

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF NEGATIVE
POLITENESS PHENOMENA FOR REQUEST
EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH AND MYANMAR**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

This study is conducted in the form of a comparative study. It aims to find out how Myanmar people use polite language in daily life. The study focuses on the use of negative politeness strategies, proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). To be more specific, the study is confined to examining requests. In the study, four negative politeness strategies are used to analyse the requests. The study is in the form of a comparative study of the request expressions in the English and Myanmar languages. Many Myanmar conversations in different domains are recorded and then the segments related to the present study are taken out for analysis. Examples from some Myanmar and English novels are also used in the study.

The study shows some differences and similarities in the use of politeness strategies in the two languages. In making requests, indirectness is used in the two languages. More instances are found in the indirect speech act in the English language than the Myanmar language. The English request form is mostly expressed in indirectness to be polite. In the Myanmar language, most requests are modified by using different sentence finals. In making requests, the addresser shows deference to the addressee by using various address terms and honorifics. The Myanmar language boasts different kinds of address forms including kinship terms which are used extensively in daily interactions. In English, certain honorific terms are used in various domains, whereas in Myanmar, occupational titles are used as honorific terms. The study shows that the negative politeness strategies are used in making requests in both English and Myanmar languages.