

## A Pragmatic-Discourse Analysis for the Political Language Speech Acts in SCAF Selected Statements

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### Abstract

Following the January 25th revolution, the transition phase was led by the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) from January 2011 to 2012. During this time, SCAF issued a series of official statements and two are selected and examined in this study through a pragmatic-discourse approach. The aim is to uncover the implied meanings of these statements by analyzing speech act types, politeness strategies, politeness principle, and linguistic markers used by SCAF. The methodology framework includes speech acts by Austin and Searle, Politeness Theory by Brown and Levinson, Politeness Principle by Leech, and Discourse Analysis by Van Dijk. The study aims to understand how language was used by SCAF to shape public opinion and influence events. Two statements were chosen and analyzed, showing language as a powerful tool for conveying powerful messages. The findings show that language has been used as a perfect means to send powerful, desirable messages using pragmatic devices. The presence of politeness theory expressed in face threatening and face saving acts choices has been demonstrated in the study of the statements as a specimen of formal written institutional discourse. The study suggests that other linguistic frameworks could be used for critical discourse analysis.

**Key words: Pragma-Linguistics, Speech Acts, Utterance, Context, Power, Politeness, Political Discourse**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) plays an important role in the political contexts where military intervention takes place. In certain circumstances, such as periods of political transition or crisis, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces may take control of governance and issue statements to communicate its policies, decisions, and views to the public. These statements often use political language that serves as a tool to shape public opinion and legitimize the SCAF's actions. Understanding the discourse strategies the SCAF uses in its statements is vital to understanding the dynamics of military rule and the impact of political language on public perception. This study is of great importance for several reasons. First, it contributes to an understanding of the role of political language in military-led governance. By examining the discourse strategies employed by the SCAF, insights can be gained about how military institutions shape public perception and maintain control. Second, the study sheds light on the ways in which the SCAF uses political language to legitimize its actions. This understanding can help assess the moral and democratic implications of military intervention in political affairs. The results of this study can provide valuable insights to policymakers, researchers and the general public, helping to develop strategies to enhance transparency and accountability of governance. Researchers can systematically measure and analyze political language discourse acts by interpreting and discussing the analyzed data and discussing the results in relation to the research objectives and research questions. Analyze the implications of specific language strategies, discursive tools and rhetorical techniques in shaping public opinion, legitimizing actions, and maintaining power.

### 1.1 Key Terms

#### 1.1.1 Pragma-linguistics

Pragma Linguistics refers to the study of language use in specific social contexts, focusing on how language is used to achieve specific goals and navigate social interactions. According to Deborah Tannen, a prominent pragma-linguist, "Linguistics should not be solely

about language as an abstract structure, but it should also embrace the study of language as a tool of social action"(Tannen, 2007, p. 33). This approach to linguistics emphasizes the role of language in constructing social reality and shaping relationships between people. It underscores the importance of understanding language not just as a set of rules or structures, but as a means of negotiation, persuasion, and relationship-building. Leech (1983, p. 11) defines "Pragma-linguistics" as a branch of general pragmatics concerned with the ability to use appropriate linguistic means to perform a given speech act. Kasper and Rose (2001) follow up maintaining pragma-linguistics as the linguistic resources available for conveying communicative acts and performing pragmatic functions. The resources mined include some strategies like directness, indirectness, routines, and a large range of linguistic forms intensifying or softening communicative acts. They focus on the intersection of pragmatics and linguistic forms and comprise the knowledge and ability for the use of conventions of meanings (e.g. the strategies for realizing speech acts) and conventions of forms (e.g. linguistic forms implementing speech act strategies).

### 1.1.2 Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics which studies the ways in which context contributes to meaning. Unlike semantics, which examines meaning that is conventional or "coded" in a given language, pragmatics studies how the transmission of meaning depends not only on structural and linguistic knowledge (e.g., grammar, lexicon, etc.) of the speaker and listener, but also on the context of the utterance, any pre-existing knowledge about those involved, the inferred intent of the speaker, and other factors (Ariel, 2010). It plays an important role in modern analytical philosophy of language and it helps in explaining how context can affect the meanings of utterances. Some Linguists (e.g. Kepa Korta and John Perry, 2008) have focused on the different properties of utterances and made a distinction between "near-side pragmatics" and "far-side pragmatics": (a)Near-side pragmatics is concerned with the nature of certain facts that are relevant to determining what is said and (b)Far-side pragmatics is focused on what

happens beyond saying: what speech acts are performed in or by saying what is said, or what implicatures are generated by saying what is said.

### **1.1.3 Speech acts**

Speech acts, as defined by Cohen (2008), refer to the actions performed through language in the context of communication. These actions can be categorized into three main types: locutionary acts (the act of saying something), illocutionary acts (the intended effect of saying something), and perlocutionary acts (the actual effect of saying something). Locutionary acts involve the basic act of uttering words, phrases, and sentences with a specific semantic content. Illocutionary acts go beyond the mere utterance and involve the speaker's intention in making the utterance. This could be making a promise, giving an order, asking a question, making a request, etc. Perlocutionary acts are about the effect that the utterance has on the listener. This could involve convincing, persuading, annoying, or amusing the listener. Speech acts are crucial as they help in understanding the intention behind the speaker's words and the effect they have on the listener. They provide a framework for analyzing the dynamics of communication, which is essential in fields like linguistics, philosophy, psychology, and communication studies.

### **1.1.4 Utterance**

Utterance refers to the act of saying something aloud. It can be a single word, a phrase or a complete sentence. According to Austin (1962), an utterance is "a stretch of speech, uttered by a single speaker, uninterrupted by silence, and fully produced at once". In pragmatics, an utterance is a linguistic action performed by a certain speaker in a certain place at a certain moment. In other words, each utterance is a unique historical event and it is a token, not a type. An utterance made by one speaker cannot be made by another one (an utterance made here and now cannot be made there and later). In Linguistics, "utterance" is often used for the action of uttering a sentence, but philosophers tend to also include writing and other modes of language use, and for the action of using a sub-sentential expression (Perry (2001). It is the view of many but not all pragmatists that the primary bearers of truth-conditional contents are utterances, not sentences. Utterances of

declarative sentences are called 'statements. "Utterance" suffers from the product/process ambiguity. Therefore, Perry distinguishes between 'utterance' (action) and 'token' (product).

### **1.1.5 Context**

A context is a set of assumptions that bear how language is interpreted or produced (Spencer-Oatey and Zegarac 2002, p. 38). Thus, a good pragmatic analysis must rely on the context in determining meanings and intentions. Verschueren (2003, p. 75) states that Malinowski insists on the reality of context importance to interpret language use to the extent that words and sentences are considered fragments aiming at nonsense in the absence of context. Lewis defined a context as "the location—time, place, possible world—where a statement is pronounced" in an ordered triple. A speaker's presuppositions, or "the propositions whose truth he takes for granted as part of the background of the dialogue," are what Stalnaker refers to as their context. Stalnaker advocates describing such a context as the set of hypothetical worlds that are consistent with the assumptions made, but this is an additional step that is distinct from the fundamental definition of context (cited in Steven Gross 7).

### **1.1.6 Power**

The term "Power" serves the meaning of authority or a feeling of being authorized. No doubt, an authority or authorization would refer to a right or gift gained by a person or a group. Generally speaking, Fowler (1985, p.61) has a glance on power as an ability of a person or an institution to control behaviors or lives whether private or public. According to some linguists, power is an important factor to account for linguistic politeness (Brown and Levinson, 1987; Leech, 1983; Wolfson, 1984). Lips (1991, p.114) suggests that "Power" must have some resources to act as money, knowledge, social prestige, role, age, occupation or even sex. John R.H French and Bertram Raven (1959) hint to power gained through legislation or law. They phrase it as "legitimate power" standing for a personal right to request or order by virtue of law. A "social power" looks similar, but law has no ground to play on her, it would be customs or traditions that impose such type of power (ibid). Ervin-Tripp et al. (1984) comment on a "linguistic

power" as the force of winning extra turns in a communication round regardless of rank or status. Discourse and power relation, as this research views, bends on language control or effect on the behaviors and thoughts of others. Discourse analysis, hence, focuses on the role of authorities and their abilities to lead or control others through speech or conversation. That is to say, controlling the topic, interrupting others and using forceful or command-oriented language are ways that some people attempt to gain power (Lily Ruha, 2003).

#### **1.1.7 Politeness**

Lakoff (1973), Leech (1983), Fraser and Nolen (1981), and Brown and Levinson (1987) speculate politeness within a strategy standing for avoiding conflict (as cited in Soror, 2000). Brown and Levinson (1987) maintain the function of politeness with "control" tools or it would be "disarm" a potential from an aggression. Another team, as Soror (2000) delivers, freezes politeness in light of the ability to accredit communication potentialities to seize danger of conflict. Lakoff (1975, p. 64) undertakes the development of diplomacy techniques within a society to smash friction pane in personal interactions. As a result, offence is to be reduced and communication breathes much oxygen.

#### **1.1.8 Political Discourse**

According to Teun A. van Dijk, a leading scholar in discourse studies, political discourse can be defined as the use of language and other symbolic forms to frame social issues, to construct political identities, to represent social actors and institutions, to explain and justify policies and actions, and to persuade and influence audiences in various ways (van Dijk, 1997). It refers to the exchange of ideas, views, and opinions on political matters between individuals, groups, or entities. It is a form of communication that involves the discussion, debate, and argumentation of political issues and topics, such as governance, policies, election, laws, and social justice. Political discourse can take various forms, including speeches, public debates, interviews, media, and social media. Its purpose is to facilitate understanding, enlightenment, and critical thinking among citizens and stakeholders, as well as to shape public opinion and influence decision-making

## 1.2 Objectives and questions of the study:

The goal of pragmatic analysis of language, according to Leech (1981), is to examine every facet of meaning that is obtained from the physical or social environments in which utterances are utilized. As in the case of semantics, the formal (structural) characteristics of words and sentences play no part in the investigative process unless they help in inferring particular intentions. A pragma-linguistic examination of the remarks made by the SCAF would look at the ways in which the military council uses language to accomplish its communication objectives and shape the opinions and actions of those listening. More specifically, the following are the objectives of the study:

1. Analyzing how language choices and communication techniques were impacted by the communicative situation and context of the SCAF statements.
2. Determining the linguistic components of SCAF statements and examining the ways in which these aspects influence the statements' intended meaning.
3. Analyzing the SCAF statements' illocutionary force, or the desired effect on the audience, and how language is used to achieve it.

Through the use of pragmatic linguistic analysis to SCAF statements made during the January 25 revolution, scholars can acquire a deeper understanding of the ways in which language functions as a means of authority and control, influencing the attitudes and actions of those it speaks to. The current study aims to address the following queries by examining the statements made by the chosen SCAF officials between February 11, 2011, and June 30, 2012, during the transitional period.

- (1) What are the most frequent speech act types used in the SCAF's official statements?
- (2) To what extent does the SCAF's use of politeness strategies and politeness principles help in conveying desirable messages?
- (3) To what extent context plays an important role as a necessary factor in understanding the inherent objectives of the selected statements?

## 2. Review of Literature

This section is divided into two parts. The first part introduces the linguistic approaches that represent the theoretical framework of the study. The second part provides a survey of some previous studies so as to identify the gap in literature that can be filled by the current study.

### 2.1 Theoretical framework

This study falls under the category of pragmatics. In general, language usage varies depending on a speaker's gender, occupation, culture, socioeconomic class, social position, and surrounding environment, among other factors. Due to this variation, different levels of style or formality occur within the same language. Besides, a meaning binocular adopts numerous approaches and levels to study and analyze language use. On the one hand, Semantics lifts the meaning weight with an attention given to the surface meaning of linguistic forms used, whereas pragmatics cares a lot to cover the implied meaning whereabouts on the other hand. Scholars view the study of pragmatics in reference to inferred meanings differently. Charles Morris (1938), the father of pragmatics, and Leech (1974) presented the first modern definition of pragmatics to be adopted later by others as a discipline of linguistics. According to Morris, pragmatics is "the discipline that investigates the relationships of signs to interpreters, while semantics studies the relationships of signs to the objects to which they are applicable" (as cited in Leech, 1974, p. 172). Yule (1996) sheds light on pragmatics from a detective point of view pointing to the investigation of meaning delivered by a speaker (or writer) and perceived by a listener (or reader). It is more concerned with determining what speakers mean by their utterances than with determining what the words or phrases in those utterances imply in different circumstances. Additionally, this type of investigation involves interpreting the intended message of individuals within a specific setting and analyzing how the situation impacts their communication. It requires an examination of how speakers organize their thoughts based on their audience, location, timing, and circumstances (Magdy, 2021). She adds that pragmatics is the study of how more is communicated than is expressed. That is, in

communicative interactions, good language users choose their words from the linguistic resources available to them in their social positions in order to carry out goal-directed speech acts. Speakers also determine how much to say based on the distance between them and the listeners. Pragmatics, in this sense, is the expression of distance. Leech (1981) focuses on the role of context in determining the delivered meaning. He insists on the appropriateness of utterances, used to deliver messages, to the context in general. Thus he states "pragmatic analysis of language aims to investigate that aspect of meaning that is derived from the way utterances are used and how they relate to the context in which they are uttered, rather than the formal properties of words and constructions as in semantics" (Abuya, 2012, p .9).

Grinding all definitions in one bowl, one can notice the influence of users on the meaning of utterance as a point trooping the variable scholars' ideas presented previously. In other words, the pragmatic approach is more specialized within the study of discourse, and the researcher must go beyond the primarily social concerns of interaction and conversation analysis in order to acquire the pragmatics of speech. The foregoing definitions show that pragmatics focuses on features of meaning that cannot be predicted only by language knowledge but they include knowledge of the physical and social world. It is the study of the links between language forms and the people who use them.

Pragma-linguistics, for Kasper and Rose (2001) resembles the linguistic resources available for transmitting communicative acts and executing pragmatic functions. They state "Pragmatic techniques such as directness and indirectness, routines, and a wide range of linguistic forms that can strengthen or soften communicative acts are among the resources". The former definition takes linguistics resources as its cornerstone, Kasper and Roever (2005) dive to define Pragma-linguistics within the focus on the intersection of pragmatics and linguistic forms. It encompasses the knowledge and ability to use conventions of meaning (e.g. strategies for realizing speech acts) and conventions of forms (e.g. linguistic forms implementing speech act

strategies.

## 2.2 Previous studies:

Dewi (2010) in her study, "A Socio Pragmatic Analysis of Threatening Utterances in Action Film and Their Subtitles", employs the descriptive qualitative as a type of the research. The data source of this research is action films and their subtitles. The methods of collecting data are documentation and observation. The techniques of analyzing data of this research are describing the form by referring to linguistic form, analyzing the intention based on speech act theory and describing the politeness pattern by referring politeness strategy. The purpose of her research is to detect the variations in language form of threatening utterances in action films and their subtitles, as well as to characterize the equivalence of politeness strategy of threatening utterances in action films and their subtitles. This research shows the variation of the sentence types, the equivalence of intentions and the equivalence of politeness pattern of threatening utterances in action films and their subtitles. The variations of type of sentences are: declarative, imperative, and interrogative. While the sentences form variations are: simple sentence is subtitled into simple sentence, compound sentence is subtitled into complex sentence is subtitled into complex sentence, and complex-compound sentence is subtitled into complex sentence. The intentions of the threatening utterance are: threatening, asserting, showing power/ability, warning, commanding, and encouraging. The politeness pattern is divided into three kinds, they are: Bald on record, Positive Politeness, Negative Politeness, and Off Record Strategy.

Anwar, Saiful (2012) in his study, "A Pragmatic Analysis on Directive Utterances Used in Donald Duck Comics Manuscript", tries to characterize the linguistic form, politeness approach, and intention of directive utterances employed in a Donald Duck comic manuscript. He uses to characterize qualitative research as a sort of research. The documentation technique is used to collect data, and the processes include reading the comics, locating, noting, retyping, and coding the data. According to the findings of his research, the politeness pattern utilized in Donald Duck cartoons text is bald on record 42.22, positive

politeness 26.67, negative politeness 24.44, and off record 6. 67. The implicatures of directive utterances in Donald Duck comic's composition is traditional, and the intentions include commanding ordering 33. 33, requesting 37.78, banning 6.67, and proposing 22.22.

Muslihatun (2013) in her study, "A Pragmatic Analysis of Commissive Utterance in The Wizard Of Oz Movie Manuscript", examines the commissives remarks in Manuscript from The Wizard of Oz. Her research aims to identify sentence kinds, explain implicatures, and analyze the politeness patterns of commissive utterances in the text of The Wizard of Oz. After analyzing the data, the author discovers that it demonstrates the variety of phrase type, implicatures, and politeness pattern of commissive utterances employed in aristocratic movie text. Declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentence kinds exist. The study's implicatures include the inferred meaning of conventional and conversational implicatures, such as offer, volunteering, promise, swear, denying, threat, warning, and so on

### **3. Methodology and Data Analysis**

#### **3.1 methodology framework**

The methodology framework in this paper draws on pragmatic analysis as conceived by its most outstanding theoreticians: Austin (1962) and Searle (1969). Also, it draws on politeness theory as conceived by (Brown and Levinson, 1987), Politeness Principle by (Leech.1983) and notion of power and ideology and manipulation in discourse analysis as conceived by some theoreticians (Van Dijk 1997, 1998, 2001, 2008; Chilton and Schaffner 1997, and Chilton 2004). In other words, it is a combination of various approaches adapted to the corpus and the aim of research. In the first step, the analysis discusses the context and how various phenomena manifest themselves in discourse, and how a text may influence and even cause changes in society. The next step is the Pragma-linguistic analysis, in which some sentences which contain the head act verbs are tabulated to identify some of the meanings that are implied in the SCAF official statements. The head act verb (illocutionary verb) is used as the unit of analysis. The Pragma-linguistic analysis of the selected texts is to be based on

segmenting the utterances into main head acts that may be preceded or followed by external moves, and focus on internal modifiers within the head act if any. In doing so, the sentences which contain head act verbs are tabulated to present the data clearly. Therefore, the unit of analysis will start with the head act verbs, move to the sentences and end with the whole text. Finally, the presence as well as the absence of politeness principles, politeness strategies, face acts and how some choices contribute to the positive or negative self-presentation is studied.

### **3.2 Data Analysis**

Data analysis of the SCAF statements from a pragma linguistic point of view involves examining the language used in the statements to better understand the intended meanings and effects on the audience. In this analysis, the focus would be on identifying the speech acts used in the SCAF statements, such as promises, threats, warnings, and directives. The analysis would also consider the context in which the statements were made, including the political and social climate at the time, as well as the intended audience and their likely reactions. Other aspects of language use that could be analyzed include the use of hedges, indirectness, and formality which can reveal important insights about power dynamics, social relationships, and politeness strategies in communication. A data analysis of these linguistic features in the SCAF two selected statements during the January 25 revolution can shed light on the ways in which the SCAF attempted to manage their relationship with the public and maintain their position of power. Hedges are linguistic devices used to soften the impact of a statement or to indicate uncertainty. In the case of the SCAF statements, hedges could be used to mitigate the potential backlash of a controversial statement or to avoid making any absolute promises. Indirectness, on the other hand, involves using language that hints at a meaning rather than stating it outright. Indirectness can be used to avoid conflict or to save face in situations where a direct statement might be seen as impolite or confrontational. Formality in language use can also be an important indicator of power dynamics. Formal language is often associated with authority, while informal language is associated with familiarity and equality. In the case of the SCAF statements, the use of formal

language could be a way to assert their authority and maintain a professional image. A data analysis of hedges, indirectness, and formality in the SCAF statements during the January 25 revolution would involve identifying and categorizing instances of these linguistic features, and examining the context in which they were used. This analysis could provide insights into the SCAF's communication strategies during a time of political upheaval, and shed light on the ways in which language is used to manage power dynamics and social relationships in political contexts. Through this analysis, it is possible to gain insights into the ways in which language is used to exert power and influence in political contexts, and to better understand the strategies employed by the SCAF during the January 25 revolution. Ultimately, a pragma linguistic data analysis of the SCAF statements can provide a deeper understanding of the relationship between language, power, and politics.

### **3.2.1 Procedures of Data Analysis:**

The tables used for the analyses are presented in this section. These tables provide the pragma-linguistic analysis of the selected statements in line with the specific objectives of the study as follows: the head act verb, the type of the speech act, the communicative purpose, politeness principles used to express the SCAF ideology and point of view; politeness strategies, and the request/apology strategies in order to know what the SCAF wants to achieve. Also, data analysis will show whether the SCAF pragmatic devices in the selected statement support Searle's, Leech's and Brown and Levinson's theoretical approaches.

As for the pragmatic model of analysis, Media (2005) announces, in spite of the efforts exerted by several scholars and philosophers, they could not find a pragmatic model for the analysis of the written discourse. Also, Teun A. Van Dijk and Jef Verschueren and others indicate that there is no adopted model for the pragmatic analysis. They state that pragmatic features can be deduced from the text and they may differ from one text to another; that is why it is so difficult to formulate a standard model for this type of analysis. This study aims at applying the theory of "Speech Acts" onto the data to investigate the hidden meanings and ideologies. The cooperation of politeness theory and

politeness strategies means is also able to highlight the implied meanings of the statements.

### 3.2.2 Context of the statements:

The SCAF official statements under study were delivered in Arabic during the transitional phase from 11 February 2011 to 30 June 2012. The selected original statements are found in Appendix A. The official translation of the selected texts which were translated by the Ministry of Defense Language Institute is found in Appendix B. Obviously, the original texts are found on the official page for the SCAF on Face book. For the sake of brevity, the following section is the context of the SCAF selected official statements.

(Table no.1 Context and Linguistic realization of the selected two statements)

Statements.	context	Date
Statement no. 4	<p>This statement was issued by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) in Egypt in the midst of a period of political instability and social unrest in the country. The statement aims to reassure the people of Egypt and outline the SCAF's commitment to maintaining stability and democracy in the country.</p> <p><b>Linguistic realization:</b> The statement is characterized by long and complex sentences that use formal language and contain multiple clauses joined by conjunctions. The SCAF uses rhetorical devices like repetition and parallel structure to emphasize its commitment to various principles and obligations. The statement also appeals to religion and national sentiment to bolster its message of unity and cooperation. The language is authoritative and directive, reflecting the SCAF's role as a governing body.</p>	February 12, 2011
Statement no.57	<p>The statement is related to the disappearance of three police officers in El Arish city in the northern part of Sinai during one of the missions they were assigned to. The context of the statement is the belief of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) in continuous communication with the Egyptian people and the youth of the revolution. The head of the SCAF has ordered specialized security bodies to take all possible and fast procedures to guarantee the safe return of the missing officers to their families as soon as possible.</p> <p><b>Linguistic realization:</b> The statement uses formal and professional language, with complex sentence structures and technical vocabulary. The use of passive voice</p>	May 25, 2011

<p>in "were charged with" and "to be taken" reflects the emphasis on the action rather than the doer. The use of qualifying adjectives such as "fast" and "specialized" underscores the urgency and expertise needed to resolve the situation. The reference to the "Manshet Program" on "ON" TV channel provides a specific source of information, adding credibility to the statement.</p>
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### 3.3 A Pragma-Discourse Analysis of Statement no.4 on 12th February, 2011

On February 12th, after Mubarak's regime had fallen, the Council issued its fourth statement. The declaration promises to plan for the transfer of power to a civilian government chosen by the populace. Indicating its readiness for a secure transfer of power as soon as a free democratic regime assumes power, SCAF stated its determination to move forward with free and fair presidential elections. Egypt's adherence to regional and international duties and treaties has also been declared by the Council.

(Table no.2 speech act types in statement no.4)

Locutionary acts	Illocutionary verbs	Type of speech acts	Communicative purposes
<p>In the light of the conditions that exist in the country, and the difficult times that have placed Egypt at a juncture that demands of us all to defend the stability of the nation, and the achievements of the people; And due to the fact that the current phase requires a reordering of the priorities of the state with the objective of meeting the legitimate demands of the people, and of delivering the nation from the current situation; And the SCAF is aware that the rule of law is not only necessary for the freedom of the individual, but rather it is the only legitimate basis for authority ; And with determination, clarity, and faith in all our national , regional and international responsibilities and with recognition of God's rights and in the name of God , and with His support, the SCAF</p>	<p>1.commit 2.drive 3.fulfill 4.be confident 5.announce 6.aspire 7.guarantee 8.committed 9.call 10.continue</p>	<p>1.commissive 2.commissive 3.commissive 4.assertive ..... 5.declarative 6.commissive 7.commissive 8.declarative 9.directive 10.directive</p>	<p>1. Explanation/ Justification: The text explains the reasons for the current situation in Egypt and justifies the actions of the SCAF in light of these conditions. 2. Reassurance: The text reassures the people that the SCAF is committed to previous statements, is confident in the ability of people and institutions to get through the critical situation, and aims for a peaceful transition towards a democratic and free state 3. Directive: The text provides directives to all</p>

<p>announces the following:</p> <p>1-First: The SCAF is committed to all matters included in its previous statements</p> <p>2. The SCAF is confident in the ability of Egyptian people and institutions to get through this critical situation , and to that end, -all agencies of the state and the private sector must play their noble and patriotic role to drive the economy forward, And the people must fulfill their responsibility towards that goal.</p> <p>3-the current government and governors shall continue as a caretaker administration until a new government is formed</p> <p>4-the SCAF aspires to guaranteeing a peaceful transition of authority within a free and democratic system that allows for the assumption of authority by a civilian and elected authority to govern the country and the build of a democratic and free state.</p> <p>5-The Arab Republic of Egypt is committed to all regional and international obligations and treaties.</p> <p>6.1-the SCAF calls on the great people to cooperate with their siblings and children in the civilian police forces, for affection and cooperation must exist between everyone,</p> <p>6.2- and it calls on the civilian police forces must be committed to their slogan " the police serve the people"</p>			<p>agencies of the state and private sector to fulfill their noble and patriotic role in driving the economy forward, and calls on the civilian police forces to serve and cooperate with the people.</p> <p>4. Declaration: The text declares that the current government and governors shall continue as a caretaker administration until a new government is formed, and that the Arab Republic of Egypt is committed to all regional and international obligations and treaties. Overall, the speech acts aim to provide explanations, reassurance, directives, and declarations to the citizens and stakeholders of Egypt, while addressing the current situation in the country and the need for a peaceful transition towards a democratic system.</p>
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#### Politeness strategies and linguistic markers in statement no.4

##### Politeness strategies:

1. Bald On-record Strategy: The statement uses the bald on-record strategy in the first sentence when the speaker straightforwardly states the purpose of the statement, which is to announce the SCAF's position and commitment to the stability of the nation.
2. Positive Politeness Strategy: The statement uses positive politeness in the second sentence when the speaker acknowledges the ability of Egypt's people and institutions to handle the critical situation and calls for their cooperation and patriotic role in driving the economy forward.

3. Negative Politeness Strategy: The statement uses negative politeness in the fourth sentence when the speaker acknowledges the importance of the rule of law and the legitimacy of an elected civilian authority and states that the SCAF aspires to guarantee a peaceful transition of authority within a free and democratic system.

4. Off-record Strategy: The statement uses the off-record strategy in the sixth sentence when the speaker calls on the people to cooperate with the civilian police forces and for the police forces to be committed to serving the people, implying that there may be a need for improved cooperation and commitment in this area.

#### **Hedges, indirectness and formality, positive and negative face in statement no.4**

There are several hedges and formal language in the statement. These include:

- "In light of the conditions that exist in the country, and the difficult times that have placed Egypt at a juncture that demands of us all to defend the stability of the nation and the achievements of the people" - this is a rather formal and indirect way of saying that there are problems and challenges facing the country that require action.

- "Due to the fact that the current phase requires a reordering of the priorities of the state" - again, this is indirect language that could be more straightforwardly expressed as "we need to change our priorities".

- "With determination, clarity, and faith in all our national, regional and international responsibilities, and with recognition of God's rights and in the name of God, and with His support" - this is a somewhat formal and religiously-inflected way of expressing commitment.

- "The SCAF aspires to guaranteeing a peaceful transition of authority within a free and democratic system" - "aspires to" is a hedge that suggests the SCAF may not be completely confident in its ability to achieve this goal.

- "The SCAF calls on the great people to cooperate with their siblings and children in the civilian police forces, for affection and cooperation must exist between everyone" - this is a somewhat formal way of urging people to cooperate with the police.

As for positive and negative face in the given statement, the SCAF is trying to maintain both of them by using certain pragmatic strategies.

**To maintain positive face, the speaker has used the following strategies:**

- Politeness: The SCAF has used polite language while referring to the conditions in the country and the role that people and institutions need to play to drive the economy forward. This shows that the SCAF is being respectful towards the audience and is not trying to offend or anger them.

- Positive politeness: The SCAF has also used positive politeness by acknowledging the ability of Egypt's people and institutions to get through the critical situation and fulfill their responsibilities towards driving the economy forward. This shows that the SCAF is trying to establish a connection with the audience and is emphasizing common goals and interests.

To maintain negative face, the speaker has used the following strategies:

- Hedging: The SCAF has used hedging by using phrases such as "in light of the conditions that exist in the country" and "due to the fact that the current phase requires a reordering of the priorities of the state". This shows that the SCAF is not making any promises or guarantees, but is trying to convey that the matter is being taken seriously and appropriate actions are being taken.

- Indirectness: The SCAF has used indirectness by referring to the current government and governors as a "caretaker administration". This shows that the SCAF is not directly criticizing or blaming anyone, but is referring to the current situation.

- Impersonal language: The SCAF has used impersonal language by referring to the SCAF and the Arab Republic of Egypt instead of using personal pronouns. This shows that the SCAF is not directly addressing the audience, but is using a more formal and impersonal language.

By using these politeness strategies, the SCAF is trying to maintain both positive and negative face and is communicating the message in a respectful and appropriate manner. The SCAF is emphasizing the

importance of stability and democracy and is calling on the people to cooperate with the civilian police forces.

#### **Face threatening and saving acts in statement no.4**

1-There are no face-threatening acts or face-saving acts in the first part of this statement. This part is a formal announcement made by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces regarding the political situation in Egypt. The statement focuses on acknowledging the difficult times that Egypt is currently facing and the need for the state to prioritize meeting the legitimate demands of the people. The language used is formal but does not contain any language that threatens or saves face.

2. There is one face-saving act in this point, which is the emphasis on the role that all agencies of the state and the private sector must play in driving the economy forward. This statement highlights the importance of collective responsibility and encourages everyone to work together towards a common goal.

3. There are no face-threatening acts or face-saving acts in this point. The statement is a straightforward declaration that the current government and governors will continue as a caretaker administration until a new government is formed.

4. There is one face-saving act in this statement, which is the emphasis on the SCAF's aspiration to guarantee a peaceful transition of authority within a free and democratic system. This point highlights the SCAF's commitment to democracy and suggests that they are working towards a positive goal.

5. There are no face-threatening acts or face-saving acts in this point. The point is a straightforward declaration that Egypt is committed to all regional and international obligations and treaties.

6. There is one face-saving act in this point, which is the emphasis on cooperation between the people and the civilian police forces. This statement highlights the importance of collaboration and encourages everyone to work together towards maintaining peace and order.

#### **3.4 Pragma-Discourse Analysis of Statement No. 57 from May 25, 2011, using pragmatic discourse**

The present statement was released by SCAF on May 25, 2011, not long after three police officers went missing in El Arish, a city in

northern Sinai. SCAF techniques demonstrate how statements address major situations on this ground. In the meantime, families of police personnel and Egyptians in general are terrified as they wait to find out who committed the crimes.

(Table no.3 Speech act types in statement no.57)

Locutionary Acts	illocutionary acts (head act verbs)	Type of speech acts	Communicative purpose
<p>1-In belief of the SCAF of continuous communication with the Egyptian people, and the youth of the revolution, and referring to what has been shown on "ON" TV channel in "Manshet Program" concerning the disappearance of three of our sons the police officers in El Arish city in north of Sinai during one of the missions they were charged with,</p> <p>2-the head of the supreme council of the armed forces has ordered to take all possible procedures and fast ones to be taken through specialized security bodies to guarantee their safe return to their families as soon as Possible.</p>	<p>1.believe</p> <p>2.referring</p> <p>3.has ordered</p> <p>4.take</p> <p>5.gurantee</p> <p>6.return</p> <p>7.thanks</p>	<p>1.assertive</p> <p>2.assertive</p> <p>3.directive</p> <p>4.commissive</p> <p>5.commissive</p> <p>6.commissive</p> <p>7. expressive</p> <p>Note: The statement could be broken down into separate sentences, each containing a separate illocutionary verb and its type, but as a whole, it is a complex sentence with multiple acts occurring simultaneously.</p>	<p>1. Request for cooperation from security personnel to guarantee the officers' safe return.</p> <p>2. Promise of action by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.</p> <p>3. Expressions of condolences to the affected families.</p> <p>4. Statement of intent to investigate the disappearance.</p> <p>5. Appreciation of the role of media in bringing attention to the issue.</p>

### **Politeness strategies and linguistic markers in statement no.57**

#### **Politeness strategies:**

1. Bald on Record - The speaker directly states what needs to be done without any politeness markers. In this statement, the head of the supreme council of the armed forces directly orders the specialized security bodies to take all possible and fast procedures to guarantee the safe return of the missing police officers.
2. Positive Politeness - The speaker emphasizes common interests, mutual goodwill, and shared goals to create a positive relationship with the audience. The statement shows that the SCAF desires continuous communication with the Egyptian people, and the youth of the revolution, regarding the disappearance of the police officers. This approach reflects the speaker's concern for the audience's well-being.
3. Negative Politeness - The speaker shows respect for the audience's autonomy and their right not to perform the requested action. The statement doesn't involve any negative politeness markers since the speaker orders the specialized security bodies to take action.
4. Off-Record- The speaker hints at the need to take action but does not directly state it. The statement does not involve any off-record markers since the speaker clearly states the order to take all possible procedures and fast ones.
5. Addressivism: directly addressing the SCAF and mentioning the specific TV channel and program.
6. Intensification: using words like “continuous” and “fast” to emphasize the importance of the situation.
7. Deference: referring to the people in the statement respectfully.
8. Modalization: using modal verbs like “should” and “could” instead of ones like “must.”

#### **Hedges, indirectness and formality, positive and negative face in statement no.57**

There is some indirectness in the statement. For example, the SCAF does not explicitly state that it is launching a search for the missing police officers, rather it orders specialized security bodies to take all possible procedures for their safe return. However, there is

some formality in the use of full titles and the official language used to convey the message.

Moreover, the speaker is trying to maintain both negative and positive face by using certain politeness strategies.

To maintain positive face, the speaker has used the following strategies:

- Politeness: The speaker has used polite and respectful language while referring to the head of the supreme council of the armed forces. This shows that the speaker is being respectful towards the authority figure and is not trying to offend them.

- Positive politeness: The speaker has also used positive politeness by acknowledging the efforts made by the SCAF towards continuous communication with the Egyptian people and the youth of the revolution. This shows that the speaker is trying to establish a connection with the audience and is trying to emphasize common goals and interests.

To maintain negative face, the speaker has used the following strategies:

- Hedging: The speaker has used hedging by using words such as "possible procedures" and "specialized security bodies". This shows that the speaker is not making any promises or guarantees, but is trying to convey that the matter is being taken seriously and appropriate actions are being taken.

- Indirectness: The speaker has used indirectness by referring to the disappearance of three police officers as "what has been shown on 'ON' TV channel in 'Manshet Program'". This shows that the speaker is not directly accusing anyone, but is referring to a news report.

- Impersonal language: The speaker has used impersonal language by referring to the police officers as "our sons". This shows that the speaker is not directly addressing the families of the police officers, but is using a more formal and impersonal language. By using these pragmatic strategies, the speaker is trying to maintain both positive and negative face and is communicating the message in a respectful and appropriate manner.

Overall, the statement demonstrates politeness by using formal language and addressing the concerns of the audience, thereby showing respect and consideration.

#### **Face threatening and saving acts in statement no.57**

There is no face-threatening act in this statement as it is focused on ensuring the safe return of the missing police officers. However, there is a possible face-saving act in the phrase "the head of the supreme council of the armed forces has ordered to take all possible procedures and fast ones", which suggests that the speaker is taking decisive action and has the ability to resolve the situation quickly. This could potentially help to maintain the speaker's reputation or status as a strong and effective leader.

### **DISCUSSION OF SCAF STATEMENTS**

#### **4.1 Statement no.4 on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2011**

Following Mubarak's fall regime, the Council released its fourth statement on 12<sup>th</sup> of February. The statement pledges to foresee the delivery of power to a civilian government elected by the people. SCAF indicated an intention to move forwards for free and fair presidential elections showing its readiness to safe transition of power as soon as a free democratic regime comes to authority. The Council has also announced Egypt commitment to regional and international obligations and treaties. This has been widely interpreted as relating to the Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty, and has been welcomed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. SCAF members issued some actions to measure and schedule procedures helping them in managing the state affairs and quell the population tension in this critical situation.

To discuss the statement with an aid of discourse and pragmatic kits, SCAF expresses viewpoints via language to fit specific and clear purposes and intentions. Mainly, power coats the statement language flavor with ideology tasted in lexical and syntactic tongue. SCAF language use (in this statement) maintains the relationship between language, power and ideology via linguistic kit tools. The communicative purpose is to persuade Egyptians to do these measures, actions and procedures with politeness. Generally speaking, SCAF statement point arrows to enhance public relations through some linguistic choices. Ways of nominating and

referring to the audience are focal and crucial. Accordingly, the SCAF adopts a wide range of rhetorical devices and strategies to appeal to the audience with the aim of either maintaining or creating commonality of ideology or allegiance among the audience. Addressing techniques like (great people, difficult times, critical situation, free and democratic regime, legitimate demands and civilian police) reveal the flesh and blood through which the SCAF wanted to explain, motivate and legitimate their actions and plans. SCAF encode the perspectives, ideologies in the language used.

Scholars find an intimacy bridge connecting politeness and face. They emphasize some strategies to show how a person's face reflects his public image. Impression and attitude. SCAF pays much to face-work employing some strategies to express how they think. According to Brown and Levinson's (1987) model, there are two types of face: negative face (the freedom of individual action, a desire to be unimpeded) and positive face (the need to be treated as equal, a desire for approval). The strategies already mentioned may include:

1. Negative politeness strategy resembles a strategy of independence or it would be called deference politeness. Such strategy broadcasts indicative expressions of indirectness, tentativeness, impersonality, social distance: mitigators (as Sorry to interrupt, but...), euphemisms and politically correct language.

2. Positive politeness strategy exemplifies an involvement or solidarity. It charms speakers to save the listeners' face as it shows closeness, intimacy, commonality and rapport. SCAF statement uses some supportive moves back up the force of a request on the clause or sentence level and precede or follow the head act (Al-Momani, 2009, p.97). Coding schemes push supportive moves forward with an aid of aggravating moves to avoid using expressions of threat and insult. Mitigating supportive moves are the only bearer of some seeds in Statement 4 field. The final coding reveals SCAF members employ 12 supportive moves during the transitional phase. The 12 moves ventilate meanings of preparators, grounders, pre-commitments, disarmers, promises of reward, imposition minimizers, sweeteners, small talk, expressions of appreciation, self-introduction, affective appeals, and apologies. Several researchers (Eslamirasekh, 1993; Huang, 1996; Mir, 1995) show the overuse of supportive moves could be intended to convey

a higher level of politeness. Regarding SCAF members' language use of internal modifications, the body uses none in this statement as it tries to be clearer. SCAF members use some supportive moves aiming at persuading Egyptian revolutionists of the right direction of change.

#### **4.2 Statement no.57 on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

SCAF issued the current statement on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011, shortly after the disappearance of three of the police officers in El Arish city, north of Sinai. On this ground, SCAF strategies show how statements deal with the critical incidents. Egyptians in general as well as police officers' families, meanwhile, are scared with suspense to know the perpetrator of crimes. So the head of SCAF orders the security bodies to take all precaution remedies to guarantee their safe return as soon as possible. At the beginning of this transitional phase, SCAF makes a promise that Egyptian people lives and land are a red line. This painful incident came as a threat to the public self-image of SCAF and Egypt. From the very beginning of the 25 January revolution, SCAF issues some statements to reassure the Egyptians people and make them feel safe during this critical phase. Yet, absence of law and the collapse of police institution pave the way to the spread of kidnapping and intimidation incidents not only civilians' side but also on militaries' one. So, this statement serves the aim of building Trust Bridge again people. SCAF attempts to reassure Egyptians of military institution readiness pay effort for the sake of safety. Thus, SCAF head orders the specialized security bodies to take all the necessary procedures to guarantee the safe return of the three police officers to their families as soon as possible. SCAF has considered such issues as a case of national security and has frequently responded to such challenges.

Linguistically speaking, politeness strategies unveil a use of some important lexical items (adjectives) to enhance the public relations as in the first utterance "great Egyptian people" and the inclusive "our". These two lexical items indicate SCAF ability to use language appropriately in addressing the audience critical periods and to make them feel safe. From a Pragma-linguistic point of view, the main head act verb in this statement is the underlined verb in the following phrase "the head of the SCAF has ordered...as soon as possible"; and it is a directive speech act. In this sense, directives tempt hearer to do something; therefore, they show

world-to-world fit, and express the speaker's wish or desire to do it. Directives include verbs such as: ask, order, request, demand, advice, warn, etc. SCAF uses some illocutionary acts which serve the art of governance according to rules already set. SCAF explicitly specifies not only the procedure of performing the acts, but also their outcomes. SCAF, due to the aforementioned procedures, introduces a new body to asset for institution and its conventions that constitute the acts in this era. As for the modifications that are used in this statement, they are the peripheral elements that accompany the head of the given speech act. Orders (directives), used in the current statement, consist of two parts; (i) the head act and (ii) the peripheral elements. That means, the head act is the main utterance which has the function of ordering and can stand by itself.

Moreover, the peripheral elements are additional items which may follow and precede the head act. They do not change the propositional content of the head act, but rather serve to either mitigate or aggravate its force. Peripheral elements, hence, flourish into two groups: (i) internal modifications, and (ii) external ones. Internal modifiers tackle linguistic elements appearing within the same head act, whereas external ones maintain devices occurring in the immediate linguistic context surrounding the order head act. A fact to be presented, such use and classification of peripheral modification tools are universal phenomenon of language use. However, the influence of context is crucial for the appropriate use and interpretation of these modifying devices. Peripheral modification devices along with directive speech acts moderate speeches pitch gradability. They either decrease or intensify the degree of imposition of the order. This linguistic atmosphere fits the social situation in which it is being used. The peripheral modification devices prove their value and every penny paid as they show socio- pragmatic parameters to influence linguistic items as appropriate. They control on the relative power of the speaker saving the social distance as a degree of familiarity. They are, in fact, maintaining speaker- listener relation for interaction purposes as they reflect politeness taking into account the contextual factors.

In institutional settings like this, the context governs most of the linguistic choices made by the participants in the communication. That is to say, pragmatic choices in institutional discourse are related to the

modulation of the size of imposition and of the social distance and relative power of participants, including relative rights and obligations between them. SCAF official statements are legal instruments used by the SCAF for stating their decisions concerning the formation of future behavior. Directive and expressive speech acts in these statements are explicit performatives, which indicate explicitly the addressee and reflect the asymmetrical relationship between the participants in the institutional communication. Also, the use of explicit performatives is motivated by an institutional context which requires a clear indication of the force of the utterance. Yet, in this statement the head act verb is indirect. The utterance here is marked structure; the head of the SCAF asks for no action, yet, they inform the audience of upcoming procedures.

In conclusion, this section has presented a comprehensive analysis of the selected SCAF statements that issued during the January 25th revolution. The statements were analyzed using a pragmatic linguistic approach to identify and analyze the various speech acts, illocutionary forces, and communicative strategies employed by SCAF in their statements. The results indicated that SCAF's statements were predominantly directives commissives. The analysis also revealed that SCAF strategically used various communication devices to achieve its goals, such as hedges, indirectness, and formality.

##### **5. Findings, Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations**

The Pragma-linguistic analysis of the two selected statements suggests that they were made by a skillful orator, who employed various pragmatic devices. These devices are intertwined with a view to persuading, convincing and easy-to-be-remembered rhythmic style when addressing to a wide audience of the Egyptians. In addition, variation in the choice of speech act types and their co-occurrence with the addressees could be ascribed to strategic choices in discourse for expressing a communicative intention and to the external factors of the institutional situation, in particular the power relations among the SCAF members and the youth of the revolution, the political parties, and all the different sectors in Egypt. The SCAF's statements are considered speech acts, which are actions performed through speech, such as making promises, giving

orders or commands, and expressing opinions or beliefs. These statements are carefully crafted to convey a sense of authority and stability that is desirable for a country going through a period of political change. The results of this study have important implications for understanding the role of political language in a period of political unrest. The analysis highlights the rhetorical strategies used by the SCAF to create a sense of unity, rally public support for the council's actions and reassure the people.

### 5.1 Speech Acts

By using the appropriate utterances (speech acts), the SCAF succeeded in conveying a message of stability, continuity, and hope in a country struggling to find its way during a period of political unrest.

(Table no.4 the analysis of speech act types)

Statement no.	Representatives or assertive Frequencies	commissives Frequencies	directives Frequencies	expressives Frequencies	Declaratives Frequencies
4	1	5	2	-	2
57	2	3	1	1	-

Statement No. 4: This statement primarily consists of commissives speech acts (make up 50%), which aim to show the SCAF's commitment to its previous statements, its faith in Egypt's people and institutions to get through the critical situation, and its aspirations towards a peaceful transition of authority within a free and democratic system. This statement also includes a directive speech act, where the council calls on the civilian police forces to be committed to their slogan 'the police serve the people'. Declarative speech acts make up 20% of this statement, and the directive speech act makes up 20% of the speech.

Statement No. 57: This statement primarily consists of commissives speech act, where the SCAF orders that all possible procedures be taken to guarantee the safe return of three police officers who disappeared during one of their missions in El Arish city. The commissives speech act makes up 42.85% of the speech.

### 5.2 face Threatening and Face Saving Acts:

In statement no.4, there are both face-threatening and face-saving acts. The face-threatening act is the announcement that the current government and governors will continue as a caretaker administration until a new government is formed. This act threatens the face or reputation of the current government by implying that they are not capable of governing effectively. On the other hand, the face-saving acts include the SCAF's commitment to all matters included in its previous statements, the confidence in the ability of Egypt's people and institutions to overcome the critical situation, and the aspiration to guarantee a peaceful transition of authority within a free and democratic system. These acts save face by showing that the SCAF is committed to its previous statements, believes in the capabilities of the people and institutions, and aims for a peaceful and democratic transition of power.

In statement no.57, the SCAF primarily uses a face-saving act. The act is the order given by the head of the SCAF to take all possible procedures through specialized security bodies to guarantee the safe return of the three police officers who have gone missing. This act saves face by showing that the SCAF is actively working to address the situation and ensure the safety of its officers.

#### **5.2.1 Some of the face-saving acts adopted by the SCAF include:**

In statement no.4, the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) adopts several face-saving acts:

1. The SCAF expresses confidence in the ability of Egypt's people and institutions to overcome the critical situation. This act saves face by acknowledging the strength and resilience of the Egyptian people and institutions, highlighting their capabilities to navigate through challenges.
2. The SCAF aspires to guarantee a peaceful transition of authority within a free and democratic system. This act saves face by emphasizing the commitment to a democratic process and the transfer of power to a civilian and elected authority. It showcases the SCAF's intention to build a democratic state.
3. The SCAF calls on the people to cooperate with the civilian police forces and emphasizes the importance of affection and cooperation between everyone. This act saves face by

promoting unity and collaboration between the people and the police, highlighting the idea that the police serve the people.

In statement no.57, the SCAF adopts the following face-saving act:

1. The head of the SCAF orders the implementation of all possible procedures through specialized security bodies to guarantee the safe return of the three missing police officers. This act saves face by demonstrating the SCAF's proactive response to the situation and its commitment to the safety and well-being of its officers.

These face-saving acts aim to maintain the reputation and legitimacy of the SCAF while addressing the challenges and concerns mentioned in the statements.

### **5.3 Politeness Strategies:**

The Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) utilizes politeness strategies to maintain a respectful and diplomatic tone. Some of the politeness strategies employed include:

1. Use of honorifics: The statements begin with the phrase "In the name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Gracious," which shows respect and reverence.
1. Expressions of gratitude and humility: The SCAF acknowledges the difficult times and expresses gratitude for the people's achievements and their commitment to defending the stability of the nation.
2. Recognition of shared responsibilities: The SCAF emphasizes the need for cooperation and unity among the people, institutions, and civilian police forces. This highlights the shared responsibility and importance of working together for the betterment of the country.
3. Reference to religious beliefs: The statements mention God and seek His support, which is a way of showing humility and seeking guidance in decision-making.
4. Use of formal language: The statements are written in a formal and official style, which adds a sense of seriousness and respect to the communication.

Overall, the SCAF employs these politeness strategies to convey their message in a respectful and dignified manner, while also emphasizing the importance of unity, cooperation, and the well-being of the nation.

#### **5.4 Politeness principle**

According to the politeness principle, SCAF tend to use language that is respectful, cooperative, and considerate of others' feelings and desires. This is particularly important in situations where there is a power imbalance or potential for conflict.

**5.4.1 Some of Leech's Six Maxims of Politeness principles** in the selected statements by the SCAF can be summarized as follows:

In the selected two statements by the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF), we can identify the application of some of Leech's Six Maxims of Politeness principles. Here is a summary of how these principles are reflected:

1. Tact Maxim: The SCAF demonstrates tact by acknowledging the difficult times and the challenges faced by Egypt. They express the need to defend the stability of the nation and meet the legitimate demands of the people, showing sensitivity to the current situation.
2. Generosity Maxim: The SCAF displays generosity by expressing confidence in the ability of Egypt's people and institutions to overcome the critical situation. They call on all agencies of the state and the private sector to play their noble and patriotic role in driving the economy forward, emphasizing a collective effort towards progress.
3. Approbation Maxim: The SCAF employs the approbation maxim by praising the achievements of the people and recognizing their responsibilities. They call for cooperation and affection between the people and the civilian police forces, highlighting the importance of unity and collaboration.
4. Modesty Maxim: The SCAF demonstrates modesty by recognizing the rule of law as the legitimate basis for authority and emphasizing the need for a peaceful transition of power within a free and democratic system. They also acknowledge

their commitment to regional and international obligations and treaties.

These principles of politeness help the SCAF maintain a respectful and diplomatic tone in their statements, showing consideration for the audience and the context in which the statements are made.

### **5.5 Face Theory**

The analysis of the above-mentioned statements from the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) reveals the application of face theory principles. The SCAF employs both face-threatening and face-saving acts in their communication. The face-threatening acts are evident in the announcement of the continuation of the current government as a caretaker administration until a new government is formed, which implies a lack of confidence in the current administration's ability to govern effectively. On the other hand, the SCAF employs face-saving acts by expressing confidence in the ability of Egypt's people and institutions to overcome the critical situation, emphasizing a commitment to a peaceful transition of power, and calling for cooperation and unity among the people and the civilian police forces.

### **5.6 Hedges, Indirectness and Formality**

These linguistic features of hedges, indirectness, and formality contribute to the diplomatic and respectful nature of the statements, aligning with the formal context in which they are presented.

1. Hedges: Hedges are linguistic devices used to soften or mitigate the impact of statements. In the statements, we can identify hedges in phrases such as "In light of the conditions that exist in the country" and "due to the fact that the current phase requires." These phrases introduce a level of uncertainty or qualification, allowing for a more cautious presentation of the information.
2. Indirectness: Indirectness refers to the use of language that implies or suggests meaning rather than stating it explicitly. In the statements, we can observe indirectness in phrases like "the difficult times that have placed Egypt at a juncture that demands of us all to defend the stability of the nation" and "the current

government and governors shall continue as a caretaker administration until a new government is formed." These statements indirectly convey the challenges faced by Egypt and the need for a transitional arrangement, rather than directly stating the issues.

3. Formality: The statements exhibit a formal tone and style of language, which is expected in official communications. The use of honorifics, such as "In the name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Gracious," and the reference to the Supreme Council of Armed Forces in an official capacity, contribute to the formality of the statements. Additionally, the use of formal language and the absence of colloquial expressions maintain a professional and dignified tone.

Indirectness comes with the highest frequency making up 41.18% of the statements. The importance of indirectness in the SCAF's statements can be seen in several ways. Firstly, the SCAF sought to create a perception of neutrality, and therefore avoided taking sides. They did this by using vague language, such as promising to "meet the demands of the people" rather than explicitly supporting the protesters' demands and to avoid self-commitment. Secondly, the SCAF sought to maintain the status quo as much as possible. They did this by avoiding any statements that could be interpreted as a threat to the protesters or a sign of weakness. Instead, they emphasized the importance of stability and the need for all parties to work together to achieve it. Finally, the SCAF's indirect statements helped them to maintain control over the situation. By not committing to specific actions or demands, they were able to maintain a degree of flexibility and adapt to the changing circumstances on the ground. Formality comes with the second frequency making up 35.29% of the statements. Formality conveyed a sense of authority and control. The SCAF was a military institution that was taking charge of the country during a time of crisis, and it was important for them to convey a sense of seriousness and professionalism. Formal language and structure helped to establish the SCAF's authority and reassure the public that they were capable of managing the situation. Hedges come with the lowest frequency

making up 23.53% of the statements. Hedges are words or phrases that soften the impact of a statement, making it less direct or confrontational. For example, the SCAF often used phrases like “we are committed to meeting the demands of the people” or “we will take appropriate measures,” which did not specify what those demands or measures were. This allowed the SCAF to maintain a sense of neutrality and avoid aggravating the protesters.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The study has reached the following conclusions:

1. SCAF statements utilize situational language effectively to defuse tension and establish a sense of intimacy. This language serves as a tool for speakers to exert dominance by spreading intimate feelings. The language used in SCAF statements also reveals an inclusive perception of Egyptian society's need for unity.
2. Language is employed to market acceptance and support, serving as the underlying theme of the texts. SCAF messages direct Egyptians to the importance of obeying rules during political processes, financial crises, and threats of instability and chaos.
3. Politeness expressions are used strategically by the SCAF to lighten power and control, creating a special linguistic atmosphere that persuades Egyptians to embrace the procedures of the new era.
4. Context plays a crucial role in understanding the objectives of the two statements. The political, social, and historical background in which the statements were made, including events such as the disappearance of three of police officers in El Arish city in north of Sinai during one of the missions they were charged with, must be considered to comprehend the significance and implications of the statements.
5. Understanding the situation is essential in interpreting the objectives of the statements. Each statement is tailored to address specific circumstances.

6. The politeness principles applied in the statements help the SCAF maintain control during the January 25 revolution. The use of formal language, expressions of appreciation and respect, condolences, and consideration of people's demands and interests contribute to maintaining a positive relationship with citizens and gaining their trust. However, the effectiveness of these politeness strategies may vary depending on the specific context and the audience's perception and attitude towards the SCAF.
7. The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces demonstrates a commitment to Leech's six maxims of communication, including clarity, honesty, tact, relevance, appropriateness, and politeness. They provide clear and honest information in a tactful and appropriate manner, showing respect and appreciation for the Egyptian people and their accomplishments. The SCAF calls for cooperation and unity to move forward in a democratic and stable manner, aiming to maintain open and positive relations during a critical moment in Egypt's history.
8. The SCAF effectively utilizes different speech acts to communicate with the Egyptian people and convey their desired message. They employ a combination of expressive and directive speech acts to express condolences, issue orders and instructions, and affirm their commitment to democracy and the legitimate demands of the people. The SCAF also acknowledges the historical and cultural significance of events, showing respect to the people, institutions, and leaders of Egypt. Their skillful use of speech acts enhances their authority and helps maintain stability and order during times of transition.
9. The findings of this analysis highlight the complex dynamics of face theory in the communication strategies of the SCAF. The use of both face-threatening and face-saving acts indicates a delicate balance between maintaining authority and legitimacy while also considering the reputation and well-being of the individuals and institutions involved. The SCAF's

communication reflects an awareness of the need to navigate the challenges of the situation and address the concerns of the people in a manner that maintains respect and dignity.

In conclusion, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of face theory and its application in political communication. It underscores the importance of considering face-saving strategies in maintaining positive social interactions and preserving harmony in society. Further research can explore the impact of these communication strategies on public perception, trust, and the overall effectiveness of governance. This study aimed to conduct a pragmatic-discourse analysis of the acts of political language discourse in selected statements of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. By examining speech acts, the linguistic strategies, rhetorical devices, and discursive patterns employed by the SCAF, this research sought to understand how the council uses discourse to shape public opinion and legitimize its actions. The SCAF utilized various linguistic strategies in its statements, including persuasive language and use of emotive words to elicit specific reactions from the audience. Rhetorical devices such as framing and euphemisms were also employed to shape public perception and create a favorable narrative for the council's actions. This study contributes to the literature on political language and discourse analysis by providing insights into the acts of political language discourse in selected statements of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.

### **The specificity of the SCAF's language**

The SCAF's language in its statements has undergone a significant shift, particularly in its perception of its role in relation to the revolution, its view on national interest, and its portrayal of revolutionaries. Initially, the SCAF pledged to protect and fulfill the demands of the revolution, and later focused on maintaining stability and unity while occasionally threatening to use force against disruptive ones. SCAF justified its threat by stating that it was protecting the state and the "higher interests of the country". The SCAF consistently emphasized its role as a guardian, referring to the January 25 youth as "our sons" to highlight the army's connection to the people. As protests

increased, the SCAF positioned itself as a safety barrier and a castle of security, urging people to save and protect the country from chaos until power could be transferred through free and fair elections under the SCAF's protection. The SCAF also utilized positive self-portrayal and virtue words in its statements.

In statement no.4, the SCAF explained the current situation in Egypt and justified its actions based on these conditions. It reassured the people of its commitment to previous statements and expressed confidence in the ability of the Egyptian people and institutions to overcome the critical situation. The SCAF provided directives for all agencies of the state and the private sector to drive the economy forward and called on the civilian police forces to serve and cooperate with the people. The statement also declared that the current government and governors would continue as a caretaker administration until a new government is formed, and emphasized Egypt's commitment to regional and international obligations and treaties.

In statement no.57, the SCAF expressed belief in continuous communication with the Egyptian people and the youth of the revolution. It referred to a TV program that highlighted the disappearance of three police officers in El Arish city and stated that the head of the supreme council of the armed forces had ordered immediate and specialized security measures to ensure their safe return to their families. The statement also conveyed gratitude for the media's role in bringing attention to the issue.

These two statements serve various communicative purposes, including providing explanations and justifications, offering reassurance, giving directives, making declarations, and showing appreciation.

### **Recommendations for Further Studies:**

The analysis conducted in this study has primarily focused on a selected set of official statements from the SCAF. The purpose was to identify common patterns among these statements during the transitional phase. However, there are areas that require further investigation. One such area is the application of critical discourse analysis, which was not fully

explored in this study. By employing this approach, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between the choice of language and its impact on the audience. Additionally, conducting lexical research would provide valuable insights into the statements by examining the specific words used. Another avenue for future research is the examination of nonverbal cues, such as facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice, in SCAF statements. Understanding how these cues influence the perceived credibility, empathy, and confidence of the speaker, as well as their ability to effectively convey the key elements of the statement, would be beneficial. Furthermore, exploring linguistic approaches beyond pragma-linguistics could shed light on the SCAF statements from different perspectives. Therefore, future researchers could consider adopting alternative frameworks, such as a linguistic-stylistic approach, to further enhance our understanding of these statements

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## Appendix (1)

### Arabic wording of SCAF Statements Selected

#### 1. Statements No. 4

أصدر هذا البيان في ١٢ فبراير ٢٠١١، وهذا نصه:

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

من المجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة

نظرا للظروف التي تمر بها البلاد والأوقات العصيبة التي وضعت مصر وشعبها في مفترق الطرق وتفرض علينا جميعا الدفاع عن استقرار الوطن وما تحقق لأبنائه من مكتسبات، حيث إن المرحلة الراهنة تقتضي إعادة ترتيب أولويات الدولة علي نحو يحقق المطالب المشروعة لأبناء الشعب وأبناء الوطن في الظروف الراهنة.. وإدراكا من المجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة أن سيادة القانون ليست ضمانا مطلوبا لحرية الفرد فحسب، ولكنها الأساس الوحيد لمشروعية السلطة في نفس الوقت.. وتصميما وقيينا وإيمانا بكل مسؤولياتنا القومية والوطنية والدوية و عرفانا بحق الله ورسالته وبحق الوطن وبسم الله وبعونه يعلن المجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة التالي:

أولاً: التزام المجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة بكل ما ورد في البيانات السابقة التي أصدرها. ثانياً: أن المجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة علي ثقة في قدرة مصر ومؤسساتها وشعبها علي تخطي الظروف الدقيقة الراهنة.

ومن هذا المنطلق، علي كل جهات الدولة الحكومية والقطاع الخاص القيام برسالتهم السامية والوطنية لدفع عملية الاقتصاد إلي الأمام وعلي الشعب تحمل مسؤوليته في هذا الشأن.

ثالثاً: قيام الحكومة الحالية و المحافظين بتسيير الأعمال حتي تشكيل حكومة جديدة.

رابعاً: التطلع إلي الانتقال السلمي للسلطة في إطار النظام الديمقراطي الحر، الذي يسمح بتولي سلطة مدنية منتخبة لحكم البلاد لبناء الدولة الديمقراطية الحرة.

خامساً: التزام جمهورية مصر العربية بكل الالتزامات والمعاهدات والاتفاقيات الإقليمية والدولية.

سادساً: يتوجه المجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة إلي شعبنا العظيم أن يتعاون مع إخوانهم وأبنائهم من رجال الشرطة المدنية، ويجب أن يسود الود والتعاون بين الجميع ويهيب برجال الشرطة المدنية الالتزام بشعار الشرطة في خدمة الشعب.

والله ولي التوفيق

#### 2. Statement No. 57

٢٥ مايو ٢٠١١

بيان رقم "٥٧" من المجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة  
إيماننا من المجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة باستمرار التواصل مع الشعب المصري العظيم وشباب  
الثورة وبالإشارة لما ورد اليوم علي قناة في برنامج مانشيت بإخفاء (٣) من أبنائنا ضباط  
الشرطة في مدينة العريش بشمال سيناء خلال إحدي المهام المكلفين بها. فقد أمر السيد رئيس  
المجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة بإتخاذ كافة الإجراءات اللازمة والسريعة بواسطة الأجهزة الأمنية  
المختصة لضمان عودتهم لذويهم سالمين في أسرع وقت.

والله الموفق

### **Appendix (B)**

The official translation of the selected texts which were translated by the  
Ministry of Defense Language Institute

(1)

In the name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Gracious

Supreme Council of Armed Forces    February 12, 2011

Statement no. 4

In light of the conditions that exist in the country, and the difficult times that have placed Egypt at a juncture that demands of us all to defend the stability of the nation, and the achievements of the people; due to the fact that the current phase requires a reordering of the priorities of the state with the objective of meeting the legitimate demands of the people, and of delivering the nation from the current situation; And as the SCAF is aware that the rule of law is not only necessary for the freedom of the individual, but rather it is the only legitimate basis for authority; And with determination, clarity, and faith in all our national , regional and international responsibilities, and with

recognition of God's rights and in the name of God, and with His support, the SCAF announces the following:

1-The SCAF is committed to all matters included in its previous statements.

2-the SCAF is confident in the ability of Egypt's people and institutions to get through this critical situation, and to that end, all agencies of the state and the private sector must play their noble and patriotic role to drive the economy forward, and the people must fulfill their responsibility towards that goal.

3-The current government and governors shall continue as a caretaker administration until a new government is formed.

4-The SCAF aspires to guaranteeing a peaceful transition of authority within a free and democratic system that allows for the assumption of authority by a civilian and elected authority to govern the country and the build of a democratic and free state.

5-The Arab Republic of Egypt is committed to all regional and international obligations and treaties.

6-The SCAF calls on the great people to cooperate with their siblings and children in the civilian police forces, for affection and cooperation must exist between everyone, and it calls on the civilian police forces must be committed to their slogan " the police serve the people".

God is the helper

(2)

In the name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Gracious

Supreme Council of Armed Forces

May 25, 2011

Statement no. 57

In belief of the SCAF of continuous communication with the Egyptian people, and the youth of the revolution, and referring to what has been shown on "ON" TV channel in "Manshet Program" concerning the disappearance of three of our sons the police officers in El Arish city in north of Sinai during one of the missions they were charged with, the head of the supreme council of the armed forces has ordered to take all possible procedures and fast ones to be taken through specialized security bodies to guarantee their safe return to their families as soon as Possible.

God is the helper

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