



# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje  
Blaže Koneski Faculty of Philology

## **English Studies at the Interface of Disciplines: Research and Practice**

International Conference at the Department of  
English Language and Literature

**4–5<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Skopje, 2025**



Универзитет „Св. Кирил и Методиј“ – Скопје  
Филолошки факултет „Блаже Конески“



Универзитет „Св. Кирил и Методиј“ – Скопје  
Филолошки факултет „Блаже Конески“

# **СТУДИИ ПО АНГЛИСТИКА – ИНТЕРДИСЦИПЛИНАРНОСТ ВО ИСТРАЖУВАЊАТА И ПРАКТИКАТА**

Меѓународна научна конференција  
Катедра за англиски јазик и книжевност  
4–5 април 2025  
Скопје

## **Книга на апстракти**

Скопје, 2025

**Издавач**

Универзитет „Св. Кирил и Методиј“ – Скопје  
Филолошки факултет „Блаже Конески“

**Уредник на издавачката дејност на  
Филолошкиот факултет „Блаже Конески“**

проф. д-р Владимир Мартиновски, декан

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Skopje

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Skopje, 2025





**Publisher**

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje  
Blaže Koneski Faculty of Philology

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## Linguistic Realization Patterns of Refusals by EFL University Students

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Refusals in English are complex speech acts that balance social norms, politeness, and the specific communicative context in which they occur. Labelled as illocutionary (Austin, 1962), directive or commissive (Searle, 1969), and face-threatening (Brown & Levinson, 1987), these are frequently used speech acts where a speaker rejects or declines an offer, request, invitation, or suggestion. The present paper investigates the language forms of refusals produced by two groups of EFL students: native Turkish and native Macedonian speakers. The analysed data was gathered through an online discourse completion task that includes multiple situations with various contexts and different social relations between the interlocutors. The participants of the study are specifically first year university students, who are learning English as a foreign language. The responses are analysed following the framework of Beebe et al. (1990), who classified refusal strategies in accordance to the degree of politeness and face-threatening nature of the response. The main aim of the paper is to explore the pragmatic strategies used to convey refusals and to examine the role of social variables in shaping refusals. The initial findings show that there are slight changes into the refusal forms and the strategies applied due to the change of social factors. However, it was concluded that both sample groups share the preference for indirect refusals, specifically in the form of an explanation. The research highlights the complexity of refusals as communicative acts and offers insight into the interrelations among language, social norms, and culture.

**Keywords:** refusals, speech acts, EFL

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CIP - Каталогизација во публикација Национална и универзитетска библиотека "Св. Климент Охридски", Скопје

821.111:001.2(062)(048.3)

811.111:001.2(062)(048.3)

МЕЃУНАРОДНА научна конференција "Студии по англистика  
интердисциплинарност во истражувањата и практиката" (2025 ; Скопје)

Книга на апстракти / Меѓународна научна конференција "Студии по англистика интердисциплинарност во истражувањата и практиката", Катедра за англиски јазик и книжевност 4–5 април 2025, Скопје, Република Северна Македонија ; приредувачи Ајнур Касо, Мила Виларова = Book of abstracts / International Conference "English studies at the interface of disciplines: research and practice (ESIDRP)", Department of English Language and Literature 4–5th April 2025 Skopje, North Macedonia ; edited by Aynur Kaso, Mila Vilarova. - Скопје : Универзитет „Св. Кирил и Методиј“, Филолошки факултет „Блаже Конески“ ; Skopje : Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, „Blaže Koneski“ Faculty of Philology, 2025. - 74 стр. ; 24 см

Начин на пристапување (URL):

[https://flf.ukim.mk/wp-content/uploads/ESIDRP2025\\_Book-of-Abstracts\\_FINAL\\_20.03.2025.-docx.pdf](https://flf.ukim.mk/wp-content/uploads/ESIDRP2025_Book-of-Abstracts_FINAL_20.03.2025.-docx.pdf).

- Наслов преземен од екран. - Опис на изворот на ден 24.03.2025 год. - Библиографија кон трудовите

Библиографија кон трудовите

ISBN 978-608-234-125-5

а) Англиска книжевност -- Интердисциплинарност -- Собири -- Апстракти б)  
Англиски јазик -- Интердисциплинарност -- Собири -- Апстракти

COBISS.MK-ID 65552389

---