

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910810559703321
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Titolo	Linguistic politeness in Britain and Uruguay : a contrastive study of requests and apologies / / Rosina Marquez-Reiter
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; Philadelphia, : John Benjamins Pub. Co., 2000
ISBN	1-282-25472-3 0-585-46254-2 9786612254727 90-272-9893-9
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	xvii, 225 p. : ill
Collana	Pragmatics & beyond ; ; new ser. 83
Disciplina	306.44/0941
Soggetti	English language - Social aspects - Great Britain English language - Grammar, Comparative - Spanish Spanish language - Grammar, Comparative - English Spanish language - Social aspects - Uruguay Language and culture - Great Britain Social interaction - Great Britain Language and culture - Uruguay Social interaction - Uruguay Speech acts (Linguistics) Apologizing Courtesy Great Britain Social life and customs Uruguay Social life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [203]-222) and index.
Nota di contenuto	LINGUISTIC POLITENESS IN BRITAIN AND URUGUAY -- Editorial page -- Title page -- LCC data -- Table of contents -- Acknowledgements -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. Politeness theory -- Chapter 2. Speech act theory and politeness: Requests and apologies -- Chapter 3. Structure of the study and methodology -- Chapter 4. The findings: Requests -- Chapter 5. The findings: Apologies -- Chapter 6. Conclusion --

Sommario/riassunto

The first well-researched contrastive pragmatic analysis of requests and apologies in British English and Uruguayan Spanish. It takes the form of a cross-cultural corpus-based analysis using male and female native speakers of each language and systematically alternating the same social variables in both cultures. The data are elicited from a non-prescriptive open role-play yielding requests and apologies. The analysis of the speech acts is based on an adaptation of the categorical scheme developed by Blum-Kulka et al. (1989). The results show that speakers of English and Spanish differ in their choice of (in)directness levels, head-act modifications, and the politeness types of males and females in both cultures. Reference to an extensive bibliography and the thorough discussion of methodological issues concerning speech act studies deserve the attention of students of pragmatics as well as readers interested in cultural matters.
