

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**COMPLIMENT RESPONSES BY IBAN ESL
LEARNERS**

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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

The speech act of complementing and how speakers give and respond to compliments have been much researched. This study attempts to investigate one major source of pragmatic misunderstanding among learners of English in Malaysia, specifically the different responses to compliments produced by a sample of Iban speakers of English in Sarawak. It also aims to classify response types according to pre-existing taxonomy and discuss any significant issues and implications for the teaching of English. The study was timely in the sense that there is currently a lack of data regarding the production of the speech act of complimenting and its elicited responses among the Iban community when they interact in English. The method used for this study was a Discourse Completion Test (DCT). The study revealed that the respondents generally accept the compliments given when complimented in both English and Iban. By accepting and giving positive elaboration, it can be said that the respondents are influenced culturally by the English language to a certain degree. The results of this study have provided some implications for the teaching of English as a second language in Malaysia. In order to produce students who are competent in the language, teachers must not only concentrate on the grammatical aspect of language teaching. Instead, they must also produce students who are aware of certain pragmatic rules of the L2 speech community in order to avoid communication breakdown.

ABSTRAK

Kata kuasa pujian serta cara seseorang memberi tindak balas terhadap kata pujian sering kali diselidiki. Kajian ini bertujuan menyelidik jenis kata puji yang dihasilkan oleh sekumpulan pelajar Iban di Sarawak. Kajian ini juga mengklasifikasikan kata pujian tersebut mengikut taksonomi yang sedia ada. Penyelidikan ini melihat sejauh mana kata pujian tersebut memberi implikasi terhadap pengajaran bahasa Inggeris di Malaysia. Oleh kerana terdapat kekurangan data mengenai penggunaan kata puji oleh masyarakat Iban apabila berinteraksi dalam bahasa Inggeris, maka kajian ini amat sesuai dengan keperluan masa kini. Kaedah yang digunakan untuk kajian ini adalah ujian wacana siap (DCT). Keputusan kajian menunjukkan bahawa responden menerima pujian yang diberikan dalam kedua-dua bahasa. Justeru itu, boleh dikatakan bahawa responden sedikit sebanyak telah dipengaruhi oleh budaya bahasa Inggeris. Ini bermakna, pengajaran bahasa Inggeris sebagai bahasa kedua di Malaysia patut menitikberatkan pengajaran pragmatik supaya dapat melahirkan pelajar yang bukan sahaja mahir dalam aspek tatabahasa. Dengan itu, pelajar harus didedahkan kepada perbezaan pragmatik antara pelbagai kaum.

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