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## A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF COMPLIMENT RESPONSES IN SYRIAN ARABIC

**Kulcsszavak:** *politeness; speech acts; power relations; topic; solidarity*

The aim of this study is to investigate how power relations might affect compliment responses among speakers of Syrian Arabic. The current study collected a sample of 768 compliment responses using a discourse completion task (DCT) based on a modified version of a DCT by Lorenzo-Dus (2001) and was distributed online among 64 speakers of Syrian Arabic. The responses were categorized by applying Nelson et al. (1996) classification scheme and analyzed using Brown and Levinson's (1987) Model of Politeness, Leech's (1983) Politeness Principle, and Pomerantz's (1978) Principles as frameworks to discuss the results. The findings of this study showed that the most common strategy is acceptance, this strategy was mostly popular when the compliment was offered by someone in a higher power position. Mitigations, on the other hand, were used the most when the complimenter was in a lower power position, while rejections were mainly common with equals. The study also highlights some culturally specific strategies, for example, offering the complimented object to the complimenter, tendencies to use humorous praise upgrades, and the evil eye effect when it comes to compliments.