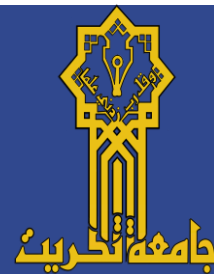


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Compliment Expressions in American Got Talent TV Show – A Pragmatic Perspective

[*] *Asst. Lecturer. Hassan Khalaf Amer*

Hummadi

*General Directorate of Anbar Education, Ministry of Education
 Al-Anbar, Iraq*

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ABSTRACT

Speech act of compliments are remarkable in people's everyday communication. They are used to praise, congratulate, thank people and to respond to their remarks. The singing competition involves four jury members. Different functions of compliment responses of the jury persons towards some participants cannot be understood easily or recognized out of the social content where the utterance occurs in. However, this study is set to answer the following questions: what are the forms of compliments, speech acts? What are the politeness strategies found within singing competitions namely American Got Talent show regarding compliment and compliment response? what are the variational pragmatic functions behind using compliment and compliment response. The study utilizes a mixed method of qualitative and quantitative analysis to analyze the data of seven singing competitors where each one receives four compliment responses from the jury members except one who receives only three (the total data analysed is 27 utterances) within the American competition show Americas Got Talent. The current study adopted an eclectic model involving Holmes (1988) for the forms of compliments, Searle (1976) for speech act, Brown and Levinson (1987) for politeness theory, and Leech (1983) and Ruhi (2006) classifications of functions of compliment and compliment responses. It is found that litotes, expressive speech act, positive politeness and praising are extensively employed within the analysis. It is concluded that expressive speech act is the most used in the various methods of compliment because this type is the most relied upon when expressing opinions and feelings towards the singing competitors.

KEYWORDS

Compliment, Holmes (1988), Politeness, Singing Competitions



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1. Introduction:

Compliments are important speech acts that are employed in everyday interactions to congratulate and thank people as well as to respond to their remarks. They are especially significant because they are seen as judgments, demonstrations of admiration for the labor of others, and courteous reactions to one's own actions (Holmes, 1986, p.123). Compliments also reflect cultural values (Nelson, Bakary & Al-Batal, 1996, p.26). When expressing praises and responding to them, speakers employ a variety of vocabulary and language structures which depend on the social setting in which the compliments are given, as well as the individuals' gender and social status (Levinson, 1983). Yet, different constructions may carry different content (different implicit meanings) that should be relied on the field of variational pragmatics which in turns triggers one's pragmatic awareness. The ability to use language appropriately based on communicative competence and conscious awareness of the norms and regulations of the social context in which one is talking are both components of pragmatic awareness.

Intercultural competence, according to Byram (2008), effective communication between individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds is the primary focus of intercultural competency. More importantly, cultural differences of each participants background may affect or arouse different values of what is meant; the intended meaning can be understood differently. Accordingly, this study tries to provide answers the following questions:

1. what are the forms of compliments, speech acts as well as politeness strategies found within Americas Got Talent show regarding compliment and compliment response?
2. what are the variational pragmatic functions behind using compliment and compliment response?

2. Literature Review:

2.1. Variational Pragmatics:

Variational pragmatics is the core where dialectology and pragmatics meet. In this context, dialectology is defined more broadly as the study of both regional and social variation, rather than in its more limited conventional connotation as the study of regional variation alone. In this view, dialectology encompasses all aspects of language variation in sociolinguistics and integrates and combines the fields of dialect geography as well as urban dialectology (Schneider 2010). The systematic study of the application of language conventions across national, regional, and social variations of an identical language, spoken (and written) natively as well as increasingly also spoken (and written) non-natively, is known as variational pragmatics. Variational pragmatics focuses on how social class, geography, gender, age, and ethnicity affect communication behavior. It also examines how these variables interact with situational parameters like context, discourse genre, power dynamics, and distance relations. Variational Pragmatics evolved over time, witnessed current additions and changes. Lastly, a summary of variational pragmatics research is provided, with a focus on the levels of analysis that its framework analytically distinguishes: "formal, actional, interactional, topic, organizational, prosodic, stylistic, non-verbal, and metapragmatic". The languages and dialects taken into consideration, the social variables highlighted, the phenomena investigated (such as the different kinds of speech acts or discourse markers), and the methodologies used are all mentioned in detail (Schneider 2010).

2.2. Speech Act Theory:

It is crucial for speakers to concentrate on the context since pragmatics is closely tied to the setting or context in which anything is uttered. Yule (1996) claims that pragmatics focuses on the following four areas: speaker meaning, contextual meaning, conveying ideas more effectively than words alone, and how relative distance is expressed. According to Searle (1976), speech act theory is the notion that language has meaning in addition to the definitions of the words that are used. Language, often known as speech acts, is a tool for carrying out different tasks. "Speech acts are actions carried out through utterances". Anything entails acting upon it, stating essentially the same

point. Here, one can speak in order to carry out an action. The words that are communicated are crucial to the deeds that are carried out (Yule, 1996, p. 47). The speech acts are divided into three categories: locutionary, perlocutionary, and illocutionary; the first act is roughly equivalent "to making a specific utterance with a specific sense and reference (Austin, 1962, p.108). Illocutionary speech act is an utterance, such as a promise, an apology, or an offering, is used to carry out an illocutionary act (Yule, 1996, p.48), the last one is the perlocutionary speech act which is, according to Hufford and Heasley 1983, p.250; Al Shamiri and Hummadi, 2024, p.822), an act committed by a speaker when a statement has an effect on both the hearer and other people.

2.2.1. Classification of Speech Acts:

According to Searle in Levinson (1983, p.240), speech acts can be divided into five categories: directives, expressive, declarative, representatives, and commissives.

1. **'Representatives':** in this act, the speaker affirms the veracity of the notion expressed for example, "She's beautiful," the speaker "may be stating a fact or simply expressing their personal opinion" regarding the physical attributes of the subject. Factual "statements, claims, conclusions, and descriptions are all instances" of how the speaker portrays the reality in his or her own words. Some verbs used in this acts involving recall, tell, assert, deny, correct, state, etc.

2. **'Directives':** A speaker may employ directives in speech acts to persuade an audience member for doing actions such as Requesting, interrogating, commanding, and ordering and proposing. For example, "Could you lend me your laptop, please?". Here, the speaker is asking the hearer to fulfill a request of lending him a laptop.

3. **'Expressives':** are verbal activities where a speaker conveys a mental state involving greeting, congratulating, apologizing, and expressing gratitude.

For example, "don't be shy, my home is your home,". Here, the intention of the speaker is to give a warm welcome.

4. **'Declarations':** normally rely on complex extra-linguistic factors. Such utterances alter the institutional condition of affairs instantaneously and bring changes into the world. These acts include the following verbs: christen, banish, declare, and fire (from job). For example, "*you are dead*".

5. **'Commissives':** are a type of speech acts that obligate the speaker to take a certain action in the future include vows, threats, refusals, and promises. For example, a speaker promises to get back when he says, "*I'll be back*".

2.3. Politeness Theory:

Different speaking behaviors, such as requests, compliments, apologies, criticisms, and conflicts, can either endanger or support face. Brown and Levinson (1987) show different strategies of politeness which are:

1. **Bald-on-Record** are typically tactics which don't try to lessen the danger to the addressee's face. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), this strategy is an approach used to communicate ideas unambiguously, and directly without reduction of the imposition. Alerting; welcoming; offering; and making requests are examples of bald on record strategies.

2. **Positive Politeness** are tactics which are typically observed in social circles or amongst individuals who are reasonably familiar with one another. According to Brown and Levinson (1987), they attend to the hearer's interests and wants. Positive politeness includes the following strategies:

- a. Strategy 1: "Attend to Hearer" (His Interest, Wants, Needs and Goods)"
"What a beautiful vase this is! Where did it come from?"
- b. Strategy 2 "Exaggerate (Interest, Approval, Sympathy with the Hearer)"
"What a fantastic garden you have!"
- c. "Strategy 3: Intensify Interest to the Hearer"

"I never imagined that there were thousands beautiful girls in Jim's party last night!" (Brown and Levinson, 1987, p.103-106).

3. Negative Politeness is "the heart of respect behavior", as stated by Brown and Levinson (1987), and it is "more specific and focused". Negative politeness involves the following strategies:

a. Using "Questions or Hedges"

"Won't you close the window?" (Which could be glossed as, "I request that you close the window (Brown and Levinson, 1987, p. 145).

b. "Minimizing the Imposition"

"Could I have a slice of you cake?" (Brown and Levinson, 1996, p. 177).

4. Off Record: the speaker employs indirect language. In this instance, recovering what is intended requires hearers to make an inference. Besides, speakers can employ this tactic to complete FTAs. Off-the-record tactics include hinting, being evasive, joking, and being snarky (According to Brown and Levinson, 1987, p. 188).

c. Give Hints, e.g., : *"it is cold in here"*.

d. Be Vague, e.g., *"perhaps someone should have been more responsible"*.

2.4. Compliments in English:

Certain linguistic expressions are used to convey compliments; Here, adjectives are needed in compliment formulations to convey the sender's favorable assessment. Adjectives which are used to express praise involve "nice, gorgeous, pretty, and excellent. Words such as "nice, wonderful, pretty, and great extensively used to imply praise". Verbs involves "love" and "like" are often employed to convey positive opinions about what is being stated or written. Verbs also express positive opinion about what is being said or written, like and adore, are often employed (Holmes, 1988, 133). The following are different ways of realizing compliment in English: verbal Expressions:

Table (2.1) Types of Compliments and their Realizations

Compliments types	Their Realization	Examples
Endearments expressions indicating intimacy	Diminution	"little princess", sweetie, sissy, little doll, or baby.
	Litotes	"beautiful, nice, or I like this".
	Metaphor	"bird, honey, moon, angel or princess".
	Hyperbole	'flawless', smashing, extraordinary, super sweet, looking terrific, stunning, darling".
Financial Terms	Noun Phrase	"Million dollars smile !"
Religious Terms	Noun Phrase	"O(h)! My God!, I hope all is well with you, all the best, or my heart and thoughts are with you".
Simile	Noun phrase or conditional sentences	"Like angels, honey, moon, baby or if I were a ninja turtle, you would be my April O'Neal".
Left-handed Compliment	Utterance	"Pretty eyes where is your smile?, or I miss your smiling face!"
Flashback	Utterance	"You make me nostalgic to the old good days! or you brought beautiful memories to so many hearts!"
Metonymy	Noun Phrase	"Touch me not, a rose of Tralee, forget me not, or model, the sky is high, and the fish cannot fly!"
Abbreviations	"Religious	OMG = O(h) my God!
	Admiring	gr8 = great, nyc = nice, or 2qt = too cute.
	Expressing attitude	ILY = I love you, x , kiss, or ox = hug and kiss".
	Clipping	"fab hon = fabulous honey, or nyc pic = nice picture".

2.4.1. Compliment Strategies:

In terms of the semantic formulations employed to convey compliments, Yuan (2002, p.190) divides compliments into two kinds. In the following table (1) these categories are tabulated, which are unbound and bound semantic formulations.

Table (2.2): *Compliment Strategies Framework*

Strategies of Compliment			Examples
Unbound Semantic Formulas	1)	Explicit Compliment	Wow, I did not believe you have such voice.
	2)	Implicit Compliment	If only I have a voice like yours.
Bound Semantic Formulas	1)	Explanation	I saw how difficult it was to fix my laptop.
	2)	Information Question	Where did you learn to fix it? How did you learn to train your throat?
	3)	Further Reference	She has a promising future with your voice.
	4)	Contrast	I see she is more helpful than Hellen.
	5)	Advice	She had best be one of your trainee.
	6)	Request	Would you listen to my song too?

"Unbound semantic formulas" denote phrases that are capable of functioning independently as compliments. "Explicit compliments" and "implicit compliments" are the two subcategories into which the "unbound semantic formulas" fall. A generic statement "with at least one positive semantic carrier" (e.g., a big effort) is frequently used as an explicit complement. "With or without a positive semantic carrier, where the addressee is not explicitly identified but the positive meaning can be deduced from what is said in a particular situation" is what is meant by implicit compliments. For example, "Where did you buy this dress? I'd like to get one (Yuan, 2002, p. 192). Conversely, "bound semantic formulas" consist of "explanations, future-oriented allusions, contrasts, recommendations, or entreaty." "Non-compliments" or "opt outs" are mentioned in "complimentary" responses. "Bound semantic formulas" and other answers devoid of any positive connotation can be considered "non-compliments." "Opt outs" are instances in which a speaker remains silent while a praise is expected (Yuan, 2002, p. 192).

2.4.2. Functions of Compliment

A complement could be intended as part of an interactional strategy, or it could be driven by the need to keep a positive relationship going, keep face, or adhere to social norms. There are many linguistic forms that speakers employ to convey various functions:

1. **Keeping Social Ties and Solidarity:** acts of complimenting are primarily intended to strengthen social bonds between the giver and the receiver. It is said that compliments function as "social lubricants," allowing people to get to know one another (Wolfson, 1983, p. 89; Holmes, 1988, p. 186).

2. **Informative Purposes:** Johnson and Roen (1992) assert that certain compliments have strong instructive goals. Information is conveyed by referential meanings. Conveying information through a complement accomplishes the useful goal of positive communicating. .

3. **Politeness and Praising:** Brown and Levinson (1987, p.241) assert that speakers must attempt satiating the others-face desires while also taking into account their own. When giving compliments, speakers must consider the words they choose to use and the utterances they make.

3. Methodology

Compliment responses in the current study are sought by identifying the speech acts, politeness strategies and pragmatic functions by which communicating compliments as well as

compliment responses communicated by the jury persons of a competition program called *Americas Got Talent* by different participants. The jury members are (Simon, Sofia, Mandel and Heide) Note that Heide later is substituted by Hwie in the program. They are arranged in the analysis in accordance with their appearance.

The current study employed a mixed method of qualitative and quantitative method of analysis. Discourse analysis employs the qualitative method because it provides an understanding of the language utilized. It is also appropriate for assessing people's emotions. Qualitative research is defined by Flick (2023) and Creswell (2023) as a research methodology that employs non-numerical data, including written materials, interviews, narratives, and discussions.

The participants of this study are (7) TV show competitors taken randomly from different random series with considerations to the different nationalities, gender, religious background and many social factors. Each participant receives four compliment responses from the four jury persons except the sixth participant who receives only three. Thus, the whole analysed data is (27) compliment utterance.

The data collected from different TV show series that are found on YOUTUB. After watching these series many times, the utterances of the compliment and compliment responses are written down as the target data of the current study to be analysed qualitatively. This show, in its eighteenth version, is carried on NBC channel on May 30th, 2023 and ends up on September 27th, 2023.

The current study utilizes two variational pragmatic models for analysis which are: Holmes (1988) for forms of compliments, Seale's (1976) of Speech Act theory and Brown and Levinson's (1987) of Politeness theory. Beside these models, Leech (1983) and Ruhi (2006) classifications of functions of compliment and compliment responses are adapted, as it is shown in the following figure (1):

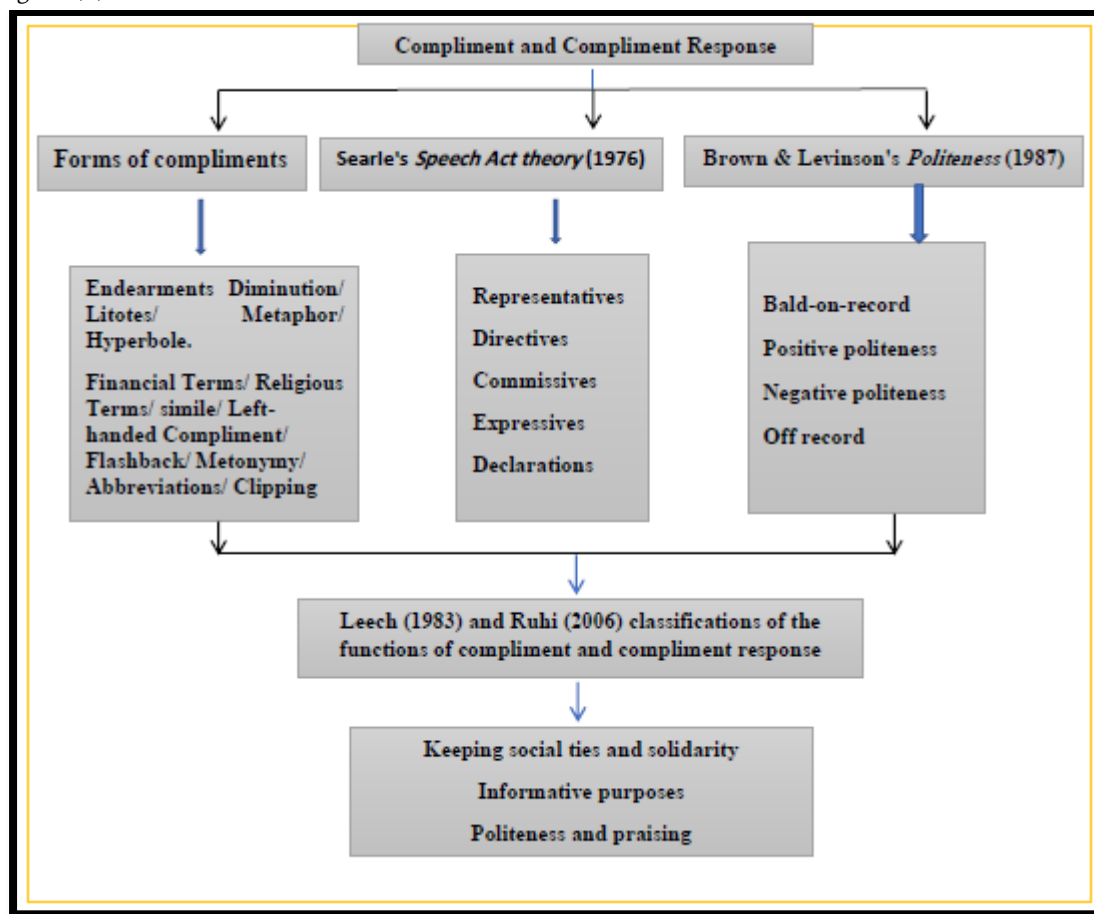


Figure (1): The Eclectic models of Analysis

5. The Analysis of Compliment and Compliment Responses

In the following section, the whole interview has been analyzed qualitatively then it is quantified in the findings.

Extract one: participant 1: Putri Ariani (Indonesia):

Sofia: *"Bravo, You were amazing, you are an angel".*

In this compliment utterance, the speaker uses a simile as a strategy for expressing her positive attitude towards what is performed by the participant. She compares the participant with "an angel" to denote that what is performed is a highly angelic action rather than of being humanitarian one. Sofia expresses her attitude with "representative" speech act by which she states her attitude with highly positive adjective that represents the participant. She uses positive politeness strategy when she states her attitude directly since she attends to the hearer's interest, wants and goods. The variational pragmatic function is to praise the good talent.

Mandel: *"You are super star. You Are more amazing".*

The speakers uses hyperbole strategy to express his complimented attitude towards his participant by using the word "super star". He uses representative speech act when he uses the asserting strategy to describe the "amazing" talent that participant owns . He uses positive politeness when he uses exaggerated language "hyperbole" to assert something very creative and talented in this participant. The function of the utterance is to praise the real talent of the person performing.

Simon: *"you have a distinctive voice. You are really really good"*

He uses strategy of hyperbole when he express his positive attitude to the participant by using the word "distinctive" and repeating the word intensifier " really" two times . He expresses his attitude with representative speech act, stating and asserting upon his "distinctive" talent . He uses Bald-on-record strategy when he express his attitude in a simple , unambiguous and direct manner . He uses this compliment for praising ,denoting the amazement of his "distinctive" talent.

Heidi: *"you were so so good".*

She uses the strategy of litotes when she expresses her positive attitude by using a general adjective "good" without mentioning the specific qualities of the participant's talent . She uses declarative speech act when she declare to the intended person as well as the present audience that this participant is "so good". She uses positive politeness when she asserts and states that the person intended is "so good". She uses all of these strategies for "informative purpose" when she intends to inform others that this participant is "so good".

Extract two: Ronald Abante (Philippines):

Heidi: *"you were amazing. You should be proud of yourself".*

The speaker uses hyperbole form for this compliment when he uses strongly positive expression "you should be proud of yourself". He uses declarative speech act when he declares that this participant should be proud of himself . He expresses his attitude with positive politeness when he states that this participant "should be proud of himself" to show more positive acceptance and insistence upon this amazing talent. This variational pragmatic function is to praise the participant .

Sofia: *"you are going to stop fishing after this song".*

She uses the form of hyperbole to express her compliment by stating the participant is going to stop his current job of fishing to imply that he is going to be so famous after this performance (and rich as well) . She uses representative speech act when she expresses her "belief", guessing and claim that this person is already a winner and his future (his whole life) is going to be changed after his performance . She uses negative politeness when she adopts indirect method of expressing her positive compliment towards the participant. She uses the function of praising to express her positive acceptance and attitude .

Siomon: "I really like you. you were brilliant".

He uses the form of litotes when he uses the expression "I like you" in a direct way, supporting his expression with the use of a strongly positive adjective which is "brilliant". He uses expressive speech act to express his positive attitude towards what has been performed. He uses positive politeness strategy when he shows strong attitude and acceptance towards the performance. He uses all of these forms and strategies to praise the participant's performance.

Hwie: "we could feel your heart".

The form of compliment Hwie expresses is hyperbole which is stated in an indirect way when he expresses his positive attitude by saying that he and the other jury member could feel the participant's heart. He uses expressive speech act when he pronounces his attitude, expressing that the jury members could feel the feeling of his heart "the emotions" within his performance. He uses negative politeness when he expresses his positive admiration towards the participant in an indirect way, by which he states indirectly that the performance is very emotional. He uses these strategies to denote praising as a pragmatic function behind adopting such compliment utterance.

Extract three: Eseniia Mikheeva:**Sofia: "I think you are a mini star already. I'm so happy that you are here today".**

In her compliment utterance, Sofia uses the form litotes when she expresses her positive attitude. She uses terms like "mini star" and "so happy" to express her endearment attitude. She uses expressive speech act when she fully expresses her positive attitude towards the performer in a strong way by using positive values as well as content like "so happy". In her compliment utterance, Sofia adopts positive politeness when she speaks in a way that makes exaggeration to the performance she has already seen. The function behind this utterance is to praise by showing the positive qualities of the performer.

Hwie: "your parents can be so proud of you. She is amazing".

The form of the compliment utterance is litotes as the speaker recites two strong positive adjectives "so proud of you" and "amazing" to arouse endearment for the person proceeding the action. The type of speech act adopted within the uttered compliment is expressive. The speaker expresses his attitude explaining that the participant's parents will be so proud of his performance tonight and continues that positively by using that the performer is amazing. The speaker uses positive politeness by showing a high degree of encouragement and positive attitude towards the performer. The informative purpose is the function behind what is said since the speaker tries to inform the participant as well as the audience that the performer is very talented.

Heidi: "I think you are incredible. I love your dance. I love your tricks".

She uses the form of hyperbole to express her exaggerated attitude and feeling towards the participant's talent. She describes the participant's performance as "incredible" to exaggerate his action and to seize other's attention towards the participant. He uses representative speech act when he asserts, states, describes and insists to convey the meaning of his incredible action. He uses positive politeness strategy as he strongly and positively asserts that he loves the participant's dancing as well as his tricks. The pragmatic function behind this compliment utterance is to praise the participant.

Siomn: "we think that you are going to win".

He uses hyperbole form of compliment when he uses exaggeration when stating that the participant is going to be the winner as an explanation and implicit admission that the talent the participant owns is so great. He uses representative type of speech act when he states his belief of what is going to be in the future his expectation that the participant is going to win. He uses bald-on-Record politeness strategy as the speaker directly appreciates the action in a positive manner. The function behind the uttered compliment is for "informative purpose" since the speaker aims at revealing his expectation for the participant to be the winner.

Extract four: Carka Khan (Philippines):**Heidi:** *"you have very sexy and very unique voice. Your voice is very special".*

The form of the compliment presented by Heidi's hyperbole by which the utterance holds two aspect by which the speaker exaggerated about, which are; "very sexy" and "unique voice" She aims at extracting the light upon the talent performed. The kind of speech act presented here is representative, by which the speaker states, describes, identifies, tells and believes of all the characteristics that the participant introduced with the performance. According to the politeness strategies, the speaker presents his ideas with positive politeness strategy when he shows a high degree of respect and kindness. The function behind the uttered compliment is for "informative purpose" by which the speaker describes in details the good qualities of the performance of the targeted participant.

Simon: *"I absolutely loved your voice".*

Simon, in his compliment utterance, adopts the form of litotes specially when he directly states that he "loved" the voice of the participant when he sang. The kind of speech act used here is expressive by which Simon expresses his positive attitude towards what has been performed in an obvious manner. He also expresses his feeling, stating that "loved" what he heard. The politeness strategy adopted here is bald-on-Record strategy since the speaker expresses what he feels about the audition in a direct, simple and unambiguous manner yet, he does not rely on description. The function behind such compliment is to praise others for the good performance that he has been presented on the stage.

Sofia: *"It's so special to hear you sing that. you have made us all yours".*

The form of compliment used is litotes as speaker adopts one kind of the endearment forms by which she shows a high degree of kindness and admiration towards the talent of the participant. She uses the word "so special" to denote that the participant has a great talent. Once more, she shows more high level of endearment when she says that "you have made us all yours". The kind of speech act used is expressive by which the speaker expresses her mental and emotional state by showing the good qualities of the person intended. Positive politeness is the strategy adopted her since she highly expresses her opinion and attitude in a very positive manner. The function behind what has been uttered is for "informative purposes" since the speaker tends to explain the good qualities in an informative manner.

Hwei: *"very memorable and unique voice. we can feel the emotion amazing".*

Hwei in his speech, uses metaphor to compare the voice of the participant to more "memorable" things, events and so forth. He describes the voice with memorable to assert that this is cannot be forgotten since it is a very great thing. Hwei uses expressive speech act to express his mental and emotional state within using strongly positive expression "memorable", "unique". Then he adds more expressive emotions when he states that feeling behind the song performed can be felt as if the "feelings" can be touched. Positive politeness is the strategy shown here by which the speaker expresses positively the feelings towards what has been performed in elegant way, to show a high degree of acceptance and manner. The function behind such compliment is to praise the participant by adopting so many positive qualities that he owns.

Extract five: Mzansi Youth Choir:**Heidi:** *"You were really beautiful thank you".*

The form of the compliment is litotes by which the speaker uses the adjective "beautiful" to express her positive attitude towards what has been performed. She shows a high degree of emotional awareness when she adopts the word "beautiful". Expressive kind of speech act is adopted when she intends to express her positive opinion in a direct and simple manner; expressing her positive emotion and mental state towards the participant. She adopts positive politeness strategy when she shows her positive attitude in a very polite way. The function of this utterance is to praise by showing the good qualities in a positive manner.

Sofia: *"What a surprised to hear that song and your voice were fantastic . That was the perfect audition".*

The "hyperbole" is the form adopted within Sofia's compliment utterance when she states her opinion in an exaggerated manner, comparing his voice to "surprise" that they do not expect to receive from the participant. She relies on expressive speech act since she adopts the expressive manner to convey her mental and emotional states towards the performance being performed. She expresses her mental state positively by adopting strong adjectives such as "surprised", "fantastic" and "perfect". She adopts negative politeness when she indirectly remarks that the audition is unexpected. The structure conveys the strategy is exclamation directly the speaker does not convey his opinion directly, rather than he uses indirect structure to express his strong positive attitude . The function behind what is uttered is for "informative purpose" since the speaker intends at informing others of her emotions as well as the qualities does he has .

Hwei: *"To see that it touched people and in the other side the globe , unbelievable. You deserve so much more than a yes to be here. Thank you thank you so much".*

Metaphor is the form of compliment adopted here since the speaker compares the voice of the participant to a living thing "concrete" that can move and touch others, and more positively to touch the souls of all people even those who are not presented within the place of auditions. His voice can travel to more for many distances with same quality of goodness and impact. The speech act kind adopted is expressive when the speaker uses strong positive adjective to express and convey his positive mental state. The adjective "unbelievable" denotes the greatness of what he has been performed. Then he continues his expressive mental state by showing that the participant deserves more than "yes" to show that his talent is beyond to wait acceptance in this show. Negative politeness is the strategy adopted within Hwei's utterance since the speaker does not adopt a direct statement to express his positive attitude. The informative purpose is the function behind what is said since the speaker intends to inform others how great and unbelievable the audition is.

Siomn: *"he was crying and shed a lot of tears. He was speechless. You were incredible honestly".*

The speaker express his compliment with litotes kind of endearment expression by mentioning strong adjectives like "speechless" and "incredible", beside phrase like "he was crying" and "shed a lot of tears" to show the good supportive affection towards the participant. He uses expressive speech act when he tries to express his mental state in a very positive and elegant manner. He uses positive strategy of politeness when he presents his ideas, opinion and attitude in a very clear manner. Moreover, the structure of compliment utterance copes with the strategy adopted and here, the speaker directly conveys the meaning of positive. The informative purpose is the adopted function since the speaker tries to describe and inform in details with his compliment utterance the good qualities of what was performed.

Extract six: Murmuration (France):

Heidi: *"wow, I mean your guys were so amazingly in think. it was so elegant. It was fantastic".*

She uses litotes form of complement to express high degree of endearment by using intimate expressions that shows the strong affection, admiration and support which are amazingly elegant and fantastic. She utilizes expressive kind of speech act since she remarks expressively about hair mental and emotional state positively she expresses very amazing performance of the whole group participant describing their action as an elegant performance and fantastic. Positive politeness strategy is shown within this utterance the speaker intends to review all the good features regarding the performance of the holy group and in positive manner speaking directly and ambiguously. The function is informative purpose by using adjectives like "elegant", "amazingly" and "fantastic".

Sofia: *"It was amazing to me. It was spectacular. I think you were magnificent".*

She uses hyperbole form of endearment in her complement. She intends to use endearment expressions like amazing, spectacular and magnificent to exaggerate about the performance that is achieved on the stage. The utilized kind of speech act is expressive speech act since the speaker positively expresses her mental state about what she thinks about the performance. Positive politeness is this a strategy adopted within such complement showing a really excellent positive attitude toward what has been performed. The informative purpose is the function behind what is said since the speaker intends to describe the good equalities of the performance audition and uninformative manner.

Hwei: *"I think it is very original. It blow me away".*

The form of complement utterance here is hyperbole since the speaker exaggerates about the performance showing hyperbolic adjective very original to describe it as if there is no one in the world that have a such talent. The kind of a speech act used with this utterance is representative since the speaker represents and state his beliefs that the audition is very original and it will blow him away. Positive politeness is the politeness strategy used here. The function is to praise the participant.

Extract seven: Gabriel (Brazil):

Heidi: *"wow, you are incredible".*

She expresses a great degree of fondness using the litotes type of complement by making wonderfully beautiful and wonderful intimate gestures that convey a strong sense of support, appreciation, and affection. Since the speaker positively shares her thoughts regarding the performance, the speech act type that is used is expressive speech act. The tactic used here to convey favorable thoughts about the work that has been done elegantly and to demonstrate a high level of acceptance and manners is known as positive politeness. The function is to praise the participant.

Hwei: *"I did not expect that voice comes from you. You are amazing".*

He uses litotes form of compliment to express his endearment attitude which is greatly relied on the well-acted performance of the participant, sharing a high level of admiration of what has been performed. The expressive kind of speech act is utilized since the speaker depends upon description and expressions that show high level of mental state such as the strong positive phrase "I did not expect that voice comes from you" that denotes the greatness of his performance. Negative politeness is the strategy adopted within Hwei's utterance since the speaker does not adopt a direct statement to express his positive attitude. The function behind what is uttered is for "informative purpose" since the speaker intends at informing others of her emotions as well as the qualities does he has.

Siomn: *"I really like you. You are interesting and amazing".*

He uses litotes form of compliment to express his endearment attitude which is greatly relied on the well-acted performance of the participant, sharing a high level of admiration of what has been performed.

He uses the expressive method to express his mental state and feelings towards what is performed on the stage, and by using certain adjectives such as interesting and amazing, he enhanced the expressive method even more to give a stronger meaning to the compliment that was uttered. The politeness strategy adopted here is bald-on-Record strategy since the speaker expresses what he feels about the audition in a direct, simple and unambiguous manner yet, he does not rely on description. The function behind what is uttered is for "informative purpose" since the speaker intends at informing others of her emotions as well as the qualities does he have.

Sofia: *"I have no words, you were perfect".*

Sofia displays her optimistic mood by using the form litotes in her complement utterance. She employs phrases like "no words" and "perfect" to convey her sweet disposition. She employs

an expressive speech act when she uses words like "so happy" and positive values to strongly convey her feeling toward the performer. Sofia uses positive politeness in her comment when she speaks in a way that highlights the performance she has already seen. The purpose of this statement is to praise the performer by highlighting their excellent attributes.

5. Findings of the Analysis

The following tables (5.1), (5.2) and (5.3) show findings To answer the research question (1) and table (5.4) is related to research question (2):

Table (5.1): The Forms of Compliment

N	Forms of the compliment	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Endearments (Diminution)	0	0%
	Endearments (Litotes)	13	48.14%
	Endearments (Metaphor)	2	7.4%
	Endearments (Hyperbole)	11	40.7%
2.	Financial Terms	0	0%
3.	Religious Terms	0	0%
4.	simile	1	3.7%
5.	Left-handed Compliment	0	0%
6.	Flashback	0	0%
7.	Metonymy	0	0%
8.	Abbreviations	0	0%
9.	Clipping	0	0%

Table (5.1) shows the forms of the compliment expressions that appears from the qualitative analysis. Endearment form appears with different frequencies and percentages for its sub-divisions. Endearments (Diminution) does not appear at all while Endearments (Litotes) scores the higher degree within the analysis with 13 frequency and 48.14% as a percentage. Endearments (Metaphor) shows up only two times with 7.4% as a percentage. Endearments (Hyperbole) scores the second highest frequency (11 times) and percentage (40.7%). Simile appears only one time with 3.7% as a percentage. Financial Terms, Religious Terms, Left-handed Compliment, Flashback, Metonymy, Abbreviations and Clipping all do not appear at all (with 0% as a percentage).

Table (5.2): The Speech Acts Appeared From the Qualitative Analysis

N	Speech acts	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Representative speech act	8	29.6%
2.	Expressive speech act	17	62.9%
3.	Commissives speech act	0	0%
4.	Directive speech act	0	0%
5.	Declarative speech act	2	7.4%

Table (5.2) shows the kinds of speech acts used within the targeted data. Representative speech act is frequented 8 times with 29.6% as a percentage whereas Expressive speech act scores the highest frequency and percentage (appears seventeen times with 62.9% percentage) since within compliment utterances the speaker tends and intends to express feelings and their mental state of whatsoever they have noticed or judged. Both Commissive speech act and Directive speech act do not show up at all. Finally, Declarative speech act shows up twice with 7.4% as a percentage.

Table (5.3): Politeness Strategies of Compliment Expressions

N	Politeness strategy	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Bald-on-record	4	14.8%
2.	Positive politeness	18	66.6%
3.	Negative politeness	5	18.5%
4.	Off-record	0	0%

Table (5.3) explores the politeness strategies within the analysed data. Bald-on-record politeness strategy appears four times with a percentage of 14.8%. On the contrary, Positive politeness scores the highest frequency as well as percentage; with eighteen times frequency and 66.65 as a percentage since most compliment utterances tends to be positively oriented within the show to encourage and support the participant for further motivation. Negative politeness occurs only five times with 18.5% (the second highest frequency and percentage). Finally, Off-record politeness strategy does not show up at all.

For RQ2, the following table (5.4) shows the most intended function of compliment that appear within the analysis.

Table (5.4): The Function of Compliment Expressions

N	Functions	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Keeping Social Ties and Solidarity	0	0%
2.	Informative purposes	12	44.4%
3.	Politeness and praising	15	55.5%

Table (5.4) shows the functions of compliment. Keeping Social Ties and Solidarity is the strategy that does not appear at all. Informative purposes occurs 12 times with 44.4% as a percentage while Politeness and praising scores the highest frequency and percentage (fifteen times and 55.5% percentage) which denotes that the speaker's polite attitude is communicated to praise others for their good deeds.

6. Conclusion:

The study comes up with the following conclusions:

1. Compliment expressions take many forms, depending on the situation and situation in which the phrase is uttered and the occasion of the event as well. In the current study, compliments mainly take the character of endearment with its various secondary branches, as they are extensively mentioned in the analysis, and the type of litotes is extensively found among the rest of the types through the use of vocabulary that enhances the type of compliment and strengthens it. Most expressions of courtesy are based on this style and type, because in this show people relied on using nice words with a polite and encouraging meaning at times and at other times to express their opinions with complete transparency.
2. The results showed that expressive speech act is extensively used in the various methods of compliment because this type is the most relied upon when expressing opinions and feelings. Since a compliment is mainly used to express a mental or emotional state, or both, it is more appropriate to use the expressive method. An expressive is one of the classifications of speech acts that concerns with the act of revealing something such as feelings, attitude, utterances of emotion, and spoken that have a meaning with the purpose to do something that the listener expects the result from the speaker.
3. Positive politeness techniques appears to extensively used within compliment utterances to emphasize kindness in an effort to prevent offending anyone. These tactics include finding common ground, utilizing jokes, honorifics, nicknames, tag questions, special discourse markers (please), in-group terminology, and contrasting praise and criticism.
4. The remarkable function that is adopted when complimenting the participants within the show is politeness and praising since compliment in its original aim is for praising others, be kind to them and show more respect and positive attitude to others.

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