EXPRESSING GRIEF THROUGH MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE: A GENRE ANALYSIS

[1]**Kongo, A. E. , and** [2]**Gyasi, K.W.**

[1]*Department of English University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast.*
[2]*Department of Communication Studies, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast*
[1]**tsatsukongo@gmail.com**
[2]**kodomgyasi@gmail.com**

Abstract

Death is an unpleasant but common human phenomenon that usually puts humans in a state of unrest and grief. When such an unpleasant incidence befalls us, our neighbours, acquaintances, and friends try to sympathize with us, and the same gesture is reciprocated when they are in the same situation. The primary objective of this study is to analyze messages of condolence in terms of its schematic structure and linguistic features. Using the rhetorical approach to genre analysis, the study examined a data set of thirty (36) letters of condolences which were downloaded from the portal of International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICPT). The research identified nine moves. Out of the nine, six of the moves are obligatory and the rest are optional. In addition, each move has distinctive lexico-grammatical features. Furthermore, the schematic structure in addition to the lexico-grammatical features highlights the social functions of condolence messages in the world in general since the letters of condolences used for this study were written by people all over the world. This research has implications for genre studies in general, and further studies.

Keywords: death, grief, condolence, genre,

INTRODUCTION

The death of someone close to us is the most devastating experience in life. Holmes and Rahe (1967) considered death of a spouse as the most stressful life event that people experience. Strang (2001) highlighted the fact that whereas some bereaved people find ways of adjusting to their losses; for others, it might be too difficult without additional support. Based on the difficulty the bereaved have of letting go their grief, some concerned persons who have heard about the incidence tend to express their heartfelt condolences to those affected.

According to the Ewes of Ghana, condolences, therefore, can be classified into three main groups. They are the written, the spoken and the use of objects such as wreaths, flowers, food, etc. to condole the deceased. The use of objects as a means of expressing condolences is culturally determined. This present study focuses on the written aspect of messages of condolence, taken from the portal of International Centre for Theoretical Physics (henceforth ICTP) on the internet.

Condolence messages represent special texts, because their contents focus exclusively on expression of grief for the deceased and reducing the grief of the bereaved. Therefore, the language used in messages of condolence contributes to our understanding of what is considered important about our lives and how they end.

A study conducted by Bernan (2008) on condolences reports empirical research into public books of condolences. He emphasizes that not only do books of condolence provide a historical record of the way contemporary society mourns, but also they reflect attempts to language loss in a way that can be used to evaluate the extent of society's engagement with death. In so doing, he points to ways in which condolence expressions oscillate between, conservative structures of meaning and contemporary "structure of feeling".

Not only do condolence expressions oscillate between, conservative structures of meaning and contemporary "structure of feeling", but also books of condolence may provide a useful social platform for the social expression of grief. Certainly, the main purpose to condole the deceased as well as the bereaved is to share in their feeling. This is done to present the deceased in a way that evokes appreciation for him (Askildon, 2007; Fernandez, 2007; Bryant & Peck, 2009). In addition, it is a belief among the Ewes of Ghana that when sympathizers share in the feelings of the bereaved, the bereaved would be healed of their grief in a shorter time.

According to Afful (2012), the life of humans is noted to revolve around birth, marriage, and eventually death. In this regard, several societies all over the world have offered special attention to their use of language as regards death in epitaphs, tributes, condolences, dirges, and obituaries (Moses & Morelli, 2004) cited in Afful (2012). This supports the claims of Richards & Rodgers (2001) that language use should be targeted toward authentic situations.

Again, specific circumstances should be taken into consideration for every utterance (Austin, 1962). Hence, the concept of *appropriateness* comes to the forefront. For instance, using language to condole should comfort and relieve the bereaved. Therefore, the purpose of expressing condolences on bereavement is threefold: to share the grief of the bereaved and express solidarity, to emphasize the transitory nature of life on this earth and to give encouragement (Emery, 2000; Akibdele, 2007).

Condolences are used as a vehicle for the social expression of grief; they enable a range of communications, helping to bridge the gap between the living and dead, as well as between the immediately bereaved and the wider community-in-mourning (Bernan, 2008). Semantically, condolences have a social meaning which refers to the use of language, to establish and regulate social relations, and to maintain social roles (Mwihaki, 2004). This type of language use is alternatively described as social or phatic communication (Lyons, 1981). In fact, the notion of phatic communication emphasizes experiences of a social fellow and the participation in social linguistic rituals.

In fact, most of the condolence expressions illustrate the profound sense of meaning with which particular referents of loss have been invested. Thus, quite routinely, public mourning of the kind is not just the reaction to the loss of a loved person (s) but it: "trigger for the emotions associated with a series of other losses" Bernan (2008) cited in Yahya (2010). Here, condolence messages provide clues both to a sense of what has been lost, as well as to the social identity of those moved to mourn the events.

The analysis made on speech acts were largely shifted to certain social verbal events like compliments, offers, invitations, requests, refusals, congratulation, etcetera. Despite the

importance of messages of condolence on certain occasions, as far as I know, Yahya (2010) is one of the few scholars who ever investigated on *condolences in Iraqi Arabic with reference to English.* In addition, Mostafa and Reza (2013) also studied on *condolence responses in English and Persian.*

Making use of the previous studies and other studies on condolence formulas, an eclectic model has been created for the analysis of the data upon which this study of genre analysis of condolence messages on the demise of a colleague is based. On this note, this current study focused on letters of condolences to investigate schematic structures in letters of condolences and the kinds of linguistic resources that form the schematic structures of condolence messages.

Significance of the study

The worth of this study may be of interest for both researchers and non researchers to use the findings of this study as a guide for writing letters of condolences. In addition, researchers can use the classification presented in this study to compare condolences across cultures. It is also of great help to those who want to investigate the discoursal features of language. The existing body of research concerning condolences as a genre shows that there is a gap in literature about condolences. In this research, a study will be conducted on condolence messages on the demise of a colleague. Since there is not much at hand about the genre analysis of condolence messages, this study can be used as a model for further studies on letters of condolences.

Theoretical framework

This particular study is situated on Swales' (1990) move structure analysis of a particular genre. Moves, therefore, refer to the various cognitive resources that are systematically expressed in a particular genre. Similarly, Afful (2012) defines moves as the various structural and rhetorical systematic units within the genre which make it distinct from another and the genre. Actually, the language of condolences is a genre in its unique way. Genre, according to Swales, therefore, is a set of communicative acts with an overarching communicative goal and sub-rhetorical units (which he labels as 'moves') and their attendant lexico-grammatical features as distinguishing features of one genre from another. The use of move structure analysis would enable one identify the various constituents of the genre that forms the corpus of messages of condolences. This is because; the first research question focuses on finding out the various schematic structures of condolence messages as a genre. In addition to the schematic structures of genre analysis, the other element that this paper seeks to use is the lexicon-grammatical features which are paramount elements that the move structure analysis of genre proposed by Swales requires. Also, Bhatia (1993) and other genre analysts in *English for Specific Purposes* see the usefulness of this feature.

METHODOLOGY

One basic approach that is quite useful for this paper is the 'mixed research approach. It combines both quantitative and qualitative approaches. In qualitative research, the researcher is concerned about finding out how people make sense of their lives, experiences and their structures of the world (Cresswell, 1994). Punch (1998) also sees qualitative research analysis as comprising multiple methodologies and research practices for undertaking research of field or life situations that are reflective of everyday life groups, societies and organizations.

Furthermore, the quantitative method enables the researcher to present figures and facts in tables and other visuals in order to aid understanding. In this light, this research is interested in describing and presenting facts in tables and visuals and understanding the discoursal uses of condolence messages posted in the portals of International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP). It is a world organization for Physicists. This research site was selected mainly because of the national variations of members. Therefore, the researcher wanted to see the ways by some particular groups of people use the language of condolence.

The total data obtained from the site were one hundred and five (105) messages of condolences of which some were written in Arabic, English, French and German. Using purposive sampling technique, ninety-five (95) messages of condolences written in English and the remaining ten (10) spread among Arabic, French and German were sampled. My selection of the condolence messages written in English is informed by my ability to read and comprehend the English language.

Furthermore, thirty (36) out of the ninety-five (95) condolence messages for this research were selected. The reason for selecting the thirty (36) messages of condolence was on the basis that only one message of condolence would be chosen from a country, and the messages of condolences written by a group of persons, and those without addresses would not be chosen. Therefore, the choice of the thirty-six (36) data sets was informed by the following criteria:

a. Only one of the messages of condolence was selected from among a number from the same origin or nation.
b. A message of condolence ceased to be selected if it has no address.
c. A message of condolence ceased to be selected if it has more than an author from different origins.

Therefore, the thirty (36) messages of condolences were sampled based on the criteria above was able to sample the thirty-six data sets (36) which were then analyzed.

The identification of the boundaries of the individual rhetorical moves was mainly based on semantic criteria since the move is a functional semantic unit whose length depends on writer purpose Dubois (1997). Moves are not based on linguistic clues because moves may vary in sizes. A move may be realized by one sentence or more and sometimes by a unit of analysis below the sentence such as a phrase or the clause, Al-Ali (1999).

With regard to the identification of moves, I examined the messages of condolences meticulously. I therefore described the rhetorical function of each particular portion of the messages in relation to the overall communicative purpose of the condolence messages. Following Al-Ali (1999) and Dudley-Evans (1994), I coded the major constituent functions of each of the messages of condolences and grouped them according to the communicative purpose each is expected to serve.

Knowing that the move structure identification involves a high degree of subjectivity, Holmes (1997); I sought the assistance of four of my colleagues who are well vexed in the field to aid in validating my analysis of the strategic constituents and labeling of the moves. Consequently, the

inter-rater reliability between my four colleagues regarding the identification of the moves was 80%. Upon discussing with my four colleagues, we tried to resolve the differences and concluded that the inter-rater reliability was justifiable.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

From the data set, it was observed that messages of condolences comprised nine (9) moves. These are as follows: acknowledging of the news, acknowledging of deceased, acknowledging memories of deceased, expression of sympathy, expression of sympathy to the family, expression of sympathy to the ICTP community, wishing soul of deceased a haven, closure and address.

Acknowledging of the news
The move refers to the writers' reference to how they learned about the sudden demise of their colleague. The move is considered as obligatory because it rated 75% of the entire data set analyzed. Below are some examples of the messages of condolences that illustrate the move.

> *…to hear that one of my best friends died suddenly*
> *...to hear about the death of my mentor,*
> *...to hear of the death of our friend and colleague,*
> *...to learn of the passing of Professor Denardo.*

There is something unique about the type of lexico-grammatical resources shown in this move. The dominant linguistic resource used to give a vivid illustration of the move is *to- infinitive clauses*. The use of verbs such as *hear* and *learn* gives readers the indication that the writers had indeed knowledge of the sudden incident.

Acknowledging of deceased
This move includes the writers' statement of the name of the deceased in their letters of condolences. This move rated 97.1%, which indicates that it can be considered as obligatory. Let us consider some examples from the data set:

> *Prof. Gallieno Denardo,*
> *Gallieno Denardo,*
> *Gallieno,*
> *Denardo* and
> *EL Prof.* etc

Apart from stating the name of the deceased, some of the writers of the messages of condolences saw the need to add titles to the name of the deceased. The use of titles such as *Professor* and *EL* before the name is linguistically termed as pre-modifiers. These are, therefore, used to revere the deceased.

Acknowledging memories of deceased
In this move, the sympathizers tried to recall some distinctive, well-mannered attitudes of the deceased. Statistically, this move records 86.1% of the overall data set. The implication is that this move can also be considered as obligatory. Here are some examples from the data that was studied.

> *He was a very pleasant and accommodating personality,*
> *He was a friend of Jordan and Jordanian Physicists and Mathematicians,*

He was very <u>helpful</u>, <u>optimistic</u> and <u>championed</u> the cause of development of science in Africa,

We warmly remember his <u>enthusiasm</u> and <u>skillful</u> support of the project.

The underlined are the linguistic resources that illustrate sweet memories of the deceased. In addition, these linguistic resources indicate a kind of semantic compounding [+ positive comment]. Furthermore, [helpful, skillful] and [optimistic, enthusiastic] are phonologically foregrounded. Whereas [helpful, skillful] represent disyllabic words, [optimistic, enthusiastic] represent polysyllabic words.

Expression of sympathy

Here, the writers tried to express their heartfelt regret for losing Prof. Gallieno Denardo. This move rated a complete 100% of the total data set that was studied. This constituent is included as part of Yahya's (2010) Move 2. According to Yahya, It can be considered the core of the messages of condolences, that is, it is the semantic formula that was most prevalent in most situations and in a few cases, this semantic formula formed the entire expression of condolence. Let us consider some examples:

I am <u>so depressed</u>.   *This is <u>really sad</u>.*

I am <u>very sad</u>.   *I was <u>shocked</u> and <u>saddened</u>.*

This is <u>a great loss</u> indeed.   *It has made me <u>very sad</u>.*

I am <u>greatly saddened</u>.   *I'm <u>deeply distressed</u>.*

It is <u>deep regret.</u>   *We were <u>deeply shocked</u> and <u>saddened.</u>*

The lexico-grammatical resources used in this move are simple and compound sentences. Also, the verbs used are all from the verb *to be* except for one sentence which used a form of *to have* a verb. In addition, all that follow the verbs are adjective phrases, except for one which is a noun phrase. The underlined parts of each of the sentences foreground semantic compounding, [+grief]. These really are the main purposes for writing the messages of condolences. A rule can be formed from these underlined structures as: [adv. + adj], [adj +noun] and [adj].

Expression of sympathy to the family

This talk about the writers extending their condolences to the bereaved family. It, therefore, recorded 30% of the entire data set analyzed. In this case, it is considered as an optional move because it is not as dominant as the above. Below are some examples from the data.

It is a loss <u>to his family</u>,

I send my deepest condolences <u>to his family</u>

We would like to extend our sincerest condolence <u>to his family</u>

I wish to express my heartfelt condolences <u>to his wife</u>,

Please convey our heartfelt condolences <u>to his family</u>,

I, therefore, wish to use this medium to extend my sincere sympathy <u>to the bereaved family</u>.

The underlined are lexico-grammatical resources which represent prepositional phrases. These phrases alert readers of the recognition that the deceased might have left his family behind. Therefore, they found it necessary to acknowledge the family of the deceased. A rule formed

from this structure is [to + NP]. These actions of the sympathizers can relieve the bereaved of their grief.

Expression of sympathy to ICTP

Similarly, the writers recognized that the deceased had a role to play. Therefore, the demise of Prof. Gallieno Denardo made them feel that a vacuum had been created. The move rated 36.1 % of the total data studied. In this case also, the move is considered optional because it did not recur as several as the earlier moves.

> *It is a loss for the ICTP community,*
> *I send my deepest condolences to ICTP Community,*
> *We would like to extend our sincerest condolences to his colleagues of ICTP,*
> *I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to ICTP*
> *I therefore wish to use this medium to extend my sincere sympathy to the entire scientific community over there,*
> *I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to all ICTP staff.*

The underlined lexico-grammatical resources are also prepositional phrases. These phrases emphasize the fact that there is a loss to the ICTP community. Having studied the structures, I realized that the phrases can be given the rules as: [for + NP], [to +NP] and [to + NP+ PP]. This explains the fact that in addition to the family of the deceased, ICTP also loses someone.

Wishing deceased a haven

This move also refers to the writers' belief and prayer that the deceased would be granted a resting place with his creator. Rating 27.7% of the total data, *wishing deceased a haven* move can be considered optional. Here are some examples to illustrate the point.

> *May the LORD receive him?*
> *May God rest his soul in peace.*
> *We pray that the GOOD LORD will keep his soul in perfect peace and cause his good works to mankind to follow him.*
> *May his soul rest in peace.*
> *May his soul find rest in perfect peace.*

In this move, two types of sentences were identified. The dominant ones are imperatives while the other one is a declarative sentence. The imperative sentences appear to make a request to a Supreme Being to receive the deceased as he journeys to him the Supreme Being as well and to grant the deceased a peaceful rest respectively.

Closure

This deals with the concluding remarks of the writers. It therefore recorded 55.5% of the entire data set which was analyzed. Let us look at some examples from the data.

Yours	*With deep regards*	*With warm regards,*
Best regards	*All the best*	*My best regard*
Sincerely	*With warm regards and best wishes,*	*Sincerely yours*
Warm regards		

The lexico-grammatical resources for this move are in word, prepositional phrases and noun phrases categories. The word level category includes *yours* and *sincerely* which are pronoun and adverb respectively. They are lexical items that we normally use to mark the end of letters. The

phrases were also used to mark the end of the letters of condolences. From the illustration, a rule can be formed as [NP = pre modifier + Noun] and [PP= prep. + adj. + Noun].

Address
This deals with the provision of addresses of the sympathizers who wrote their letters of condolences. The address comprised name of writer, department of work, box number town of residence and country of origin. The move rated 100% of the total data set. Here are some illustrations from the data.

Abbaker Ali Abdalla	Francis K. Allotey
Department of Physics	Society of African Physicists & Mathematicians
Faculty of Science	P.O.Box197
University of Khartoum	Legon-Accra
P. O. Box 321	Ghana
Khartoum	
Sudan	

Writing of addresses is to indicate the origin of the letters of condolences. Having looked at the various origins of the letters of condolences, the bereaved family could be a bit relieved of their grief because persons all over the world being aware of the demise of their beloved, is a great achievement. In addition, the use of condolence messages is culturally universal; therefore, it is a must of a kind, to people of a group, and community etc. to extend their messages of condolences to the bereaved family. In addition, the language use for that matter must befit the event or the occasion in a way that the bereaved are not offended.

The table below presents the various constituents of moves which were discussed and exemplified by instances from the data set. Regarding the ordering of the moves in the data, I must state that there is a specific order in which the moves were presented. Therefore, it is my own decision to present them as shown in the table above.

Table 1: Constituent moves of messages of condolences

Constituents of condolence messages	Frequency of Moves out of (36)	(%)
Move 1: Acknowledging the news	27	**75.0**
Move 2: Acknowledging the deceased	35	**97.2**
Move 3: Acknowledging memories of the deceased	31	**86.1**
Move 4: Expression of sympathy	36	**100**
Move 5: Expression of sympathy to the family	11	**30.0**
Move 6: Expression of sympathy to ICTP community	13	**36.1**
Move 7: Wishing soul of the deceased a haven	10	**27.7**
Move 8: Closure	20	**55.5**
Move 9: Address	36	**100**

The table 2 shows the ranking of the move structures embedded in letters of condolence messages.

Table 2: Textual Spaces of moves

Constituents of Condolence Messages	Total of words	Percentage	Rank
Move 1: Acknowledging the news	45	2.92	8th
Move 2: Acknowledging the deceased	100	18.12	4th
Move 3: Acknowledging memories of the deceased	279	18.12	2nd
Move 4: Expression of sympathy	216	14.03	3rd
Move 5: Expression of sympathy to the family	77	5.00	6th
Move 6: Expression of sympathy to ICTP community	91	5.91	5th
Move 7: Wishing soul of the deceased a haven	41	2.66	9th
Move 8: Closure	49	3.18	7th
Move 9: Address	642	41.69	1st

The results of the move structure show that there are nine schematic structures embedded in letters of condolence messages. Considering the moves, all the schematic structures that expressed the moves were assembled and counted and their percentages computed. From table 1, move 9 (Address) has the highest textual space of 41.69 % followed by move 3 (Acknowledging memories of the deceased) which also recorded a textual space of 18.12%. While move 4 (expression of sympathy) rated 14.03 as the textual space, move 2 (Acknowledgement of the deceased) recorded 6.49 %. Furthermore, move 6 and move 5 rated 5.91% and 5.00% respectively. Following move 5, Move 8 (Closure) recorded 3.18 % whereas move 1 (Acknowledgement of the news) rated 2.92%. Move 7 (Wishing soul of deceased a haven) is the last of the moves with 2.66%.

CONCLUSION
Swales' (1990) rhetorical approach in genre analysis aims at exploring the schematic structure and lexico-grammatical features of texts. Therefore, Swales' rhetorical approach in genre analysis was applied to 36 letters of condolence messages and the following results were shown. The condolence genre in general has six core moves: acknowledgement of the news, acknowledgement of the deceased, acknowledging memories of the deceased, expression of sympathy, closure, address. However, there were three additional but optional moves: wishing soul of deceased a haven, expression of sympathy to the family, expression of sympathy to ICTP community.

Moreover, the study revealed that *acknowledging the news* of the condolence genre is dominantly represented by *to- infinitive* structure. The second move revealed that *acknowledging the deceased* is highly represented by nominals. The third move, which represents *acknowledging memories of the deceased,* is expressed in simple and compound sentences. Besides, there occurs semantic compounding of lexical items [+ good]. Move four, *expression of sympathy* revealed simple and compound sentences. In addition, all the verbs used are copula and all elements that follow the verb appear to be complementing the subject. Further, all the subject

complements foregrounded semantic compounding [+ sadness]. The fifth and sixth moves, *expression of sympathy to the family* and *expression of sympathy to ICTP community* respectively were expressed in prepositional phrases. Move seven; *wishing soul of the deceased a haven* was dominantly expressed in imperatives and only one declarative. The eighth move, *closure* was expressed in nominal and prepositional phrases. The last move, *address* was revealed in nominal.

The present study has some implications which relate to theory, and future research. Regarding the theory, the analytical framework, moves structure analysis proposed by Swales was found very useful as it enabled the identification of various moves in the condolence genre. The condolence genre revealed six core moves and three other optional moves. From the data, there were a varied number of the linguistic resources. This study contributes to the scholarship on genre studies, in general, and studies of messages of condolences, in particular, since there is very limited literature on the topic. This study will help sympathizers to know what to include in their messages of condolences.

REFERENCES

Afful, J. B. A. (2012). *A Genre Analysis of Death Announcements in Ghanaian Newspapers.* Language and Society, Vol 1

Akibdele, D. (2007). *Lumela/Lumela: A Socio-Pragmatic Analysis of Sesotho Greetings*. Nordic Journal of African Studies, 16(1): 1-17.

Al-Ali, M. N. (1999). *Genre, Schema, and Academic Writing Process: An Enquiry into the Generalisability of Generic Structure and its Relationship to Schematic Knowledge*. Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, University of Durham,UK.

Askildson, L. (2007). D*iscourse and Generic Features of US Army Obituaries: A Mini-corpus Analysis of Contemporary Military Death Announcements*. Language, Meaning and Society, 1:108-121.

Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to do Things with Words*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Bernan, M. (2008). *Condolence Books: Language and Meaning in the Mourning for Hillsborogh and Diana*. Death Studies, 32: 326-351.

Bhatia, V. (1993). *Analyzing Genre: Language Use in Professional Settings*. London: Longman.

Byrant, C.D. & Peck, D.L. (Eds.) (2009). *Encyclopaedia of Death and the Human Experience*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Creswell, J.W. (2002). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Dubois, B. (1997). *The Biomedical Discussion Section in Context*. Vol. XLVI in the series Advances in Discourse Processes Greenwich: Ablex Publishing Corporation.

Dudley-Evans, T. (1994). Genre *Analysis: An Approach to Text Analysis for ESP*. in M. Coulthard (ed.) Avances in Written Text Analysis. London Routledge.

Emery, P. G. (2000). *Greeting, Congratulating and Commiserating in Omani Arabic Language*. Culture and Curriculum, 13(2): 196-217.

Fernandez, E. C. (2007). *Linguistic Devices Coping with Death in Victorian Obituaries*. Revista Alicantina de Estudios Ingleses, 20: 7-21.

Holmes R. (1997). Genre *Analysis and Social Sciences: An Investigation of the Structure of*

Research Article Sections in Three Disciplines. English for Specific Purpose 16, 321-337.

Holmes , T. & Rahe, R. (1967). *Holmes-Rahe Life Changes Scale*. Journal of Psychosomatic Research, 11, 213-218.

Lyons, J. (1981). *Language and Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Moses, R. & Marelli, G. (2004). *Obituaries and Discursive Construction of Dying and Living*. Texas Linguistic Forum 47: 123-130.

Mostafa, M. M.& Reza, P. (2013). *Investigating* C*ondolence Responses in English and Persian*. International Journal of Research Studies in Language Learning Volume 2 Number 1, 39-47

Mwihaki, A. (2004). *Meaning as Use: A Functional View of Semantics and Pragmatics*. SWAHILI FORUM, 11: 127-139. Searle, J. (1979). Expression

Punch, K (1998). Introduction *to Social Research: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches*. London, Sage.

Richards, J. C., & Rodgers, T. (2001). *Approaches and Methods in Language Teaching* (2nd ed.). New York: University Press. http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511667305 accessed on 5/01/2013

Strang, G. (2001). *London Bereavement Network. Annual Report 2000/2001.* Retrieved from the Web 10/04/2003. http://www.bereavement.org.uk/ accessed on 5/01/2013

Swales, J. M. (1990). *Genre Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Yahya, E . M. (2010). *A Study of Condolences in Iraqi Arabic with Reference to English*. Adab Al-rafidayn,vol.(57)