

## Linguistic concepts of *politeness* in the language pair German-Macedonian

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### Abstract:

In contrastive linguistics, the study of politeness is crucial for understanding the similarities and differences between languages and cultures in terms of politeness strategies and forms. Contrastive analysis of politeness can reveal linguistic and cultural differences between different language communities and highlight potential sources of misunderstanding or miscommunication. Linguistic politeness can be approached from two main perspectives: the Brown and Levinson model and the politeness theory of face (1987). The Brown and Levinson model suggests that speakers use politeness strategies to reduce the impact on the addressee's face and to maintain their own face. The politeness theory of face, on the other hand, focuses on the concept of face as a public image or reputation that speakers want to protect during interaction. The phenomenon of politeness is also classified into three main types of politeness systems according to Rong and Suzanne Wong Scollon (2000): the deference politeness system, the solidarity politeness system, and the hierarchical politeness system.

The aim of this paper is to explain how politeness forms are expressed in the German-Macedonian language pair and identifies cultural and sociopragmatic differences of these two languages. It also examines the use and function of the pragmatic marker "*bitte*" in German and Macedonian and its different meanings and uses in everyday communication. The study analyzes 30 participants (German native speakers and Macedonian learners of German) using DCTs (Discourse Completion Tasks) to express different request scenarios and the politeness marker "*bitte/молам*" as a routine formula for expressing requests. In conclusion, the study of politeness in contrastive linguistics is a crucial aspect of intercultural communication and understanding and can play a valuable role in improving cross-cultural communication to reduce misunderstandings and breaks in the communication.

*Key words: politeness, speech act of request, pragmatic marker "bitte", language pair German-Macedonian*