UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

COMPLIMENT RESPONSES BY IBAN ESL LEARNERS

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Education (TESL)

Faculty of Education

June 2012
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

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

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

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ABSTRACT

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

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Lord for blessing me with the patience and strength to face challenges while preparing this dissertation.

This dissertation would be incomplete without the guidance and words of encouragement from my supervisor, Associate Professor Dr. Simon Botley. Thank you very much for all your help, guidance and support.

I am indebted to my Mom for being very patient with me throughout this journey. Last year had not been easy for us.

My heartfelt thanks to my friends and colleagues for their help, ideas and words of encouragement during the completion of the project.

Last but not least, this dissertation of mine is dedicated to my late ‘Daddy’ who is looking out for me from heaven.