Performing compliments in a variationist perspective

Panel at IPrA 2023

Brussels (Belgium), 9-14 July 2023

Panel description

Language communities of native speakers are not homogeneous wholes and some pragmatics phenomena are particularly sensitive to variation: the linguistic act of compliment is one of them.

The literature on compliments has often presumed the uniformity of communicative strategies by speakers belonging to the same linguistic community (e.g. US or Chinese cultures, conceived as a whole). Conversely, a different theoretical and methodological approach is represented by variational pragmatics (Schneider & Barron 2008).

To date, few studies have been dedicated to the pragmatic variation of compliments (Lin et al. 2012, Mulo Farenkia 2012, Placencia & Fuentes 2013), and almost none on regional varieties within a specific language, apart from the pioneering work of Schlieben-Lange & Weydt (1978) and, more recently, Castagneto & Ravetto (2015). Scholars' attention has instead addressed social variability of compliments and compliment use on social media (e.g. Maíz-Arévalo 2013, Placencia & Eslami 2020).

Our panel aims at bringing together scholars working on compliments' variability across:

- national varieties of specific pluricentric languages, or regional varieties of one language;

- social varieties of one language, depending on one or more macro-social factors (social class, ethnicity, gender, age);

- styles and social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram).

Call for papers

We encourage the submission of abstracts from scholars working or interested in compliments and compliment responses, especially from a variationist perspective. Possible topics include but are not limited to

- the interaction of macro- and micro-social factors (power/solidarity, social distance/intimacy) in compliment management;
- socio-pragmatic variation in compliments' forms and routines;
- compliments' variability across data types: naturally-occurring discourse, social media, elicited data.

Abstracts should be of max. 500 words (references included) and they should be uploaded on the IPrA website by November 1, 2022. To upload your abstract, please follow the following process:

1) Go to the webpage https://ipra2023.exordo.com/submissions/new (in case you don't have an account, you'll be required to create one)

2) Click on "New Submission"

3) At Step 4 "Topic", please select our panel "Performing compliments in a variationist perspective" (Note: you can only select one topic)

4) Click on "Done" to save your submission

Please note the IPrA membership is required both to send the abstract and then to present at the conference.

The selected communication will be later published in a journal special issued. Further details will be provided to the panel participants during the meeting.

For further inquiries or problems with the uploading procedure, you can email the panel organizers: Marina Castagneto (University of Molise), marina.castagneto@unimol.it; Chiara Meluzzi (University of Milan), chiara.meluzzi@unimi.it.

Further information about IPrA and the conference could be found at
https://pragmatics.international/general/custom.asp?page=Brussels2023

References

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