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Adab Al-Rafidayn Journal

**A refereed journal concerned with the publishing of scientific researches
in the field of arts and humanities both in Arabic and English**

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Editor-in-chief

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A Pragmatic Study of the Speech Act of Criticizing in Mosuli Arabic with Reference to English

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Abstract

Although criticizing can sometimes be a face-threatening act, it is in fact a very important linguistic phenomenon in people's daily communication. The speech act of criticizing usually involves a constructive attitude that is performed by the speaker with the intention to improve the addressee's works, sayings, actions, behaviours, etc. This study aims at describing the speech act of criticizing in Mosuli Arabic, in addition to investigating the strategies of the speech act of criticizing employed by speakers of Mosuli Arabic of different ages in everyday situations. The data of this study consists of 75 criticism utterances by males and 75 by females. The corpus was transcribed, analysed and categorized basing on the adapted version of Nguyen's (2005, 2013) model of criticism strategies. The context of the utterances was taken into consideration because it has a considerable influence on the criticism strategies.

The study verifies the research hypothesis that Mosuli Arabic speakers tend to use indirect strategies more than direct ones when expressing criticism. It is found that "asking/presupposing" strategy is the most used among other strategies. The study reveals a new criticism strategy

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called “severe criticism”. This strategy has not been identified by Nguyen, yet it is relevant to criticism.

The present study additionally verifies the hypothesis that the speech act of criticizing in Mosuli Arabic is being realized by certain semantic and syntactic forms. Finally, the study reveals that speakers of Mosuli Arabic use some mitigating devices to soften their criticism. It shows that “subjectivizers” and “sweeteners” are the most used modifiers by the interactants. Furthermore, politeness is achieved through the use of the politeness strategies: bald-on-record strategy, negative politeness strategy and off-record strategy.

Keywords: criticizing, Mosuli Arabic, speech act, strategies.

1. Introduction

Pragmatics is considered the study of “choices that language users make, the constraints they encounter in using language in social interaction, and the effects their use of language has on the other participants in an act of communication” (Crystal, 2008:379). Speech act theory plays a significant role in the study of pragmatics. Speech acts refer to the use of language in order to perform an action (Austin: 1962). It is worth noting that speakers use language to perform different speech acts/language functions, such as promising, threatening, apologizing, criticizing, etc. One of these functions that is used in Mosuli Arabic is criticizing. Criticizing is one form of expressive speech acts which is often used to utter a negative evaluation of actions, choices, sayings, and works produced by the hearer (Nguyen, 2008). Criticizing is a very important speech act in people’s daily life. More and more people view criticism as a panel from where they can improve their performance or how to do things better.

The present study investigates the speech act of criticizing in Mosuli Arabic and explores the criticism strategies that are used by Mosuli Arabic speakers to perform the speech act of criticizing in different situations. Though criticism has a negative effect on the person criticized, it is considered a beneficial linguistic phenomenon. That is why Brown & Levinson (1987) categorizes speech act of criticizing as a Face Threatening Act (FTA) that needs to be mitigated.

2. Statement of the Problem

Previous researches on criticism have proved that the speech act of criticizing is used in different languages and dialects, yet it hasn't been investigated in Mosuli Arabic. So, this study aims at exploring the criticizing strategies that are used in Mosuli Arabic in addition to investigating the linguistic forms of the speech act of criticizing.

3. Aims

The study aims at:

1. Investigating the strategies of speech act of criticizing in Mosuli Arabic in everyday situations.
2. Finding out the linguistic forms or patterns used in Mosuli Arabic when criticizing.

4. Research Questions

The study tries to find answers to the following questions:

1. What are the strategies used in Mosuli Arabic to perform the speech act of criticizing?
2. What are the semantic and syntactic devices used and preferred by Mosuli Arabic speakers when criticizing?
3. How is politeness achieved in Mosuli Arabic when criticizing?

5. Hypotheses

1. Mosuli Arabic speakers tend to use indirect strategies rather than direct ones to perform the speech act of criticizing.
2. The speech act of criticizing in Mosuli Arabic is manifested through certain semantic and syntactic devices.
3. There are certain devices used in Mosuli Arabic to soften and mitigate the negative impact of criticism.

6. Defining "Criticism"

Criticism is an utterance which is associated with the addressee's bad habit or condition. Tracy, Van Dusen and Robinson (1987, p. 56) define criticism as the act of "finding fault" which involves giving "a negative evaluation of a person or an act for which he or she is deemed responsible". Criticism could be used to "give negative evaluation of

the hearer's (H) actions, choice, words and products for which he or she may be held responsible" (Nguyen, 2005:7). According to Leech (1983), criticism is considered as an utterance functioning to express a psychological act toward negative condition of the hearer. Tsui (1994) defines criticism as a kind of assessment which gives negative judgment or evaluation of certain people, events or objects toward the addressee. Furthermore, criticism can help explain a problem, reduce irritation, and as Wajnryb (1993) indicates, criticism provides a "rich, timely potentially fruitful opportunity for learning". Nguyen (2005) agrees with Wierzbicka (1987) in that the purpose of criticism is to express disapproval with the hearer's action for the betterment or benefit of the hearer or the public. According to Wierzbicka (1987), "Criticism is performed in the hope of influencing H's future actions for H's betterment as viewed by the speaker (S) or to communicate S's dissatisfaction with or dislike regarding what H has done but without the implicature that what H has done brings undesirable consequences to S." For her, criticism is regarded as expressive for it expresses dissatisfaction or dislike, or directive by affecting the addressee's action or saying for a future enhancement.

7. The Strategies of Criticizing

Regarding the present study, "criticism realization strategies are defined as the pragmlinguistic conventions of usage by which criticisms are realized respectively" Nguyen (2005). As illustrated in figure 1 below, the conventions of usage that are used by Clark (1979) consist of two other types of pragmlinguistic conventions: conventions of means and conventions of forms. The conventions of means refer to the semantic formulas (or semantic devices) by which a speech act is performed. The conventions of forms on the other hand, involve the exact wordings that are used. For example, the speech act of criticizing can be realized by different semantic formulas, such as a direct statement of the problem, a request for change or repair. A request for change in turn can be realized by means of different wordings like "Stop smoking." or "Would you stop smoking?", and so on. The semantic formulas of criticism are

considered semantic structures that have obtained an illocutionary act representing the speech act of criticizing (Clark, 1979).

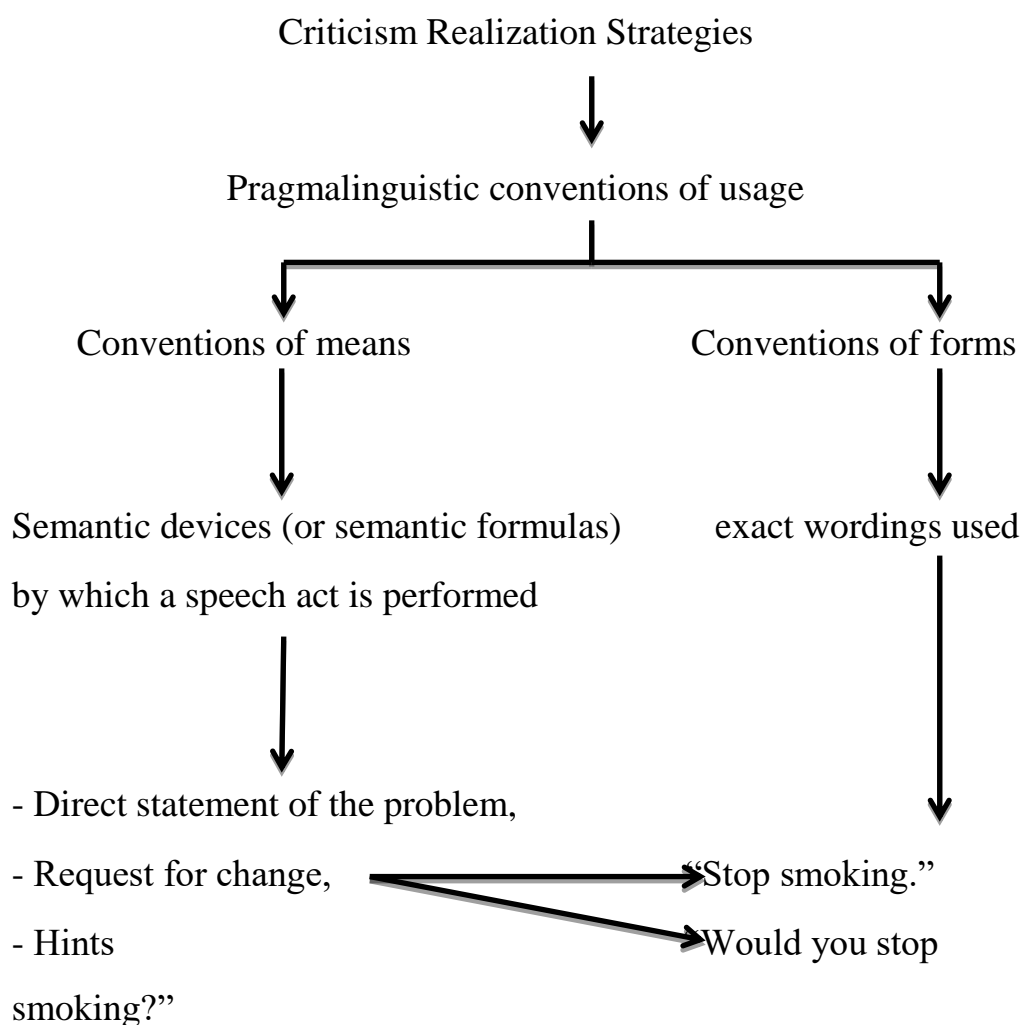


Figure 1: Criticism realization strategies

The speech act of criticizing in Mosuli Arabic can be achieved by various strategies. The analysis of this study is based on the adapted version of Nguyen's (2005, 2013) model of the speech act of criticizing. This model includes two main criticism strategies: direct and indirect strategies. Due to the characteristics of the data, a combined strategy is also introduced when there are two or more strategies used together.

Since the realization of criticism could be performed by different strategies, expressing criticism may include other speech acts. Thus language competence of the participants is needed in order to enable them to communicate appropriately. The ability of using language according to certain communicative context is called pragmatic competence.

7.1 Direct Strategies

Direct strategies are these criticizing strategies which are used directly and explicitly to identify the problem with the hearer's choice, action, saying, work, etc. (Nguyen, 2005). The indirect strategies comprise the following:

a. Negative evaluation

) Usually expressed via evaluative adjectives with negative meaning or evaluative adjective with positive meaning plus negation)

b. Disapproval (the speaker's attitude towards the hearer's problem)

c. Expression of disagreement (usually realized by means of negation word "No" or "I don't agree" or "I disagree" or via arguments against hearer)

d. Identification of problem (stating errors or problems found with Hearer's choice, etc) .

e. Statement of difficulty (usually expressed by means of such structures as "I find it difficult to understand . . .", "It's difficult to understand")

f. Consequences (warning about negative consequences or negative effects of Hearer's choice, etc).

g. Severe criticism (usually expressed by the use vulgar language or saying bad things to the hearer.

7.2 Indirect Strategies

Indirect strategies refer to the criticizing strategies that are realized by implying the problems with Hearer's choice, saying, action, work, products, etc. Nguyen (2005, 2013). These strategies include the following:

- a. Correction (involving the utterances which have the purpose of fixing errors by asserting specific alternatives to H's choice, etc.)
- b. Indicating standard (Usually stated as a collective obligation rather than an obligation for hearer personally or as a rule, a proverb or a saying which speaker thinks is commonly agreed upon and applied to all)
- c. Preaching (Usually stated as guidelines to hearer, with an implicature that hearer is incapable of making correct choices otherwise)
- d. Demand for change (Usually expressed via such structures as "you have to," "you must," "you are required to," "you need," or "it is necessary")
- e. Request for change (Usually expressed via such structures as "will you....?," "can you...?," "would you....?" Or imperatives (with or without politeness markers), or want statement)
- f. Advice about change (Usually expressed via the performative "I advise you...," or structures with "should" with or without modality)
- g. Suggestion for change (Usually expressed via the performative "I suggest that..." or such structures as "you can," "you could," "it would be better if," or "why don't you," etc).
- h. Expression of uncertainty (Utterances expressing speaker's uncertainty to raise hearer's awareness of the inappropriateness of hearer's choice, etc).
- i. Asking/presupposing (Rhetorical questions to raise hearer's awareness of the inappropriateness of hearer's choice, etc).
- j. Hints/sarcasm (usually realized by saying the opposite of what the speaker means, or by conveying implied meaning)

7.3 Combined Strategies

Combined strategy occurs when the data consist of two or more criticism strategies. The combined strategy includes two subcategories: inter-combination and intra-combination strategies.

- a. Inter-combination

This strategy refers to the combination of two or more strategies found in different category of strategy, direct strategy on one hand and indirect strategy on the other.

b. Intra-combination

It refers to the combination of two or more strategies found in the same category of strategy, direct or indirect strategy.

.8Data Collection

The corpus of this research is a collection of authentic Mosuli utterances taken from everyday situations and on different topics. The data includes 150 spontaneous and purposeful utterances expressing speech act of criticizing which are performed by Mosuli Arabic speakers of different ages. Besides, the data were gender-balanced consisting of 75 males and 75 females. The data of this study were the utterances spoken by family members, relatives, colleagues, friends as well as strangers. The collected data were transcribed, translated and analysed according to the model adopted for this study. This study was conducted in different settings such as home, college, supermarket, street, school and government departments. All the utterances were collected together and used as corpus for the study.

.9Procedure and Data Analysis

After the data were collected, they were transcribed by using transliteration. And then, an equivalent English translation is done for all utterances. The following stage involved quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data. According to the research approaches proposed by Creswell (2014), this research used mixed methods of descriptive qualitative and quantitative analysis. The descriptive qualitative method was employed since the research focuses on describing a linguistic phenomenon in its context through interpreting the data. Bogdan and Taylor (1975:4) state that “Qualitative methodologies refer to research procedures which produce descriptive data: people’s own written or spoken words and observable behaviours.” And hence the research used numbers, percentages and statistics as results, a quantitative approach was also needed in order to support this study.

The data were analysed and categorized according to the adapted version of Nguyen’s (2005, 2013) coding scheme of the speech act of

criticizing, in which criticisms are analysed according to their realization strategies and mitigating devices. In this framework, three main categories of criticism strategies are used; direct strategy, indirect strategy and combined strategy. Each strategy included a number of subcategories such as negative evaluation, disapproval, correction, request for change, etc. Concerning the mitigating devices, two categories were employed by the interactants to soften their criticism. These mitigating devices included external modifiers (e.g., steers and sweeteners) and internal modifiers (e.g., hedges and understaters). Besides, the data were analysed according to their syntactic features: type of sentence (declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamatory, irregular and combined sentences).

1. اشد انت أناني

Data 1: ʔaʃqad ʔinta ʔanāni

Eq. Tr.: How selfish you are!

Criticism strategy: Direct strategy \ Negative evaluation

The speaker in this situation criticizes the hearer by using the negative adjective “ʔanāni” “selfish” to negatively evaluate the hearer’s action or behaviour.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Exclamatory sentence

2. برأبي هذا قرارك أبد ما صحيح

Data 2: braʔyi hāḏa qarārak ʔabad mā ṣaḥīḥ

Eq. Tr.: In my opinion, you are really making the wrong decision.

Criticism strategy: Direct strategy \ Negative evaluation

In this utterance, the speaker expresses his\her criticism to the hearer through the use of evaluative adjective with positive meaning plus negation “mā ṣaḥīḥ” “wrong” to evaluate the hearer’s decision negatively.

Mitigating device: In this situation, the speaker uses the subjectivizer “braʔyi” “in my opinion” as a mitigating device to reduce the negative effect of the criticism.

Syntactic realization: Declarative sentence

3. ما عجبني كلامك مع أمك

Data 3: mǎ ʕajabni kalǎmki maʕa ʔimki

Eq. Tr.: I did not like what you said to your mother.

Criticism strategy: Direct strategy \ Disapproval

In this situation, the speaker criticizes the hearer by expressing his negative attitude towards the problem with hearer's behaviours or words. The speaker expresses his disapproval by using the sentence "mǎ ʕajabni kalǎmki" "I did not like your words", indicating that the hearer has done or said something which is wrong.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Declarative sentence

4. لا، الفلوس ما كل شي

Data 4: lǎ ʔiliflūs mǎ kil ʕi

Eq. Tr.: No, money is not everything.

Criticism strategy: Direct strategy \ Expression of disagreement

The speaker in this situation is criticizing the hearer by using the negation word "lǎ" "No" to express his/her disagreement with the hearer's saying or behaviour.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Declarative sentence

5. حلو شغلك بس المشكلة تتأخر

Data 5: ʕilu ʕiylak bassil muʕkila titʔaxxar

Eq. Tr.: Your work is nice, but you take too long to finish.

Criticism strategy: Direct strategy \ Identification of problem

The criticism is performed by identifying the problem that is found in the hearer's work. Here the speaker uses the sentence "bassil muʕkila titʔaxxar" "you take too long to finish" to identify the problem.

Mitigating device: The speaker starts his/her criticism using the sweetener "ʕilu ʕiylak" "Your work is nice" in order to soften the negative impact of the criticism on the hearer.

Syntactic realization: Declarative sentence

6. ما قدطبق استوعب هاي تصرفاتك

Data 6: mǎ qadaṭiṭ ʔastawʕib hōy taʕarrufātak

Eq. Tr.: I find it difficult to understand your actions.

Criticism strategy: Direct strategy \ Statement of difficulties

In this strategy, the speaker criticizes the hearer by using the sentence “mā qadaṭīq ʔastawṣīb” “I find it difficult to understand” to state that it is difficult for him\her to understand what the hearer has done or said.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Declarative sentence

7. اذا تظلين بهذا المستوى كوي غاح تعيددين السني

Data 7: ʔiðā tẓalīn bhāḏal mustawa kawwi ẓāḥ tṣīdīnil sani

Eq. Tr.: If you stay at this level, you will repeat the year.

Criticism strategy: Direct strategy \ Consequences

The speaker criticizes the hearer by warning her about the negative consequences or negative effects of her work. The speaker warns the hearer by using the words “kawwi ẓāḥ tṣīdīnil sani” “you will repeat the year” in order to make her work harder.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Declarative sentence

8. الله يطيح حظك على هالشغل

Data 8: ʔallah ẓṭayyih ḥazak ʕala halṣiyil

Eq. Tr.: May God ruin you for this.

Criticism strategy: Direct strategy \ Severe criticism

In this strategy, the speaker is criticizing the hearer severely by using the phrase “ʔallah ẓṭayyih ḥazak” “May God ruin you”.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Irregular sentence

9. بمكان ما قيعد غوح لقياك شغلة

Data 9: bmakān mā qīʕid ẓōḥ laqqīlak ʕayla

Eq. Tr.: Instead of doing nothing, go look for a job.

Criticism strategy: Indirect strategy \ Correction

In this case, the speaker expresses his\her criticism through giving alternative to the hearer’s behaviour or choice by using the word “bmakān” “instead of” with an intention to fix problems or errors.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Imperative sentence

10. خير الكلام ما قل ودل

Data 10: xayril kalām mǎ qalla waddal

Eq. Tr.: Good brevity makes sense.

Criticism strategy: Indirect strategy \ Indicating standard

The speaker in the utterance (10), criticizes the hearer by referring to the general saying or rule “xayril kalām mǎ qalla waddal” “Good brevity makes sense” that is commonly agreed upon.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Irregular sentence

11. لازم تنتبهين على صحتك مليح

Data 11: lāzim tintibhīn ʕala ʕihhitki malīh

Eq. Tr.: You must take good care of your health.

Criticism strategy: Indirect strategy \ Demand for change

In this situation, the speaker expresses his criticism to the hearer by demanding her to do something using the structure “lāzim” “you must”.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Declarative sentence

12. ممكن تقف بالسرا

Data 12: mumkin tiqaf bilsira

Eq. Tr.: Would you wait in line?

Criticism strategy: Indirect strategy \ Request for change

In this strategy, the speaker expresses his/her criticism to the hearer by asking him to do something or to change a negative action or behaviour.

In this situation, the speaker uses the interrogative structure “mumkin tiqaf bilsira” “Would you wait in line?” as a request for change.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Interrogative sentence

13. انت ليش ما توزنين كلامك؟

Data 13: ʔinti lēf mǎ tiwzinīn kalāmki

Eq. Tr.: Why don't you watch your words?

Criticism strategy: Indirect strategy \ Suggestion for change

In this situation, the speaker expresses his/her criticism by using the structure “ʔinti lēf mǎ” “Why don't you” to suggest that the hearer change her words and speak nicely.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Interrogative sentence

14. انت تحب أحد يعاملك بهالطريقة؟

Data 14: ʔinta thib ʔaħħad ʔiʕāmilak bhaṭarīqa

Eq. Tr.: Would you like someone treat you like that?

Criticism strategy: Indirect strategy \ Asking/presupposing

The speaker criticizes the hearer by using a rhetorical question. In this case, the speaker is not waiting for an answer but to raise the hearer's awareness of the inappropriateness of hearer's behaviours and words.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Interrogative sentence

15. ليش ما تقلل من الأكل شويه

Data 15: lēʕ mǎ tqallil minil ʔakil ʕwayya

Eq. Tr.: Why don't you reduce eating food a bit?

Criticism strategy: Indirect strategy \ Suggestion for change

The criticism in this situation is expressed by suggestion. The speaker uses the structure “lēʕ mǎ” “Why don't you” to suggest that the hearer eat less food so that to be healthy.

Mitigating device: In this utterance, the speaker uses the understater “ʕwayya” “a bit” as a mitigator in order to soften the negative effect of the criticism.

Syntactic realization: Interrogative sentence

16. مواعيدك حيل مضبوطه

Data 16: mawāʕīdak ħēl maḍbūṭa

Eq. Tr.: You are so punctual.

Criticism strategy: Indirect strategy \ Hints/sarcasm

Regarding this situation, the speaker conveys his/her criticism to the hearer by using sarcasm. The sentence “mawāʕīdak ħēl maḍbūṭa” “You are so punctual” is used sarcastically to give a hint that the speaker is not satisfied with the hearer's work or behaviour.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Declarative sentence

17. ضروري تقلل من اللحم والله ما مليح لك

Data 17: darūri tqallil minil lahim wallah mālīh lak

Eq. Tr.: You have to reduce eating meat. Truly it is bad for you.

Criticism strategy: Combined strategy / Inter-combination:

Demand for change + consequences

Regarding this situation, the speaker performs his\her criticism by using two strategies at the same time. A combination of direct and indirect strategies is employed to point out the same problem found with hearer's behaviour being criticized.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Combined sentence

18. والله ما خوش قرار، غاح تضيع مستقبلك

Data 18: wallah mǎ xōf qarār yāh tdayyiṣ mustaqbalak

Eq. Tr.: Truly it is not a good decision. You will lose your future.

Criticism strategy: Combined strategy/Intra-combination:

Negative evaluation + consequences

In this situation, two strategies are employed together instead of one in performing the criticism. The speaker here uses a combination of two direct strategies to point out the same problem with the hearer's appearance.

Mitigating device: None

Syntactic realization: Combined sentence

10. Findings and Discussions

Throughout our analysis, the findings showed that speakers of Mosuli Arabic used a variety of direct, indirect and combined strategies when expressing criticism. Indirect strategy was the most frequently used strategy which represented (48.66%) of the data. Direct strategy was the second frequently used, occupies (40.66%) of the data. Meanwhile, the combined strategy which was used the least, occupies (10.66%) of the data. The following figure illustrates the percentages of these three strategies.

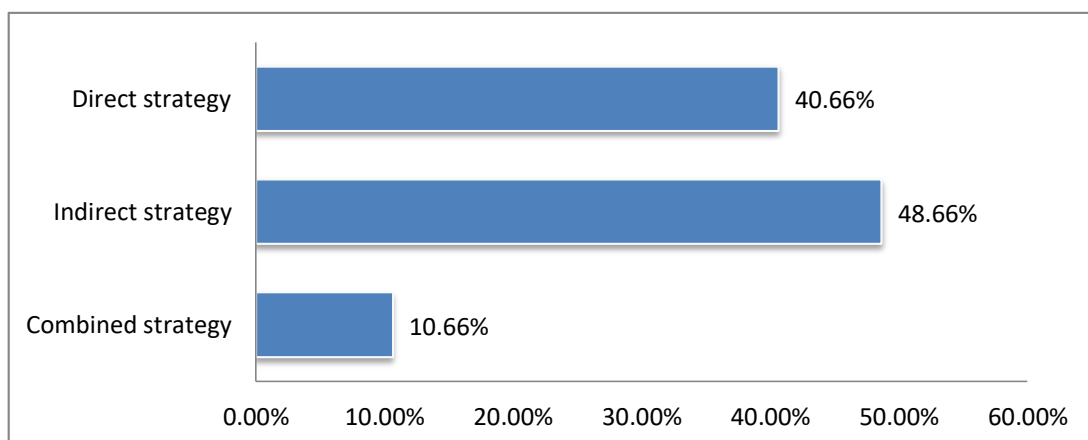


Figure 2: The percentages of direct, indirect and combined strategies of criticism

As presented in Table 1, asking/presupposing was the most frequently used indirect strategy that represented (15.33%) of the data. The other indirect strategies ranged from the highest to the lowest including request for change (9.33%), hints/sarcasm (8.66%), suggestion for change (5.33%), demand for change (3.33%), indicating standard (3.33%) and correction (3.33%).

Table 1: The frequency and percentage of the criticism strategies

Strategy	Frequency	Percentage
1. Direct Strategies		
a. Negative evaluation	21	14%
b. Disapproval	18	12%
c. Expression of disagreement	2	1.33%
d. Identification of problem	4	2.66%
e. Statement of difficulties	2	1.33%
f. Consequences	6	4%
g. Severe criticism	8	5.33%
Total	61	40.66%

2. Indirect Strategies

a. Correction	5	3.33%
b. Indicating standard	5	3.33%
c. Preaching	0	0%
d. Demand for change	5	3.33%
e. Request for change	14	9.33%
f. Advice about change	0	0%
g. Suggestion for change	8	5.33%
h. Expression of uncertainty	0	0%
i. Asking/presupposing	23	15.33%
j. Hints/sarcasm	13	8.66%
Total	73	48.66%

3. Combined Strategies

a. Inter-combination	11	7.33%
b. Intra-combination	5	3.33%
Total	16	10.66

It is worth noting that some indirect sub-strategies were not found in the data such as preaching, advice about change and expression of uncertainty. However, the analysis of data has revealed a new direct strategy which is severe criticism (5.33%) that is also relevant to criticism strategies. This might be due to differences from one language to another and from one culture to another.

With respect to the syntactic analysis, various syntactic forms were employed by the speakers of Mosuli Arabic in expressing their criticism. Findings showed that the interactants used declarative, interrogative, imperative, exclamatory, irregular and combined sentences.

Table 2: Syntactic realizations of the speech act of criticizing

Types of sentence	Frequency	Percentage
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1. Declarative sentence	71	47.33%
2. Interrogative sentence	32	21.33%
3. Imperative sentence	15	10%
4. Exclamatory sentence	7	4.66%
5. Irregular sentence	9	6%
6. Combined sentence	16	10.66%
Total	150	100%

As illustrated in the previous table, findings showed that criticism is most commonly realized by using a declarative sentence that represented (47.33%) of the data. The less frequent syntactic devices were interrogative sentence (21.33%), combined sentence (10.66%) and imperative sentence (10%). It should be mentioned that interrogative sentences were employed in performing the speech act of criticizing to maintain politeness by reducing the negative impact of the criticism. As for the least frequent devices, they were irregular sentence (6%) and exclamatory sentence (4.66%). Supporting the previous table, the following figure shows the percentage of each syntactic device:

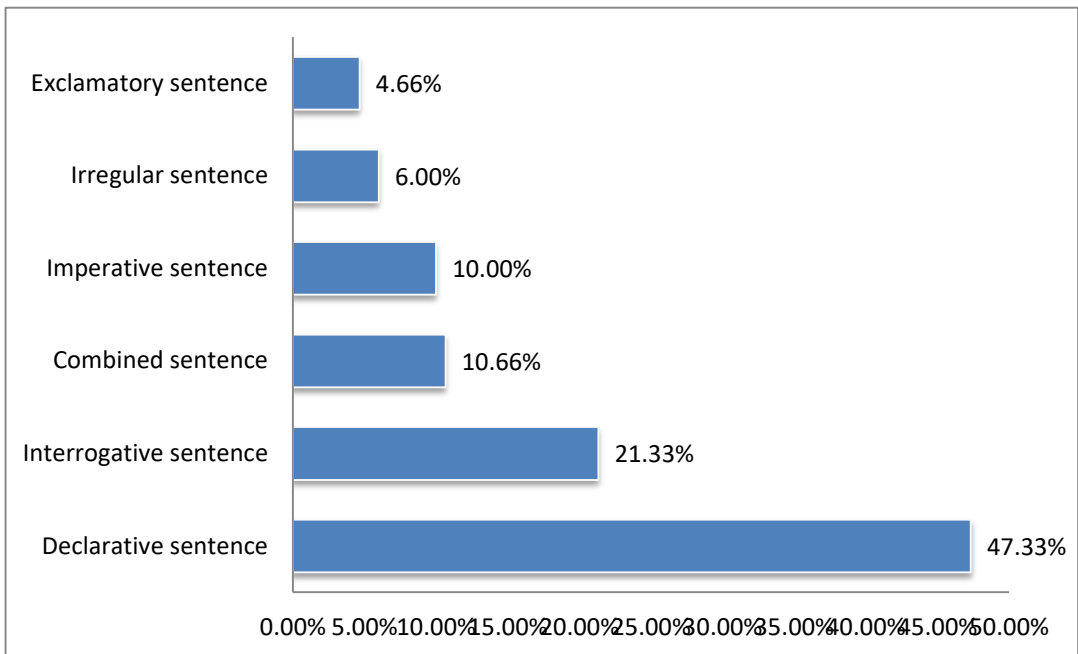


Figure 3: Syntactic realizations of the speech act of criticizing

Regarding the mitigating devices, results of the study showed that Mosuli speakers employed some internal and external modifiers in order to soften their criticism. It is found that 17 modifiers are used by the interactants. As indicated in table 3, the interactants used internal modifiers (10 out of 17) and external modifiers (7 out of 17). Furthermore, it is found that there is a tendency to use these modifiers in direct criticism (14 out of 17) rather than in indirect criticism (3 out of 17). The reason behind that is to achieve politeness by reducing the face damaging of the direct criticism.

Table 3: The frequency of the mitigating devices

Modifiers	Direct strategy	Indirect strategy
Steers	2	
Sweeteners	4	1

External modifiers	7	
Understaters	1	2
Hedges	2	
Subjectivizers	5	
Internal modifiers	10	
Total	17	

Concerning the internal modification, the findings showed that ‘subjectivizers’ were the dominant modifiers among others. The other internal modifiers employed were ‘hedges’ (2 out of 17) and ‘understaters’ (1 out of 17). As for the external modification, two modifiers were used: ‘sweeteners’ (4 out of 17) and ‘steers’ (2 out of 17). It was also noticed that a few modifiers were used in indirect criticism namely: ‘understaters’ (2 out of 17) and ‘sweeteners’ (1 out of 17).

As far as politeness is concerned, it is apparent that speakers of Mosuli Arabic are sensitive to the hearers’ face. The analysis revealed that the interactants has adopted some of Brown and Levinson’s politeness strategies in performing the speech act of criticising. Bald-on-record strategy was employed by performing a direct speech act mainly by the negative evaluation and disapproval. Negative politeness strategy was achieved by some indirect criticisms such as request for change and suggestion for change. Furthermore, off-record strategy was performed by the indirect strategies: rhetorical questions and hints. In off-record strategy, the speech act of criticizing is expressed ambiguously with allusive strategies. These findings show that negative politeness strategy and off-record strategy were used to reduce imposition on the addressee’s negative face.

11. Conclusions

The current study has come up with the following conclusions:

1. Criticizing is an important speech act that is frequently used by speakers of Mosuli Arabic in everyday communication. The speech act of criticizing can be expressed by certain semantic and syntactic patterns.

2. Mosuli speakers use two types of criticism; one is constructive which is the most frequently used. Constructive criticism is performed to influence the addressee's actions, sayings, behaviours, etc. for a future improvement and enhancement. The other has a destructive effect and they are performed only to hurt the addressee. The reason behind performing destructive criticism may be due to lack of communicative competence.
3. The study shows that most of Nguyen's (2005, 2013) criticism strategies are used in Mosuli Arabic when expressing criticism. However, the indirect strategies "preaching", "advice about change" and "expression of uncertainty", were not used by the interactants. This is probably because of the cultural differences in performing criticism.
4. Through the analysis of the data, new strategy has been found in Mosuli Arabic, which is not found in the adopted model. This strategy is "severe criticism", it is categorized under the direct strategies. "Severe criticism" involves using insults and is performed with anger. This strategy can be regarded as an addition to Nguyen's model.
5. Speakers of Mosuli Arabic have employed three criticism strategies, namely: direct, indirect and combined strategies. The indirect strategies are the most frequently used among others. The reason for this is that Mosuli speakers are aware that criticizing is a face threatening act, so they tend to choose indirect criticism to reduce the imposition and directness of their criticism.
6. It is noticed that combined strategies are the least used. That is probably because Mosuli speakers avoid using long utterances when expressing their criticism.
7. Results show that "asking/presupposing" strategy is the most used strategy. This due to the fact that interrogative construction is usually considered a manifestation of politeness by minimizing the negative impact of criticism.
8. The study shows that the speech act of criticizing is mostly realized by a declarative sentence.
9. New syntactic patterns and combinations are found to be used by the interactants to perform criticism.

10. Some mitigating devices and politeness strategies are used by the interactants in order to minimize the negative impact of the speech act of criticizing and to maintain politeness.

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دراسة تداولية لفعل كلام الانتقاد في اللهجة العربية- الموصلية مع الإشارة الى اللغة الإنكليزية

إباء مظفر الرسّام**

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المستخلص :

على الرغم من أن الانتقاد يمكن أن يكون أحياناً فعلاً يسيء للشخص المخاطب، إلا أنه يعد في حقيقة الأمر ظاهرة لغوية مهمة للتواصل اليومي بين الناس. وعادة ما يتضمن فعل كلام الانتقاد موقفاً إيجابياً حينما يؤديه المتكلم بهدف تحسين مستوى عمل المخاطب وقوله وأفعاله وتصرفاته... إلخ. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى وصف فعل كلام الانتقاد باللهجة الموصلية العربية، فضلاً عن تحري استراتيجيات فعل كلام الانتقاد التي يستعملها متحدثو اللهجة الموصلية العربية من أعمار مختلفة وفي مواقف الحياة اليومية المتنوعة. وأما ما يخص البيانات لهذه الدراسة فقد حوت الدراسة على (75) لفظاً نقدياً يستعمله الذكور، و(75) أيضاً تستعمله الإناث. إذ تم تسجيل ذلك في المدونة، وتحليله وتصنيفه على أساس النسخة المعدلة الخاصة بنموذج نوين (2005 ، 2013) الخاص باستراتيجية النقد. كما أن سياق الأقوال قد أخذ بنظر الاعتبار لما له من تأثير كبير في استراتيجية النقد.

وتحقق الدراسة فرضية البحث التي تقول بأن متحدثي اللهجة الموصلية العربية يميلون لاستعمال استراتيجيات غير مباشرة أكثر من تلك الاستراتيجيات المباشرة، حينما يودون التعبير عن حالات النقد. لقد وجد بأن استراتيجية "التساؤل/الافتراض المسبق" asking/presupposing تعد الأكثر استخداماً بين الاستراتيجيات الأخرى. وقد كشفت الدراسة عن استراتيجية نقد جديدة تسمى "النقد الحاد" severe criticism التي لم تتطرق إليها نوين، غير أنها ذات صلة بالنقد. كما حققت الدراسة الحالية أيضاً على فرضية أن فعل كلام الانتقاد في اللهجة الموصلية العربية يظهر من خلال أشكال دلالية ونحوية محددة. وأخيراً، تكشف الدراسة عن أن متحدثي اللهجة الموصلية العربية يستخدمون بعض الأدوات التلطفية لتطرية أساليبهم النقدية. وهنا يتبين أن المتحاورين يستعملون بشكل كبير الأدوات "الانحيازي" subjectivizers و"التجميلي" sweeteners من بين الأدوات الأخرى. كما أنه يتم تحقيق (أسلوب) التأدب من خلال استعمال استراتيجياته الخاصة: أي الاستراتيجية غير المهذبة bald-on record strategy، واستراتيجية التأدب السلبية negative politeness ، والاستراتيجية الاستدلالية (غير الصريحة) off-record strategy.

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الكلمات المفتاحية: انتقاد، اللهجة العربية الموصلية، فعل الكلام، استراتيجيات.