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**"A Socio-pragmatic Approach To Indirectness As A
Feature In The Discourse Of Dickens And Mahfouz:
A Contrastive Study".**

(A Thesis in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the M.A.
Degree in Linguistics).

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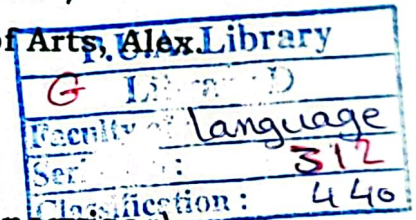
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Abstract

This study is an attempt to explore the field of *indirectness* as a feature, which appears, now and then, in the pragmatic use of language, thus, playing a rather effective role in social communication. *Indirectness* can be found when there is a mismatch between the implied meaning which S intends to convey, and the surface meaning which (s)he actually expresses. Consequently, it requires some effort to be exerted both by S, to make an *indirect* utterance, and by H, to interpret it. Indeed, there are various degrees of *indirectness*, which can be determined according to several, linguistic and non-linguistic factors.

The study endeavours to scrutinize such a pragmatic element in both English and Arabic discourse. This is to be done through analyzing the existence, role, degree(s), interpretation(s), etc. of *indirectness* in some utterances selected from two English novels: Dickens' Oliver Twist and Great Expectations, and two Arabic novels: Mahfouz's Midaq Alley and Miramar. The analysis will comprise the diverse motivations underlying such *indirect* utterances, as well as the different tools, or strategies, employed by both authors, either in their own narratives, or in the dialogues among their characters, in order to accomplish *indirectness*.

Thus, this is a contrastive study attempting to arrive at some conclusions concerning the field of pragmatic *indirectness*, in such two different languages: English and Arabic. More particularly, the study tries to probe such a feature in the discourse of such two similarly socially-oriented writers: Charles Dickens and Naguib Mahfouz.