



Ain Shams University
Faculty of Education
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

DEVELOPING PRAGMATIC FLUENCY OF YEMENI ENGLISH MAJORS THROUGH A CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURE-ORIENTED PROGRAM

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(Curriculum and Instruction: Teaching English as a Foreign Language)

By

Huda Abdullah Qassim Al-Sanhani

Assistant Lecturer at Sana'a University, Yemen

Supervised By

Dr. Zeinab Ali El-Naggar

Professor of Curriculum and Instruction
(English as a Foreign Language)
Ain Shams University, Faculty of Education

Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Rahman

Lecturer of Curriculum and Instruction
(English as a Foreign Language)
Ain Shams University, Faculty of Education

Dr. Ismail M. Naji

Curriculum and Instruction
(English as a Foreign Language)
Sana'a University, Faculty of Education

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Huda Abdullah Qassim Al-Sanhani

Assistant Lecturer, Sana'a University

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Dr. Zeinab Ali El-Naggar

Professor of Curriculum and Instruction (EFL)
Ain Shams University, Faculty of Education

Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Rahman

Lecturer of Curriculum and Instruction (EFL)
Ain Shams University, Faculty of Education

Dr. Ismail M. Naji

Curriculum and Instruction (EFL)
Sana'a University, Faculty of Education

The study aimed at investigating the possibility of developing the pragmatic fluency of Yemeni English majors through the application of a proposed instructional program on conversational implicatures. The study followed the pre-/post-test, control/experimental group design, with quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis. The participants consisted of 44 randomly selected third-level students (male and female), Department of English, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University. The control group only received the regular instruction; whereas, the experimental group received additional instruction through the proposed program. The data collection instruments of this study consisted of the following: (a) a language background questionnaire, (b) a pre-/post-test of implicature and pragmatic fluency, and (c) a satisfaction questionnaire. The program was administered over the first semester of the academic year 2014/2015. The results revealed statistically significant differences between the mean scores of the two groups in the post-test, in comparison to the pre-test; in favor of the experimental group. Therefore, the effectiveness of the proposed program was confirmed. Responses to the satisfaction questionnaire indicated high level of satisfaction. The study recommends paying more attention to the pragmatic aspects, both in EFL classroom instruction and research.

Keywords: Pragmatic Fluency, Conversational Implicature, EFL Majors, Instructional Program, Effect of Instruction, Satisfaction Questionnaire.

*Dedicated to my beloved country, Yemen, and to all the innocent people killed all
over Yemen, spring and summer, 2015.*

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List of Abbreviations

CI	Conversational Implicature
CLT	Communicative Language Teaching
DCT	Discourse Completion Task
EFL	English as a Foreign Language
FL	Foreign Language
L1	First Language
L2	Second Language
MDCT	Multiple-Choice Discourse Completion Task
NNSs	Nonnative Speakers
NSs	Native Speakers
PCA	Principled Communicative Approach
PF	Pragmatic Fluency

Transcription Glossary

Symbol	Meaning
[Starting point of overlapping speech
]	End point of overlapping speech
(2.4)	Silence measured in seconds
(.)	Pause of less than 0.2 seconds
↑	Upward shift in pitch
↓	Downward shift in pitch
<i>word</i>	Emphasis
wo:rd	Prolongation of sound
°word°	Section of talk produced in lower volume than the surrounding talk
WORD	Section of talk produced in higher volume than the surrounding talk
w#ord#	Creaky voice
£word£	Smile voice
wo(h)rd	Laugh particle inserted within a word
wo—	Cut off in the middle of a word
word\<	Abruptly completed word
>word\<	Section of talk uttered in a quicker pace than the surrounding talk
\<word>	Section of talk uttered in a slower pace than the surrounding talk
(word)	Section of talk that is difficult to hear but is likely as transcribed
()	Inaudible word
.hhh	Inhalation
Hhh	Exhalation
.	Falling intonation at the end of an utterance
?	Raising intonation at the end of an utterance
,	Flat intonation at the end of an utterance
word.=word	“Rush through’ without the normal gap into a new utterance
(())	Transcriber’s comments.

Adopted from:

Peräkylä, A. (2004). Conversation analysis. In C. Searle, D., J. F. Gubrium, & G. Gobo (Eds.), *Qualitative Research Practice* (pp. 165-179). London: Sage.

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION



