The Linguistic Expressions of Disagreement in Jordanian Arabic: A Pragmatic Study

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Abstract

Disagreement is one of the prominent communicative acts which repeatedly takes place in our conversation. The communicative act of disagreement is one of the fairly neglected areas of research in the Arabic context. Among the few studies conducted on the expressions of disagreement, to the best of the present researcher's knowledge, there has been no serious attempt to investigate the expressions of disagreement and its strategies specifically in the culture of Jordan. Therefore, the present study aims to explore how Jordanians express disagreement in Jordanian Arabic. Data were elicited from 80 male and female speakers of Jordanian Arabic at the Hashemite University using Discourse Completion Task. Descriptive and statistical l analyses were applied to the data to reveal the participants' preference of which disagreement strategies (i.e. strategy's number and type) to use according to which situation and in light of which variables (i.e. the social familiarity, social status, the degree of harm being caused or the degree to which the addressee was being made uncomfortable by the act). The results revealed that Jordanians employ various strategies when disagreeing with others' prior say or opinion (i.e. *"mitigated disagreement expression(s)"*only (e.g. حبيبيتي, اللي بدك اياه), (my darling, as you want) or *"strong disagreement expression(s)"*only (e.g. انا رافض هالفكرة تماما), *(I totally reject the idea)* which were less frequent, they employed mostly *"strong disagreement expression(s) followed by mitigated disagreement expression(s)* (e.g. لا انا مش معك بهيك راي بس رأيك احترمه), *mitigated disagreement expression(s) followed by strong disagreement expression(s)* (e.g. بس, زي مابدك) and *mitigated disagreement expression(s) prior to strong disagreement* (المحاضره مهمه كثير expression(s) followed by mitigated disagreement expression(s)* (e.g. لكني , فكره كويسه سيدي) اخالفك الرأي لانه التكاليف العالية ستقلل من مربح الشركة وعلى كل حال اللي تشوفه), (a good idea Mr., but I disagree with you because the high costs will reduce the company's profitability).Jordanians exhibit a preference for using mitigated expressions of disagreement as well as a concern to evade the sense of confrontation. The most frequently used mitigated disagreement strategies are *giving explanation*(الناس هساصارت تتطلع على المظاهرأكثرمن كل شي " , "People now look at appearance more than anything else"), *suggestion* (" لازم ندرس الموضوع ماديا قبل كلشي", we should study the topic financially before anything else", *use of address terms* "بابا , ", father"), *use of hedges* (أنامتأكد ", "I am sure"), *request for clarification* (إقنعني أنت بإجابتك , "convince me with you answer"), *positive remarks* (الشخص رائع جدا" , "the person is very wonderful"), followed by the use of *token/partial agreement*(بس صحيح كلامك ", your speech is correct but"), *exclamation* (معقول هيك!! , impossible!!!"), and *swearing* (" عليك بالله , swear to God). The three least used mitigated strategies were *recognition of imposition* (ثقلتهاعليك , " I impose on you"), *humor* (واقطع برشلونه , " Barcelona only") and *indirect*

refusal(مش مقتنع بالحل, I am not convinced of your solution").The most frequently used aggravated disagreement strategies are *blunt statement of opposite*(أنامقتنع بحلي", " I am convinced of my solution"), *bare negative* form ("لا"", "No"), *sarcasm and rhetorical questions* ("احناشغل إكل", "we are only interested in eating"), followed by the *use of performative* (بالرأي بخالفك, I disagree with you"). The two least used strategies are the use of *complaints* ("هذاظلم", "this is not fair") and *insult and negative judgment* (" دقه قديمة, a very old fashion"). The study has contributed to knowledge theoretically and practically.

Keywords: Disagreement, speech act, politeness, Jordanian Arabic, intra-cultural communication.

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