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A Socio-Pragmatic Study of Promising in English Social Media

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Abstract

The present study is a socio-pragmatics analysis of promising in English social media. It aims at finding out the promising utterance in English social media in tweeter for politicians President Donald Trump and PM Boris Johnson. The statement of the problem of the study is the syntactic form of promising utterances, the intention of promising utterances which identify the types of promising and the functions of promising utterances. The adopted model of the analysis is developing according to Searle and other Scholars, it depends basically on types and functions.

The study is based on the hypotheses that there is wide use in English social media comments in the speech act of promising as the linguistic device. It is also hypothesized that there are different types and functions in using of the promising in social media.

To achieve the aims of the study and verify its hypotheses, two sorts of procedures are followed: theoretical and practical. The theoretical procedures consist of a theoretical framework of the concept of promising and its approaches etc, in addition to a theoretical framework of the CMC and social media. The practical procedures consist of analyzing a selected sample of English social media tweets for two political figures according to the adopted model.

The results of analyzing promising in social media have verified the hypotheses adopted in the study.

The study ends up with several conclusions and recommendations based on the findings of the study.

Chapter One: Introduction

1.1 The Problem of Study

The linguistic forms of promising utterances is used in political speeches. How do we clarify the promise utterance in the context, the social setting of the utterance that becomes the background knowledge to interpret what the speakers mean in their utterances. This will help the hearer to interpret the purpose of the utterances of the speaker. An utterance made by a speaker is used to deliver particular purposes. On the other hand, the interest in studying Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC) has increased, especially in social media sites(tweeter). The question that is raised here “can this new community with the different topics and events that the users of social media are engaged in affect the use of promising utterances?”. A promising is still a promise even without one actually saying “I promise”. One need not use the performative verb ”promise” to explicitly intended action when uttering something. The dominant promising utterances used by two political figures is promising non performative verb. There is more than one form for expressing the promising utterance. The intention of promising utterances which identify the type of promising and the function of promising utterances. The example of promising:

“I promise that I will come” (Searle, 1969:30).

1.2 Aims of the Study

This study aims at:

1. Investigating the socio-pragmatic devices used for promising in social media.
2. Identifying the promising utterances in English social media.

3. Highlighting the influence of topics on the use of promising utterance in English contexts speech.

1.3 Hypotheses

In this study, it is hypothesized that:

1. There seems to be a wide use of English social media comments of promising.
2. There are different types and functions for using promises in social media.
3. The types and functions of promising are used variously in political speech.

1.4 Procedures

Steps followed in carrying the following study is:

1. Giving a theoretical framework of concept of promising and its approaches.
2. Developing the adopted model of the analysis.
3. Collecting data for the purpose of the study in English social media tweets.
4. Analyzing the data according to the adopted models (Searle and others) and finding the result.
5. Drawing conclusions, recommendations, and giving suggestions for further studies.

1.5 Limits of the study

1. This study is limited to investigating promising utterances in English social media tweets.
2. The study limits of two English political figures the President Donald Trump and PM Boris Johnson.
3. The data collected during coronavirus crisis.

1.6 Significance of the study

The significance of this study runs as follows:

1. Theoretically, the research findings are to enrich the understanding and comprehension of pragmatics, especially about the promising utterance studies. It is also give an additional reference to other researchers who are interested in analyzing promising utterance.
1. Enriching the English studies with this new interests of promising utterances.
2. Discussing social media community and showing their applicability in real life.
3. Helping graduate and postgraduate students to understand these studies of promising utterances and presenting a new resource for them.