

A Pragma-Stylistic Analysis of Face-threatening Acts in Legal Texts

L. Dr. Khamail Ali Waheeb.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Sadiq Mahdi Al Shamiri.

Al-Suwairah Education Section, Department of English, College of Education,

General Directorate of Education in for Human Sciences,
University of Babylon, Iraq. Wasit. Khamail78k@gmail.com.
sadiq.hum2016@gmail.com.

تحليل تداولي-أسلوبي لأفعال إراقة ماء الوجه في النصوص القانونية

م. د. خمائل علي وهيب

أ. م. د. صادق مهدي كاظم

Abstract

The present paper is concerned with Face-threatening acts (FTAs) in legal texts. It deals with one of the remarkable pragmatics notions examined and investigated in many linguistic studies over the last decades, focusing on everyday conversations. However, the present paper aims to identify the FTAs and strategies of face-saving used in legal texts through pragma-stylistics perspectives. It concentrates on regulative official letters issued by legal personalities delegated by their institutions towards their employees (subordinates) and their contribution to the breakdown of social relations among them. It tries to answer the following questions: Firstly, how are FTAs used in legal texts? Secondly, what acts do legal personalities most frequently use to obtain legal objectives? The last question is: What are the stylistic effects of politeness strategies used in these texts? Based on their delegated power, the paper hypothesizes that legal personalities, threaten their addressees' negative face in their letters mainly through orders and requests. negative face in their letters mostly using orders and requests. The stylistic effects of the used acts are maximized using on a record strategy. The data used in this study, therefore, is selected from Iraqi official letters of legal personalities. The analysis is based on Brown and Levinson's (1987) and Short's (1996) analysis models. The pragma-stylistic analysis conducted by this study comes up with significant conclusions and implications.

Keywords: pragma-stylistics, face-threatening acts, official letters and politeness strategies.

المخلص

تتناول هذه الورقة البحثية إراقة ماء الوجه في النصوص القانونية وهو أحد المفاهيم البارزة في علم التداولية التي تم بحثها في العديد من الدراسات اللغوية التي ركزت على المحادثات اليومية على مدى العقود الماضية. إلا أن هذه الدراسة تهدف إلى التعرف على استراتيجيات إراقة ماء الوجه واستراتيجيات حفظ ماء الوجه واستراتيجيات حفظ ماء الوجه المستخدمة في النصوص القانونية من خلال تداولي-أسلوبي. وتركز على الرسائل الرسمية التنظيمية الصادرة عن الشخصيات الاعتبارية المفوضة من قبل مؤسساتها تجاه موظفيها (المرووسين) ومساهمتها في انهيار العلاقات الاجتماعية بينهم. وتحاول الدراسة الإجابة عن الأسئلة التالية: أولاً، كيف تستخدم أفعال إراقة ماء الوجه في النصوص القانونية؟ ثانياً: ما هي الأفعال التي تستخدمها الشخصيات الاعتبارية غالباً لتحقيق أهداف قانونية؟ والسؤال الأخير هو: ما هي التأثيرات الأسلوبية لاستراتيجيات التهذيب المستخدمة في هذه النصوص؟ وتقتضى الدراسة أن الشخصيات الاعتبارية، بناء على السلطة المفوضة لها، تريق ماء الوجه سلباً للمخاطبين في

كتبهم في الغالب من خلال استخدام افعال الأمر والطلب. يتم تعظيم التأثيرات الأسلوبية للأفعال المستخدمة من خلال استخدام استراتيجية الكلام المباشر (عدم التهذيب). وبالتالي فإن البيانات المستخدمة في هذه الدراسة هي كتب رسمية عراقية مختارة لشخصيات اعتبارية. ويستند التحليل إلى نماذج التحليل التي وضعها (١٩٨٧) Brown & Levinson (١٩٩٦) short. ويخلص التحليل التداولي-الأسلوبي الذي أجرته هذه الدراسة إلى استنتاجات ومضامين مهمة. الكلمات المفتاحية: التداولية-الاسلوبية، أفعال إراقة ماء الوجه، الكتب الرسمية، استراتيجيات التهذيب.

1. Introduction

Language is very significant in legal affairs. Whether spoken or written, it is an integral part of law. It is usually used by legal experts in their communication. However, legal language is sometimes a challenge because of its technical vocabulary, syntactic construction and intertextuality (Atias, 2018:101). Commenting on its importance, Danet (1985:273) explains that the function of legal language is regulative and constitutive. It outlines the relations among people and the acceptable activities they can do. Phrased differently, the language of law is used to perform actions. According to Garzone (2000:398), one of the most striking features of legal documents or texts is their performative function. He emphasizes that the regulative rules or norms not only describe and prescribe the required behaviour in a situation, but they also perform speech acts of directive, commissives and constitutives. The normative and performative acts of legal documents or texts, then, affect the lives of the addressees. Studying legal language through a pragmatic perspective requires reviewing its context which necessarily means examining the social relations between the addresser and the addressee, especially FTAs which is the cornerstone of the present paper. FTAs in legal language are presumed to affect the addressees' faces and, in turn, their social relations. However, who the addressers and addressees of legal texts are. According to Kurzon (1986:26), three ways can be used to describe the relationship between the addresser and the addressee: First, the addresser is the official author, who writes the legal text and the addressee is the official reader for whom the text is written. Secondly, the addresser is the indirect author upon his beliefs and standards, the text is written. The addressee is the indirect reader who appreciates those beliefs and standards. Thirdly, the addresser and addressee are the people who write and read the text at any given time. Based on the above discussion, all the ways are valid about legal texts. The addresser is the legislator, the official author and the one who publishes the text. The addressee is every citizen, the official reader, the section of people to whom the letter is concerned, and anyone can read the text when it is published. However, the legislator and the publisher do not directly write the letter (legal text). The former writes the acts for the public, so he is the initial performer of the acts. They delegate legislative authority to an entity or personality other than the legislature. The latter writes the letter for publication without being indulged with. On the other hand, the public and any reader are not directly affected by the letter (Kurzon, 1986 :26) Consequently, to understand the relation between the addresser and the addressee in a legal letter, the following scenario is followed: The official delegated author of the letter is the addresser and the official reader. That's to say, the section of people to whom the letter is written is the addressee. In this paper, the pragmatic aspects of legal letters namely the face work of the delegated official author (legal personality) and the addressed people of the letter are tackled. As explained by Tiersma (1999: 55), legal language is a register lay people are quite unfamiliar with. Considering the style of legal language is a challenge since stylistics is typically concerned with the linguistic features that distinguish writers' use. McMenamin (2002:51) illuminates those features to be features that reflect the acceptable and deviated grammar, lexical choice and graphological forms a writer adopts purposefully or by chance contributing to the meaning of the text and reflect his writing style. Legal texts are usually written by experienced authors dealing with specific subject areas. They are often designated as cluttered, indirect and full of technical words (Bain Butler 2013: 32). Moreover, it is distinguished by their syntactic complexity, semantic variation, pragmatic meaning, punctuation, spelling, word formation as well as textual tone, which denotes the author's point of view of the subject matter or the addressee (McMenamin 2002:122) The juxtaposition of the stylistic and pragmatic analysis of FTAs is an obvious reflection of linguistic-communicative interplay in this text type: Iraqi legal letters. The analysis focuses on how the officials use language to threaten their addressees' face.

2. Pragma-stylistics Pragmatics is that branch of linguistics that is not directly interested in linguistic forms but in what people do with these forms. It is engendered in the 1950s after the pioneering work of J.L. Austin and Paul Grice. Pragmatics accounts for phenomena including presupposition, implicature, speech acts, relevance and politeness (Mey, 1993: 22). As a field of study, it pays more attention to language uses and its users. More precisely, Levinson (1983: 5) presumes that pragmatics studies the overt and covert use of language in a particular context to arrive at the intended meaning by changing the hearer's

the state of mind or knowledge or getting him to do something. As for stylistics, it started as an approach to study the linguistic forms and patterns employed in literature to create meaning and add to the understanding of the general theme. Linguistic models and theories are usually used in stylistics as analytical tools to demonstrate linguistic choices and their effects. Crystal and Davy (1969: 66-76) reinforced their understanding of stylistics as it is after the discovery, description and explanation of other types of meaning underlying all texts that create stylistic effects by tools and devices which are called stylistic devices. The most influential are dialect, province, discourse, medium, formality, singularity, lexical, grammatical, figures of speech, cohesion and coherence. Pragma-stylistics, then, is a branch of stylistics that combines pragmatics and stylistics to reflect the pragmatic meaning-stylistic effects. Hickey (1993:573) proposes that pragma-stylistics is often concerned with the speaker or author's choice among other alternative forms that could achieve his objectives or intentions. His choice is usually based on two factors: the anticipated effects (expressive, affective, attitudinal etc.) and the context of the utterance itself. Pragma-stylistics, therefore, involves utterance's appropriateness and linguistic choice to produce the intended effectiveness that affects the hearer or reader's state of mind or knowledge. Based on the above dissection, pragma-stylistics provides explanations and interpretations to texts and discourses that cannot be dealt with by stylistics or pragmatics alone. Such an idea is asserted by scholars like Igelisa et. al. (1999: 37), who discuss the fruits of this linguistic branch as they believe pragmatics to aid stylistics. It widens the scope of stylistics and equips it with new devices to discover the desired meaning or effects; Black (2006:2), in turn, points out that stylistics deals with the way of understanding the meaning of (a literary) text by different readers or individuals and this can be affected by the language style the reader uses; and Huang (2012:19) who defines pragma-stylistics as the application of the theories and methodologies of pragmatics to the study of the concept of style in language. Overwhelmingly, pragma-stylistics can be differentiated from pragmatics and stylistics, as Al-Hindawi and Al-adili (2018:115) believe, stylisticians study **the way** people say what they say. Pragmatists are more concerned with **the function** and **the purpose** of what people say. Pragma-stylisticians engage with **the way people do** what they do.

3. Face-threatening Acts

It is widely accepted that the concept of 'face' was first introduced by Goffman, a sociologist and anthropologist, in 1967 in his book "Interaction Ritual". He anticipated that people pay much attention to their and others' social image. When people are involved in social interaction, they moderately express their social image and care for their interlocutors' image whether they are aware of that or not (Goffman 1967:5). In everyday communication, the concept of face is crucial since it represents self-worth, dignity, respect, status and reputation people claim for themselves (Spencer-Oatey, 2000: 14). Goffman's conceptualization is reinforced by his understanding of face as the positive image people claim for themselves. In a social interaction, individuals communicate to make their interlocutors feel good or bad about their faces. Goffman (1967:12) believes that verbal and non-verbal interactions have either positive (having face) or negative (losing face) which effects on the individual's self-image. Accordingly, maintaining face occupies a sophisticated place in people's communication. Based on Goffman's remarks on face work, Brown and Levinson (1987:61) developed FTAs in their politeness theory. They characterized positive face to refer to the individual desire to be socially accepted and liked. They, also described negative face to indicate the individual's desire not to be impeded or forced by others in undesirable situations. They (ibid: 65-67), then, use the term FTAs to define verbal and non-verbal acts that could lead to losing people's positive or negative faces. FTAs relied on three elements: the social distance between the interlocutors such as the distance between people of less acquaintance, the power relation between them (as the relation between the superior and subordinate) and imposition ranking of the imposition (the level of the act determined by cultural values). They (ibid:74), presume that everyday interaction includes the use of FTAs which can threaten the addresser and the addressee. FTAs such as advice, suggestions, requests, orders, warnings, and threats can threaten the negative face of the addressee as they put him under pressure to do or not do something. Likewise, offers and promises can also threaten the negative addressee's face by forcing him to accept or refuse positive future actions. Acts that convey the addresser's negative attitude towards his interlocutor such as expressions of hatred, anger, compliments, expressions of envy, admiration misuse of honorifics, mention of taboo topics, disapproval, criticism, insults and complaints show a negative assessment of his positive face. However, acts that imply a misbehavior or loss of control of the situation such as confessions, apologies, admissions of guilt or responsibility can threaten

the positive face of the addresser himself. Subsequently, politeness is a linguistic phenomenon that is employed to avoid or minimize FTAs through various strategies according to the reliability of the context.

3.1 Types of Face-threatening Acts

According to Brown and Levinson's (1987:313) assumptions of universality and rationality, FTAs can be classified into positive and negative acts. Certain essential acts threaten the positive and negative faces of the addresser and the positive and negative faces of the addressee. For the sake of economy and consistency, the present paper focuses on FTAs used by legal personalities in their institutions towards their employees or subordinates, the negative and positive FTAs will be mentioned below: Brown and Levinson (1987:13-4) present the following acts of FTAs:

Acts Threatening the Addressee's (H) Negative Face:

A. Acts that denote that the addresser (S) potentially intend to inhibit the addressee H's freedom of action as in:

1. Orders and requests (S directs that H to do, or refrain from doing an act).
2. Suggestions and advice (S shows that he finds H should do or should not do an act).
3. Reminding (S illustrates that H should remember to do the act).
4. Threats, warnings, dares (S indicates some future act will be done against H unless he does the act).

B. Acts that predicate some positive future act of S toward H. He (S) puts some pressure on H to accept or reject an action as in:

1. Offers (S wants H to commit himself to a future act whether he wants or not).
2. Promises (S commits himself to a future act for H's gain)

C. Acts show S's desire toward H in which he gives his addressee the reason to think that he should do the action, as in:

1. Compliments, expressions of envy or admiration (S indicates that he likes H to do some act for him)
2. Expression of negative emotions towards H such as hatred or anger (S shows a desire to harm H, so H thinks he should do the action)

Acts that Threatening the Addressee's Positive Face. They are acts that signify that the S does not care about the addressee's desires and wants. They may include:

A. Acts that show that S has a negative evaluation of some of H's actions:

1. Expressions of disapproval, criticism, complaints and reprimands, accusations, insults (S indicates his refusal of H's wants, acts, personal characteristics and goods).
2. Contradictions, disagreements or challenges (S indicates his negative attitude towards H's action)

B. Acts indicate that S does not pay interest to H's positive face:

1. Expressions of violent emotions (S gives H possible reason to fear him or be embarrassed by him)
2. Expressions of disrespect (S indicates that he does not care to H's values and his fears)
3. Bringing of bad news about H (S indicates that he is willing to cause distress to H).

blatant non-cooperation in an activity - e.g., disruptively interrupting H's talk, making non-sequiturs or showing non-attention (S indicates that he does not care about H's negative- or positive-face want)

4. Use of address terms that signify misidentification (S may address H offensively or embarrassingly).

3.2 Face-threatening Acts and Law

It is a truism that face work is saved by international law in the form of human dignity. The Declaration of the United States of Human Rights asserts the fundamental individual's rights in dignity and worth. The Iraqi Constitution also mentions various articles concerning individual rights. Human dignity right is mentioned in Article (37:1) by stating that "The liberty and dignity of man shall be protected". Equality is another important right mentioned by the Iraqi Constitution in Article (14): "all Iraqi people are equal before the law based on gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, origin, color, religion, belief or opinion, or economic or social status". Likewise, it assures in Article (16) Iraqis' right to live a decent, secure and deliberate life in accordance with the law. Individual rights should not contradict the rights of others and public morals. It also regulates, in Article (22:2) "the relationships between employers and employees on economic foundations and in terms of rules of social justice". Building on the regulation of The Iraqi Constitution. It aims at saving human rights as an employer and employee in dignity and worth. It does so about the Law on the Regulation of State Employees:

1. Respecting higher status employers' right to dignity, being polite in addressing them and following their rules by the laws and rules. If there was a deviation, the employees had the right to write an objection letter to them.

2. Respecting employees' rights in dignity. Behave politely with them.

Accordingly, The Iraqi Constitution, in different pieces of legislation, saves people's positive face in being treated respectfully and politely and being approved and accepted. Besides, it protects their negative face in prohibiting and preventing embedding their rights in dignity and independency.

4. Politeness It is pertinent to say that politeness is a very essential social and interpersonal phenomenon. It is usually referred to as social courtesy and good behavior that is impressed by others. Linguistically, politeness is described as maintaining each other's face in communication following certain maxims and strategies (see Brown and Levinson, 1987). Impoliteness, on the other hand, is usually seen as speech acts used to attack the others' faces (Mills, 2003: 139). In pragmatics, politeness has been widely studied and analysed. Brown and Levinson's (1987) theory is perhaps the most leading account in this field. They believe politeness to be a universal phenomenon that has an effect on people's social and linguistic behavior. They signify people's want of dignity. As far as it is concerned with the concept of face, a bird's eye on politeness theory will be supportive. It is mainly based on two premises:

a. Every adult member of society has face: the public image that they want to claim for their selves. This image consists of two aspects, positive and negative faces.

b. Every adult member of society has rationality: the application of standard logics that help infer propositions to perceive truth.

Brown and Levinson (1987: 60) acknowledge that considering the other's needs of self-respect is necessary for the success of an interaction. In any interaction, people seek to cooperate successfully and effectively as well as avoid FTAs or minimize them. For them (ibid:316), what people want can be achieved through following certain strategies.

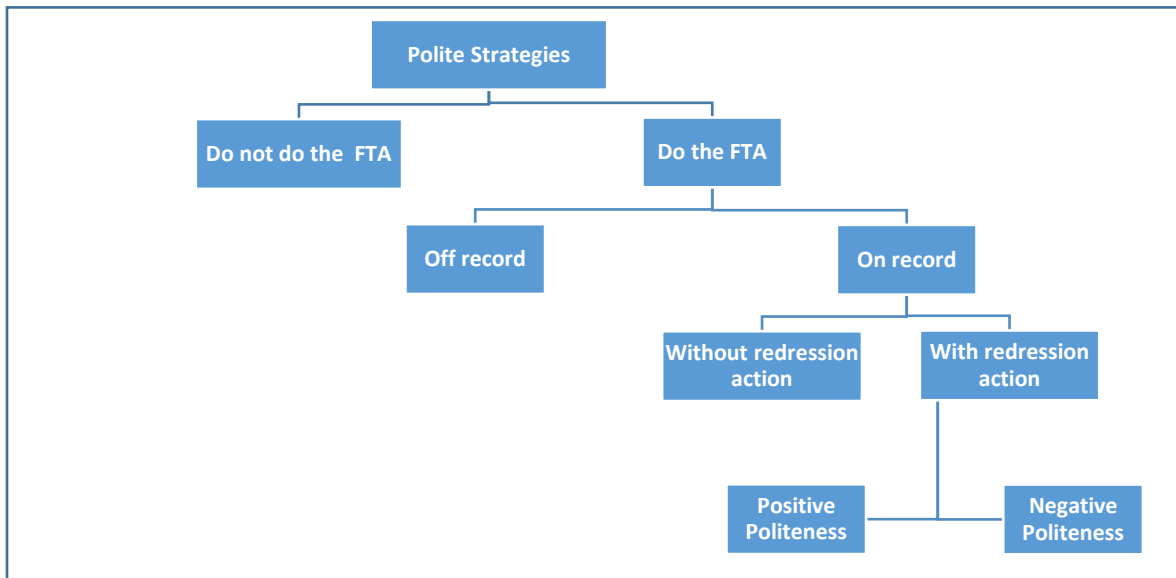


Figure (1) Polite Strategies, After Brown and Levinson (1987: 60)

According to Brown and Levinson (1987: 68-9), in interaction, the speaker has to decide first whether to do the FTA or not. If he decides to do it, he may choose one of the polite strategies depending on his intention. Thus, he may adopt the **off-record strategies**. In this strategy, the addresser's intentions are not directly stated. It is somehow related to 'implicature', the salient concept in pragmatics which generally refers to the way a language user can mean more than what is actually stated (Levinson, 1983: 97). Off-record strategy uses and removes the speaker from being potentially imposed. In saying: "Wow, it is getting cold in here", the speaker is indirectly making the request. He asks the listener to turn up the thermostat without using an imperative form.

Brown and Levinson (1987: 211-227) suggest different possible ways to do the off-record strategy: hints, associative clues, presupposition, understatement, overstatement, tautologies, contradiction, ellipsis, irony, metaphor, rhetorical question ambiguity, vagueness, overgeneralization, displacing hearer.

The second strategy, they (ibid: 69) propose, is **on-record (bald) strategies**. If the speaker chooses to do the FTA on-record, without any redressive action. He will usually use the imperative form without any attempt to mitigate the threat. This on-record strategy is most often utilized by family members or people who have a close relationship with each other such as in: Lend me some money. It can also be used in cases of urgency, showing efficiency, giving instructions, or showing no desire to maintain the hearer's face especially by a speaker in a higher position. However, if the addresser chooses to do the FTA **on-record using redressive words**, he will usually minimize the threat using different strategies, which Brown and Levinson (1987: 69-70) refer to as **positive politeness** or **negative politeness strategies**. Positive politeness strategies are intended to minimize the threat to the positive face of the hearer. The addresser chooses to use words and expressions that show an interest in the hearer's needs. It is used show friendship, solidarity, humor, avoiding conflict, etc. Negative politeness strategies are intended to minimize the threat to the addressee's negative face by avoiding imposition on his freedom of action. They comprise strategies like being indirect, using hedges, showing pessimism, etc. In Stylistics, politeness and impoliteness or rudeness are largely examined about dramatic discourse. The stylistic effect on two levels; the writer-reader and the character-character, are usually established. Black (2006:76) argues that identifying inherent politeness in utterances is quite often not interesting. More interesting are characterizing polite ways or styles of softening or mitigating FTAs or impoliteness (rudeness). On both levels, apparent violations of politeness strategies and their effect on social relations are stylistically maintained. Short (1996:212) elucidates that, following Brown and Levinson, avoiding FTAs is actually impossible in normal social interaction. Thus, your way to be polite is by avoiding, minimizing or even mitigating the degree of threat by the way in which you say or do what you do. This can be established through positive, negative and off-record strategies:

1. Asking or giving the addressee the choice to say 'No' without problems through being indirect, using hedges or showing pessimism.
2. Accounting for people's faces in the first clause by showing friendship, solidarity, humor, avoiding conflict, etc.
3. Using an indirect speech act.
4. Making your request off-record through hints, figures of speech, ellipsis, etc.
5. Adding the polite marker 'please'.

Nevertheless, if the addresser maximizes the number and the amount of threat in doing the FTAs on-record baldly and without redress, he would be rude or impolite. Consequently, stylistic account of FTAs can be established by the way of minimizing mentioned above and understanding their effect on people's relationships.

5. Research Methodology To examine the selected data, the study conducts both qualitative and quantitative analysis. It aims at analyzing the FTAs used in the legal context pragmatically and stylistically. The data of this study is collected from Iraqi official websites on the internet; an official letter issued by Iraqi authorities, Supervision and Evaluation Apparatus, in the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and found on their official website (webs.) on 31/Aug/ 2023 to their employees (subordinates) Ref.: J A/ M. H/ 2910, titled 'The decline of Success rate and marking deviation', and an official letter issued by Legal Department in General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers, found on their official website (<https://www.cabinet.iq/ar>) Ref.: Q/2/5/42 on 17/Aug/2022 to the official authorities in Ministry of Education, titled 'Renewal Contracts'. Both letters are selected because of the rejection and refusal of those who are concerned with. They accused the letters of being a threat to their face and their status among people and subordinates. To guarantee authenticity and consistency, the two letters are legally translated by Iraqi legal translators of Anou Certified Translation Bureau, Licensed by the I.T.A. License No.:266. In analyzing the identified FTAs, the study follows a mixed pragmatic stylistic model of analysis. The selected data is qualitatively and quantitatively analysed. The qualitative part first examined the pragmatic analysis of FTAs following Brown and Levinson's (1987) model (discussed in section 3.1). Secondly, the data is stylistically analysed following Short's (1996) in displaying the effects of the pinpointed acts as (discussed in section 4). The eclectic model of analysis is shown in (Figure 2) below.

Pragma-stylistic Analysis			
Pragmatic Level		Stylistic Level	
Acts Threatening	Acts Threatening Positive Face of H.	Minimizing FTAs	Maximizing FTAs

Negative Face of H.			
Orders and requests	-	Asking or giving the addressee the choice to say 'No' without problems through being indirect, using hedges or showing pessimism.	On record
Suggestions and advice	Expressions of disapproval, criticism, complaints and reprimands, accusations, insults	Accounting for people's faces in the first clause by showing friendship, solidarity, humor, avoiding conflict, etc.	
Reminding	Contradictions, disagreements or challenges	Using an indirect speech act.	
Threats and warning	Expressions of violent emotions.	Using off-record strategies through hints, figures of speech, ellipsis, etc.	
Offers	Expressions of disrespect	Adding the polite marker 'please'	
Promises	Bringing of bad news about H.	-	
Compliments, expressions of envy or admiration	Blatant non-cooperation in an activity.	-	
Expression of negative emotions	Use of address terms that signify misidentification.	-	

Table (1) Pragma-Stylistic Model of Analysis

6. Data Analysis

The analysis is done systematically by following the model proposed by the present study. The extracts were first analysed qualitatively according to the synthesized model of analysis. Secondly, the findings were quantitatively analysed. In the pragmatic level, the researchers go sentence by sentence looking for the occurrence of FTAs and their types and marking them down. Meanwhile, the stylistic interpretation of the identified FTAs is followed at the stylistic level as shown below.

Extract (1)

'Regarding intellectual level'.

A. The Pragmatic Level The writer used FTAs in which he threatens the addressee's positive face using expressions of disapproval, criticism, complaints and reprimands, (S indicates his refusal of H's wants, acts, personal characteristics and goods). He used expressions like 'declining success rate of students' which indicates his disapproval of this state of affairs, expressions of reprimands 'deviation in marking (Correcting)', and expressions of accusation 'weakness in delivering the course material to students, or the use of teaching methods that do not align with the student's intellectual level'.

B. The Stylistic Level The writer tried to minimize his threat using the indirect style 'reflects weakness' instead of saying the teaching staff was weak in delivering the material to students or 'or the use of...level' instead of accusing baldly them of using inappropriate methods of teaching. Hence, his intention (bald rebuke and accusation) was somehow minimized by being indirect in his sayings.

Extract (2) 'Instructing ... 30%'

A. The Pragmatic Level

The addresser threatens the addressee's (the faculty dean) negative face (order) (S directs that H to do, or refrain from doing an act). He used the words 'Instructing an inquiry from the college dean'. Moreover, the writer threatens the mentioned faculty members' positive face by bringing of bad news (S indicates that he is willing to cause distress to H).

B. The Stylistic Level

The FTA (order) is maximized by being used baldly. The writer orders the college dean to make a formal inquiry to the faculty member whose students achieve low success rate without using any mitigating words or phrases. Hence, he hindered him from taking the act by himself.

Extract (3) 'If the head, 1988'.

A. The Pragmatic Level In this extract, the writer threatens the head of the department/branch's negative face through orders/ requests (S directs that H to do, or refrain from doing an act). He used expressions like 'a committee will be formed to reassess the situation according to the model answer', he hindered the head from his freedom in taking action according to his point of view. Furthermore, he threatens the faculty members' positive face through bringing of bad news to them (S indicates that he is willing to cause distress to H).

B. The Stylistic Level The FTA (order) is minimized by using indirect speech acts and the passive structure. The writer orders the head of the department/ branch to form a committee to reassess the situation. Moreover, he maximized the threat to faculty members using bad news. He belittles his assessment and the marks will be reassessed.

Extract (4) 'If the committee ...(exams)'.

A. The Pragmatic Level In extract (4), the writer threatens the head of the department/branch's negative face through orders/ requests (S directs that H to do, or refrain from doing an act). The FTA can be found in the expression 'a disciplinary investigation committee will be formed against the faculty member to impose disciplinary action and exclude them from setting questions and marking the second attempt (exams)'. Hence, he hinders the head's freedom to take action according to his point of view. Further, he threatens the faculty members' positive face (S indicates that he is willing to cause distress to H) through bringing them bad news by excluding them from setting the questions and marking the second attempt.

B. The Stylistic Level The writer used the same FTA (order) and maximized it again by using it baldly. The writer orders the head of the department/ branch to form a committee to reassess the situation. Moreover, he maximized the threat to the faculty members' positive face using it very baldly.

Extract (5)

'If the faculty member ... for interpretation'.

A. The Pragmatic Level In this extract, the writer threatens the head's negative face (order) (S directs that H to do, or refrain from doing an act and the faculty members' negative face (threats) (S indicates some future act will be done against H unless he does the act). The FTAs can be found in 'It is emphasized to the head of the department/branch the necessity of scrutinizing questions and model answers to be clearly defined, precise, and leave no room for interpretation'. Moreover, he threatens the faculty members' positive face through (insults). In taking acts disqualification from teaching against a faculty member, the member is insulted.

B. The Stylistic Level In the first part of the extract, the writer used the FTA (threats) and maximized by being used on-records. Then, the writer indirectly insulted the members as being disqualified. Lastly, he on-record orders the head of the department/ branch to take action in setting the questions.

7. Findings and Discussions In the light of the conducted analysis; the pragmatic level, it is found that out of fourteen extracts, the total number of FTAs identified was nineteen in letter 1 and thirteen in letter 2, as shown in Table (2).

Letter	Extracts	Positive FTAs	Negative FTAs	Total FTAs
1	9	8	11	19
2	5	5	8	13
Total	14	13	19	32
Percentage		40.6%	59.3%	100%

Table (2) FTAs in the two letters

Both types of FTAs were found in the two letters. Eight positive FTAs in letter 1 and five ones in letter 2. The most frequent positive FTAs are. As far as negative FTAs eleven acts were identified in letter 1 and eight acts in letter 2. The most frequent negative acts were: orders and request and threats and warnings. The most frequent acts in letter 2 were orders and requests, suggestions and advice, reminding and expression of negative emotions.

Negative FTAs	Frequency of Use in Letter 1	Frequency of Use in Letter 2	Total	Percentage
Orders and requests	8	4	12	63.15%
Suggestions and advice	0	2	2	10.52%
Reminding	0	1	1	5.26%
Threats and warning	3	0	3	15.78%
Offers	0	0	0	0%
Promises	0	0	0	0%
Compliments, expressions of envy or admiration	0	0	0	0%
Expression of negative emotions	0	1	1	5.26%
				100%

Table (3) Frequency of Negative FTAs Identified in the Analysis

Positive FTAs	Frequency of Use in Letter 1	Frequency of Use in Letter 2	Total	Percentage
Expressions of disapproval, criticism, complaints and reprimands, accusations, insults	5	5	10	76.9%
Contradictions, disagreements or challenges	0	0	0	0%
Expressions of violent emotions.	0	0	0	0%
Expressions of disrespect	0	0	0	0%
Bringing of bad news about H.	3	0	3	23.1%
Blatant non-cooperation in an activity.	0	0	0	0
Use of address terms that signify misidentification.	0	0	0	0
				100%

Table (4) Frequency of Positive FTAs Identified in the Analysis

On the stylistic level of data analysis, it was found that only two strategies the official personalities used to minimize the face threat to the employees in letters 1 and 2; Using indirect speech act and using off-record strategies through hints, figures of speech, ellipsis, etc. respectively. On-record (bald) strategy was used to maximize the threat seven times in letter 1 and eleven times in letter 2 as shown in Table (5) below.

Minimizing FTAs	Frequency of Use in Letter 1	Frequency of Use in Letter 2	Total	Percentage
Asking or giving the addressee the choice to say 'No' without problems through being indirect, using hedges or showing pessimism.	1	0	1	4.2 %
Accounting for people's face in the first clause by showing friendship, solidarity, humor, avoiding conflict, etc.	0	0	0	0%
Using an indirect speech act.	3	0	3	8.3%
Using off-record strategies through hints, figures of speech, ellipsis, etc.	0	2	2	12.5%
Adding the polite marker 'please'	0	0	0	0%
Maximizing FTAs	Frequency of Use in Letter 1	Frequency of Use in Letter 2		
On record	7	11	18	75%
				100%

Table (5) Frequency of Strategies used in the Stylistic Level Analysis

8. Conclusions

The analysis revealed that there are instances where FTAs are used in the selected letters for legal purposes. Relying on their power, the legal personalities used the directive commissive acts to direct their addressees. It is worth mentioning that the letters used both types of FTAs. Each letter begins with acts threatening the positive face of the addressees. They rebuke the addressees for their deeds or bring them bad news regardless of their social status or legal rights. Then they used acts threatening the addressee's negative face by giving them orders, threats or suggestions to direct their activities and hinder their freedom. Moreover, they chose to maximize their face threat using a bald on-record strategy. Their choice is intended to reflect the required stylistic effect towards the addressees which is attitudinal in nature. That means they use an aggressive style without saving their addressees' face which is their legal right as stated by The Iraqi Constitution and Legalization.

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