



A Forensic Pragmatic Analysis of Impoliteness Strategies in Financial Blackmail

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates impoliteness strategies in cyber blackmail messages sent by offenders within Iraqi digital contexts. Based on Culpeper's (1996) model of impoliteness, the analysis focuses on real-life cases involving male and female perpetrators. The data reveal recurring patterns of threats, verbal aggression, and face-threatening acts (FTAs), particularly in financial blackmail. This study hypothesizes that bald on record is the most frequently used strategy of impoliteness by blackmailers, while the sarcasm strategy is the least utilized. The forensic linguistic approach adopted here aims to uncover how impoliteness is linguistically constructed to manipulate, intimidate, or control victims. Finally, the study finds that negative impoliteness is the most frequently utilized strategy by both males and females in financial blackmail, whereas sarcasm has been the least used.

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INTRODUCTION

Cyber blackmail has become an increasingly serious phenomenon in the digital age, particularly in regions experiencing socio-political instability and economic hardship. Among the various forms of cybercrime, financial blackmail stands out due to its direct targeting of victims' economic vulnerability. Offenders frequently exploit social media platforms and messaging applications to extract money through threats, exposure, or manipulation. As these crimes often take place through language, a deeper linguistic understanding of how blackmailers use communication to intimidate, pressure, and control victims is essential.

Within the field of forensic pragmatics, impoliteness strategies are of particular interest, as they reflect not only the intention of harm but also the offender's strategic manipulation of interactional norms. Impoliteness, in this context, is not simply rudeness, but a deliberate violation of expected communicative norms designed to psychologically and emotionally destabilize the victim. Although impoliteness strategies have been extensively studied, there is still a noticeable gap in research addressing impoliteness strategies in actual cyber blackmail cases, especially from a forensic perspective within Iraqi sociocultural contexts. Hence, the present study makes an attempt to answer the following questions:

- 1- What are the most and least common impoliteness strategies used by male and female blackmailers?
- 2- Do male and female blackmailers, in their interactions with victims, use the same levels of impoliteness?

This study aims to bridge this gap by analyzing how male and female offenders utilize impoliteness strategies in financial blackmail interactions. It explores the linguistic devices used to coerce and control victims and how these strategies may vary by gender and context.

1. LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1 FORENSIC LINGUISTICS

Like many other scientific fields, forensic linguistics cannot be said to have started at a specific moment. Since the 18th century, researchers and scholars have debated the authorship of famous texts, such as sacred books and Shakespeare's plays (Olsson, 2008). The term "Forensic" comes from Latin "Foensis," meaning 'public' or 'in open court' (Syam, 2018, p. 101), emphasizing its connection to judicial settings. It was first used in 1986 when linguist Jan Svartvik analyzed police statements from 1953. He studied statements by Timothy John Evans, who was executed for murder but later pardoned. Svartvik noted style differences, suggesting some phrases were not Evans' own, thus coining the term forensic linguistics, with Svartvik as the first to introduce it. Despite early developments, progress was slow (Prodanović & Adamović, 2014). Crystal (2008) describes forensic linguistics as using linguistic techniques to investigate crimes involving language evidence, like grammatical or lexical analysis of police statements (p.194). It covers various texts, contracts, judgments, jury instructions, warnings, trademarks, wills, and police interviews (Coulthard & Johnson, 2010). Olsson (2008) sees it as "the interface between language, crime, and law," addressing legal violations and remedies (p.3).

As the field of forensic linguistics advances, the classification of its areas continues to expand. It generally relies on established classifications related to the structure and function of language to organize both current and potential subject areas. However, in some cases, a more detailed categorization is needed (McMenamin, 2002).

1.2 Forensic Pragmatics

The significance of pragmatics in forensic contexts lies in the fact that speakers and writers do not always express their intended meaning directly. Listeners and readers may also fail to interpret the intended message accurately, making the speaker's or

writer's intention open to varying interpretations. Such disagreement can lead to miscommunication and conflict. It is essential to note that most of the work on pragmatics is done by philosophers of language, such as Wittgenstein (1953), Austin (1962), Searle, and Grice (1975). Forensic pragmatics is a subfield of forensic linguistics that focuses on the interface between language use and the legal system. It examines how meaning is constructed, interpreted, and contested in legal and criminal contexts, particularly through speech acts, implicature, politeness and impoliteness strategies, and context-dependent interpretation. As Constable (2014) notes, forensic pragmatics is essential for law enforcement, as the success of legal procedures often relies on how effectively language is used and understood.

Coulthard et al. (2017) conclude that how lawyers and other legal professionals attempt to control witnesses and face resistance, how speakers convey meaning, the utilization of politeness and impoliteness, and how professional speakers engage and coerce common people in conversation are all influenced by pragmatic usage. "Pragmatic competence is an important component of professional discourse and therefore integral to forensic discourse and conversation analysis" (Coulthard et al., 2017, p.22).

1.3 LANGUAGE CRIME

One of the distinct roles of language is its potential use in committing crimes, which is often referred to as "language crimes." These crimes involve "illegal speech acts" (Tiersma & Solan, 2012, p. 340), where language is used intentionally to perform specific actions that have criminal consequences. In these cases, the manipulation or misuse of language becomes central to the commission of the crime, highlighting the power of words in legal and criminal contexts.

Shuy (1993) states that there are different types of crimes committed only through language, including solicitation to murder, solicitation to sex, conspiracy, bribery, threatening, blackmail, perjury, fraud, purchasing or selling stolen property, defamation, sexual harassment, and presenting a false statement to government officials. this type of crime does not need physical violence, as seen in offenses like rape, theft, or murder. However, some language-based crimes, like defamation and blackmail, have the potential to grow, ultimately leading to physical harm.

1.4 CYBER BLACKMAIL

One of the most significant challenges in contemporary computer security and crime detection is cyber blackmail. Although it is considered an old crime, it has been adapted to modern technology. The concept of blackmail is difficult to define precisely, as various researchers and legal experts hold differing opinions about what constitutes blackmail in language and how blackmail crimes should be analyzed. Langford (2002, p. 273) defines blackmail as "the action of demanding something by using a threat to expose some secret knowledge which the victim wants to keep secret." Similarly, Kareem (2021, p. 8270) adds that "blackmail is a form of cybercrime that is carried out using information networks, for different purposes such as theft and fraud." Blackmail is not limited to a single form; it can take many forms, depending on its purpose and the kind of information being compromised. However, one of the types of cyberblackmail include:

1. FINANCIAL BLACKMAIL

According to Mekkawi (2022, p.62), financial blackmail refers to an “attempt to gain money through coercion to take advantage of a situation of weakness” Hanoon and Hameed (2021) add that it is a form of blackmail in which someone (the blackmailer) demands financial benefits from another person by threatening to reveal compromising or damaging information about them. In financial blackmail, Abdul Kareem (2021) asserts that the blackmailer’s goal is money, which is requested from the victim in exchange for not revealing the victim’s secret.

In cybercrime investigations, forensic pragmatics plays a critical role in analyzing the communicative behavior of offenders, especially when threats, coercion, or manipulation are conveyed through written or spoken language. The use of impoliteness strategies in blackmail, for example, can reveal the offender’s intent to threaten, dominate, or psychologically destabilize the victim. By focusing on pragmatic features such as face-threatening acts, indirectness, speech control, and pragmatic force, forensic pragmatics allows analysts to uncover not only what is said, but how and why it is said within the context of a criminal act.

1.5 IMPOLITENESS

It is crucial to start by reviewing ideas of politeness to gain a deeper understanding of impoliteness. Linguistic politeness is characterized by addressing others in a manner appropriate to the nature of the relationship. According to Holmes (2008), being polite involves speaking to people appropriately in the light of the relationship. Consequently, the level of politeness depends on the social relationship between the interlocutors, which defines the level of formality employed in their interaction.

Brown and Levinson (1987) identify five primary categories of politeness strategies: bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness, off-record (indirect), and offering a non-verbal hint. Fundamentally, these strategies are based on the understanding that people use a variety of ways in their interactions with others to meet specific needs. According to Eelen (2001), impoliteness is the absence, lack of practice, or deviation from politeness. In Brown and Levinson's (1987) theory of politeness, impoliteness is described as "communicative strategies designed to attack face and thereby cause social conflict and disharmony" (Culpeper, 1996, p.349). Culpeper (1996) asserts that purposefully harming or demeaning another person's face is an example of rude behavior.

Impoliteness is a negative attitude toward specific actions occurring within contexts (Culpeper, 2010). Culpeper (1996) developed a framework of impoliteness strategies based on politeness strategies, identifying a corresponding impoliteness strategy for each politeness strategy.

Five rudeness strategies for handling face-threatening activities (FTAs) were identified by Culpeper (2005). When the victim and the blackmailer have an acrimonious interaction, the blackmailer may target the victim's unfavorable face. In other words,

because they don't have a positive relationship, blackmailers threaten or damage the victim's reputation. The following are Culpeper's impoliteness strategies:

1-Bald on record

Bald on record constitutes a face-threatening act in which the speaker or sender deliberately aims to undermine the addressee's face. This act is typically executed in a direct, clear, unambiguous, and concise manner, especially in contexts where the speaker does not endeavor to attenuate or mitigate the threat. As Culpeper (1996, p. 256) states, this strategy is employed "in a direct, clear, unambiguous and concise way in circumstances where the face is not irrelevant or minimized", for instance:

2-Positive Impoliteness

Culpeper (1996, p.258) asserts that positive impoliteness involves using strategies intended to attack the addressee's positive face, that is, their desire to be liked, accepted, and approved of by others. This form of impoliteness is typically realized through several sub-strategies, including:

Ignore and snub the other

Exclude the other from an activity

Disassociate from the other

Be disinterested, unconcerned, unsympathetic

Use taboo words

3-Negative Impoliteness

Negative impoliteness is a strategy utilized to damage the addressee's negative face wants. As Culpeper (1996, p. 356) explains, this form of impoliteness can be realized through various sub-strategies, including:

Frighten, i.e., instill the belief that an action detrimental to others will occur.

Condescend, scorn, or ridicule. Be contemptuous.

Explicitly associate the other with a negative aspect

4-Sarcasm

In this strategy, the Face Threatening Act (FTA) is conducted indirectly through a politeness strategy characterized by sincerity. This entails the act of showing politeness, while the intended meaning may be contrary or distinct from the speaker's verbal expression, thereby not preserving the addressee's face.

5-Withhold Politeness

This strategy reflects the absence of expected politeness behavior, particularly in contexts where politeness is socially expected. It involves intentionally withholding politeness cues, such as verbal acknowledgments or responses. As Culpeper (1996, pp. 356–358) notes, withholding politeness, such as failing to thank someone for a gift, can be interpreted as a deliberate act of impoliteness rather than a mere mistake.

3. THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK

The present study utilizes a mixed approach including qualitative and quantitative methods . The qualitative part of this study is represented by forensic pragmatics, examining the concept of cyber blackmail cases. Meanwhile, the quantitative part involves utilizing the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS) as a statistical tool to enhance the study's findings, support the researcher's interpretation, and avoid bias or subjectivity. The data were collected by analyzing real cyber blackmail cases obtained from various institutions, including police reports and court documents. Whereas all data are reviewed and approved by the relevant institutions to ensure full compliance with privacy and ethical guidelines, and involve male and female Iraqi offenders. The cases were chosen based on their relevance to financial blackmail. All of the cases collected and analyzed in this study occurred in 2024. Each case was carefully examined to identify the threatening strategies used, and the findings were systematically recorded for further analysis. Accordingly, this selection is justified by the use of specific criteria:

- 1- The data are directly connected to the criminal activity of cyber blackmailers and include written conversations through social media and other forms of digital communication.
- 2- The offenders' messages were originally written in Iraqi dialect, often using colloquial and informal expressions. In order to preserve the pragmatic and stylistic features of the original threats, the texts were translated into informal British English. This choice was intended to maintain the tone, emotional intensity, and conversational nature of the source texts. A formal translation might have distorted the linguistic strategies used by the offenders and weakened the authenticity of the analysis. Therefore, the informal register was selected to reflect the original communicative context as accurately as possible.
- 3- All selected cyber blackmail cases are recent, based on the statistics from the Ministry of Interior Directorate of Relations and Media in Baghdad, ensuring the relevance and timeliness of the data.

4. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

Forensic Text No.1

| English Translation (Informal British Dialect) | Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect) |
|--|--|
| Case 1 | القضية 1 |

Blackmailer: Right then, let's meet. Send the money, or I'm sharing your pics

Victim: I gave you money yesterday - what's with asking for more every bloody day?

Blackmailer: Stop chatting - where we meeting?

Victim: Same place.

Blackmailer: Get there and give the money to the lad who comes to you. Don't try anything clever or I'll show everyone who you are - not messing .about

Victim: Just don't send anything and .delete what you've got

Blackmailer: Send what?? I'll show your minging face to everyone so they know exactly who you are, you waste. Gone quiet now? Hiding? Doing a runner

Victim: Do what you want

Blackmailer: Think I'm laughing? You disgrace; I'll expose you proper. Don't send the money, watch me share everything. Then you'll see what happens.

المبتز : وين نلتقي ؟ رسليلي فلوس أو أنشر صورج

الضحيه : أمس انطيتك شنو كل يوم مين اجيبك

المبتز : كلام زايد ما اريد ، وين نتقابل ؟

الضحيه : بنفس المكان

المبتز : روجي هناك وسلمي الفلوس بيد الولد اللي يجيج ومو تسوين حركه منا منا

جاي انبهج وهذا تحذير

الضحيه : بس بعد متدز شي وتحذف كل شي

المبتز : شذز ؟؟ أذزلهم وجهج القذر حتى يتعرفون عليه يافذره

هاشنو انخرستي عار انطميتي ، طاشته

الضحيه : سوي اي شي

المبتز : متصدكيني ها ؟ قذره

جاي انبهج ، اذا مارسلتيلي فلوس راح انشر كل شي

This case is a financial blackmail, in which the perpetrator is a male and coerced the victim by threatening to disclose her private photos unless she provided additional financial payments. The blackmailer threatens the victim through the WhatsApp application.

Impoliteness Strategies

As a part of pragmatic strategies, blackmailers use impoliteness strategies to intimidate and pressure their victims through direct and offensive language. The blackmailer employs the strategy of “*Bald on Record*” to give his orders concisely, utilizing the verbs “rslīlī,” رسليلي فلوس “rūhī,” روجي هناك and “salīmī” سلمي الفلوس and intentionally causes face damage .These imperative forms are used to pressure the victim into complying without hesitation or resistance. By issuing direct commands, the blackmailer creates a sense of urgency and implicit threat, reinforcing their dominance over the victim. They demonstrate the blackmailer's authority and coercive control,

referring to the lack of politeness markers, and serve to assert control. These commands are forceful and devoid of mitigating politeness markers, emphasizing the power imbalance between the blackmailer and the victim. The blackmailer asserts control and compels obedience through this syntactic structure, exploiting linguistic authority to manipulate the victim's actions.

Then, he uses a conventional formulaic swear word by which he shows his offensiveness to humiliate his victim, who wants to delete everything after receiving the money. The blackmailer calls the victim “qāḍrā, عار ‘ār” and “tafa, طاشه”. Using these words is considered a swearing expression that includes damaging the face of the victim, and they are sub-strategies of positive impoliteness. At the same time, he uses the utterance of “wājḥīḥ ?lqāḍīr, (وجهي القذر)” which means “your minging face”, which is a derogatory term in which the blackmailer is aimed at attacking the victim's positive face. In Iraqi dialect, the words “‘ār” (عار), “qāḍīrā” (قذرة), and “tafa” (طاشة) are used to describe individuals who are viewed as disgraceful or dishonorable within society. The word “‘ār” is used to label someone as a source of disgrace or dishonor to their family or community. Calling someone ‘ār implies that their actions are socially unacceptable and humiliates those associated with them. The word “qāḍīrā” is used as an insult to describe someone as morally corrupt or despicable. This term not only carries a sense of physical dirtiness but also connotes a deep moral impurity. And the word “tafa” is a colloquial term used to refer to someone notorious in a negative way. It describes a person whose bad reputation is widely known and who is spoken about as an example of disgrace.

Finally, the blackmailer employs a negative impoliteness strategy, and the realization of this strategy is threatening “rīslīlī fulūs wāīlā ?nfīr šwārīḥ.”

رسليلي فلوس وإلا أنشر صورچ He threatens his victim directly by publishing her photos if she does not send the money. By creating an atmosphere of fear and urgency, the blackmailer manipulates the victim into a state of helplessness, increasing her compliance with his demands. The blackmailer manipulates the victim into compliance through psychological coercion by exposing sensitive. This conditional threat implies negative consequences if the demand is not met.

Forensic Text No.2

| English Translation (Informal British Dialect) | Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect) |
|--|--|
|--|--|

Case 2

Blackmailer: Oi my love,

Listen pet, you know you're special to me but what can I do - I need dosh, need it sharpish. Tell X that today I'm gonna wreck her world - yours too. Tell her all her pics and videos are going everywhere today, first to your lot and that muppet Y's people. You div, let everyone see who you really are and how mental you've gone. Got it or what? Stop arsing about - send it to this number #####.

I can do whatever I fancy, just wait and see.

Get a move on, bye.

القضية 2

المبتز : هلو حياتي

شوفي حبيبتي تدرين انت غاليله علي بس شسوي محتاج فلوس محتاج فلوس واريدهن باسرع وقت .
كلي ل(س) اليوم الدنيا تحترك عله راسج وراسها.
كليلها اليوم تتوزع كل الصور ومقاطع الفيديو مالتها
اول ناس جماعتكم وجماعة (ص) الاثول يا ثوله
وخلّي الناس تشوف منو انت وشلون دايله
افتهمتي لو لا ؟

ولتباطلين، دزي على هذا الرقم #####

أقدر اسوي كلشي، انتظري

بسرعه، باي

This case is a financial blackmail. where the blackmailer contacted the victim through the Instagram application with the intent to extort money. The defendant, through a direct, clear, and unambiguous message, demanded an immediate monetary transfer, stating, ***“I need dosh, need it sharpish.”***

Impoliteness Strategies

In cyber blackmail, language is not just a tool for communication but a means of coercion. Blackmailers strategically employ pragmatic strategies to exert power over the victim, often employing impoliteness strategies to intimidate and pressure them through direct and offensive language.

The blackmailer utilizes impoliteness strategies in the first line of this forensic text. To manifest his control, he uses three strategies: bald on record, positive impoliteness, and negative impoliteness. At first, he starts with the verbs “glīy” كلي , “laṭmaṭlyn” لتباطلين , and “riṣlī” رسليلي فلوس , which mean “tell” “don’t stall” and “send”, where the blackmailer does not attempt to save the victim’s face while ordering his victim to send the money and appears impolite. The verb “laṭmaṭlyn” in Iraqi Arabic refers to the person who tries to get more time to solve his/her problem or run away from what is being demanded.

After presenting the power of control using imperative verbs, the blackmailer uses the second impoliteness strategy to insult the victim’s face: the positive impoliteness “ṭwla” ثوله and “dayḥa,” دايله where he attempts to attack and humiliate the victim. These taboo words are regarded as sub-strategies of positive impoliteness. In the expressions “ṭwla” (ثوله), meaning “idiot”, and “dayḥa” (دايله), meaning “shameless”,

the blackmailer employs a strategy of verbal abuse through offensive language to target the victim. In the Iraqi dialect, "thowālā" describes an individual who is foolish, slow-witted to comprehend others, easily deceived, or acts in a silly or clueless manner. It is a slang term used to describe someone who is not very sharp or makes dumb mistakes. Lacking intelligence and equivalent to being "slow on the uptake," It can be used jokingly among friends or as an insult, depending on the context. Meanwhile, "ḍayḥa" (دايحه) refers to someone who is not very responsible and excessively aimless or wandering. When used for men, "ḍayḥ" typically means someone irresponsible, reckless, or unfocused in life, perhaps someone who lacks ambition or direction. But if it is directed at women, "ḍayḥa" carries a much heavier moral importance. It often implies indecency or immorality, or can imply a lack of self-restraint, an improper lifestyle, possibly hinting at being too open, careless about reputation, engaging in behavior that is frowned upon, or a lack of social respectability. Sometimes, it can be used between friends or siblings to gently criticize someone for being too relaxed or unfocused. In this case of blackmail, the use of "ḍayḥa" against the victim is particularly powerful due to its strong association with shame, moral judgment, and social dishonor. Given the cultural significance of reputation, especially for women, such a term can serve as an effective tool for psychological manipulation, instilling fear and coercing the victim into compliance to avoid public disgrace.

Lastly, the blackmailer threatens the victim by employing the "Negative impoliteness" strategy, saying, "ʔlyowm ʔldūnyā tiḥturg'ala raṣich wa rāshā. gililḥā ʔlyawm tatawazā'kul aṣṣūwar wa muqāṭi' ʔlfdyū mālaḥā".

He (س) اليوم الدنيا تحترك عله راسج وراسها. كليلها اليوم تتوزع كل الصور ومقاطع الفيديو مالتها utilizes this strategy to make the victim fearful. The utterance "ʔlyowm ʔldūnyā tiḥturg'ala raṣich wa rāshā" is used a lot in the Iraqi dialect to refer to something that will happen dangerously or when someone threatens another person. they serve as a direct threat, intensifying psychological pressure on the victim. The use of strong, metaphorical language in Iraqi Arabic adds to the intensity of the blackmail, reinforcing the power imbalance between the blackmailer and the victim.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The overall chi-square values for both males ($\chi^2 = 11.71$, $p = 0.01$) and females ($\chi^2 = 10.29$, $p = 0.02$) indicate that gender has a statistically significant effect on the choice of blackmail strategies. Since both p-values are below 0.05, we can conclude that the distribution of strategies differs meaningfully between males and females. However, when analyzing individual strategies separately, none of them reach statistical significance. This suggests that no single strategy dominates the gender-based variation, but the collective differences across all strategies contribute to the overall significance. In the analysis of Individual Strategies "Bald on Record" strategy, which involves direct and explicit threats or demands, was used by males (31.0%) and females (26.2%) at similar rates. The chi-square value (0.17) is extremely low, and the p-value (0.68) is well above the significance threshold. This suggests that gender does not significantly influence the use of direct threats in financial blackmail cases. The minimal variation observed between males and females is likely due to random chance rather than any systematic gender difference.

Positive Impoliteness strategy involves using insults, derogatory remarks, or dismissive language to intimidate the victim. Males employed this strategy more frequently (31.0%) compared to females (11.9%). The chi-square value (3.56) and p-value (0.06) indicate that this difference is close to statistical significance but does not quite reach the conventional threshold of (0.05). This suggests that males may be more tend to use this strategy than females.

Negative Impoliteness strategy, which involves, making the victim feel isolated or displaying hostility, was used by males (35.7%) and females (26.2%). The chi-square value (0.62) and p-value (0.43) indicate that this difference is not statistically significant. The relatively even distribution indicates that both genders utilize this strategy in financial blackmail at similar rates, and any minor difference is likely attributable to chance.

Sarcasm, which includes using irony or mockery to exert control over the victim, was used minimally by both males and females (2.4% each). The chi-square value of (0.0) and p-value of 1.0 indicate no variation between genders. This means that sarcasm is not a distinguishing factor in gender-based blackmail strategy choice and is rarely employed in financial blackmail cases.

Withhold politeness, where the blackmailer refuses to communicate or provide expected responses to manipulate the victim, was not used at all by either males or females (0.0%). Since this strategy was not observed in any case, it has no variation and thus no statistical significance. Although no individual strategy reached statistical significance, the overall chi-square results ($\chi^2 = 11.71$, $p = 0.01$ for males; $\chi^2 = 10.29$, $p = 0.02$ for females) confirm that gender plays a role in the general distribution of financial blackmail strategies. This means that while specific strategies do not show major gender-based differences on their own, the combined effect of multiple small differences creates a significant pattern overall.

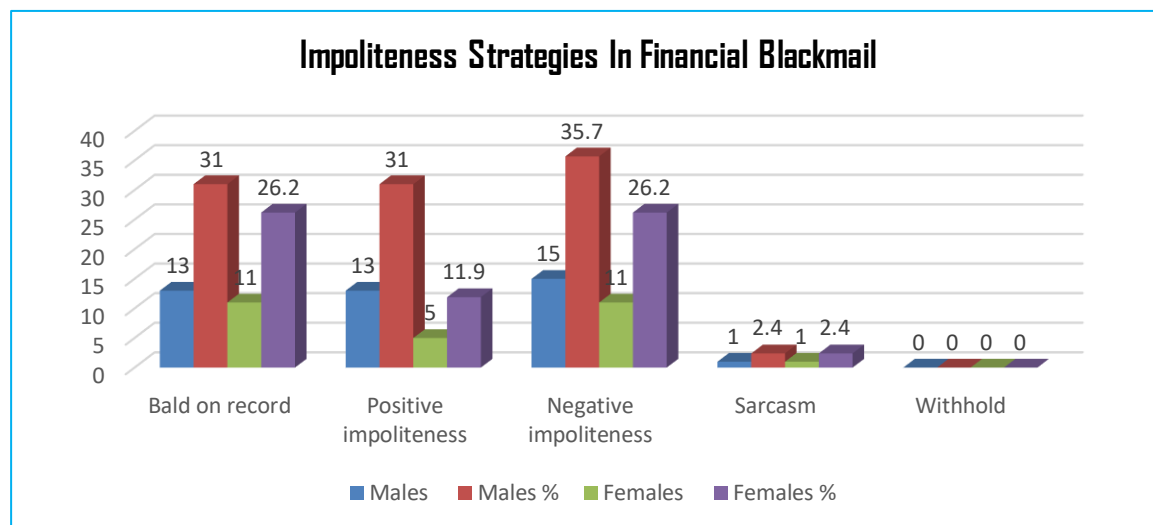
Table 1

Impoliteness Strategies in Financial Blackmail

| Financial Blackmail | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|---------|------|-------------|
| No. | Strategy | Males | | Females | | chi & p.v |
| | | Fr. | % | Fr. | % | |
| 1. | Bald on record | 13 | 31.0 | 11 | 26.2 | 0.17 & 0.68 |
| 2. | Positive impoliteness | 13 | 31.0 | 5 | 11.9 | 3.56 & 0.06 |
| 3. | Negative impoliteness | 15 | 35.7 | 11 | 26.2 | 0.62 & 0.43 |
| 4. | Sarcasm | 1 | 2.4 | 1 | 2.4 | 0.0 & 1.0 |
| 5. | Withhold | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 & 1.0 |
| Total | | 42 | 100 % | 28 | 100% | |
| Chi & P. V | | 11.71 | 0.01 | 10.29 | 0.02 | |

Figure 1

Impoliteness Strategies in Financial Blackmail



6. CONCLUSION

1. The analysis of cyber financial blackmail cases shows that both male and female offenders often use negative and bald on record impoliteness strategies, which involve direct and confrontational language. These strategies undermine victims' autonomy, provoke fear, and pressure compliance.

2. Impoliteness is strategically based on context, reflecting not only the power imbalance between offender and victim but also broader cultural patterns. For example, the frequent use of direct, face-threatening language in Iraqi blackmail cases may indicate a cultural tendency toward confrontational conflict resolution styles, as opposed to indirect or passive aggression seen in other settings.

3- Positive impoliteness was also used, though to a lesser extent, and often took the form of ridicule or disrespect toward the victim's social identity. While sarcasm/mock politeness appeared only rarely, strategies such as withholding politeness or completely blocking the victim were notably absent. This absence suggests that cyber blackmailers prefer to maintain continuous interaction with the victim to maximize manipulation and control, rather than breaking off communication.

4- The chi-square analysis confirms that gender plays a significant role in shaping the overall distribution of impoliteness strategies in financial blackmail. Although no single strategy demonstrates a statistically significant difference on its own, the cumulative effect of small variations across multiple strategies contributes to a meaningful pattern. Male and female blackmailers do not rely on a single strategy. Instead, they use different language styles that reflect gender-based differences in how coercive language is applied

5- From a forensic linguistics perspective, the identification of these strategies provides valuable insight into the linguistic profile of blackmailers. The findings have practical implications in cybercrime investigations, where linguistic patterns can assist in detecting threats, profiling offenders, and evaluating evidence in blackmail cases.

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Abstract in Arabic

تبحث هذه الدراسة في استراتيجيات الوقاحة في رسائل الابتزاز الإلكتروني التي يرسلها مجرموا الإنترنت ضمن السياقات الرقمية العراقية. وبناءً على نموذج كليبير (1996) للوقاحة، يركز التحليل على حالات واقعية تتعلق بمركبي جرائم الابتزاز من الذكور والإناث. تكشف البيانات عن أنماط متكررة من التهديدات والعدوان اللفظي وأفعال تهديد الوجه (FTAs) خاصة في الابتزاز المالي. تفترض هذه الدراسة أن إستراتيجية الأوامر هي أكثر إستراتيجيات الوقاحة استخدامًا من قبل المبتزين، في حين أن إستراتيجية السخرية هي الأقل استخدامًا. يهدف النهج اللغوي الجنائي المعتمد هنا إلى الكشف عن كيفية بناء الوقاحة لغويًا للتلاعب بالضحايا أو تخويفهم أو السيطرة عليهم. وأخيرًا، وجدت الدراسة أن الوقاحة السلبية هي الاستراتيجية الأكثر استخدامًا من قبل كل من الذكور والإناث في الابتزاز المالي، في حين كانت السخرية هي الأقل استخدامًا.
