

A Contrastive Study of Speech Act Realization Patterns in Algerian and Jordanian students' Facebook Status Updates

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Abstract:

This research paper analyzed the speech acts used by Algerian and Jordanian students in updating their Facebook status. By analyzing 492 Facebook updates, the present study aims to explore the types of speech acts used in status updates on Algerian and Jordanian Facebook. Moreover, it aims to identify the communicative functions of these speech acts and to investigate whether gender affects the use of speech acts. For this purpose, the status updates were analyzed through Searle's Speech Act framework (1969). The findings revealed that Algerian and Jordanian students use seven speech acts; directives, assertives, commissives, expressives, declaratives, quotations and poetic verses. In addition, it was found that the speech acts of Algerian and Jordanian students communicate 16 functions; they are: informing, reporting, predicting, commanding, requesting, inviting, asking, wish, congratulating, greeting, thanking, condoling, warning, complaining, and expressing joy and pain.

Keywords: status update, Facebook, speech act.

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دراسة مقارنة لأنماط أفعال الكلام في تحيّثات حالة الطالب الجزائريين والأردنيين على فيسبوك

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ملخص:

تهدف هذه الورقة البحثية إلى دراسة أفعال الكلام التي يستخدمها الطالب الجزائريون والأردنيون في تحيّثات الحالة على فيسبوك. من خلال تحليل 492 تحيّثاً على فيسبوك تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى اكتشاف أنواع أفعال الكلام المستخدمة في تحيّثات الحالة الجزائرية والأردنية. كما تهدف هذه الدراسة أيضاً إلى تحديد الوظائف الإتصالية لأفعال الكلام وإلى اكتشاف مدى تأثير الجنس في إستعمال الأفعال الكلامية. لبلوغ هذه الأهداف تم تحليل تحيّثات الحالة طبقاً لنظرية سيرل للأفعال الكلامية (1969). وهذا وقد أظهرت النتائج أن الطالب الجزائريين والأردنيين يستخدمون سبعة أفعال كلامية وهي: أفعال التوجيه، أفعال التمثيل، أفعال السلوك، أفعال التعبير، أفعال الإعلان، الإقتباسات والأبيات الشعرية. فضلاً عن ذلك فقد لقد تم إيجاد 16 وظيفة إتصالية لأفعال الكلام الجزائرية والأردنية، وهي: الإعلام، الإبلاغ، التنبؤ، الأمر، الطلب، الدعوة، المسؤول، التمني، التهنئة، التحية، الشكر، التعزية، التحذير، الشكوى والتعبير عن الفرح والآلم.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تحيّثات الحالة، فيسبوك، أفعال الكلام.

1. Introduction

With the emergence of new technologies, the means by which people use to interact or communicate has undergone a radical change. One of such new media technologies which captured a great attention of society is the Social Network Site (SNS) – Facebook (Boyd and Ellison 2008). On this social network community (SNC), speakers are able to access to different online activities, update their statuses or profiles, engage in social interactions and make connections. By doing so, they use different types of speech acts. In fact, language plays an essential role, in all of these communicative events. Therefore, in recent times, it is not surprising that the language used on the SNSs including Facebook has been the main subject of investigation among new researchers.

Accordingly, studying speech acts in specific context offers a deep understanding of the background, norm and value system of specific speech community. Therefore, this paper is an attempt to explore and understand the formal features and functions of digital discourse by means of Facebook. To achieve this understanding, Searle's (1969) speech act theory is adopted.

1.2 Aims of the study:

This research will explore the language used in a specific context (Facebook). It investigates the types of speech acts performed in the status updates posted by the Algerian and Jordanian Facebook users. Besides, it aims to find out the similarities and differences between the communicative functions behind these statuses. Furthermore, the significance of the current study stems from its originality as to the researcher's best knowledge, nothing is written on Facebook speech acts in Algerian society. However, most of the previous speech acts researches in the Jordanian context are conducted using unnatural data (DCT and / or interview). Thus, the present work will enrich speech act research by adding value to previous research in this field.

1.3 Research Questions

The researcher formulates four research questions. They are:

1. What are the types of speech acts in the status updates posted by the Algerian and the Jordanian Facebook users?
2. How do Algerians differ from Jordanians in using assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, declarative, quotation and poetics verses speech acts?
3. What are the different communicative functions that emerge from the analysis of status posts?

4. How does gender affect the use of speech act in Facebook updates of Algerian and Jordanian students?

2. Review of Literature

In the latest few years, studies on social networking sites have been developed; some of them have vanished, whereas others have acquired popularity. Researches carried out on Facebook focus mainly on the sociological aspects. These studies attempt to set up a relationship between media (Facebook), and the social use of language, to form what is known as digital discourse.

In their research study, Carr, Schrock and Dauterman (2009), explored the set of speech acts on American Facebook updates in order to determine how humor was used to post messages in SNSs. The results indicated that four speech acts exist in the status updated by Americans; expressives, assertives, commissives and directives. The study indeed, noted that humor was integrated in almost 20% of the status messages. Their research further demonstrated differences in the way users express themselves with media.

In another context, Ilyas and Khushi, (2012) examined the communicative functions of status updates on Facebook through Searle's (1969) speech act theory. They analyzed 171 status updates to see the types of speech acts integrated in Facebook posts. Their study determined that the status messages were primarily constructed with three categories of speech acts; expressive acts, assertive acts and finally directive acts. In addition to this, the study further detected a new category of acts; this is poetic verses.

In another seminal study, Nartey (2013) investigated the various categories of speech acts that are present in the messages used by Ghanaian University students. Using the framework of Austin (1962) and Searle's (1969) speech act theory, the study showed that four of Searle's (1969) speech act classification were present in the Ghanaian status updates, but with different frequencies. The students' statuses are primarily concerned by directives and assertives, followed by expressives and commissives.

Importantly, Tauchid and Rukmini (2016) conducted an investigation on the different types of expressive speech acts performed by 'Wayne Rooney' on his Facebook. 91 updates were collected from Rooney's Facebook. Throughout their research, they noticed that Wayne Rooney performed four types of expressive speech acts in his Facebook. These are congratulating, complimenting, thanking and boasting.

In the similar vein, Banikalef and Bataineh (2017) conducted a sociolinguistic analysis on speech acts patterns realized in Facebook updates of Jordanian students. Following Searle's (1969) taxonomy, they analyzed

200 Facebook updates. The study findings stipulated that Jordanian updates have six speech acts; expressive, assertive, directives, God invocations, quotation and humor. The researchers further noted that the cultural and the religious background of Jordanians affect the language used in their posts.

Following similar lines of inquiry, Ambarwati, Nurkamto, and Santosa (2018) analyzed the expressive speech acts in Facebook updates among young women to describe these acts and to identify their functions. The study demonstrated the existence of six kinds of speech acts in the updates, namely; phatic, assertive, directive, verdictive, expressive and commissive. They added that the functions of expressive acts are thanking, apologizing, blaming, praising and wailing.

3. Theoretical Framework

3.1. Speech act theory

Speech act theory (SAT) is a philosophy of language that is discovered by Austin (1962). Later on, his follower, Searle (1969) refined Austin's ideas in different works in which he believes that Speech acts (SAs) are the main units of linguistic communication (Searle, 1969). What is common between Austin and Searle is their agreement about finding the necessary trichotomy of language use. It considers the degree to which utterances are said to perform locutionary acts (what a speaker actually said), illocutionary acts (the verbal accomplishment of what is said), and/or perlocutionary acts (what the hearer does in response to the utterance).

3.2 Framework of the Study

For the sake of the study, Searle's (1969) taxonomy is adopted. In his theory classifies SAs according to their illocutionary acts. According to him, there are five categories of SAs: assertives, directives, commissives, expressives and declarations. (Table 1)

Speech Act	Properties of Speech Act	Example(s)
Assertive acts	an attempt by a person in stating the truth of the uttered statement. They are simply statements which describe the way things are.	asserting, concluding, informing, predicting and reporting.
Directive acts	employed to get people to do something	commanding, requesting, ordering, inviting, asking or suggesting.
Commissive Acts	the speakers commit themselves to do something in the future	offering, promising, refusing, vowing and volunteering
Expressive Acts	describe the psychological state, feeling and attitudes of the speaker	Any statements of pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy or sorrow.
Declarative Acts	statements or expressions that contain declaration which can	Verdictives, effectives

Speech Act	Properties of Speech Act	Example(s)
	immediately change the state of the world	

(Adopted from Searle (1975))

In addition to the previous SAs, there are other acts that are not included in the taxonomy given beforehand, yet they are relevant to be used in the study. First, quotations are utterances or expressions that are not originally created by the speaker such as user's feelings, emotions, beliefs, intentions and life quotes. Second, poetic verses express different feelings and emotions of love, sorrow, happiness and joy (Ilyas and Khushi, 2012)

4. Methodology

The research site for this study is the University of Jordan, in which the social interaction of students occurs either in real world or in virtual world (Facebook). The actual setting of the research is the Facebook page in which Algerian and Jordanian students discuss virtually everything that they live and experience in life. Moreover, 60 graduate students; 30 Jordanian (15 males and 15 females) and 30 Algerian (8 males and 22 females), were chosen in the age group of 18-40 years. It is important to mention that it was difficult to get the Facebook of some Algerian males, thus, the participants were added 7 Algerian females to be the same as the Jordanian participants. They were purposely selected from different groups which made it easy access to the students' updates on Facebook as they were added to the researcher's Facebook pages. In this study, content analysis will be applied to analyze the types of speech act in the students' Facebook statuses. Searle's taxonomy will be used as a basis of the study to deal with the students' updates.

4.1 The corpus:

The participants' status updates were collected in any times daily, for one month from October to November 2019. The times and dates were chosen for convenience. 492 statues were observed and categorized according to Searle's (1969) classification. Some of updates were broken into two or more parts because of they represent two or more speech acts.

Therefore, this research used mixed method design. It incorporates collecting and analyzing data from the qualitative and quantitative research approaches in a single study. The Quantitative approach will be employed in the collection and the categorization of the speech acts, while the qualitative approach will be used to compute the percentages and statistics of the speech acts types and their functions.

5. Results:

5.1 Quantitative analysis:

In this section, the frequencies and percentages of the speech acts used in the 492 Facebook status updates of Algerian and Jordanian students were tabulated and discussed. Therefore, seven speech acts were present in the updates. See Table 2.

Table 2. Frequencies and percentages of the speech acts present in Facebook Status Updates

Speech acts	Frequency	Percentage
Directives	180	36.5%
Commissives	02	0.5%
Expressives	102	21%
Declaratives	06	1%
Assertives	123	25%
Quotations	69	14%
Poetic verses	10	2%
Total	492	100%

The most significant finding in Table 2 is that the directive, assertive and expressive speech acts recorded the highest frequencies, 180, 123 and 102, respectively accounting for 36.5%, 25% and 21%, respectively. It is worth noting that quotation was also used in Algerian and Jordanian updates (69) accounting for 14% of the total speech acts in the corpus of updates. It is also noted that poetic verses, declarative and commissive speech acts were the least used speech acts accounting for 2%, 1% and 0.5% of the total number of speech acts in the Facebook updates

The findings of the study are presented and discussed in three subsections viz: (1) The Analysis of Algerian Data, (2) The Analysis of Jordanian Data, and (3) Contrasting Algerian and Jordanian Data.

5.1.1. The Analysis of Algerian Data

Frequency tables and percentages were established to see the extent to which each speech act was used by Algerians males and females and to identify the functions of each type of the speech act and its purpose to know the intention of the speaker in producing the Facebook statuses. Tables 3, and 4 are a case in point.

Table 3. Frequencies and percentages of the total speech acts used by Algerian Students

Speech acts	Algerian				Total	
	Male		Female			
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Directives	26	37.7	61	40.7	87	39.7
Commissives	00	00	01	0.7	01	0.5

Speech acts	Algerian				Total			
	Male		Female					
	F	%	F	%				
Expressives	08	11.6	29	19.3	37	16.9		
Declaratives	01	1.4	03	2	04	1.8		
Assertives	22	32	23	15.3	45	20.5		
Quotations	09	13	33	22	42	19.2		
Poetic verses	03	4.3	0	0	03	1.4		
Total	69	31.5	150	68.5	219	100		

As shown in Table 3 Algerian students used the seven speech acts with different frequency. Most of their Facebook updates contain directive speech acts accounting for 39.7 % as the highest frequency among the Algerian corpus (87). This speech act is followed by assertive, quotation and expressive, recording 45, 42 and 37 respectively, accounting for 20.5%, 19.2 % and 16.9% respectively. However, declarative, poetic version and commissive speech act were the least acts used by Algerian representing 1.8%, 1.4% and 0.5 % respectively.

In relation to gender difference, it is worth mentioning that Algerian females used more speech act than Algerian males, accounting for 68.5% and 31.5% of the total number of speech acts. The table also shows that Algerian females used more directive, quotation, expressive and assertive, 61, 33, 29 and 23 accounting for 40.7%, 22 %, 19.3% and 15.3 % respectively than males. However, males used almost more poetic verses 3 instances compared with no instances for females. Furthermore, for declarative speech act was used 3 times by females and only 1 time by males, however, the commissive was not used at all by Algerian males and it appeared 1 time in the female's updates.

Table 4. Frequencies and percentages of the functions of speech act of Algerian Facebook statuses

Speech acts	Functions of Speech acts	Algerian				Total			
		Male		Female					
		F	%	F	%				
Assertives	Informing	15	26.8	22	21	18.7	36	21.3	
	Reporting	07	12.5		02	1.8		09	5.3
	Predicting	0	0		00	0		0	0
Directives	Commanding	08	14.3	26	26	23	61	20.1	
	Requesting	09	16.2		24	21.2		33	19.5
	Inviting	02	3.6		02	1.8		04	2.4
	Asking	07	12.5		9	8		16	9.5
Expressives	Wishing	0	0	08	0	0	29	0	0
	Congratulating	03	5.3		07	6.2		10	5.9

Speech acts	Functions of Speech acts	Algerian						Total			
		Male			Female						
		F	%		F	%					
Greeting	0	0		10	8.8		10	5.9			
	01	1.8		09	8		10	5.9			
	02	3.6		02	1.8		04	2.4			
	0	0		01	0.9		01	0.6			
	0	0		0	0		0	0			
	01	1.8		0	0		01	0.6			
	01	1.8		0	0		01	0.6			
Total		56	33.1		113	66.9		169	100		

Based on data analysis, the result of the functions of the speech act in Facebook statuses showed that among the seven speech acts used by Algerians, only three speech acts performed a set of functions, namely; directives, assertives and expressives.

The most significant finding in Table 4 is that there are three main functions for the assertive speech acts, informing, reporting and predicting. For directives, four main functions are performed, namely; commanding, requesting, inviting and asking. Expressives performed nine functions; wishing, congratulating, greeting, thanking, condoling, warning, complaining, expression of joy and of pain.

In relation to these functions, it is also noted that Algerians use 169 functions of speech acts in their Facebook updates. They also use more informing, commanding and requesting functions while performing assertive and directive speech acts 36, 34 and 33 instances respectively, accounting for 21.3 %, 20.1% and 19.5% respectively. And for the expressive speech acts, they performed congratulating, greeting and thanking functions with the same frequency 10, accounting for 5.9% of the total functions of speech act on Algerian Facebook statuses. In addition to that, predicting, wishing and complaining do not appear in the Facebook updates of Algerians.

In relation to gender differences, Algerian females performed more functions than males, 113 instances compared with 56 instances accounting for 66.9% and 33.1% respectively. They performed commanding, requesting and informing functions more than Algerian males did, accounting for 23, 21.2 and 18.7 percent respectively. However, Algerian males used more reporting function than females 7 instances accounting for 12.5%. It is also worth noting that they both used condoling and inviting functions with the same frequency, 2 instances. It is also noted that Algerian males and females do not use complaining, wishing and predicting.

5.1.2 The Analysis of Jordanian Data

Table 5. Frequencies and percentages of the total speech acts used by Jordanian Students

Speech acts	Jordanian				Total			
	Male		Female					
	F	%	F	%				
Directives	41	32.8	52	35.1	93	34.1		
Commissives	0	0	01	0.7	1	0.4		
Expressives	30	24	35	23.6	65	23.8		
Declaratives	0	0	02	1.4	2	0.7		
Assertives	35	28	43	29	78	28.5		
Quotations	14	11.2	13	8.8	27	9.9		
Poetic verses	05	4	02	1.4	7	2.6		
Total	125	45.8	148	54.2	273	100		

As shown in Table 5 Jordanian used more directive, assertive and expressive speech acts, 93, 78 and 65 instances respectively, accounting for 34.1%, 28.5% and 23.8%. Following this, they use quotation with 27 instances, representing 9.9% of the data. It is also noticed that poetic verses, declaratives and commissives were the least used speech acts by Jordanian.

With reference to gender, it is noted that Jordanian females used more speech acts in their updates in comparison to males, 148 and 125 instances, respectively. They use more directive, assertive and expressive speech acts, 25, 43 and 35 compared to 41, 35 and 30 instances, respectively. On the other side, males used more quotation and poetic verses; 14 and 5 instances in comparison to 14 and 02 instances. It is also important to mention that assertive and commissive do not appear in the updates of males contrary to females.

Table 6. Frequencies and percentages of the functions of speech act on Jordanian Facebook statuses

Speech acts	Functions of Speech acts	Jordanian					Total	
		Male		Total	Female			
		F	%		F	%	F	%
Assertives	Informing	28	26.4	35	31	23.8	43	95 25
	Reporting	07	6.6		11	8.6		18 7.5
	Predicting	0	0		01	0.8		1 0.4
Directives	Commanding	16	15.2	41	22	16.9	52	38 16.1
	Requesting	16	15.2		16	12.4		32 13.5
	Inviting	01	0.9		01	0.8		2 0.8
	Asking	08	7.5		13	10		21 8.9
Expressives	Wishing	0	0	30	05	3.9	34	05 2.1
	Congratulating	05	4.7		05	3.9		10 4.2
	Greeting	08	7.5		03	2.4		11 4.6

Speech acts	Functions of Speech acts	Jordanian						Total			
		Male		Total	Female		Total				
		F	%		F	%					
Thanking	06	5.7		07	5.6		13	5.4			
	06	5.7			06	4.7		12	5.1		
	01	0.9			0	0		1	0.4		
	01	0.9			1	0.8		2	0.8		
	2	1.9			3	2.3		5	2.1		
	1	0.9			4	3.1		5	2.1		
	Total	106	44.9		130	55.1		236	100		

The most significant finding of Table 5 is that Jordanians use 236 functions while performing different speech act in their Facebook updates. They use more informing, commanding, requesting and asking, 95, 38, 32 and 21 instances respectively. It is also shown that the least performed functions are inviting, complaining, warning and predicting.

While referring to gender differences, Jordanian females used more functions than males, 130 and 106, respectively. Informing and commanding were the highest functions among females, 31 and 22 instances respectively. However, greeting recorded more in male's updates, 8 instances. What is noticeable also is that both of Jordanian males and females used requesting, condoling, congratulating, and complaining with the same frequencies, 16, 6, 5 and 1 respectively.

5.1.3 Contrasting Algerian and Jordanian Data:

Table 7. Frequencies and percentages of the total speech acts used by Algerian and Jordanian Students

Speech acts	Algerian				Total	Jordanian				Total				
	Male		Female			Male		Female						
	F	%	F	%										
Directives	26	37.7	61	40.7	87	39.7	41	32.8	52	35.1	93 34.1			
Commissives	00	00	01	0.7	01	0.5	0	0	01	0.7	01 0.4			
Expressives	08	11.6	29	19.3	37	16.9	30	24	35	23.6	65 23.8			
Declaratives	01	1.4	03	2	04	1.8	0	0	02	1.4	02 0.7			
Assertives	22	32	23	15.3	45	20.5	35	28	43	29	78 28.6			
Quotations	09	13	33	22	42	19.2	14	11.2	13	8.8	27 9.9			
Poetic verses	03	4.3	0	0	3	1.4	05	4	02	1.4	07 2.5			
Total	69	31.5	150	68.5	219	100	125	45.8	148	54.2	273 100			

The most significant finding of table 7 is that Jordanians use more speech acts in their Facebook updates than Algerians, 273 and 219 instances respectively. They use more directives, assertives, and expressives 93, 78 and 65 for Jordanians and 87, 45 and 37 for Algerians. However, Algerians

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use more quotation and declarative, 42 and 04 than Jordanians 27 and 02 respectively. As for commissives, are used only one time by both of them.

Concerning the functions of speech acts performed by Algerian and Jordanian students (table 4 and 6), it is noted that both Algerian and Jordanian students use different speech acts to perform various functions while updating their Facebook status. Thus, Jordanians use more functions of speech acts than Algerians, 236 and 169 respectively. Moreover, they use more informing and commanding than Algerians, 95, 38 and 36, 34 respectively. However, Algerians use more Requesting than Jordanians, 33 and 32 respectively.

5.2 Qualitative Analysis:

This section will discuss the seven speech acts in context. The way how speech acts are performed and used to maintain different functions in Algerian and Jordanian Facebook updates will also be illustrated.

1. Directive Speech Acts

This speech act existed in a variety of contexts to perform different functions, such as requesting, asking a question, inviting and commanding. Therefore, it was the most frequent speech act used by the participants in approximately 36.5 % of the status updates (n=492). Consider the following examples:

Don't look back you not going that way (Commands)

ربی اني مقبلة على ايام لا استطيع إجتيازها دون توفيق اللهم وفقني و حقق لي ما انتهى
(requesting Allah)

*Rabbi ?inni muqbilatun ?ala: ayya:min la: asta?i: ?idz tiya:zaha
duna tawfi:qika ?allahuma waffiqqni wa haqqiq li: ma: ?atamana .*

My Lord, I am coming to days that I won't be able to get through without your support; please, God, assist me and grant my wishes.

يحفظون القرآن بـالإشارة. فما عذرك أنت ؟ (Asking question)

Yahfa?u:na ?alqur?a:na bi ?ifa:rah fama: ?u?ruka anta ?

They memorize the Qur'an by reference. What is your excuse ?

تنكير دعوة أحبائي و أصدقائي الحاضر يعلم الغائب.....برنامج الزواج.....(Inviting)

*ta?ki:r da?wa ?ahiba:?i wa ?aSdiqa?i ?al ?adir yi?lim ?alga?ib....
barnamadz ?azawa:dz*

Reminder to invite my loved ones and friends, the present knows the absent. The marriage program

2. Assertive Speech Acts

This speech act states the truth of a statement. The study analysis

showed that assertives were the second most common act used by Algerian and Jordanian participants in approximately 25% of the status updates (n=492). This category covers different functions such as informing, predicting and reporting. Consider the following examples:

هي بتكون تراكمات والله إحنا مش تافهين عشان نزعل على مواقف تافهه (informing)

hiya bitkun tara:kuma:t waallah ʔiħna mif tafħin ħasan nizħsal ħala mawaqif ta:fha

They are accumulations; I swear to God; we are not insignificant to get upset over trivial situations

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زيارة لي ستكون للجزائر (reporting)

qays asaħi:d baħda fawzih bi ariż:sa atunisiya taħbiyat ʔiħtira:m wa taqdi:r lisaħb ʔaldżaza: ʔiri wa ʔawalu ziya:ratin li: satakunu lildżaza: ʔir.

After winning the presidency of Tunisia, Qais Al-Saeed said, "Greetings of respect and thanks to the Algerian people, and my first visit will be to Algeria."

3. *Commissives Speech Acts*

These are speech acts in which the writers commit themselves to future actions. The functions behind commissives acts are offering, promising, refusing and volunteering. In fact, this category was the least in the corpus representing 0.5% of the updates. Consider the following examples:

ZUMBA ROSE Demain Apartir de 16h c gratuit (future event)

Pink Zumba tomorrow from 4 pm it is free be welcome

4. *Expressive Speech Acts*

This act states the emotional reactions and expresses the emotional state of the speaker. It, is the third frequent speech acts in the corpus, comprising 21% of the speech act sample (n=492). It also performed different functions such as thanking, greeting, condoling, congratulating, wishing, warning, complaining pain and joy. Consider the following examples:

يا الله أشكوا إليك أمورا انت تعلمها مالي على حملها صبر و لا جد (complaining)

Ya ʔalla:h ʔaf ku ʔilayka ʔumu:ran ʔanta taħlamuha ma:li ɬa ħimliha Sabrun wala dżilda

Oh God, I complain to you about things that you know

(thanking) ʔalħamdu lilla:h ya: rab Thanks God الحمد لله يا رب

والدة زميلتي تسنيم جرار في ذمة الله ادعولها بالرحمة و اتو يصبر قلبهم. الله يرحمها و

يجعل مثواها الجنة (condoling)

walidat zami:lati tasnim dżara:r fi: ḥimmati ʔallah ʔudħu:lha biʔlrħmah wa ʔannu yħabbir qalbahum . ʔallah yarħamha w yidżsal maθwaha ʔaldżannah

The mother of my colleague, Tasneem Jarrar, is dead. I pray for her with mercy and to give her family. May God have mercy on her soul and make her place heaven.

مبارك تونس كل الخير لك . العاقبة للجزائر (congratulation + wish) *mabruk tu:nus . kullu ʔlxair laki ʔalħa:qiba lildżaza: ʔir.*

Congratulations Tunisia. All the best for you. The same for Algeria

5. *Declaratives*

These acts are statements or expressions that change the world by their utterance. In the present study, they account only for 1 % of status. Example of this status updates are shown below:

تغيرت أصبحت أعمل الأشخاص كما يعاملونني . أهتموا بي اهتممت بهم. أهملوني أهملتهم

(Declaring the change).

taġġayartu ʔaṣbaħtu ʔuṣamilu ʔala/sxa:Sa kama yuʔa:milu:nani ʔiħtamu bi htamamtu bihim . ʔahħħal:ni ʔahħħaltuhum .

I have changed; I treat people as they treat me. They took care of me, I took care of them. They neglected me. I neglected them.

6. *Speech Acts of Quotation*

This form of speech act occurs mainly when the utterance is not originally the product of the speaker. Although, some quotations are posted randomly, they do reflect user's feelings, beliefs, and intentions. Thus, this category includes song lyrics, Quranic verses, and holy, Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h). As is it noted above this act is not among the set of Searle's speech acts taxonomy. It is added for the purpose of this. It also accounted for 14% of the data. Consider the following examples:

”الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمْ مُّصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ” (Quranic verses).

ʔallōi:na ʔiða ʔaṣa:bathum muṣi:batun qa:lu ʔina: lila:h waʔina: ʔilaihi ra:dżiħu:n

Who, when disaster strikes them, say, “Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return”

أَتَغْبَبُونَ مِنْ غَيْرِهِ سَعِدٌ ؟ فَقَالَ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ مِنْهُ ، وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ مِنِّي)) فَقَالَ - عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ :- (Hadith of Prophet Muhammad)))

?ataṣṣabuna min ḡayrati saṣd ? fawaṣṣalla:h laqana ṣaḡyaru minhu , waṣṣalla:hu ṣaḡyaru minni

He said peace be upon him “Are you surprised at Saad’s jealousy of his honor? By Allah, I am more jealous of mu honor than he and Allah are more jealous than I”

7. Poetic Verses

Also, this category was not a part of the categories of Searle’s (1969) framework. They were added because of the needs of the current research. This category includes complete poems or some verses from a poem. It accounts for 2 % of the updates collected in this study. The themes of poetic verses are different such as love, sadness and joy. Consider the following examples:

صادق صديقاً صادقاً في صدقه فصدق الصداق في الصديق الصادق

Şa:diq Şadiqan Şa:diqan fi: Şidqihi faŞidqu ?aŞŞada:qati fi: ?aŞŞadi:qi ?aŞŞa:diqi

A true friend is truthful in his sincerity, so the sincerity of friendship is in a sincere friend

فَمَا غَابَ عَنْ عَيْنِي خَيَالٍ لَحْظَةً = وَلَا زَالَ عَنْهَا وَالخَيَالُ يَزُولُ

fama: ḡa:ba ɻan ɻayni xaya :luki laħdatan = wala:z:la ɻanha walaxaya:lu yazułu

Not for a moment did your image ever leave me, nor has it vanished as images do

5.3 Similarities between Algerian and Jordanian speech acts in Facebook updates

The data analysis revealed the following similarities between the types of speech acts used by Algerian and Jordanian learners while updating their Facebook status:

- Both Algerian and Jordanian Facebook users used the seventh identified speech acts, namely directives, assertives, commissives, expressives, declarations, quotation and poetic verses.
- They share the most frequent speech acts, namely directives, assertives, expressives and quotations. Therefore, they prefer to express themselves, their emotions and feelings.

- Also, for both of them, commissive, declarative and peotic verses were the least used speech acts.
- In relation to gender, both Algerian and Jordanian males do not use commissive speech acts, therefore they do not commit themselves to future events. Moreover, both Algerian and Jordanian females recorded more instances of speech acts than males.
- Algerian and Jordanian females have the same frequency of commissive speech acts.
- For the speech act's functions both Algerian and Jordanian students preformed 16 functions while posting and updating Facebook status. They inform, command, report, predict, request, invite, ask, congratulate, thank, condole, warn, complain, express their joy and pain, wish and greet.
- Both groups used more informing, commands, requests, and questions while updating their status.

5.4 Differences between Algerian and Jordanian speech acts in Facebook updates

Despite the aforementioned similarities between Algerian and Jordanian speech acts in Facebook updates, it should be noted that some differences between them were attested:

- Though the types of speech acts are shared by the two groups, they used them differently.
- Also, Jordanian participants perform more functions of speech acts than Algerians
- Moreover, in some cases, one of the two participants tends to outnumber the other one in terms of speech act patterns. For instance, Jordanians use more Speech acts than Algerians.
- Furthermore, Jordanians use more directives, expressives, assertives and peotic and verses, while Algerians use more quotations and declaratives.
- In terms of function, Jordanians performed more functions than Algerians.
- Therefore, they use reporting, thanking, condoling. However, Algerian use congratulating, greeting and thanking with the same frequency.
- In the same way, Jordanian and Algerian females used more speech act patterns than males.

- Between the same genders, Jordanian female used more speech acts than Algerian females. In similar way Jordanian males used more speech acts than Algerian males.
- In addition to that warning function was not used by Algerian males but it is used by females. On the contrary, Jordanian females do not used warning but Jordanian males do.

6. Discussion and Conclusion:

Based on Searle' taxonomy (1969), this study analyzed a corpus of speech acts taken from Facebook updates status of Algerian and Jordanian students to examine the different speech acts patterns and the different communicative functions used by them. Concerning the first question related to the types of speech acts in the status updates posted by the Algerian and the Jordanian Facebook users, it was seen that they used seven speech acts, namely directives, assertives, commissives, expressives, declaratives, quotations and poetic verses. The most dominant one is directive.

As far as the second research question is concerned, the study revealed that both Algerian and Jordanian students use the same types of speech acts stated in the literature, but with different frequency in favor of Jordanians. This indicates that Jordanians are more expressive than Algerians. Another significant finding is that both groups use directives and assertives either to command or to state the truth. In addition to that, commissive was not used to much by both participants indicating that they generally do not commit themselves to future actions. As for expressive, Algerian and Jordanian students used different acts to express their feeling, gratitude, complaint, condolence and wish. Declarative acts did not gain too much intention by participants since they do not prefer to declare something to change the world or sometimes they do not want to do. Finally, the quotation and poetic verses were used to some extent in the data. These new speech acts are inherently related to the participants' socio-cultural and religious background.

With respect to the third research question, the results of this study indicate that there are 16 functions of the Facebook speech acts. They are: informing, reporting, predicting, commanding, requesting, inviting, asking, wish, congratulating, greeting, thanking, condoling, warning, complaining, and expressing joy and pain. The most dominant function is to informing.

Lastly, for the question related to gender, it is evident that gender does not affect the use of speech act since both males and females of the two

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groups used the same speech acts but with different frequency in favor of Algerians and Jordanians females. However, within the same gender group Jordanian females used more speech acts than Algerians and the same is applied to Jordanian males.

The finding of the present research lends some support to previous research conducted in the field of speech acts. The study is in line with Nartey's (2013) study about the Ghanaian students, in which he found that their statuses are primarily constructed with directive and assertive followed by expressive speech acts. In closing, the findings of the present study can be helpful for further researches. Therefore, examining status updates is only one very small part of Facebook studies; other areas like people's comments on different issues can be analyzed.

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