

## **Review**

of the doctoral dissertation

### **Cultural Effects on the Pragmatic Abilities of EFL Production of Request and Refusal Speech Acts by Multilingual Jordanians in Jordan and Hungary**

submitted to the Multilingualism Doctoral School, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
University of Pannonia of Veszprem in 2026

by

**Ibrahim Rawashdeh**

PhD candidate

Subject: Review of dissertations for final defense

Doctoral candidate: Ibrahim Rawashdeh

Supervisor: Professor Anat Stavans

Reviewer: Professor László Imre Komlósi  
Széchenyi István University  
SzEEDSM Doctoral Program in Transdisciplinarity

Evaluation: Accepted for final defence

Recommendation: summa cum laude

Date: 25 April 2026

#### **General assessment**

Ibrahim Rawashdeh has submitted the final version of his doctoral dissertation to the Multilingualism Doctoral School of the University of Pannonia, having revised the first version of his dissertation. The Candidate was expected to make a minor revision to clarify core concepts and explain their causal relationships. He has addressed these points accurately and effectively.

#### **Review and evaluation**

The dissertation contributes to multilingual pragmatics by showing that pragmatic competence cannot be reduced to a single pathway of development. The dissertation examines how a constellation of cultural, individual and multilingual factors collectively shape pragmatic production in L2 English of Jordanian Arab-English bilinguals and Jordanian Arab-English-Hungarian trilinguals. The inclusion of Hungarian as L3 for Jordanian speakers provides a novel contribution to the field, especially since no existing studies have examined the role of L3 in shaping L2 English pragmatics for Jordanian speakers.

A central objective of the research is to compare bilingual and trilingual Jordanian multilinguals' performance of L2 English by measuring pragmatic competences with regard to requests and refusals in order to clarify what pragmatic competence looks like under different multilingual profiles.

The underlying research interprets the diversity of multilingual communicative profiles by considering the different constellations of linguistic experience, identity, and communicative practice. The novel proposition of the research is that pragmatic ability is plural, context responsive which is shaped by the sociolinguistic environments in which multilinguals participate.

The dissertation has a clear logical design. The comparison of the two distinct groups under investigation draws together the logical outcomes and interprets the most salient group differences as evidence for two partially distinct approaches in pragmatic production: a relational approach more characteristic of the Jordan-based bilinguals, and a structural approach, more characteristic of the Hungary-based trilinguals.

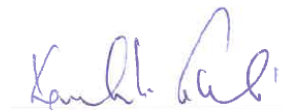
The dissertation constitutes an original, methodologically rigorous, practice-oriented contribution to the field of multilingual pragmatics focusing on the complexity of the development of pragmatic competence. The Candidate has shown an expert command of the relevant scholarly discourse. The structure is well-organized, the literature review situates the research within the existing body of knowledge and identifies significant gaps. The work provides convincing evidence that the Candidate is capable of conducting independent scientific research at the doctoral level. The dissertation fully meets both the formal and the theoretical requirements of a doctoral theses.

A novel result of the research program is the Candidate's recommendation for a theoretical shift in pragmatic research: a move away from a singular notion of "appropriate" L2 behavior toward viewing pragmatic competence as a network of strategically mobilized linguistic, social and cognitive resources that reflect the contexts in which multilingual speakers participate. He rightly claims that for understanding the complexities inherent in the development of pragmatic competence, we need to approach pragmatics holistically, utilizing various pragmatic, linguistic and multicultural assessment tools.

A novel insight provided by the dissertation is that pragmatic competence must be understood not merely as an inventory of strategies or politeness markers, but as a situated, structured, and lexically encoded practice via the acquisition of context-sensitive pragmatic strategies in multilingual environments. The dissertation demonstrates a sophisticated alignment between its theoretical underpinnings and methodological execution. The dissertation demonstrates a mature awareness of the assumptions underlying its research design. The dissertation exhibits high internal consistency, maintaining a rigorous conceptual thread across the chapters. The findings converge effectively to answer the core research questions.

Ibrahim Rawashdeh has accomplished an outstanding doctoral research with novel results contributing to the subtle understanding of the complexities of multilingual pragmatics in which the development of pragmatic competence is shaped by cultural, individual and multilingual factors.

Ibrahim Rawashdeh has demonstrated his maturity as an independent researcher. Based on the positive assessment of his dissertation, **it is recommended that the title „Doctor of Philosophy” (PhD) be conferred upon him with the qualification of *summa cum laude*.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'László Imre Komlósi', written over a horizontal line.

László Imre Komlósi