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# The Impact of English Language Style on Woman's Empowerment in Mosul Society

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### Abstract

The study attempts to highlight the impact of using English language style in empowering woman in Mosul society. The term woman empowerment has become popular in the field of social development. English language Style plays a distinctive function today's culture. It is a tool for educational and social empowerment. It is the ideal instrument for increasing the opportunities of learning and giving new chances to a brighter future. Empowerment is a practice of changing the power distribution, either in social interpersonal relations or in public institutions. Woman's empowerment is the process of recognizing and addressing the women's issues by the society. The term stands for their advancement, preventing gender discrimination. The aim of the study is to encourage women in Mosul society to develop their English language speaking skills. The research instrument is a questionnaire to collect the data. The respondents are English language teachers. They are (100) in their number. The study would be concluded that good speaking skills in English language style gives good opportunities to women to be empowered in their society.

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## أثر أسلوب اللغة الانكليزية على تمكين المرأة في المجتمع الموصل

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المُلخَص	معلومات الارشفة
تحاول الدراسة تسليط الضوء على أثر استخدام المرأة لأسلوب اللغة الانكليزية في تمكينها بالمجتمع الموصل. أصبح مصطلح (تمكين المرأة) شائعا في مجال التنمية الاجتماعية. ويلعب استخدام أسلوب اللغة الإنكليزية دوراً مميزاً في ثقافة اليوم. حيث تعد هذه اللغة أداة للتمكين التربوي والاجتماعي وإنها الأداة المثالية لزيادة فرص التعلم وإعطاء فرص جديدة لمستقبل أكثر إشراقاً. ويعرف مصطلح (التمكين) بأنه ممارسة اكتساب القوة لتغيير توزيع الامكانيات، سواء في العلاقات الاجتماعية بين الأشخاص أو في المؤسسات العامة. تمكين المرأة هو عملية الاعتراف بالقضايا المتعلقة بالمرأة ومعالجتها من قبل المجتمع. يشير المصطلح إلى تطوير النساء ومنع التمييز بين الجنسين. تهدف الدراسة الى تشجيع المرأة في المجتمع الموصل على تطوير مهارات التحدث باللغة الإنجليزية لديها. أداة البحث عبارة عن استبيان لجمع البيانات. المشاركون هم (١٠٠) من مدرسو اللغة الإنجليزية. وخلصت الدراسة إلى أن مهارات التحدث الجيدة بأسلوب اللغة الإنجليزية تعطي فرصا جيدة لتمكين المرأة في مجتمعها.	<p>تاريخ الاستلام : ٢٠٢٤/٨/٤</p> <p>تاريخ المراجعة : ٢٠٢٤/٩/٢٥</p> <p>تاريخ القبول : ٢٠٢٤/١٠/١٦</p> <p>تاريخ النشر : ٢٠٢٥/٦/١</p> <p>الكلمات المفتاحية : اللغة، التمكين، التنمية، الموصل، التمييز</p> <p>معلومات الاتصال اسن هاشم حمدون asan.hashem@uomosul.edu.iq</p>

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## 1.1. Introduction

The main elements that featuring Mosul society are its individuals, culture, economy, social institutions, and the interaction between them. The woman performs a prominent role and she has an essential part of every society. Women's empowerment via education can result in a good attitudinal change. The term (Empowerment) has become popular in the field of women development since mid-1980s. Empowerment has been a key concept in disciplines such as multicultural, feminist counseling, and social work.

Pastor (1996) defines empowerment as part of a process or an evolution which goes on whenever you have two or more people in a personal or professional relationship. It is central to the work of improving human lives. It sheds lights on social, political, and material resources and inequities in the environment, the strengths of individuals and communities, and the enhancement of well-being through supporting the natural positive change (Zimmerman, 2000). Over the course of history, and presently, a greater access to power has been enjoyed and still enjoy by men. Power has always been gendered, in particular with men. They have much more access to use resources of control. In daily life, the reflection of this disparity is applicable in aspects such as access to education, job opportunities, and economic resources (Huis et. al, 2017: 2). Women's empowerment attracts the attention of the scholars of universities, and in national and international platforms. It can be achieved through consciousness raising including speaking skill training for economic empowerment (Aliakbari, M., & Haghghi, J. K. (2014)).

Women can acquire the ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them. The ability to exercise individual choice is based on three interrelated elements. The first is the resources concerning material, human, and social expectations and allocations. The second is the agency which refers to the ability or sense of ability to define one's goals and decide on their own strategic life outcomes. The third is the achievements which includes a variety of outcomes ranging from improved well-being to achieving equal representation of women in politics (Kabeer, 2005). Further, one's perspectives can be expanded by knowing two or more languages. A whole new world of possibilities and professional paths can be opened by language learning increasing the opportunities. Hence, offering global minded can be achieved by speaking two languages (Gonzi, 2018).

In this research, the procedures would be theoretical in one hand. Topics relevance to the terms under investigation will be closely attended to. In the other hand, the procedures would be practical as a questionnaire is going to be distributed among a sample of English language teachers from the Universities and Schools in the city of Mosul. Then, statistical analysis of the collected data will be duly carried out.

## **2.1. Style in Language**

Style is a personal individual expression and a linguistic difference at the level of utterances. A particular language style is needed every time the speaker wants to reflect an idea, and language is a fundamental tool for communication. It can effectively achieve specific goals to reach the desired influence. Language user manages a series of stylistic possibilities and different linguistic terms and expressions might be used to reflect their point of view about something (Leech & Short, 2007:10). Further, style is a choice of words. Every speaker makes choices to put things together, and the style resides in the choices. It signifies the careful choice of exactly the right word phrase. Hence, it represents a set of choices of expressions, whether conscious or unconscious, and they are included in a particular context (Verdonk, 2002).

## **2.2. English Language Style Vs. Woman's Empowerment**

English is the most widely spoken language. In today's culture, its significance as a worldwide language is apparent. Education, socio-economic empowerment and educational opportunities can be enhanced by English as an international language. It creates more opportunities for a brighter future, both locally and globally. Greater challenges can be encountered by women than men in using English words from the same nation or socioeconomic category. Hence, English Language Education is viewed as a tool to increase one's options. Women may be empowered by giving them the speaking skills and information they need to govern their own lives and make purposeful economic and social decisions. Speaking English Style may help women qualify for better career prospects and university jobs when they graduate. Therefore, English can help the Mosul women to gain independence by allowing them to apply for university scholarships and get postgraduate degrees from English-speaking universities. It provides them financial independence and so a sense of emancipation (Haghighi, 2014). Women's empowerment gives the ability to abolish gender subordination and male supremacy. It is bridging the gap between men and women's social positions in Mosul society. English competence can also increase access to information and news sources.

Since the members of an international society have access to foreign media and news, those who are fluent in English have easier access to English media, literature, the Internet, and other resources. Hence, the ability to use English language style rather than other languages opens various avenues to woman for communicating with different institutions around the world. It gives opportunities to gain good job or advanced education. The way of greeting or introducing someone in English language, for example, may give more power to a woman (Wodak, 2012). To improve the impact of using English language style to empower woman, the following section gives the practical study to reach a conclusion for this research.

### **3.1. Methodology**

The general aim of this study is to investigate the impact of using English language style in empowering woman from English language teachers viewpoints in the Universities and the schools of the city of Mosul. Building on this, collecting relevant data is essential to bring about the aims of such investigation. It also requires investigating the views of a convincing sample. That has been done through the administration of a questionnaire whose items are designed depending on the relevant works and observations of the pertinent domains.

#### **3.1.1. Population and Research Sample**

Some criteria would be put forward to select the sample of the current research. Educational attainment should be no less than B.A. or B.Sc. of the members of the sample. In addition, the responder has to have enough experience and good knowledge of English language. Hence, 100 English language teachers are selected from educational institutions of Mosul. They are asked to answer the items of the questionnaire.

#### **3.1.2. The Instrument of the Research**

The designed questionnaire for the current study is supposed to examine the impact of English language style in empowering woman in Mosul society from the English language teachers viewpoints in Mosul society. It subsumes a number of items to elicit the data required in terms of the selected sample. This has been done after intensive reviewing of the related literature. It contains a set of questions designed to

yield specific information to meet a particular need for research information about a pertinent topic. The advantages of the questionnaire are embodied first, in the reduction of the expense and time economically; second, the uniformity of questions in which each respondent receives the same set of questions phrased in exactly the same way, and third the standardization of the items. The current questionnaire is structured contains a 5-point scale. It is a closed one where the respondents are asked to select one point in the rating. Table (1) provides the scale's rating used in the research instrument and the rate of each scale.

**Table (1) The Scale's Rating and Scores**

I agree to	The Scale's Rating		The Score
	A Very Large Extent		5
	A Large Extent		4
	A Moderate Extent		3
	A Low Extent		2
	A Very Low Extent		1

The questionnaire contains a number of items and the above scale rating. The respondents has been asked to state his/her frank and sincere answers to the items of the enclosed questionnaire by ticking (/) in the square that best applies. The following table contains the items to collect the data:

**Table (2) The items of the questionnaire**

When Mosul woman uses the following English Language Style, the use would increase her empowerment:						
No.	Items	I agree to.....				
		A very large extent	A large extent	A Moderate extent	A low extent	A very low extent
1.	Greeting others.					
2.	Introducing herself and others.					
3.	Giving her exact address.					
4.	Narrating her experiences in life.					
5.	Narrating her Academic skills.					
6.	Describing her Academic knowledge.					
7.	Describing places in her country.					

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8.	Narrating good and bad stories in her life.					
9.	Describing the academicians whom she has met.					
10	Describing her academic achievements.					

### 3.1.3. Statistical Analysis

A questionnaire is the obtained data for the current study. Once the data have been collected, an organization has been made and prepared to assist in making the analyses. Traditionally, the analysts have used the computation associated with statistical problem solving. In this study, Excel program is used in tackling the data. A table of data has been formed in a new worksheet within the study. Such development in the worksheet leads to perform statistical computation using designed and step-by-step instructions that the study provides. Formula has been designed to perform calculations. Percentage has been computed to each item of the questionnaire to obtain quick results.

**Table (3): Percentages of the Items of the Questionnaire**

When a woman uses the following English Language Style, the use would increase her empowerment:		
No.	Items	Percentage
1.	Greeting others.	85.2%
2.	Introducing herself and others.	87.33%
3.	Giving her exact address.	82.282
4.	Narrating her experiences in life.	90%
5.	Narrating her Academic skills.	95%
6.	Describing her Academic knowledge.	90.55%
7.	Describing places in her country.	88.56%
8.	Narrating good and bad stories in her life.	98.543%
9.	Describing the academicians whom she has met.	80%
10	Describing her academic achievements.	93%

### 3.2. Data Analysis

The research highlights the importance of obtaining Mosul woman a sufficient knowledge of English language, which is considered the language of the world today. A questionnaire is given to a group of English teachers with ten of items. They have the ability to speak and use the language in multiple aspects of life. By carefully examining the percentages that are calculated based on their opinions, it becomes clear that they all agree on the importance of using this style of language by woman.

As for the first item in the questionnaire which contents the woman's ability to welcome others in English language and use polite words, it is accepted by the respondents at a rate of (85.2%). There are many greeting phrases and polite words that women can choose. These sentences will enable her to communicate with the largest number of people around the world who speak English as their mother tongue or as a second language. But welcoming is not enough to give her the ability to communicate with others. She needs more knowledge. The following items in the questionnaire contain more requirements to be fluent in English language. In the second item, which the respondents are asked whether the power of the woman requires her ability to introduce herself by using English vocabularies to those who are speaking this language as a first or second language or not. The percentage of accepting the item by the respondents is high (87.33%). It means that she needs to know how to use pronouns in English, for example, whether they are subjects or objects, possessive pronouns, and others. Her choice of appropriate pronouns and her ability to use them correctly will reflect her culture. The third item, which the respondents have been asked about, includes the woman's ability to give full details about her place of residence by using English language. It is accepted and takes the rate of (82.282%). A woman's ability to answer a question about her place of residence indicates her good knowledge of how to use English vocabularies, which indicate a direct, accurate, concise and clear description her home. Hence, using English language in this description is important in achieving professional and personal goals. Further, it helps in achieving fluency and changing the lifestyle for the better, as it is one of the international professions languages.

Regarding the fourth item, which includes women's ability to narrate their experiences in life, it receives the acceptance by the respondents and takes the rate of (90%). It is a high percentage that indicates how important the use of English language by women.



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The ability to use the grammatical correct sentences that woman chooses to narrate her work experiences and her work qualifications which she has encountered in her life enables her to gain the trust of others and enables her to obtain more job opportunities. These opportunities are enhanced by her academic skills in her field of specialization.

Throughout the questionnaire, there is a closed question related to academic skills. This academic skills are included in the fifth item. The fifth item is highly accepted by the respondents, as the percentage reached (95%). It is a high percentage if it is compared to the other percentages in the questionnaire results. Language is the tool which is used to describe the skills obtained through academic studies. Describing skills in English language, which is the favorite communication language around the world, will reflect women's ability and empowerment. This is also included in the sixth item in the questionnaire, which includes the question about academic knowledge. It receives an acceptance rate of (90.55%). This item is no less important than the other items in the questionnaire which include the ability of describing academic skills in the international language. In order for a woman to influence others and gain many friends, she must choose appropriate words and expressions in English to describe places in her country. Her ability to describe places indicates a good knowledge of English vocabularies and grammar. They give her the strength and ability to communicate with people from different countries around the world. The high percentage (88.56%) of accepting the item number seven includes the woman's ability to describe places in her country.

As for women's skills in using the English language to tell stories about their lives, they require the use of more vocabularies, meanings, and sentences that indicate their progress of the knowledge and their mastery of the language. This fact shares the contents of the other items which are included in the questionnaire and has obtained the highest percentage of the acceptance of the respondents among all items (98.543%). Hence, improving the ability to express, understand, choose the correct sentences, and use the English language fluently will open up multiple worlds of knowledge, in addition to the ability to interact with the diverse of the communities around the world. The content of the ninth item is important in empowering women. It is improved throughout the percentages of the acceptance it has received from respondents (80%).

In fact, the woman's power and her empowerment can be connected to her ability to describe the people around her in English language as a speaking skill, whether they are in her family, in her work, or others. Finally, the percentage (93%) which has been obtained in the tenth item includes women's ability to describe their academic achievements in English. It reflects the importance of this ability in empowering women and giving them personal strength.

#### **4.1. Conclusion**

The acquisition of a second language by women in Mosul society, especially English, which is considered a global language and the community's current language, is a bridge to cross the boundaries of language and culture collectively. It enables them to communicate and participate effectively in various fields, whether scientific, professional or even personal. The use of English language and choosing vocabularies that suit a particular situation reflect the power of the user, whether the language is used by man or woman. In order to raise the level of Mosul women's culture and empower them, it is necessary to highlight the importance of obtaining sufficient knowledge of this language, which is considered the language of the world today. It becomes clear that the participants all agree on the importance of using this style of language by woman. A woman's accurate, correct and understandable use of English language reflects the power of her personality and increases her ability and nurture her empowerment in facing the challenges and difficulties of life and to fight the bullying to which she may be exposed.

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