Syntactic and Pragmatic Analysis of Comment Clauses in Selected British and American TV Talk Shows

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تحليل نحوي وتداولي لعبارات التعليق في برامج حوارية تلفزيونية بريطانية وامريكية مختارة

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Abstract

Comment clauses are those clauses which express the opinion of the speaker regarding the way of speaking of others or transfer the opinion of the speaker on the main clause content.

The study aims to analyze and describe comment clauses syntactically and pragmatically in the British TV talk show "The Jonathan Ross Show" and the American TV talk show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert". Also, it aims to show the syntactic and pragmatic similarities and differences between these two TV talk shows in using comment causes and which of these shows has a tendency to use comment clauses more. The study is limited to analyze five episodes of the British TV talk show and five episodes of the American TV talk show. The episodes of these two TV talk shows are from the 21st century. This study is a descriptive qualitative and quantitative one.

It is hypothesized that the first syntactic type of the comment clauses 'like the matrix clause of a main clause' is the most frequent type in both British and American TV talk shows. Also, It is hypothesized that 'you-oriented' type in the orientation criteria is more frequent in the British TV talk show than the American TV talk show. To achieve the aims of the study, the researcher has analyzed the episodes of both TV talk shows according to four criteria of comment clauses, and these are syntactic type (Quirk et al. s' model, 1985), pragmatic functions (Povolná's model, 2010 and Stenström's model,1994), position of a turn, and orientation (Povolná's model, 2010).

In conclusion, Comment clauses have been used more in the American TV talk show than the British TV talk show. The most common comment clauses are 'you know' and 'I mean' in both British and American TV talk shows. According to the syntactic type, the first syntactic type 'like the matrix clause of a main clause' is the most common type in both British and American TV talk shows. Concerning the pragmatic functions, there are differences in the pragmatic functions between the British and American TV talk shows. Regarding the position of a turn and the orientation, the medial position and 'you-oriented' are the most common types, respectively, in both British and American TV talk shows. The aforementioned results have showed that there are syntactic and pragmatic similarities and differences between the British TV Show and the American TV talk show in using comment clauses. In addition, the differences between the British and the American TV talk shows in using the comment clauses are due to the cultural and social distinctions between these two cultures.

Key Words: comment clauses, British TV talk show, American TV talk show, Quirk et al. 's model (1985), Povolná's model (2010) and Stenström's model (1994).

المستخلص

عبارات التعليق هي تلك العبارات التي تعبر عن رأي المتكلم في طريقة حديث الآخرين أو تنقل رأي المتكلم عن محتوى الجملة الرئيسية.

تهدف الدراسة إلى تحليل ووصف عبارات التعليق نحوياً وتداولياً في البرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني البريطاني "برنامج جوناثان روس" والبرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني الأمريكي "البرنامج المتأخر مع ستيفن كولبير". كما تهدف إلى إظهار أوجه التشابه والاختلاف النحوي والتداولي بين هذين البرنامجين الحواريين التلفزيونيين في استخدام عبارات التعليق وأيهما يميل إلى استخدام عبارات التعليق أكثر. تقتصر الدراسة على تحليل خمس حلقات من البرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني البريطاني وخمس حلقات من البرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني الأمريكي. إن حلقات هذين البرنامجين الحواريين التلفزيونيين تعود إلى القرن الحادي والعشرين. هذه الدراسة هي دراسة وصفية نوعية وكمية.

ومن المفترض أن النوع النحوي الأول من عبارات التعليق "مثل عبارة الربط في الجملة الرئيسية" هو النوع الأكثر شيوعاً في كل من البرامج الحوارية التلفزيونية البريطانية والأمريكية. كما يُفترض أن نوع "الموجهة لك" في معيار التوجيه أكثر شيوعاً في البرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني البريطاني من البرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني الأمريكي. ولتحقيق أهداف الدراسة، قام الباحث بتحليل حلقات كلا البرنامجين الحواريين التلفزيونيين وفقاً لأربعة معايير لعبارات التعليق، وهي النوع النحوي (نموذج كويرك وآخرون, ١٩٨٥)، والوظائف التداولية (نموذج بوفولنا, ٢٠١٠ ونموذج ستينستروم،١٩٩٤)، وموقع الدور، والتوجيه (نموذج بوفولنا، ٢٠١٠).

وفي الختام، تم استخدام عبارات التعليق بشكل أكبر في البرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني الأمريكي منه في البرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني البريطاني. إن أكثر عبارات التعليق شيوعاً هي "أنت تعرف" و"أعني" في كل من البرامج الحوارية التلفزيونية البريطانية والأمريكية. ووفقًا للنوع النحوي، فإن النوع النحوي الأول "مثل عبارة الربط في الجملة الرئيسية" هو النوع الأكثر شيوعاً في كل من البرامج الحوارية التلفزيونية البريطانية والأمريكية. وفيما يتعلق بالوظائف التداولية، فهناك اختلاف في الوظائف التداولية بين البرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني البريطاني والبرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني الأمريكي. فيما يتعلق بموقع الدور والتوجيه، فإن الموقع الاوسط و"الموجه إليك" هما النوعان الأكثر شيوعاً، على التوالي، في البرامج الحوارية التلفزيونية البريطانية والأمريكية. وقد أظهرت النتائج المذكورة أعلاه وجود أوجه تشابه واختلاف نحوية وتداولية بين البرنامج التلفزيوني البريطاني والبرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني الأمريكي في استخدام عبارات التعليق. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، فإن الاختلافات بين البرامج الحوارية التلفزيونية البريطانية والأمريكية في استخدام عبارات التعليق ترجع إلى الاختلاف الثقافي والاجتماعي بين هاتين الثقافتين.

الكلمات المفتاحية: عبارات التعليق، البرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني البريطاني، البرنامج الحواري التلفزيوني الأمريكي،. نموذج كويرك وآخرون (١٩٨٥)، نموذج بوفولنا (٢٠١٠) ونموذج ستينستروم (١٩٩٤).

1. Introduction

The main focus of this study is on spoken language since the spoken language is more frequent than written language in everyday life. Geaney (1996:26) clarifies that spoken language forms 99% of English use. People utilize spoken language in all types of quarrels, conversations, discussions, etc. (Muzikant, 2007:6).

Thus, the researcher has chosen the topic "Comment Clauses" because it is more usable in the spoken language than the written language such as **I mean**, **you know**, **I see**, **I hope**, **I believe**, **I think**, etc. Povolná (2010:71) explains that comment clauses do not share much information to the content of a specific conversation, but their existence is essential since they assist the flow of the conversation smoothly and carry out many various discourse functions. Stenström (1990:152) claims that comment clauses add vitality to the conversation and express the personal participation of the speaker. They mainly rely on the context in their analysis so they are hard to describe in semantic and grammatical terms alone (Stenström, 1995:290)

The term "comment clauses" has been named differently by many authors like Greenbaum and Quirk (1973, 1990), Stenstörm (1995), Biber et al. (1999), Leech and Svartvik (1992), Quirk et al. (1985), and Crystal (1995). There are other labels utilized also in literature. For instance, Stenstörm (1994) uses the term "interactional signals", and Erman (1986) utilizes the label "pragmatic expressions". The other terms have been used by authors are hesitation markers, let-me-explains, verbal fillers, discourse markers, softeners, fumbles, discourse items, pragmatic particles, pause fillers, void pragmatic connectives, and cajolers (Muhammed, 2020). Most of the used terms are either very general such as "verbal fillers", or very specific such

as "hesitation markers" (Povolná, 2010:71). So, the term "comment clauses" looks more suitable for the present study.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Definition of Comment Clauses

Biber et al. (1999: 972) illustrate that comment clauses consider as an expression of value judgments, attitudes, assessments, or personal feelings, or stance markers, stating style (**if I may say so**), epistemic stance (**I guess**, **I think**) , or attitude (**as you might guess**).

Adverbials are divided into four types: adjuncts, subjuncts, disjuncts, and conjuncts (Nasser, 2016). Basically, comment clauses are disjuncts. Quirk et al. (1985:1112) state that comment clauses can be either 'style disjuncts' which express the opinion of the speaker regarding the way of speaking for others, or 'content disjuncts' which transfer the opinion of the speaker on the main clause content.

According to Crystal (2003:84), comment clauses point out an optional structure whose essential role is to add to another clause a parenthetic comment. In English, there are an extensive variety of comment clauses, such as, **generally speaking**, **you know**, **to behave**, **they say**, etc. A great deal of these clauses function as conventional conversation fillers with different complex roles, such as, **I see**, **you see**, **mind you**.

Brinton (2008:245) defines comment clauses as evidential/ epistemic parentheticals which manifest numerous characteristics of the wide range of parentheticals: They are independent from sematic point of view and non-truth conditional, they require a syntactic link with their main clause (participating just a linear connection), they participate a comment role which can be recognized widely as the style or the attitude of the speaker, and they are mobile positionally.

Moreover, they keep non-parenthetical utilizes. Parentheticals extend from single words, e.g., *'understandable'*, to the whole sentences, e.g., *'There is no harm in saying so'*, that is what puts comment clauses away from parentheticals.

Dehè (2010:307) clarifies that comment clauses have been regarded as alleviators in the modern theoretical approaches of speech act, i.e., insertions utilized to reinforce, soften, modify, or correct a speech act acted by the utterance of the host. They act as "a hedge on the illocutionary force of the frame utterance". The speaker utilizes these clauses to start out the distinct theme from what comes after the main utterance and to join it to information in the previous utterance.

Comment clauses can be noticed as appearing within imperative or interrogative sentences, besides declaratives as being the most common kind in which these clauses appear. One should observe here that neither the imperative nor the interrogative can appear in Standard English as a subordinate clause:

A. Do not, **I beg you**, leave me alone.

B. Will she, **I wonder**, late? (Dehè, 2008:17)

Petlola (1983:103) asserts that comment clauses as clauses comment on the speaker's attitude or on the text organization, or on the value of truth of a group of sentences or sentence, i.e., they are metacommunicative.

Likewise, according to Leech and Svartvik (2002: 196), comment clauses comment on the speaker's attitude (an emotional judgment or reaction), the sentence truth, or the way of saying it. They explain that comment clauses act as sentence adverbials, they are not very much connected to the residue of the main clause they relate to. In writing, they are usually separated from the other clause by commas or in speech they have a distinct tone unit.

Brinton (2008:2) states that the extensive class to which comment clauses could be said to relate to is that of sentence adverbials which have three specific characteristics: they have clausal features which can be considered as reduced sentences, they have sentential range, and they are speaker-oriented indicating the subjunctive viewpoint of the speaker towards some situations.

Leech and Svartvik (2002: 197) mention that comment clauses annex a comment to what is said in in the residue of the sentence or in the main clause. Freely, they can appear at the end as in (C), at the beginning as in (D) or in the middle of the main clause as in (E), but the end-position is mostly restricted to informal speech.

C. Jill's husband is a lawyer, **I believe**.

D. **As you know**, I've always wanted to visit Greece.

E. And the photograph, **you see**, helped us to find the thief.

Therefore, Quirk et al. (1985:1112) assert that comment clauses are "parenthetical disjuncts" in that they may appear finally, initially or medially, and so they have generally a distinct tone unit. Lots of these clauses are features of spoken English:

F. KĬNGstone, | **as you probably KNOW**, | is the capital of JaMAIca|.

Analogously, Biber et al. (1999:197) think that comment clauses may seem externally in initial position as main clauses with an inserted nominal clause:

G. **You know**, there is no money to be made out of ri- recycling. In example (G), the function of **'you know'** is to indicate the statement truth, the speaker here informs the hearer something the latter maybe does not know.

Comment clauses are best categorized as peripheral components in final and medial positions.

Stenström (1995: 299) states that clauses like **I mean** is a probable main clause, but sort of a comment clause, **you know** as typically a comment clause, **you see** is always regarded as a comment clause; **I think** is a main clause when they appear initially. But **you know**, **you see**, **I mean**, and **I think** function as comment clauses when they appear finally and medially.

Comment clauses are comparable to reporting clauses; they are commonly short and can occur in different positions, they usually lack an obvious connection, and they are linked to the main clause freely. Anyhow, they are more formulaic than reporting clauses. In addition, they are generally in the present instead of the past tense; they are in first or second instead of third persons; and they comment on an idea instead of a wording delivery. Comment clauses straightforwardly convey the writer's or speaker's viewpoint to the message and thus can be classified among "stance adverbials" (Biber et al., 1999:197)

Moreover, comment clauses manifest numerous characteristics of pragmatic markers in that they lack referential or propositional content "have little semantic content", but performs procedural or pragmatic functions, with range over the whole clause. Comment clauses usually have interpersonal and textual inter-subjective and subjective functions common of pragmatic markers. Their deletion does not make discourse incomprehensible and ungrammatical, i.e., they are optional components, though it may lead to processing or pragmatic complexities. Comment clauses are like pragmatic markers represent features of speech-based or oral discourse. Nevertheless, comment clauses are either non-finite clauses like **to be honest** or finite clauses like **I think**, whereas pragmatic markers are usually short items, like **right** or **well** (Brinton, 2008: 241)

2.2 The Significance of Comment Clauses

The ambivalent feature is what makes comment clauses intriguing linguistic classification. This feature arises from the variation between structure and usage: they resemble disjunct adverbials in transforming additional information from functional point of view, but they represent clauses from structural point of view (Aijmer,1997:1-47). The indefiniteness can be ascribed to the continuing process of grammaticalization they are exposed to: the change by which constructions and lexical items appear in specific contexts to act as grammatical functions and, as soon as grammaticalized, proceed with evolving new grammatical functions. They are specifically prone to change and in a state of underlying instability (Aijmer,1997:1-47).

Comment clauses have also been alleged to submit expansion process from their typical form of first person (e.g. **I think**) to different forms (e.g. **I'm thinking**, **I would think**) (Katenbock, 2010:2). That is to say, **I think**, which is regarded as a main comment clause has proceeded on the grammaticaliztion path and is altering from epistemic modality maker, denoting deficiency of speaker's dedication, to a pragmatic maker with essential discourse-functional and textual functions (ibid)

2.3 Criteria for Comment Clauses Classification

Several criteria will be taken in consideration in analyzing comment clauses. Therefore, the researcher will adopt these criteria as a proposed model for analyzing comment clauses. These criteria are syntactic type (Quirk et al. s' model, 1985), pragmatic functions (Povolná's model 2010 and Stenström's model,1994), position of a turn, and orientation (Povolná's model, 2010). Every criterion will be tackled in detail.

2.3.1 Syntactic Type

The first criterion is syntactic type (Quirk et al. s' model, 1985). The most extensive categorization is introduced by Greenbaum and Quirk (1973) and restated in Quirk et al. (1985) considering the syntactic kinds of comment clauses. Most linguists accept this categorization (like Povolná and Stenström) and so it will also be utilized in this study.

According to Quirk et al. (1985), the syntactic forms of comment clauses are:

1) "like the matrix clause of a main clause", such as: **you know**, **I believe**.

2) " like an adverbial finite clause" (represented by **as**), such as : **as you know, as I say**.

3) "like a nominal relative clause, such as: **what was more upsetting**, **what is more important**.

4) "a to-infinitive clause as style disjunct", such as: **to be fair**, **to be honest**.

5) "-ing clause as style disjunct", such as: **speaking frankly**, **speaking openly.**

6) "-ed clause as style disjunct", such as: **stated bluntly**.

The first three kinds act as "content disjuncts" (also named attitudental disjuncts) indicating a comment on the main clause content, whereas the second three kinds act as "style disjuncts" indicating comments on the manner of speaking. Each class includes comment clauses that may be regarded cliché or idiomatic expression (Abbas and Mirza, 2019)

2.3.2 Pragmatic Functions

The second criterion is the pragmatic functions of comment clauses (Povolná's model 2010 and Stenström's model,1994). The functions are taken chiefly from Povolná (2010), who classifies seven functions: Markers of emotional attitude,

markers of certainty, opine markers, monitors, inform markers, empathizers, and appealers. The last inserted function is that of a verbal fillers, taken from Stenström monograph (1994), which by itself was one of Povolná's ambitions.

According to Povolná (2010), the pragmatic functions of inform markers, empathizers, appealers, monitors, and verbal fillers apply to the you-oriented comment clauses, While the pragmatic functions of markers of emotional attitude, markers of certainty, opine markers, monitors and verbal fillers apply to the I-oriented comment clauses. So, the pragmatic function of monitors and verbal fillers are applicable for both you-oriented and I-oriented comment clauses.

The classification of Povolná (2010) and Stenström (1994) regarding the pragmatic functions of comment clauses will be used in the analysis of this study. The analysis of the pragmatic functions of comment clauses will be based mostly on Povolná's classification (2010) since the seven functions are taken from it and one function is taken from Stenström (1994).

I-Oriented Comment Clauses:

1- Markers of Emotional Attitude

Markers of emotional attitude manifest the feelings of the speaker toward what is being communicated; nevertheless, it is more about the emotions of the speaker than his/her viewpoint. The speaker can convey, for instance, his/her anxiety by utilizing a marker of emotional attitude. The instance of such function could be the comment clause **I'm afraid**. It could convey the worry of the speaker either over the response of the listener to it, or over what is being said (Šolcová, 2019:26)

2- Markers of Certainty

Markers of certainty convey the speaker's certainty level over the utterance as the name proposes. The Speaker might desire to

convey, for instance, that s/he is definitely sure by utilizing the comment clause **I'm sure**. On the contrary, the speaker might desire to convey, for instance, that s/he is not sure about the honesty of the utterance by utilizing the comment clause **I don't know**. (Šolcová, 2019:25)

3- Opine Markers

Opine markers indicate that what is being uttered is just the attitude, opinion, or feeling of the speaker and not an easy fact. For instance, the comment clause **I think** obviously conveys that. (Šolcová, 2019:25)

You-Oriented Comment Clauses:

1- Inform Markers

Dissimilar to empathizers or appealers, inform makers are utilized when the listener earlier knows the conversation theme, or when the speaker desires to ensure that s/he shares interests with the listener. Also, Povolná (2003) states that inform markers "can also indicate to the listener that s/he should pay attention either to some completely new piece of information or its new aspect" (Povolná, 2003).

2- Empathizers

Empathizers likewise appealers, ask the listener to actively engage in the interaction. Anyhow, empathizers do not definitely demand an answer from the listener; they just perform the aim of making the listener sense like s/he is a part of the communication. The major example is **you know**, which Östman (1981) depicts as the attempt of the speaker to get the listener to participate or accept the suggestional theme of his utterance. Also, Östman (1981) names them the "intimacy signals" Because of the crucial social function of empathizers in face-to-face communications (Östman, 1981:17)

3- Appealers

Erman (1987: 53) also calls appealers the "confirmation-seeker". Comment clauses with appealers function need some answer from the listener. The speaker mostly utilizes appealers since s/he wants a response from the listener, either because s/he wants to know if the listener consents or to be certain that the listener comprehends what the speaker is uttering. The main representative instance is **you see**

The functions of monitors and verbal fillers are shared by both, **I- and you-oriented comment** clauses as aforementioned.

1- Monitors

The speaker utilizes monitors while s/he wants to reword what s/he was going to utter. However, they can also be utilized while s/he has to rephrase the message since the listener is not following, or while the speaker wants a new beginning. The main representative instance of a monitor is **I mean**, which generally needs more context considering pragmatic function than other comment clauses, since the previous utterance for **I mean** is of the similar significance as the one coming after it. It is alike the comment clause **you know**, which is also reliant on the previous alongside the following utterance, dissimilar to, for instance, the comment clauses of **I suppose** kind which typically associate with just one utterance. (Šolcová, 2019:26)

2- Verbal Fillers

Comment clauses with verbal fillers function do not have certain meaning, they easily bridge the gap in the utterance when the speaker is searching for a suitable continuation. Also, they can be utilized at the utterance beginning, when the speaker requires time to arrange what s/he is going to utter afterwards (Senström, 1994). In addition, they are named "fumbles" because they are

utilized when the speaker "fumbles for the appropriate word or formulation, trying to repair his misstep" (House, 2009: 186)

2.3.3 Position of a Turn

The third criterion is position of a turn (Povolná's modal, 2010). In the clause, comment clauses may appear in initial, medial or final position (Abbas and Hattab, 2023). Similarly, Biber et al. (1999) state that comment clauses "are generally short and can occur in different positions". Furthermore, Leech and Svartvik (1992) propose that the final position is typically limited to informal speech (Leech and Svartvik 1992, 217).

The term "turn" is formed considering real spoken communications. Stenström (1994) defines a turn as "everything the current speaker says before the next speaker takes over." Within a turn, comment clauses can occur in three positions, just like in a sentence or clause. According to her (1995: 291), comment clauses can appear in initial, medial, and final turn/ sentence like disjuncts generally, but they can appear in more than one position in the same turn/ sentence unlike disjuncts. Even though Stenström (1994) concerns with both turn and sentence positions, Povolná (2010) deals with turn positions only which are initial, medial, and final turn positions. Erman (1986) states that there are two kinds of markers appearing in the middle position: a connective component and an intrusive component. Also, He explains that the most common position is the middle turn position.

Kuthanová (2014: 24) adds that comment clauses in the initial position within a turn refers either to the comment clauses which occur immediately after an address discourse, marker, or a coordination conjunction, or they occur in the first position in a turn. Medial position refers to any comment clause followed and

preceded by any clause of the same constituent or turn except a vocative, a discourse marker, or coordinating conjunction. Final position refers to a comment clause within a turn followed by no constituent except a terminal tag like **and that**.

In the practical part of the study, position of comment clauses within a turn for Povolná (2010) will be analyzed as one of the criteria since she deals with turn positions only.

2.3.4 Orientation

The fourth criterion is orientation (Povolná's modal, 2010). In more than one of her articles, Povolná (2010) discusses the orientation category. The theory also can be applied on the written language even though she chiefly concentrates on the analysis of spoken language. She affirms in her article "*Comment clauses in English face-to-face conversation*" (2003): the massive majority of comment clauses incline to be either listener- or speaker- oriented when utilized in face-to-face conversation.

The you-oriented comment clauses (also named listener-oriented), like **you see** or **you know** are generally utilized to get some reply from the hearer, or directly to attract his/her attention to the particular information within the utterance. On the contrary, I-oriented comment clauses (also named speaker-oriented) like **I think** or **I believe** refers to the attitude of the speaker towards ideas, his/her opinions, feelings, and the main clause (Povolná, 2010)

Povolná (2010) states that there are also comment clauses that occur in an impersonal form aside from the aforementioned kinds of orientation, such as **to generally speaking**, **to speak frankly**. She deduces from the corpus analyzed in her study that you-oriented comment clauses tend to occur more in telephone or face-to-face conversations where the participants communicate

more, whereas I-oriented comment clauses tend to occur more in radio discussions.

Figure (2.1): Quirk et al. s' model (1985) of syntactic type, Povolná's model (2010) and Stenström's model (1994) of pragmatic functions, Povolná's model (2010) of position of a turn and orientation. This figure is made by the researcher.

3. Methodology

3.1 Data Collection

The present study depends on a mixed-method approach, i.e., it is a descriptive qualitative and quantitative study. The descriptive qualitative method will be used to describe and analyze comment clauses syntactically and pragmatically in selected British and American TV talk shows. Simultaneously, the quantitative method will be used to calculate the distribution and frequency of comment clauses in these TV talk shows . The data analysis

will be five episodes of the British TV talk show "The Jonathan Ross Show" which is hosted by Jonathon Ross and five episodes of the American TV talk show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" which is hosted by Stephen Colbert. These TV talk shows are chosen due to their popularity in their countries. The episodes are selected randomly. These two TV talk shows are from the 21st century. The turns in these episodes will be analyzed according to four criteria of comment clauses, and these are syntactic type (Quirk et al. s' model, 1985), pragmatic functions (Povolná's model, 2010 and Stenström's model, 1994), position of a turn, and orientation (Povolná's model, 2010)

3.2 Data Analysis

The following selected turns are taken from the British TV talk show "The Jonathan Ross Show" and the American TV show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert"

Text 1: The following turns of the episode transcript are taken from the British TV talk show "The Jonathan Ross Show" when Jonathan Ross hosted the British actress "Sue Perkins" (2014):

Jonathon Ross: **I guess**, you haven't filmed this is one. When do you film? What time would you film is that?

Sue Perkins: We film it in the summer time.

In the first text, the show host asks the actress about the details of her filming. He uses the comment clause *"I guess"* which is an example of the first syntactic type 'like the matrix clause of a main clause'. The pragmatic function of the comment clause is 'opine marker' because the show host states his opinion and he isn't sure about whether she filmed or not. The position of a turn is an initial position. The orientation is 'I-oriented' (also named speaker-oriented) since it refers to the show host's attitude towards his opinions, feelings, and thoughts.

Text 2: The following turns of the episode transcript are taken from the American TV talk show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" when Stephen Colbert hosted the American actor "James Franco" (2018):

Stephen Colbert: That's the heart of it. This is my movie. This is my life. You know what I mean?

James Franco: Yes, yes. In a weird way the disaster of this is my movie, my life, because, **like I said**, I had the same dreams, we had the same hero.

In the second text, the show host asks the actor about the reason behind saying his words at the premiere. The actor uses the comment clause *'like I said'* which is an instance of the second syntactic type 'an adverbial finite clause represented by as' through explaining the reason behind saying these words. Here, the word *'like'* resembles the meaning of the word *'as'*. The pragmatic function of the comment clause is "marker of certainty" because the actor conveys the certainty level over the utterance. The position of a turn is a medial position. The orientation is 'I-oriented' (also named speaker-oriented) since it refers to actor's attitude towards his feelings, ideas, and opinions.

Text 3: The following turns of the episode transcript are taken from the American TV talk show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" when Stephen Colbert hosted the American actor "Woody Harrelson" (2017):

Stephen Colbert: It's not an unreasonable position to have, really, **speaking as a human.**

Woody Harrelson: Yeah, yeah.

In the third text, the show host wonders about the actor's film. He uses the comment clause *'speaking as a human'* which is an example of the fifth syntactic type '-ing clause as style disjunct'. The pragmatic function of the comment clause is 'appealer' (also

named confirmation seeker) since the show host here wants feedback or reply from the actor and the evident is that the actor answered with *'yeah*, *yeah'*. The position of a turn is a final position which is the usual position of 'appealers'. The orientation is impersonal orientation since it doesn't include 'I' or 'you'.

Text 4: The following turns of the episode transcript are taken from the British TV talk show "The Jonathan Ross Show" when Jonathan Ross hosted the British actor "Tom Hardy" (2014):

Jonathan Ross: What do you mean by taking yourself seriously?

Tom Hardy: Well, I beat myself up pretty baldly, **you know**, I want to strive for a certain level of achievement.

In the fourth text, the actor uses the comment clause *'you know'* which is an instance of the first syntactic type 'like the matrix clause of a main clause'. The pragmatic function of the comment clause *'you know'* is 'empathizer' since the show host asks the actor about the meaning of taking himself seriously and the actor uses the comment clause *'you know'* through his answering because the actor doesn't definitely demand an answer from the show host; he wants the show host to feel that he is involved in the conversation and he is a part of the communication. The position of a turn is a medial position. The orientation is' you-oriented' (also named listener-oriented) since it is used here to attract the attention of the show host to the particular information within the utterance.

Text 5: The following turns of the episode transcript are taken from the American TV talk show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" when Stephen Colbert hosted the American actor "Drew Barrymore" (2019):

Stephen Colbert: Are there categories? It is, like, **you know,** juggling, singing, **you know**, ... tax accounting?

Drew Barrymore: Yeah, by the way, wouldn't that useful?

In the fifth text, the show host asks the actress about the categories of her show. He uses the comment clause *"you know"* twice which are both examples of the first syntactic type 'like the matrix clause of a main clause'. The pragmatic function of the first *'you know'* is 'monitor' since the show host is trying to rephrase the meaning of categories and putting them in other words which are *juggling* and *singing* and the second pragmatic function of *'you know'* is 'verbal filler' because he is trying to find an appropriate continuation to compensate the lack of thoughts. The position of a turn for both comment clauses is a medial position. The orientation for both comment clauses is' you-oriented' (also named listener-oriented) since they are used here to attract the attention of the actress to the particular information within the utterance.

Text 6: The following turns of the episode transcript are taken from the American TV talk show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" when Stephen Colbert hosted the American actor "Robert De Niro" (2019):

Robert De Niro: Oh, okay. Thank you. **You know**, l'm trying to lose some weight .

Stephen Colbert: That's exactly. A minute. There you go. Finished? Can I ask you about the Tribeca film festival.

In the sixth text, The show host offers the actor a cocktail and the actor tells him that he is on a diet. The actor uses the comment clause *"you know"* which is an instance of the first syntactic type 'like the matrix clause of a main clause'. The pragmatic function of 'you know' is 'inform marker' since the actor shares with the show host new information about his going on a diet. The position of a turn is a medial position. The orientation is' you-oriented' (also named listener-oriented) since it is used here to

attract the attention of the show host to the particular information within the utterance.

Text 7: The following turns of the episode transcript are taken from the American TV talk show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" when Stephen Colbert hosted the American actor "James Franco":

Stephen Colbert: That's one of the most beautiful parts. I love that.

James Franco: **I'm sorry**, Tommy, I just had to thank my brother.

In the seventh text, the actor uses the comment clause *"you know"* which is an example of the first syntactic type 'like the matrix clause of a main clause'. The show host praises the part of James's thanking to his brother and the actor introduces his sorriness through the comment clause *'I'm sorry'*. The pragmatic function of *'I'm sorry'* is 'marker of emotional attitude' since the actor expresses his feelings towards not letting the actor 'Tommy Wiseau' talk at the festival of Golden Globes because of the short time and James wanted to thank his brother at that time. The orientation is 'I-oriented' (also named speaker-oriented) since it refers to the actor's attitude towards his opinions, feelings, and thoughts.

4. Results and Discussion

The Frequency of the Comment Clauses in the Selected Episodes of the British TV Talk Show "The Jonathan Ross Show" and the American TV Talk Show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert":

Comment Clauses	The Frequency of Comment Clauses in the British TV Talk Show	The Frequency of Comment Clauses in the American TV Talk Show
-You know	40	63
-I mean	18	15
-I guess	4	5
-I think	4	4
-I don't know	1	5
-as I believe	1	0
-I'm not angry	1	0
-I assume	0	1
-I understand	0	3
-speaking as a human	0	1
-I'm not sure	0	1
-like I said	0	2
-I didn't care	0	1
-I'm sorry	0	1
-I'm shocked	0	1
-I didn't realize	0	1
Total	69	104

Table (4.1)

The frequency of the comment clause 'you know' in the American TV talk show is (63) which exceeds the frequency of 'you know' in the British TV talk show (40), whereas the frequency of the comment clause 'I mean' in the British TV talk show is (18) which is higher than the frequency of 'I mean' in American TV talk show (15). So, it is clear from table (4.1) that the most frequent comment clause is "you know" followed by 'I mean' in both British and American TV talk shows. This result agrees with Muzikant's (2007) and Šolcová's (2019) result that the comment clauses 'you know' and 'I mean' are the most common comment clauses. Moreover, the total frequency of using comment clauses in the American TV talk show is (104) which is higher than the total using of comment clauses in the British TV talk shows (69).

The Frequency and Percentage of the Comment Clauses Types in Five Selected Episodes of the British TV Talk Show "The Jonathan Ross Show":

The British TV Talk Show "The Jonathan Ross Show"			
Main Types of Comment Clauses	**Sub Types of Comment Clauses**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Syntactic Type	1.Like the matrix clause of a main clause	٦٨	98.55%
	2. Like an adverbial finite clause represented by as	١	1.45%
	3. Like a nominal relative clause	٠	0%
	4. a to-infinitive clause as style disjunct	٠	0%
	5. -ing clause as style disjunct	٠	0%
	٦. -ed clause as style disjunct	٠	0%
	Total	٦٩	25%
Pragmatic Functions	1. Markers of emotional attitude	١	1.45%
	2. Markers of certainty	١	1.45%
	3. Opine markers	٩	13.04%
	4. Inform markers	٥	7.25%
	5. Empathizers	١٧	24.64%
	6. Appealers	١	1.45%
	7. Monitors	١٩	27.54%
	8.Verbal fillers	١٦	23.19%
	Total	٦٩	25%
Position of a Turn	1. Initial Position	١٢	17.39%
	2. Medial Position	٥٣	76.81%
	3. Final Position	٤	5.80%
	Total	٦٩	25%
Orientation	I- Oriented	٣٣	47.83%
	You- Oriented	٣٦	52.17%
	Impersonal	٠	0%
	Total	٦٩	25%
	S. Total	٢٧٦	

Table (4.2)

The Frequency and Percentage of the Comment Clauses Types in Five Selected Episodes of the American TV Talk Show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert":

The American TV Talk Show "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert"			
Main Types of Comment Clauses	**Sub Types of Comment Clauses**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Syntactic Type	1. Like the matrix clause of a main clause	101	97.12%
	2. Like an adverbial finite clause represented by as	2	1.92%
	3. Like a nominal relative clause	٠	0%
	4. a to-infinitive clause as style disjunct	٠	0%
	5. -ing clause as style disjunct	1	0.96%
	6. -ed clause as style disjunct	٠	0%
	Total	١٠٤	25%
Pragmatic Functions	1. Markers of Emotional Attitude	٣	2.88%
	2. Markers of Certainty	٧	6.73%
	3. Opine Markers	١٥	14.42%
	4. Inform Markers	٩	8.65%
	5. Empathizers	٣٠	28.85%
	6. Appealers	٥	4.80%
	7. Monitors	١٥	14.42%
	8.Verbal Fillers	٢٠	19.23%
	Total	١٠٤	25%
Position of a Turn	1. Initial	٢٠	19.23%
	2. Medial	٧٤	71.15%
	3. Final	١٠	9.62%
	Total	١٠٤	25%
Orientation	I- Oriented	٣٩	37.5%
	You- Oriented	٦٤	61.54%
	Impersonal	١	0.96%
	Total	١٠٤	25%
	S. Total	٤١٦	

Table (4.3)

According to the syntactic type of the comment clauses, table (4.2) shows that the frequency of the first syntactic type 'like the matrix clause of a main clause' in the British TV talk show is (68) which forms (98.55%) from the syntactic type is slightly higher

than the frequency of the first syntactic type 'like the matrix clause of a main clause' in the American TV talk show (101) which forms (97.12%) from the syntactic type. While the frequency of the second syntactic type 'like an adverbial finite clause represented by as' in the American TV talk show is (2) which constitutes (1.92%) from the syntactic type is slightly higher than the frequency of the second syntactic type 'like an adverbial finite clause represented by as' in the British TV talk show (1) which constitutes (1.45%) from the syntactic type .

Interestingly, the frequency of the other syntactic types in the British TV talk show is (0). Also, the frequency of the other syntactic types in the American TV talk show is (0) except that the frequency of the fifth type '-ing clause as style disjunct' is (1) which forms (0.96%) from the syntactic type.

The frequency of the first syntactic type 'like the matrix clause of a main clause' is dominant in both British and American TV shows and this result agrees with the Povolná's result (2010) who found out that the first syntactic type is the most common one. Also, Biber et al. (1999:197) supports this result by saying that comment clauses "comment on a thought rather than the delivery of a wording", so content disjunct is the common function.

According to the pragmatic functions, the table (4.3) states that the frequency of empathizers is (30) which constitutes (28.85%) from the pragmatic functions and verbal fillers is (20) which constitutes (19.23%) from the pragmatic functions in the American TV talk show exceeds the frequency of empathizers (17) which constitutes (24. 64%) from the pragmatic functions and verbal fillers are (16) which constitutes (23. 19%) from the pragmatic functions in the British TV talk show. Whereas the frequency of monitors in the British TV show is (19) which forms (27.54%) from the pragmatic functions is higher than the

frequency of the monitors in the American TV talk show (15) which forms (14.42%) from the pragmatic functions.

The frequency of opine markers is (15) which constitutes (14.42%) from the pragmatic functions and inform markers is (9) which constitutes (8.65%) from the pragmatic functions in the American TV show exceeds the frequency of opine markers (9) which constitutes (13.04%) from the pragmatic functions and inform markers (5) which constitutes (7.25%) from the pragmatic functions in the British TV talk show.

The frequency of certainty markers is (7) which forms (6.73%), appealers is (5) which forms (4.80%), and markers of emotional attitude is (3) which forms (2.88%) from the pragmatic functions in the American TV talk show is higher than the frequency of certainty markers (1) which forms (1.45%), appealers (1) which forms (1.45%), and markers of emotional attitude (1) which forms (1.45%) from the pragmatic functions in the British TV talk show.

According to the position of a turn, the frequency of the medial position is (74) which constitutes (71.15%) from the position of a turn and the initial position is (20) which Constitutes (19.23%) from the position of a turn in the American TV show exceeds the frequency of the medial position (53) which constitutes (76.81%) from the position of a turn and the initial position (12) which constitutes (17.39%) from the position of a turn in the British TV show. Also, the final position in the American TV show is (10) which forms (9.12%) from the position of a turn is higher than the final position of a turn in the British TV show (10) which forms (9.12%) from the position of a turn. The medial position is the most frequent type in both British and American TV talk shows. This result corresponds with Erman's (1986),Povolná's

(2010), and Kuthanová's (2014) result that the medial position is the most common position.

According to the orientation, the frequency of 'you-oriented' is (64) which constitutes (61.54%) from the orientation and 'I-oriented' is (39) which constitutes (37.5%) from the orientation in the American TV show exceeds the frequency of 'you-oriented' (36) which constitutes (52.17%) from the orientation and 'I-oriented' (33) which constitutes (47.83%) from the orientation in the British TV show. The frequency of impersonal orientation in the American TV show is (1) which forms (0.96%) from the orientation while the frequency of the impersonal orientation in the British TV show is (0). 'You-oriented' is the most frequent type in both British and American TV talk shows. This result matches Povolná's result (2010) that 'you-oriented' is the most common type in telephone and face-to-face conversations.

5. Conclusion

The following conclusions have been presented depending on the discussion of the results:

1. Comment clauses are typically used in the spoken discourse especially in person-to-person conversations, so, they are common in the TV talk shows and they should be analyzed according to the four following criteria: syntactic type, pragmatic functions, position of a turn, and orientation.

2. Comment clauses have been used more in the American TV talk show than the British TV talk show. The frequency of the comment clause 'you know' in the American TV talk show is higher than the British TV talk show, whereas the frequency of the comment clause 'I mean' in the British TV talk show is more frequent than the American TV talk show. But the most frequent

comment clauses in both British and American TV talk shows are 'you know' and 'I mean'.

3. The frequency of the first syntactic type 'like the matrix clause of a main clause' in the British TV talk show is higher than the American TV show. But this first syntactic type in both British and American TV talk shows is the most common type. So, hypothesis No. 1 is accepted.

4. In the pragmatic functions, the frequency of empathizers, verbal fillers, and opine markers in the American TV show are more frequent than the British TV talk show and they are the most common types in the American TV show. While the frequency of monitors in the British TV talk show is more frequent than the American TV show and monitors, empathizers, and verbal fillers are the most common types in the British TV show. Thus, there are differences in the pragmatic functions between the British and the American TV talk shows.

5. In the position of a turn, the medial position in the American TV talk show is more frequent than the British TV talk show. Though the Medial position is the most common position in both British and American TV talk shows.

6. In the orientation, 'you-oriented' in the American TV talk show is more common than the British TV talk show. So, hypothesis (2) is refuted. 'You-oriented' is the most frequent type in both British and American TV talk shows. But there is no great difference in the frequency between 'I-oriented' and 'you-oriented' in the British TV talk show, the frequency of 'I-oriented' is (33) and the frequency of 'you-oriented' is (36).

7. The aforementioned results have showed that there are syntactic and pragmatic similarities and differences between the British TV Show and the American TV talk show in using comment clauses.

8. To sum up, the differences between the British and the American TV talk shows in analyzing the criteria of comment clauses are due to the cultural and social distinctions between these two cultures.

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