

Pragmatic Dimensions of Successful Communication **linguistic politeness, pragmatic competence, advanced learners**

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While linguistic politeness is an important aspect of our social self-image and cultural traditions, it is rarely something of which we are aware. In the course of our daily lives, the way certain rules govern language usage generally remains unnoticed. When communication flows smoothly between partners, cooperation is almost unconscious; our own system of norms only becomes apparent when communication patterns deviate from what is considered to be appropriate.

When employing language in order to realize personal ends, the knowledge of how to form and structure our utterances is never enough. More is required than grammatical competence: selecting the kind of linguistic elements most capable of serving our personal aims depends upon a speaker's ability to coordinate his or her language ability with various other knowledge-based systems (such as those related to social interaction) and those mechanisms related to perception and intentional factors – pragmatic competence.

The accepted rules concerning what a given community finds polite or impolite are additional factors influencing our decision when choosing the best way to express our intentions. Understanding the research findings connected to this topic thereby results in knowledge bearing a series of very practical applications. Teachers of Hungarian as a Second Language – or Hungarian as a Heritage Language – can develop their students' level of pragmatic competence through instruction of these typical strategies.

Empirical pragmatics provides the theoretical framework for my lecture, thereby paving the way for any arising rules to be implemented in language instruction, the terrain where interlanguage pragmatics research is conducted and also the area most in need of systematic knowledge. For most advanced learners or students possessing a heritage language background, this type of knowledge is either lacking or the victim of various misconceptions – the root of their sociopragmatic or pragmlinguistic failure often lies in their neglect of those rules that determine language usage.