

# **Compliments In Arab Idol And American Idol: A Contrastive Study**

**By**

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## **Abstract**

This thesis aims at exploring and discussing compliment speech delivered by the judges of the TV reality shows American Idol and Arab Idol. It seeks to analyze, compare, and contrast the routinely used compliment SAs in English and Arabic in order to discover the similarities and differences between the two languages in terms of topics, structure, and function of the speech acts. The corpus of compliments collected in this study consisted of two hundred (200) speech acts which were conveniently selected from both singing contests (100 in each language). Relevant theories and empirical studies have been consulted for the sake of delimiting the context of the actual research and suggesting new dimensions for future research. Thus, based on the data collected by the researcher, this study has determined to what extent the compliment speech acts used by the contestants of American and Arab Idols in order to facilitate communication and promote a cozy environment for the contestants. To this end, frequencies and percentages were calculated to answer the research questions. Findings have confirmed that the use of compliment speech acts is part and parcel of both TV reality shows; however, the purpose, function, and structure of these latter differ according to the socio-cultural norms in both societies.