

First International Scientific Conference FILKO - Philology,  
Culture and Education

# Intra-linguistic analysis of requests in Macedonian

# Introduction

- Study examines how Macedonian speakers form requests in daily interaction
- Focus on pragmatic strategy choice and cultural communication norms
- Uses the CCARP framework for cross-cultural comparison

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## Research Motivation

- Requests are face-sensitive and culturally shaped
- Macedonian is under-researched in pragmatics
- Study contributes to understanding regional communication patterns

# Theoretical Framework

## Blum-Kulka & Olshtain (CCARP)

- Categorizes request strategies by **directness**
- Examines internal and external modifications
- Enables systematic cross-linguistic comparison

## Research Objectives

- 1.Describe how requests are formed in Macedonian
- 2.Identify underlying request strategies
- 3.Determine how frequently these strategies appear across contexts

# Methodology

## **Data Collection**

Questionnaire-based elicitation

Non-probability sampling

Scenarios representing everyday communicative situations

Respondents provided naturalistic request formulations

## **Coding & Analysis**

CCARP categories applied:

Direct strategies

Conventionally indirect strategies

Non-conventional indirect strategies

Analysis included:

Internal modifications (softeners, politeness markers)

External modifications (grounders, disarmers, sweeteners)

# Key findings

- **Overall Strategy Choice**

- Macedonian requests are mostly direct, hearer-oriented questions
- Impersonal request forms are rarely used
- Indicates a preference for clear and explicit formulation

## **Explanations & Grounders**

- Macedonian speakers almost always explain the reason for a request; this occurs regardless of social distance
- Suggests that providing justification is a culturally stable politeness norm

# Key findings

- **Disarmers** were used very frequently
- Their use varied with social distance
- More common when asking someone of higher social status
- Less necessary in informal, close relationships
- Serve to soften the imposition and acknowledge the burden
- **Sweeteners** appeared often when speakers addressed a famous or socially elevated person
- Rarely used in everyday or symmetrical relationships
- Indicates impression management and respect toward high-status interlocutors

# Discussion

Directness combined with frequent explanation reflects a balance between efficiency and politeness

Modifying strategies show strong sensitivity to social distance and status

Patterns align with regional politeness tendencies but show uniquely Macedonian preferences

## **Contributions**

Provides first structured description of Macedonian request strategies

Adds new data to Balkan pragmatics and CCARP-based research

Highlights sociocultural norms in Macedonian communication

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# Conclusion

- Macedonian requests are direct but richly modified;
- Justifications, disarmers, and sweeteners play a key role;
- Social distance influences choice of modification strategies;