

Students' Use of Compliments in Response to ChatGPT Output: A Case Study

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Abstract:

The incorporation of Large Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT into our daily interactions has opened up new frontiers for research within the field of pragmatics. There has been some recent research exploring the pragmatic awareness of AI. Still, the production of compliment speech acts directed towards these non-human interlocutors remains a significant gap in the literature. As a means of addressing this gap, this study examines how Algerian EFL university students respond to ChatGPT output through the speech act of complimenting. This study adopted a mixed-method approach to collect data from 31 fifth-year university students at the École Normale Supérieure of Setif, Algeria, by using an online questionnaire and a Discourse Completion Task (DCT). A systematic analysis of the questionnaire data reveals the frequency, contexts, and motivations for complimenting ChatGPT, while a systematic analysis of the DCT data is undertaken using Yuan's (2002) framework of compliment strategies. The major findings show that compliments are frequent and are motivated primarily by performance and accuracy of the AI's output rather than socio-relational objectives. In addition, the analysis of the compliment strategies found a significant preference for compliments to be expressed through direct, explicit, and formulaic expressions. It appears that a functional and formal adaptation of the compliment speech act in human-AI communication occurs, in which the absence of interpersonal face-work results in a simplification of pragmatic strategies. Therefore, this study contributes to the fields of pragmatics and human-AI interaction by providing an empirical analysis of a core complimenting behavior in a new communicative context.

Keywords: Pragmatics, Compliments, Speech Act Theory, Human-AI Interaction, ChatGPT

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1. Introduction

The rise and rapid growth of sophisticated Large Language Models (LLMs), specifically OpenAI's ChatGPT, have changed the way that humans communicate. Instead of seeing these AI systems as tools for information retrieval, researchers now see them as part of the interaction and discourse process: producing human-like text in a plethora of domains (Andersson & McIntyre, 2025). This has motivated a surge of studies into the linguistic and pragmatic aspects of human-AI communication, assessing AI's ability to identify and use the communicative features in interaction (Andersson & McIntyre, 2025; Cai et al., 2024).

Although more researchers are assessing AI's ability to recognize and understand pragmatic phenomena like impoliteness (Andersson & McIntyre, 2025) and evaluating user attitudes toward interacting with AI systems (Cai et al., 2024), one crucial aspect of this new interactional paradigm remains underexplored: the role of human speech acts of politeness towards AI. This study examines one speech act of politeness: complimenting. Complimenting is a critical aspect of human social behavior, as it is not only a form of positive evaluation but a key strategy to build and maintain solidarity and community between speakers (Manes, 1983; Yusof & Hoon, 2014). The act of complimenting a non-human, non-sentient entity such as ChatGPT raises important issues about applying human social norms to non-social spaces, as well as the functions of politeness with no clear motivations, for example, managing face between humans.

The current case study addresses these issues by examining how a group of Algerian university EFL students compliment ChatGPT as they engage in interaction. By examining the frequency of the compliments, the situational contexts in which they occurred, the students' motivations, the types of compliments made, and the linguistic forms of those compliments, the study aims to understand the adaptation and recontextualization of a traditional speech act in human-AI interaction. For a focus on the linguistic strategies of those compliments, the current paper uses Yuan's (2002) framework. Yuan's discussion of complimenting behaviour in Chinese provides a useful categorization of compliment forms, differentiating between explicit direct compliments and other forms of compliments that are less implicit or bound and recognizing occasions when a compliment is withheld (non-compliment or opt-out) (Yuan, 2022). In employing Yuan's framework, this study will categorize the students' expressions of compliments and quantify how frequently each strategy was used. Overall, this study offers insight into whether conventional compliment practices are observed or otherwise in a human-AI interaction and what it means for politeness and pragmatic transfer in a new context of communication.

2. Literature review

2.1 Compliments in Pragmatics and Compliment Strategies

A compliment is generally defined as a speech act that provides credit to the person addressed for a valued attribute in them. This attribute could be skill, possession, or personal quality (Ye, 1995, as cited in Yusof & Hoon, 2014). According to research in pragmatics, compliments are notably formulaic speech acts. In American English, for instance, Manes and Wolfson (1981) indicated that most compliments are expressed using a limited set of syntactic forms, mostly "NP is/looks (really) ADJ (e.g., 'Your hair looks nice') and I (really) like/love

NP (e.g., ‘I love your hair’))” (p.120). For lexical choices, similar constraints apply, with “nice”, “good”, and “beautiful”, a few adjectives, representing a significant presence in the use of adjectival compliments (Chen, 2010).

Compliments tend also to have a strong pattern regarding their topics, which tend to fall into two categories: those that concern appearance and/or possessions, and those referring to ability and/or accomplishments (Holmes, 1988; Wolfson, 1983). These topics may indeed vary in distribution based on factors including gender, social factors, and context, yet, throughout many studies, their general domains remain consistent. As with regard to the pragmatic function of compliments, Manes (1983) and Yusof and Hoon (2014) indicate that, as generally understood, complimenting serves the purpose of creating and maintaining solidarity. When a speaker expresses approval, it strengthens and fosters social rapport and relationship, as they attend to the addressee’s face wants.

It is important to note, however, that these speech acts are not governed by universal norms. Research revealed that there is a significant difference in the frequency, topics, and realization of compliments across cultures. For instance, Barnlund & Araki (1985), Daikuhara (1986), stated that the frequency of complimenting, the attributes praised, and the expected responses have been found to differ between Japanese and American English speakers. In contrast to Americans, the Japanese express compliments usually in an indirect manner, and modesty in responses is often shown and highly valued (Daikuhara, 1986). As a result of these cultural specificities, pragmatic analysis emphasizes the importance of context and provides a vital background for examining how complimenting behavior or complimenting norms are adapted within a novel culture that encompasses human-AI interaction.

2.2 Politeness and Compliments in Human-AI Interaction

In studying human-computer interaction, it has been commonly observed that an extension of social norms, including politeness norms, occurs by users to non-human agents like chatbots and digital assistants (Burton & Gaskin, 2019). This occurrence is often due to users’ personification and anthropomorphism, wherein they attribute human-like traits, motivations, and feelings to AI systems. It is believed that this phenomenon is a result of the personification or anthropomorphism of technology, whereby users assign human-like characteristics, intentions, and even emotions to AI systems (Purinton et al., 2017). As unnecessary as it might seem, employing politeness strategies towards AI becomes an instinctive form of communication when users regard it as a social participant.

The rationale for such behaviors raises a serious question. Lopatovska & Williams (2018), suggest that politeness towards AI can be thought of as an “over-learned social habit” (Burton & Gaskin, 2019). In this view, politeness is a default or almost automatic behavioral script transferred from human-human interaction to human-AI interaction without conscious adaptation. When a user says “thank you” to ChatGPT, the reason is not so different from why they would offer the same to a human interlocutor; it’s simply an ingrained conversational script. When a user says “thank you” to ChatGPT, the reason is not so different from why they would offer the same to a human interlocutor; it’s simply an ingrained conversational habit. On the other hand, politeness can also be regarded as a purposeful and functional strategy, whereby users believe that being polite to the AI will produce better, or a more cooperative, response. This creates a theoretical tension: is politeness toward AI a

passive transfer of social conditioning, or is it an active, goal-oriented adaptation of pragmatic strategies to a new interaction environment?

In addition, any interaction with an AI platform includes a certain level of self-disclosure (Cai et al., 2024). Even though a compliment is a low-risk speech act, it nevertheless constitutes a type of self-disclosure in which the user reveals their positive appraisal and contentment. As noted in the literature, users are implicitly engaged in a privacy calculus, weighing the costs and benefits of self-disclosure (Cai et al., 2024). When a user provides a compliment to an AI, the perceived risks (e.g., threats to access control of private data, confidentiality, or privacy) would be minimal, while the perceived benefits can be functional (i.e., contributing to optimized future outputs) or some psychological benefits (i.e., continuing social norms and behaviors). In the present research, we will attempt to address these aspects by exploring the users' explicit motivations and how they strategically decide to compliment ChatGPT.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The current research design used for this study is a descriptive case study design using mixed methods to gather both quantitative and qualitative data on students' complimenting behavior. The mixed-methods design allows for capturing detailed data and combining the statistical overviews of compliments' use with a nuanced, qualitative examination of pragmatic strategies.

3.2 Participants

The participants were 31 fifth-year students at the École Normale Supérieure (ENS) of Setif, Algeria, aged from 21 to 26. All of these 31 participants were female; this was not intentional but reflected the demographic profile of the faculty or the institution in general. At this institution, female enrollment significantly exceeds male enrollment.

This cohort was selected through convenience sampling because they were easier to reach and belonged to a digitally literate population who have access to and are familiar with online technological tools for both general and academic purposes.

3.3 Instrument

Data were collected using a two-part online instrument, designed using Google Forms. A questionnaire which included a first section that collected participant consent and demographic data (age, gender), followed by a series of closed and open-ended questions about their use of ChatGPT, including the frequency and language of use. There were specific questions focused on complimenting behavior, asking if participants had ever complimented the AI, the contexts and forms of the compliments, their motivations for doing so, and their understanding of how those compliments varied with compliments provided to humans.

Discourse Completion Task (DCT), as the second part, included three hypothetical scenarios. Each hypothetical scenario described a situation where ChatGPT provided an effective and satisfying response: (1) a summary of an academic article, (2) a creative paragraph, and (3) an explanation of a complex grammar rule. For each of the three scenarios, participants had to write down how they would proceed, if they would say anything in response, and what that would be. Hence, the DCTs aimed to elicit complimenting behaviour

but carefully in a natural manner, without leading the participants to produce or perform the expected behavior.

The questionnaire included a filter question (“Have you ever complimented ChatGPT?”) to ensure only relevant data were obtained. Only those participants who responded Yes were able to respond to the subsequent items and the Discourse Completion Task. Participants who answered No or I don’t remember were directed to the end of the form and were not included in the analysis of responses.

3.4 Data Collection Procedure

The link to the two-part Google Forms instrument was disseminated electronically to the participants. They were informed of the study's purpose and assured anonymity in their responses. Completing the form was voluntary and was an informed consent. The researchers received 31 complete responses which were analyzed for the study.

3.5 Data Analysis

The data analysis was carried out in two phases, based on the two data types collected.

First, quantitative data, which were obtained from the closed-ended survey questions, were analyzed through descriptive statistics. Frequencies and percentages were calculated to determine participants' usage patterns, complimenting behavior, and the contexts and forms of compliments used by participants towards ChatGPT. The results were represented with charts for clarity.

Second, qualitative data, which were obtained from the open-ended survey questions on their motivations and opinions, and 93 compliment utterances from the DCT were analyzed separately. The data on motivations and perceptions were thematically coded to identify recurrent patterns and reasons. The DCT responses were systematically analyzed using the compliment strategies taxonomy developed by Yuan (2002). Yuan's framework differentiates compliments into two main categories or types: compliments (including unbound semantic formula such as implicit or explicit compliments, and bound semantic formula such as explanation, information question, future reference, contrast, advice, and request) and non-compliment category (including non-compliment, and opting out). In addition to Yuan's (2002) original categories, the present study added an Appreciation Token type under Unbound Semantic Formulas. This adjustment was made due to the frequent appearance of these tokens in the data. Each of the 93 utterances was coded using Yuan's framework to show the strategic preferences of the participants.

4. Results

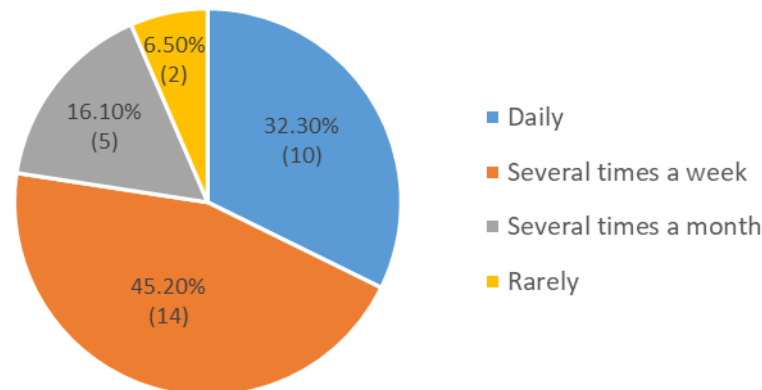
4.1 Questionnaire Findings

ChatGPT Usage Patterns

An analysis of the questionnaire data indicated that all the participants were regular users of ChatGPT. Most of them reported using the platform either daily (32.3%) or several times per week (45.2%). A smaller number of participants reported using it several times a month (16.1%) or rarely (6.5%). No participant indicated they had never used ChatGPT. The majority of users communicated with ChatGPT in English (67.7%), followed by Arabic (19.4%), and then a lesser percentage in French, Darija, or a mix of languages. Figure 1

illustrates the frequency of use.

Figure 1.
Frequency of ChatGPT Use Among Participants (N=31)



Frequency and Contexts of Compliments

A majority of the students (67.7%) confirmed that they have previously complimented ChatGPT during their interactions. Regarding the following question on the contexts in which the participants direct compliments at ChatGPT, their responses largely point to the AI's performance and the usefulness of its output. The most common context for directing a compliment was "When it gives me a very helpful or accurate answer" (81%). The other most common contexts that elicited a compliment included "When it explains something clearly" (38.1%) and "When it surprises me with creativity" (42.9%). Complimenting the AI for using "polite or encouraging language" was far less common (4.8%).

Motivations for Complimenting

The qualitative data from the open-ended question on motivations for complimenting ChatGPT strongly reinforces the quantitative results from the closed-ended questions. Thematic analysis uncovered that the dominant motivation for complimenting ChatGPT is transactional and performance-based. The response from students was produced based on the quality and utility of the output, with typical motivations including "The good results it gave me," "Its creativity and preciseness in answers" and "Simply because it helps me. Several responses framed the compliment as a spontaneous reaction to receiving a high-quality, useful output, with one participant noting, "I feel myself happy that he gives me ideas I need or explains to me something which is difficult to me so I thank him spontaneously". Notably, there was a near-total absence of socio-relational motivations typically associated with human-human compliments, such as building rapport or expressing solidarity. The compliments function as a direct response to a successful service transaction completion of a task. It is important to note, however, that there was a very small fraction of participant instances relating their complimenting behavior to interpersonal or socio-cultural motivations and stating they do it because it's "Just a habit to thank gentle people", "I used to say thanks to others, so i say it to chatgpt", and another stated "I do it because of my beliefs".

Participants' Perceptions of Complimenting AI and Humans

Participants expressed complex and paradoxical views on whether their compliments to ChatGPT differ from those directed at humans. While some stated, in an anthropomorphizing view, that the compliments are the same because they “perceive him to be a human too,” others argued they are different because ChatGPT is “just a robot not a human” and “has no feelings.” This contradiction reveals a cognitive dissonance regarding how users perceive and conceptualize AI, in a manner where they treat it as a social actor on a behavioural level, yet not human on a cognitive level.

4.2 DCT Compliment Strategies

This section reviews the 63 utterances collected from 21 participants through the Discourse Completion Task (DCT) in detail. The results show how the compliment strategies are distributed, qualitative characteristics of the compliments, and their lexical features. The analysis uses the semantic framework for compliments provided by Yuan (2002) to conveniently categorize the data.

Distribution of Compliment Semantic Formulas

From the analysis of the 63 DCT responses, it appears that complimenting is a common practice, but it is not universal. There were 36 utterances (57.1%) that contained a compliment speech act. Twenty-seven utterances (42.9%) were classified as non-complimentary responses. Among the latter group, 19 instances were characterized by non-compliments, which were typically direct requests for action (for example, “Summarize,” “Simplify more”) or standalone appreciation tokens (for example, “thank you”), and eight instances were characterized by opting out, where participants explicitly stated that they would not respond or would simply copy the text provided (for example, “I will not respond,” “Nothing”). Based on this distribution, nearly half of the scenarios were perceived as purely transactional, requiring no politeness superstructure, or participants disengaged from any response. The results of this study are consistent with research on human-human interaction, which indicates that compliments are not always obligatory, even when they are expected (Pour & Zarei, 2016).

According to a detailed analysis of the 36 complimenting utterances, there is a striking pattern in the choice of pragmatic strategies. In Table 1, it is evident that the data are dominated by a single unbound semantic formula: the Explicit Compliment. In 100% of complimenting responses, this strategy was present, which is defined as an utterance containing at least one positive semantic carrier. On the other hand, there were no instances of Implicit Compliments, in which a positive evaluation is implied rather than stated explicitly. It is important to note that the overwhelming preference for directness is a principal characteristic of complimenting behavior in the context of human-artificial intelligence.

Further details can be obtained by reviewing the structural composition of these explicit compliments. The majority of the utterances, 27 out of 36 (75.0%), occurred in conjunction with other semantic formulas or speech acts, while only nine (25.0%) were produced as standalone “singleton” statements. An Explicit Compliment combined with an

Appreciation Token (e.g., “thank you”) was by far the most frequent combination and accounted for 18 of the 27 combined utterances. Explicit compliments followed by requests for a subsequent action were the second most common combination, occurring seven times in all. A structure of embedding compliments within larger sequences of thanks or commands underscores their role as components of a broader transactional exchange, rather than as isolated social acts.

Additionally, the analysis of bound semantic formulas, which must appear together with an unbound formula in order to be interpreted as a compliment, emphasizes the functional nature of the interactions. Yuan (2002) identified six bound formulas, but only two were found in the data: Explanation and Request. There were two instances of Explanation, each serving to clarify the reason for the compliment (e.g., “this is what I need”). Request was used seven times, consistently guiding the AI's subsequent actions (for example, “can you add more details”). An important finding is the absence of other more socially nuanced bound formulas from Yuan's framework, including Contrast, Future Reference, and Advice. It is common for these interpersonal strategies to serve complex interpersonal purposes, such as reducing envy and providing solidarity in human interactions. The absence of these layers of pragmatic complexity suggests that when the interlocutor is a non-human agent perceived as lacking a social identity or “face”, such layers are ignored in favor of illocutionary clarity and transactional efficiency.

Table 1

Distribution of Compliment Semantic Formulas in DCT Responses (N=63)

Semantic Formula	Total Tokens	% of Tokens	Total Singleton	Combination
Compliment				
<i>Unbound Semantic Formulas</i>				
Explicit Compliment	36	57.1%	9	27
Implicit Compliment	0	0.0%	0	0
<i>Bound Semantic Formulas</i>				
Explanation	2	3.2%	0	2
Request	7	11.1%	0	7
Information Question	0	0.0%	0	0

Future Reference	0	0.0%	0	0
Contrast	0	0.0%	0	0
Advice	0	0.0%	0	0
<i>Co-occurring Speech Act</i>				
Appreciation Token	21	33.3%	0	21
Non-Complimentary Replies				
Non-Compliment	19	30.2%	19	0
Opt Out	8	12.7%	8	0
Total Utterances	63	100.0%		

Qualitative Features of Semantic Formulas

In order to give a qualitative dimension to the quantitative findings, Table 2 presents representative examples of each of the primary semantic categories that were identified in the data. As can be seen from the utterances, the compliments are often direct and formulaic in nature. The Explicit Compliments are characterized by simple, positive evaluative adjectives like “great,” “good,” and “perfect.” The bound formulas, when they appear, are unequivocally transactional. As an example, the explanation “this is what I need” serves not as a social explanation, but rather as confirmation of the accomplishment of a task. Furthermore, the request “can you add more details” uses the compliment as a preface to a subsequent request or command. In addition, the Non-Compliment and Opt Out categories highlight the task-oriented nature of the interaction, in which users either issue direct commands or disengage from the process completely.

Table 2
Sample Utterances for Compliment Semantic Formulas

Category	Sample Utterance from DCT Data
Unbound: Explicit Compliment (Singleton)	“Very good I am satisfied” “Awesome!” “Perfect job”

Unbound: Explicit Compliment + Bound: Appreciation Token	“That's very clear and understanding, thank you so much” “great job, thank you”
Unbound: Explicit Compliment + Bound: Request	“Great, give me others to choose” “Well done can you add more details and examples”
Unbound: Explicit Compliment + Bound: Explanation	“That's great 😊 this is what I need” “that's great, you helped me a lot thank youuu so much”
Non-Compliment (Request)	“please can you summarize this academic article with an accurate summary!” “Simplify more”
Opt Out	“I won't respond” “Nothing”

Lexical Characteristics of Compliments

Based on an analysis of the lexical items in the 36 complimenting utterances, a high degree of formulaicity is apparent, a characteristic common to compliment speech acts across cultures and languages (Yuan, 2022). In Table 3, only a few words account for the majority of the evaluative content.

One of the most frequently occurring word stems in compliment utterances is thanks, which appears in 21 out of 36 utterances (58.3%). In this way, it is evident that the act of complimenting is tightly integrated with the expression of gratitude, reinforcing the interpretation of these interactions as transactional service encounters. Following this, the most common positive adjectives are generic, high-frequency terms such as great (6 occurrences), good/well (5 occurrences), and helpful (3 occurrences). The nature of these lexical choices is consistent with the strategic simplicity observed earlier; users choose positive terms that are efficient and universally understood rather than more descriptive or nuanced terms. Comparatively, compliments in human-to-human interactions tend to be more elaborate to praise specific characteristics. As a result of the use of formulaic words like job and done, the interaction is further framed as a successful completion of a task.

Table 3
The Ten Most Frequently Used Words in Compliment Utterances (N=36)

Word	Count	Weighted Percentage (%)	Similar Words
thank	21	16.28	thanks, thank you
great	6	4.65	awesome
good	5	3.88	well
job	4	3.10	
helpful	3	2.33	
clear	3	2.33	
creative	2	1.55	
incredible	2	1.55	
lovely	2	1.55	
smart	1	0.78	

5. Discussion

The findings from both the questionnaire and the Discourse Completion Task (DCT) present a comprehensive response to the study's research questions, providing a coherent and detailed analysis of the manner in which the compliment speech act is adapted for interaction between humans and AI systems. According to the results, compliments are functionally recontextualized and characterized by formal simplification, a phenomenon that can be understood by integrating insights from pragmatic theory, human-computer interaction, and cross-cultural communication studies.

Addressing the frequency and contexts of compliments, the data show that complimenting ChatGPT is a common behavior, with over half of the DCT responses incorporating a compliment. Data from the questionnaire contextualize this frequency, indicating that compliments are not simply niceties, but are overwhelmingly associated with performance contexts. Participants indicated that they compliment the AI most often when it provides helpful, accurate, or creative answers, establishing an interaction that is essentially task-oriented. As a result, students' motivations are directly informed by the utility and quality of the AI's output rather than socio-relational goals. This represents a significant functional shift. Human interaction relies primarily on compliments as “social lubricants” that promote and maintain solidarity (Manes, 1983, as cited in Chen, 2010; Yusof & Hoon, 2014). Here, the compliment's function is transactional: it serves as a feedback mechanism that validates the AI's performance, either concluding a successful task or prefacing a subsequent command.

It is this functional shift that directly explains the types and linguistic forms of compliments observed. According to the analysis of compliment strategies, directness and

simplicity were the most preferred. The data was completely dominated by Explicit Compliments, with a total absence of the more nuanced Implicit Compliment strategy. This pragmatic simplification is further reflected in the linguistic forms used: a small set of formulaic, positive adjectives like “great,” “good,” and “perfect” were common, stripping the speech act down to its essential illocutionary core: the direct expression of positive evaluation. This simplification is most evident in the absence of the more complex bound semantic formulas from Yuan's (2002) framework, such as Contrast or Future Reference. These strategies serve intricate face-work functions in human-human communication, but such layers of social complexity are discarded when addressing a non-human entity that has no interpersonal “face” to save or threaten. The latter fact is affirmed by Brown & Levinson (1987), who indicated that human-human interaction is governed by complex politeness norms designed to manage interpersonal face.

While the human-AI interaction is a functional transactional one, complimenting a machine illustrates the powerful tendency of humans to personify technology (Burton & Gaskin, 2019). Although users are aware of the fact that ChatGPT is a tool, they extend social norms of politeness to it, a behavior that may be an “overlearned social habit” (Burton & Gaskin, 2019). It is important to note, however, that the specific form of compliments gives a deeper understanding of the situation. The simple, evaluative praise (e.g., “Good job”) aligns with Burton & Gaskin's “intellectual non-peer” framework (Burton & Gaskin, 2019), which suggests users treat digital assistants like a child or a pet—capable but subordinate entities. It is therefore understandable why users personify the AI sufficiently to compliment it, but not sufficiently to engage in a complex face-work characteristic of peer-to-peer interaction. Human-AI compliment patterns of the current findings differ sharply from those documented in various human cultures when viewed from a cross-pragmatic perspective. For instance, compliments directed at ChatGPT in the current study have been characterized as direct and monologic, which contrasts with the negotiated, multi-turn compliments in Kunming Chinese (Yuan, 2002). In a similar fashion, the Persian language also exhibits a high frequency of non-compliment strategies alongside explicit compliments (Pour & Zarei, 2016), which is not evident in direct engagement with the AI. Furthermore, the use of implicit strategies for socially delicate topics, as seen in Saudi Arabic (Alqarni, 2020), is absent, as there are no “delicate” topics with an AI. Human-AI interaction appears to function as a “pragmatic vacuum” eliminating culturally specific layers of politeness and social negotiation. As a result, a more universal, functional, and simplified version of the speech act remains, centered on the efficient and clear expression of positive evaluation.

6. Conclusion

The purpose of this study is to investigate how the speech act of complimenting is performed in the novel context of human interaction with AI in general and with ChatGPT in particular. Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that although users readily transfer their politeness behaviors to their interactions with AI, they fundamentally adapt and alter both its function and form. In response to the research questions, it was found that compliments are frequent and that they occur in performance-based contexts. They are not motivated by building and maintaining social solidarity, but rather by the concept of transactional satisfaction. This functional shift is reflected in the significant pragmatic simplification

observed in the language used, with users overwhelmingly preferring direct, explicit, and formulaic expressions. It is evident that the social and strategic complexity, which distinguishes human-human compliments, is predominantly absent when interacting with a non-human interlocutor that is devoid of interpersonal face to maintain.

In light of the emergence of artificial intelligence, the findings of the current study provide insight into how pragmatic behaviors are being recontextualized in an evolving era of human-AI communication. For pragmatic theory, this context provides a unique setting for analyzing speech acts, devoid of interpersonal face variable, which allows us to reveal their illocutionary function at its core. In spite of this, it is important to take into consideration the limitations of this study. The sample size was small, and all the participants were female, which limits the generalizability of the results. Further, while DCTs are effective for eliciting targeted data, they may not adequately capture the spontaneous and dynamic nature of real-time interaction (Yuan, 2002). Future research should expand upon the current findings by examining this phenomenon within a larger, more diverse cultural and linguistic groups. In terms of methodology, employing corpus analysis of large-scale chat logs would enable us to gain a more naturalistic understanding of these behaviors.

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