congratulation responses to save the positive face needs of the addressee, as stated by Brown and Levinson (1987).

Table1: Main & Sub-Congratulation Responses Strategies for Educational Achievements: Passing the Final Exams

No.	Strategies 16	Examples	Males Responses	Females Responses	Total 60 100%
1.	Invocation	الله يبارك بيبك	6	4	17%
2.	thanking+ wish	شكرا جزيلا عقبالك	5	5	17%
3.	Invocation+ wish	الله يبارك بعمرك يوم لك	6	4	17%
4.	thanking+ invocation	شكرا جزيلا الله يبارك بيبك ويحفظك	3	5	13%
5.	using metaphor+ thanking	قلبي حيل اشكركي	-	2	3%
6.	Thanking+ expressing joy	شكراً لك افرحتني كلماتك جداً	1	1	3%
7.	invocation+ thanking	الله يبارك بيبك اشكرك	1	1	3%
8.	thanking+ wish+ invocation	شكرا جزيلا يوم لك وربى يرزقك بالافضل	1	1	3%
9.	expressing joy+ thanking	مايسعوني الا ان تفرحني يوما ما بتوقفك شكرا لك من القلب	2	-	3%
10.	thanking+ invocation+ stickers	شكرا لكي ولكي بالمثل يارب ❤️ 🍀	-	2	3%
11.	invocation+ using metaphor+ wish	الله يبارك بيبكي ويحفظكي قلبي	1	1	3%
12.	thanking+ using metaphor+ thanking Allah	شكرا لك يا وردة الحمد لله ماكان هذا الاتوفيق من الله	1	1	3%
13.	using metaphor+ thanking+ wish	قلبي اشكركي كثير يوم لكي يارب	-	2	3%
14.	invocation+ self related comment/ gratitude+ sticker	الله يبارك بيبكي وقوفك معي في منحتي كانت سبب تفوقي ♥	1	1	3%
15.	Thanking+ self related comment/expressing joy	شكراً لك على التهنة لي بالنجاح وحصولي على تقديرات عالية حيث انتهت ايام التعب وجاء يوم الفرح الذي نقول لي ولك الف مبارك النجاح	1	-	2%
16.	Self related comment+ using metaphor acknowledging+ Invocation	لو لم تكن صديقي واخي لما حققت ذلك فالفضل بعد الله لمن ساندني ووقف معي بتشجيعه ودعمه وهنّني ، اسئل الله ان يوفقك وأراك في قمم النجاح	1	-	2%
Total	60		30	30	100%
			50%	50%	

Based on Table 1, 16 strategies are used to show the congratulation responses for " Educational Achievements: Passing the Final Exams". Also, it is clear that there are three main response strategies used by males and females, namely: invocation, thanking and wish. Invocation is used more frequently than other strategies as a strategy by itself with 17% percentage and with other strategies in the same responses. Besides there are many

sub-strategies used with the main ones to reflect the responders' emotion and interest, namely: using metaphor, expressing joy, self-related comment, thanking Allah and using stickers. Both males and females use different strategies, and there is no significant difference between them with 50% percentage for each.

Table ٢: Main & Sub-Congratulation Responses Strategies for Graduation

No.	Strategies 17	Examples	Males Responses	Females Responses	Total 60 100%
1.	Invocation	الله يباركك ويرزقك فرحة اكبر	5	5	17%
2.	invocation+ wish	بارك الله ببيك ان شاء الله يوم تخرجك	4	4	13%
3.	Thanking	شكرا جزيلا لك	6	2	13%
4.	Wish	يوم الكي ان شاء الله	2	4	10%
5.	thanking+ invocation	شكرا جزيلا الله يبارك بعمرک	3	1	7%
6.	expressing joy+ using metaphor	الفرحة فرحتين بتهننتك يا وردة	1	1	3%
7.	Self-related comment	هذا لانك كنت معي دائما	2	-	3%
8.	invocation+ thanking	الله يبارك ببيك اشكرک	1	1	3%
9.	thanking Allah+ thanking	الحمد لله شكرا جزيلا على التهنئة	1	1	3%
10.	wish+using metaphor	اتمنالك كل التوفيق اخوية العزيز	2	-	3%
11.	wish+ self-related comment	عقبالك انت هم معاي لطالما كنا سويا في كل شي	2	-	3%
12.	invocation+ thanking Allah	الله يبارك ببيك عزيزي الف الحمد لله والشكر	1	1	3%
13.	invocation+ stickers	الله يبارك بعمرکي ♥	-	2	3%
14.	Self-related comment/expressing joy+ Invocation	لقد كان تخرجنا من أجل الأشياء التي حدثت في حياتي سوف نرتدي ثوب تخرجنا ونسمع صوت التصفيق من حولنا ترى فرحة الجميع بنا هذه اللحظات كنت انتظرها سرتفع قبعة تودع السنوات الماضية فيارب أتم فرحتنا بالتفوق.	1	1	3%
15.	Selfcomment/gratitude + wish+ self-related comment/express joy	تشجيعك ووقوفك بجانبني ساعات الصعاب كانت سبباً في نجاحي واكمال مسيرتي الدراسية اليوم تخرجي وفرحتي الأكبر وجودك معي	1	1	3%
16.	Self related comment/ opinion+ thanking+using metaphor	سنين من حياتنا الدراسية خلصناها، هسا بدت حياة اخر حياة عملية..اشكرک جدا ع رسالتك تحياتي ياطيب.	1	1	3%
17.	Thanking+using metaphor+ self related comment+ offer	شكرا لك صديقي واخي لقد كنت خير داعم لي اهديك نجاحي	1	1	3%
Total		٦٠	34 57%	26 43%	100%

According to Table 2, there are 17 strategies used for "Graduation". Invocation strategy is the preferred response strategy used by itself with 17% percentage or joined with other strategies as well. Thanking strategy is the second preferred strategy used with 13% percentage or joined with other strategies too. Wish strategy is the third preferred strategy in this situation and also included with other response strategies. The use of other sub-strategies is apparent, namely: using metaphor, expressing joy, self-comment, thanking Allah and using stickers. Males use 57% out of the whole strategies and females use 43% out of them. Stickers in this situation are used by females only as a sub-strategy used to reflect feelings and emotion.

Table 3: Main & Sub-Congratulation Responses Strategies for Getting a Job

No.	Strategies 13	Examples	Males Responses	Females Responses	Total 60 100%
1.	invocation	اسأل الله ان يرزقك بالأحسن مني	7	5	20%
2.	invocation+ wish	الله يحفظك ويبارك بعمرِكَ اتمنالك الأحسن منا	4	4	13%
3.	thanking+ wish	كل الشكر لك صديقي واتمنى ان تكون معي وتحقق كل طموحتك	5	3	13%
4.	Wish	الموفقية للجميع يارب	3	5	13%
5.	thanking	اشكرك جزيل الشكر والتقدير والاحترام لشخصك الراقي والمميز	5	3	13%
6.	invocation+ thanking	رزقك الله بما تتمنى تشكراني لك	1	1	3%
7.	Wish+ invocation	يوم الك وتحصل على وظيفة ان شاء الله الله يرزقك ويوفقك بحياتك	1	1	3%
8.	wish + self related comment	اتمنى لك ايضا وظيفة جميلة واتمنى انت ايضا ان تعمل بجد لك تحصل ع ما تريد	1	1	3%
9.	Self-related comment+ invocation	هذا من فضل الله علي وفقتي واخذ بيدي ادعو لك بمثله وأفضل.	1	1	3%
10.	using metaphor+ self related comment/offer	حبيب قلبي انت اخوية الغالي تعال معزوم ع عشوية يمي اليوم	1	1	3%
11.	self-related comment/ expressing joy	ياااااااا حتى انا لم اصدق اني ساحصل على هذه الوظيفة	-	2	3%
12.	using metaphor+wish+using metaphor	صديقي العزيز ان شاء الله يوم الك تحصل مثل ما حصلت واحسن باذن الله..حبيبي الغالي	2	-	3%
13.	self-related comment+ stickers	لقد حصلت على هذا العمل وانت بجانبي التهنة لك يا صديقتي ♥	-	2	3%
Total	60		31	29	100%
			52%	48%	

Table 3 shows that 13 strategies used to express the congratulation responses for "Getting a Job" by the sample under investigation. Invocation strategy by itself is the preferred strategy in this situation with the 20% percentage out of all, and it is joined with other strategies as well. Wish and thanking strategies have the 13% percentage and are included with other strategies. Self-related comment as a sub responses strategy has been

used in this situation more frequently than others to reflect the responders' feelings, opinion and experience. Males use 52% percentage of the strategies used, and females use 48% out of them. Both groups use Self-related comment and using metaphor sub-strategies while sticker sub-strategy is used by females only.

Table 4: Main & Sub-Congratulation Responses Strategies for Getting a New Possession: House

No.	Strategies 18	Examples	Males Responses	Females Responses	Total 60 100%
1.	Wish	ان شاء الله الكي احسن واحسن	3	7	17%
2.	Invocation	الله يبارك بيك وبعمرك	4	4	13%
3.	invocation+ wish	ربي يحفظك يوم لك ان شاء الله	2	6	13%
4.	self-related comment/offer	سوف انتظر منك زياره في اقرب وقت	2	2	7%
5.	Thanking	شكرا على التهنة وعلى قدومكم الجميل	3	1	7%
6.	thanking+ wish	اشكرك على التهنة وان شاء الله يوم ان تشتري بيت يلم شمل عائلتك ويسترهم يارب	2	2	7%
7.	expressing joy+ invocation	افرححتي تهنتتك لي بهذا الامر ادعو الله ان يمدك بالعافية	1	1	3%
8.	invocation+ thanking+ invocation	ربي يسلمك اشكرك ورزقك الله ما تود منه	1	1	3%
9.	thanking+ self related comment/ offer	شكرا جزيل .. يمكنكي الحضور وزيارتي في اي وقت تشاء	1	1	3%
10.	thanking+ invocation	شكرا على تهنتتك لي دومت دوماً بخير وصحة وسلامة وسعادة دائمة	1	1	3%
11.	wish+using metaphor	ان شاء الله يوم يكون لكي بيت مثل بيتي واحسن لأنكي اخت عزيزة تستاهلين كل خير	1	1	3%
12.	thanking+ wish	تسلم/ين ربي يرزقكم ع قد نيتكم	1	1	3%
13.	invocation+ using metaphor	الله يباركلك اخوية العزيز	2	-	3%
14.	thanking+ wish/ offer	انا ممتنة لكي واتمنى ان تزوريني في اقرب وقت	-	2	3%
15.	Self related comment/expressing joy	اي ولج اخيرا خلصت من عيالي	-	2	3%
16.	Usingmetaphor+ invocation+self related comment/joking+sticke rs	حبيبي انت ضلعي ربي يحفظك بس مو تغلس ع هدية ترى ماكو غدوية 😊	2	-	3%
17.	Self-related comment/expressing joy+thanking+ using metaphor+ invocation	اي والله بعد تعب سنين حصلت ع هل بيت الي كنت احلم بينو وابنينو، شكرا صديقي الغالي الله يبارك بعمرك.	1	-	2%
18.	thanking+self related comment/expressing joy+invocation+ offer+ greeting	من كل قلبي اشكركي على كلمات وحروف تصدر منها عطور الود اللامتناهي، الله لا يحرمني الله منك فيلها شرفتنني بزيارتكي، تحية من القلب لك	-	1	2%
Total		60	27 45%	33 55%	100%

As shown in table 4, there are 18 strategies involved in the table of "Getting a New Possession: House". Wish strategy is used as the highest main strategy in this situation

with the percentage 17% by itself and is linked with other strategies as well. Invocation strategy takes the second highest percentage 13%, while thanking strategy is the third main strategy used here with the 7% percentage by itself and is included with other strategies as well. Males have used 27% of the strategies, while females have used 33% of them. To reflect emotions and feelings, self-related comment, using metaphor, and expressing joy sub-strategies have been used by both groups while sticker sub-strategy has been used by males only.

Table 5: Main & Sub-Congratulation Responses Strategies for Marriage

No.	Strategies 15	Examples	Males Responses	Females Responses	Total 60 100%
1.	invocation+ wish	الله يبارك بعمرك ويوم لك ان شاء الله تنسعد وتنهنى	6	5	18%
2.	Wish	يوم لك وزواج الدهر والسعادة	4	5	15%
3.	Invocation	الله يبارك ببيك وبأهلك	4	4	13%
4.	thanking+ wish	شكرا جزيلا عقبالك	3	4	12%
5.	thanking+ invocation+ wish	شكرا الله يبارك ببيكي يوم الكم	2	4	10%
6.	wish+ using metaphor	يوم الكي حبيبتي وانشوفك احلى عروسة	1	3	7%
7.	invocation+ using metaphor	بعث الله لك من تكن سر سعادتك وسند حياتك	2	1	5%
8.	thanking+ expressing joy	اشكرك جزيل الشكر والتقدير والاحترام لشخصك الراقي والمميز لي تهنتنتك لي وزادني هذا بهجة وسرور	2	1	5%
9.	invocation+using metaphor+wish	الله يباركلك اخي العالي ويوم نفرح بزواجك ان شاء الله	2	-	3%
10.	Thanking+self related comment/ opinion+ offer	شكرا لك الزواج استقرار يا صديقي اسرع وتزوج لاتقلق بشأن التكاليف	2	-	3%
11.	self-related comment/ expressing joy+ stickers	يا صديقتي تهنتنتكي لزواجي اجمل شيء حدث لي ♥	-	1	2%
12.	thanking+self related comment/joy causes	تشكراتي لك لمساندتك لي ومشاركتي فرحتي	1	-	2%
13.	thanking+ invocation	شكرا لك عزيزي وادعو الله ان اراك متزوجا قريبا	1	-	2%
14.	invocation+ wish+ using metaphor+ stickers	الله يباركلكي يوم الكي وافرح ببيكي حبيب 😊😊	-	1	2%
15.	Thanking+ using metaphor+ Thanking Allah+ self related comment/ opinion+ wish	شكرا من القلب يا طيب اشكرك حمدا لله هذه مرحلة الانسان لازم يمر بيها يوم الك يارب.	1	-	2%
Total		60	31 52%	29 48%	100%

Based on table 5, it is clear that 15 strategies used for the situation of marriage. Invocation and wish strategies took the highest percentage, 18% and are used more frequently than other strategies. Wish as a main strategy takes 15% percentage by itself in addition to being used with other strategies. This shows that wish strategy is the most preferred in the situation of " marriage". Invocation takes 13% by itself as a second main strategy being used here. Thanking as the third strategy has been used along with other

strategies like: invocation, wish, self-related comment, thanking Allah and using metaphor. All the strategies have been used by both groups with no significant difference in this situation with the percentages: 52% for males and 48% for females.

Table 6: Main & Sub-Congratulation Responses Strategies for Having a Newly- Born Baby

No.	Strategies 14	Examples	Males Responses	Females Responses	Total 60 100%
1.	Invocation	الله يبارك ببك ويرزقك الذرية الصالحة ايضا	8	7	25%
2.	Wish	يوم الك ويتربى بعزك	4	4	13%
3.	invocation+ wish	ربي يحفظك ان شاء الله عقبال عندك	4	3	12%
4.	thanking+ invocation	جزيل الشكر الرب يحفظك	3	3	10%
5.	thanking+ wish	شكرا جزيلا الله يحفظك احبابكي	1	3	7%
6.	Self-related comment+ invocation	هذا من لطفك ادعو لك بان يكون ولداً صالحاً	2	2	7%
7.	Thanking	شكرا لك	3	-	5%
8.	invocation+ using metaphor+ wish	الله يباركك اخوية العزيز ويوم نفرح بولادة ابنك ان شاء الله	1	2	5%
9.	thanking+ using metaphor+ invocation	اشكرك ياوردة يا غالي ربنا يجعله من الصالحين ويرزقك مثله	1	1	3%
10.	thanking+ using metaphor	اشكرك حضورك وتهننتك لي اخي العزيز	1	1	3%
11.	invocation+ using metaphor	الله يبارك ببعج حبي	-	2	3%
12.	thanking+invocation+ wish+stickers+ self related comment/joking	تسلميين الله يباركلكي يوم الاغشع / وحي ما وج □ الببي مالكي ☺ اجيب بببي بس اتس اوك	-	2	3%
13.	Self related comment+ thanking+ stickers	انظر اليك وانت بفرقي تهنتني لطفلي الجديد اشكرك من قلبي ♥	1	-	2%
14.	thanking+ thanking Allah+ self related comment/joking	اشكرك الحمد لله على ما اعطى سيتزوج ابنتك من الان اخبرك بهذا	1	-	2%
Total	60		30	30	100%
			50%	50%	

A close look at table 6 shows that 16 strategies are being used in the situation of "Having a Newly-Born Baby". Invocation strategy by itself is the preferred one and has been used with the highest percentage, 25% out of all the strategies along with being joined with other strategies. Wish strategy is the second preferred main strategy that is being used in this situation, with 13% percentage out of all. Thanking strategy has been used along with other strategies. Self-related comment and using metaphor are the more preferred sub-strategies used in this situation. Thanking Allah sub-strategy has been used by both groups to reflect the religious factor in the responses and sticker sub-strategy has been used by females only to show their feelings with no significant difference between both males and females as both have used 50% percentages of the whole strategies shown in the table.

Table 7: Main & Sub-Congratulation Responses Strategies for Birthday

No.	Strategies 17	Examples	Males Responses	Females Responses	Total 60 100%
1.	Wish	كل عام وانت معي ان شاء الله	6	7	22%
2.	wish+using metaphor	وانتي بالف خير قلبي	3	4	12%
3.	Thanking+wish	شكرا لانك معي وكل عام وانت بخير	4	2	10%
4.	Wish+ stickers	وانتي بالف خير 🍀❤️	2	4	10%
5.	thanking+using metaphor+ wish	اشكرك على التهنة يا ضوا العين الله يمد بعمر ك ان شاء الله	2	1	5%
6.	invocation+wish +thanking	الله يبارك بعمر ك وكل سنة وانت طيب مشكور ع هل كلام حلو	2	1	5%
7.	thanking+self related comment	اشكرك من الاعماق لانك لم تنسى افضل يوم في حياتي	1	1	3%
8.	invocation+ wish	ربي يبارك بك و كل عام وانت معي	1	1	3%
9.	thanking+ expressing joy	شكرا لك لقد اثلجت قلبي بتهننتي في يوم ميلادي	1	1	3%
10.	using metaphor+ thanking	صديقي وابن امي شكرا لك من القلب	1	1	3%
11.	Ignoring	لا احب اعياد الميلاد لاني لا اعملها	1	1	3%
12.	self related comment/ expressing joy	يا اجمل من عرفته انت اخي الذي اقضي كل عام معه	2	-	3%
13.	thanking+ self related comment/ joking	شكرا لك لقد اصبحنا اكبر بسرعه هل تذكر البارحة كنت اصغر بسنه	1	1	3%
14.	Expressing joy+ thanking+ using metaphor+ stickers	احمل لك من القلب كلاما رائعا اعجز عن وصفه انتي بقربي في اجمل ايام حياتي اشكرك يا وردة♥️	1	1	3%
15.	Thanking+ self related comment/expressing joy+invocation	شكرا ع تهنتكي ورسالتكي تعنيلي اكيف، ربي يبارك بعمر ك.	-	2	3%
16.	wish+thanking+ invocation	وانت بالف خير وصحة وسلامة واشكرك ع هدايا والكبة ربي يحفضك	1	1	3%
17.	Invocation	ربي يحفظك ويبارك بعمر ك	1	1	3%
Total	60	30	30	30	100%
			50%	50%	

Looking carefully at table 7 shows that the table comprises 17 strategies for "Birthday". "Wish" as a main strategy takes the highest percentage (22%) and is also used along with other strategies. Invocation and thanking as main strategies have been used with other strategies and not alone by themselves. All the main and sub-strategies used by both males and females are with no significant difference. Both strategies have 50% percentage for each group.

Table 8: Main & Sub-Congratulation Responses Strategies for Ramadan

No.	Strategies 8	Examples	Males Responses	Females Responses	Total 60 100%
1.	Wish	كل عام وانت بخير	7	5	20%
2.	Invocation	رمضان مبارك	6	6	20%
3.	wish+invocation	عساكم من عواده وفقك الله واينا لما يحبه ويرضاه	4	3	12%
4.	thanking Allah+ invocation+ wish	حمدالله يارب يعيدو علينا بالصحة والعافية جعلنا احنا وانت من عتقاء هل شهر	3	4	12%
5.	thanking+ using metaphor+ invocation+wish	اشكركي عيني ولك نفس الدعاء ويكون علينا وعليكم شهر الخير والبركه	2	5	12%
6.	wish+ using metaphor+expressing joy+ stickers	ينعاد علينا وعليكي قلبي بالصحة والسلامة ورؤيتك جمبي في هذا الشهر الفضيل شيء رائع ♥	2	5	12%
7.	invocation+ wish+ expressing joy+using metaphor	رمضان مبارك وكل عام وانت بالف خير تقبل الله منا ومنكم صالح الاعمال والطاعات ابتهج قلبي بالتهنئة وهي منك يا اخي	2	3	8%
8.	thanking+Thanking Allah+invocation	اشكرك الحمد لله الذي بلغنا رمضان اللهم اجعلنا من عتقائه	1	2	5%
Total	60		27	33	100%
			45%	55%	

Based on table 8, it is evident that eight strategies are being included as congratulation response strategies for "Ramadan". Wish, and main invocation strategies are more frequently used than others. Thanking as a main strategy has not been used by itself but is being joined with other strategies as shown in the table above. "Using metaphor" as a sub-strategy, is more frequently used than others. Both males and females use the same strategies with slight difference in percentages: 27% for males and 55% for females.

Table 9: Main & Sub-Congratulation Responses Strategies for Pilgrimage

No.	Strategies 14	Examples	Males Responses	Females Responses	Total 60 100%
1.	Wish	يوم لك ان شاء الله	4	4	13%
2.	Invocation	سيرت ايامك بزيارة بيته الكريم ولذة ماء زمزم	3	4	12%
3.	invocation+ using metaphor+ wish	ربي يبارك لك يا اخي الغالي وان شاء الله ربنا يجعل الحج من نصيبك	3	3	10%
4.	Thanking+ invocation	شكرا جزيلا رزقكم الله زيارة بيته	2	3	8%
5.	invocation + wish	الله يبارك ببيك او ان شاء الله يوم لك	2	3	8%
6.	Thanking+ self-related comment	شكراً لك على هذه التهنئة الجميلة لي وانا لن انساكم دعوت لكم بكل صلاتي.	3	2	8%
7.	invocation+wish+ thanking	بارك الله فيكي اتمنى لك ايضا ان تزور بيت الله لانه اجمل مكان واشكرك على	2	2	7%

		التهنئة			
8.	self-related comment/expressing joy	تمنيتوك معاي	1	3	7%
9.	Self-related comment/opinion	هذا من طيب قلبك لقد دعوت لك دائماً.	2	2	7%
10.	using metaphor+self related comment/ invocation+ expressing joy	صديقي واخي العزيز دعوت الله خالص الدعاء ان يكتب لك حج البيت ف والله انها اجمل ماريت	1	2	5%
11.	thanking+ Thanking Allah+ invocation+ expressing joy+ using metaphor	اشكرك الحمد لله الذي وفقني لزيارة بيته ادعو ان يوفقك ايضاً للحج شعور مختلف ياخي العزيز	2	1	5%
12.	using metaphor+ thanking+ wish+ thanking Allah/expressing joy	أخي وصديقي أولاً اشكرك ع تهنيتي وثانياً تمنيت أن نكون معاً في بيت الله واشكر الله أنك معي دائماً	2	1	5%
13.	Self-related comment/invocation+ thanking+ stickers	لقد دعوت لك كثيراً وانتيت لتهننتي فشكراً لك لاستقبالي ♥	1	-	2%
14.	wish+ stickers	ان شاء الله العودة 🕌	2	-	3%
Total	60		30	30	100%
			50%	50%	

According to table 9, it is evident that the sample have used 14 strategies for "Pilgrimage". Wish, and the invocation main strategies are more frequently used by themselves, 13% percentage for "wish" and 12% percentage for "invocation", and they are also used with other strategies. Thanking strategy is used along with other strategies. "Self-related comment and using metaphor" are more frequently used than other sub-strategies. Thanking Allah sub-strategy has been used by both groups while sticker sub-strategy has been used by males only. The strategies used in this situation are of the same percentage by both groups, 50% percentage for each one.

Table 10: Main & Sub-Congratulation Responses Strategies for New year

No.	Strategies 9	Examples	Males Responses	Females Responses	Total 60 100%
1.	Wish	اتمنى لك سنة سعيدة مليئة بالحب والسعادة	9	6	25%
2.	invocation+wish	احاطك الله بنسيم الرحمة وعبير المغفرة وتمنياتك لك بعام سعيد	5	3	13%
3.	Thanking+invocation	شكراً لك جعلها الله سنة خير لي ولكم.	4	4	13%
4.	wish+ using metaphor	كل سنة وانتا صديقي واخي الغالي بالف خير وصحة وسلامة وسعادة دائمة ان شاءالله	3	4	12%
5.	Ignoring	لا اهني لراس السنة لانه ليش للمسلمين	4	2	10%
6.	Using metaphor+ thanking+wish+ self related comment	اخي العزيز شكراً على تهننتك لي وأتمنى ان تكون سنة الخير والسعادة لك ولقلبك دائماً دمت لي اخاً	3	2	8%
7.	Invocation+ using	وانت بالف خير اخوية الغالي اتمنالك سنة	2	2	7%

	metaphor+ wish+	سعيدة ومليانة فرح وسعادة ان شاء الله (٢٠٢٠)			
8.	self-related comment/expressing joy+thanking+stickers	اتذكر يوما ما ان شخصا ما كان معي في حفلة من حفلات رأس السنة كانت من اروع الحفلات لانه كان معي اشكره جدا ♥	1	3	7%
9.	thanking+self-related comment/expressing joy+invocation	اشكرك ها قد تجددت صداقتنا لعام اخر اللهم ادمها علينا	2	1	5%
Total	60		33	27	100%
			55%	45%	

Table 10 involves nine strategies being used for the "New year" situation. Wish as a main strategy used here takes the highest percentage 25% by itself out of all the strategies involved and it is included as well with other strategies. Thanking and invocation strategies have not been used by themselves but along with other strategies. Ignoring strategy is found in this situation and has been used by both groups, with 10% percentage out of the whole sample. Such a sub-strategy reflects the religious factor of some Muslims who refuse to celebrate on this occasion. Both groups have used all the strategies involved in this situation with no significant difference between them, 55% percentage for males and 45% percentage for females.

Based on the positive politeness strategies stated by Brown and Levinson (1987), the researcher has analyzed the data and identified the following positive politeness strategies which have been utilized more frequently than others by the sample when responding to the ten situations given in the DCT; this can be shown in table 11 below:

Table 11: The Positive Politeness Strategies of the Congratulation Responses by the Responders for the Situations Given

Strategies Responders	Give gifts to hearer	Exaggerate	Use in- group identity markers	Intensify interest to hearer	Offer	Seek Agreemen t	Include both S and H activity	Joking	Assert Reciprocity
Males 30	21	18	16	16	7	5	4	٤	3
	70%	60%	53%	53%	23%	17%	13%	1٣%	10%
Females 30	25	20	20	18	6	3	4	٣	2
	83%	67%	67%	60%	20%	10%	13%	10%	7%
Total 60	46	38	36	34	13	8	8	7	5
100%	76.5%	63.5%	60%	56.5%	21.5%	13.5%	13%	11.5%	8.5%

As shown in the table above, the responders have used nine from the positive politeness strategies referred to by Brown and Levinson (1987). Give gifts to hearer is the more frequently used strategies among all other strategies; it takes 76%. Both males and females have included such a strategy in their responses, for example, "الله يبارك بيكي واشوفكي". Such as wish, understanding and cooperation means the speaker cares about the hearer's positive face. Exaggerate is the second preferred positive politeness strategy identified in this study as it has been used with 63.5% percentage. By this strategy, the speaker shows more gratitude for the hearer and stressing on his/her role for the speaker's

achievement, for example: "لو لم تكن صديقي الاخ لما حققت ذلك فالفضل بعد الله لمن ساندني ووقف معي". The third positive politeness strategy preferred in the current study is to use in-group identity markers with 60% percentage. The participants have utilized this strategy to intensify and express their feelings toward the hearer, for example, the use of the word: "بارك الله فيك صديقي العزيز ان شاء الله يوم" which means "dear". Intensify interest to the hearer is the fourth positive politeness strategy identified in this study with 56.5% percentage. The responders here have tried to assert what the congratulator says and to share his/her interest with congratulator as a form of responder's contribution into the conversation, for example: "انتهت ايام التعب وجاء يوم الفرحة الذي نقول لي ولك". Offer is another strategy used and is shown in table 11 with 21.5% percentage. As a positive strategy, the responder has utilized such a strategy to satisfy the congratulator's positive-face wants, for example:

"يمكنك الحضور وزيارتي في اي وقت تشاء" which means you can come and visit me at any time you want. Seek Agreement strategy takes 13.5% percentage. The responders here utilize repetition to stress agreement with what the congratulator says, for example by using the word "نعم" which means yes and then repeat what he/she has heard: "نعم لقد كان تخرجنا من أجمل". The responders have also used "include both S and H activity" with 13% percentage to save the congratulator's positive face, this can be done by using expressions of involving the congratulator and responder in the activity, the word "سوى" in the following example which means "both of us": "تسلمين وان شاء الله تحصيلين تقديرات عاليه وتخرجين سوى". Joking has been found with 11.5% percentage to stress the fact that there must be some mutual background knowledge and values the congratulator and responder share, for example: "حبيبي انت ضلعي ربي يحفضك بس مو". Assert Reciprocity with 8.5% percentage is the last positive politeness strategy identified in this study to ask the congratulator to get the same value, for example, the expression "شدد حيلك وحصل نفس الشيء واحسن" which means go on and gain what I have gained and more.

4. Conclusions

In the present study, the researcher focuses on the congratulation responses in Iraqi Arabic to be the topic under investigation. 60 students: 30 males and 30 females at the 3rd stage/ Department of English/ College of Basic Education/ University of Mosul for the academic year (2019-2020) were asked to imagine the ten happy situations given in the DCT where their friends congratulated them, and they were asked to write their response for each situation.

It has been shown that there are different responses strategies used in Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses. Wish strategy is the first main strategy that has been more frequently used than other strategies. Invocation is the second main strategy that has been more frequently used than other strategies, while thanking is the third main strategy used. All the three strategies have been used with other strategies in the same congratulation response to show the responder gratitude, feelings and interest. Besides, it has been shown that there are sub-strategies used by the responders, namely: self-related comment, using metaphor, thanking Allah, expressing joy, joking and stickers. The variety of the congratulation responses strategies are due to the fact that congratulation speech act is an expressive speech act that is used to show the inner feeling, emotion, state and happiness of the two interlocutors for the situation they shared. So, the first hypothesis "there are different responses strategies used in the Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses" has been verified.

Moreover, it has been noticed that there are types of positive politeness strategies more frequently used than others in Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses. The three more frequent positive politeness strategies used are: give gifts to hearer, exaggerate and use in-group identity markers. The other used strategies are: "intensify interest to hearer, offer, seek agreement, include both S and H activity, joking and assert Reciprocity". A variety of positive politeness strategies seem to be used for mitigating the risks to the face that can, in effect, be used to sustain social harmony between friends and improve unity between interlocutors. In other words, the use of positive politeness strategies by the responders can be seen as an effort to preserve the congratulator's positive facial needs. This is in line with Brown and Levinson (1987), who said that the congratulatory speech is aimed at the positive face of the recipient and can, therefore, be considered as a positive politeness strategy. Hence, the second hypothesis has been verified that in the Iraqi Arabic congratulation responses, there are positive politeness strategies more frequently used than others. Finally, for the last hypothesis and regarding the effect of gender on congratulation responses, it has been concluded that males and females have different numbers of strategies. The two groups, males and females, employ rather similar congratulation response strategies but with varying frequencies and realizations.

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Appendix: Discourse Completion Test (DCT)

Instruction: please, read the following ten situations, imagine them and, in Arabic, write down in the blank your response naturally as far as possible and as you feel. Note, the data will be used for research purposes only.

Gender:

Situation1: Educational Achievements: Passing the Final Exams

After tiredness and difficulty, you passed the final exams with high grades and your close friend congratulated you.

Write your congratulation response.....

Situation2: Graduation

After four academic years, you graduated from university, and your best friend congratulated you.

Write your congratulation response.....

Situation 3: Getting a Job

After a dream that lasted for years, you got a job or a job, and your close friend congratulated you. Write your congratulation

response.....

Situation 4: Getting a New Possession: House

After your continuous work and effort, you bought a new house, and your close friend congratulated you.

Write your congratulation response.....

Situation5: Marriage

The day you were dreaming has come, and your friend congratulates you.

Write your congratulation response.....

Situation 6: Having a Newly- Born Baby

The birth of your baby comes to be true, and your friend is congratulating you. Write your congratulation response.....

Situation 7: Birthday

On your birthday and your best friend congratulates you.

Write your congratulation response.....

Situation 8: Ramadan

The blessed month of Ramadan has come, and your friend congratulates you.

Write your congratulation response.....

Situation 9: Pilgrimage

You did the Hajj and went back, and your close friend congratulated you. Write your congratulation response.....

Situation 10: New year

On the day of New year, your friend congratulating you.

Write your congratulation response.....