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ARCHIVES ANNOUNCEMENTS RECRUITMENT SUBMISSIONS
EDITORIAL TEAM FOCUS AND SCOPE CONTACT INDEX OTHER
JOURNALS PUBLISHER

Home > Vol 3, No 3 (2010) > **Karimnia**

On the Applicability of Cultural Scripts in Teaching L2 Compliments

Amin Karimnia, Akbar Afghari

Abstract

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In this study, Natural Semantic Metalanguage(henceforth NSM) was used to carry out a comparative analysis. The compliment response behavior of native Persian speakers was compared with that of Native American English speakers to see if it can provide evidence for applicability of NSM model which is claimed to be universal. The descriptive technique was the cultural scripts approach, using conceptual primes proposed in the NSM theory. The cultural scripts were presented in both English and Persian Metalanguages. The data were taken from a corpus of 50 hours of recording the live interviews from the Persian and English TV channels. The results showed the applicability of NSM model for cross-cultural comparisons. Then, the paper concludes with the pedagogical implications of the development of the theory of cultural scripts for teaching L2 socio-pragmatics in general and compliments in particular.

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