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University of Kerbala
College of Education for Humanities
Department of English



A Forensic Linguistic Study of Cyber Blackmail on Social Media in Iraq

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Council of the College of Education for Human Sciences/
University of Kerbala in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master in English Language and Linguistics**

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2025 A.D.

1447 A.H.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

﴿ وَقِفُوهُمْ إِنَّهُمْ مَسْئُؤُونَ ﴾

(سورة الصّافات / 24)

*In the name of Allah, the Most Compassionate,
the Most Merciful*

*“But stop them, for they must be
asked”*


(Al-Safat / 24)

(Ali, 2018)

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby certify that the thesis entitled **A Forensic Linguistic Study of Cyber Blackmail on Social Media in Iraq** written by **Zahraa Aamir Kamil** has been prepared under my supervision at the University of Kerbala in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master in English Language and Linguistics

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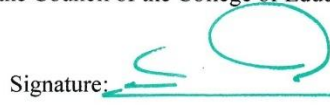
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Dedication

This work is reverently dedicated to:

All individuals who respect the law, uphold justice and fairness as steadfast principles, and believe that respect for the law is ultimately a respect for humanity, truth, and life itself.

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Abstract

The current study investigates cyber blackmail by analyzing twenty-three documented cases from the Ministry of Interior in Iraq. It examines cyber blackmail as a linguistic crime and explores its broader social implications from multiple perspectives. Despite the growing influence of this phenomenon, there has been limited research on the linguistic strategies employed by cybercriminals. Thus, this study attempts to bridge the gap by analyzing the language used by both male and female cyber criminals through the lens of forensic linguistics, contributing to a deeper understanding of cybercrime discourse and its implications for criminal investigations

The study mainly aims to identify the types of cyber blackmail, as well as the most and least frequently used conversational and impoliteness strategies employed by male and female blackmailers. Additionally, it examines the differences in the use of these strategies by gender for each type of cyber blackmail.

To achieve the aims and verify the proposed hypotheses, the study adopts an eclectic analytical model consisting of three principal components. The first component encompasses the types of cyber blackmail. The second component focuses on the variables of gender concerning conversational strategies employed by male and female blackmailers, drawing upon the theoretical frameworks of Coates (2013), Shuy (2005), and Andersson and Trudgill (1990). The third component includes Culpeper's (1996) model of impoliteness. A mixed-method approach is used in data analysis using the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS).

The study concludes that: (1) Financial and sextortion blackmail are the most prevalent types of cyber blackmail in the data under scrutiny, (2) *Directive /Commands* recorded the highest rank in financial and sextortion blackmail particularly among males and *Scripting the target* strategy is dominant in beneficial blackmail whereas *Compliment and Using ambiguity* have achieved the lowest strategies used by cyber criminals for each type of cyber blackmail, (3) The analysis reveals statistically significant differences between male and female blackmailers in their use of various conversational strategies across all the types of cyber blackmail, and (4) Forensic linguists play a crucial role in legal

processes by elucidating language usage, identifying potential threats or manipulative language, and aiding in the formulation of precise legal texts to advance fairness and consistency in judicial outcomes. The first, second, third, and sixth hypotheses of the study are verified; however, the fourth hypothesis is partially valid, while the fifth hypothesis is invalid. The study ends with several recommendations and suggestions for further studies.

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviated Forms	Full-Forms
ABSW	Abusive Swearing Words
CA	Contrastive Analysis
CBM	Cyber Blackmail
COVID	Coronavirus disease of 2019
CP	Community Policing
CS	Conversational Strategies
DINT	Directorate of Intelligence and Technology
ESW	Expletive Swearing Words
FDA	Forensic Discourse Analysis
FL	Forensic Linguistics
Fr.	Frequency
FTA	Face-Threatening Act
HSW	Humorous Swearing Words
IP	Irony Principle
IPA	International Phonetic Alphabet
MMS	Multimedia Messaging Service
MOI	Ministry of Interior
No.	Number
NSD	National Security Directorate
PIS	Police Interviews
PP	Politeness Principle
Pr.	Percentage
SAs	Speech Acts
SMS	Short Message Service
St.	Strategy

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List of Transliteration Symbols
(AL-Bazi,2006)

Consonants			
Arabic Symbols	Transliteration Symbols	Arabic Examples	Meanings
أ	ʔ	أدلة	Evidences
ب	b	براءه	Acquittal
ت	t	تهمة	Accusation
ث	θ	ثأر	Retaliation
ج	j	جريمة	Crime
ح	h	حبس	Detention
خ	x	خصم	Opponent
د	d	دليل	Evidence
ذ	ð	ذنب	Offense
ر	r	رشوه	Bribery
ز	z	زيف	Falsification
س	s	سجين	Prisoner
ش	ʃ	شرطة	Police
ص	ʂ	صفقة	Deal
ض	ɖ	ضرر	Damage
ط	t̤	طعن	Stabbing
ظ	z̤	ظلم	Injustice
ع	ʕ	عقوبة	Penalties
غ	gh	غرامة	Fine
ف	f	فديه	Ransom
ق	q	قضية	Case
ك	k	كفالة	Bail

ل	l	لص	Thief
م	m	مدان	Convicted
ن	n	نزاع	Contest
ه	h	هجوم	Assault
و	w	وشاية	Denunciation
ي	y	يبتز	Blackmail
چ	ch	چاي	Tea
گ	g	گال	Said

Long & Short Vowels				
Arabic	Types of Vowels	Transliteration	Example	Meanings
فتحة (َ)	Short	a	هَدَّدَ	Threaten
الف المد	Long	ā	قَاضِي	Judge
كسرة (ِ)	Short	i	جِنَايَة	Felony
ياء المد	Long	ī	جِنَائِي	Forensic
ضممة (ُ)	Short	u	مُجْرِم	Criminal
واو المد	Long	ū	مَوْقُوف	Arrested

Glossary of Iraqi Colloquial Expressions (IPA Phonetics + Translation)

General Expressions			
No.	Arabic Examples	Transliteration	Meanings
1.	سلام عليكم	/sæ' læ:m ʕæ' læikʊm/	Hello (literal: "Peace be upon you") (common greeting)
2.	وين نتقابل؟	/wɪn nɪt' gæbəl/	Where we meeting up?
3.	كلام زايد	/kæ' læm 'zɑ:jɪd/	Stop chatting / Talking too much.
4.	بنفس المكان	/bɪ' næfs ɪl mæ' kæn/	Same place.
5.	سوّي أي شي	/' sæwi ʔei ʃi/	Do what you want.
6.	حرام عليك	/hæ' ræm ʕæ' leɪk/	Have mercy / Shame on you.
7.	بس خلص	/bæs xɑ' las/	Enough / That's it.
8.	أوك ماشي	/ʔo:keɪ 'ma:ʃi/	Yeah, alright.
9.	أي خوش	/ʔi: xo:ʃ/	Yeah, good one (sarcastic).
10.	بسرعة	/bɪs' orʕɑ/	Quickly / Hurry up.
11.	عادي	/ʕɑ: 'di/	Whatever / Fine.
12.	أگوّك خويه	/ʔæku: 'læk 'xʊb:æ/	Listen, brother (attention-grabbing phrase).
Threats & Intimidation			
13.	راح أنشر صورّج	/ra:h ən' ʃɪr sʊə' rɪtʃ/	I'll share your pics.
14.	راح أدمرّج	/ra:h ʔad' mɪtʃ/	I'll destroy you.
15.	راح أنهي حياتّج	/ra:h ʔn' hi: hæ' ja:tɪtʃ/	I'll end your life.
16.	راح أبهذّك	/ra:h abəh' ðɪlɪk/	I'll ruin you.
17.	هذا تحذير	/' hæðæ tæh' ði:r/	This is a warning.
18.	راح أنشر كلشي	/ra:h ən' ʃɪr kʊl' ʃi/	I'll share everything.
19.	راح تشوفين شيصير	/ra:h tɪ' ʃu:fi:n ʃi jɪ' sʕi:r/	You'll see what happens.
20.	راح أخلّي الناس تشوف	/ra:h əxə' li: m'nɑ:s tɪ' ʃu:f/	I'll let people see.

21.	ما أريد حركه مئا مئا	/ma: ʔə'ri:d hæ'r'ka:t mi'na mi'na/	Don't try anything clever.
22.	الآ أراويكم نجوم الظهر	/illa ʔrawikum nju:m ʔl zuhr/	I will make your day as dark as night.
23.	راح أفضحك	/ra:h ʔfdahkum/	Drag your name through the dirt.
24.	محد راح يرحمك	/ma'hæd ra:h jir'hæmæk/	No one will pity you" (threatening tone).
25.	حسب ما تعرفون	/ħa'sæb mæ: tʃi'ru:fu:n/	You know very well (implied threat).

Slang & Insults

26.	غبيّة	/'yæbi:ja/	Thick / Stupid.
27.	دايحة	/'da:jħa/	Off the rails / Reckless.
28.	طاشة	/'tʃa:ʃa/	Tramp / Shameless.
29.	حقير	/hæ'gi:r/	Low-life.
30.	أنت نذل	/ɪntæ nə'ðil/	You're scum.
31.	وجهج الفدر	/wædʒitʃ il 'qɑðr/	Your minging face.
32.	يا فاشلة	/ja: 'fa:ʃila/	useless (cow).
33.	يا ثولة	/ja: θo:lə/	idiot (derogatory).
34.	يا قذرة	/ja: 'qɑðra/	filth.
35.	خنيث	/'xaniθ/	Soft git.
36.	گرن	/gi:ri:n/	Thick-headed cuck.
37.	طبكم مرض	/tʃab'kom ma'radʃ/	Sod off and rot for all (literal: "May illness strike you").
38.	أبو حلگ الأعوج	/ʔbʊ haliq ʔlʔʃwaj/	Crooked-mouthed
39.	خليك رجال	/xæ'li:k ri'dʒa:l/	Man up (literal: "Be a man").

Money & Extortion

40.	فلوس	/'flo:s/	Money / Dosh.
41.	أريد فلوس بأسرع وقت	/ʔʊ'ri:d flo:s bi'ʔasraʃ woqt/	I need money sharpish.
42.	حويلي فلوس	/hæw'li:li flo:s/	Transfer me money.
43.	دبريلي فلوس	/dəb'ri:li/	Sort it out for me.

Technology & Media			
44.	فتحي كاميرا	/fæt'hi: kæ'mi:ra/	Turn your camera on.
45.	دزيتلج مقاطع	/di'zi:tlitʃ mʊ'qa:tʃiʃ/	I sent you clips.
46.	رابط	/'ra:btʃ/	Link.
47.	صوري لي	/s'aw'wirli:/	Take pics for me.
48.	راح أنشرها الصورة	/ra:h ən'ʃirha ʔl sura:h /	I'm sharing the photo.
Religious & Oath-Based Threats			
49.	والله العظيم	/wɪ'lʔɑ:h il'ʕɑðʕi:m/	I swear by Almighty God.
50.	ومحمد وعلي	/w'moħæmmæd wiʕ'li:/	By the Prophet Mohammed and Ali.
51.	والقران	/wɪl qʊr'ʔɑ:n/	I swear by the Quran.
52.	الله كريم	/ɑl'ʔɑ:h kær'i:m/	"God is generous" (used fatalistically, or as "I trust in God").
53.	روحي الله يعاقبج	/ru:hi ɑl'ʔɑ:h jʕɑ:'qɪbɪʃ/	May God punish you (curse).
Miscellaneous			
54.	شلون اتق ببيك؟	ʃlɔ:n ʔæθɪg bi:k/	How can I trust you?
55.	ماتعرفين انا منو؟	ma: tɪʕrɪ'fi:n ʔænæ mi'nu/	You don't know who I am?
56.	فكري زين	/fɪk'kɪri ze:n/	Think about it proper.
57.	دير بالك	/di:r bælək/	Watch yourself.
58.	ما اقدر اتحمل	/ma: ʔægdər ʔɪħæm'məl/	I can't take it anymore.
59.	آخر فرصة	/'ʔɑxɪr fʊr'sʕɑ/	Last chance.
60.	باچر بالعشرة	/'bɑ:dʒɪr bɪl'ʕæʃrɑ/	Tomorrow at ten.
61.	بيك خير	/bi:k xɛ:r/	You're better off ... " [if you can] (manipulative advice).
62.	ما أريد أشمتت	/mæ: ʔʊ'ri:d ʔæʃ'mɪt/	I don't want to gloat (sarcastic remark).
63.	شوف زين	/ʃu:f zæ:n/	Listen carefully (command).
64.	خلينا نتفق	/xæl'li:næ nɪtti'fiq/	Let's make a deal (negotiation phrase).

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Preliminary Remarks

This introductory chapter highlights the problem of the study by presenting several research questions to be answered. Moreover, it introduces the aims, hypotheses, procedures, limits, and significance of the study.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Cyber blackmail has emerged as a significant challenge in the digital age, particularly with the widespread use of social media platforms. As cybercriminals exploit online anonymity to threaten and coerce victims, law enforcement agencies face difficulties in identifying perpetrators and gathering linguistic evidence. In Iraq, the absence of specific cybercrime legislation further complicates legal responses to cyber blackmail, leaving victims vulnerable and hesitant to report incidents due to fear of social and legal consequences.

While forensic linguistics provides valuable tools for analyzing language evidence in legal contexts, there is a lack of comprehensive research on the linguistic features of cyber blackmail, particularly within Iraqi social media interactions. Existing studies primarily focus on traditional blackmail or cybercrime in broader contexts, leaving a gap in understanding the specific linguistic strategies used in cyber blackmail cases.

From a forensic linguistics perspective, cyber blackmail presents unique challenges in identifying linguistic patterns and persuasive strategies used by blackmailers. While studies on forensic linguistics have explored deception, threats, and coercion in legal contexts (Coulthard & Johnson, 2007), research focusing on the linguistic features of cyber blackmail remains limited, particularly in the Iraqi context. A forensic linguistic approach can provide valuable insights into the strategies used by cyber blackmailers and contribute to more effective legal responses (Shuy, 2005).

Various studies have been conducted on the crime of cyber blackmail by different researchers, such as Al Asfer (2021), Igab (2021), Najm and Jabir (2024), and others;

however, the researchers have not studied the strategies of cyber criminals for both males and females concerning the field of forensic linguistics. Consequently, the current study attempts to compile these strategies and incorporate them into an analytical structure. In addition, the present study seeks to bridge this gap by identifying these strategies for both males and females. By examining real cases, the research explores the linguistic features of cyber blackmail on social media. This study seeks to provide insights into the strategies employed by cybercriminals and offer valuable forensic evidence to support legal proceedings. Ultimately, forensic linguistics serves as an important tool in modern law enforcement, bridging the gap between language analysis and criminal justice. Accordingly, the following questions summarize the problem of the study:

1. What are the types of cyber blackmail used in the data under scrutiny?
2. What are the conversational strategies used by male and female blackmailers in the selected data?
3. What are the impoliteness strategies used by male and female blackmailers in the selected data?
4. What are the prevalent types of cyber blackmail, conversational strategies, and impoliteness strategies used by both genders in the data under investigation?
5. What are the differences between males and females in their use of cyber blackmail, conversational strategies, and impoliteness strategies in the data under study?
6. How can forensic linguistics help in the court investigation and detection of crimes?

1.2 Aims

In connection with the research questions, the present study aims at:

- 1- Identifying the types of cyber blackmail used in the data under scrutiny.
- 2- Specifying the conversational strategies used by both male and female blackmailers in the selected data.
- 3- Investigating the impoliteness strategies used by male and female blackmailers in the selected data.

- 4- Specifying the most common types of cyber blackmail, conversational strategies, and impoliteness strategies used by both genders.
- 5- Figuring out the differences between males and females in their use of cyber blackmail, conversational strategies, and impoliteness strategies in the data under study.
- 6- Assessing the role of forensic linguistics in court investigations and its importance in detecting crimes.

1.3 Hypotheses

In association with the aims of the study, it is hypothesized that:

- 1- Cyber blackmail can be categorized into three types: financial, sextortion, and beneficial blackmail in the data under scrutiny.
- 2- Male and female blackmailers employ different conversational strategies depending on the type of cyber blackmail.
- 3- Male and female blackmailers utilize different impoliteness strategies during interaction with their victims.
- 4- Financial and sextortion blackmail is the most prevalent type of cyber blackmail. In terms of conversational strategies, *Directive /Commands*, and *Scripting the target* are the most frequently used strategies, while *Compliments* and *Using ambiguity* are the least utilized. Furthermore, concerning impoliteness strategies, *Bald on record* is the most frequently used impoliteness strategy by male and female blackmailers, whereas sarcasm and withhold are the least utilized.
- 5- No significant differences that can be observed among the various conversational and impoliteness strategies used by male and female blackmailers across all the types of cyber blackmail
- 6- Forensic linguistics analysis significantly contributes to detecting cybercrimes by identifying patterns, threats, and authorial features that help in legal investigations and court decisions.

1.4 Procedures of the Study

To achieve the aims of the study and verify the hypotheses, the following procedures are followed:

- 1- Reviewing the relevant literature about the field of forensic linguistics, the concept of cyber blackmail, and some other related topics in the field.
- 2- Developing an appropriate model for the analysis of cyber blackmail cases.
- 3- Selecting the data for analysis from cyber blackmail case reports provided by security institutions in Najaf, Karbala, and Baghdad.
- 4- Analyzing the collected data qualitatively in terms of the selected model of Coates (2013), Shuy (2005), Trudgill and Andersson (1990), and Culpeper's (1996) model.
- 5- Conducting a statistical analysis via the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS) to achieve the aims and support the findings of the study.
- 6- Discussing the results obtained throughout the mixed methods of analysis and finally stating the conclusions.

1.5 Limits

The study is limited to the following points:

- 1- Twenty-three documented cases of cyber blackmail involving both male and female offenders. It focuses on conversational and impoliteness strategies within the field of forensic linguistics.
- 2- The cases chosen are from Iraq; they are drawn from Iraqi cyber blackmail incidents; thus, the findings illustrate linguistic and social patterns relevant to Iraqi cultural and legal contexts.
- 3- The analysis concentrated on financial, sexual, and beneficial forms of blackmail, without taking into account other categories of cyberblackmail. Furthermore, the study emphasized the linguistic strategies employed in text-based communication (e.g., messages, chats) and did not examine audio or visual threats.

- 4- The analysis model based on Coates's (2013), Shuy's (2005) conversational strategies, Trudgill's and Andersson's (1990) types of swearing words, and Culpeper's (1990) theory of impoliteness.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The present study is expected to be a theoretical and practical contribution to the field of forensic linguistics by examining the linguistic strategies used in cyber blackmail cases. It aims to enrich academic understanding by bridging the gap between linguistics theory and cybercrime investigations. Furthermore, it provides valuable insights for students and researchers in linguistics, particularly those interested in the intersection of language and law, by offering a real-world application of linguistic analysis in digital crime contexts.

From a practical point, this study aims to aid law enforcement agencies, digital forensic specialists, and legal professionals by providing linguistic evidence that can be utilized in cybercrime investigations and legal proceedings. The findings can assist in identifying threatening patterns in online communication, improving investigative procedures, and supporting the development of effective preventive measures. Ultimately, the study seeks to raise awareness about the growing threat of cyber blackmail on social media platforms in Iraq and promote legal and social responses.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Preliminary Remarks

This chapter is divided into six sections. The first section covers the theoretical background of forensic linguistics and its prominent definitions, areas, and principles related to the scope of the present study. The second section examines various types of forensic texts. The third section provides a brief overview of cybercrime. The fourth section sheds light on the concept of cyber blackmail, its relevant definitions, types, phases, models, and its relation to language. The fifth section briefly discusses the concept of cyber blackmail in Iraq, highlighting its prevalence, legal framework, and societal impact. Finally, the sixth section chronologically tackles a number of previous studies related to the present study.

2.1 Forensic Linguistics

Law is inherently codified through language; without language, the existence of law is inconceivable. Nevertheless, the language of the law significantly differs from ordinary, everyday language. To understand the law, people require language, which means it is needed not only to formulate the law. Therefore, legal language must be analyzed by specialists who have applied their knowledge and theories in forensic contexts or contributed to the criminal justice system and are known as forensic linguists. (Gibbons,2003)

“[J]ust as physicians are trained to see things in an X-ray that the average person with excellent vision cannot see. So, linguists are trained to see and hear structures that are invisible to lay persons” (Shuy, 1993, p. xvii).

This ability is particularly significant in forensic linguistics, where language is analyzed in legal and investigative contexts. The term “forensic” is derived from the Latin word “Foensis”, which means "public" or "in open court" (Syam, 2018, p. 101).

Forensic linguistics has been defined as the scientific study of language as it applies to forensic contexts and legal discourse. McMenamain (2002) describes it as the analysis of

language in forensic contexts and legal statements, while Olsson (2004) expands this definition to encompass the relationship between language, criminal acts, and law. This includes law enforcement, legal disputes, legislation, and judicial processes, demonstrating the field's comprehensive scope. As Olsson (2008) emphasizes, forensic linguistics functions as “the interface between language, crime, and law”, addressing cases involving legal violations and necessitating legal remedies (p.3).

Fundamentally, forensic linguistics involves “the use of linguistic techniques to investigate crimes in which language data form part of the evidence, such as in the use of grammatical or lexical criteria to authenticate police statements” (Crystal, 2008, p. 194).

The field extends to various forensic and legal texts, including contracts, judgments, jury instructions, product warnings, trademarks, wills, and police interviews (PIs) (Coulthard & Johnson, 2010). These diverse forms of legal discourse highlight the essential role of forensic linguistics in ensuring accuracy, clarity, and justice in legal proceedings.

Forensic linguistics is a specialized subfield that examines professional and institutional interactions within legal contexts, serving as an applied discipline with significant practical implications for legal practice, judicial decision-making, and law enforcement procedures (Coulthard et al., 2017). It is broadly defined as “an area of applied linguistics in which techniques of linguistic analysis are applied to forensic situations and data” (Picornell et al., 2022, p. 1). By bridging the gap between language and law, forensic linguistics continues to make significant contributions to the pursuit of justice through systematic and rigorous linguistic analysis.

In this study, forensic linguistics is defined as the application of linguistic analysis to digital criminal texts, particularly those related to cyber blackmail, to identify linguistic patterns, communicative strategies, and support the legal investigation of online threats and blackmail cases.

2.1.1 Areas of Forensic Linguistics

As the field of forensic linguistics advances, the classification of its areas continues to expand. It generally relies on established classifications related to the structure and

function of language to organize both current and potential subject areas. However, in some cases, a more detailed categorization is needed (McMenamin,2002).

2.1.2.1 Forensic Phonetics

Olsson (2008, p.156) defines forensic phonetics as “the use of phonetic techniques primarily in the analysis of voice applied to criminal investigations”. In a broad sense, it involves naïf voice recognition, technical voice comparisons, and transcription of spoken language, including transcription of disputed utterances, speech signal enhancement, and the authentication of recordings. This field plays an important role in assisting legal investigation that focuses on analyzing spoken language, particularly speech sounds.

There are two major traditions for analyzing and comprising speech samples in phonetics: auditory and acoustic approaches. Auditory phonetics is the study of language sounds based on what is interpreted and heard by the listener. In contrast, acoustic phonetics is the study of the physical properties of speech sounds (McMenamin,2002). So, auditory techniques consist of “the forensic phonetician listening to the speech samples and producing a narrow phonetic transcription using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)” (Coulthard et al.,2017, p.138). Likewise, Coulthard and Johnson (2007) point out that forensic phoneticians are concerned with all aspects of speech as evidence. This ranges from the creation of accurate transcriptions of what was said, through deriving information about a speaker’s social and regional background, to expressing an opinion on whether the speaker in two or more separate tape recordings is the same. In addition, they help design and interpret voice line-ups, which allow victims and witnesses to express an opinion as to whether a suspect's voice is that of the criminal. An important ethic within Forensic Phonetics is that no means exists that can infallibly identify an unknown speaker in a legal case (such as a hoax or bomb threat caller to an emergency service).

Rather, like all branches of science, Forensic Phonetics examines a set of phenomena, in this case, aspects of recorded speech, and offers opinions based on the observations arising from the analysis. As a result, forensic phonetics can be defined as the study of speaker identification, the resolution of disputed content of recordings, the process

of setting up voice line-ups and ear line-ups, and other related topics. Forensic phonetics has a more established presence in the judicial system than forensic linguistics, and recent advances have assisted its progress in acoustic engineering. “Phoneticians can analyze the distinctive speech characteristics of a speaker relative to other candidate speakers in an inquiry much more easily than as little as twenty years ago” (Olsson,2008, p.11)

2.1.2.2 Forensic Stylistics

Unlike phonetics, forensic stylistics is “the application of the science of linguistic stylistics to forensic contexts” (McMenamin,2002, p.163). McMenamin (2002) explains that forensic stylistics focuses on the examination of written language, as well as spoken language that has been transcribed, such as interviews, depositions, and recorded conversations. The main application of this field is questioned authorship, where linguistic analysis is used to determine the writer of a controversial text. Additionally, forensic stylistics is frequently employed to analyze the meaning of legal and official documents, including wills, insurance policies, contracts, agreements, and laws, as well as the interpretation of spoken discourse in written form.

Forensic stylistics is “a method used to identify the author’s identification of text that includes the analysis of the writing style of a suspect and then comparing it to the text in question, word choice, sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation” (McMenamin,2002, p.42). This approach incorporates psycholinguistic principles and is applied in criminal and civil cases, as well as within law enforcement and legal institutions. The primary focus of forensic stylistics is identifying authorship in questioned documents and text message forensics.

2.1.2.3 Forensic Discourse Analysis

Forensic discourse analysis (FDA) is a subfield of forensic linguistics that analyzes the use of language in legal and criminal settings. Coulthard et al. (2017, p. 22) describe forensic discourse analysis (FDA) as “a branch of forensic linguistics chiefly concerned with dyadic interaction and conversations between two speakers (e.g., lawyers/witnesses;

police officer/suspect)". Additionally, forensic discourse focuses on the institutional role of language, analyzing its function at both the sentence and word levels.

Discourse analysis investigates the structure of written and spoken texts to determine a person's identity based on distinctive linguistic patterns. Forensic discourse analysts often collaborate closely with forensic stylistics experts. This process can be time-consuming, as it involves analyzing the text, drafting a written report, and presenting findings in court. Depending on the complexity and length of the text, this may take anywhere from a few days to several months (McMenamin, 2002).

Forensic discourse analysts examine written texts related to discourse, including anonymous blackmail letters, threats, hate mail, harassment letters, farewell notes, text messages, and blog posts.

2.1.2.4 Forensic Pragmatics

Pragmatics is an approach to "the study of a speaker's intended meaning in actual language" (McMenamin, 2002, p.74), and it primarily focuses on how individuals use language to perform actions within specific communicative contexts. This aspect of language analysis becomes especially important in criminal cases, where intention often plays a central role. Although it is not possible for linguistics or any other field to determine intention, pragmatics offers valuable insights by examining features such as indirectness, politeness strategies, and other pragmatic functions (Shuy, 2006).

The significance of pragmatics in forensic contexts lies in the fact that speakers and writers do not always express their intended meaning directly. Listeners and readers may also fail to interpret the intended message accurately, making the speaker's or writer's intention open to varying interpretations. Such disagreement can lead to miscommunication and conflict. It is essential to note that most of the work on pragmatics is done by philosophers of language, such as Wittgenstein (1953), Austin (1962), Searle, and Grice (1975). Forensic pragmatics is a subfield of forensic linguistics that focuses on the interface between language use and the legal system. It examines how meaning is constructed, interpreted in legal and criminal contexts, particularly through speech acts,

implicature, politeness and impoliteness strategies, and context-dependent interpretation. As Constable (2014) notes, forensic pragmatics is essential for law enforcement, as the success of legal procedures often relies on how effectively language is used and understood.

Coulthard et al. (2017) conclude that how lawyers and other legal professionals attempt to control witnesses and face resistance, how speakers convey meaning, the utilization of politeness and impoliteness, and how professional speakers engage and coerce common people in conversation are all influenced by pragmatic usage. “Pragmatic competence is an important component of professional discourse and therefore integral to forensic discourse and conversation analysis” (Coulthard et al.,2017, p.22).

Speech and written language analysis, the study of discourse in particular contexts (e.g., dictation, conversations, hearings, etc.), courtroom language (e.g., lawyers, clients, questioning, jury instructions), and speech acts (e.g., threats, promises, warnings, etc.) are the main areas of pragmatics and discourse analysis. (McMenamin,2002).

2.1.2.5 Forensic Sociolinguistics

According to Coulthard et al. (2017, p. 14), “sociolinguistics is concerned with language in society and studies how language varies according to its users and the uses to which it is put”.

Fishman (1976) explains that two key aspects must be examined when studying sociolinguistics concerning language and speech communities. First, descriptive sociolinguistics investigates patterns of language use by analyzing factors such as who is communicating, in which language or language variation, with whom, when, and for what purpose. This aids in understanding language usage in both small and large communities. Second, sociolinguistic dynamics explore the factors that influence variations in language use, examining why and how language differs across groups or individuals within a society.

One of the effective analytical concepts in forensic linguistics is sociolinguistics, which involves language indicators such as social dialect, age, gender, power, and region, also known as social variables. Even when a criminal attempts to conceal their identity,

they may still be identified through generational traits, grammatical usage, and communication styles in both spoken and written language. For example, complex sentence structures, advanced vocabulary, and markers of higher education can indicate a speaker's social status and educational background (Tolnainé Kabók, 2016). As Leemann et al. (2025, p.172) assert, “most forensic linguistic analysis draws on the principles of sociolinguistics, which looks at how society and culture influence the way we use language.” In line with this, “sociolinguists study the relationship between language and culture and explore how language is used in various contexts” (Beckman, 2007, p.13). making sociolinguistics a vital tool in forensic investigations.

Forensic linguists can identify the author or origin of an anonymous text because they are predicated on the notion that various social factors or variables, including age, education level, gender, location, and social status, greatly influence human linguistic performance. Sociolinguistic profiling becomes necessary when the police lack hypotheses regarding the author's identity. In such instances, a forensic linguist will look for linguistic variables to unravel the dispute's mystery out of what has been sent.

2.1.2.5.1 Social Variables

Gumperz (1992) explains that social variables function as indexical markers, influencing how meaning is interpreted and forming an integral part of social reality. In this study, gender is analyzed as the primary social variable.

2.1.2.5.1.1 Gender

Holmes (2013) asserts that gender is typically regarded as a fixed and unchangeable category, with individuals classified as either male or female. However, gender identity is better understood as a social construct rather than an inherent trait. This perspective highlights how men adapt to feminine contexts by incorporating both feminine and traditionally male characteristics, while women similarly navigate male-dominated environments.

William Labov's gender paradox theory suggests that women are more likely than men to use innovative vernacular forms that remain below public awareness. At the same

time, women are also more inclined to adopt prestige language forms from higher social levels, consciously or unconsciously, at a greater rate than men (Labov, 1990). This dual tendency illustrates the complex relationship between gender and language use, where women simultaneously embrace innovation and prestige in their linguistic behavior.

2.1.2.5.2 Gender and Language

According to Holmes (2008), sociolinguistics explores various aspects of language, including the relationship between language and gender. In every linguistic community, men and women use language differently, though the extent of these differences varies. In this context, "sex" refers to biological distinctions between males and females, whereas "gender" relates to the social and cultural roles, behaviors, and identities associated with being male or female.

Holmes uses the term gender rather than sex because sex is based on biological differences, whereas gender is “more appropriate for distinguishing people on the basis of their socio-culture behaviour, including speech” (Holmes,2013, p.159). In sociolinguistics, gender is a key concept in studying variations in speech between men and women, as it reflects societal expectations and norms. This distinction allows researchers to focus on how language is shaped by cultural influences rather than purely biological traits.

Many researchers have analyzed the linguistic differences between men and women, recognizing that the study of gender and language extends across multiple disciplines. This field is not limited to linguistics but also involves contributions from psychology, anthropology, sociology, theory, and philosophy (Weatherall, 2002).

2.1.3 Features of Forensic Linguistics

As stated by (Shuy,1993; Beckman,2007; Leemann et al.,2025), the main features of forensic linguistics can be summarized as follows:

1. Forensic linguistics is an interdisciplinary field, not a homogeneous one; it is an umbrella discipline composed of many facets
2. The texts of forensic linguistics are sensitive in nature.

3. In forensic linguistics, linguists make conclusions based on empirical data, which includes analyzing language samples
4. Forensic linguistics has three pillars that interact with and support each other; one cannot exist without the other (Casework, language awareness or training, and research).
5. Forensic linguistics solves many problems by analyzing evidence, whether spoken or written, in legal or investigative contexts.

2.2 Forensic Text Types

To go a little more deeply into forensic linguistics, it is useful to know its text types and how they play a crucial role in linguistic analysis within legal and criminal contexts. Olsson (2008) asserts that “any text or item of spoken language is potentially a forensic text” (p.1). Forensic texts cover a wide range of legal language texts. In other words, any written or spoken statements of a legal or criminal nature can be subject to examination, including acts, wills, judgments, writs, interrogation reports, the judge’s instructions, and police witness statements.

Due to the sensitive nature of these statements, they require careful and detailed analysis as they serve as crucial forensic texts. Forensic linguistics involves the analysis of various text types, with the most prominent being:

2.2.1 Emergency Calls

Every day, hundreds of thousands of emergency calls are made around the world. While many are genuine requests for assistance, some are false or deceptive. Emergency calls can be defined as calls that people make when they are in some kind of urgent situation (Olsson,2004). Olsson (2004) affirms that the most important feature of emergency calls is “urgency”. Thus, Smith (2022) explains that for an emergency call to be successful, the emergency recipient or operator must quickly gather all relevant information, primarily linguistic, during high-stress situations. The operator must then evaluate and analyze the situation efficiently, focusing on factors such as intonation, the level of cooperation

between the caller and recipient, and the caller's voice pitch. These elements play a crucial role in evaluating the urgency and seriousness of the situation.

According to Umiyati (2020), emergency calls are characterized by their urgency, and if the caller hesitates, is evasive, or provides responses that are too brief or incomplete, it may indicate that they are making a hoax or fake call. Such behavior can raise suspicions and may require additional scrutiny by emergency operators to assess the legitimacy of the call. However, genuine calls are often characterized by slightly overlapping and interlocking turns in conversation. In these cases, the caller tends to keep speaking rather than waiting for the recipient to finish their statement. Additionally, the caller may emphasize certain words they believe to be most informative, directing the recipient's focus to key details that are crucial for assessing the situation.

The first systematic examination of emergency calls was reported in Zimmerman's 1984 paper. Zimmerman (1984, as cited in Kevoe-Feldman 2019, p. 229) identifies five phases of emergency calls, which include:

1. Opening /identification
2. Complaint /Request
3. Interrogative Series
4. Response /Promise of assistance
5. Closing

The transcriptions of emergency calls can be seen as a forensic text or as a spoken forensic language; forensic linguists listen to both the caller's and the recipient's voice pitch during the analysis. A rising voice pitch may indicate that the caller is not interested in cooperating, while the recipient's tone could reflect skepticism or a need for further clarification. Additionally, pitch shifts, overlapping speech, and emphasis on certain words are features that distinguish a genuine emergency call from a fraudulent one. These linguistic cues help assess the authenticity of the call and provide insight into the dynamics between the caller and the recipient. (Olsson, 2008).

Olsson (2008) states that fake emergency calls can be identified by several key indicators, including the caller's failure to respond to the recipient's greeting, refusal to

provide information willingly, long pauses before answering, a rising voice pitch, and a lack of overlapping speech. Eventually, Olsson (2008, p.139) clarifies the model of emergency calls and outlines a possible sequence of events in the emergency call process as follows:

1. Emergency Centre response
2. Reason for calling/role of caller
3. Location of emergency
4. Nature of emergency

Moreover, (Tolnainé Kabók, 2016, p.197) observes that emergency calls “are not calm, thoughtful phone calls. They make forensic linguistic analysis difficult in that the signs of hesitation, incomplete or too short answers are typical both of those who are really in an emergency and those who want to deceive the authorities” This suggests that the emotional intensity and urgency of the call, along with potential hesitation, can make distinguishing between genuine and fake calls challenging from a forensic linguistics perspective but not impossible.

2.2.2 Ransom Demands and Threat Texts

Threat texts, whether spoken, written, or recorded on video, share a similarity with malicious emergency calls: the sender of the text or the person making the call is usually anonymous. In both cases, the recipient is at a disadvantage, as they are subjected to a form of harm or intimidation by an unseen perpetrator (Olsson,2008).

A threat is a fundamental element of a ransom demand, as it stands in direct contrast to a promise. To distinguish between genuine and deceptive threats, ransom demands are carefully analyzed. A well-known example of ransom demands analysis is the Lindbergh kidnapping case, where the first ransom letter, known as the Nursery Note, stated: "We warn you for making anyding public or for notify the polise the child is in gute care” (Olsson,2008, p.143).

Throughout history, many infamous ransom demands have been conveyed through written notes. Forensic linguists study these documents to determine the author's identity

and uncover their true intentions. Their analysis examines linguistic features such as sentence structure, stylistic patterns, punctuation, and spelling. In the Lindbergh case, forensic linguists compared the writing style of the ransom note with that of the suspect, significantly increasing the chances of identifying the author (Smith,2022).

2.2.3 Suicide Letters

Suicide letters are a significant type of forensic linguistic text, often analyzed in criminal and psychological investigations. According to Leenaars (1988, as cited in Grundlingh, 2020), suicide notes are “a special kind of personal document. They are unstructured and unsolicited communication by a person written just before death in which that person conveys last thoughts, feelings, and wishes”

On the other hand, Garner (1999, p.1447) defines suicide letters as “The act of taking one’s own life; self-destruction”. Suicide letters are written statements left by an individual intending to end their life, in which they convey their intentions either explicitly or implicitly through thematic elements. However, expressing the intent to end one’s life to a loved one is often challenging, leading to messages that may be unclear or indirect. Instead, the individual may express the reasons behind their decision or, in some cases, use the letter to evoke guilt or remorse in the addressee (Olsson,2004).

Olsson (2008) states that most genuine suicide letters are typically “short, usually less than 300 words in length, and the extraneous irrelevant information is often excluded from the text” (p. 149).

2.2.4 Final Death Row Statements

In forensic linguistics, final death row statements are commonly referred to as “final or last statements” (Olsson, 2004, p.164). These statements are a relatively recent addition to the types of forensic texts. Although they represent a very small linguistic corpus overall, they contain a surprising degree of variation. The long-standing American tradition allows the condemned individual to say a few words (a brief statement) immediately before execution, offering an opportunity for the prisoner to express themselves, whether it be remorse, defiance, or final thoughts. However, this tradition has not been adopted in the

English-speaking world, including in the UK, Australia, or other countries. An example of such a statement can be found in the last words of Basil McFarland, which reflect a specific linguistic style and emotional state in the final moments before execution.

“I owe no apologies for a crime I did not commit. Those who lied and fabricated evidence against me will have to answer for what they have done. I know in my heart what I did and I call upon the spirit of my ancestors and all of my people and I swear to them and now I am coming home” (Olsson,2008, p.151).

Texts like this do not represent a single 'genre' despite being produced under the same circumstances. They seem like different types of texts, including forms of denial, public condemnation, admission, appeals for forgiveness, etc. However, all these statements share the same features in common; they are not simple but rather complex reflections on society as viewed from the perspective of death row. the speakers of these statements share something important; they are all aware of their impending death, they know it is coming, they are not (apparently) resisting it, and they all express a desire to die with dignity or some form of virtue (Olsson,2004).

2.2.5 Confessions and Denials of Public Persons

Finally, another important type of forensic text is the confessions and denials of public figures; They are texts that have been written or spoken by public figures or members of the establishment who are confronting the accusations made against them. These individuals respond to their accusers, either in public or sometimes in private. Unlike final death statements, these confessions and denials present distinct linguistic features that are worth studying as part of a potential genre within forensic linguistics (Olsson, 2004). These texts often involve strategic use of language to manage public image, evade responsibility, or attempt to mitigate consequences.

These are the words of Nelson Mandela's statement during his treason trial. After that, Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island.

“During my lifetime, I have dedicated my life to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons will live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal for which I hope to live for and to see realized. But, my lord, if it needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die” (Olsson,2008, p.154).

Linguists analyze these texts to determine authorship, detect hidden meanings, identify coercion or manipulation, and assess the level of threat. The structure, vocabulary, grammar, and stylistic features of the text can provide crucial evidence in identifying suspects or clarifying intent. Forensic text analysis is a core area of forensic linguistics and plays a critical role in modern criminal cases, especially in digital contexts.

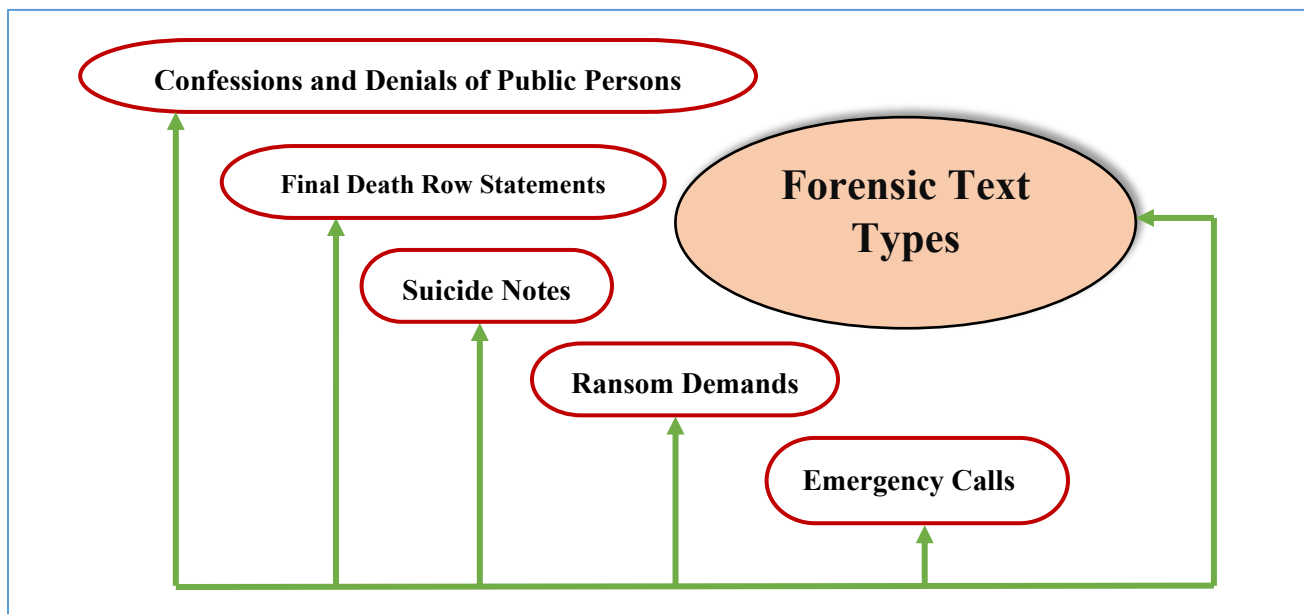


Figure 1. Types of Forensic Texts (Shuy,2004)

2.3 Cyber Crimes

Criminology is the study of crime, including its creation, development, causes, and prevention. Crimes can be committed in various ways, such as physical force, weapons like guns, sharp objects (knives or anything else), or even language. When crimes are

committed using language and take place online, they are referred to as cybercrimes (Casey, 2011).

In 1946, computers were developed at the University of Pennsylvania through the efforts of two researchers, Dr. John W. Mauchly and J. Presper Eckert. As computer usage expanded rapidly, crimes began to be committed using them. According to Julyk (2008, p. 37), the first case of computer misuse occurred in 1958, marking the beginning of computer-related activity crimes. Lukens (1998) states that the initial misuse of computers occurred in 1958. However, it was in the 1960s that computer crimes began to emerge as a recognized phenomenon. The first notable cybercrime took place in 1988 when a malicious virus, known as the Morris Worm, was spread across the internet. This event, which occurred on November 2, 1988, is considered one of the earliest cybercrimes and is documented in legal history as the Morris Worm event (Loundy, 2003, p. 56).

Wall (2015) asserts that a comprehensive understanding of the impact of information and communication technologies on society and their role in shaping the modern world requires a precise definition of cybercrime.

Halder and Jaishankar (2012) define it as:

“Offences that are committed against individuals or groups of individuals with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly, using modern telecommunication networks such as the Internet (Chat rooms, emails, notice boards, and groups) and mobile phones (SMS/MMS)” (p.15).

Cyber crimes can be classified into two main categories. The first includes traditional cybercrimes such as hacking, morphing, spoofing, tampering with computer resources, obscene publications, Trojan attacks, phishing, cyberstalking, and cyber pornography. The second category included emerging cyber offenses, such as cyber defamation, e-mail harassment, cyberbullying, cyber blackmail, cyber threats, and cyber assisted murder, reflecting the evolving nature of digital crime and its growing complexity in the modern technological landscape (Halder & Jaishankar, 2012).

In addition, cybercrime is commonly referred to as an “act of crime in cyberspace that utilizes computers, technology, and internet network as targets” (Male et al., 2021). It

encompasses any illegal access to data transmission and includes crimes that are traditionally committed offline but are facilitated or made easier through the use of computers. Internet crime, e-crime, computer crime, and high-tech crime are often used interchangeably to refer to cybercrime.

The anticipated information crime legislation categorizes cybercrimes into two distinct categories: offenses against the public interest of society, the state, and its institutions; and offenses directed against particular individuals and their rights interests. A significant proportion of these offenses are committed through the use of language, thereby categorizing them as language crimes. These crimes rely on linguistic manipulation, deception, coercion, or threats to achieve unlawful objectives. Given the integral role of language in facilitating such offenses, they are distinguished by their reliance on communication rather than physical force or technological exploitation alone. Consequently, new types of crimes that are called language crimes encompass a broad spectrum of cyber offenses, including cyber blackmail, cyber defamation, phishing, economic espionage, child pornography, online fraud, and cyber threats, all of which exploit language as a primary tool for criminal activity.

2.3.1 Solicitation

Solicitation is a language crime that involves requesting or convincing someone to commit a crime. According to Tiersma and Solan (2012), the government typically needs to demonstrate that the solicitor intended for the crime to be carried out. Under US law, solicitation occurs when an individual commands, influences, or attempts to persuade another person to commit a crime. Since language is central to defining solicitation, it can be expressed through various speech acts, including tempting, persuading, seducing, and, in some cases, threatening.

However, for an individual to be charged with solicitation, the offense must have been intended through either direct or indirect speech acts. A conspiracy occurs when the solicited person agrees to commit the crime, thereby leading to an additional criminal offense known as conspiracy (Hassan, 2020).

2.3.2 Conspiracy

Tiersma and Solan (2012, p. 344) define conspiracy as a crime involving “two or more people agreeing to commit a crime.” This agreement may emerge either when one party proposes the idea and the other accepts it or when both collaboratively develop the plan. Because mere agreement to commit a crime constitutes an offense, investigators often focus on the behavior of the individuals involved rather than on direct evidence of the agreement itself, which can be elusive particularly when the intended crime is never achieved. Similarly, Greenawalt (1989, p.80) describes conspiracy as a “separate crime, usually somewhat less serious than the substantive crime the participants have agreed to commit,” highlighting its distinct legal status even when the primary crime is not realized.

One linguistic marker that a jury can use to assess whether an agreement existed is the use of the plural pronoun “we”, which may indicate shared intent and support the notion that a conspiracy took place. (Solan & Tiersma, 2005).

2.3.3 Bribery

Juttener (2009) defines bribery as “the way to exploit a situation to one’s advantage” (p.14). Similarly, Shuy (1993, p.20) described it as a “white-collar” crime. Bribery is the act of accepting, promising, giving, or exploiting to receive money or another value with the corrupt intention of influencing a public official as they carry out their duties. It typically occurs when someone pays a public official to do something. Unlike threats used in extortion, bribers offer a reward instead of making a threat, often using indirect language, making bribery a complex criminal act.

In bribery cases, linguistic analysis plays a crucial role in examining language evidence. It focuses on “the structure and sequence of the bribery speech event, analyzing participants' schemas, agendas, speech acts, and conversational strategies” (Shuy, 2013, p. 269). These elements help identify key expressions, often considered the “smoking gun expressions” in legal proceedings, drawing the attention of both prosecutors and defense attorneys.

2.3.4 Perjury

Perjury is another type of language crime, defined as “lying under oath” (Tiersma and Solan 2012, p. 348). This crime occurs when a witness provides a false statement during a court investigation to the judge or lawyer. Sometimes, this leads to innocent individuals being imprisoned while the guilty remain free. Tiersma and Solan (2012) state that, under U.S. federal law, perjury crime involves “willfully and contrary to such oath [stating] or [subscribing] any material matter which [one] does not believe to be true” (p.348)

Indeed, Shuy (2011) asserts that a person has proven to commit perjury if he /she makes an oral statement that is false, under oath, and relates to a material matter. He knows it is false by making that statement before a judicial proceeding. In other words, it means those people who commit the crime of perjury rely on an assumption of a speech community that understands word meanings and how words combine to form sentences and larger units of discourse. So, in perjury cases, judges take a relatively literal meaning, while the other language crimes include an implied meaning.

2.3.5 Defamation

Shuy (2010, p.16) describes defamation as “a cover term for disputes about written language (libel) or spoken language (slander)”. It is a legal violation or crime that arises from the use of malicious language. It involves the intentional use of language to harm an individual's pride, dignity, and reputation through spoken statements (slander), written communication (libel), or even digital expressions (technospeak) in a public setting (Guillén Nieto, 2020). Garner (1999) further characterizes defamation as a deliberate false communication, whether written or spoken, aimed at harming a person's reputation. As a language-based crime, defamation relies heavily on linguistic evidence, making linguistic analysis a crucial tool for legal professionals in resolving related disputes (Shuy, 2010).

2.3.6 Fraud

Fraud is defined as "criminal deception; the using of false representations to obtain an unjust advantage or to injure the rights or interests of another" (Gibbons & Turell, 2008, p.252). It is a type of fraudulent language crime that encompasses "a wide variety of deceptive practices which, among other things, are categorized under terms like 'business fraud, corporate fraud, and others within the judicial system'" (Shuy, 2016, p. 3). This crime is characterized not only by physical actions such as taking unfair advantage, engaging in deceitful practices, and depriving someone of something valuable, but also by language that the law defines as "intentional deception," "false representation," and "perversion of truth" (Shuy, 2016, p. 11).

Thus, according to Garner (1999), various types of fraud include bank fraud, bankruptcy fraud, civil fraud, and criminal fraud. Each involves different forms of deceptive practices that manipulate or mislead others for personal or financial gain.

2.3.7 Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a linguistic crime that encompasses a wide range of offensive behaviors, which are legally recognized as threatening and problematic to individuals and society. Shuy (2012, p.18) identifies two types of sexual harassment:

- 1- Hostile work environment: This includes actions such as telling dirty jokes, posting pornographic materials, or using derogatory language (e.g., calling someone a bitch). These behaviors create an intimidating or demeaning atmosphere.
- 2- Quid pro quo: This type occurs when an individual requests sexual favors from an employee in exchange for a benefit, such as a salary increase or career promotion.

Both forms of sexual harassment involve harmful language and conduct that undermine professional integrity and create toxic environments, making them serious legal offenses.

2.3.8 Extortion

Extortion crime means asking for money by threatening to avoid the extortionist's harm. Juettner (2009) explains that “the extortion crime is related to blackmail and involves two types of threats physical like 'pay or I will break your kneecaps’ and virtual like “pay or your website will be down for the next twenty weeks” (p.13). In some cases, members of criminal groups like Gangs or the Mafia regard extortion as part of their business operations, often using threats to manipulate and control individuals in order to extract money.

Like blackmail, extortion is not a business deal; it is an illegal act in which the victim is forced to comply with the extortionist’s demands through threats or coercion (Juettner,2009). Although blackmail is often seen as a subset of extortion, this study considers it as a distinct language crime due to its reliance on linguistic threats and strategic language use. The increase in cyber blackmail emphasizes the need to address it separately. It is classified independently below, with more details in (*cf.* 2.4).

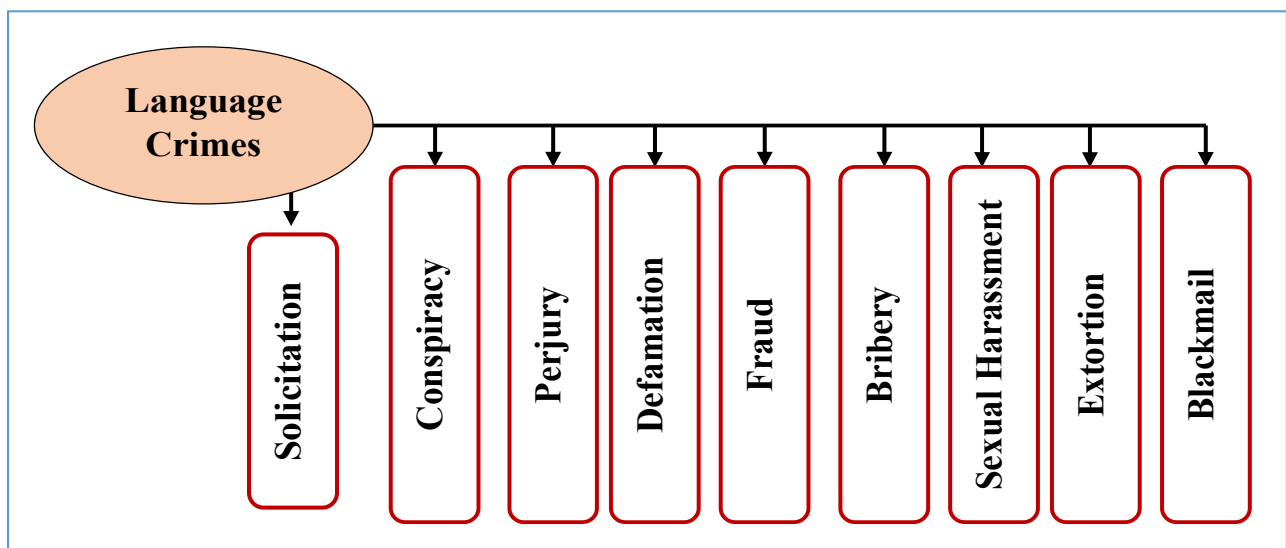


Figure 2. Language Crimes

2.4 Cyber Blackmail

In this part, cyber blackmail will be defined, as well as its type, phases, and the differences and similarities between blackmail and extortion.

2.4.1 Definition of Cyber Blackmail

One of the most significant challenges in contemporary computer security and crime detection is cyber blackmail. Although it is considered an old crime, it has been adapted to modern technology.

The concept of blackmail is difficult to define precisely, as various researchers and legal experts hold differing opinions about what constitutes blackmail in language and how blackmail crimes should be analyzed. Langford (2002, p. 273) defines blackmail as “the action of demanding something by using a threat to expose some secret knowledge which the victim wants to keep secret.” Similarly, Kareem (2021, p. 8270) adds that “blackmail is a form of cybercrime that is carried out using information networks, for different purposes such as theft and fraud.”

Blackmail is a criminal act in which someone demands money, services, or favors from another person under the threat of revealing damaging or embarrassing information about them. The threat can involve exposing secrets, personal information, or any other sensitive details the victim wants to keep private. It's a form of coercion and manipulation, exploiting the victim's fear to gain something of value. It's a serious offense because it violates the victim's rights and can cause significant emotional and financial harm.

2.4.2 Types of Cyber Blackmail

Blackmail is not limited to a single form; it can take many forms, depending on its purpose and the kind of information being compromised. However, the types of blackmail include:

2.4.2.1 Financial blackmail

According to Mekkawi (2022, p.62), financial blackmail refers to an “attempt to gain money through coercion to take advantage of a situation of weakness”. Hanoon and Hameed (2021) add that it is a form of blackmail in which someone (the blackmailer) demands financial benefits from another person by threatening to reveal compromising or damaging information about them. In financial blackmail, Abdul Kareem (2021) asserts

that the blackmailer's goal is money, which is requested from the victim in exchange for not revealing the victim's secret.

2.4.2.2 Sextortion blackmail

Sextortion blackmail is one of the dangerous types of cyber blackmail in which the blackmailer wants sexual favors from the victim in exchange for silence regarding the publication of his / her photos and sexual content. Mullin (2018, para. 1) claims that Webcam Blackmail, also known as Sextortion, is a form of cyber blackmail in which the blackmailer uses a “fake identity” to make friends with victims online via different social media to coerce them into performing an act in front of the camera. The blackmailer threatens to share the recording with the victim's friends and family if the payment demand is not met.

2.4.2.3 Beneficial blackmail

Unlike typical blackmail, where the perpetrator (blackmailer) seeks to exploit the victim for personal gain, beneficial blackmail might aim to achieve something morally or socially beneficial. Islami et al. (2021) explain that this type of cyber blackmail occurs among political figures when they are threatened to post sensitive or embarrassing information or private photos to defame any figure to make concessions to other parties, or blackmailers. That means the blackmailers attempt to coerce the victim to obtain some benefits.

2.4.2.4 Emotional blackmail

Forward and Frazier (2019) refer to emotional blackmail as a form of manipulation for someone to do something by making them feel fearful, obligated, and guilty (FOG). Emotional blackmail is a kind of control of the emotions of the victims, especially those people who have felt unworthy and isolated. They are always doubtful of their ideas, needs, and then the blackmailer starts to control their emotions, as “if you ever stop loving me, I will kill myself” to shape the threats that give them the payoff they want.

The classification of blackmail into various types, such as financial, sextortion, emotional, and beneficial blackmail, demonstrates the complex nature of cyber coercion. Each type carries unique linguistic markers and communicative strategies that reflect the offender's intent and the contextual dynamics of the interaction. Notably, recent years have witnessed the emergence of new forms of blackmail, shaped by evolving online behaviors and technological accessibility.

While the classification of blackmail sheds light on the diverse forms of cyber blackmail, it is equally important to explore the phases through which these acts unfold. Understanding the sequential progression of blackmail allows for deeper insight into how offenders initiate contact, build psychological pressure, and ultimately manipulate their victims.

2.4.3 Phases of Cyber Blackmail

Blackmail usually involves a number of intentional and planned phases rather than being a spontaneous crime. Understanding these phases is essential for identifying how the blackmailer manipulates the victim over time. Each phase serves a particular function in building pressure, creating fear, and ultimately gaining control. According to Hanoon and Hameed (2021), the main phases of cyber blackmail include:

- 1- Gathering information:** The blackmailer collects sensitive information about the victim, such as personal photos, videos, or private communications.
- 2- Demand:** A demand can be any form, not just a demand for money or property, to avoid being exposed. The victim tries to comply with the blackmailer's demands.
- 3- Resistance:** The victim hesitates or refuses the demand.
- 4- Menaces:** When the blackmailer finds continuous resistance from the victim, the blackmailer starts threatening the victim.
- 5- Compliance:** When the victim does not want to lose the relationship, tries to convince themselves that resisting was a mistake, and starts to bow and submit.
- 6- Repetition:** When the previously mentioned phases are repeated.

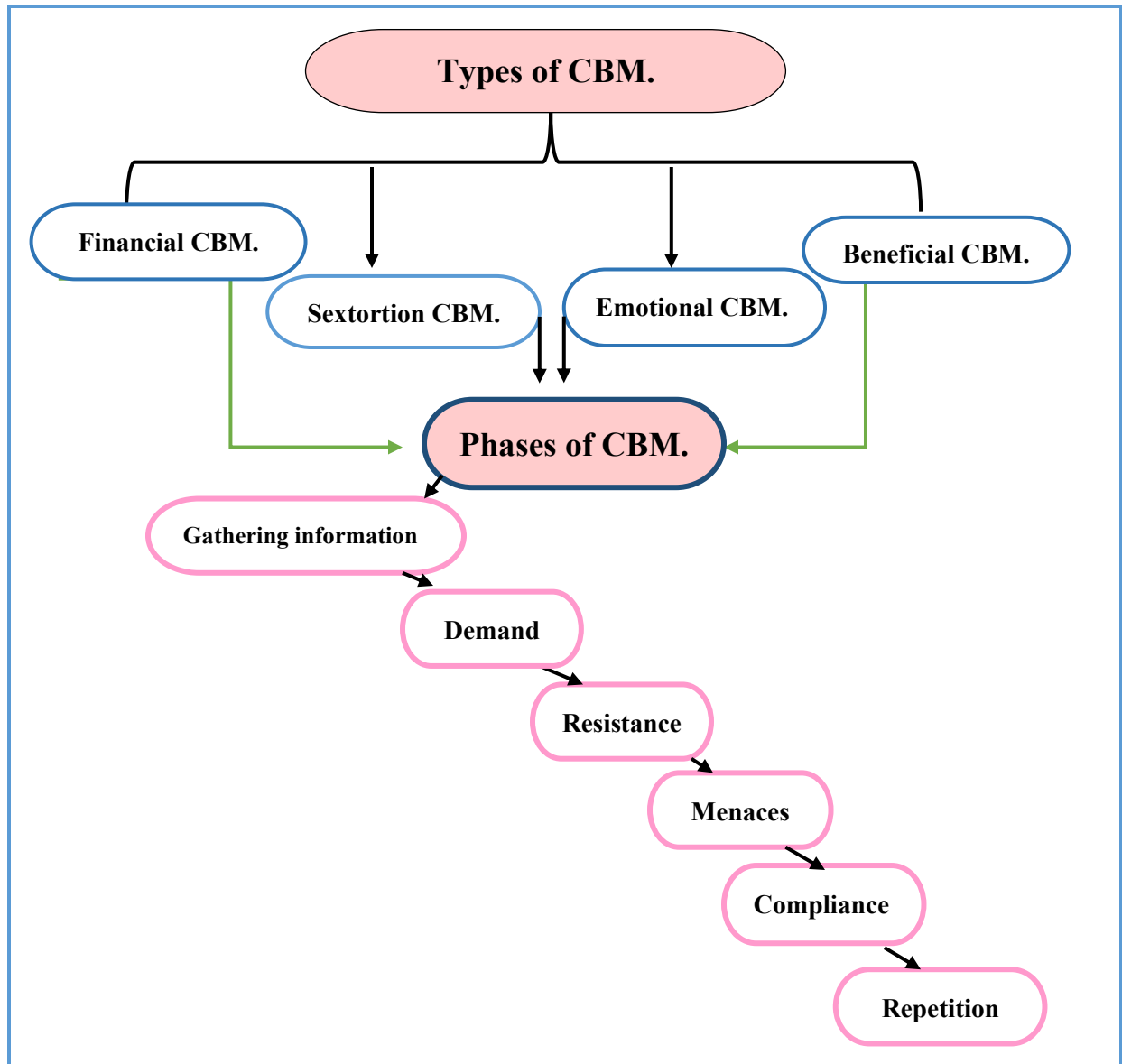


Figure 3. Types and Phases of Cyber Blackmail (Hanoon &Hameed,2021;
Mekkawi,2022)

2.4.4 The Differences and Similarities between Cyber Blackmail and Extortion

Blackmail and extortion are concepts related to criminal law in the US system, but they are different. Some states regulate them as blackmail, others as extortion, and some regulate both. The table below shows the differences and similarities between blackmail and extortion.

Table 1

The Differences and Similarities between Cyber Blackmail and Extortion (Juettner,2009)

Blackmail	Extortion
1-Blackmail is based on information	1- Extortion is based on force
2- Blackmail is always considered a crime	2- Extortion is always considered a crime, but it involves a threat.
3- Blackmail crime is related to bribery	3- Extortion crime is related to blackmail
4- In a blackmail case, the victim often does not want the embarrassment of being identified	4- In an extortion case, the victim may fear for their life or the lives of family members, or may fear being prosecuted for their crimes.
5- Blackmailers use threats to gain payment from their victims.	5- Extortionists use threats to gain payment from their victims.
6- The threat of blackmailers can be repeated	6- The threat of extortionists can be repeated
7- Blackmailers may have obtained the information legally or illegally.	7- Extortionists may have obtained the information legally or illegally.
8- Blackmail is often committed by criminals who are also committing much more serious crimes, and some of those crimes are violent	8-Extortion is often committed by criminals who are also committing much more serious crimes, and some of those crimes are violent.
9- Cases of blackmail involve the exchange of money for information, favor, protection, or silence	9- Extortion cases involve exchanging money for information, favor, protection, or silence
10- Investigators rely upon phone taps and other surveillance techniques to gather evidence when blackmail is suspected	10- Investigators rely upon phone taps and other surveillance techniques to gather evidence when extortion is suspected

2.5 The Concept of Cyber Blackmail in Iraq

Cyber blackmail is a new phenomenon in the Middle East, especially in Iraqi society. It has grown and invaded all the media and public opinion over the last years since the technology revolution. Like many other countries, Iraq has witnessed a significant growth in Internet use over the past decade. However, rapid digitalization has also given rise to new forms of criminal activity, including cyber blackmail. Cyber blackmailers often target individuals by obtaining compromising images, videos, or private information through hacking, social engineering, or deceitful tactics. The lack of a sufficient legal framework to tackle such crimes, combined with social and cultural issues, has made the situation even more complicated in Iraq.

The anonymity provided by the internet allows cybercriminals to hide their identities, making it difficult for law enforcement to track and arrest perpetrators. Victims of cyber blackmail in Iraq often experience emotional distress, fear, and a loss of privacy, and many hesitate to report such crimes due to fear of social stigmatization or legal consequences, especially in cases involving sensitive information related to personal relationships or sexual misconduct.

To extract money or other favors from their victims, cyber blackmailers in Iraq usually employ different ways. Some methods include:

- i. Social Media:** Blackmailers often use platforms like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Telegram to contact victims. They may initially establish friendly relationships with their victims and later threaten them to release compromising material unless their demands are met.
- ii. Hacking and Phishing:** Cybercriminals use hacking and phishing methods to access personal information, emails, or social media accounts. Once they obtain sensitive data, they may use it to blackmail the victim by threatening to release it publicly.
- iii. Fake Accounts:** Some blackmailers use fake accounts to manipulate photos or videos of their victims, making them appear to be involved in illegal or

embarrassing activities. These manipulated materials are then used to coerce the victim into meeting their demands.

According to Hussein et al. (2022), legal expert and jurist Tariq Harb asserts that cybercrimes, including blackmail and drug-related offenses, have significantly increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the period of social isolation, these crimes represented 35% of total criminal activities, highlighting their growing prevalence compared to other offenses. Thus, specialists argue that the spread of these crimes can be attributed to the ineffective enforcement of laws in Iraq, along with a decline in societal morals and values. Additionally, the lack of religious deterrence, coupled with widespread poverty and unemployment affecting many Iraqi families, has further contributed to the problem. Commenting on these statistics, Lieutenant Colonel Alaa Algazali, Director of the Community Police in Karbala, explained that the diversity of blackmail forms could partially explain the prevalence of such cases. Lieutenant Colonel Alaa Al-Gazali noted that blackmail extends beyond digital threats and includes familial blackmail, political blackmail, and what he referred to as “empty blackmail” cases in which the perpetrator possesses no actual evidence or material but relies solely on psychological intimidation and fabricated threats to manipulate the victim (personal communication, November 7, 2023).

While the crime of cyber blackmail had increased in previous years, Iraq witnessed a noticeable decrease in such crime in 2024. This was demonstrated by the efforts of the Community Police, which disseminated 28,500 printed brochures throughout all regions of Iraq. Moreover, 853 foot patrols were conducted to enhance public awareness, ostracize blackmail, and 252 workshops and lectures were organized aimed at various governmental institutions. Despite this decline, Brigadier Ali Ajami, Director of the Community Police at the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad, reported that 600 cases of blackmail were recorded, 80 cases involved male victims, while 520 involved female victims (A. Ajmi, personal communication, October 30, 2024).

Under Iraqi law, cybercrimes including blackmail and threats, are addressed in Articles 430, 431, and 432 of Penal Code No. 111 of 1969. The Penalties for these offenses vary depending on the severity of the crime, with imprisonment ranging from one to seven years. In other words, the Iraqi legislation dealt with the crime of threat in articles 430,431,432, whereas the first Article 430 of the Iraqi Penal Code stipulates that:

Any person who threatens another with the commission of a felony against his person or property or against the person or property of others or with the imputation to him of certain dishonorable matters or with the revelation of such matters and such threat is accompanied by a demand or charge to carry out or refrain from carrying out an act or is intended to be so accompanied is punishable by a term of imprisonment not exceeding 7 years or by detention. (2) The same penalty applies if the threat is communicated anonymously or is attributable to an existing or alleged secret group (National Legislative Bodies, 1969, p.80)

Article 431: Any person who threatens another with the commission of a felony against his person or property or against the person and property of others or with the imputation to him of certain dishonorable or disrespectful matters or with the revelation of such matters in circumstances other than those mentioned in Article 430 is punishable by detention (National Legislative Bodies, 1969, p.80).

Article 432: Any person who threatens another by word or action or in a written or spoken reference or through another person or in circumstances other than those mentioned in Articles 430 and 431 is punishable by a period of detention not exceeding 1 year or by a fine not exceeding 100 dinars (National Legislative Bodies, 1969, p.80)

Overall, the three aforementioned articles criminalize the act of blackmail, as explained earlier. This is because the key element of cyber blackmail is the act of threatening. Notably, each article begins with the phrase "any person who threatens...."

emphasizing the strong link between cyber blackmail and threats. This indicates that these two terms are closely interconnected.

2.6 Previous Studies

This section is devoted to presenting a number of previous studies that investigated cyber blackmail, which are listed chronologically

1. Arends (2017)

The study is entitled “*The Felicity Condition of Blackmail*”. It examines the theory of SA in conducting its theoretical analysis of blackmail to determine the felicity conditions of blackmail. The framework of analysis is based on Searle's SAs classification.

Since the media aims to provide representations of the world, scenes of blackmail from the movie “*The Ides of March*” are selected as the data for the study.

The findings reveal the following: (1) that blackmail is a higher-order speech act which consists of multiple lower-order speech acts that can be performed over multiple turns-at-talk. (2) Like most speech acts, blackmail also comes in the form of an adjacency pair. (3) The blackmail act opens up a ‘slot’ that can be filled by the addressee with either compliance or refusal to comply. (4) The perlocutionary force of speech acts should not be taken into account in the analysis of blackmail.

2. Al Asfer (2021)

The title of this study is “*The Pragmatics of Cyber Blackmail in Emails*”. The study explores the persuasive strategies of cyber blackmail. It aims to discover and explain how the blackmailers utilize specific types of strategies in pragmatic analysis. Additionally, the study focuses on analyzing cyber blackmail through the application of pragma-dialectical strategies.

The selected data are the utterances collected from emails. This study applies the theory of Speech Acts, including Searle’s (1979), Wunderlich’s (1979), and Yule’s (1996) classifications. The eclectic model also includes Brown and Levinson’s (1987) politeness theory, Culpeper’s (1996) impoliteness theory, and some persuasive strategies including

Manson's (2011) authority, scarcity, personalizing, Cukier et al. 's (2007) appeal to guilt, Jason's (1987) appeal to force, and Ross's (2009) politeness.

The findings expose that (1) blackmailers utilize persuasive strategies to convince and gain victims 'compliance. (2) Persuasive strategies are realized using various forms of speech acts with mainly two functions: threatening and requesting speech acts and employing (im)politeness strategies. (3) Some persuasive strategies are realized by more than one utterance, in which the payment request occurs in combination with other strategies. (4) Blackmailers employ politeness strategies more than impoliteness ones in introducing face-threatening acts.

3. Igaab (2021)

The study is entitled "*The Pragmatics of Blackmail in English and Iraqi-Arabic*". The aim is to show the similarities and differences in blackmail strategies between English and Arabic regarding pragmatic theories. The researcher adopts speech acts, implicature, and impoliteness theories for the analysis. The data are analyzed according to a different categorization of pragmatics: (1) speech acts, (2) implicature, and (3) impoliteness theory.

Twenty complaints in English and Arabic were collected from the Court of Appeal in Iraq, Britain, and the United States (US), selected as the data of the study.

The results reveal that English and Arabic are different in blackmail in terms of the locutionary and illocutionary acts concerning impoliteness. The same strategies are applied to verbal offence in both languages. While the implicature is concerned, the two languages are different in blackmail.

4. Najim and Jabir (2024)

This study is entitled "*Investigating Speech Acts Used in Criminal Cyber Sexual Extortion*". It aims to investigate the criminal speech acts that occur in the cases of sexual extortion as a growing cybercrime that has recently increased on social media platforms. From the viewpoint of the symbolic meaning and the implications of language conversation. Discourse analysis is employed to analyze the selected data relying on conversational implicature.

The data are collected from the criminal court of Babylon, which is particularly concerned with different stories of cyber sextortion.

The findings show that (a) the extortionists use threatening, ordering, and false promises to achieve certain expected behaviors of grooming and manipulating the victims, and (b) the victims use pleading, claiming, requesting, and promising.

5. Najem and Abbas (2025)

This study is entitled “*A Pragmatic Analysis of Emotional Blackmail in the American Movie No One Would Tell (2018)*”. It aims to identify the pragmatic techniques of emotional blackmail used by victims and blackmailers. The framework of analysis is based on Forward and Frazier’s (1997) kinds of emotional blackmail, Searl’s (1979) speech acts, Brown and Levinson’s (1987) politeness, Grice’s (1975) cooperative principles, Culpeper’s (1996) impoliteness, and Mayfield’s (2007) taxonomy of fallacy.

Three extracts from “No One Would Tell” are selected as the data of the study in order to understand how characters emotionally blackmail others and explore pragmatic manifestations of emotional blackmail.

The findings demonstrate that (a) punisher blackmailers tend to be impolite use directive speech acts and rely on fallacy strategies to justify their position in their arguments, (b) the victims’ speech reflects a high degree of politeness strategies to avoid confrontations with blackmailers, (c) the victims tend to use representative speech acts more commonly without employing impoliteness strategies.

2.6.1 The Current Study

After discussing the aforementioned previous studies, it is necessary to pinpoint the differences between the current study and the previously mentioned ones.

First, most previous studies have approached the concept of blackmail from either a CA or a pragmatic perspective. The present study, in contrast, investigates the concept of blackmail from a forensic and social perspective to reveal how blackmail manifests in the

data under scrutiny. Additionally, the current study investigates the conversational strategies of blackmailers, males, and females.

Second, a new approach is used to analyze cyber blackmail cases. While some strategies, such as hedges, taboo languages, and impoliteness strategies, have been studied in previous studies, other strategies, such as compliments, minimal responses, have not. The model is divided into three parts: types of cyber blackmail concerning gender differences, conversational strategies encompassing sixteen strategies are included in the former (seven related to sociolinguistics and nine to forensic linguistics and pragmatic strategies that help impoliteness strategies manifest. As a result, the model is expected to differ from those used in previous studies

Although focusing on the concept of cyber blackmail, some of the aforementioned studies emphasize the aspects of various strategies, such as politeness, implicature, and speech acts. Furthermore, the selected cyber blackmail cases are distinct from one another; the current study limits the cyber blackmail cases to twenty-three, including both male and female blackmailers.

To conclude, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, none of the previous studies shed light on the comparison between the language of blackmailers, males and females, and the concept of cyber blackmail in terms of FL has not so far been studied, which is the focus of the present study.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Preliminary Remarks

This chapter introduces the research methodology adopted in this study. It discusses the research design, data collection and selection, the sample size and saturation, and the context of the situation. Then, the components of the model are identified and explained. Finally, the workability of the model operated in the present study is assessed.

3.1 Research Design

The most common types of research methods used by researchers are qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. The current study utilizes a mixed approach, including qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative research is the study of “concepts which help us to understand social phenomena in natural (rather than experimental) settings, giving due emphasis to the meaning, experiences, and views of the participants” (Pope & Mays, 1995, p.43). The most significant aspect of qualitative research is that it is "situationally constrained," meaning that the social context is crucial in determining the meaning of the social actions (Neuman, 2014, p.17). On the other hand, quantitative research is described as the application of statistical methods that are based on numerical observation of specific aspects of phenomena; It “seeks measurements and analysis that are easily replicable by other researchers” (King et al., 1994, p.3). It involves gathering information that can be measured and statistically treated to validate or refute alternative knowledge statements. (Williams, 2007).

Qualitative and quantitative methods complete and reinforce one another, producing research that can be described as “richer and more comprehensive” (Neuman, 2014, p.167). To enhance the validity of the study and recognize the issue from a more extensive perspective, a mixed method of such type may help the researcher dig deeply into analyzing the data. (Creswell, 2009).

The qualitative part of this study is represented by forensic linguistics examining the concept of cyber blackmail cases on social media in Iraq. Meanwhile, the quantitative

part involves utilizing the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS) as a statistical tool to enhance the study's findings, support the researcher's interpretation, and avoid bias or subjectivity.

3.2 Data Collection

This section discusses the procedures of data collection and the criteria by which the data is selected.

3.2.1 Procedures of Data Collection

In the present study, the data were collected by analyzing real cyber blackmail cases obtained from various institutions, including police reports and court documents. A total of 23 cases were selected, involving 12 male and 11 female Iraqi offenders. The cases were chosen based on their relevance to financial, sexual, and beneficial blackmail. The researcher ensured the confidentiality of the victims and offenders by anonymizing all personal information. All of the cases collected and analyzed in this study occurred in 2024. Each case was carefully examined to identify the threatening strategies used, and the findings were systematically recorded for further analysis. Accordingly, this selection is justified by the use of specific criteria.

3.2.2 Criteria of Data Selection

In this study, the data are purposefully chosen. Maxwell (2008) defined purposeful sampling as a type of sampling in which “particular setting, persons, or events are deliberately selected for the important information they can provide that cannot be gotten as well from other choices” (p.235). Therefore, the following criteria can be used to support the choice of data:

- 1- All texts are forensic texts that deal with cyber criminals accused of blackmailing, rather than other types of crimes such as defamation, insult, fraud offenses, and bribery.
- 2- The data include conversations between victims and blackmailers who have already been convicted, ensuring that the study focuses on real cases of criminal activity.

- 3- The data are directly connected to the criminal activity of cyber blackmailers and include written conversations through social media and other forms of digital communication.
- 4- The data include three types of cyber blackmail: Financial, Sextortion, and beneficial blackmail involving male and female blackmailers; other types were excluded.
- 5- One of the main criteria is to investigate gender differences in the use of conversational and impoliteness strategies, which reflect a wide range of scenarios and provide valuable insights into the common and unique aspects of cyber blackmail
- 6- Since the current study involves blackmail that took place in Iraq, the selected cases are in Iraqi dialect but translated into English, ensuring that they meet the researcher's language and cultural requirements.
- 7- All selected cyber blackmail cases are recent, based on the statistics from the Ministry of Interior Directorate of Relations and Media in Baghdad, ensuring the relevance and timeliness of the data.

3.3 Sample Size and Saturation

In all qualitative research, data saturation is regarded a crucial factor in choosing the sample size (Morse, 2015). Hennink and Kaiser (2022, p.2) define saturation as a phase during data collection “when no additional issues or insights are identified and data begin to repeat so that further data collection is redundant, signifying that an adequate sample is reached”. Saturation focuses on the emergence of new information from the data, with no redundancy of information, and it is one of the important aspects of the qualitative part of the current study, which is based on the following factors:

A. The Smaller the Better

One of the most controversial matters in qualitative research is sample size. Sebele-Mpofu (2021, p.1) maintains that a smaller sample size is considered a “contended ingredient in the research”. Vasileiou et al. (2018, p.2) affirm that “samples in qualitative research tend to be small in order to support the depth of case-oriented analysis that is fundamental to this mode of inquiry” Similarly, Mason (2010, p. 1) believes that a big sample size “can be time-consuming and often simply impractical” So, a smaller sample

size is better to analyze. Because qualitative research is based on meaning rather than making a broad statement, Mason (2010) goes on by saying that one occurrence of a code or a piece of data is “as useful as many in understanding the process behind a topic”. (p.1)

Consequently, no need to add more data if the same information appears. Therefore, only twenty-three cases of cyber blackmail have been chosen to take advantage of the smaller sample size. A smaller sample size allows for a more focused analysis of linguistic features, such as the use of threats, coercion, and manipulation from the blackmailer, whether male or female, and can lead to more precise findings.

3.4 Context of Situation

To identify the contextual factors of the data under consideration, the researcher uses Hymes’ (1974) SPEAKING model because it provides a comprehensive explanation of context. Hymes’ model included sixteen components. Then, he presents the term ‘SPEAKING’ as an acronym in which each letter represents a constituent or a factor that influences the particular speech occurrence and leads the communication process. These elements are described in brief as follows:

1. Setting and Scene

Setting refers to “the time and place” of a speech i.e., its physical circumstances, where the conversation takes place, while scene “refers to the psychological setting” or “cultural definition” of the occasion (Hymes, 1974, p. 55).

2. Participants

Participants include the sender, the address, and the audience (Hymes, 1974).

3. Ends

Ends involve goals, purposes, and outcomes of communication.

4. Act Sequence

It refers to the form and the content of the speaker’s message (p. 54).

5. Key

A speech event's key indicates "the tone, manner, or spirit in which an act is done," i.e., mock, joyful, and serious. (p. 57).

6. Instrumentalities

Instrumentalities refer to the medium of speech transmission or means used in communication, whether written or spoken (p. 58).

7. Norms

Norms refer to the rules governing speaking, representing the criteria of society and culture in a specific community.

8. Genre

The term genre refers to “the categories [of correspondence] such as letter, poem, myth, tale, proverb, riddle, curse, prayers, lecture ...etc.”

3.5 Components of the Model

The model used to analyse the data of the study is an eclectic one. This model was designed to highlight the linguistic differences between male and female blackmailers, particularly strategies such as the use of taboo language and threatening strategies. It aims to determine whether male and female perpetrators employ similar or distinct linguistic strategies to achieve their blackmailing objectives. Because the strategies of cyber criminals are various, careful investigation is needed to select the strategies that fulfill the aim of the current study. The analytical model comprises three components. The first component includes the classification of cyber blackmail into three main types. Subsequently, it focuses on examining one key social variable: “gender” to explore whether the cybercriminal is male or female and how this influences their linguistic behavior. The second component draws on several theoretical frameworks: Coates' (2013) theory of gender and conversational strategies; Andersson's and Trudgill's (1990) classification of swearing words from a sociolinguistics perspective; and Shuy's (2005) approach to conversational strategies within forensic linguistics. The third component includes pragmatic strategies, adopting Culpeper's (1996) model of impoliteness.

Therefore, the eclectic model relies on a variety of linguistic techniques and components. Figure (10) shows in detail the items used to analyze the data of cyber blackmail cases.

3.5.1 Cyber Blackmail

Cyber blackmail is the act of threatening to share personal information about someone with the public, such as their friends or family, to acquire or grab property or other things (Al Habsi et al., 2021). There are different types of cyber blackmail, and this section explicates them.

3.5.1.1 Types of Cyber Blackmail

Three types of cyber blackmail are adopted by the current study: financial, sextortion and beneficial blackmail Mekkawi (2022, pp. 62–76). They are the most commonly encountered in judicial contexts and are particularly relevant to the objectives of this research. Each category is analyzed concerning the specific forms and strategies of cyber blackmail employed within it. (*cf.* 2.4.2).

3.5.2 Gender

Gender is not an innate quality or a fixed attribute; rather, it is a social construct performed through behavior, including language use. It plays a crucial role in shaping how individuals express themselves in interactions. Research has shown that men and women often communicate differently, a phenomenon frequently attributed to culturally embedded gender norms and expectations within their speech communities. In this context, the present study aims to investigate the linguistic differences between male and female blackmailers, with a specific focus on the strategies they employ to manipulate and exert control over their victims. (*cf.* 2.1.2.5.1.1).

3.5.3 Cyber Blackmail Strategies

Blackmailers employ a variety of coercive strategies to achieve their intended objectives. These strategies have been investigated by several scholars, including Coates (2013) from a sociolinguistic perspective and Shuy (2005) within the framework of forensic linguistics. Both highlight the linguistic and psychological techniques used in manipulative and coercive discourse. This section examines the strategies used by

blackmailers, along with the corresponding responses of their victims, offering a comparative analysis of the communicative dynamics between both parties.

3.5.3.1 Conversational Strategies of Coates (2013)

Conversational strategies refer to the linguistic techniques employed by participants during interactions to exchange information, express emotions, and convey ideas. Such interactions typically involve at least two speakers, who may be of the same gender or different genders. These strategies play a crucial role in shaping the structure and flow of conversation, as well as reflecting underlying social dynamics. (Coates, 2013).

Numerous researchers have argued that men and women differ in their use of conversational strategies. Coates (2013), for instance, identifies seven distinct strategies employed in conversation and discusses the ways in which their usage varies according to gender. The following section provides a brief overview of each strategy as outlined by Coates.

1. Minimal Responses

Minimal responses, referred to as “backchannels”, they are brief utterances such as “mhm,” “yeah,” “right,” and “I agree” According to Coates (2013, p. 87), this strategy is considered a “women’s specialty,” as it is frequently used by female speakers to support their interlocutors, and express agreement or encouragement during conversation. for instance:

(1) *Mary*: “If you use your long-distance service a lot then you’ll”.

Caller: “Uh-uh”. (Yule, 1996, p. 75).

(2) *Victim*: *rāḥ ḥba ḥldaḥāb waḥyḥ fulūs. baḥḥir wāllha yamk* means “I’ll sell the gold and give you money. Tomorrow, I swear you’ll have it”

Blackmailer: *ay māf, xwḥ ḥyḥ* means “Yeah, alright”

2. Directive / Commands

According to Coates (2013), directive strategies involve the use of speech acts intended to prompt the addressee to perform an action, often marked by expressions such as “let’s,” “gonna,” “can,” and “could,” among others. Previous studies have shown that this strategy is more frequently employed by male speakers, who tend to use more forceful

or aggressive forms of directives. In contrast, female speakers are generally observed to use less direct and more mitigated directives. This gendered difference in directive usage reflects broader patterns in linguistic behavior. Consider the following example:

(3) *“Lie down”* (Coates,2013, p.96)

(4) **Blackmailer:** *fīḥy kamyra āw t ‘ay linafs ǎmakān means “Turn your camera on or come to that spot”*

3. Swearing and Taboo Languages

Swearing words and taboo language can function as a strategy for expressing anger, deep frustration, or intense emotions and may or may not be directed at a specific individual. According to folk linguistic beliefs, men tend to swear more frequently than women. Moreover, as Coates (2013) notes, the swearing words typically used by women are often less offensive in comparison to those used by men. For instance, women may choose euphemistic expressions such as “goodness” or “gosh” rather than more explicit or profane terms.

Swearing, obscenity, profanity, blasphemy, name-calling, verbal insults, taboo expressions, ethnic and racial slurs, vulgarity, slang, and scatological references are all considered forms of taboo language. Trudgill (2000) explains that the term "taboo" refers to expressions that are socially or culturally forbidden, often governed by irrational or emotional prohibitions. While swearing is commonly associated with expressions of strong emotion, it also functions as a powerful social expression intended to provoke, offend, or draw immediate attention. In many cases, swear words carry a similar intensity to cursing, with the speaker deliberately aiming for it to be noticed or reacted to immediately.

Swearing words appear in various forms and are frequently employed in spoken and written communication to serve different pragmatic functions. According to Anderson and Trudgill (1990), swearing words can be classified into four main categories: expletive, abusive, humorous, and auxiliary. For the present study, three of these types are adopted (expletive, abusive, and humorous) as they are most relevant to the analysis of language used in cyber blackmail interactions.

i. Expletive swearing words (ESW)

Expletive swearing consists of expressions used to convey strong personal emotions such as happiness, sadness, anger, frustration, or shock. Unlike abusive swearing, expletives are not directed at a specific individual and are typically uttered without the intention to insult or harm. Instead, they serve as emotional outlets or reactions to events. However, such expressions often including terms considered obscene or profane, such as “hell,” “shit,” “fuck,” and “goddamn” are commonly labeled as “bad words” due to their taboo nature. For example:

- (5) *Harley Quinn*: “Down here. Follow me”
Montoya: **“Holy shit!”** (Syahla&Hartati,2023, p.109)
 (6) *Victim*: *layf heich tsawy Allah yaxðak* means_ “why you are doing that, **May Allah take you**”

ii. Abusive swearing words (ABSW)

Abusive swearing refers to insulting language, including name-calling and curse expressions, intended to attack or degrade the addressee directly. Unlike expletive swearing, which may serve expressive or emotional functions, abusive swearing is explicitly derogatory and often used to cause psychological harm or assert dominance in verbal confrontations, as in:

- (7) **“You asshole!”** (Jatmiko,2018, p.268).
 (8) **Blackmail**: *?nta xalasitha byoot dara flatxaf tqdar* means “you’ve already wasted yourself in **brothels**, so don’t stress, you can handle it”

iii. Humorous swearing words (HSW)

Humorous swearing represents a subcategory of swear words that, while containing abusive or offensive language, serves a non-threatening function rather than intending to insult. These expressions are often used to create a playful or humorous atmosphere, particularly among close friends. For instance:

- (9) *Marshall*: “Will you marry me?”
Lily: Of course, you **idiot!** “[Lily feels happy to be his fiancée, and there was no way she would refuse Marshall] (Sarnika,2018, p.89).
 (10) *Victim*: *fbik chanak xibil* means “You look **insane!**”

In cases involving threats, harassment, hate speech, or blackmail, understanding the type of swearing used can help interpret the offense's severity and nature. so that forensic linguists can better analyze the context in which the words were used and determine the intent behind the use of swear words. For example, distinguishing between expletive swearing (expressing frustration) and abusive swearing (intending to harm) can be crucial in legal contexts. This can aid in understanding the social dynamics and relationships between blackmailers and their victims involved in a case.

4. Compliments

A compliment is a communicative act used to express appreciation, admiration, or positive evaluation, either directly or indirectly. Such as expressions “I like your...,” “that’s good,” or “nice!” While compliments are generally associated with positive politeness, serving to enhance social harmony, they may also function as face-threatening acts in certain contexts. This occurs when a compliment implies envy, desire, or competition, potentially threatening the addressee’s privacy (Coates,2013).

Compliments may become problematic when they occur in cross-sex interactions, particularly in professional settings. As Coates (2013, p. 100) notes, such compliments can be interpreted as inappropriate or intrusive and, in some cases, may constitute sexual harassment “Cross sex”. For instance, a man offering a personal compliment to a female colleague in the workplace may cross boundaries of professional conduct, as illustrated in the following example:

(11) **Man:** *“You look so sexy today; Faye I must remember to have a cuddle with you later”* (Coates, 2013, p. 100).

(12) **Blackmailer:** *fufi habybty tadryn ?nti galiya alay means “Listen pet, you know You're special to me, but what can I do?”*

5. Questions

According to Coates (2013, p.93), questions are “part of the conversational sequencing device known as the Question + Answer” As a conversational strategy, questions are used to engage interlocutors and prompt responses. There are two types of

questions: yes/no questions, which elicit short, direct answers, and Wh-questions, which demand longer, more descriptive responses. Both types serve essential roles in supporting dialogue and facilitating the exchange of information. In building interaction, women often use questions as a strategy to invite participation, introduce new topics, hedge statements, check the perspectives of other participants, and initiate storytelling. (Muthia et al.,2021). For instance,

(13) *Meg: What does it say?*

Petey: Nothing much (Coates,2013, p.93).

(14) *Blackmailer: wayn nīltīqī? means “Where we meeting up?”*

6. Tag Questions

According to Lakoff (1975), tag questions are a type of conversational strategy that reflect tentativeness and serve to reduce the force of an assertion. Tag questions typically consist of an auxiliary verb (operator) and a pronoun, with or without a negative particle, for example, “isn’t she?” or “did she?” (Coates, 2013) argues that women tend to use tag questions more frequently than men. However, this claim lacks empirical support. as in the following example:

(15) *“He doesn’t like his job, does he?”* (Quirk et al., 1985, p. 811)

(16) *“Wilek treed tkhalif amri, Mu?”* means *“Hey! You wanna disobey me, isn’t (that right)?”* (Albanon,2017, p.111).

7. Hedges

Hedges are linguistic forms that convey vagueness or imprecision in communication. Lakoff (1973, p. 471) defines them as “words whose meaning implicitly involves fuzziness, words whose job is to make things fuzzier or less fuzzy,” including expressions such as “I think,” “I believe,” “you know,” “sort of,” “like,” “maybe,” and “perhaps.” Hyland (1998, p. 1) further explains that hedges are “any linguistic means used to indicate either a lack of a complete commitment to the truth of a proposition or a desire not to express that commitment categorically.” Additionally, Gunnarsson (2009) suggests that hedges may function as euphemisms, used either to deceive the listener or to convey a message indirectly, thereby creating a degree of distraction or ambiguity in discourse.

Particularly within legal contexts, some scholars have associated the use of hedges with deceptive language. Sporer (2004, p. 92) asserts that hedges occur “more frequently in deceptive statements,” and therefore, may be regarded as potential indicators of dishonesty or “lie criteria.” In their analysis of forensic texts, Bachenko et al. (2008) identify hedging as a subset of linguistic markers linked to deception and insincerity. They argue that expressions such as “maybe” and “to the best of my knowledge” function as rhetorical strategies to obscure commitment to factual accuracy, thereby avoiding direct or definitive statements (pp. 43–44).

7.1 Taxonomy of Hedges

According to Salager-Meyer (1997, pp.131-133), the most common set of linguistic devices of hedging in English includes:

1. Modal auxiliary verbs

Verbs denoted possibly, permission, or necessity to express a sense of tentativeness or conditional actions. verbs like “may, might, can, could, would.... etc. (p.130)

(17) “*Such a measure might be more sensitive to changes in health after specialist treatment*”.

(18) **Blackmailer:** *ymkin ynhoon hayatich* means “They **might** end your life”

2. Modal lexical verbs

They are called “Speech acts verbs” and are used to perform doubting, evaluating, and criticizing rather than describing as seem, think, agree, propose, believe, assume, etc.

For instance:

(19) *Without specific training, medical students’ communication skills **seem** to decline during medical training*” (p.132).

(20) **Blackmailer:** *?tiqid tarufin maslahtich zain* means “*Recon you know what’s good for your proper*”

3. Adjectival, adverbial, and nominal modal phrases

Phrases use adjectives, nouns, or adverbs to qualify statements. These include:

a. Adjectives like possible, probable, un/likely

(21) “*Septicemia is **likely** to result, which might threaten his life*”

(22) *ʔl zahir kalami maijabich means “Guess you didn’t like a fan of what I said”.*

b. Nouns as an assumption, claim, possibility, estimate, and suggestion

(23) *“**Possibly** the setting of the neural mechanisms responsible for this sensation is altered in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome”*

(24) *ʔlsaraha ʔnti qabiya means “Frankly speaking, you’re dumb”*

c. Adverbs are like perhaps, possibly, probably, practically, likely, presumably, virtually, and apparently. It could be non-verbal modals. For example:

(25) *“This is **probably** due to the fact that Greenland Eskimos consume diets with a high content of fish”*

(26) *Umuman kul am wa ʔnta bixyr umr ʔltawil watahqiʔ ʔlamani means “**Anyway**, holidays, long life and may all wishes come true”.*

4. Approximators of degree, frequency, quantity, and time

Words or phrases refer to approximation in terms of degree, like approximately, roughly, about, often, occasionally, generally, usually, somewhat, somehow, and a lot of, for instance,

(27) *“Persistent subjective fatigue **generally** occurs in relative isolation” (p.133)*

(28) *Ma ʔtlub hway flus minch taqriban sabat ʔwraq,xw fwaya “Ain’t asking for much, just 700 dollars, it’s nothing right?”*

5. Introductory phrases

Phrases convey the author's perspective, uncertainty, and personal engagement, for instance, expressions like I believe, to our knowledge, it is our view that, and we feel that...

(29) ***We believe that** the chronic fatigue syndrome reflects a complex interaction of several factors”*

(30) ***Blackmailer: hasab çlmi** tdrin ʔndalkum bait bait” means “**I know how** to track you lot down house by house”*

6. If clauses

They are conditional clauses that introduce hypothetical situations or conditions such as if true or if anything...etc.

(31) *“**If true**, then, our study contradicts the myth that fishing attracts the bravest and strongest men”*

(32) *ʔiða çala ʔariqi yaret twaslani means “If you are on my way, I wish you can give me a lift” (Al-Ahmad & Al-Rssam,2021)*

7. Compound hedges

Some phrases are present from the combination of multiple hedges. The compound hedges include two types of alternative questions:

- i. A modal auxiliary combined with a lexical verb with hedging content (e.g., it would appear).
- ii. The lexical verb combined with an adverb or adjective where the adverb (or adjective) reinforces the hedge already inherent in the lexical verb (e.g., it seems reasonable/probable). Compound hedges can be:
 1. **Double hedges**, e.g., it may suggest that; it seems likely that; it would indicate that; this probably indicates
 2. **Treble hedges**, e.g., it seems reasonable to assume that.
 3. **Quadruple hedges**, e.g., it would seem somewhat unlikely that, it may appear somewhat speculative that...etc.

3.5.3.2 Conversational Strategies of Shuy (2005)

Blackmailers employ different strategies to achieve their objectives, which are categorized as conversational strategies. According to Shuy (2005), these strategies represent the deliberate or subconscious methods used to manipulate and control the flow of conversation to reach a specific goal within the criminal's mind. Shuy (2005) assumes that such strategies often involve "planning and negotiating the discourse structure during extended segments of conversation" (p. 34), thereby shaping the interaction to achieve a desired outcome.

1. Using Ambiguity

It is a purposeful strategy that blackmailers often try to be ambiguous or vague to keep their victims from knowing exactly what they mean. Even though most blackmailers are clear, this strategy helps them create the appearance of crime in conversation.

(33) *S1: "Clean it up!!"*

S2: "Yeah, they want you to clean it up or whatever" (Shuy,2005, p.36)

(34) *Blackmailer: illa prawyikum nijoom ?lzihr means "I'll make your day as dark as night"*

2. Blocking the target's (victim's) words

Blocking the target's words is one of the strategies that can be accomplished in at least four ways: creating static on the tape, interrupting or overlapping, speaking on the target's behalf, or manipulating the on /off switch. Two types of conversational blocking related to the data:

a- Interrupting or overlapping the target's words

Both the blackmailers and victims interrupt or overlap with each other for different reasons, including strong disagreement, a lack of interest in what is being said between them, or the blackmailer's extroverted habits of domination.

b- Speaking on behalf of the target

It is one of the strategies that happens due to escalating, further interrupting, or overlapping. Schiffirin calls this strategy "speaking for another". It means the blackmailer blocks the victim's turns and usurps that turn to speak on their behalf.

- (35) *Agent: "I hope, Ken, that there won't be any problem with you"*
Mayor: "[interrupting and speaking on behalf of McDonald]: No, there's no problem" (Shuy,2005, p.16).
- (36) *Blackmailer: mihtaj fulus wa ?ridhi biasra waqit means "I need dosh, need it sharpish".*
Victim: fuf ?na ?xuha wa rah ?fiki alayk means "Hey, I'm her brother and I'm gonna report you".

3. Hit and Run

The hit-and-run strategy refers to conversational strategies in which the blackmailer briefly introduces a topic, often with a hint of illegality, and then suddenly shifts the topic before the victim has the opportunity to respond meaningfully. In this way, the blackmailer implies a suggestive or incriminating idea and then promptly changes the conversation to another topic, thereby avoiding confrontation while continuing to advance their hidden agenda.

- (37) *Peter: "I've been thinking what you said to me yesterday and I'm thinking that you mentioned that you would shoot him yourself.*
Arshed: If I get the chance if nobody else can do it...Yes, I would.
Peter: Okay, so that's what I'm gonna do,okay?Now do you have any preference the

way you want that done? What type of firearm's used?

Arshed: Sorry?" (Shuy,2005, p.67)

- (38) *Blackmailer: ?atiqid taurufyn mslahtich zyn fuji frah ?sawy bas tahzryni means*
"Recon you know what's good for your proper,see what I'll do when you don't add me!!"

4. Camouflaging the illegality

Camouflaging illegality is a deceptive conversational strategy in which blackmailers present unlawful activity as entirely legal. This involves portraying the act in a "benign light" to reduce suspicion and encourage the victim's initial engagement. In reality, however, the true nature of the activity is concealed until the victim is gradually drawn into a discussion or negotiation, at which point the illegality is subtly introduced and slowly carried out. This strategy is often referred to as a form of "bait and switch" (Shuy, 2005, p. 18). For instance,

- (39) *Petal: "I'm just going by the articles that I read in the paper, you know, reading here.*

Agent: Yeah, and I know, I mean your hands are staying clean" (Shuy,2005, p.33).

- (40) *Blackmailer: xal ?ufich fithy kamira means "let me see you, turn your camera on"*

Victim: kafi ma?qdar means "Enough,I can't"

Blackmailer: qitlich rah ?sawrich wa rah ?msahin kulhin wa?dizlich ?lfidieo tara tabiyiy bad leif matqidryn means "Told you I'll take your pics, then delete the lot and send you the video, it's normal, innit, why can't you?"

5. Isolating the target (victim) from important information

Isolating the target from crucial information is a common strategy used by blackmailers. Here, victims are denied access to essential information needed for decision-making. Consider these examples:

- (41) *You don't need to know why, just do what I said.*

- (42) *Blackmailer: ha?ani ily nifarithin wahid min ?lif wa mahad rah yrhamak means "What I've shared is just one in a thousand,and no one's gonna show mercy to you"*

6. Ignoring the target when says No

To persuade their victims to comply with their demands, blackmailers frequently employ a strategy of ignoring the target (victim), where they ignore the victim's refusal and

continue the pressure until their demands are met, regardless of the victim's resistance or objections.

(43) **Petal:** *“The FDA is controlling everything, which is fine. I mean, it don't[doesn't] matter. it's fine. We can make good money at it, but the jail time is not worth it.*

Agent: *No, no. it's you've got to be careful*” (Shuy,2005, p.34)

(44) **Victim:** *kafi ma ʔqdar* means *“Enough, I can't”*

Blackmailer: *fithy ʔlkamyra ma ʔqdar ʔntazrich ʔkθar* means *“Turn your camera on now, can't wait any longer”*

7. Withholding crucial information from the target (victim)

This strategy involves withholding crucial information that is necessary to maintain control over the victim, thereby ensuring the blackmailer's continued influence. For instance,

(45) *I know something that could ruin you, but I haven't decided whether to use it yet.*

(46) **Blackmailer:** *ma rah aqulich mnean jibit ʔl suwar* means *“I ain't telling you where I got the pics”*

8. Lying to the target about crucial information

Blackmailers often deceive their victims by providing false information, which is a foundation for the victims' decision-making processes. Additionally, they may employ deceptive strategies, such as assuming a false identity, to further manipulate and control their targets (Shuy, 2005).

(47) *The police are already watching you; I'm trying to help before things get worse.*

(48) **Blackmailer:** *dzi flus bad wa ʔmsah kul suwarich* means *“Send money again and I'll delete your pics”*

Victim: *wa timsah kul fi ʔkeed* means *“And delete everything” [later, he asked her to send money again]*

Blackmail: *dzi flus zarory lw ʔnfr* means *“Send the money or I'm sharing your pics”*

Victim: *mu waditny rah tihðif kul fi* means *“Didn't you promise you were gonna delete everything?”*

9. Scripting the target

In cases of blackmail, the language used by the blackmailer constitutes one of the most reliable forms of evidence in court, as it directly reflects the blackmailer's intent and

actions. This phenomenon is referred to as "self-generated guilt," wherein the blackmailer's own words serve as critical evidence of their criminal behavior. The blackmailer may explicitly instruct the victim on what to say or may manipulate others into delivering specific messages to the victim, thereby coercing them into compliance with the demands made.

(49) **"I want him removed so nobody knows where he is"** (Shuy,2005, p.62)

(50) ***Blackmailer: ?gulkum xaf tarhun taftakun tara ?ðikum watitwaratun means "Don't even think about running to the cops, alright? I'll make life proper hard for you lot".***

In the context of forensic linguistics, these strategies play a crucial role in understanding how language is utilized as a tool for manipulation, control, and coercion. By analyzing the structure, choice of words, and strategies employed in the conversation, forensic linguists can interpret the fundamental objectives of the blackmailer and the psychological dynamics of the threat. Shuy's framework provides a useful lens for examining the discourse of blackmailers, particularly in criminal investigations in the context of forensic linguistics. these strategies are essential for understanding how language functions as a tool for manipulation, control, and coercion. Through the analysis of discourse structure, word choice, and conversational tactics, forensic linguists can interpret the underlying objectives of the blackmailer and the psychological dynamics at play in the threat. Shuy's framework offers a valuable lens for examining the discourse of blackmailers, particularly in criminal investigations, where linguistic analysis can reveal both explicit and implicit elements of the interaction, uncovering the concealed motives and strategies employed.

3.5.4 Pragmatic Strategies

Pragmatics involves various strategies such as speech acts (SAs), reference, implicature, cooperative principles, politeness, and impoliteness. The current study adopts the theory of impoliteness, which serves the purpose of the study:

3.5.4.1 Impoliteness Strategies

In order to gain a deeper understanding of impoliteness, it is crucial to start by reviewing ideas of politeness. Linguistic politeness is characterized by addressing others in a manner that is appropriate to the nature of the relationship. According to Holmes (2008), being polite involves speaking to people appropriately in the light of the relationship. Consequently, the level of politeness depends on the social relationship between the interlocutors, which defines the level of formality employed in their interaction.

According to Eelen (2001), impoliteness is the absence, lack of practice, or deviation from politeness. Impoliteness is described as "communicative strategies designed to attack face, and thereby cause social conflict and disharmony" in Brown and Levinson's (1987) theory of politeness (Culpeper, 1996, p.349). Culpeper (1996) asserts that purposefully harming or demeaning another person's face is an example of rude behavior.

Impoliteness is characterized as a negative attitude toward specific actions occurring within particular contexts (Culpeper, 2010). Although Culpeper's (1996) model of impoliteness was not the first to be derived from Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness model, Culpeper (1996) developed a framework of impoliteness strategies based on politeness strategies, identifying a corresponding impoliteness strategy for each politeness strategy.

Five impoliteness strategies for handling face-threatening activities (FTAs) were identified by Culpeper (2005). When the victim and the blackmailer have an acrimonious interaction, the blackmailer may target the victim's unfavorable face. In other words, because they don't have a positive relationship, blackmailers threaten or damage the victim's reputation. The following are Culpeper's impoliteness strategies:

1- Bald on record

Bald on record is a face-threatening act in which the speaker or sender intentionally seeks to damage the addressee's face. It is usually performed in a direct, clear, unambiguous, and concise manner, particularly in situations where the speaker does not attempt to minimize or mitigate the threat. As Culpeper (1996, p. 256) states, this strategy

is used “in a direct, clear, unambiguous and concise way in circumstances where the face is not irrelevant or minimized”, for instance,

(51) *S1*: “**You have never used to ask me so many damn questions**”.

S2: *No, I just wondering, you’ve got a job to do. Why don’t you just do it and shut up?* (Wahid and Omar, 2010, p.202)

(52) *Blackmailer*: *latzlin tasalyn ,sawarti lwla batily hay ?lklawat* means “**Stop asking questions, you taking pics or not? Stop this nonsense**”

2- Positive Impoliteness

Culpeper (1996, p.258) asserts that positive impoliteness involves the use of strategies intended to attack the addressee’s positive face, that is, their desire to be liked, accepted, and approved of by others. This form of impoliteness is typically realized through several sub-strategies, including:

Table 2

Positive Impoliteness Strategies (Culpeper, 1996)

Strategy		Example
1-	Ignore and snub the other	(53) <i>I will not wait for you</i> (54) <i>Lw ?buch ym Allah ham ?hadidch “</i>
2-	Exclude the other from an activity	(55) <i>Keep away; we don’t want you here.</i>
3-	Disassociate from the other	(56) <i>Do not blame me; it is your fault</i> (57) <i>Blackmailer: ?ma tigin wa ?la itifaqina aw latlumini bad “<u>Either you come on our terms or don’t blame me after</u>”</i>
4-	Be disinterested, unconcerned, unsympathetic	(58) <i>You go and complain; I do not care.</i> (59) <i>Victim: haram ?leik “Have mercy”</i> <i>Blackmailer: dzeitlich maqtich al WhatsApp, wa malumat wa tanbih “<u>Sent you clips to your WhatsApp, sent you info and a warning</u>”</i>
5-	Use inappropriate identity markers	(60) <i>My young fellow, did you thought that you could get away with it that easy?</i> (61) <i>Blackmailer: ??wal ?bu haliq ?lawaj “you crooked-mouthed muppet”</i>
6-	Use obscure or secretive language	(62) <i>I do not believe that he has the magic bullet.</i>

		(63) Blackmailer: <i>Yaba kilfi biwaqta hilw</i> “ What goes around comes around ” [God’s generous]
7-	Seek disagreement	(64) A: <i>I think he may win this time</i> B: <i>Do not count on that</i> (65) Victim: <i>itrikni ?rjook</i> “Leave me alone please” Blackmailer: <i>ma ?gdar</i> , “can’t do it”
8-	Make the other feel uncomfortable	(66) <i>You have made my life miserable, and now it is your turn</i> (67) Blackmailer: <i>simati an haði ?ltaliba intihrat hay talitich</i> “ Heard about that student who did herself in? That’ll be you next, innt ”
9-	Use taboo words	(68) <i>You are so crazy.</i> (69) Blackmailer: <i>rah ?kitlich ?nti wa hað ?lqirin ?lqibalty bi</i> means “I’ll kill you and that thick-headed cuck you got married to”
10-	Call the other names	(70) <i>Mr. James. Now, everyone knows what a big loser you are</i> (71) Blackmailer: <i>haðq ?l himar</i> “ That stupid donkey ”

3- Negative Impoliteness

Negative impoliteness is a strategy utilized to damage the addressee’s negative face wants. As Culpeper (1996, p. 356) explains, this form of impoliteness can be realized through various sub-strategies, including:

Table 3

Negative Impoliteness Strategies (Culpeper, 1996)

	Strategy	Example
1-	Frighten, i.e., instill the belief that action detrimental to others will occur.	(72) <i>You will be sorry for this.</i> (73) <i>Iða ma?xleech ilich fhlouq ?lalam</i> “ I’ll have everyone’s mouths running about you ”
2-	Condescend, scorn, or ridicule Be contemptuous.	(74) <i>You are acting like a little child, do you know that!</i> (75) Blackmailer: <i>?θwal ?bu haliq ?lawaj</i> means “ you crooked-mouthed muppet ”

3-	Invading the other's space	(76) <i>Whom have you been talking to?</i>
4-	Explicitly associate the other with a negative aspect	(77) <i>Without me, you would not have been successful.</i>
5-	Put the other's indebtedness on record	(78) <i>You are the reason for my failure, and for your information, the failure of the son is the failure of the father.</i>

4- Sarcasm

In this strategy, the Face Threatening Act (FTA) is conducted indirectly through a politeness strategy characterized by sincerity. This entails the act of showing politeness, while the intended meaning may be contrary or distinct from the speaker's verbal expression, thereby not preserving the addressee's face.

Culpeper's understanding of sarcasm closely adjusts with Leech's (1983) conception of irony. According to Leech (1983, p. 82), the Irony Principle (IP) states: "If you must cause offense, at least do so in a way that doesn't overtly conflict with the Politeness Principle (PP), but allows the hearer to reach the offensive point of your remark indirectly, by way of an implicature". For example,

(79) *"Of course, of course. It's a real struggle and my heart goes out to them. It's very tough, very sad. I don't want to get any letters. **But this guy, come on!**"* (Sari et al., 2019, p.234)

(80) ***Blackmailer: xatiya xaf ma idkum rah ?sawyhin xams malayin***, which means ***"Aw, poor you. Maybe you can't afford it, I'll drop it to 5 million"***

5. Withhold Politeness

This strategy reflects the absence of expected politeness behavior, particularly in contexts where politeness is socially expected. It involves intentionally withholding politeness cues, such as verbal acknowledgments or responses. As Culpeper (1996, pp. 356–358) notes, withholding politeness, such as failing to thank someone for a gift, can be interpreted as a deliberate act of impoliteness rather than a mere mistake, for instance,

(81) ***Bannerman: "What up, McGregor..."***

Thomas: Bannerman. Congratulations.

Bannerman: I didn't even want it. I was in Ibiza last night. Heavy lies the crown,

yeah?” (Sari et al.,2019, p.230)

(82) **Blackmailer:** *Jeeb filus wa bas, la tsawy swalif Zaida*, which means **“Drop the money off and quiet the nonsense”**.

It is worth mentioning that the current study adopts Culpeper’s (1996) model of impoliteness to explore the linguistic strategies employed by both male and female blackmailers in cyber blackmail. As one of the most significant frameworks in impoliteness research, Culpeper’s model has been refined to incorporate the discursive nature of social interaction. Impoliteness theory is fundamental to understanding how cybercriminals establish dominance and instill fear through language. By analyzing the aggressive and coercive linguistic tactics used in cyber blackmail, this study highlights how perpetrators manipulate and intimidate their victims.

Furthermore, this research provides critical insights into the power dynamics of cyber blackmail, demonstrating how language is strategically employed by both male and female blackmailers to assert control over their victims. In forensic contexts, the analysis of these impoliteness strategies serves as legal evidence by revealing the perpetrators' malicious intent and the psychological distress inflicted upon victims. Additionally, the study employs Shuy’s strategies to offer a systematic approach to identifying threats, coercive techniques, and the communication patterns of offenders. By examining gender-based differences in blackmail strategies, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of cybercriminal behavior and the role of language in exerting power and control.

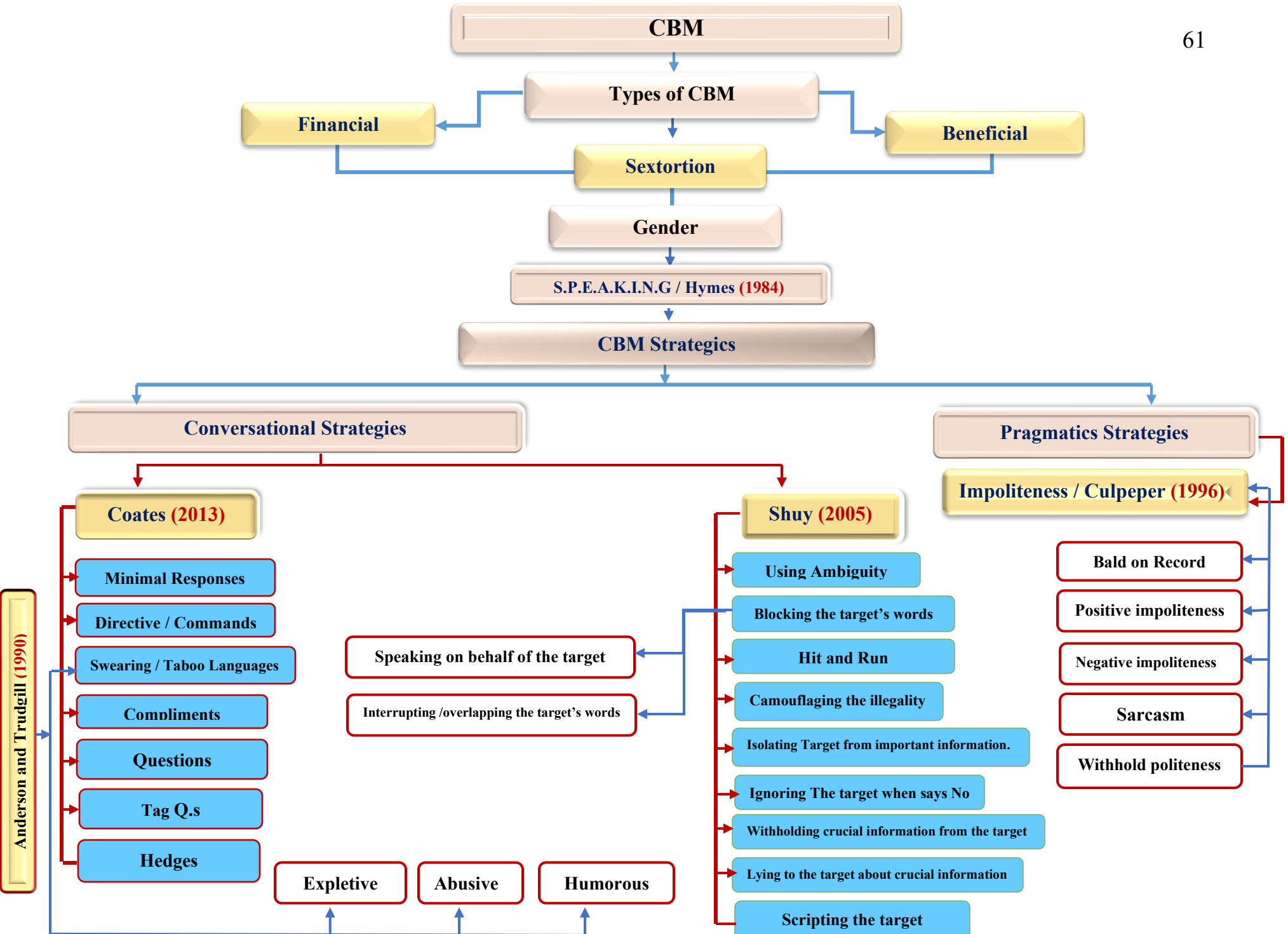


Figure 4. The Model of Analysis

الضحيه : ماعندي والله

المبتز : رسليلي فلوس لو أنشر صورج , اذا ماترسلين فلوس مراح أرحمچ

والله ما أخلي مكان إذا ما أنشر بي كل شي

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **financial blackmail**, where the perpetrator hacked the victim's account and subsequently threatened to publish her pictures unless she sent him money, using threats as **"Send the money or I'm sharing your pics."** The blackmailer conducted these threats through the WhatsApp application.

B. Conversational Strategies

In order to coerce the victim into agreeing to his demands, the blackmailer utilizes the strategy of *"Directive /Commands."* He tries to create a sense of urgency by implying an imperative language, as in

"jawbiny bisura" (جاوبيني بسرعة) means ***"Better respond immediately"***

"rislyly folous" (رسليلي فلوس) means ***"Send the money"***

The blackmailer not only conveys commands, but he also seeks to exert pressure and prompt immediate action from the victim, which eliminates any possibility of discussions or negotiations, forcing the victim to comply with the demands.

It is also evident that the blackmailer employs the *"Compliment"* strategy to manipulate the victim or get her to respond. He praises her by saying:

"hayaty" and "habybty" (هلو حياتي, حبيبيتي) means ***"Oi my love"***

In an attempt to flatter her and draw her into conversation, it is more than just a compliment; it is a deliberate attempt to break down her defenses and elicit a response.

The blackmailer attempts to elicit detailed and open responses from the victim by utilizing the *"Question"* strategy, as in

"wyn ?nti hasa" (وين أنت هسه) means ***"Where are you?"***

“byf ?lsaa trslyn flous (بيش الساعه ترسلين فلوس) means “*When you sending over the dosh?*”. The blackmailer aims to obtain as much information as possible.

Furthermore, the blackmailer utilizes the hedging expression as in

“**Bilmunasaba** haða ?xir youm ilich”(**بالمُناسبه** هذا اخر يو الج) means “**just so you know**, *today’s your last day*”. To convey uncertainty regarding whether the victim is aware that the blackmailer has extensive knowledge about the last day of sending money serves to subtly suggest awareness while maintaining a degree of ambiguity by allowing the blackmailer to exert psychological pressure over the victim. This type of hedge is called an “Introductory phrase”

As clearly evident, the blackmailer uses the strategy of “*Hit and run*” in

“walla ma?xaly makan ma ?nfir bi kil fi” (والله ما أخلّي مكان ما أنشر بي شي) means “***I swear I won’t leave any bloody place without postin everything***” which shows that before the victim has the chance to respond appropriately, the blackmailer swiftly issues a threat and then disappears, leaving the victim in a state of uncertainty and distress.

Additionally, it can be observed that the blackmailer employs the strategy of “*Ignoring the victim when she says No*”. When the victim responds that she does not have a lot of money to send, “maindi wallah” (ماعندي والله), the blackmailer ignores her, saying:

“?lswar” (الصّور) means “***your pics***”

“rislyly flous” (رسليلي فلوس) means “***Send the money***”

Finally, the blackmailer provides clear evidence of his guilt as his words reveal unlawful actions, “*the blackmailer’s self-incrimination*” by employing the strategy of “*Scripting the target*” saying:

“iða matrislyn flous rah ?nfir suwarich wa ?fidhich” means “***Don’t send the money, watch me share your pics and expose you***” (إذا ماترسلين فلوس راح أنشر صورچّ و أفضحچ)

“rislyly flous lw ?nfir suwarich” means “***Send the money or I’m sharing your pics***”

“ iða matrislyn flous ma rah ?rxamich” means “***If you don’t send money, I won’t show you any mercy***” (إذا ماترسلين فلوس مراح أرحمچ)

“walla ma?xaly makan ma ?nfir bi kil fi” means “***I swear I won’t leave any bloody place without postin everything***” (والله ما أخلّي مكان إذا ما أنشر بي كل شي)

C. Impoliteness Strategies

The blackmailer uses three strategies of impoliteness. Firstly, he uses “Bald on record” strategy, saying “jawbiny bisura” and “rislyly folous” to maintain his control over the victim and create intentional face damage directly.

Secondly, he attacks the victim’s negative face by employing the sub-strategy of impoliteness “*Threatening*,” as in: “iða matrislyn flous rah ʔnʃir suwarich wa ʔfidhich” , “rislili flous lw ʔnʃir suwarich” , “walla maʔxaly makan ma ʔnʃir bi kil ʃi” and “ iða matrislyn flous ma rah ʔrxamich”. At the same time, he uses another strategy of impoliteness, “*mocking, belittling, or ridiculing the victim, making her feel weak, worthless, and powerless*” as in “ʔdri bich klif killllllllllif muadaba”

(أدري بيچ گلش كليللليش مؤدبة) means “*You are so polite! I know*,”. This utterance is a “sarcasm” strategy; on the surface, the blackmailer conveyed his expression with a sympathetic pattern, but the real intention is mockery and humiliation for the victim. Table (4) demonstrates the blackmailer’s strategies.

Table 4

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies				
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.			
			Abu.											Bald on record	2		
			Hum.											Positive Imp.			
														Negative Imp.	5		
			2											Sarcasm	1		
	2			2			1		1							Withhold	

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

4.0 Preliminary Remarks

This chapter introduces the practical part of this study. It mainly describes the analysis procedures and analyzes the targeted data based on the model in Chapter Three. Furthermore, it introduces the results of the analysis and their discussion.

4.1 Analytical Procedures

The process of analysis involves a number of procedures that are followed to achieve the purpose of the current study. These procedures are as follows:

- 1- Identify and select cases of cyber blackmail based on the data selection criteria (*cf.* 3.2.2).
- 2- Identifying the types of cyber blackmail for each case.
- 3- Providing a comprehensive overview of the contextual factors before analyzing the cases of cyber blackmail, such as setting, participants, and the other elements of Hymes' SPEAKING model, to get the reader intellectually prepared to understand what is going on.
- 4- Translating the cyber blackmail cases from Iraqi Arabic dialect into informal English, followed by transliteration using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), ensuring linguistic accuracy and clarity throughout analysis. (See p. xix) for clarification.
- 5- To avoid redundancy and excessive length in the forensic texts, twenty-three cases representing different types of cyber blackmail were selected as samples for analysis based on the richness of the strategies outlined in the model rather than on the length of the texts. The aim is to ensure that each strategy is represented at least once within the selected forensic texts across the entire chapter.
- 6- The analysis of the data is conducted according to the model described in Chapter Three (*cf.* 3.5). As previously indicated, this study adopts mixed methods approach. Each case is qualitatively analyzed and presented in a table to illustrate the linguistic

strategies used by the blackmailers. The data analysis consists of two sections: the first focuses on conversational strategies, while the second examines impoliteness strategies.

- 7- A quantitative analysis was conducted using the SPSS program to examine the occurrences and frequencies of both conversational and impoliteness strategies employed by male and female blackmailers. This analysis aimed to identify the most commonly used strategies and to determine whether statistically significant gender-based differences in their usage.
- 8- Finally, discussing results, drawing conclusions, proposing recommendations, and offering suggestions for further research.

4.2 Analysis of Cyber blackmail Cases

This section displays the qualitative analysis of cyber blackmail cases, which contain conversations between cyber criminals and victims. (Perpetrators and victims).

4.2.1 Contextual Analysis

The common contextual factors for all cyber blackmail cases are in Table 5 below. However, only the objectives (ends) and means (instrumentalities) differ from one case to another and will be described in more detail before each case analysis.

Table 5

The Contextual Factors of the Cases of CBM

Contextual Factors	Description
Setting and Scene	The time (date) goes back to 2024. The place of the data is unknown because criminals use different websites, and there is a web relationship instead of the crime scene. They also use undetectable usernames.
Participants	There are two participants: the blackmailer (perpetrator, sender) and the victim (plaintiff, receiver) of the messages.
Ends	The cybercriminals who send messages through various websites are attempting to coerce the victim into paying money, engaging

	in unlawful services, submitting to revenge, or providing sexual favors to ensure the criminals' silence.
Act Sequence	The selected cases of cyber blackmail are drawn from actual conversations between blackmailers and their victims. These interactions typically unfold in identifiable phases. Firstly, the blackmailer attempts to establish communication with the victim, often under the guise of familiarity or persuasion. Secondly, the blackmailers begin to demand various requests for money, sexual favors, or other forms of compliance. This is usually followed by explicit or implicit threats, where the blackmailer threatens the victim to disclose sensitive personal information or private material.
Key	Most of the time, blackmailers are serious, clear, conflicted, and don't have any humor if the demand is not met. On the other hand, the blackmailers sometimes make fun of the victim's situation.
Instrumentalities	The data collected for this study consists of cyber blackmail messages exchanged through platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, and WhatsApp. These written conversations are sent via mobile devices or computers.
Norms	The social norms govern both the flow of the event and the participants' behaviors, including their actions and reactions. In the context of cyber blackmail, these norms often involve secrecy, power imbalance, and compliance with the blackmailer's demands to avoid threats or exposure. Such norms shape the communication dynamics and contribute to the victim's constrained responses.
Genre	The selected cyber blackmail cases are classified as part of non-institutional yet legally relevant discourse, placing them within the broader category of forensic texts (<i>cf.</i> 2.2). Despite their informal nature, such conversations carry evidential value and are subject to forensic linguistic analysis.

4.2.2 Analysis of Case 1

Forensic Text 1

Blackmailer: *Where we meeting up? Send the money or I'm sharing your pics.*

Victim: *I gave you money yesterday - what's with asking for more every bloody day?*

Blackmailer: *Stop chatting - where we meeting?*

Victim: *Same place.*

Blackmailer: *Get there and give the money to the lad who comes to you. Don't try anything clever. I'm warning you and this is a threat.*

Victim: *Just don't send anything and delete what you've got.*

Blackmailer: *Send what?? I'll show your minging face to everyone so they know exactly who you are, you filth. What's this, gone quiet, have you? Hiding in shame? You tramp.*

Victim: *Do what you want.*

Blackmailer: *Think I'm having a laugh? You filth, I'm warning you proper. Don't send the money, watch me share everything. Then you'll see what happens.*

المبتز : وين نلتقي ؟ رسليلي فلوس أو أنشر

صورج

الضحية : أمس إنطيتك شنو كل يوم مين أجيبك

المبتز : كلام زايد ما أريد، وين نتقابل ؟

الضحية: بنفس المكان

المبتز: روجي هناك وسلمي الفلوس بيد الولد اللي

يجيج، ومو تسوين حركه منا منا

جاي أنبهج وهذا تحذير

الضحية : بس بعد متدز شي وتحذف كل شي

المبتز : شدز ؟؟ أدزلهم وجهج القدر حتى يتعرفون

عليه ياقدره

هاشنو إنخرستي عار إنطيميتي، طاشة

الضحية : سوي أي شي

المبتز : متصدكيني ها ؟ قدره

جاي أنبهج , إذا مارسلتيلى فلوس راح أنشر كل شي
 راح تشوفين شيصير

(Appendix A. Case 1, p. i)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **financial blackmail**, in which the perpetrator is a male and coerced the victim by threatening to disclose her private photos unless she provided additional financial payments. The blackmailer threatens the victim through the WhatsApp application.

B. Conversational Strategies

The blackmailer employs the strategy of "*Directives and Commands*" in the utterances "rslīlī fulous" (رسليلي فلوس) "**Send the money**", "rūhī hnak" (روحي هناك), and "salīmī.ilflous" (سَلْمِي الفلوس) "**Get there and give the money**". These imperative forms are used to pressure the victim into complying without hesitation or resistance. By issuing direct commands, the blackmailer creates a sense of urgency and implicit threat, reinforcing their dominance over the victim. They demonstrate the blackmailer's authority and coercive control, referring to the lack of politeness markers, and serve to assert control. These commands are forceful and devoid of mitigating politeness markers, emphasizing the power imbalance between the blackmailer and the victim. The blackmailer asserts control and compels obedience through this syntactic structure, exploiting linguistic authority to manipulate the victim's actions.

The blackmailer uses "*swearing and taboo languages*" by saying "qaḍīrā, (قذره) which means "**filth**" and "ār"; (عار) which means "**Hiding in shame**" and "tafa" (طائفة) which means "**tramp**". he uses abusive words to attack his victim verbally. These words, "ār", "qaḍīrā", and "tafa" reflect strong societal judgments and are often used to criticize individuals whose behavior is deemed unacceptable, reinforcing social norms and expectations.

In Iraqi dialect, the words "ār" (عار), "qaḍīrā" (قذرة), and "tafa" (طائفة) are used to describe individuals who are viewed as disgraceful or dishonorable within society.

The word “ār” is used to label someone as a source of disgrace or dishonor to their family or community. Calling someone ‘ār implies that their actions are socially unacceptable and humiliates those associated with them.

The word “qaḏīrā” is used as an insult to describe someone as morally corrupt or despicable. This term not only carries a sense of physical dirtiness but also connotes a deep moral impurity.

The word “tafa” is a colloquial term used to refer to someone who is notorious in a negative way. It describes a person whose bad reputation is widely known and who is spoken about as an example of disgrace.

It is also noticeable that the blackmailer strategically uses the “*Question*” in the utterance “waʿyn nāltīqī?” (وين نلتقي؟), which means “*Where we meeting up?*” to reinforce his control over the victim and facilitate the exchange of money. By inquiring about the meeting location, the blackmailer asserts his dominance in the interaction, ensuring compliance with his financial demands. This question is typically used in a context where the time of the meeting has already been determined or is implicitly understood, further emphasizing the blackmailer's manipulation and persistence.

To reinforce his demand, the blackmailer employs a “*Tag question*” strategy in the utterance “maṭṣādqīynī hu?” (متصدگيني ها؟), which means “Think I'm having a laugh?” he seeks to confirm whether the victim acknowledges the credibility of his threat. This linguistic technique functions as a coercive strategy, compelling the victim to recognize the blackmailer's dominance and the seriousness of his threat. By eliciting the victim’s response, the blackmailer reinforces psychological pressure on the victim, which increases her compliance. This coercive linguistic strategy not only enhances the power imbalance between the blackmailer and the victim but also serves as a means of psychological manipulation, compelling the victim to acknowledge the seriousness of the threat and reducing her resistance to the blackmailer's demands.

As clearly evident, the blackmailer strategically uses the strategies of “*hit-and-run, isolating the target from important Information, and scripting the target*” in the utterances

“ʔīḏḏa maḥīrsīyn fulūs rāh ʔnḥīr” (اذا مارسلتيلي فلوس راح انشر كل شي) which means **“Don’t send the money, watch me share everything”**, “rīslīlī fulūs wāīlā ʔnḥīr ṣwārīḥ”

(رسليلي فلوس أو أنشر صورچ) “Send the money or I'm sharing your pics” and “rah ḥfufyn ḥsyr” (راح تشوفين شصير), which means **“Then you'll see what happens”**. These utterances are intentionally structured to instill a sense of panic in the victim, effectively isolating her and narrowing her ability to seek assistance. By creating an atmosphere of fear and urgency, the blackmailer manipulates the victim into a state of helplessness, increasing her compliance with his demands. The blackmailer manipulates the victim into compliance through psychological coercion by exposing sensitive information. This explicit and direct nature of the blackmailer’s language serves as compelling evidence of himself, as his own words function as a self-incriminating admission of guilt.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

As a part of pragmatic strategies, blackmailers use impoliteness strategies to intimidate and pressure their victims through direct and offensive language. The blackmailer employs the strategy of “Bald on Record” to give his orders concisely, utilizing the verbs “rslīlī,” “rūḥī,” and “salīmī” and intentionally causes face damage.

Then, he uses a conventional formulaic swear word by which he shows his offensiveness to humiliate his victim who wants to delete everything after receiving the money. The blackmailer calls the victim “qaḏrā, ‘ār.” and “taṣa.” Using these words is considered a swearing expression that includes damaging the face of the victim, and they are sub-strategies of positive impoliteness. At the same time, he uses the utterance of “wājḥīḥ ʔlqaḏīr” (وجهج القذر), which means **“your minging face”** which is a derogatory term in which the blackmailer is aimed at attacking the victim’s positive face.

Finally, the blackmailer employs a negative impoliteness strategy, and the realization of this strategy is threatening “rīslīlī fulūs wāīlā ʔnḥīr ṣwārīḥ.” He threatens his victim directly by publishing her photos if she does not send the money. This conditional threat implies negative consequences if the demand is not met. The blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies (impoliteness strategies) are shown in the Table below.

Table 6

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.1

Conversational Strategies												Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	3
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	4
														Negative Imp.	3
														Sarcasm	
	3	4			2	1					1	1	2	Withhold	

4.2.3 Analysis of Case 2

Forensic Text 2

Blackmailer: *Oi my love,*

Listen pet, you know you're special to me but what can I do - I need dosh, need it sharpish. Tell X that today I'm gonna wreck her world - yours too. Tell her all her pics and videos are going everywhere today, first to your lot and that muppet Y's people. You idiot, let everyone see who you really are and how shameless you are. Got it or what? Stop messing around- send it to this number #####.

I can do whatever I fancy, just wait and see.

Get a move on, bye.

المبتز: هلو حياتي

شوفي حبيبتي تدرين أنت غاليه علي بس شسوي محتاج فلوس واريدهن بأسرع وقت
 كَلِّي ل(س) اليوم الدنيا تحترگ عليه راسج وراسها . كَلِيلها اليوم تتوزع كل الصّور ومقاطع الفيديو مالتها
 أول ناس جماعتكم وجماعة(ص) الأثول يا ثوله وخَلِّي الناس تشوف منو أنت وشلون دايبه
 إفتهمتي لو لا ؟

ولتماطلين , دزي فلوس على هذا الرقم #####
 أگدر أسوي كلشي , إنتظري وشوفي شنو راح أسوي
 بسرعه , باي

(Appendix A. Case 2, p. ii)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **financial blackmail**. where the blackmailer contacted the victim through the Instagram application with the intent to extort money. The defendant, through a direct, clear, and unambiguous message, demanded an immediate monetary transfer, stating, **“I need dosh, need it sharpish”**

B. Conversational Strategies

In this forensic text, the blackmailer uses different conversational strategies. The first strategy is the “*Directive and Commands*” strategy through imperative sentences that start with the verbs “glīy li x ḡlyawm ḡldīnyā tahtiriq ala rasich wa rasha ”

(كَلِّي ل (س) اليوم الدنيا تحترگ عليه راسچ وراسها) which means “***Tell X that today I'm gonna wreck her world - yours too***” “laṭmaṭlyn” (لتماطلين) “***Stop messing around***” and “dīsī fulous ala haḏā alraqm” (على هذا الرقم دزي فلوس) which means “***send it to this number***”. By employing this strategy, the blackmailer exerts control over the victim's behavior, he tries to minimize any opportunity for resistance or negotiation. The strategy of the directive and command is a directive speech act, reflecting an attempt to manipulate the victim through authority and urgency too, thus enhancing the pressure to comply.

The utterance “glīy li x ḡlyawm ḡldīnyā tahtiriq ala rasich wa rasha” contains a command through the verb “glīy” "tell". However, the rest of the sentence functions as a manipulative threat, using fear and coercion to pressure the victim into acting as the blackmailer desires. It can be understood as an emotionally charged statement. It serves as a direct threat, intensifying psychological pressure on the victim. It functions as an aggressive and emotionally manipulative threat. It plays on fear, urgency, and guilt, making the victim feel like she has no choice but to comply. The use of strong, metaphorical language in Iraqi Arabic adds to the intensity of the blackmail, reinforcing the power imbalance between the blackmailer and the victim.

When the blackmailer uses "lā tumāṭilīna" (لا تماطلين), "*Stop messing around,*" he is not only commanding the victim to take immediate action but also intensifying the pressure to ensure compliance without hesitation. This prohibition reinforces a sense of urgency and coercion by forbidding any delay in carrying out the demand. The blackmailer is essentially limiting the victim's autonomy, making it clear that further delay is unacceptable and will result in negative consequences.

In the expressions "θwlā" (ثوله), meaning "*idiot*", and "ḍayḥa" (دايحه), meaning "*shameless*", the blackmailer employs a strategy of verbal abuse through offensive language to target the victim. In the Iraqi dialect, "θwlā" describes an individual who is foolish, slow-witted to comprehend others, easily deceived, or acts in a silly or clueless manner. It is a slang term used to describe someone who is not very sharp or makes dumb mistakes. Lacking intelligence and equivalent to being "slow on the uptake," It can be used jokingly among friends or as an insult, depending on the context. Meanwhile, "ḍayḥa" (دايحه) refers to someone who is not very responsible and excessively aimless or wandering. When used for men, "ḍayḥ" typically means someone irresponsible, reckless, or unfocused in life, perhaps someone who lacks ambition or direction. But if it is directed at women, "ḍayḥa" carries a much heavier moral importance. It often implies indecency or immorality, or can imply a lack of self-restraint, an improper lifestyle, possibly hinting at being too open, careless about reputation, engaging in behavior that is frowned upon, or a lack of social respectability. Sometimes, it can be used between friends or siblings to gently criticize someone for being too relaxed or unfocused.

In this case of blackmail, the use of "ḍayḥa" against the victim is particularly powerful due to its strong association with shame, moral judgment, and social dishonor. Given the cultural significance of reputation, especially for women, such a term can serve as an effective tool for psychological manipulation, instilling fear and coercing the victim into compliance to avoid public disgrace.

In an attempt to manipulate the victim and gain her trust, the blackmailer strategically utilizes the "compliments" strategy as a tool of deception. By employing flattering language, the blackmailer seeks to create a false sense of closeness and affection,

making the victim more vulnerable to manipulation. The phrases "halo hayaty" (هلو حياتي), meaning "*Oi my love,*" and "fufi habbyty tadryn ?nti galiya alay"

(شوفي حبييتي تدرين انت غاليله علي), Meanings "*Listen pet, you know you're special to me, but what can I do?*" are used as flattering expressions designed to lower the victim's protection. These words evoke trust and a sense of emotional connection, luring the victim into a false sense of safety, thereby facilitating further manipulation or eliciting responses that serve the blackmailer's purpose.

As evidenced in "lā tumāṭilīn, riṣlī fulūs bisrah ala haḏā ?lrāq̄m"

(ولتباطلين دزي فلوس على هذا الرقم ###) which means "*Stop messing around- send it to this number #####*". The blackmailer employs "Blocking the target's words" to prevent the victim from verifying the threat and create a sense of urgency or seeking help. Additionally, the utterance "?lyawm ?ldīnyā tiḥturug 'ala raṣha wa rāsich"

(اليوم الدنيا تحترك على راسج وراسها) which means "*Tell X that today I'm gonna wreck her world - yours too*" likens the unfolding situation to a fire burning over someone's head, suggesting that trouble is not just approaching but already consuming them. It represents impending disaster, loss of control, or severe consequences. It is a common threat in the Iraqi dialect and carries a strong emotional and cultural weight, which roughly means, "Today, the world will burn on your head and hers". This utterance works as a psychological manipulation tactic to increase fear and make the victim feel that severe consequences are inevitable. The blackmailer uses this statement to create panic, implying that the victim will face trouble if the demands are not immediately met. It implies trouble or a major scandal is unfolding, directly affecting the person being spoken to and someone else. This phrase metaphorically illustrates a situation where the victim is under extreme stress, facing a crisis that threatens to consume their reputation, security, or stability. In short, this phrase is not just a simple statement but a powerful psychological tool used in Iraqi discourse, often to intimidate or pressure someone.

The blackmailer makes the victim unable to seek help by utilizing the strategy of "Isolating the victim from important Information" in the utterance "giliȳlhā alyawm

titwazā‘ kul ?lšūwar wa maqāṭi ?fīdyū mālaṭhā.” He threatens her by exposing sensitive information and trying to make her feel alone.

The last utterance “giliṭhā alyawm titwazā‘ kul ?lšūwar wa maqāṭi ?fīdyū mālaṭhā” (كَلَيْهَا الْيَوْمَ تَتَوَزَعُ كُلُّ الصُّورِ وَمَقَاتِعِ الْفِيدْيُو مَالْتِه) , which means “**Tell her all her pics and videos are going everywhere today**” differs from the previous ones; it is the strategy of “*Scripting the target,*” in other words, scripting the victim’s future, whereas the blackmailer shows that this is not a random or reckless act of blackmail. He has already planned the victim’s fate and demonstrates that the blackmailer is aware of his actions, making him guilty of manipulation. He deliberately uses his power to instill fear and submission in the victim. It reveals his guilt and unlawful actions and demonstrates clear self-incriminating intent.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

In cyber blackmail, language is not just a tool for communication but a means of coercion. Blackmailers strategically employ pragmatic strategies to exert power over the victim, often employing impoliteness strategies to intimidate and pressure them through direct and offensive language.

The blackmailer utilizes impoliteness strategies in the first line of this forensic text. To manifest his control, he uses three strategies: bald on record, positive impoliteness, and negative impoliteness. At first, he starts with the verbs “glīy”, “laṭmaṭlyn” and “riṣlī” which mean “tell” “don’t stall” and “send”, where the blackmailer does not attempt to save the victim’s face while ordering his victim to send the money and appears impolite. The verb “laṭmaṭlyn” in Iraqi Arabic refers to the person who tries to get more time to solve his/her problem or run away from what is being demanded.

After presenting the power of control using imperative verbs, the blackmailer uses the second impoliteness strategy to insult the victim’s face: the positive impoliteness “ṭwla” and “dayḥa,” where he attempts to attack and humiliate the victim. These taboo words are regarded as sub-strategies of positive impoliteness.

Lastly, the blackmailer threatens the victim by employing the “Negative impoliteness” strategy, saying, “?lyowm ?ldūnyā tiḥturg‘ala raṣich wa rāshā. gililṭhā alyawm tatawazā‘kul aṣūwar wa muqāṭi‘ aḥfīdyū mālaṭhā”. He utilizes this strategy to

intimidate the victim. The utterance “ʔlyoʔm ʔldũnyā tiḥturgʻala raṣich wa rāshā” is used a lot in the Iraqi dialect to refer to something that will happen dangerously or when someone threatens another one. It serves as a direct threat, intensifying psychological pressure on the victim.

Using another sub-strategy of negative impoliteness, the cybercriminal offends his victim by belittling her in “θwlā” for being unable to know that he deceived her. “θwlā” refers to the person who is easily fooled by others. Table (7) demonstrates the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies (impoliteness strategies).

Table 7

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.2

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies				
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.			
			Abu.											Bald on record	3		
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	3		
															Negative Imp.	2	
																Sarcasm	
	3		3	2	2				1		1	1	2			Withhold	

4.2.4 Analysis of Case 3

Forensic Text 3

Victim: *I don't do nothing at all, I say God's stronger than everyone.*

Blackmailer: *Love, love, just let me tell you two words and I'm off. I'm looking out for you, trust me I want what's best for you, proper honest.*

Victim: *I'm gonna delete your number.*

Blackmailer: *Yeah, good one.*

Victim: *And don't message me again, got it!!!*

Blackmailer: *Yeah. Swear down I'm waiting for you.*

Victim: *Whatever, go ahead and share if your conscience lets you.*

Blackmailer: Time's up!!!

Gonna send you a link, and you'll see who's who

Victim: What link?

Blackmailer: You'll know what link, innit?

Victim: What exactly do you want?

Blackmailer: Money, asking for money, give us money, want money, right? And if you don't give it, I'm sharing the link.

Keep sending you the link, you'll see your sis. I'm off, bye.

Victim: You're proper scum.

Blackmailer: Seen them, have you? You'll send money now, won't you?

Yeah, I'm scum and low-life and you're scum and thick.

What happened to you yesterday? Saw what happened?

I'll make you see what happens and then block you.

Victim: You've got no conscience.

Blackmailer: Yeah, I know.

Got a conscience just like yours 😊

You don't know who I am!?

Look, got all your pics and I'll tell your husband I've got something going with you if you don't send money?!

Reckon you get me.

الضحيه : آني كولشي ما أسوي أگول الله أقوى من الكل

المبتز: حبيبتي , حبيبتي , بس كلمتين أگلج وأروح . ع مودج ثقي أريد مصلحتج , صدگيني

الضحيه : راح أ حذف رقمك

المبتز : إي خوش

الضحيه : ومتراسلني بعد فهمت !!!

المبتز : إي . بالقران أنتظرچ

الضحيه : عادي روح انشر إذا ضميرك سمحلك

المبتز : الوقت

راح أدزليج رابط وتشوفين منو

الضحيه : يارابط

المبتز : راح تعرفين يا رابط

الضحيه : أنته شنو رايد بالضبط

المبتز : فلوس أطلب فلوس , إطيني فلوس , فلوس أريد تمام . وإذا ماطيتيني راح أنشر الرّابط

أكمل أدزليج الرّابط , تشوفين أختج . رايح أنا باي

الضحيه : أنته نذل

المبتز : شفتيهن ها ؟ راح ترسلين فلوس مو ؟

إي أنا نذل وحقير وأنتي نذله وغيبه

شصار بيح امس ؟ شفتي شصار ؟

راح أخليج تشوفين شصير وبعدين احظرچ

الضحيه : انته ما عندك ضمير

المبتز : إي أدري , عندي ضمير نفسج 🤪

ماتعرفين أنا منو

شوفي , عندي كل صورچ وراح أگول لزوجج عندي علاقه وياها هذا إذا مارسلتي فلوس

أظن تفهميني

(Appendix A. Case 3, p. iii)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **financial blackmail**. In this type, the blackmailer informs the victim that he has already obtained the information concerning the victim. Thus, by exploiting the victim's fear and weakness, the blackmailer asserted that unless the payment was made, her private pictures would be exposed, potentially causing irreparable harm to her marriage. The conversation was conducted through the WhatsApp application, and the threat was explicitly conveyed in the following utterance: *“Look, got all your pics and I'll tell your husband I've got something going with you if you don't send money”*

B. Conversational Strategies

Blackmailers often avoid direct threats to maintain denial. Rather than saying, **“If you don’t comply, I’ll expose you”**, they employ slight, psychological, and manipulative language to exert pressure while avoiding direct incrimination. In this forensic text, the blackmailer uses the *“Minimal Responses”* strategy as a part of his manipulation tactics and to keep the victim engaged and unstable. The blackmailer uses short, vague, or noncommittal responses such as “ay” (اي), and “xowj” (خوش), which means “Yeah” and “Yeah, good one” he creates uncertainty and forces the victim to keep talking or justifying himself, which gives the blackmailer more control over the conversation.

The blackmailer has the power to demand his victim act quickly without asking. He uses the *“Directive and Commands”* strategy to coerce the victim, as in “aṭīynī fulū”

(اطيبي فلوس) which means **“give us money, want money”** By using this strategy, the blackmailer serves as a clear assertion of control, demanding immediate actions from the victim without giving her a chance for refusal or negotiation. He reinforces his dominance and power over the victim.

In the utterances “naḏil” (نذل), which means **“scum”** “ḥaqīr” (حقير), which means **“low-life”** “naḏila” (نذله) which means **“scum”** and “gabīya” (غبيّه) which means **“thick”** or **“idiot”** the blackmailer uses an abusive swearing word strategy to attack his victim verbally.

The Iraqi slang words "naḏil" (نذل) and “ḥaqīr” (حقير) are extremely strong words that carry adverse connotations and have the tendency to be used to offend one's character or behavior. Its meaning can vary based on the situation, but it generally describes someone who is shameless, treacherous, or dishonorable. In Iraqi culture, they are sometimes used to describe someone disloyal or betraying others. They can refer to a person who betrays their friends, family, or trust as in “haḏā naḏil, mā yiatamad alayh ” which means **“That guy is a scum, you can’t rely on him”** Or describe someone who lacks morals, acts without shame, and has no regard for honor or dignity as in “hāḏā wāḥid naḏil, mā ‘inda ḥayā!” which means **“That guy is scum, he has no decency”** but If someone is unnecessarily cruel or enjoys hurting others, they might be called “naḏil” or “ḥaqīr”. They can be used jokingly

among friends, but in serious contexts, it's a harsh insult implying that someone is heartless and takes advantage of others. These words are rarely used for women directly, but if they are, they imply extreme shamelessness or lack of morality, making it a serious insult. Calling a man "naḏil" suggests that he is a traitor, dishonorable, or shameless, which can damage his reputation, especially in traditional or tribal settings.

In an attempt to manipulate the victim and make her trust him, the blackmailer exploits the strategy of "Compliment" to deceive her or tries to make her talk or answer him so, he uses complimenting expressions to lure her which is clearly in the utterances "habybty" (حبييتي), "habybty bas kalimtayan ʔglicḥ wa ʔrouh ʔla mwɗicḥ θqi ʔryd mʂlḥticḥ, ʂadgyny", (حياتي بس كلمتين أكلج وأروح ع مودج ٲقي اريد مصلحتج, صدگيني), which means ***"Love, love, just let me tell you two words and I'm off. I'm looking out for you, trust me I want what's best for you, proper honest."*** It is not deceptive by nature, but the blackmailer uses it strategically to manipulate, gain trust, or soften a threat; it can function as part of a deceptive linguistic strategy. By employing positive language, the blackmailer may attempt to lower the victim's defenses, create a false sense of goodwill, and distract from the underlying coercion. In such cases, this politeness strategy is not real but an intentional attempt to influence and control the victim's responses.

Another strategy the blackmailer uses is "Questions" whereby two question forms are used: a Wh-free narrative question, "ʂʂār bīyčḥ ʔmʂ?" (شصار بيچ أمس) means ***"What happened to you yesterday?"*** he demands a prolonged answer to figure out what happened to his victim. He wants to make the victim feel uncertain and pressured to talk. Besides, he maintains his control via the yes-no direct question, "ʂiftī ʂʂār?" (شفتي شصار), which means ***"Saw what happened?"*** wherein the blackmailer wants specific information to elicit specific, clear, and brief answers that he knows recently. The blackmailer wants to create doubt, fear, and control over the victim. It's a psychological trick to make the victim feel helpless before the real threat is delivered.

Additionally, the blackmailer employs the hedging phrase "āzin tḥmīnī" (أظن تفهميني), which translates to ***"Reckon you get me"*** This makes the statement less direct, softening its force while still suggesting a demand. The victim is left uncertain,

creating discomfort and confusion about the blackmailer's true intent. The blackmailer's goal is to coerce the victim into complying with his instructions. By using the model lexical verb "*reckon*" (أظن), he effectively hedges his statement, making it less forceful but still implying pressure.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

Several impoliteness strategies are employed by blackmailers to intimidate or dominate the victim through direct and offensive language. The blackmailer's strategy of impoliteness in this utterance, "ʔṭīynī fulūs" is "*bald on record.*" The blackmailer is demanding money, likely under threat or coercion. He uses an imperative form, "aṭyny," and does not attempt to save the victim's face.

Another impoliteness strategy used to insult his victim is taboo words, which is a sub-strategy of impoliteness. The blackmailer uses the words "ghabīya" "naḏīl" and "ḥaqīr" to attack and insult the victim.

The blackmailer employs a negative impoliteness strategy when he tries to attack the victim's face, and the realization of this strategy is threatening "indī kul swrich rāḥ aḡil lzwjich 'indī 'ʔlāḡa wyāḥa ʔḏa maṭrislyn fulūs".

(عندي كل صورچ وراح اكل لزوجچ عندي علاقه وياها هذا مارسلتي فلوس) which means "***Look, got all your pics and I'll tell your husband I've got something going with you if you don't send money***" He threatens her directly by exposing her pictures and sending them to her husband if she does not send the amount of money.

Another sub-strategy of negative impoliteness that the blackmailer uses to offend his victim is belittling her in "ghabīya"

Finally, in the utterance, "ʔy ʔdrī 'undī zamīr miḥlich" (إي، أدري عندي ضمير نفسچ) which means "***Yeah, I know, Got a conscience just like yours***". The blackmailer uses a sarcastic impoliteness strategy to insult the victim. He intends to attack the face of his victim sarcastically. On the surface, he conveyed his expression by a sympathetic pattern, but the intended meaning is completely the opposite. Table (8) explicates the blackmailer's conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies (impoliteness strategies).

Table 8

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.3

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies		
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	1
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	4
														Negative Imp.	3
														Sarcasm	1
2	1	4		2	2	2	1				1		2	Withhold	

4.2.5 Analysis of Case 4

Forensic Text 4

Blackmailer: *Reject my request and you'll see what happens. Give me both your accounts - this one and the old one - and don't dare delete anything.*

Accept the request I said, see the scandal you'll have at uni and round your way.

Yesterday had a secret chat with your brother then pulled out, today I'll chat to him again and show them what their girl's like, they'll see how reckless and off the rails you are, yeah, and might end your life.

Look, I want money, won't keep waiting.

Won't give me money, will you? Fine then.

Victim: *Leave me alone please*

Blackmailer: *Went to uni today? See what a scandal?*

Victim: *Have mercy, May God ruin you.*

Blackmailer: *Sent you clips to your WhatsApp number ending ####, sent you info and a warning, and I swear by Hussein the martyr and Ali I'll end your life, go read them quick, I'm gonna share.*

Reckon you know what's good for you proper.

See what I'll do when you don't add me!!!

المبتز: حضريني ولاتقبلين الطلب وشوفي شراح أسوي بيح . وطيني حسابج هذا والقديم ولتحذفين منهن شي قبلي الطلب كتلج , شوفي الطشه الزاح تطشيه بالكليه وبمنطقتكم البارحه حچيت وي أخوج بمحادثه سريه ونسحبت , اليوم أرجع أحچيله وراوي بنتهم شنو ويشوفون شكذ أنت مستهتره ودايحه ها وإحتمال ينهون حياتج شوفي فلوس أريد ما أظل أنتظر
مراح تنطيني فلوس مو ؟ بسيطه
الضحيه: اتركني أرجوك
المبتز: رحتي اليوم للكلية ؟ شفتي شلون طاشه ؟
الضحيه : حرام عليك الله يبهدلك كون
المبتز: دزيتلج مقاطعج على رقمج ع الواتساب رقمج نهايته #### ودزيتلج معلومات وتنبيه وحق هو الحسين الشهيد وعلي لانهي حياتج روجي اقريهن بسرعه راح أنشر
أعتقد تعرفين مصلحتج زين
شوفي شراح أسوي بس تحضريني!!!
(Appendix A. Case 4, p. v)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **financial blackmail**, in which the blackmailer coerced the victim by threatening to release a video featuring her, either by posting it online or sending it directly to her brother, unless she complied with the financial demand. The conversation was on the WhatsApp application.

B. Conversational Analysis

In this forensic text, the blackmailer is likely trying to exert control and ensure compliance by using the strategy of “directives and command”, as in “aṭyny xisabich haḍa wa ḥl qadeem” (اطيني حسابج هذا والقديم) which means “*Give me both your accounts - this one and the old one*” “laḥḍḥfyn” (لتحذفين) means “*don't dare delete anything*” and “qiblī,” (قبلي الطلب) which means “*Accept the request*” He obliges the victim to do his orders instantly. He eliminates any possibility of discussion or negotiation, forcing the victim to comply with the demands.

In the utterances “muṣtahtirah” (مستهتره) and “ḍayḥa” (دايحه), the cybercriminal uses the “*Swearing and Taboo language*” strategy to attack his victim verbally. The term

“muštahtira” (مستهتره), which means “*reckless*” is a negative term used to describe a woman who is reckless, irresponsible, or lacks seriousness. In Iraqi dialect, it represents a person acting recklessly and disregarding the consequences, while “dayḥa” (دايحه) means “*off the rails*” In cases of cyber blackmail or verbal threats, this term is often used to shame or humiliate a victim, especially a woman, implying she is at fault.

The usage of the “*Questions*” strategy in the utterances “rḥtī alyawma llklyh?” (رحتي اليوم للكلية؟), which means “*Went to uni today?*” and “jifty jsar bich ʔlyom” (شفتي شلون طاشه) which means “*See what a scandal?*” These inquiries, framed straightforwardly, compel the victim to provide precise details, allowing the blackmailer to maintain control over the interaction and reinforce their manipulative tactics. Then, the blackmailer seeks confirmation by employing the strategy of “*Tag question*” “mw” (مو), in the utterance “marah tintini filous,mw” (مراح تنطيني فلوس مو), which means “*Won't give me money, will you?*” He seeks confirmation or agreement from the victim by asserting whether the victim will give money. In other words, it is a way to seek confirmation about the victim and create fear or to exert control over the victim, often implying dangerous consequences.

Furthermore, he uses the underlined hedging expression in “ʔḥtimāl yuḥhūn ḥayāṭich” (احتمال ينهون حياتج), which means “*might end your life*” and “ʔātiqid tarūfyn maṣlaḥṭich” (أعتقد تعرفين مصلحتج) means “*Reckon you know what's good for you proper*”

At first, the blackmailer utilizes the noun “ʔḥtimāl” which means “*might*” and uses it as an indicator of the degree of possibility that makes the threat more ominous. Additionally, he uses the verb “ʔātiqid” (أعتقد) “*reckon*” to hedge his utterance. He uses different types of hedges, “*Modal auxiliary lexical verb*” as in “reckon”, and “*Adverbial modal phrases*” as in “*might*”. By using the “*Hedges*” strategy, the blackmailer wants to reduce the aggressiveness of coercive language, soften the directness of a threat, and maintain ambiguity.

As clearly evident, the blackmailer exploits the strategies of “*hit-and-run, isolating the target from important Information and scripting the target*” in the utterances “ʔātiqid tarūfyn maṣlaḥṭich zyn, jūfī frāḥ ʔsawḃ bas ḥīdrīnī”,

(اعتقد تعرفين مصلحتي زين شوفي شرح اسوي بس تحضريني) means “*Reckon you know what's good for you proper*” and “See what I'll do when you don't block me!!!” “dazytlich mqaṭich ʔla rqmich ʔl waṣab, rqmich nihāyata #### wdzytlich mʔlūmāt wataḥbīhi ʔaxir ʔla ʔnhī ḥyaṭich rūhī aqrīhin bisirah”

(دزيتلج مقاطع على رقم ع الواتساب رقم نهائيه #### ودزيتلج معلومات وتنبيه) means “*Sent you clips to your WhatsApp number ending ####, sent you info and a warning*” and “ʔla ʔnhī ḥyaṭich” (الآ أنهى حياتي), which means “*I'll end your life*” The blackmailer deliberately leaves the victim in a state of panic, then disappears, making her feel isolated and unable to seek help by threatening to expose private information. The use of unambiguous and direct language coerces the victim into obedience, serving as evidence of the blackmailer's guilt. His own words act as self-incriminating proof.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

This case has numerous impoliteness strategies. To manifest his control, the blackmailer uses three strategies: Bald on record, positive impoliteness, and negative impoliteness. At first, he starts with the verbs “ʔṭiny”, “laṭhidhōfiyn”, and “qiblī ʔlālab” where the blackmailer does not attempt to save the victim's face. These utterances have rising intonation even without hearing the tone of voice, so the blackmailer wants to maintain his power by damaging the victim's face.

After presenting the power of control by using imperative verbs, the blackmailer uses the second impoliteness strategy to show his offensiveness and insult the victim's face: the positive impoliteness in “muṣtahtirah” and “ḍayḥa”. it is one of the sub-strategies of positive impoliteness.

Lastly, the blackmailer threatens the victim by employing the “Negative impoliteness” strategy, saying, “rāḥ ynhūn ḥyaṭich”, “jūfī jrāḥ ʔsawý ʔāḍa ḥdartyNy” and “rāḥ ʔnhī ḥyaṭich.” The realization of this strategy is threatening. Table (9) shows the blackmailer's conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies. (impoliteness strategies).

Table 9

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.4

Conversational Strategies												Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	3
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	2
														Negative Imp.	3
														Sarcasm	
	3	2			2	1	1		1		1		1	Withhold	

4.2.6 Analysis of Case 5

Forensic Texts 5

Blackmailer: *Ten in the morning's your limit. Transfer me money. This is your last chance.*

Victim: *Can't take it anymore. Please tell me what you'll do with the video*

If my dad finds out he'll kill me. Please, enough. Delete everything.

Blackmailer: *Yeah.*

Victim: *How can I trust you?*

Blackmailer: *Yeah, I'll delete everything.*

Victim: *Then you'll use it to threaten me again, won't you?*

Blackmailer: *Nah, won't do that.*

Victim: *I know what you're like.*

Blackmailer: *Tomorrow at ten you must send a million.*

Victim: *Yeah, at ten you'll get it. For all this grief you've caused. Don't want to talk to you.*

Blackmailer: *If you don't transfer, I'll do something you won't like, I'll act differently.*

Victim: *Told you I'll transfer it.*

Blackmailer: *Yeah, alright.*

Victim: *I'll sell the gold and give you money. Tomorrow, I swear you'll have it.*

Blackmailer: *Yeah, alright, that's more like it, send it to this number #####*

Victim: *But how can I trust you've deleted the video?!*

Blackmailer: Take a pic of the transfer, you get me?

Victim: OK, what else.

Blackmailer: What's happening? Taken the pic? Tomorrow we'll see, I swear I'll destroy you.

المبتز : بالعشره الصبح حدج . حويلي فلوس . هاي اخر فرصه الج

الضحيه : ما أكر أتحمل بعد . عفيه گول شراح تسوي بالفديو

إذا ابوي عرف راح يكتلني . عفيه كافي . امسح كل شي

المبتز : اي

الضحيه : شلون أثق بيك

المبتز : اي , راح أمسح كل شي

الضحيه : وبعدين تهدد بيه مو ؟

المبتز : لا ما أسوي

الضحيه : أنا أعرفك

المبتز : باچر بالعشره لازم ترسلين مليون

الضحيه : اي بالعشره يمك . على هالاذيه اللي سويتها . ما أريد تحجي وياي

المبتز : إذا ماتحولين راح اسوي شي مايعجب حتى اتصرف غير تصرف

الضحيه : كتلك راح احولك

المبتز : اي ماشي

الضحيه : راح ابيع الذهب واطيك فلوس . باچر والله يمك

المبتز : اي ماشي , خوش هيج , رسلي ع هذا الرقم #####

الضحيه : بس شلون اثق حاذف الفديو

المبتز : اخذي صورته للتحويل , تفهميني مو ؟

الضحيه : اوك وبعد

المبتز : شصار ؟ أخذتي صورته ؟ باچر يصير خير والله أدمرچ

(Appendix A. Case 5, p.vi)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **financial blackmail**, in which the blackmailer initially deceived the victim by falsely promising marriage following their relationship. However, he later resorted to threats, warning that he would release videos and photos if she failed to provide the requested money. Additionally, he intimidated her by stating that he would inform her family about their relationship, suggesting that it could put her life at risk. The conversation was conducted through the Instagram application.

B. Conversational Strategies

Blackmailers often avoid direct threats to maintain denial. Rather than stating, “*If you do not comply, I will expose you*”, they employ slight, psychological, and manipulative language to exert pressure while avoiding direct incrimination. In this forensic text, the cybercriminal utilizes the “minimal response” strategy five times as part of his manipulation tactics and to reinforce his control over the situation or keep the victim engaged and off balance. At first, he showed his agreement, “ay” (اي), which means “*Yeah*” when the victim asked him to delete everything if the blackmailer got the money, and repeated that in “xh_hwsh_h” to assert that he would delete them. Then, the victim tried to assert that he would not threaten her. His answers were “lā maḥṣwy” which means “*Nah, won’t do that*” “ay, māshī” and “ay, muḥtāz” which means “*Yeah, alright*”; and used short, vague, or non-committal responses.

The second strategy is “directive and commands,” where the blackmailer asks his victim to do something in “ḥawḥī filous” (حويلي فلوس), which means “*Transfer me money*”, “baḥ_hir bil ‘ḡ_hrah lāzim tarslin milyūn” “Tomorrow at ten you must send a million”,

(رسلي على هذا الرقم) “riṣlī ‘alay haḍā ḡlraḡum” (باچر بالعشره لازم ترسلين مليون) which means “*send it to this number*” and (اخذي صورة للتحويل) “a_huḍī ṣuwāra liltāḥwīl” which means “*take a pic of transfer*” This strategy serves as clear assertion of his control, demanding immediate actions from the victim without giving her a chance for negotiation or refusal. The blackmailer reinforces his dominance and power over the victim. which may not be done as the victim wants, but she is obliged to do the blackmailer’s orders against her will.

It is also noticeable that the blackmailer uses the “*Question*” strategy in the utterances “ʃṣar?” (شصار), which means “*what happened*” and “ʔxāḍti surah?” which means (أخذتي صورة) “*taken the pic*”. At first, he utilizes this strategy to elicit as many open and expanded answers from his victim as possible, as in “ʃṣar?” Then, he utilizes another question to elicit a specific, precise, and brief explanation. The blackmailer asks his victim to tell the truth by employing a yes/no direct question.

To assert whether his victim understands his demands or not, the blackmailer employs a “*Tag question*” strategy, he seeks agreement or confirmation about his question in the utterance “ʔfthamtyny mw?” (افتهمتيني مو؟) which means “*you get me?*” using this linguistic strategy, the blackmailer exerts psychological pressure on the victim, subtly coercing her into compliance. Tag questions function not only as a means of verification but also as a manipulative tool to reinforce dominance and control within the interaction.

Finally, before moving on to the next topic, the blackmailer employs the “*hit-and-run*” strategy to threaten his victim, and then he intends to evade and leave the victim in a state of panic as in “baḥir yṣīr xyr wallah ʔḍmriḥ”. The blackmailer makes a threat quickly without offering an opportunity for discussion or clarification.

Clear language coerces the victim, which is regarded as evidenced in these utterances as in “baḥir ysir xair wāllh ʔḍmriḥ”, (باچر يصير خير والله أدمرچ) which means “*Tomorrow we'll see, I swear I'll destroy you*” “ʔīḍāḍa maḥwlyn gwlyly ‘almwd ʔaṣaraf gyr taṣarūf” (اذا ماتحولين راح اسوي شي مايعجبج حتى اتصرف غير تصرف) means “*If you don't transfer, I'll do something you won't like, I'll act different*” and “baḥir lazim trslin malyon” (باچر بالعشره لازم ترسلين مليون) which means “*Tomorrow at ten you must send a million*” They are not only exposing his intent to manipulate and control the victim but also revealing his acknowledgment of the power he holds over her. These words are a self-incriminating confession, as they directly reflect his manipulative and unlawful behavior.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

One common pragmatic strategy used in blackmail is impoliteness, where the blackmailer employs aggressive and offensive language to intimidate and dominate the victim. The blackmailer utilizes impoliteness strategies in the first line of this forensic text.

To manifest his control, he uses three strategies: bald on record, positive impoliteness, and negative impoliteness. At first, he starts with the verbs “ḥawlī fulūs”, “dzī”, and “ʔxǝī” he directs his victim to “transfer, send, and take” the required amount of money, and then asks her to take a picture of the way of wiring money by using imperative sentences that start with the verbs “ḥawlī”, “dzī”, “auxdhī”. Also, the blackmailer shows his control through his orders to damage the face of his victim.

Once again, the blackmailer employs a negative impoliteness strategy in “ʔīāḏa maṭḥwlyn gwlyly ‘lmwd ʔašaraf gyr tašarūf”, “baḥir ḥǝich ʔlsahʔjrah wāila” and “baḥir yašīr xyr wālla ʔǝmrīch” he intends to frighten his victim of damaging consequences and then threaten her to push her to meet his demands. However, all these expressions refer to the frightening and threatening in Iraqi Arabic formulaic. Table (10) demonstrates the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 10
Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.5

Conversational Strategies											Pragmatic Strategies				
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	3
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	
5	3			2	1			1					3	Negative Imp.	4
														Sarcasm	
														Withhold	

4.2.7 Analysis of Case 6

Forensic Text 6

Blackmailer: Shut your gob.

I'll show everyone at work what you're like, let the whole lot know about you.

You're coming to the house today, got it?

Don't show up and watch yourself get exposed; I've warned you. Just wait and see what happens.

المبتز: إنجبي لاتحجين

راح أفضحج بالدوام , وأفضحج كدام الناس كلها
اليوم تجين للبيت افتهمتي لو لا , واذا ما اجيتي تنفضحين تر
اني كتلج وراح تشوفين شصير اذا ما اجيتي

(Appendix A. Case 6, p. vii)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **sextortion blackmail**, in which the perpetrator threatened to reveal private information about the victim at her workplace unless she complied with his demands to visit his home. The blackmailer, who had previously been in a relationship with the victim, secretly recorded intimate moments without her consent. When the victim discovered these recordings, she refused further contact with him. The blackmailer resorted to issuing threats in an attempt to coerce her into compliance. Their conversation was conducted through the Telegram application.

B. Conversational Strategies

The blackmailer employs the strategy of “*Directive and commands*” in the utterances “*laṭihḥyn*” (لاتحجين), which means “*shut your gob*”, “*inḥabi*” (إنجبي) which means “*Shut up*” and “*ʔlyum tigin lilabāyṭ*” (اليوم تجين للبيت) which means “You're coming to the house today, got it?”. By employing the imperative mood, the blackmailer asserts his dominance and control over the victim, compelling compliance through direct and forceful language. He tries to minimize any opportunity for resistance or negotiation. The strategy of “*Directive and commands*” is a directive speech act, reflecting an attempt to manipulate the victim through authority and urgency too, thus enhancing the pressure to comply. In particular, the verb “*inḥabi*” in the Iraqi dialect functions as an imperative command, meaning "shut up." However, it can also serve as a profane or abusive expression, often used in moments of anger to degrade or intimidate the receiver. These linguistic strategies serve not only to command submission but also to instill fear and humiliation in the victim.

As clearly evident, the blackmailer exploits the strategies of “*hit-and-run, Isolating the target from important Information and scripting the target*” in the utterances “rāḥ ʔfḍḥich bildawam wa ʔfḍḥich gidam ʔlnās” (راح أفضحج بالدوام, وأفضحج كدام الناس) which means “*I’ll show everyone at work what you’re like, let the whole lot know about you*” the blackmailer tries to threaten his victim illegally and then quickly changes the topic before the victim has the chance to respond appropriately.

Intentionally, in the utterance “rāḥ tʃūfīn ʃysir īḍa mā ijyty”

(راح تشوفين شصير اذا ما اجيتي) which means “*just wait and see what happens*” he wants his victim to feel lonely, and unable to seek help especially when the blackmailer threatens her, he will expose sensitive information while in the utterance “ʔlyw̄m lāzim tijān libaʔt īftīhamaty l̄w̄ lā, īḍa mā ijyty tijīn līlbaʔt” (اليوم تجين للبيت افتهمتي لو لا, واذا ما اجيتي تنفضحين ثر) which means, “*You’re coming to the house today, got it? Don’t show up and watch yourself get exposed; I’ve warned you.*” This direct threat emphasizes the blackmailer’s self-generated guilt, as his own words serve as undeniable evidence of his commitment to the crime. By clearly coercing the victim, the blackmailer inadvertently provides a confession of his actions. His statement not only exposes his intent to manipulate and control the victim but also reveals his acknowledgment of the power he holds over her. These words are a self-incriminating confession, as they directly reflect his manipulative and unlawful behavior. In this context, the blackmailer’s language becomes a critical piece of evidence, as it is his expression of guilt.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

In blackmail, impoliteness is a key pragmatic strategy, with the blackmailer using harsh language to assert control and instill fear in the victim.

One notable strategy is the “*Bald on Record*”, where the blackmailer uses direct and unambiguous language to assert dominance. He attacks the victim's face by using the imperative form of the verbs “lāḥḥyn”, “aḥḥbi” and “tigin” which obliges the victim and makes her unable to oppose the blackmailer's demands.

Then he threatens the victim by employing a “*Negative impoliteness*” strategy to impose fear or compliance in the utterances “rāḥ tʃūfīn ʃysir īḍa mā ijyty” and “rāḥ ʔfḍḥich

bişgülich wa gidam ?lnās.” By employing this sub-strategy, “threatening”, the blackmailer creates an atmosphere of intimidation, fear of reputational damage, and workplace consequences. Table (11) shows the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 11

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.6

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.		
			Abu.											Bald on record	3	
			Hum.											Positive Imp.		
														Negative Imp.	2	
															Sarcasm	
									1		1				Withhold	
	3															

4.2.8 Analysis of Case 7

Forensic Text 7

Blackmailer: *Alright darlin', it's (X) here, got a new number. What's going on lately? They're saying you're poorly - what's up with that? Tell us. Spotted you yesterday, looking proper stunning even when you were ill. Giving me the silent treatment, are ya? Right then, I'll sort you out. One of these days I'll have a word with that brother of yours down at the council, and your lad's gonna hear about it too, or I'll get someone else to tell him, you useless cow, ain't got no conscience. Where you at? Wheeeeeere you aaaaat*

Victim: *At home.*

Blackmailer: *Right then, either we keep this going or I'll make such an example of ya, nobody'll feel sorry for ya.*

Victim: *Can't do it no more.*

By using various types of hedges, like “ṭalah” (طالعه) which means *“looking proper stunning”* as a “Modal lexical verb” as in “tigkdarīn” which means “can” to convey uncertainty, which serves to accept the blackmailer’s requests more easily.

As evidenced in “simati haḍa ṭlxabar? bihay ṭtalibah min ṭlsādis ḡlwn intihraṭ rāḡ yṣyrljch nafīshā fikirī zaʿn”

” (سمعتي بهاي الطالبه من السادس شلون انتحرت راح يصيرلج نفسها فكري زين) which means *“Heard about that student who did herself in? That’ll be you next, innit. think about it”* the blackmailer employs the strategy of “Hit and run” Before the victim has a chance to respond, the blackmailer threatens her “rāḡa yṣyrlj nafīshā hay talitich fikrū zaʿni ” راح (يصيرلج نفسها هاي تاليتج فكري زين) quickly and then disappears, leaving the victim in a state of panic.

After refusing the requests of the blackmailer, the victim supplicates but the blackmailer ignores her by employing the strategy of “Ignoring the target when she says No” and repeats his demands that she must come with him many times as in “tagdarīn, tiftaḡhīn kaḡmirā bisirah lḡ maḡḡtaj ṭkamil” (تكدرين, تفتحين كاميرا بسرعه لو مايتحاج أكمل) which means *“Course you can, get that camera on quick or I won’t bother finishing what I’m saying”*

The blackmailer’s last strategy is “Scripting the target”, in “ilā ṭāxalich ‘ibrāh wa maḡad rāḡ yrḡmich” (الآ أخليج عبره ومحد راح يرحمج) means *“I’ll make such an example of ya, nobody’ll feel sorry for ya.”* It’s a strong threat, implying severe consequences. In the Iraqi dialect, this is a serious threat implying that the person will be severely punished, humiliated, or harmed in a way that serves as a lesson to others. It suggests that once the threat is carried out, the victim will be left to suffer alone, without help or sympathy from anyone. The blackmailer wants to intimidate his victim into giving them money or obeying his demands. “simati bilṭalibah min ṭlsādis ḡlwn intihraṭ rāḡ yṣyrljch nafīshā fikirī zaʿn”

(سمعتي عن هذا الخبر؟ ابهاي الطالبه من السادس شلون انتحرت راح يصيرلج نفسها هاي تاليتج فكري زين اليوم تفتحين كاميرا) means *“Heard about that student who did herself in? That’ll be you next, innit. think about it proper, get that camera on today”* where the blackmailer, in clear language, coerces the victim to do whatever he wants. In other words, it’s a clear

threat, implying that the person being addressed might meet the same fate as someone who took their own life. This direct threat serves as obvious evidence of his guilt, as his own words reveal his intent to manipulate and intimidate the victim. In other words, His language not only demonstrates coercion but also constitutes self-incriminating proof of his unlawful actions.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

Impoliteness is a prevalent pragmatic strategy in blackmail, where the blackmailer uses offensive language to threaten and manipulate the victim. In the first line of this forensic text, the blackmailer employs a “*Bald on record*” strategy. To assert dominance and control over the victim, he directly attacks his victim's face by using the imperative form of the verb “gliyli” meaning “tell me”. The blackmailer performs a direct illocutionary act that demands action from the victim without the usual politeness or mitigations. In doing so, he attacks the victim's face, which emphasizes the blackmailer’s dominance in the conversation.

Another impoliteness strategy employed by the blackmailer to insult his victim is the use of taboo words, which form a sub-strategy of impoliteness. In this case, the blackmailer uses the utterance “fajila” which is intentionally chosen and aimed at belittling and humiliating the victim.

Lastly, the blackmailer employs the “*Negative impoliteness*” strategy to further intimidate and control the victim. He uses the utterances saying “ilā ʔaxalich ‘ibrah w maḥad rāḥ yrḥmich” and “simati haḍa ʔlxabar ibhay ʔtaliba min ʔlsādis jlw̄n in̄tiḥraʔ rāḥ ysyrljch nafīshā fikirī zaʔn” This threat functions as a Face-Threatening Act (FTA), designed to erode the victim’s sense of security and heighten her anxiety, pushing her toward compliance. This utterance operates as an implicit threat, creating an indirect yet highly disturbing comparison between the victim and the girl who took her own life. The blackmailer’s strategy here is psychological manipulation, forcing the victim into a state of panic and distress, making her feel trapped and powerless. In other words, the function of this utterance is indicated as an indirect warning, implying that noncompliance will lead

to horrible consequences. Table (12) demonstrates the blackmailer's conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies

Table 12

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.7

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies		
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	3
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	1
	3	1		2	2	1	1		1	1		1	2	Negative Imp.	3
														Sarcasm	
														Withhold	

4.2.9 Analysis of Case 8

Forensic Text 8

Blackmailer: *You know of course what it means - turn your camera on or come to that spot.*

Victim: *Got problems though, can't come out every day.*

Blackmailer: *Right then, I'll wait till tomorrow and see, but turn your camera on now, can't wait any longer.*

Victim: *So, you're threatening and using me, do what you like.*

Blackmailer: *Do what I like, will I? Maybe you don't know me proper yet.*

Victim: *What you gonna do then, do it.*

Blackmailer: *Look here, if you don't come to the house, I'll proper hurt you. Either you come on our terms or... don't blame me after.*

Victim: *You want to expose me and then say don't blame you.*

Blackmailer: *Let me see you, turn your camera on and take pics like we used to .*

المبتز: بعد أنت تعرفين شنو فتحي كاميرا لو تجين لنفس المكان

الضحيه: بس عندي مشاكل ما أگدر أطلع وأفتح كاميرا كل يوم

المبتز: أوك , راح أنتنظرچ منا لباچر وأشوف بس هسه فتحي كاميرا ما أگدر أنتنظر أكثر

الضحيه : يعني أنت تهدد بيه وتستغلني سوّي اليعجبك

المبتز : أسوّي اليعجبني مو , يمكن لسه ماعرفتيني عدل

الضحيه : شتريد تسوي سوّي

المبتز: شوفي اذا ماتجيني للبيت صدك أدّيج . اما تجين وعلى اتفاقنا أولاتلوميني بعد

الضحيه : تريد تفضحني وتكول لاتلوميني

المبتز: خلّيني أشوفج , فتحي كاميرا واخذي صور مثل ما كنّا نسوي

(Appendix A. Case 8, p. viii)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **sextortion blackmail** in which the perpetrator (blackmailer) demanded the victim open a camera and take pictures of inappropriate acts through the WhatsApp application. At first, the blackmailer persuaded her to come with him to different places and took pictures without her knowledge. As a result, the blackmailer saved these pictures and some videos to threaten her if she refused to do what he wanted.

B. Conversational Strategies

In the following utterances, “fīṭhy ḵamyra ʔw t ʔay linafs ʔlماكān”

(فتحي كاميرا أو تعاي لنفس المكان) which means “*Turn your camera on or come to that spot*”, “xaliynī ʔšufjich” (خلّيني أشوفج) which means “*Let me see you*” and “fīṭhy ḵamyra wāxdī šūwar” (فتحي كاميرا وإخذي صور) which means “*turn your camera on and take pics like we used to*”. The blackmailer employs the “*Directive and Commands*” strategy in order to take immediate actions by using the imperative form; they are directive speech acts, as the blackmailer attempts to get the victim to perform specific actions. Depending on the tone and context, the directives could be interpreted as coercive, particularly if the speaker is in a position of power or if the listener feels pressured to comply.

By stating “rāḥ ʔntẓrmaṅa lbaḵir” (راح أنتظرمنّا لباچر), which means “*I will wait till tomorrow*” rather than demanding immediate action, the blackmailer might be softening the directive or showing patience, thus reducing the pressure on the victim by employing the “*Hedges*” strategy that is embodied by using the “*Modal auxiliary verb*”

As evident, the blackmailer obliges the victim to accept his demands, but he ignores her refusal “ma agdar ʔtla wa ʔftah kamira kul yawm”

(ما أگدر أطلع وأفتح كاميرا كل يوم) which means “*Got problems though, can't come out every day*” by employing “*Ignoring the target when she says NO*” strategy as shown in the utterance “fithy ʔlkamyra mā aḡdar ʔāntazrich ʔkθar” (فتحي الكاميرا ما أگدر أنتظر أكثر) which means “*Turn your camera on now, can't wait any longer*”

Finally, the blackmailer uses the “*Scripting the target*” strategy in the utterances “īdā mā tijyn libaytī rāḡ ʔāḏīch” (إذا ماتجین لبيتي راح أدیج) which means “*Look here, if you don't come to the house I'll proper hurt you*” and “īmā tjin wa'ala itīfāqinā laṭlwmyny ba'ad” (إما تجین وعلى إتفاقنا لاتلوميني بعد) which means “*Either you come on our terms or... don't blame me after*” which provides clear evidence of his guilt, as his words reveal his unlawful actions.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

A common pragmatic strategy in blackmail is impoliteness, where the blackmailer utilizes controversial language to dominate and intimidate the victim. The blackmailer uses two strategies: *bald on record and negative impoliteness*. To give his orders concisely and create intentional negative face damage with no mitigation or politeness markers, he utilizes the “*bald on record*” strategy as in “fithy kamyra aḡ t'ay linafs aḡmakān”, “xaliynī aḡwfich” and “fithy kamyra wāxdī sūwar”

In the last utterances of this forensic text, the blackmailer employs a sub-strategy of negative impoliteness “*threatening*,” saying “īdā mā tijyn libaytī rāḡ ʔāḏīch” which means “*if you don't come to my house, I will hurt you*”, it is “*if conditional*” which functions as negative impoliteness. He implies his demands by hypothesizing that the victim will not come to his home, which indicates uncertainty. Then he tries to frighten his victim of the evil consequences that will happen to make her comply as it is the only way to her situation as in “rāḡ ʔāḏīch” “ama tijin wa'ala itīfāqinā aḡw laṭlwmyni ba'ad”. Table (13) explicates the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 13
Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.8

Conversational Strategies												Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	5
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	
	5					1			1		1	2	Negative Imp.	1	
													Sarcasm		
													Withhold		

4.2.10 Analysis of Case 9

Forensic Text 9

Blackmailer: *Come on, where are you? You want to play it hard? It's easy, tomorrow your pics'll be everywhere.*

Come here flower, hurry up.

Victim: *Yeah, come on then, where are you?*

Blackmailer: *Take pics of.... come on quick, call me with no sound.*

Victim: *Enough, I can't.*

Blackmailer: *Told you I'll take your pics, then delete the lot and send you the video, it's normal, innit, why can't you?*

Victim: *Alright but answer me.*

Blackmailer: *You taking pics.... or not?*

Victim: *And if I turn the camera on and take pics, what happens after?*

Blackmailer: *I'll delete your pics and we'll both go our separate ways.*

Victim: *And what's the point of that then?*

Blackmailer: *Stop asking questions, you taking pics or not? Stop this nonsense.*

Victim: *Answer me, let me understand.*

Blackmailer: *Right then, I'll teach you a lesson or rip you apart, just watch.*

Victim: Stop. Talking to you.

Blackmailer: This is what's gonna happen to you. I'm off now. Just wait.

المبتز: يلاً وينج , انت البديتي سهله , با چر تشوفين صورچ بكل مكان
ورده تعاي يله

الضحيه : ها , تعال , وينك

المبتز: صوريلييلاً بسرعه , اتصلي بيه بدون صوت

الضحيه : كافي ما اقدر

المبتز: كنتلج راح اصورچ , وراح امسحهن كلهن واذلج الفيديو تر طبيعي بعد ليش متكدرين

الضحيه : زين بس جاوبني

المبتز: تصورينلو لا

الضحيه : واذا فتحت كاميرا وصورت شصير وراها

المبتز : امسح صورچ وتروحين كلمن بطريقه

الضحيه : وشستفاد بعدين

المبتز: لاتضلين تسنلين , صورتي لو لا ؟ بطلّي هاي الكلاوات

الضحيه : جاوبني خل أفتهم

المبتز : أوك أعلمج الآ ما أمزقج وشوفي

الضحيه : اوگف دا احجي ويأك

المبتز : هذا اللّي حيصير بيچ , أترخص , سهله

(Appendix A. Case 9, p. ix)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **sextortion blackmail**, which occurred through the WhatsApp application. The perpetrator, who worked as a driver delivering orders, obtained the victim's number. The victim was a school student, and he initiated a relationship with her. He then promised to marry her, which led her to trust him and meet with him every day after school. Eventually, the victim began refusing to meet him daily, prompting the perpetrator to threaten her to turn on the camera and record her inappropriate acts.

B. Conversational Strategies

The blackmail employs the strategy of “*Directive and Commands*” in the utterances “*şwiryly*” (صوريلي) (which means “*Take pics of... come on quick* ” , “*itāşlī bidūn şawt*”

(لاتظليين تسألين) "laṭḍlyn tsalyn", which means "call me with no sound" (اتصلي بدون صوت) "Stop asking questions" and "baṭilī hāi ḥklawāṭ" (بطللي هاي الكلاوات) which means "**Stop this nonsense**" to take immediate actions by using the imperative form. These orders reinforce the blackmailer's power since they are straightforward, coercive, and lack mitigating politeness markers. The use of imperative forms naturally establishes a power dynamic where the blackmailer holds control over the victim. The blackmailer uses this syntactic structure to enforce obedience. The expression "baṭilī hāi ḥklawāṭ," which means to "**stop making excuses**" In the Iraqi dialect, is an imperative verb that conveys a dismissive and condescending tone, suggesting not only impatience but also an implicit assertion that the victim's concerns or justifications are not acceptable.

The blackmailer uses the "*Question*" strategy by saying, "Waynich?" (وينج؟) which means, "**Where are you?**" He wants additional information from the victim to elicit details about her place. At the same time, he maintains his control by using direct questions two times in this forensic text, such as "ṭṣawrīn lū lā?" (تصورين لو لا), which means "**You taking pics.... or not?**" This direct question is intended to compel the victim to provide specific information, thereby enabling the blackmailer to intensify the threats and maintain control over the victim.

The blackmailer strategically employs the "*Isolating the Target*" and "*Scripting the Target*" strategies to manipulate and control the victim, further deepening her sense of fear and helplessness. Through the utterance "baḥchir ṭṣūfīn ḥṣūwr bikul makān"

(باچر تشوفين الصور بكل مكان) "**Tomorrow your pics'll be everywhere.**" He creates an atmosphere of impending disaster, leading the victim to believe that exposure is inevitable. This threat of public humiliation isolates the target by ensuring that she feels alone and unable to seek help. Additionally, the blackmailer enforces psychological domination through the phrase "ā'almich ilā mā amzqjch waṣūfī" (أعلمج الآ ما أمزقج وشوفي), meaning "**Right then, I'll teach you a lesson or rip you apart, just watch**" This utterance embodies both coercion and psychological abuse, framing the victim's compliance by portraying himself as someone who holds ultimate control over her fate.

Moreover, the utterance “ktlich rāḥ aṣwriḥ” (گتلیج راح اصورچ) “*Told you I'll take your pics*” reinforces the scripting strategy, where the blackmailer illustrates the scripting strategy in which the blackmailer dictates the victim’s expected actions and responses.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

One of the most effective pragmatic strategies in blackmail is impoliteness, with the blackmailer utilizing hostile language to undermine the victim’s autonomy. The blackmailer strategically employs *bald-on-record* impoliteness and negative impoliteness to exert control over the victim. These strategies function not only as coercive tools but also as psychological mechanisms designed to instill fear, compliance, and a sense of powerlessness. Bald-on-record impoliteness occurs when the blackmailer sends a message in an explicitly forceful and unmitigated manner, without taking into consideration conventional politeness norms. In the blackmailer's discourse, this is evident in the blackmailer's speech:

"šwiryly" (*Take pics of... come on quick*)

"itāšlī bidūn ṣawt" (*Call me with no sound*)

"laṭḍlyn tsalyn" (*Stop this nonsense*)

"baṭilī hāi ?lklawāt" (*Stop this nonsense*)

Negative impoliteness involves strategies that undermine the victim’s autonomy, often through coercion, humiliation, or intimidation. The blackmailer achieves this through threatening, as seen in the utterance “baḥir tʃūfīn ?lšūwr bikul makān” which means “*Tomorrow, your pics’ll be everywhere*” (باچر تشوفین الصور بكل مكان). The blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies are shown in the Table below.

Table 14

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.9

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies		
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	4
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	
					2									Negative Imp.	2
	4								1	1	2	1	3	Sarcasm	
														Withhold	

4.2.11 Analysis of Case 10

Forensic Text 10

Victim: *For God's sake leave me be, end this thing, enough - you're like a nightmare, get off my case.*

Blackmailer: *Today we're getting that camera on, ain't here to mess about or play along with you.*

victim: *There's something called dreams mate - live with those.*

Blackmailer: *Right then, you're on your own then, your fate's in my hands. Know your dad, know your house, know where your department at the college is, know your area, and your brothers too. Want more or that'll do?*

victim: *Getting anywhere with all this chat?*

Blackmailer: *Either you come out with me or turn that camera on.*

Victim: *What's that about? Let me go get some grub, better off.*

Blackmailer: *It's your choice, innit, but I swear I'll do what I want - you've brought it on yourself. And trust me, I know how to track you lot down house by house.*

Victim: *God help me.*

Blackmailer: *Even got your brothers' accounts down pat, imagine? One more word and everything's finished. Talking, don't push me over the edge - I'll sort you out proper, easy.*

Get that camera on, sharp.

Victim: *Threatening me, huh? Right out in the open too! And you've got the nerve to demand something back - like I'm the one who messed up, not you!*

Blackmailer: *Where we off to today then?*

الضحيه : عليك الله عوفني وحل السالفه كافي أنت كابوس حل عني

المبتز: اليوم لازم نفتح كامره مجاي اشافه ولا اساييرج

الضحيه : اكو شي اسمه حلم عيشه كولش زين

المبتز: ماشي , أنت مسئوله عن نفسج لعدد مصيرج بيدي وأبوچ وعرفه وبيتكم اندله وقسمج أعرفه واخوتج هم أزيدج بعد لو كافي

الضحيه : شفتهم من هالحجي ؟

المبتز: لازم تطلعين ويأي , تطلعين ويأي لو تفتحين كاميرا

الضحيه : شنو مفتهمت خلّي أروح اكل احسلي

المبتز: بس انت مسئوله والله اسوي اللي أريده وطبج مرض وحسب علمي تدرين انا اندلكم بيت بيت

الضحيه : حسبي الله ونعم الوكيل

المبتز: وحتى حسابات اخوتج حافظهن تتخيلين كتلج بعد مرّه وحده وينسد كلشي جاي احجي لاطلعين من طوري اني اعلمج بسيطه

فتحي كاميرا بساع

الضحيه : تهددني موو بالعلن هم . وتريد مقابل يعني الغلط غلطك

المبتز: وين نروح اليوم ؟

(Appendix A. Case 10, p. x)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **sextortion blackmail** conducted via the Telegram application, where both the blackmailer and the victim were university students. After a relationship for three months, the blackmailer began threatening the victim by exposing her if she refused to meet him daily or did not engage in inappropriate acts with him through video or the TikTok application. Their conversation was conducted through the WhatsApp application.

B. Conversational Strategies

The blackmailer employs the strategy of “*Directive and Commands*” in the utterances “*lazim titlaīn wayāy*” (لازم تطلعين وياي) which *means* “***Either you come out with me or turn that camera on***” and “*fithi kāmira*” (فتحي كاميرا) which means “***Get that camera on, sharp***” to persuade the victim to comply with his demands by instilling a sense of urgency. This strategy is evident in the imperative form of utterance; the blackmailer eliminates any possibility of discussions or negotiations, forcing the victim to comply with the demands.

In this forensic text, the strategy of “*swearing and taboo languages*” appears in “*tabich marad*” (طبيخ مرض) which means “***Sod off and rot for all I care***”. The blackmailer uses “*Abusive word*” to show how the blackmailer is angry and does not care about the victim. In the Iraqi dialect, this expression is used to express frustration, sarcasm, or exasperation, often emphasizing how one negative situation was compounded or led to another.

The blackmailer uses the “*Question*” strategy by asking “*wayn nrūh ?lyawm?*”

(وين نروح اليوم؟) which means “***Where we off to today then?***” to know a more accurate explanation from the victim. This strategy highlights how questioning can serve not only as a means of extracting information but also as a tool for psychological manipulation. Through the use of an open-ended question, the blackmailer subtly coerces the victim into revealing more information, which can subsequently be exploited for manipulation or control. Furthermore, the blackmailer utilizes the hedging expression, “*ḥasab ‘ilmī*” (حسب علمي), which means “***And trust me, I know***”, to convey uncertainty regarding whether the victim is aware that the blackmailer possesses extensive knowledge about her life. serves to subtly suggest awareness while maintaining a degree of ambiguity, allowing the blackmailer to exert psychological pressure over the victim. This type of hedge is called an “*Introductory phrase*”

Eventually, his last utterance “*mşyrich bīdī*” (مصيرج بيدي) which means “***your fate's in my hands***” provides clear evidence of his guilt. This statement explicitly exposes his coercive intentions, revealing his unlawful actions and reinforcing his role in the blackmail.

The explicit nature of this statement minimizes any ambiguity, emphasizing the blackmailer's control over the victim and further demonstrating the manipulative and coercive aspects of his actions.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

Impoliteness is a prevalent pragmatic strategy in blackmail, where the blackmailer uses offensive language to threaten and manipulate the victim. The blackmailer uses three strategies: bald on record, positive impoliteness, and negative impoliteness. To maintain his control over the victim, he employs a “bald and record” strategy as in “titlāin wayāy” (تطلعين ويائي) which means “*Either you come out with me or turn that camera on*” and “fithi kamira” (فتحي كاميرا) which means “*Get that camera on, sharp*” to create intentional face damage directly.

To insult the victim's positive face, the blackmailer utilizes a sub-strategy of positive impoliteness, a “swear word” in the utterance “tabich marad” (طبخ مرض) which means “*Sod off and rot for all I care*”.

As evidenced in “lad mšyrich bīdī wā abwch wauřfah wabayřtkuř ħřdla wa qsmich řarufah hař” (لعد مصيرچ بيدي وأبوچ و أعرفه وبيتكم أندله وقسمچ أعرفه وأخوتچ هم) which means “*Right then, you're on your own then, your fate's in my hands. Know your dad, know your house, know where your department at the college is, know your area, and your brothers too. Want more or that'll do?*” The blackmailer employs a negative impoliteness sub-strategy, threatening to insult the victim's negative face and indicate the power of the blackmailer. Table (15) illustrates the blackmailer's conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 15

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.10

Conversational Strategies												Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	3
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	1
														Negative Imp.	3
														Sarcasm	
														Withhold	
	3		1		1		1								

4.2.12 Analysis of Case 11

Forensic Text 11

Blackmailer: *Salaam [Hello].*

Victim: *Yeah, Salaam [hi].*

Blackmailer: *Listen, I'm gonna talk for your own good - what's your deal with (X) and what info you got?*

Victim: *I know what's good for me, mate. Don't know 'em, got nothing to do with 'em.*

Blackmailer: *Look here, I'll believe you for now, but consider this a warning. Better watch yourself before it's too late.*

Victim: *Alright then, no worries.*

Blackmailer: *Watch yourself these next few days, and mind you don't slip up.*

Victim: *Yeah.*

Blackmailer: *You're not scared of me, are you? What d'you know about (X)? Answer me You know full well I don't go easy on any one.*

Victim: *OK.*

Blackmailer: *You're pretending not to know me, aren't you? I swear I'll wreck you. Give me (X)'s account Tonight, I'm telling you, the dirt's getting spread around the group if you don't give me (X)'s account.*

المبتز : سلام عليكم

الضحيه : عليكم السلام

المبتز : راح احجي لمصلحتك شنو علاقتك ب (س) وشنو المعلومات اللي عندك ؟

الضحيه : أعرف مصلحتي زين ما اعرفه وما عندي علاقه وياه

المبتز : شوف راح اصدگ بيك هسه , بس اني حذرتك , تلاحگ نفسك قبل فوات الأوان

الضحيه : يله ميخالف

المبتز : دير بالك ع نفسك هل كم يوم ودير بالك لا توگع

الضحيه : اي

المبتز : متخاف مني مو ؟ شتعرّف عن (س) ؟

جاويني

تعرف عدل ما عندي لحيه مسرّحه تر

الضحيه : اوک

المبتز : متعرفني مو؟ بس والله أبهذلك

اطّيني حساب (س)

اليوم بالليل تر الفضايح تنزل ع الفريق اطّيني حساب (س)

(Appendix A. Case 11, p. xii)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **beneficial blackmail** in which the blackmailer wants from the victim the name of someone who works in the Ministry of Interior (MOI), The blackmailer threatened the victim that he would publish the names of all members of MOI on the Telegram application and showing all their phone numbers, their places even their families if the victim did not give the name who asks about.

B. Conversational Strategies

To coerce the victim into agreeing to his demands, the blackmailer utilizes the “*Directive and Commands*” strategy. He tries to create a sense of urgency by implying the imperative language of “*ityny*” (اطّيني حساب), which means “*Give me (S)’s account*” and “*jāwbinī*” (جاويني) which means “*Answer me*” functions as explicit directives. The blackmailer not only conveys a command but also asserts power, thereby influencing the victim's behavior. Through these direct commands, the blackmailer seeks to exert pressure and prompt immediate action from the victim.

The blackmailer attempts to elicit detailed and open responses from the victim by utilizing the “*Question*” strategy, as in “ʃnūw ʔaḷ ma ʔlūmāt ily ʔīndak?”

(شئو المعلومات اللي عندك؟) which means “*What info you got?*” and “ʃnūw ily ta ʔrufa aḅ ...?” (شئو اللي تعرفه عن ...؟) meaning “*what's your deal with (X)?*” aiming to obtain as much information as possible about one of the members who work in the MOI.

Two tag questions are utilized in this forensic text; The blackmailer utilizes the “*Tag Question*” strategy as in “maṭṭaxaf mw?” (ماتخاف مو؟) which means “*You’re not scared of me, are you?*” and “maṭ ʔarfiny mw?” (ماتعرفني مو؟) which means “*You know who I am, don’t you?*” These tag questions serve to confirm the blackmailer's assumptions while pressuring the victim to acknowledge fear or recognition. By using this strategy, the blackmailer subtly manipulates the victim into a position of psychological weakness, making her more susceptible to coercion.

The same turn embraces another conversational strategy: “*Scripting the target*”. It is manifested by using threatening utterances as in “ʔhādrak, tlāḥag naḥsak qābil fawāt aḷawān” (أحذرك, تلاحگ نفسك قبل فوات الاوان) which means “*consider this a warning. Better watch yourself before it's too late*” and “Wallah ʔbahḍilak” (والله أبهذلك) which means “*I swear I'll wreck you*” are clear evidence of his guilt, as his words reveal his unlawful actions. This means the use of manipulative and coercive language by the blackmailer provides clear evidence of his guilt, as his words reveal his unlawful actions; it demonstrates clear self-incriminating intent.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

Firstly, the blackmailer uses the strategy of “*Bald on record*”, saying “iṭyny” and “jāwbinī” to give his orders concisely and create intentional negative face damage with no mitigation or politeness markers. Secondly, he threatens the victim directly by utilizing the sub-strategy of negative impoliteness “*Threatening*” as in “ʔhādrak, tlāḥag naḥsak qābil fawāt aḷawān” “ʔlīyaḥm bil lāyḷ tara aḷfaḍayih tinzil ʔaḷ alfarīq iṭyni ḥisāb x”

(اليوم بالليل تر الفضايح تنزل ع الفريق إطيني حساب س) which means “*Tonight, I'm telling you, the dirt's getting spread around the group if you don't give me (X)'s account*” whereby he uses the utterance “turuf zaḥn maī ndy liḥyā musarāḥ” (تعرف زين ما عندي لحيه)

مسرّحه which means, *“I don’t go easy on anyone”* It is indirect, but the threat is clear and acts as a warning to the victim that what’s coming may be unavoidable, and no one can prevent it. *“You have no power to resist me; you’d better comply, or things will get worse for you”*.

In the Iraqi dialect, this formulaic expression refers to the fact that the speaker either doesn’t have a beard at all or if they do, the speaker is not requesting anything from the listener, he wants the listener to be aware of what will happen and no one will stop him so that the blackmailer uses this expression to threaten the blackmailer in an indirect way. This means that it could be interpreted as a subtle threat or warning. Table (16) demonstrates the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 16

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.11

Conversational Strategies												Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	3
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	
	3				3	2								Negative Imp.	2
														Sarcasm	
														Withhold	

4.2.13 Analysis of Case 12

Forensic Text 12

Blackmailer: *I swear by Almighty God, you step out - to the street, school, wherever - I'll kill you, I'll kill you. And by the Prophet Mohammed and Ali, I'll shoot you. Don't think I'm not around you lot. You and that thick-headed cuck [stupid donkey], [horned donkey] you got married to. Don't think I'm not here - either I'll kill you myself or I'll have my mates kill you, and by Mohammed, I'll kill you, I'll kill you. Have you heard me or not? That's fine. and I swear by [Imam] Ali, I'll keep watching and waiting*

there, and when you go out with him, I'll have someone put a bullet in both of you. So shut your mouth, stay put, and stick to your house - and accept it.

المبتز: والله العظيم تطلعين للشارع تطلعين للمدرسه تطلعين ما ادري وين اکتلج اکتلج ومحمد وعلي أرميچ بعد
خاف عبالج ماموجود اني يمکم يا هذا الحمار الگرن القبتي بي خاف عبالج انا ماموجود هنا يا اکتلج اني يا
أخلي ربي يکتلوچ ومحمد اکتلج اکتلج
سمعتي لولا وعلي اظل منتظرچ هناك, بس تطلعين وياه گبل أخليهم يکتلوچ طلقه أنت وياه
ف انچبي وگعدي ولزمي بيتچ وقبلي بيّه
(Appendix A. Case 12, p. xiii)

A. Contextual Factors

This case is a **beneficial blackmail**, in which the blackmailer attempts to coerce the victim into marrying him. After the victim's refusal, the blackmailer started to threaten her through the Messenger application

B. Conversational Strategies

The blackmailer utilizes the strategy of “*Directive and Commands*” in the utterances “iṅḥabī” (انچبي) which means “*shut your mouth*”, “wa lizmī beytich” (ولزمي بيتچ) which means “*stick your house*” and “qibalā bīha” (وقبلي بيّه) which means “*accept it*” function as speech acts intended to coerce the victim into compliance with the blackmailer's demands. By employing an imperative form, the blackmailer tries to create a sense of urgency and fear, increasing psychological pressure on the victim. In daily Iraqi conversations, the verb “iṅḥabī” (انچبي), meaning “*shut your mouth*” is generally considered harsh and impolite, especially if said in a serious or angry tone. But it can be used in friendly, informal situations. The phrase can shift from a casual, humorous tone to a harsh insult, depending on who says it, how it is said, and to whom it is directed. So, it is not a direct swear word but a strong, dismissive command that can be offensive if said in anger. It is similar to English phrases like “*shut up*” or “*keep your mouth shut*” not a curse, but rude and aggressive when used in the wrong tone.

In this forensic text, the “*Swearing and Taboo languages*” strategy is employed twice. Firstly, the blackmailer expresses his scorn for the victim's fiancé by saying “ḥaḍa ḥimār” (هذا الحمار), which means “*That stupid donkey*”. The term “girin” (گرن), which

means “*thick-headed cuck*” refers to a small horse animal with long ears. It is commonly used in a derogatory manner to insult someone's intelligence and metaphorically convey his anger and frustration regarding the victim's impending marriage.

Like many other dialects, these phrases can carry an especially heavy negative connotation in the Iraqi conventional. The expression “ḥaḏā ʔḥimār” (هذا الحمار) meaning “*Horned donkey*”, “*thick headed cuck*” or “*that stupid donkey*” can be used metaphorically to describe someone perceived as slow-witted or obstinate. or it symbolizes “*thickness*” or *stupidity*”. It is used not only for personal insults but also to degrade someone's behavior or belittle this person, which often appears exaggerated. In Iraqi culture, as in many Arab cultures, animals are sometimes used metaphorically to describe human traits. Donkeys, in particular, are often associated with stubbornness or lack of sophistication, though they can also symbolize hard work and patience in some contexts.

The term “girīn” (گرن) is an Iraqi colloquial expression used derogatorily to describe a man who has married a woman with a doubtful reputation. In the present day, this term is prevalent, especially on social media platforms, where it is employed to convey disapproval or anger towards those men and their wives or girlfriends.

As clearly evident, the blackmailer employs the strategies of “*Hit-and-Run, Isolating the target from important Information and scripting the target*” in the utterances “bas tiḡlāin wyāḡ gubāl ʔxaliḡum yktilwuch ṡalqa ʔnti wyāḡ”

(بس تطلعين ويآه قبل أخليهم يكتلوچ طلقه إنت ويآه) which means “*if you go out with him before that, I’ll have them put a bullet in both of you*” and “yā akitlch ʔny yā ʔxlī rabiyy ktilwch wa muḡamād akitlich akitlich”

(يا أكتلچ اني يا أخلي ربعي يكتلوچ ومحمد أكتلچ اکتلچ) means “*either I’ll kill you myself, or I’ll have my mates kill you, and by Mohammed, I’ll kill you, I’ll kill you*”. Intentionally, the blackmailer creates a state of panic in the victim before disappearing, leaving her feeling isolated and unable to seek help. Eventually, the use of manipulative and coercive language by the blackmailer provides clear evidence of his guilt, as his words reveal his unlawful actions; in other words, it demonstrates clear self-incriminating intent.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

To manifest his control, he uses three strategies: *bald on record*, *positive impoliteness*, and *negative impoliteness*. At first, he starts with the verbs “*in̄chabī wa gidy wa lizmī beytich wa qibalīā bīha*” where the blackmailer wants to give his orders concisely and create intentional negative face damage with no mitigation or politeness markers.

To insult his victim, the blackmailer uses one of the sub-strategies of positive impoliteness, which includes conventional formulaic taboo words by which the blackmailer shows his offensiveness. The blackmailer metaphorically uses the animal’s name just to attack and damage his victim's positive face. It is used to show his hatred for the victim’s fiancé.as in “*girīn*”.

The perpetrator uses direct, clear, and unambiguous threats. He asserts that he will do something for her by using these utterances “*I will kill you*” (أكتلج) “*I’ll have them put a bullet in both of you*” (أرميچ) “*I’ll have my mates kill you*” (اخلي ربعي يكتلوچ) and “*I’ll have them put a bullet in both of you.*” (گبل اخليهم يكتلوچ طلقه انت وياه) These expressions indicate how the perpetrator uses an aggressive way. He asserts that by using the verb “*kill*” just to make his victim frightened, swear words like “*Wallah*”, “*W Muhammed, and W Ali*” (ومحمد وعلي) stand as the promise of killing her fiancé.

Using another sub-strategy of negative impoliteness, the cybercriminal offends his victim by belittling her fiancé or using a derogatory form in “*ħaḍa ʔlħimār.*” Table (17) shows the blackmailer’s conversational and pragmatic strategies.

Table 17
Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.12

Conversational Strategies												Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	4
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	2
														Negative Imp.	7
														Sarcasm	
	4	2						1		1			8	Withhold	

4.2.14 Analysis of Case 13

Forensic Text 13

Blackmailer: *Right now, I know what I'm gonna do at night, it'll be sorted, innit?*

I swear I won't leave any bloody place without postin' everything.

You worthless, vile, cheatin' coward.

I'm givin' you just two days, that's it. Send the dosh and send everything I want and I'll delete all the videos and clear off.

And you won't see me again after. Decide quick, yeah?

المبتز: هسه اني أعرف شسوي بالليل يصير خير والله ما أبقى مكان إذا ما أنشر بيه كلشي

نذل حقير خاين جبان

أنطيك مهله يومين بس , تدر فلوس ودر كل شي أريد وأمسح فيديوهات كلها وأمشي

ومراح تشوفني بعد. قرر بأسرع وقت

(Appendix B. Case 13, p. xiv)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **financial blackmail**, where the perpetrator demanded money from the victim. After their secret marriage, she obtained sensitive information about him. Subsequently, she started blackmailing him through the Telegram application, demanding, *"Send the dosh and send everything I want and I'll delete all the videos and clear off"*.

B. Conversational Strategies

In this case, the blackmailer utilizes the "*Directives and Commands*" strategy to exert control over the victim. This strategy is evident in the imperative form of the utterance, "qarir bi ʔsraʕ waqit" (قَرِّرْ بِاسْرِعْ وَقْت), which means "**Decide quickly**". By employing a direct and command strategy, the blackmailer eliminates any possibility of discussion or negotiation, forcing the victim to comply with the demands.

By stating abusive swearing words in "naḏil ḥaqīr kaʔn jabān (نذِلْ . حَقِيرٌ , خَائِنٌ جَبَانٌ), meaning "**You worthless, vile, cheatin' coward.** ", the blackmailer uses a "swearing and taboo language" strategy to condemn the victim's morality and loyalty, in an extremely negative way. The word "naḏil" is one of the most substantial insults that describes someone untrustworthy, shameless, and capable of betraying others for personal gain. "ḥaqīr" refers to disgust and contempt for someone.

In the Iraqi dialect, it sometimes indicates that someone is not worth respecting. "Khāyin" is a highly offensive word; It implies betrayal of trust, whether in friendships, relationships, or national/political contexts. Here, the blackmailer describes the victim, "Khāyin" which refers to the personal betrayal. At the same time, it is used in everyday argument as "You betrayed our bond and the food we" (خانت العشرة وخنت الخبز والملح) in some situations, this word is also used in a political sense for someone who is perceived as betraying their country, party, or causes as in "These people are all traitors; they sold the country" (هذولة كلهم خونة، باعو الوطن)

Calling someone "jabān" questions his courage, strength, and ability to stand up for themselves. In Iraqi culture, this word is sometimes regarded as a deeper insult, especially for men, meaning "*not even a man*".

In the same vein, the blackmailer uses the "*Hit and run, Isolating the target and Scripting the target*" strategies in the utterance "ʔnṭik muhla yawmaʔn baṣ, tdiz fulūs wa tdiz kilfī ʔryd wāmsaḥ fydywhaṭ kulhā wāṃfī"

(انطيك مهله يومين بس , تدر فلوس ودر كل شي اريد وامسح فيديوهات كلها وامشي) which means "**I'm givin' you just two days, that's it. Send the dosh and send everything I want and I'll delete all the videos and clear off**". The blackmailer instantly threatens the victim and

then disappears in an attempt to create a state of panic, creating a feeling of loneliness that prevents him from asking for help, the blackmailer seeks to intimidate the victim “qarir bi ?sra‘ waqit” (قرر بأسرع وقت) which means “*Decide quick, yeah?*” but in utterances of threat “wāllah mā ?baqī makān īḏa mā ?nfīr byh kilfī” (والله ما ابقى مكان اذا ما انشر بيه كلشي) which means “*I swear I won't leave any bloody place without postin' everything*” reveals to her guilt and unlawful actions, it demonstrates clear self-incriminating intent.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

One common pragmatic strategy used in blackmail is impoliteness, where the blackmailer employs aggressive and offensive language to intimidate and dominate the victim. By utilizing pressure and intimidation, the blackmailer reinforces her control over the victim. In this case, the blackmailer employs a “bald, on-record” impoliteness strategy by giving a direct and forceful command: “qarira biasra‘ waqit,” which means to “Decide quickly” and threatens the victim’s negative face directly.

To insult her victim, the blackmailer employs a positive impoliteness sub-strategy by using conventional formulaic swearing; she aims at damaging the victim’s positive face by saying “nadil ḥaqīr kayn jabān”.

Lastly, the blackmailer employs the negative impoliteness sub-strategy “threatening” to insult the victim's negative face and indicate the power of the blackmailer saying “wāllah mā ?baqī makān īḏa mā ?nfīr byh kilfī”. Table (18) shows the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 18

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.13

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies		
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	1
			Hum.						1					Positive Imp.	4
	1	4												Negative Imp.	2
														Sarcasm	
														Withhold	

4.2.15 Analysis of Case 14

Forensic Text 14

Blackmailer: *Where are you?*

Victim: *Go ahead.*

Blackmailer: *Bottom line, 50 million today or I'm sharing the photo. So, what've you decided? I'm waiting.*

Transfer the money quickly.

Bye.

I'm gonna share it, you've gotta pay the price.

المبتز: وين أنت؟

الضحية: تفضلي

المبتز: من الاخير 50 مليون يجن اليوم لو أنشرها الصورة

ها شكلت؟ ماتضر

حوّلي الفلوس بسرعه

باي

راح أنشرها , لازم تدفع الثمن

(Appendix B. Case 14, p. xiv)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **financial blackmail**, conducted via Instagram, in which the blackmailer threatens to ruin the victim's reputation by exposing his picture unless he pays 50,000,000 IQD. This threat is explicitly stated as: *“Bottom line, 50 million today or I'm sharing the photo. So, what've you decided? I'm waiting.”*

B. Conversational Strategies

In this forensic text, the blackmailer utilizes the *“Directive and Commands”* strategy *“hawyli ?l flus bisrah”* (حوّلي الفلوس بسرعه) which means *“Transfer the money quickly”*. By employing this strategy, the blackmailer exerts control over the victim's behavior; she tries to minimize any opportunity for resistance or negotiation. The strategy of the directive

and command is a directive speech act, reflecting an attempt to manipulate the victim through authority and urgency too, thus enhancing the pressure to comply.

In an attempt to gain more details that would help the blackmailer exert more control over the situation and figure out where the victim is, the blackmailer uses the “*Question*” strategy, asking “wayn ʔntah?” (وين انت؟) which means “*Where are you?*”.

Eventually, her last utterance “rah ʔnfīrha ,lazim tidfa ʔ” (راح انشرها, لازم تدفع الثمن) which means “*I'm gonna share it, you've gotta pay the price*” and “xamsyn million yijan ʔl yowm lw ʔnfīrha ʔlsurah” (50 مليون يجن اليوم لو انشرها الصورة) which means “*50 million today or I'm sharing the photo*” The blackmailer instantly threatens the victim and then disappears in an attempt to create a state of panic, before the victim has the chance to respond appropriately creating a feeling of loneliness that prevents him from asking for help, the blackmailer seeks to intimidate the victim. This utterance provides clear evidence of her guilt, as her words reveal unlawful actions.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

The blackmailer uses two strategies: bald on record and negative impoliteness. To maintain her control over the victim, she employs a “Bald and record” strategy as in “hawyli ʔl flus bisirah” to create intentional face damage directly.

Furthermore, the blackmailer employs the negative impoliteness sub-strategy “threatening” to insult the victim's negative face and indicate the power of the blackmailer as in “xamsyn million yijan ʔl yowm lw ʔnfīrha ʔlsurah” and “rah ʔnfīrha ,lazim tidfa ʔl thaman” . Table (19) shows the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 19

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.14

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies		
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	1
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	
														Negative Imp.	2
														Sarcasm	
	1			1				1		1		2		Withhold	

4.2.16 Analysis of Case 15

Forensic Text 15

Blackmailer: *Today your uncle wants to complain about me, So what? I'll teach you lot a proper lesson, I swear I'll finish you off.*

Look, I've got your pictures now.

Listen mate, I need money. What you've sent ain't enough for me. Send me more, and if you don't, I'll wreck your family and you're finished. Even your missus will ask for a divorce. You know bloody well what I've got on you, so let's make a deal, yeah? That's better for everyone.

المبتز: ها عود

اليوم عمك يريد يشتكي عليه اني اعلمكم والله انه يكم

شوف صورك صارت يمي

شوف عيني فلوس اريد متكفيني اللي دزيتها , دزلي بعد واذا مادزيت تر اخر ب عائلتك وتنتهي وحتى زوجتك

تطلب الطلاق

وتعرف زين شلازمه عليك فخلينا نتفق احسن

(Appendix B. Case 15, p. xv)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **financial blackmail**; the blackmailer is the victim's wife, and after one year of secret marriage, they face numerous problems, which lead the wife (blackmailer) to threaten her husband (the victim) by exposing their secret relationship to his family if he refuses to continue giving her money.

B. Conversational Strategies

The directive and command strategy “dzlī ba‘d” (دز لي بعد), which means “**Send me more money**” used by the blackmailer is expressed in an aggravated form, reinforcing the forceful and commanding nature of her speech. The blackmailer creates a sense of power over the victim by giving orders, preventing any opportunity for compromise or resistance.

Using ambiguity is one of the most powerful strategies used by blackmailers to instill fear and uncertainty in their victims. In the utterance “wata‘ruf za‘yn fīlazima ‘ala‘yk” (وتعرف زين شلازمه عليك فخلينا نتفق أحسن), which means “**You know bloody well what I've got on you, so let's make a deal, yeah? That's better for everyone**”. Here, the blackmailer avoids detailing a direct threat, instead relying on implication and uncertainty to increase the victim's suffering. This vague utterance forces the victim to imagine severe consequences and aggravates his sense of helplessness and fear, leaving the victim guessing.

As clearly evident, the blackmailer uses a “Hit and run” strategy, which shows that before the victim has the chance to respond appropriately, the blackmailer swiftly issues a threat and then disappears, leaving the victim in a state of uncertainty and distress.

The last conversational strategy, “Scripting the target” is also noticeable in the utterances “Wāllah ?nhŷkuḡ” (والله انهيكم) which means “**I swear I'll finish you off**”, “šūwarak šāra‘ yamīy” (صورك صارت يمي) means “**Look, I've got your pictures now**” and “dzlī ba‘da wā īḡa maḡazyt tara ?xarub ?yiltak” (دز لي بعد واذا مادزيت تر أخرّب عائلتك) which means “**Send me more, and if you don't, I'll wreck your family and you're finished**”. It suggests that the blackmailer is willing to cause harm to the victim's personal life or

relationships and provides clear evidence of the blackmailer’s guilt, as her words reveal unlawful actions.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

In blackmail, impoliteness is a key pragmatic strategy, with the blackmailer using harsh language to assert control and instill fear in the victim. The blackmailer uses the strategies: bald on record and negative impoliteness. To maintain his control over the victim, he employs a “Bald and record” strategy as in “dzlī bad” to create intentional face damage directly. While in the utterances “dzlī bad” and “dz lī ba ʿda wā iḏā maḏazyt tara ʔxārub ʔyiltak” and “Wāllah ʔnh̄ȳkuḡ”, the blackmailer employs a negative impoliteness sub-strategy “threatening” to insult the victim's negative face and indicate the power of the blackmailer. Table (20) demonstrates the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies

Table 20

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.15

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.		
			Abu.											Bald on record	1	
			Hum.											Positive Imp.		
														Negative Imp.	2	
															Sarcasm	
															Withhold	
	1							1	2		1		3			

4.2.17 Analysis of Case 16

Forensic Text 16

Blackmailer: *Answer on Snapchat quick. I'll have everyone's mouths running about you and make it so killing you becomes fair game - get lost, bye.*

Victim: *What you on about with these threats?*

Blackmailer: *Told you I'm in a sticky situation - help me out, and that, yeah? But you're just not accepting it, dunno why.*

Listen, everything's good when it's time, innit?

God's generous" generous [What goes around comes around].

Victim: *But I've got nothing left, sold everything and gave it to you - that's enough now*

Blackmailer: *Alright then, I'll show you how you'd sort it out, God's generous [What goes around comes around], alright.*

You told me your brother works at the restaurant, right then, you turned out to be a proper snake.

Victim: *I swear I've got nothing, understand?!*

Blackmailer: *Get it from your mate.*

Sort it from your mate, your mum, your brother, sort it sort it.

Don't care how, just sort it sort it - I've got no other way but I'm stuck on you so sort it out for me.

المبتز: جاوبي ع السناپ بسرعه

اذا ماخلىتج علج بخلگ العالم واخلي كتلج يصير حلال روجي باي

الضحيه: شنو تهدد

المبتز: كتلج وگعت بموقف ساعديني وكذا زين بس انت متقبلين ما أعرف ليش

يابه كلشي بوقته حلو

الله كريم

الضحيه: بس ما عندي , بعث كل شيء وانطيتك كافي بعد

المبتز: ماشي , أنا راح أخليج شلون تدبريهن الله كريم ماشي

گتيلي اخوچ يشتغل بالمطعم يله ماشي طلعتي حيه

الضحيه: ما عندي والله افهم

المبتز: درزي من صديقتج

دبريلي دبريلي من صديقتج أمج اخوچ دبريليني

ما أعرف دبريلي دبريلي اني ما عندي حل بس انت اتمسك بيچ فدبريلي

(Appendix B. Case 16, p. xv)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **financial blackmail** in which the blackmailer and the victim were friends in college; However, the blackmailer began threatening her victim after obtaining

compromising photos of the victim and her sisters. To carry out the threats, the blackmailer created a fake account, impersonating a boy to add an element of deception and disguise. This conversation was conducted through the Instagram application.

B. Conversational Strategies

The use of imperative verbs such as “jāwbī ʔlsnāb bisirah” (جاوبي ع السناپ بسرعه) “*Answer on Snapchat quick.*”, “dabryly” (دبريلي) “*sort it sort it*”, and “dzī miñ şdyqtich” (دزّي من صديقتج) which means “*Get it from your mate*” refer to “*Directive and Commands*” strategy that serves as a clear assertion of control, demanding immediate actions from the victim without a chance for negotiation or refusal. The repetition of the verb “dabryly” is used six times to emphasize the coercive nature of the blackmailer's demands, reinforcing her dominance and power over the victim.

In this utterance “ṭal‘aty ḥayāh” (طلعتي حيه) “*You turned out to be a proper snake*” is being used as a swearing or insulting word, making it a taboo term, especially when used to describe someone negatively. When someone is called a “*snake*” it implies that they are deceitful, dishonest, or dangerous. It can be a harsh criticism and is meant to convey strong negative emotions toward the person being insulted. Overall, the blackmailer uses this strong, offensive “*Abusive swearing word*” strategy to hurt the victim or discredit someone's reputation by associating them with a dangerous, untrustworthy creature.

By not specifying her exact demands, the blackmailer employs a strategy of “Using ambiguity” in the utterances “yābah kilfī biwaqtah ḥilw” (يا به كلشي بوقته حلو) which means “*Listen, everything's good when it's time, innit?*” and “ʔllah karīm” (الله كريم) “*Allah Kareem*” [*God's generous*],[*generous*] and [*What goes around comes around*] to create uncertainty and aggravate the psychological pressure on the victim. The blackmailer wants to leave the victim guessing about the type of threat and uncertain about what is being demanded, so the victim may imagine the worst possible consequences, leading to increased fear and a stronger probability of compliance. While not directly stating the consequences, the blackmailer's utterances suggest that the victim should be concerned about an unknown outcome.

In the Iraqi dialect, the phrase “ʔllah karīm” (الله كريم) can be used in many ways, including to express reluctant hope but the use of this phrase from the blackmailer does not provide clear information about what will happen next, it implies that the victim’s future is uncertain and dependent on the blackmailer’s decision, which heightens the victim’s sense of helplessness. Thus, the blackmailer’s use of this ambiguous, colloquial phrase manipulates the victim’s emotional state by creating fear and uncertainty while avoiding clear threats. This strategy is effective because it forces the victim to imagine the worst possible outcomes, heightening the psychological manipulation and making the blackmail more effective.

One of the conversational strategies used by the blackmailer, in this case, is the “*Hit and Run*” strategy in which the blackmailer does not give the victim a chance to respond appropriately, she swiftly issues a threat and then disappears, leaving the victim in a state of uncertainty and distress as it clear in “mā ʔruf dabryly dabryly maindy hal bas ʔnti ʔtamasak bych fadabryly” (ما اعرف دبيري دبيري اني ما عندي حل بس انت اتمسك بيچ فدبريلي) which means “*Don't care how, just sort it sort it - I've got no other way but I'm stuck on you so sort it out for me*”

Additionally, it can be observed that the blackmailer employs the “*Ignoring the victim when she says No*” strategy. When the victim responds that she does not have money “ma indy” (ما عندي), meaning “*I swear I've got nothing, understand*” the blackmailer ignores her by saying “mā ʔruf dabryly” (ما اعرف دبيري) “*Don't care how, just sort it sort it*” the verb is used to directly command the victim, disregarding any politeness or potential for negotiation.

Finally, the blackmailer provides clear evidence of her guilt, as her words reveal unlawful actions by employing the strategy of “*Scripting the target*” saying “tōḍa maḵlytch ‘iḷich biḥalīg ʔi ʔlam wāxalī katlich yaṣīr ḥalāl (اذا ماخليتج علج بحك العالم واخلي كتلج يصير حلال) meaning “*I'll have everyone's mouths running about you and make it so killing you becomes fair game*”. In the Iraqi dialect, it is a strong, threatening expression in which the blackmailer threatens to ruin the victim’s reputation by ensuring that people talk about her

constantly as if they were chewing gum in everyone’s mouth. It is a common threatening metaphor in the Iraqi dialect that is likened to defamation.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

The blackmailer uses three strategies: bald on record, and negative impoliteness. To maintain his control over the victim, he employs a “bald and record” strategy as in “jāwibī ‘ ʔlsnāb bisirah”, “dabryly”, and “dzī miñ şadyqtich” to create intentional face damage directly. but in the “taḷ’aty ḥayāh,” the blackmailer utilizes one of the sub-strategies of positive impoliteness, “Abusive word” that includes damaging the face of the victim who refuses to submit to her demands.

The last sub-strategy of negative impoliteness is “threatening,” which can appear in “tōḍa maḫlytch ‘ ilich biḥalīg ʔl’ ʔlam wāxalī katlich yaşir ḥalāl” This utterance is an explicit threat, demonstrating negative impoliteness and a severe face-threatening act (FTA). The blackmailer employs direct and aggressive language, implying a serious consequence if the victim does not comply. The blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies are shown in the Table below.

Table 21

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.16

Conversational Strategies												Pragmatic Strategies					
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.			
			Abu.											Bald on record	1		
			Hum.											Positive Imp.			
														Negative Imp.	2		
															Sarcasm		
	4	1						3	1					1	1	Withhold	

4.2.18 Analysis of Case 17

Forensic Text 17

Victim: *Who are you, girl?*

Blackmailer: *Doesn't matter, just take this as advice from your sister.*

Victim: *I still need to know who you are. Thanks for the advice though. There's nothing that can't be sorted; it's just a matter of time.*

Blackmailer: *I don't want to gloat, but look - it's been ages and you still haven't given me anything.*

Victim: *Thanks.*

Blackmailer: *Haven't figured out who I am yet, eh?*

What I've shared is just one in a thousand, and no one's gonna show mercy to you or your sister - she might as well top herself, get it over with. If you don't sort this out, I'm posting it all public.

I won't show you any mercy and you know it - you better come today.

الضحية: منو حضرتج ؟

المبتز: مايهم بس هاي نصيحه من أختك اعتبرها

الضحية: غير أعرف منو حضرتكم , مشكوره عالنصيحه

ماكو شي ماينحل بس هي مسئلة وقت

المبتز: ما أريد أشمت بس شوف أخذت وقت هواي ولحد الان ماقدمتلي شي

الضحية: مشكوره

المبتز: ماعرفتني ها؟

هذني اللي نشرتهن واحد من ألف ومحد راح يرحمك ويرحم أختك عود تريد تنتحر يله خلصوا منها , واذا ماسويت

حل راح أنشر ع العام

مراح أرحمك وأنت تفهم لازم تجي اليوم

(Appendix A. Case 17, p. xvii)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **sextortion blackmail** in which the plaintiff complained that the perpetrator exploits explicit images to exert coercive control over the victim. The blackmailer, who was once the victim's roommate in the dormitory, secretly took several

pictures of the victim in sensitive situations. When the victim refused to comply with further demands for additional images, the blackmailer began to threaten the victim and the victim's brother, thereby extending the psychological pressure. The continuous intimidation leads the victim to multiple suicide attempts, which points to the profound psychological impact of sextortion. The blackmailer conducted these threats through the WhatsApp application.

B. Conversational Strategies

The blackmailer seeks confirmation by employing the “*Question Tag*” strategy, saying “maʿrafitny hā” (ماعرفتني ها ؟) which means “*Haven't figured out who I am yet, eh?*”. She wants to assert whether her victim knows her or not; it conveys uncertainty. The meaning of (ماعرفتني ها ؟) depends entirely on the situation, tone, and relationship between the people talking. It can be friendly, sarcastic, intimidating, or even dangerous, depending on how it is said and the intention behind it. In this utterance, it is a way to seek confirmation about the victim and create fear, and exert control over the victim, often implying dangerous consequences.

By not specifying her exact demands, the blackmailer employs a strategy of “*Using Ambiguity*” in the utterances “marāḥ ʔrḥmak wā ʔnta tafham” (مراح أرحمك وأنت تفهم), which means “*I won't show you any mercy and you know it*”. It can imply a threat or warning, showing that it is not to be messed with the blackmailer.

In an attempt to isolate the victim and make him feel powerless, the blackmailer uses “*Isolating the victim from important information*” and “*Scripting the target*” strategies in the utterance “haḏānī ily naḡaraḥin wāḥid min ʔlif wmaḥad rāḥ yarḥamak”

(هذني اللي نشرتهن واحد من ألف ومحد راح يرحمك) which means, “*What I've shared is just one in a thousand, and no one's gonna show mercy to you or your sister*”. To isolate the victim and make him feel powerless, the blackmailer uses the threat of revealing sensitive information, leaving him without any possible help. In a similar vein, the blackmailer provides clear evidence of her guilt, as her words reveal unlawful actions as seen in this utterance and “wā iḏā maḡwyt ḥal rāḥ ʔnḡir ʿ aḷāma” (واذا ماسويت حل راح أنشر ع العام) means “*If you don't sort this out, I'm posting it all public*” and “marāḥ ʔrḥamak wā ʔnta tafham

lazim tigy ʔlyoum” (مراح أرحمك وأنت تفهم لازم تجي اليوم) *“I won't show you any mercy and you know it - you better come today”*

C. Impoliteness Strategies

In this forensic text, the blackmailer utilizes a “Negative impoliteness sub-strategy” “Frightening” and “Threatening” which involves threatening the victim to create fear and to expose the victim’s secrets, insulting the victim's negative face (FTA) in the utterances “haḏānī ily naʔarathin wāḥid miñ ʔlif wmaḥad rāḥ yaʔḥamak” , “wā īḏa mašwyt ḥal rāḥ ʔnʔfir ‘ aḷāma” and “marāḥ ʔrḥamak wā ʔnta tafham lazim tigy ʔlyoum”. Table (22) illustrates the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 22

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.17

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies		
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	1
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	
								1	1				Negative Imp.	3	
														Sarcasm	
	1							1	1		1		3	Withhold	

4.2.19 Analysis of Case 18

Forensic Text 18

Blackmailer: *Hi,*

Better respond, it's proper urgent innit?

And if you don't, I'll try something else - either way mate, you're the one who's losing.

Check out these pics I sent ya - this is just the first warning, and there's loads more

Do you really have the guts to not respond, you crooked-mouthed muppet.

Victim: *I'm proper knackered from dealing with you, can't take it anymore*

Blackmailer: *Whatever, innit? you're used to it now. - you've already wasted yourself in brothels haven't you, so don't stress, you can handle it.*

المبتز: مرحبا

حاول ترد وضروري هم

وإذا مترد أستخدم غير أسلوب المهم حبي أنت خسران

شوف هذني الصور اللي دزيتهم أول تهديد وبعد خير من الله أكو

هسه أنت يعني بيك حظ ومتجاوب أثول أبو حلگ الأعوج

الضحيه: تر تعبت منج بعد ماأقدر

المبتز: عادي أنت تعودت المفروض متخاف بعد هو أنت خلصتها ببيوت دعاره ف لاتخاف تكدر

(Appendix A. Case 18, p. xviii)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **sextortion blackmail**, where the blackmailer deceived the victim into visiting her home by luring him and secretly recorded inappropriate acts without his awareness for three months. She subsequently exploited these images to threaten him because he refused to come again. Their conversation was conducted through WhatsApp.

B. Conversational Strategies

The blackmailer employs various offensive abusive language, including the word “ʔθwal” (أثول) which means “*fool*”, which is a derogatory insult used to describe someone who is easily deceived by others. Additionally, the phrase “ʔbu haliq ʔl ʔlʔwaj”

(أبو حلگ الأعوج) means “*with the crooked mouthed muppet*” which is a highly offensive utterance used by the blackmailer to attack and insult the victim verbally.

“Buyūt dārah” (بيوت دعاره) which means “*brothels*”. It is a taboo phrase that carries strong offensive connotations, causing discomfort to those who hear it. The blackmailer employs it as a means to provoke and disturb the victim. Additionally, it refers to locations associated with offering sexual services, further intensifying its derogatory and disturbing impact.

To obscure the unlawful nature of the blackmailer’s demands, she employs language that seems acceptable legal discourse, employing the strategy of “*camouflaging the illegality*”. The blackmailer attempts to depict demands in a manner that appears harmless

and within the boundaries of the law, thereby minimizing its criminal connotations as in “ʕadi ʔnta tawadit ʔl mafrood matxaf bad hwa ʔnta xalasitha dara flatxaf”

(عادي أنت تعوّدت المفروض متخاف بعد هو أنت خلّصتها ببيوت دعاره ف لاتخاف) which means **“Don't worry, you're used to it. You shouldn't be scared anymore, you already dealt with it in brothels, so you can handle it”**.

In an attempt to isolate the victim and make him feel powerless, the blackmailer uses “Isolating the victim from important information” as seen in the utterance “haḏānī ʔlṣūwr ily dzythum ʔwāl taḥdīd” (هذني الصور اللي دزيتهم أول تهديد), which means **“Check out these pics I sent ya - this is just the first warning, and there's loads more”**

When the victim claims “ma ʔqdar” “I'm proper knackered from dealing with you, can't take it anymore”, The blackmailer ignores this response and asserts that the victim has no option but to comply with her demands, as expressed in the utterance “flatxaf tqdar” “أنت خلّصتها دعاره ف لاتخاف تكدّر” meaning **“you've already wasted yourself in brothels haven't you, so don't stress, you can handle it”** This strategy is called *“Ignoring the target(victim) when he says No”*

The last conversational strategy is *“Scripting the target”* in which the perpetrator's threatening statements towards the victim are regarded as a clear indication of her guilt, as the utterances represent direct evidence in the form of the perpetrator's own words as in “haḏānī ʔlṣūwr ily dzythum ʔwāl taḥdīd” (هذني الصور اللي دزيتهم أول تهديد) which means **“Check out these pics I sent ya - this is just the first warning, and there's loads more”** and it is an attempt to establish dominance, which may be followed by further coercive actions to maintain power.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

In this case, the blackmailer uses two strategies of impoliteness: “positive and negative impoliteness”. At first, she employs *a sub-strategy of positive impoliteness*, utilizing offensive language such as the taboo expression “buyūt dārah,” the derogatory utterance “ʔbu haliq ʔl ʔlʕwaj,” and the expletive “ʔθwal.”. Through these verbal attacks, the blackmailer seeks to humiliate and insult the victim's positive face, thereby exerting psychological pressure. On the other hand, the blackmailer in a direct, clear, and

unambiguous way, threatens the victim to reveal his secrets and instill fear. This sub-strategy of “*negative impoliteness*” is called “*threatening*”, saying “*haḏānī ʔlṣūwr ily dzythum ʔwāl taḥdīd*” and “*wa iḏā matrid ʔṣtaxdim gaʔr ʔṣluwb*”.

Employing another sub-strategy of negative impoliteness, “*hasāh ʔnta ya ʔnī bīk ḥaz wa matjāwib*” (هسه أنت يعني بيك حظ ومتجاوب), “*Do you really have the guts to not respond*” which means the blackmailer attempts to belittle and insult the victim by narrowing his ability to respond or comply with her demands”. This strategy undermines the victim's self-esteem while simultaneously reinforcing the blackmailer's dominance and control over the victim. Table (23) shows the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 23

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.18

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.		
			Abu.											Bald on record	1	
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	3	
														Negative Imp.	3	
															Sarcasm	
	1	3								1	1	1	1		Withhold	

4.2.20 Analysis of Case 19

Forensic Text 19

Blackmailer: *Oi, listen up, yeah? I’ve got your daughter—picked her straight up from school. Next, my lot are gonna take the other one.*

And don’t even think about running to the cops, alright? I’ll make life proper hard for you lot. See, I write these messages from my own gaff and time ’em just right, so when you go crying to the coppers, they’ll think it’s you making the threats. I even know your bloody Wi-Fi password.

Here's the deal—either (X) marries me, or (Y) does, or you find me someone else. If none of that works, then (Z) has to dump his missus and marry me, or I'll just take him myself.

Listen, if you don't sort this, I'll come to your house, and drag your name through the dirt. Sod off and rot for all I care.

You lot know I ain't messing—I know exactly where he is, and right now, I'm standing outside your gaff.

Oh, and your car? Proper trashed it—4 in the bloody morning. Today, I sent some lads to keep an eye on your daughter. I've got a little arrangement with some bloke from the street—I write the messages, pass 'em on, and he sends 'em your way.

المبتز: اسمع زين

خطفت بنتكم أخذتها من المدرسه وبعد راح أوذي جماعتي تخطف الثانيه
 ألكم خاف ترحون تشتكون ترى أديكم وتتورطون لأن أنا أكتب الرسائل من بيتي وأوقتهن علمود تشتكون ويجون
 الشرطه يلگون التهديد منكم وحتى رمز شبكتكم أعرفه
 شوفوا اذا متزوجني (س) خلي (ص) يزوجني أو شوفولي واحد أتزوجه أو تنطوني (س ص) ويعوف زوجته
 وكل شي أو أخطفه اله
 ألكم اذا متردون راح أجي لبيتكم وأضحكم وطبكم مرض
 حسب ما تعرفون أندله وأنا هسه واكفه كبال بيتكم
 أنا كسرت وسويت هيچ بالسياره ودمرتها الساعه 4 الصبح واليوم دزيت ولد علمود يراقبون بنتكم أنا متفقه
 ويا واحد من الشارع وأنا أكتب وأنطي وهو يدز لكم

(Appendix A. Case 19, p. xviii)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **beneficial blackmail** in which the blackmailer coerces the victim into marrying her, mentioning his prior promise. She threatens to damage his reputation, as well as that of his family. Furthermore, the blackmailer increases threats by promising to kidnap the victim's sisters with the assistance of her partners in crime. These coercive threats were conveyed through the Telegram application.

B. Conversational Strategies

The blackmailer utilizes the “Swearing and Taboo language” strategy as a means of insulting her victim, in the utterance “tabkum marad” (طبكم مرض) which means **“Sod off and rot for all I care.”** so the blackmailer will not care about them, she will do what is in her mind. In the Iraqi dialect, this abusive swearing word conveys the notion that the victim is responsible for their suffering and, therefore, undeserving of sympathy or support.

The blackmailer employs the conditional structure “*If Clause*” “iḏā mtrdwn ḡnā rah ḡjī libaʔtikum” (إذا متردّون راح أجي لبيتكم) which means **“Listen, if you don’t sort this, I’ll come to your house, and drag your name through the dirt.”** as a hedging strategy to introduce her statement less directly, thereby creating a sense of ambiguity or plausible deniability. Furthermore, the “*introductory phrase*” “ḡḡaṣab mā taʔrufūn” (حسب ما تعرفون), which means **“You lot know”** is utilized by the perpetrator to introduce uncertainty or indirectness into a statement and asserts her familiarity with the subject matter, subtly reinforcing her credibility and control over the discourse.

Scripting the target is the last conversational strategy which is used in the utterances “xtafit biṡtukum ḡḡadthā min ḡlmdrsah wabaʔd rāḡ ḡwadī jamāʔatī taxṡif ḡlḡḡānīah”

(خطفت بنتكم أخذتها من المدرسه وبعد راح أودي جماعتي تخطف الثانيه) **“I’ve got your daughter—picked her straight up from school. Next, my lot are gonna take the other one”**, “ḡqulkum xāf tarḡḡūn tashṡtakūn taray ḡdīkum wa tatawarāṡūn”

(گتلكم خاف ترحون تشتكون تری أدیکم وتتورطون) which means **“And don’t even think about running to the cops, alright? I’ll make life proper hard for you lot”**, “ḡḡṡfa ilah

(أخطفه اله) means **“or I’ll just take him myself.”** and “wa damāriṡhā ḡlṡaʔh 4 ḡlṡūbh wālyawm dazyt wild ʔalmwd yurāqibūn biṡtakum”

(كسرتها ودمرتها الساعة 4 الصبح واليوم دزيت ولد علمود يراقبون بنتكم) which means **“Oh, and your car? Proper trashed it—4 in the bloody morning. Today, I sent some lads to keep an eye on your daughter”**. The perpetrator's use of threatening language as seen above toward the victim highlights her guilt and provides compelling evidence in particular since these utterances are the blackmailer’s self-incriminating and expressed in her own voice as revealing unlawful actions.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

The blackmailer’s use of “tabkum marad” indicates the “positive impoliteness” strategy through the deliberate use of derogatory words aimed at humiliating and damaging the victim’s positive face and through the use of explicit threats, conditional coercion, intimidation, and the imposition of consequences. At the same time, the blackmailer attacks the victim’s negative face by restricting their autonomy, instilling fear, and asserting dominance by using a sub-strategy of negative impoliteness “threatening” as in “xāf tarḥūn taṣḥtakūn taray ʔdīkum wa tatawarāṭūn”. Table (24) explicates the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 24

Conversational Strategies and pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.19

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating illegality	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.		
			Abu.											Bald on record	2	
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	1	
														Negative Imp.	6	
															Sarcasm	
	2		1				1		1		1		5		Withhold	

4.2.21 Analysis of Case 20

Forensic Text

Blackmailer: *Salam Alaikum [Hello].*

Salam Alaikum.

Salam, Salam, Salam.

Listen, brother, if you don’t give me 7 million, I’ll post your daughter’s pictures all over social media...

Do you know who helped me get her pictures? It’s (X) – she hates you. And someone else gave me her wedding photos too.

Aw, poor you. Maybe you can't afford it, I'll drop it to 5 million— just as much as the number of your creatures.

I will make your day as dark as night.

المبتنز: سلام عليكم

سلام عليكم

سلام سلام سلام

أغولك خويه اذا متنطوني 7 ملايين راح أنشر صور بنتكم

تدرون منو ساعدتني وانطنتي صورها هي (س) لأن تكرهكم ووحده ثانيه انطنتي صور زواجها

خطيّه خاف ماعدكم راح أسويهن خمس ملايين على عدد خلقتكم

إلا أراويكم نجوم الظهر

(Appendix B. Case 20, p. xix)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case represents a form of **financial blackmail** in which the blackmailer demands a sum of money from the victim, threatening to expose their daughter's pictures if the demand is not met. The blackmailer explicitly states, "*If you don't give me 7 million, I'll post your daughter's pictures all over social media...*". The blackmailer conducted these threats through the WhatsApp application.

B. Conversational Strategies

The blackmailer utilizes the "*Hedges*" strategy, she employs the "Modal auxiliary verb" "may" to present her demand in a less assertive, more manipulative way. At first, in the utterance "xaṭīya xāf mā'idkum (خطيّه خاف ماعدكم) which means "*Aw, poor you. Maybe you can't afford it.*" This is a colloquial expression, meaning something like "*may*", "*maybe*" "*might*" or "*could*" It's a softening phrase that suggests uncertainty or shows some level of possibility.

Using an *ambiguity* strategy can make the threat feel more powerful because the victim is left to imagine the worst possible outcomes, which increases anxiety or fear. In the utterance "illa ʔrawyikum nijoom ʔlzihr (إلا أراويكم نجوم الظهر) "*I will make your day as dark as night*" can carry a sense of ambiguity, making the victim guess exactly how or

what the blackmailer will do. This figurative expression is used to suggest a severe consequence or threat. In Arabic slang, "نجوم الظهر" "*the stars at noon*" refers to something impossible or absurd because stars are typically only visible at night, not during the daytime. So, the blackmailer uses this figurative expression in order to do something that's either harmful, unthinkable, or will be a big shock, emphasizing the severity of her threat unless her demand is met. It's like saying, "*You don't want to find out what I'll do*"

The last three strategies employed by the blackmailer are "hit and run, isolating the victim from important information, and scripting the target.", They are noticeable in "īḍā matinṭwny 7 malāyīn ḡnḡir ṣūwar biḡtikum" (ا ذا متطوني 7 ملايين راح أنشر صور بنتكم) which means, "*if you don't give me 7 million, I'll post your daughter's pictures all over social media...*" It is a direct, clear, and forceful threat with no ambiguity. The blackmailer is making an ultimatum: either pay money or face the consequences without giving the victim a chance to respond. By making the victim feel helpless, the blackmailer reduces the chances of the victim fighting back or seeking legal action.

The perpetrator's use of threatening language, as seen in this utterance and "rāḡ ḡsawyhīn xms malāyīn 'ala 'adad xilqatikum" (راح أسويهن خمس ملايين على عدد خلقتكم) which means "*I'll drop it to 5 million—just as much as the number of your creatures*" toward the victim, highlights her guilt and provides compelling evidence, particularly since these utterances are the blackmailer's self-incriminating and unlawful actions.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

In this forensic text, the blackmailer uses two strategies of impoliteness, She attacks the victim's negative face by employing the sub-strategy of impoliteness "*Threatening*" as in "īḍā matinṭwny 7 malāyīn ḡnḡir ṣūwar biḡtikum" directly, she threatens to expose sensitive pictures. At the same time, she uses another sub-strategy of impoliteness is mocking, belittling, or ridiculing the victim, making him feel weak, worthless, and powerless as in "xṡīyah xāf mā'idikum rāḡ ḡswyhn xaḡs malāyīn 'ala 'adad xalqatikum" (خطيّه خاف ماعدكم راح أسويهن خمس ملايين على عدد خلقتكم) which means "*Aw, poor you. Maybe you can't afford it, I'll drop it to 5 million just as much as the number of your creatures.*". This utterance is also a "*sarcasm*" strategy of impoliteness. On the surface, the blackmailer

sounds like she is adjusting the demand out of sympathy, *“I’ll drop it to 5 million”* but the real intention is mockery and humiliation for the victim. Table (25) demonstrates the blackmailer’s strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 25

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.20

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies		
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	
							1	1	1		1	1	2	Negative Imp.	2
														Sarcasm	1
														Withhold	

4.2.22 Analysis of Case 21

Forensic Text 21

Blackmailer: *Why ain't you coming to my flat tomorrow? Seriously, why ain't you coming? Come over, we'll get intimate, then sort everything out.*

Victim: *Sort everything out? How? And then you'll just come back.*

Blackmailer: *Yeah, I'll sort it all, trust me.*

Victim: *And that's it?*

Blackmailer: *I swear on God.*

Victim: *Do you even dare look me in the eye after that?*

Blackmailer: *Listen, don't keep mucking about. Better get rid of me if you can. Right now, I'm sort of mad keen on you, but ... I will humiliate you; you'll come over whether you like it or not.*

The main thing is I get my enjoyment. You follow?

المبتز: أنت ليش متجي باجر للشقه مالتى؟

صدگ ليش متجي؟, تعال نتونس وبعدين ننهي كلشي

الضحيه : تنهين كل شي شلون وبعدين هم ترجعين

المبتز: أي أنهي كل شي صدگني

الضحيه : وبهيج طريقه

المبتز : اي والله

الضحيه : وهم الح عين بعد وتباوعين عليه

المبتز : شوف لا تظل تماطل بالحچي بيك خير تخلص مني ,هسه أنا مينته عليك مثلا بس الا ماأذلك , تجي

وغصبا عليك والا

أهم شي أتونس شكلت

(Appendix B. Case 21, p. xx)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a sextortion blackmail, where the complainant reported that the perpetrator threatened him through the Instagram application. After their relationship through the PUBG game, the blackmailer convinced and enticed the victim to visit her apartment. Subsequently, she began threatening to expose him if he refused her demands.

B. Conversational Strategies

Blackmailers often avoid direct threats to maintain denial. Rather than stating, “*If you do not comply, I will expose you*”, they employ slight, psychological, and manipulative language to exert pressure while avoiding direct incrimination. In this forensic text, the blackmailer utilizes the “*Minimal Responses*” strategy as part of her manipulation tactics and to keep the victim engaged and off-balance. The blackmailer uses short, vague, or non-committal responses as in “*ayā ?ñhī kul fy ṣaḍgynī*”(أي أنهي كل شي صدگني) which means “*Yeah, I’ll sort it all, trust me*” and “*I swear on God* ” She creates uncertainty and forces the victim to keep talking or justifying themselves, which gives the blackmailer more control over the conversation.

In this forensic text, the blackmailer utilizes the “*Directive and Commands*” strategy “*fūf lā tazūl tumātil bilḥachy*” (شوف لا تظل تماطل بالحچي) which means “*Listen, don’t keep mucking about* ” and “*tijī wagaṣban ?layk*” (تجي وغصبا عليك) which means “*you’ll come over whether you like it or not*”. By employing this strategy, the blackmailer exerts control

over the victim's behavior, she tries to minimize any opportunity for resistance or negotiation. The strategy of the directive and command is a directive speech act, reflecting an attempt to manipulate the victim through authority and urgency, thus enhancing the pressure to comply.

In this case, the blackmailer employs the “*Question*” strategy using “why” (ليش) as in “?nta lyf mtjī baçhir liljīqha māly?” (أنت ليش متجي باجر للشقه مالتى ؟), which means, “***Why ain't you coming to my flat tomorrow?***”. By using this question, the blackmailer attempts to exert pressure while avoiding direct guilt; she makes it more difficult for her victim to accuse her of coercion or blackmail. This puts the victim in a state of hesitation in making a decision; he may think that she wants to lure him to the apartment to gather more photos and recordings to strengthen her control. or might think, if he doesn't go, will she release the photos, or does she have something new to use against him?

In order to create a sense of urgency and fear while minimizing the chances of resistance or negotiation, the blackmailer employs a “*Hit and Run*” strategy where the blackmailer makes a threat quickly and abruptly, without offering an opportunity for discussion or clarification. As shown in the utterance “tjī wagaşban ?layk w illa”

(تجي وغصبا عليك والآ) “***you'll come over whether you like it or not.***”. Additionally, through the same utterance, the blackmailer employs the “Isolating the victim from important information” strategy, creating a sense of panic and loneliness that prevents the victim from seeking help, further intensifying the intimidation. This utterance and “?ham f y ?tāwanas f gilit” (أهم شي أتونس شگلت) which means “***The main thing is I get my enjoyment. You follow?***” reveals the blackmailer's intention to solicit or offer sexual favors. Finally, by threatening harm in such explicit terms, the blackmailer is self-incriminating, as the blackmailer's words reveal her intent to commit a guilt and the language used provides key evidence to link the blackmailer to criminal behavior.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

The blackmailer's use of the “*Bald on Record*” strategy through the deliberate use of her orders concisely creates intentional negative face damage with no mitigation or politeness markers, “fūf lā tazūl tumāṭil bilḥachy” and “tjī wagaşban ?layk wā ila”.

Then, the blackmailer also uses the sub-strategy of negative impoliteness, “*Threatening*”, saying “*tijī wagaṣban ʔlayk wā ila.*” It is a direct, clear, and forceful threat with no ambiguity. Eventually, the blackmailer utilizes another sub-strategy of negative impoliteness strategy to belittle, and degrade the victim’s negative face by narrowing his ability to respond or comply with her demands, saying “*hasā ʔnā maʔta ʔlayk maθālān bas ila maḡdīlak*” (هسه أنا مينته عليك مثلا بس الا ماذلك) which means “*I’m sort of mad keen on you, but ... I will humiliate you;*”. This strategy undermines the victim's self-esteem while simultaneously reinforcing the blackmailer's dominance and control over the victim. Table (26) shows the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 26

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.21

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies			
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.		
			Abu.											Bald on record	2	
			Hum.											Positive Imp.		
														Negative Imp.	2	
															Sarcasm	
2	2			2					1		1		2		Withhold	

4.2.23 Analysis of Case 22

Forensic Text

Victim: *I've answered your question, so don't keep yapping on.*

Blackmailer: *Speak straight, or I'll do what I say. You'll see—so watch yourself and cover your back.*

What are you scared of? Man up, even if you're the biggest bullshitter. And if there's any soft git here, it's you.

You're such a bloody coward. I'll make you regret it. Respond, don't be a coward.

Let's have a voice call. Stop texting. Be careful; make sure no one else knows anything. Last warning, I swear to God, I've got recordings of everything.

Anyway, happy holidays, long life, and may all your wishes come true.

الضحيه : أنت سألتني جاوبتج لاتضلين تحجين زايد

المبتز : احجي عدل واني أفعل ما أهدد وراح تشوف فاحترم روحك وتلاحكها

شئو خايف من شي خليك رجال ولو أنت أكبر جذاب واذا أكو واحد خنيث هو أنت

لعد شكد جبان الآ أندمك رد لتصير جبان

خلي أحجي ويأك صوت لتظل تراسل ودير بالك واحد يعرف شي , اخر مره ألكك وحق ربك عندي تسجيلات على

كل شيء

عموما كل عام وأنت بخير عمر الطويل وتحقيق الأماني

(Appendix B. Case 22, p. xxi)

A. Contextual Analysis

This case is a **sextortion blackmail**, in which the blackmailer unlawfully obtained sensitive information as a means of intimidation, threatening, or other consequences unless the victim complied with her demands. The victim, under intense pressure, was compelled to provide sexual favors, and through the WhatsApp application.

B. Conversational Strategies

The use of imperative verbs such as “ihçhy ‘adl” (احجي عدل) which means “**Speak straight**”, and “xalī ḥçhī wayāk ṣawt latzūl tarāsil wa d̄yir bālak wāhid yurif jy”

(خلي أحجي ويأك صوت لتظل تراسل ودير بالك واحد يعرف شي) which means “**Let’s have a voice call. Stop texting. Be careful; make sure no one else knows anything**” refers to “*Directive and Commands*” strategy that serves as a clear assertion of control, demanding immediate actions from the victim without giving the victim a chance for negotiation or refusal. The blackmailer reinforces her dominance and power over the victim.

It is also noticeable that the blackmailer uses various offensive, abusive language by employing the “*Swearing and Taboo language*” strategy, saying, “xalīk rajāl”

(خليك رجال) which means “**Man up**” to exert psychological influence by questioning the victim’s masculinity.

In many cultures, including Iraqi society, telling a man to “**Man up**” (خليك رجال) is more than just a simple expression. It is a deeply sensitive statement that carries deep social and psychological significance. It is a red flag or psychological weapon in threat messages

that indicates that the blackmailer is psychologically targeting the victim by attacking his self-confidence. But this expression is often used in a playful, teasing way among friends, by motivating someone to take action or rise to a challenge in a lighthearted way, rather than offering a harsh or stern admonition. At the same time, the emphasis is on encouraging through humor and friendship.

In addition, the abusive swearing word appears in “ʔkbar ɕaḏāb” (أكبر چذاب), which means “*you're the biggest bullshitter*” is a highly offensive utterance used by the blackmailer to attack and insult the victim verbally.

The word “xanīθ” (خنيث) “*soft git*” carries a strong negative and offense, causing discomfort to those who hear it. It has a derogatory meaning. The blackmailer uses it as a means to provoke and disturb the victim. It is often used to describe someone, typically a man, who is perceived as lacking masculinity or being cowardly. In Iraqi culture, the word “xanīθ” (خنيث) is among the worst insults that one can say to a man because it attacks his honor, bravery, and strength. The blackmailer aims to break the victim’s resistance by attacking his identity and sense of self, often with the intent to shame or criticize.

The blackmailer calls the victim “jaban” (جبان) meaning “*coward*” as in the utterance “rid latsyr jaban” (رد لتصير جبان) means “*Respond, don't be a coward*” It is like a direct threat telling the victim that if he doesn’t act as she wants, It pushes the victim into a trap, making him feel like his only choice is to comply to avoid being called a coward.

The utterance “umūmān kul ʔām wā ʔnta bixayr ʕumar ʔltāwīl wa taḥqīq ʔlāmāni” (عموما كل عام وأنت بخير عمر الطويل وتحقيق الأمناني), which means “*Anyway, happy holidays, long life, and may all your wishes come true.*” It is not deceptive by nature, but the blackmailer uses it strategically to manipulate, gain trust, or soften a threat; it can function as part of a deceptive linguistic strategy. By employing well-wishes and positive language, the blackmailer may attempt to lower the victim’s defenses, create a false sense of goodwill, and distract from the underlying coercion. In such cases, this politeness strategy is not real but an intentional attempt to influence and control the victim's responses.

To reduce the aggressiveness of coercive language, soften the directness of a threat, and maintain ambiguity, the blackmailer uses the “*Hedges*” strategy as in “umūmān” (عموما) which means “*Anyway*”

The blackmailer employs a “*Hit and Run*” strategy to create a sense of urgency and fear while minimizing the chances of resistance or negotiation. The blackmailer makes a threat quickly and abruptly, without offering an opportunity for discussion or clarification. as shown in the utterance “xal ʔhchy wyk sawt latzul trasil wadyr balk wahid yuruf ʔy, ʔxar marh agilak whaq rabak indy tasjylat ala kul ʔy”

(خَلِّي أَحْجِي وَيَاكَ صَوْت لَتَنْظَل تَرَاْسَل وَدِير بِالْكَ وَاحِد يَعْرِف شَيْء, اِخْر مَرَه أَكْلَكَ وَحَق رَبْكَ عِنْدِي تَسْجِيلَات
means “*Let’s have a voice call. Stop texting. Be careful; make sure no one else knows anything. Last warning, I swear to God, I’ve got recordings of everything.*”

Additionally, through the same utterance, the blackmailer employs the “*Isolating the victim from important information*” strategy to create a sense of panic and loneliness that prevents the victim from seeking help, further intensifying the intimidation. The blackmailer utilizes the “*Scripting the target*” strategy in such an explicit manner. It is self-incriminating, as the blackmailer’s words reveal her intent to commit a crime, and the language used provides key evidence to link the blackmailer to criminal behavior.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

The blackmailer’s use of the *Bald on Record* strategy in “iḥchy ‘adl”, and “xalī ʔḥchī wayāk ṣawt latzūl tarāsul” exemplifies a deliberate face-threatening act (FTA) by issuing a direct and unambiguous command aimed at eliminating the victim’s sense of choice and forcing compliance.

It can be observed that the blackmailer’s use of “ʔkbar ḥaḍāb”, “xanīθ”, and “jaban” reflects the “*positive impoliteness strategy*”. These derogatory terms serve to insult and demean the victim’s positive face, attacking his character and social identity to exert psychological pressure and manipulation. Simultaneously, the blackmailer undermines the victim’s negative face by restricting their autonomy, instilling fear, and asserting dominance. This is achieved through the negative impoliteness sub-strategy of “*threatening*” as exemplified in the utterance “ ʔaxir marā ḡgilak waḥaq rabak ‘indī taşjilāt

'alay kul fy", which serves to intimidate and coerce the victim into compliance. Table (27) explicates the blackmailer's conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 27

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.22

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies		
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	2
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	5
	2	5					1							Negative Imp.	1
				1					1					Sarcasm	
														Withhold	

4.2.24 Analysis of Case 23

Forensic Text 23

Blackmailer: Listen, I'll send you some proper dodgy pics and vids tonight.

You're not bricking it?

Victim: May God strike you down.

Blackmailer: Know what'll happen if I show these to your brother? Know what that means?

Check it, got all your pics and your outings. I've got someone in your circle who's grassing you up. They're bringing me everything - even your voice messages. And they'll all end up with your brother. Also, got your pics in the uni and the beach resort.

One message from me and you're done for, mate. They'll destroy you.

Right, after uni, I'm coming to get you and we'll go picturing.

المبتز: شوفي بالليل أدزج صور وفيدوهات

ولج ماخفتي؟

الضحيه: روعي الله يعاقبج

المبتز: تعرفين إذا أدز الصور لأخوج شصير؟

تعرفين شنو معناها ؟

شوفي صورچ وطلعاتج كلها يمي واكو منچ وبيج ديخونچ ويوصل كل شي عليج حتى محادثات وكلهن حيوصلن
 لأخوچ وصورچ بالجامعه والمنتج هم وصلنتي
 برساله وحده مني يدفنوج وأنت عايشه
 شوفي بعد الجامعه أجيچ ونروح نصور
 (Appendix B. Case 23, p. xxii)

A. Contextual Analysis

The case is a **sextortion blackmail** in which the victim, who was employed at a clothing store, was manipulated into performing inappropriate acts by her friend. The perpetrator, after coercing the victim, secretly recorded the incident and later used the footage as a means of blackmail. The entire exchange and coercion took place through the Telegram messaging application.

B. Conversational Strategies

In this case, the blackmailer utilizes the “*Directive and Commands*” strategy, a category of speech acts used to impose control over the victim’s actions. The utterance “shūfī ba‘da aljamia‘h ajyčh wanšwūr” (شوفي بعد الجامعه أجيچ ونروح نصور) which means “*Right, after uni, I’m coming to get you and we’ll go picturing.*”. The blackmailer demonstrates a clear attempt to exert control over the victim. By issuing direct orders, the blackmailer eliminates any possibility for negotiation or refusal, reinforcing her power and ensuring compliance.

It is evident from this forensic text that the blackmailer utilizes the “*Question*” strategy as demonstrated in the utterance in “wlčh maḫḫfti?” (ولج ماخفتي؟) which means “*You’re not bricking it?*”, “ta‘rufīn iḏa ʔdz ʔlšūwr ləʔxwčh jisyr?”

(تعرفين اذا أذ الصور لأخوچ شصير؟) “Know what’ll happen if I show these to your brother?” and “ta‘rufīna šhanūw mu‘anāihā?” (تعرفين شنو معناها؟) which means “*Know what that means?*”. By utilizing a yes/no question, the blackmailer wants to manipulate the victim’s emotions, implicitly suggesting that fear is the expected reaction. This strategy serves to reinforce psychological pressure and assert control over the victim. and the functions of these questions can be indirect threats in coercive discourse. This strategy is

commonly observed in cases of blackmail, intimidation, and emotional manipulation, making it a significant forensic linguistic marker in threat analysis.

In order to create a sense of urgency and fear while minimizing the chances of resistance or negotiation, the blackmailer employs a "*Hit and Run*" strategy where the blackmailer makes a threat quickly and abruptly, without offering an opportunity for discussion or clarification. As shown in the utterance “birisaḥ wiḥadā minīy ydfanwich wā ḥnti ḥyfaḥ” (برسالة وحده مني يذفونج وأنت عايشه), which means “***One message from me and you're done for, mate. They'll destroy you.***”. In the Iraqi dialect, this phrase carries a severe and menacing connotation, often used as a threat to instill fear and exert control over someone. It implies that the blackmailer has the power or influence to cause serious harm, potentially even leading to the victim's death, simply through a single action, such as sending a message. This type of threat reflects broader cultural and societal dynamics in Iraq, where honor, family reputation, and social standing can sometimes lead to extreme consequences, especially for women facing coercion or blackmail.

Additionally, through the same utterance, the blackmailer employs the “*Isolating the victim from important information*” strategy, creating a sense of panic and loneliness that prevents the victim from seeking help, further intensifying the intimidation.

The last conversational strategy can be seen in “shūfi baḥda aḥḥamiaḥ ḥ ḥyḥ waḥwūr” “birisaḥ wiḥadā minīy ydfanwich wā ḥnti ḥyfaḥ” and, “taḥruḥin iḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥwūr ḥḥwḥ ḥḥsyr ?” These statements reveal the blackmailer’s intent. By threatening harm in such explicit terms, the blackmailer is self-incriminating, as the blackmailer’s words reveal her intent to commit a crime, and the language used provides key evidence to link the blackmailer to criminal behavior.

C. Impoliteness Strategies

The blackmailer’s use of the Bald on Record strategy in “shūfi baḥda aḥḥamiaḥ ḥ ḥyḥ waḥwūr” exemplifies a deliberate face-threatening act (FTA) by issuing a direct and unambiguous command aimed at eliminating the victim’s sense of choice and forcing compliance. While the utterance”, “birisaḥ wiḥadā minīy ydfanwich wā ḥnti ḥyfaḥ”, “wḥwḥ bilḥamiaḥ wāḥmuntajaḥ aḥ ḥm waḥlatni” and “taḥruḥin iḥḥ ḥḥ ḥḥwūr ḥḥwḥ ḥḥsyr

‘jisy?’ falls under the sub-strategy of impoliteness: ‘Threatening,’ which is a component of Negative Impoliteness that falls under the threats and Warnings. By referring to the victim’s brother, the blackmailer exploits family honor and social consequences, reinforcing dominance by invoking external punishment rather than a personal action. Table (27) demonstrates the blackmailer’s conversational strategies and pragmatic strategies.

Table 28

Conversational Strategies and Pragmatic Strategies in Forensic Text No.23

Conversational Strategies													Pragmatic Strategies		
Minimal Response	Directive	Swearing / Taboo L.	Exp.	Compliment	Question	Tag question	Hedges	Using Ambiguity	Hit and run	Conflating	Isolating the target	Ignoring the target	Scripting the target	Impoliteness S.	
			Abu.											Bald on record	1
			Hum.											Positive Imp.	
														Negative Imp.	3
	1			3				1		1		3	Sarcasm		
														Withhold	

4.3 The Quantitative Analysis

The following section is divided into two parts. The first part presents a detailed quantitative analysis of blackmailers' conversational and impoliteness strategies; then, it compares the findings of the overall analysis. The SPSS program is used to have a clear picture of the analysis.

The tool of Chi-square is employed to determine whether there are any statistically significant differences between the conversational strategies or pragmatic strategies used by blackmailers, males, and females in the data under consideration. Then, the overall results are tabulated to include frequencies (abbreviated as Fr.) and percentages (abbreviated as Pr.). Some tables also include the computed Chi-square values for the conversational strategies in each case, which can be compared with the tabulated value.

4.3.1 Types of Cyber Blackmail

This section examines the various types of cyber blackmail employed by blackmailers both (males and females) in the data under investigation. See table 29 below:

Table 29

Frequencies and Percentages of Types of Cyber Blackmail

No.	Types of Cyber Blackmail	Males		Females		Chi & p.v
		Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.	
1.	Financial Cyber blackmail	5	41.7	5	45	0.0 & 1.0
2.	Sextortion Cyber blackmail	5	41.7	5	45	0.0 & 1.0
3.	Beneficial Cyber Blackmail	2	16.7	1	9	0.33 & 0.56
Total		12	100%	11	100%	

Table (29), shows the distribution of cyber blackmail used by male and female perpetrators. The types of cyber blackmail identified in the data are financial, sextortion, and beneficial. The results indicate that financial and sextortion cyber blackmail are the

most prevalent forms used by both male and female blackmailers. Specifically, (41.7%) of male perpetrators and (45%) of female perpetrators engaged in financial cyber blackmail. The same percentages are observed for sextortion cases, suggesting an equal tendency among both genders to employ these two types. In contrast, beneficial cyber blackmail appears to be the least frequently used, comprising only (16.7%) of male cases and (9 %) of female cases. This suggests that cyber blackmail for personal favors or non-monetary benefits is not as common as financial or sexual blackmail.

Regarding the statistical significance, the Chi-square values and p-values are also displayed. However, the results show no statistically significant differences between males and females in the use of any type of cyber blackmail. For financial and sextortion cases, the Chi-square value is (0.0) with a p-value of (1.0), indicating complete similarity in distribution. For beneficial blackmail, the Chi-square value is (0.33) with a p-value of (0.56), which is still well above the conventional (0.05). Therefore, it can be concluded that gender does not significantly influence the type of cyber blackmail used in the current database. See Figure 5 for more clarification.

Thus, these findings answer the first question of the study, which reads “*What are the types of cyber blackmail used in the data under scrutiny?*”

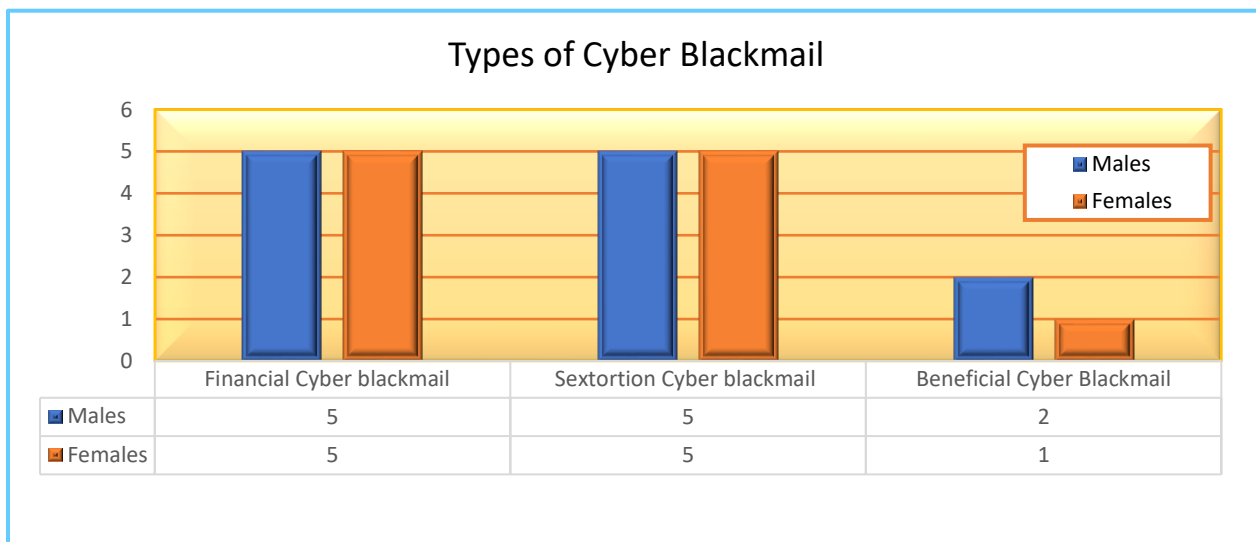


Figure 5. Frequencies and Percentages of Types of Cyber Blackmail

4.3.2 Overall Analysis of Conversational Strategies of Cyber Blackmail

This section shows the use of conversational strategies by cyber criminals. Table (30) demonstrates the overall analysis of conversational strategies

Table 30

Overall Analysis of Conversational Strategies of Cyber Blackmail

No.	Conversational Strategies	Fr.	Pr. %
1.	Minimal Responses	9	3.6
2.	Directive /Commands	58	23.1
3.	Swearing and Taboo Language	33	13.1
4.	Compliment	5	2.0
5.	Question	22	8.8
6.	Tag Question	9	3.6
7.	Hedges	8	3.2
8.	Using Ambiguity	6	2.4
9.	Blocking the target	0	0.0
10.	Hit and run	19	7.6
11.	Camouflaging the illegality	4	1.6
12.	Isolating the target	16	6.4
13.	Ignoring the target when says No	8	3.2
14.	Withholding crucial information	0	0.0
15.	Lying the target about crucial information	0	0.0
16.	Scripting the target	54	21.5
Total		251	100.1 %

The most common strategy observed is *Directive / Commands* (58 times, 23.1%), involving a direct, forceful way of interacting where blackmailers try to assert power and control over the victim through explicit instructions or threats. Next is scripting the target (54 times, 21.5%), a revealing strategy that indicates premeditation and manipulation. By *scripting the target*, the blackmailer guides the victims' responses and actions, often creating a false narrative that benefits the blackmailers. The high occurrence of this strategy shows a deliberate effort to influence not only the conversation but also the psychological state of the target.

Swearing and taboo language emerge (33 times, 13.1%), indicating an aggressive and often emotionally charged tone employed in these interactions. This strategy may function to intimidate the victim or destabilize them emotionally, thereby strengthening the blackmailers' control.

Question strategy appears (22 times, 8.8 %), suggesting that interrogative structures are used to gather more information, trap the victim, or maintain conversational dominance. Similarly, the *hit and run* strategy (19 times, 7.6 %) suggests a pattern of abrupt communication that prevents the victim from processing or resisting effectively.

Notably, strategies such as *Isolating the Target* (6.4%), *Minimal Responses* (3.6%), and *Ignoring the Target When Says No* (3.2%). These strategies reflect more passive-aggressive forms of manipulation that may co-occur with more direct threats. Meanwhile, strategies like *Compliment* (2.0%) or *Using Ambiguity* (2.4%) seem to function as deceptive strategies part of the offender's attempt to maintain a false sense of rapport or confusion.

Blocking the Target, Withholding Crucial Information, and Lying About Crucial Information appear (0), which may suggest either that these strategies were not observable in the data set or that they are embedded in more complex strategies like scripting or ambiguity, and thus not coded independently. these findings answer the second question of the study, which reads “*What are the conversational strategies used by male and female blackmailers in the selected data?*”

4.3.2.1 Conversational Strategies Used by Males and Females Across All

Types of Cyber Blackmail

This section shows the use of conversational strategies by male and female blackmailers across all types of cyber blackmail (financial, sextortion, and beneficial cyber blackmail). It highlights the most and least frequent strategies, offering insights into gender-based patterns and how language is used to manipulate and control victims. Table (31) demonstrates the overall analysis of the conversational strategies for all types of cyber blackmail.

Table 31

Conversational Strategies Used by Males and Females Across All Types of Cyber Blackmail

No.	Conversational Strategies	Male		Female	
		Fr.	Pr. %	Fr.	Pr. %
1.	Minimal Responses	7	4.7	2	2.0
2.	Directive /Commands	38	25.3	20	19.8
3.	Swearing and Taboo Language	19	12.7	14	13.9
4.	Compliment	4	2.7	1	1.0
5.	Question	16	10.7	6	5.9
6.	Tag Question	8	5.3	1	1.0
7.	Hedges	5	3.3	3	3.0
8.	Using Ambiguity	0	0.0	6	5.9
9.	Blocking the target	0	0.0	0	0.0
10.	Hit and run	8	5.3	11	10.9
11.	Camouflaging the illegality	3	2.0	1	1.0
12.	Isolating the target	8	5.3	8	7.9
13.	Ignoring the target when says No	5	3.3	3	3.0
14.	Withholding crucial information	0	0.0	0	0.0
15.	Lying the target about crucial information	0	0.0	0	0.0
16.	Scripting the target	29	19.3	25	24.8
Total		150	100%	101	101 %

Table 31 lists 16 conversational strategies used in cyber blackmail and compares their usage among males and females. It provides frequency counts and percentages for each strategy. The most common strategies were directive/commands (25.3% for males, 19.8% for females), *Scripting the Target* (19.3% for males, 24.8% for females); and *Swearing and Taboo Language* (12.7% for males, 13.9% for females). One of the most notable strategies is the use of directive or command statements, which appear in (25.3%) of male blackmailers' interactions compared to (19.8%) of female blackmailers' interactions. This suggests that male blackmailers prefer an assertive and demanding approach, pressuring the victim with explicit instructions such as "*Send me the money*

now” or “*Do exactly what I say, or I will ruin you*” However, female blackmailers using commands less frequently, possibly because they rely on emotional pressure and implied consequences.

Another key strategy is *Question*, used in (10.7%) of male blackmail cases but only (5.9%) of female cases. Men are more likely to ask their victims directly, asking questions that reinforce the victim’s fear and compliance, such as “*Who knows about this?*” This strategy helps male blackmailers maintain control by demanding responses. In contrast, female blackmailers are significantly more likely to use ambiguity (5.9%) compared to male blackmailers (0.0%), which suggests that females prefer to keep their threats vague and unpredictable to create psychological distress. Instead of stating the consequences outright, they might say, “*I wonder what your family would think if they found out something interesting.*” This indirect strategy leaves the victim uncertain about what the blackmailer knows or intends to do, making it an effective intimidation strategy.

Despite these differences, some strategies are used equally by both male and female blackmailers. For example, swearing and taboo language appear in (12.7%) of male blackmail cases and (13.9%) of female cases, showing that aggressive and insulting language is a universal strategy for intimidation. Similarly, scripting the target, where the blackmailer dictates the victim’s words or actions, is used by (19.3%) of male blackmailers and (24.8%) of female blackmailers. The slight increase in female usage suggests that women blackmailers might focus more on long-term control, ensuring the victim continues to obey and remains silent.

Specific strategies are notably absent in both genders, such as blocking the target (0.0% for both) and withholding crucial information (0.0% for both). This is associated with the nature of cyber blackmail, where blackmailers need to maintain constant contact with the victim to reinforce their threats. Instead of cutting off communication, they prefer to engage in persistent psychological pressure.

Overall, these findings highlight distinct patterns in how cyber blackmailers communicate. Men are more direct, using commands, questioning, while women employ more manipulative strategies like ambiguity and scripting the target. These differences can

provide valuable insights for forensic linguistics, cybercrime investigations, and victim support strategies. See Figure 6 for more clarification

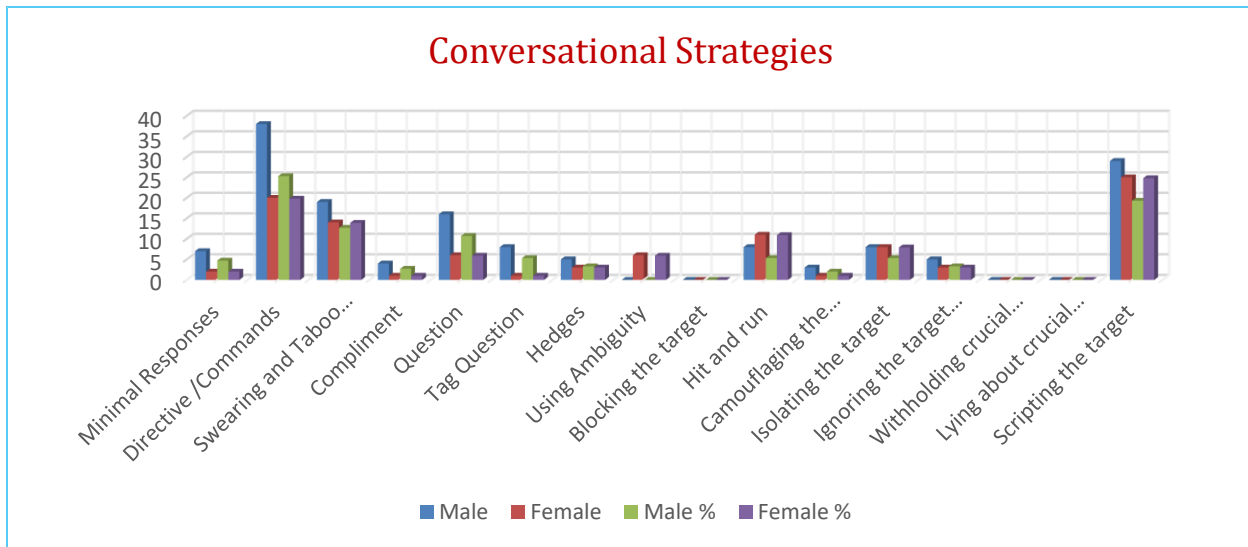


Figure 6. Conversational Strategies of Cyber Blackmail

4.3.2.2 Conversational Strategies of Cyber Blackmail for Each Type

The detailed findings of conversational strategies in each type of cyber blackmail between males and females are given below:

A. Financial Blackmail

The results of analyzing all cases of cyber blackmail between male and female blackmailers in financial blackmail are shown in Table (32) which demonstrates the analysis of conversational strategies in financial blackmail.

Table 32

Conversational Strategies of Cyber Blackmail in Financial Blackmail

No.	Conversational Strategies of Financial Blackmail	Male		Female	
		Fr.	Pr. %	Fr.	Pr. %
1.	Minimal Responses	7	10.3	0	0.0
2.	Directive /Commands	13	19.1	11	25.0
3.	Swearing and Taboo Language	13	19.1	5	11.4
4.	Compliment	2	2.9	0	0.0
5.	Question	8	11.8	1	2.3
6.	Tag Question	5	7.4	0	0.0
7.	Hedges	2	2.9	1	2.3
8.	Using Ambiguity	0	0.0	5	11.4
9.	Blocking the target	0	0.0	0	0.0
10.	Hit and run	4	5.9	6	13.6
11.	Camouflaging the illegality	0	0.0	0	0.0
12.	Isolating the target	4	5.9	3	6.8
13.	Ignoring the target when says No	1	1.5	2	4.5
14.	Withholding crucial information	0	0.0	0	0.0
15.	Lying the target about crucial information	0	0.0	0	0.0
16.	Scripting the target	9	13.2	10	22.7
Total		68	100%	44	100 %

These findings reveal that in financial blackmail, male blackmailers tend to use *directive or command* strategies (19.1%), using direct orders such as “*Send me the money now!*” or “*You have two hours until midnight, send the money or I will expose you*”. This suggests a controlling and coercive strategy, wherein the victim is compelled to acquiesce under pressure. Additionally, swearing and taboo (19.1%) are frequently used, likely to intimidate the victim and create fear as a means of securing financial gain.

Meanwhile, female financial blackmailers also employ *commands* (25.0%), but their communication is often less aggressive and more manipulative. Instead of direct threats, they may use indirect coercion to pressure the victim into paying. This is further

reflected in their higher usage of scripting the target (22.7%), where they convince the targets that payment is their only option.

A significant difference is observed in the use of the strategy of *ambiguity*, which is never used by males in financial blackmail cases, but is utilized (11.4%) by female blackmail cases. This indicates that women used this strategy in financial blackmail cases more frequently than males to employ vague or indirect threats, such as “*I hope you don’t make things worse for yourself..*” rather than making direct monetary demands. This creates uncertainty and compels the victim to interpret the speech in different ways, thereby causing a sense of pressure without offering a clear means of escape.

Similarly, *hit-and-run* strategy, the blackmailer temporarily stops communication to increase the victim’s worry. This is used more by females (13.6%) than males (5.9%), which indicates that female blackmailers may stop communication to make the victim feel the pressure before returning with new demands. This type of psychological pressure can be highly effective in financial blackmail, as it keeps the victim in a state of fear and expectation.

Another strategy that male blackmailers use is *minimal responses* (10.3%), while female blackmailers do not use this strategy at all (0.0%). This means that males sometimes respond with short, vague messages to frustrate the victim and maintain control, whereas females prefer direct engagement, actively managing the situation until they get what they want. Remarkably, both male and female blackmailers show low use of withholding crucial information or outright lying about crucial details (0.0% in both genders), suggesting that financial blackmail tends to rely on pressure, threats, and manipulation rather than deception. See Figure 7 for more clarification

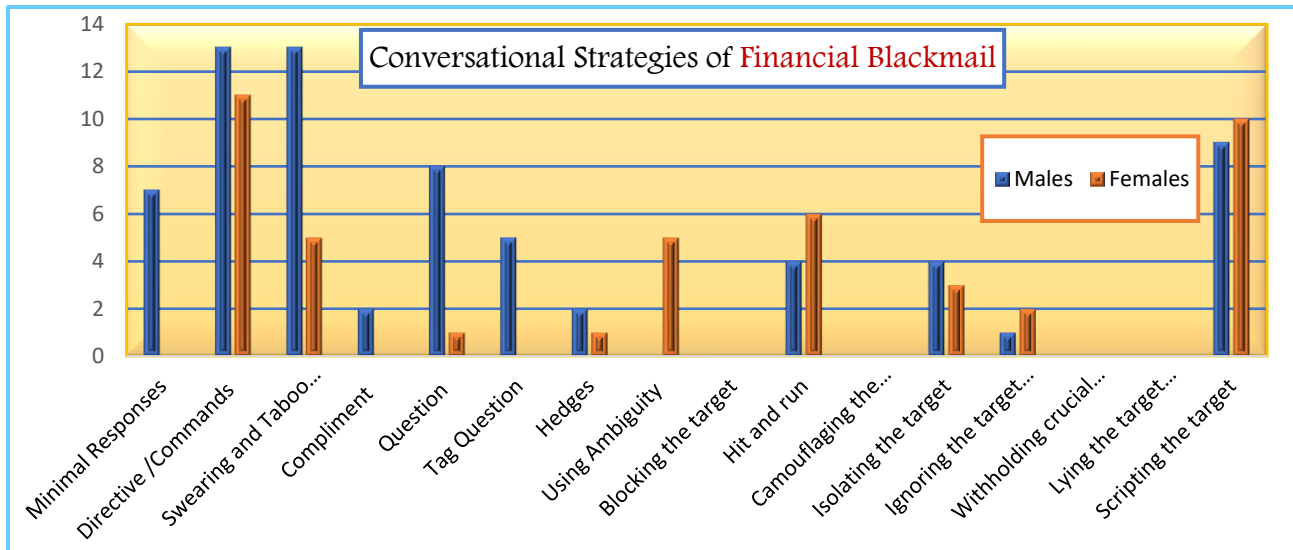


Figure 7. Conversational Strategies in Financial Blackmail

B. Sextortion Blackmail

The results of analyzing all cases of cyber blackmail between male and female blackmailers in sextortion blackmail are shown in the table (33), which demonstrates the analysis of conversational strategies in sextortion blackmail.

Table 33

Conversational Strategies in Sextortion Blackmail

No.	Conversational Strategies of Sextortion Blackmail	Male		Female	
		Fr.	Pr. %	Fr.	Pr. %
1.	Minimal Responses	0	0.0	0	0.0
2.	Directive /Commands	18	32.1	7	15.2
3.	Swearing and Taboo Language	4	7.1	8	17.4
4.	Compliment	2	3.6	1	2.2
5.	Question	5	8.9	5	10.9
6.	Tag Question	1	1.8	1	2.2
7.	Hedges	3	5.4	1	2.2
8.	Using Ambiguity	0	0.0	1	2.2
9.	Blocking the target	0	0.0	0	0.0
10.	Hit and run	3	5.4	4	8.7
11.	Camouflaging the illegality	3	5.4	1	2.2
12.	Isolating the target	3	5.4	4	8.7
13.	Ignoring the target when says No	4	7.1	1	2.2
14.	Withholding crucial information	0	0.0	0	0.0
15.	Lying the target about crucial information	0	0.0	0	0.0
16.	Scripting the target	10	17.9	10	21.7
Total		56	100%	46	100 %

Male blackmailers rely heavily on direct pressure in sextortion cases. The most frequently used strategy is *directive/commands* (32.1%), showing that men tend to give clear orders to the victim, demanding compliance forcefully, for example, "*Send me more pictures now!*" or "*If you don't do what I say, I'll ruin you!*". In contrast, female blackmailers use this strategy much less (15.2%), suggesting that they employ more subtle forms of coercion. Instead of direct demands, they may use psychological pressure, emotional manipulation, or guilt-tripping to force the victim into compliance. *Swearing and taboo language* is used more by female blackmailers (17.4%) than by males (7.1%). This suggests that in sextortion cases, women may use insults, threats, or degrading language to exert dominance over their victims. In contrast, men are more likely to control through direct orders rather than verbal aggression.

Similarly, in *scripting the target*, the blackmailer indicating that the victim should say or do, is common for both genders. However, female blackmailers use this slightly more (21.7%) than males (17.9%), reinforcing the idea that women in sextortion cases often rely on manipulation and control over the victim's responses.

In *Minimal responses*, the blackmailer gives short or vague replies to confuse the victim, are used only by females (4.3%). This indicates that female blackmailers temporarily try to create uncertainty and keep the victim in a state of fear. In *the Hit-and-Run strategy*, the blackmailer disappears temporarily to increase the victim's worry, which is slightly more common among female blackmailers (8.7%) than among males (5.4%). This suggests that women in sextortion cases may use threats and withdrawals to increase emotional suffering. Isolation of the target, a strategy where the blackmailer ensures that the victim has no support, is used equally by both male (5.4%) and female (8.7%) blackmailers. This reinforces the idea that sextortion often involves cutting off the victim from external help, making them more sensitive.

Another notable difference is the use of compliments and questions. Males use *compliments* (3.6%) slightly more than females (2.2%), suggesting that they may sometimes flatter the victim as a form of grooming before increasing threats. Both genders use questions (8.9% for males, 10.9% for females), likely as a means of maintaining control over the conversation and checking the victim's emotional state. See Figure 8 for more clarification.

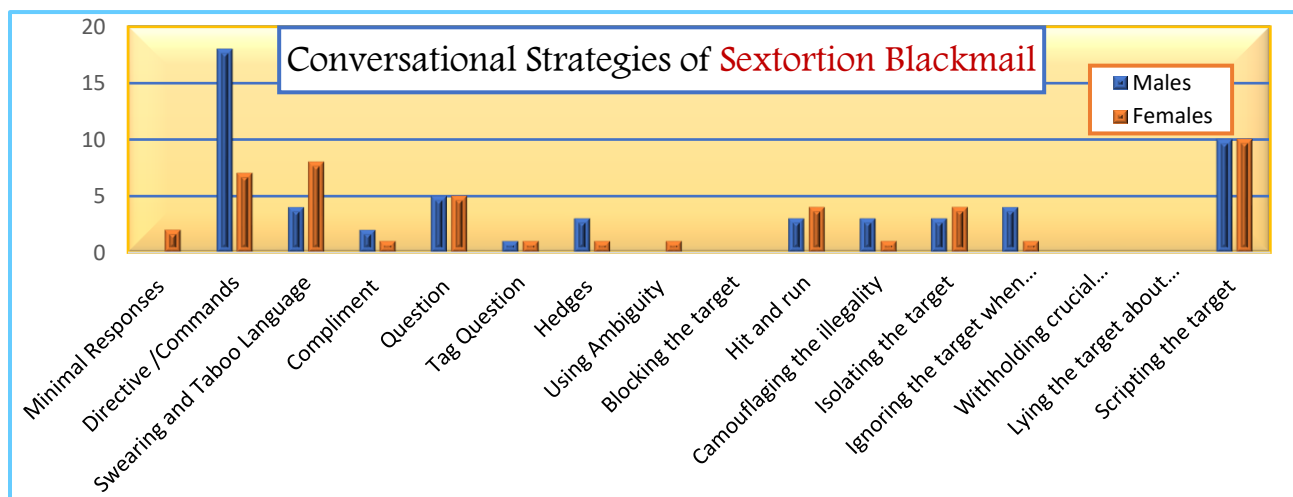


Figure 8. Conversational Strategies in Sextortion Blackmail

C. Beneficial Blackmail

The results of analyzing all cases of cyber blackmail between male and female blackmailers are shown in the table (34), which demonstrates the analysis of conversational strategies in beneficial blackmail.

Table 34

Conversational Strategies in Beneficial Blackmail

No.	Conversational Strategies of Beneficial Blackmail	Male		Female	
		Fr.	Pr. %	Fr.	Pr. %
1.	Minimal Responses	0	0.0	0	0.0
2.	Directive /Commands	7	26.9	2	18.2
3.	Swearing and Taboo Language	2	7.7	1	9.1
4.	Compliment	0	0.0	0	0.0
5.	Question	3	11.5	0	0.0
6.	Tag Question	2	7.7	0	0.0
7.	Hedges	0	0.0	1	9.1
8.	Using Ambiguity	0	0.0	0	0.0
9.	Blocking the target	0	0.0	0	0.0
10.	Hit and run	1	3.8	1	9.1
11.	Camouflaging the illegality	0	0.0	0	0.0
12.	Isolating the target	1	3.8	1	9.1
13.	Ignoring the target when says No	0	0.0	0	0.0
14.	Withholding crucial information	0	0.0	0	0.0
15.	Lying the target about crucial information	0	0.0	0	0.0
16.	Scripting the target	10	38.5	5	45.5
Total		26	100%	11	100 %

As shown in Table 34, the strategy of *directives/commands* (26.9%), suggesting that men tend to assert command and pressure the target (victim) into compliance through explicit demands. In contrast, females use this strategy less frequently (18.2%), suggesting that women may prefer indirect or persuasive methods rather than direct coercion. A significant finding suggests that *scripting the target* is the most frequently used strategy for both male (38.5%) and female (45.5%) blackmailers. This indicates that in beneficial

blackmail, both genders manipulate the victim's actions and words to serve their interests, often by instructing them on what to say or do in specific situations. The slightly higher percentage for females suggests that women in beneficial blackmail cases may be more meticulous in controlling the victim's responses to maintain influence over them.

Tag questions (7.7%) are used only by males, suggesting that they try to make their demands seem less aggressive by softening their commands. *Hedges* (9.1%) are used only by females, implying that women might use indirect language to persuade the victim rather than outright threats. Both genders use *swearing and taboo language* (7.7% for males, 9.1% for females), but at relatively low frequencies, indicating that aggression and insults are not dominant strategies in beneficial blackmail.

Both males and females use *isolating the target* (3.8% and 9.1%, respectively), showing that in beneficial blackmail, blackmailers attempt to remove external influences that might prevent the victim from complying. The *hit-and-run* strategy (3.8% for males, 9.1% for females) is slightly more common among females, suggesting that women may be more likely to withdraw temporarily and return to manipulate the victim's anxiety and maintain control. See Figure 9 for more clarification.

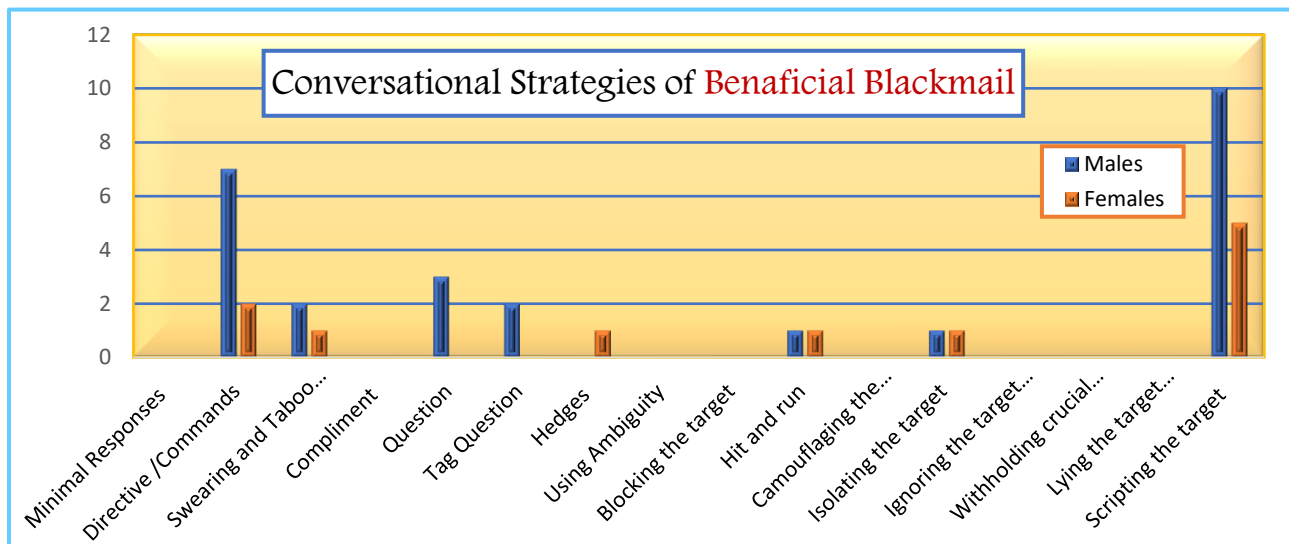


Figure 9. Conversational Strategies in Beneficial Blackmail

The frequencies and percentages of the conversational strategies employed across all cases and types of cyber blackmail used by males and females are presented in Tables (32,33,34) and illustrated in Figures 7, 8, and 9

1. Financial Blackmail

- For male blackmailers, the most frequently used strategy is *Directive/Commands*, with (13 times,19.1%), followed closely by *Swearing and Taboo Language*, also at (13 times,19.1%), and *Scripting the Target* at (9 times,13.2%). This suggests a direct, aggressive, and manipulative manner in coercing the victim.
- For females, the most dominant strategy is likewise *Directive/Commands*, with (11 times, 25.0%), followed by *Scripting the Target* (10 times, 22.7%) and *Hit and Run* (6 times, 13.6%), indicating a slightly more narrative-driven and sudden-attack method of coercion.
- The least used strategies for both males and females are *Blocking the Target*, *Camouflaging the Illegality*, *Withholding Crucial Information*, and *Lying about Crucial Information*, all of which recorded 0 (0.0%), showing a clear avoidance of overt deception or silence in favor of more active strategies.

2. Sextortion Blackmail

- For male perpetrators, the most frequently used strategy is *Directive/Commands*, appearing (18 times ,32.1%), followed by *Scripting the Target* (10 times ,17.9%), which reflects a tendency toward assertive control and manipulation over the victims.
- Female blackmailers show a slightly different pattern. The most used strategy is *Scripting the Target* (10 times,21.7%), followed by *Swearing and Taboo Language* (8 times, 17.4%) and *Directive/Commands* (7 times, 15.2%). This indicates a more emotionally and linguistically forceful method of coercion.
- The least frequent strategies for both genders include *Minimal Responses* (0% males), *Blocking the Target*, *Withholding Crucial Information*, and

Lying (0 times), highlighting that silence or evasiveness is not favored in this blackmail type.

3. Beneficial Blackmail

- In male speech, *Scripting the Target* is the most dominant strategy, appearing (10 times ,38.5%), followed by *Directive/Commands* (7 times, 26.9%) and *Questions* (3 times, 11.5%). This shows a tendency to use structured manipulative language towards the victims.
- Similarly, the female blackmailers use *Scripting the Target*, which is the most used strategy (5 times,45.5%), reinforcing that in beneficial blackmail, the narrative construction is crucial to persuading the target.
- The least used strategies in both male and female cases are numerous, with *Minimal Responses*, *Compliment*, *Blocking the Target*, *Withholding Crucial Information*, *Lying*, and *Camouflaging the Illegality* all recording (0 times), suggesting a general neglect of other passive or deceptive strategies in favor of more coercive and emotional.

As a result, *Scripting the Target* emerges as a the consistently highest-ranking strategy across all blackmail types and genders, particularly in beneficial blackmail, where it reaches 38.5% (males) and 45.5% (females). *Directive/Commands* is the most dominant strategy in financial and sextortion blackmail, with males frequently exceeding 30% in use. Least used strategies across all blackmail types include “*Blocking the Target*, *Withholding/Lying about Crucial Information*, and *Camouflaging the Illegality*”, all with 0% usage, suggesting these strategies are generally avoided by both male and female blackmailers.

Gender-based differences are notable in the use of *Swearing and Taboo Language*, with males favoring it more in financial blackmail (19.1%) while females rely on it more in sextortion (17.4%), due to context-specific emotional intensities. These findings reflect how conversational strategies are shaped not only by the gender of the blackmailer but also

by the type of blackmail, with certain strategies consistently preferred depending on the coercive goal and communicative context.

4.3.3 Overall Analysis of Impoliteness Strategies for all Types of Cyber

Blackmail

This section shows the use of impoliteness strategies by cyber criminals. It highlights the most and least frequent strategies. Table (35) demonstrates the overall analysis of the frequencies and percentages of impoliteness strategies for all the types of cyber blackmail.

Table 35

Impoliteness Strategies for All Types of Cyber Blackmail

No.	Impoliteness Strategies	Fr.	Pr. %
1.	Bald on record	57	37.3
2.	Positive impoliteness	30	19.6
3.	Negative impoliteness	64	41.8
4.	Sarcasm	2	1.3
5.	Withhold	0	0.0
Total		153	100 %

In regard to impoliteness strategies, the overall results reveal that negative impoliteness is the most frequently employed strategy in the data, occurring 64 times (41.8%). This strategy surpasses all others, indicating a tendency among blackmailers to use a strategy that directly attacks the victim's face wants, such as threats, dismissals, or expressions of disapproval. This prevalence is consistent with the nature of blackmail discourse, where power is often asserted through linguistic intimidation and emotional degradation.

Bald on record impoliteness is the second strategy which employs, 57 times (37.3%), reflecting the offenders' use of unmitigated, direct forms of aggression that lack

any attempt at politeness. The high frequency of this strategy suggests that blackmailers often choose to communicate their threats or demands explicitly and without hesitation, likely to instill immediate fear or compliance. Positive impoliteness appears with a moderate frequency of 30 instances (19.6%), which implies that some blackmailers resort to strategies that damage the victim's positive face, such as insults, sarcasm, or expressions of disapproval, though to a lesser extent compared to the other two major types.

In contrast, sarcasm is minimally used, with only 2 instances (1.3%), and the withhold strategy does not appear at all in the data (0%). This limited use of sarcasm may indicate that subtle or indirect forms of impoliteness are less effective or less preferred in the context of blackmail, where clarity and dominance are often prioritized. The complete absence of the withholding strategy suggests that silence or deliberate omission is not a commonly exploited tactic in this coercive communicative setting, possibly because blackmailers aim for explicit impact rather than ambiguity. Overall, these findings reinforce the broader patterns observed in the qualitative data: blackmailers predominantly rely on overt, face-threatening acts to achieve control and compliance, with less reliance on indirect or passive-aggressive techniques. The dominance of negative and bald on record impoliteness supports the notion that blackmail discourse is inherently confrontational and manipulative in tone. These findings answer the third question of the study, which reads *“What are the impoliteness strategies used by male and female blackmailers in the selected data?”*

4.3.3.1 Impoliteness Strategies Used by Males and Females across all Types of Cyber Blackmail

This section shows the use of impoliteness strategies by male and female blackmailers across all types of cyber blackmail (financial, sextortion, and beneficial cyber blackmail). It highlights the most and least frequent strategies, offering insights into gender-based patterns and how language is used to manipulate and control victims. Table (36) demonstrates the overall analysis of the frequencies and percentages of impoliteness strategies for all the types of cyber blackmail.

Table 36

Impoliteness Strategies Used by Males and Females Across All Types of Cyber Blackmail

No.	Impoliteness Strategies	Male		Female	
		Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.
1.	Bald on record	38	41.8	19	30.6
2.	Positive impoliteness	17	18.7	13	21.0
3.	Negative impoliteness	35	38.5	29	46.8
4.	Sarcasm	1	1.1	1	1.6
5.	Withhold	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total		91	100 %	62	100 %

The data reveals that the bald-on-record strategy is the most frequently used by males, appearing 38 times (41.8%), indicating a preference for direct and explicit threats. In contrast, females employ this strategy 19 times (30.6%), suggesting a comparatively lower reliance on overt intimidation. Negative impoliteness, which involves belittling or intimidating the victim, is more common among females, with 29 times (46.8%), compared to 35 times (38.5%) among males. This suggests that female blackmailers often exert control through psychological pressure instead of direct confrontation. Positive impoliteness, characterized by mockery or exclusion, appears 17 times (18.7%) for males and 13 times (21.0%) for females, showing that both genders employ this strategy at similar rates. Sarcasm is used minimally, appearing only once (1.1%) among males and once (1.6%) among females, while the withhold politeness strategy is absent (0.0%) for both genders. See Figure 10 for more clarification.

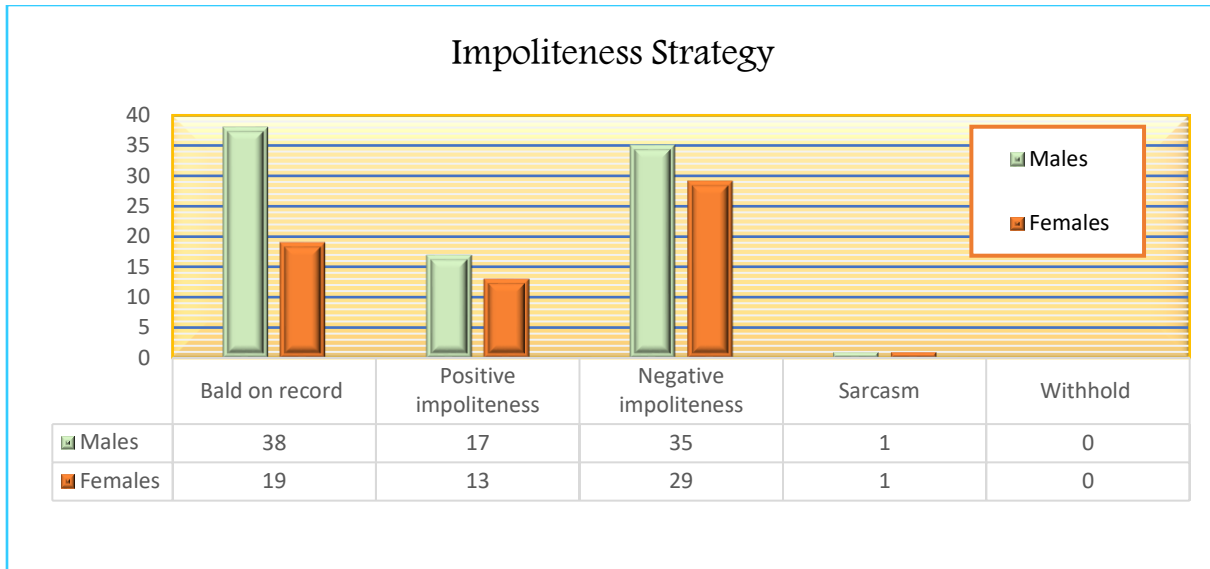


Figure 10. Impoliteness Strategies for All Types of Cyber Blackmail

4.3.3.2 Impoliteness Strategies of Cyber Blackmail for Each Type

This section discusses the results of analyzing the strategies employed by male and female blackmailers. It is divided into three sub-sections as follows:

I. Financial Blackmail

The results of analyzing all cases of cyber blackmail between male and female blackmailers in financial blackmail are shown in Table (37) which demonstrates the analysis of conversational strategies in financial blackmail.

Table 37*Impoliteness Strategies in Financial Blackmail*

No.	Impoliteness Strategies of Financial Blackmail	Male		Female	
		Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.
1.	Bald on record	13	31.0	11	26.2
2.	Positive impoliteness	13	31.0	5	11.9
3.	Negative impoliteness	15	35.7	11	26.2
4.	Sarcasm	1	2.4	1	2.4
5.	Withhold	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total		42	100 %	28	100 %

Among the strategies, *negative impoliteness* is the most frequently used by males, appearing 15 times (35.7%), indicating a tendency to intimidate or belittle the victim to exert control. Females use this strategy 11 times (26.2%), showing that while they also rely on psychological pressure, they use it less frequently than males.

Bald on record, which involves direct and unambiguous threats, is employed 13 times (31.0%) by males and 11 times (26.2%) by females. This suggests that both genders engage in explicit coercion, although males use it slightly more often. Similarly, *positive impoliteness*, which includes mockery and exclusion, is present 13 times (31.0%) among males but is significantly lower among females, with only 5 times (11.9%). This difference suggests that males in financial blackmail cases are more likely to attack the victim's self-worth or social standing.

Sarcasm appears minimally in both groups, with 1 time (2.4%) for males and the same for females, indicating that indirect ridicule is not the main strategy in financial blackmail. Finally, the *withhold politeness strategy* is completely absent (0.0%) in both male and female cases, implying that blackmailers in these situations do not rely on silence or deliberate omission as a form of control. See Figure 11 for more clarification.

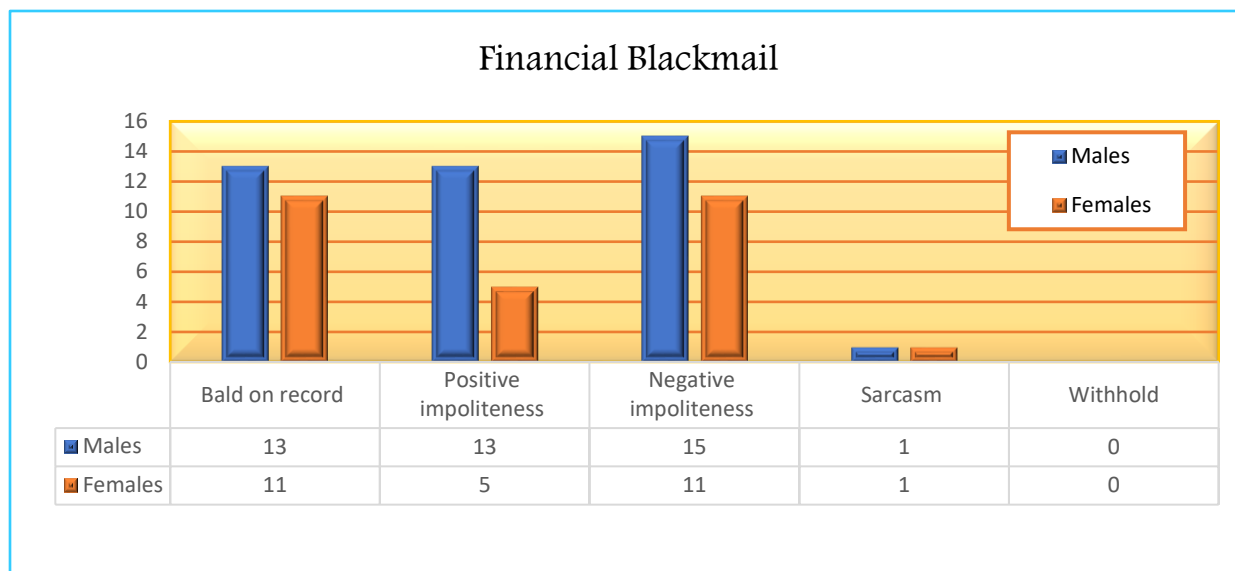


Figure 11. Impoliteness Strategies in Financial Blackmail

II. Sextortion Blackmail

The results of analyzing all cases of cyber blackmail between male and female blackmailers in sextortion blackmail are shown in the Table (38) which demonstrates the analysis of impoliteness strategies in sextortion blackmail.

Table 38

Impoliteness Strategies in Sextortion Blackmail

No.	Impoliteness Strategies of Sextortion Blackmail	Male		Female	
		Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.
1.	Bald on record	18	58.1	6	23.1
2.	Positive impoliteness	2	6.5	8	30.8
3.	Negative impoliteness	11	35.5	12	46.2
4.	Sarcasm	0	0.0	0	0.0
5.	Withhold	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total		31	100 %	26	100 %

The most dominant strategy among male blackmailers is *bald on record*, occurring 18 times (58.1%), indicating that cyber criminals rely heavily on direct and explicit threats to manipulate their victims. In contrast, female blackmailers employ this strategy less frequently, only 6 times (23.1%), suggesting a preference for less overt forms of coercion.

Negative impoliteness, which includes belittling, insulting, or creating fear, is the second most used strategy for males, appearing 11 times (35.5%), and the most used for females, with 12 times (46.2%). This suggests that female blackmailers in sextortion cases lean more toward psychological intimidation rather than direct threats.

Remarkably, *positive impoliteness*, which involves exclusion or mocking, is rarely used by males (2 times, 6.5%) but is significantly more frequent among females (8 times, 30.8%). This could indicate that female blackmailers employ more emotionally manipulative strategies, such as degrading the victim's self-worth. Both *sarcasm* and *withhold politeness* strategies are absent (0.0%) in both male and female cases, indicating that these indirect strategies do not play a role in sextortion blackmail. See Figure 12 for more clarification

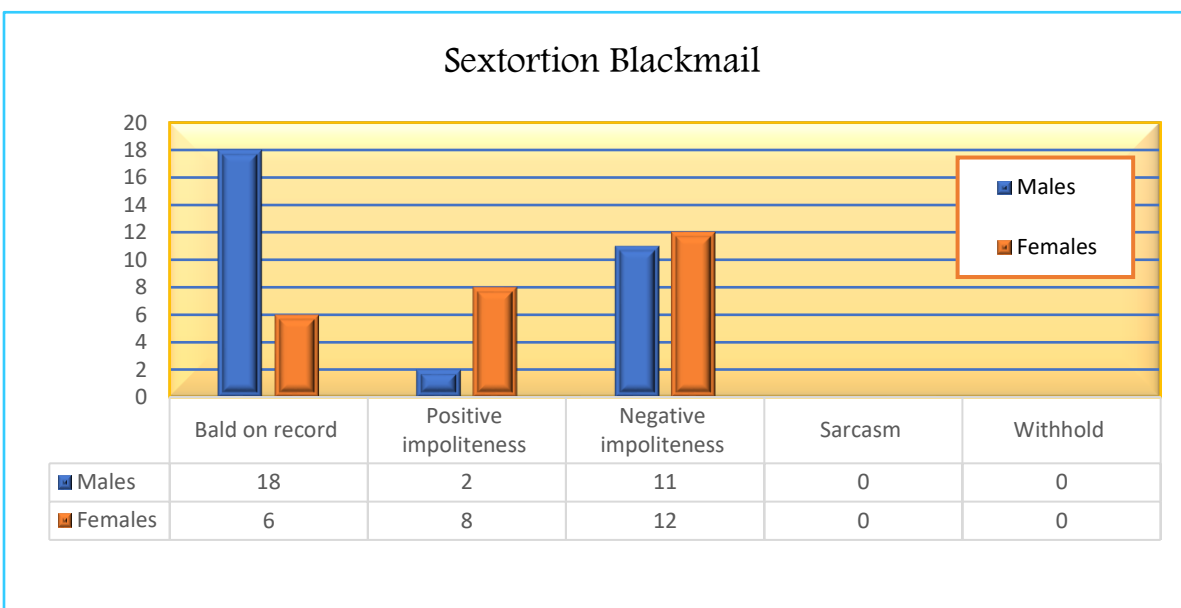


Figure 12. Impoliteness Strategies in Sextortion Blackmail

III. Beneficial Blackmail

The results of analyzing all cases of beneficial blackmail between male and female blackmailers in sextortion blackmail are shown in the Table (39) which demonstrates the analysis of impoliteness strategies in beneficial blackmail.

Table 39

Impoliteness Strategies in Beneficial Blackmail

No.	Impoliteness Strategies of Beneficial Blackmail	Male		Female	
		Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.
1.	Bald on record	7	38.9	2	25.0
2.	Positive impoliteness	2	11.1	0	0.0
3.	Negative impoliteness	9	50.0	6	75.0
4.	Sarcasm	0	0.0	0	0.0
5.	Withhold	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total		18	100 %	8	100 %

The most frequently used strategy among both genders is negative impoliteness, which involves threatening, humiliating, or showing aggression toward the victim. This strategy used 9 times (50.0%) in male cases and is even more dominant among female blackmailers, appearing 6 times (75.0%). This suggests that both male and female perpetrators of beneficial blackmail rely heavily on intimidation and psychological pressure to manipulate their victims.

Bald on record, a direct and explicit strategy, is the second most common strategy among males, with 7 times (38.9%), whereas females use it less frequently, with only 2 times (25.0%). This indicates that male blackmailers tend to be more straightforward in their demands, while females might favor more indirect means.

Positive impoliteness, which includes exclusion or intentional rudeness, is used 2 times (11.1%) but utterly absent among female perpetrators (0.0%). This suggests that men,

to a limited extent, use this strategy to exert social pressure, whereas women may not find it an effective strategy in beneficial blackmail.

Both *sarcasm* and *withhold politeness* strategies are absent (0.0%), showing that neither group relies on indirect forms of coercion in this type of blackmail. See Figure 13 for more clarification

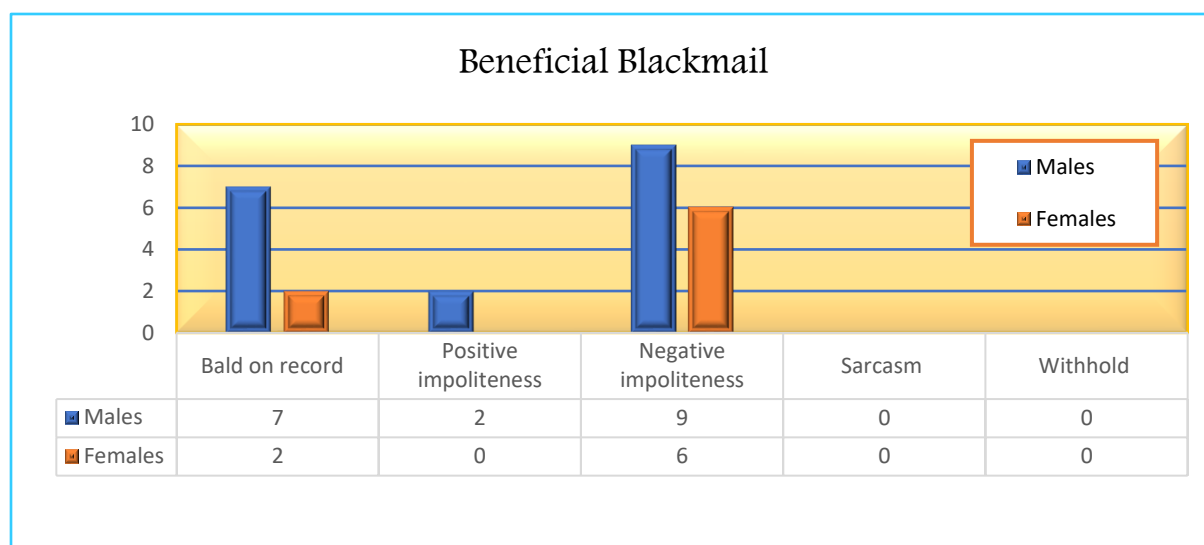


Figure 13. Impoliteness Strategies in Beneficial Blackmail

The frequencies and percentages of the impoliteness strategies employed across all cases and types of cyber blackmail are presented in Tables (37,38,39) and illustrated in Figures 11, 12, and 13

1. Financial Blackmail

- In financial blackmail, negative impoliteness is the most frequently used strategy among males (35.7%), followed closely by *bald on record* and *positive impoliteness* (31.0%). This suggests that male blackmailers in financial contexts rely heavily on direct imposition or threats to face, along with strategies that damage the victim's self-image. For female blackmailers, both *bald on record* and *negative impoliteness* are the dominant strategies (26.2%), while *positive impoliteness* is less commonly used (11.9%).

Sarcasm is the least used by both genders (2.4%), and *withhold* is completely absent (0.0%), indicating a general preference for more overt and confrontational strategies in this type of blackmail.

2. Sextortion Blackmail

- In sextortion cases, male blackmailers extremely use the *bald on record* strategy (58.1%), indicating a direct, commanding approach aimed at coercing victims. Female blackmailers employ *negative impoliteness* most frequently (46.2%), followed by *positive impoliteness* (30.8%), and to a least extent, *bald on record* (23.1%). This highlights a gendered divergence in strategy, where males tend toward blunt demands while females employ more emotionally or socially hurtful language. As with financial blackmail, *sarcasm* and *withhold* are not utilized by either gender (0.0%).

3. Beneficial Blackmail

- In beneficial blackmail, *negative impoliteness* again dominates for both males (50.0%) and females (75.0%). This consistent pattern reinforces its centrality in coercive interactions, regardless of the gender or type of blackmail. Males also use *bald on record* strategies to a significant extent (38.9%), while *positive impoliteness* is minimally present (11.1%) and absent among females (0.0%). *Sarcasm and withhold* are not recorded at all, showing a continued avoidance of indirect or passive strategies.

Across all three types of cyber blackmail, *negative impoliteness* is the most frequently used strategy by both male and female blackmailers, emphasizing a preference for coercive, face-threatening acts that undermine the victim's autonomy or self-worth. *Bald on record* is the second most utilized, particularly by male blackmailers, who appear more willing to use direct threats. On the other hand, *sarcasm and withhold* are the least utilized strategies, with multiple instances of complete absence across all cases and categories. This overall pattern suggests that both male and female blackmailers favor direct, forceful, and emotionally charged language over passive or indirect strategies when coercing their victims.

4.4 A Comparison Between Males and Females Cyber Blackmailers

This section compares male and female blackmailers' use of conversational and impoliteness strategies for all the types of cyber blackmail. It displays the statistical results by applying the Chi-square test.

4.4.1 Overall Analysis of Conversational Strategies for all types of Cyber Blackmail

This section shows the use of conversational strategies by male and female blackmailers across all types of cyber blackmail (financial, sextortion, and beneficial cyber blackmail). It highlights whether there are significant differences between males and females in their use of conversational strategies. Table (40) demonstrates the overall analysis of the conversational strategies for all the types of cyber blackmail.

Table 40

Chi-square Analysis of the Conversational Strategies for All Types of Cyber Blackmail

No.	Conversational Strategies	Males	Females	Chi-Square	Statical Significance	Significance
1.	Minimal Responses	7	2	2.78	0.1	Non
2.	Directive /Commands	38	20	5.59	<.001	Yes
3.	Swearing and Taboo Language	19	14	0.76	0.02	Non
4.	Compliment	4	1	1.8	0.18	Non
5.	Question	16	6	4.55	<.001	Yes
6.	Tag Question	8	1	5.44	<.001	Yes
7.	Hedges	5	3	0.5	0.48	Non
8.	Using Ambiguity	0	6	6	<.001	Yes
9.	Blocking the target	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
10.	Hit and run	8	11	0.47	0.49	Non
11.	Camouflaging the illegality	3	1	1.0	0.32	Non
12.	Isolating the target	8	8	0.0	1.0	Non
13.	Ignoring the target when says No	5	3	0.5	0.48	Non
14.	Withholding crucial information	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
15.	Lying the target about crucial information	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
16.	Scripting the target	29	25	0.3	0.59	Yes
Total		150	101			

Cyber blackmailers use different conversational strategies to manipulate, coerce, or intimidate their victims. The statistical analysis of these strategies reveals patterns in how male and female blackmailers manipulate. Some strategies are used significantly more by one gender, while others show no meaningful difference. Below is a detailed explanation of each strategy and why blackmailers might use them.

Minimal Responses are used more by males (7 times) compared to females (2 times), but this difference is not statistically significant. Minimal responses involve short, uninterested replies that can create psychological pressure by making the victim feel ignored or worthless. Male blackmailers might use this strategy to maintain control by making the victim worried or uncertain about their next move.

Directives or Commands show a significant difference between males (38 times) and females (20 times), indicating that male blackmailers tend to be more assertive and direct in their threats. This strategy helps assert dominance and ensures compliance over the victim. Commands such as “*Send the money now*” or “*Do what I say, or I’ll expose you*” create immediate coercion, leaving the victim with little time to think or resist.

Swearing and Taboo Language are used by both males (19 times) and females (14 times), though not at a statistically significant level. Swearing can serve as an intimidation strategy, making the threat seem more aggressive and serious. The use of harsh language may also reflect frustration or an attempt to break down the victim’s emotional defenses.

Compliments are rare in blackmail interactions, with males using them (4 times) and females (1 time). Though not statistically significant, compliments might be used to emotionally manipulate the victim, either by gaining their trust before making a demand or as a way to soften the threat after it is made. This could create confusion in the victim, making them more susceptible to coercion.

Questions are significantly more common among males (16 times) than females (6 times). Question strategy allows blackmailers to extract more information from their victims, which can be used for further manipulation. By asking questions, male blackmailers may assess the victim’s emotional state, test their willingness to comply, or gather additional information for future threats.

Tag Questions also shows a significant difference, with males using them more frequently (8 times) than females (1 time). Tag questions, such as “You don’t want this to get out, do you?” or “You understand what I mean, right?” create psychological pressure by subtly leading the victim to agree with the blackmailer’s demands. This strategy manipulates the victim into compliance without an overt threat.

Hedges, which involve uncertain language like “maybe” or “I think” were used slightly by both genders, with males (5 times) and females (3 times) showing no significant difference. Because blackmail includes explicit threats and demands, hedging might be less effective in these situations.

Using Ambiguity is a significant strategy for females (6 times) while completely missing among males (0). Female blackmailers might use vague or indirect threats to instill fear while maintaining denial. Avoiding explicit statements makes it harder for the victim to report the blackmail, as the threat is not formulated.

Blocking the Target is not used by either gender, which makes sense since continued communication is necessary for blackmail to be effective. Cutting off the victim would limit the blackmailer’s ability to apply pressure.

Hit and Run is slightly more common among females (11 times) than males (8 times), though not at a statistically significant level. This strategy involves making a quick threat and disappearing, forcing the victim to panic and comply out of fear. Female blackmailers may use this strategy to create emotional instability in the victim.

Camouflaging the Illegality is used rarely by both genders (males: 3 times, females: 1 time). This involves hiding threats as harmless requests or conditions, making the blackmail appear less criminal. This could be an attempt to avoid legal consequences if the victim reports the threat.

Isolating the Target is used equally by males and females (8 times). This strategy aims to cut the victim off from potential support systems, making them feel trapped and unable to seek help. By ensuring the victim has no one to turn to, blackmailers increase their control over the situation.

Ignoring the Target When They Say No was used slightly more by males (5 times) than by females (3 times), although not significantly. This reflects the persistence of blackmailers, who refuse to accept rejection and continue pressuring the victim until they comply. Withholding Crucial Information and Lying About Crucial Information were completely absent from both male and female blackmailers. This indicates that explicit threats are more effective than deception in blackmail situations.

Scripting the Target is common for both genders, with males (29 times) and females (25 times) using it frequently. This strategy involves guiding the victim on what to say or do, making them complicit in the situation. By controlling the victim's actions, blackmailers ensure they follow the script without resistance.

The findings suggest that male blackmailers are more likely to use direct, forceful, and assertive strategies, such as commands, questions, and tag questions. In contrast, female blackmailers lean toward indirect, ambiguous, and emotionally manipulative strategies, such as using ambiguity and hit-and-run. Understanding these patterns can provide insight into the different psychological approaches blackmailers use and how victims respond to threats. Figure 14 demonstrates that there is a statistically significant difference of conversational strategies for all the types of cyber blackmail

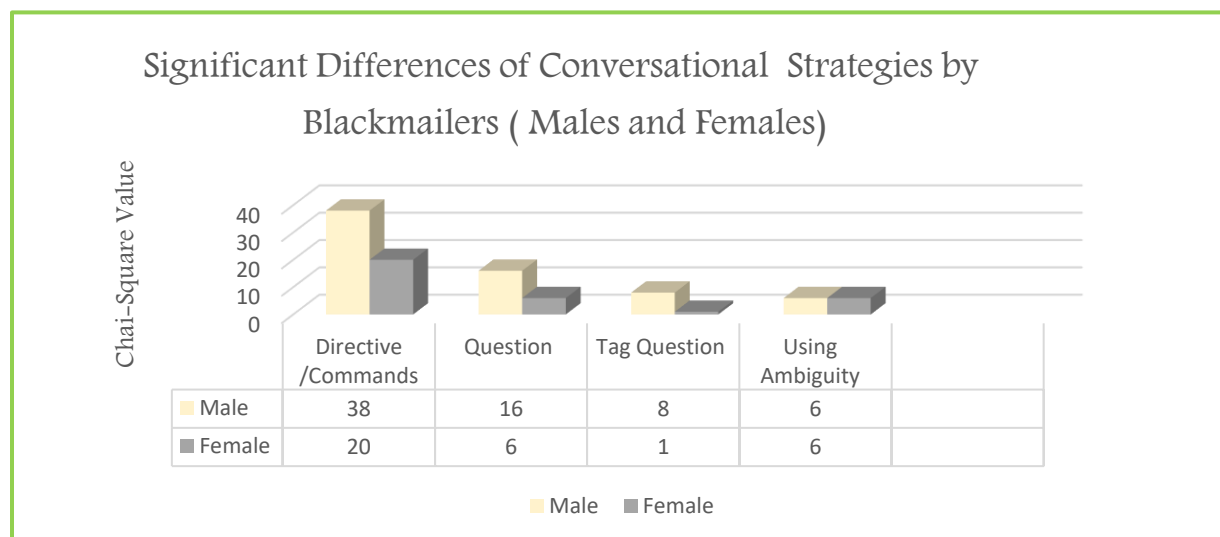


Figure 14. Chi-square Analysis of the Conversational Strategies for All Types of Cyberblackmail

4.4.1.2 Male vs. Female Cyber Blackmailers

This section presents a comparative analysis of the conversational strategies and impoliteness strategies employed by male and female blackmailers in various forms of cyber blackmail.

A. Financial Blackmail

Table 41

Chi-square Analysis of the Conversational Strategies in Financial Blackmail

No.	Conversational Strategies of Financial Blackmail	Males	Females	Chi-Square	Statistical Significance	Significance
1.	Minimal Responses	7	0	7	<.001	Yes
2.	Directive /Commands	13	11	0.17	0.68	Non
3.	Swearing and Taboo Language	13	5	3.56	0.06	Non
4.	Compliment	2	0	2	0.75	Non
5.	Question	8	1	5.44	<.001	Yes
6.	Tag Question	5	0	5	<.001	Yes
7.	Hedges	2	1	0.33	0.56	Non
8.	Using Ambiguity	0	5	5	<.001	Yes
9.	Blocking the target	0	0	1	0.32	Non
10.	Hit and run	4	6	0.4	0.53	Non
11.	Camouflaging the illegality	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
12.	Isolating the target	4	3	0.14	0.71	Non
13.	Ignoring the target when says No	1	2	0.33	0.56	Non
14.	Withholding crucial information	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
15.	Lying the target about crucial information	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
16.	Scripting the target	9	10	22.7	<.001	Yes
Total		68	44			

Table (41) illustrates that there is a statistically significant difference in the use of conversational strategies in financial blackmail by males and females. Males employ *minimal responses, questions, tag questions, and ambiguity strategies* more than females

There is also a statistically significant variation in the employment of *scripting the target strategy*. Females employ this strategy more than males.

The results show that five strategies indicate significant differences between genders. Males are more likely to use *minimal responses*, *questions*, and *tag questions*, suggesting they may rely on short, direct interactions and subtle reinforcement strategies. Females, on the other hand, tend to use *ambiguity*, which may help them maintain control and uncertainty over the victims in the conversation. The most significant finding is that both genders engage in *scripting the target*, but at different rates, indicating this is a dominant strategy in financial blackmail regardless of gender. Other strategies, such as *commands*, *swearing*, *hedges*, and *isolating the target*, do not show significant differences, meaning both genders use them similarly. Figure 15 demonstrates that there is a statistically significant difference of conversational strategies in financial blackmail utilized by male and female cyber criminals.

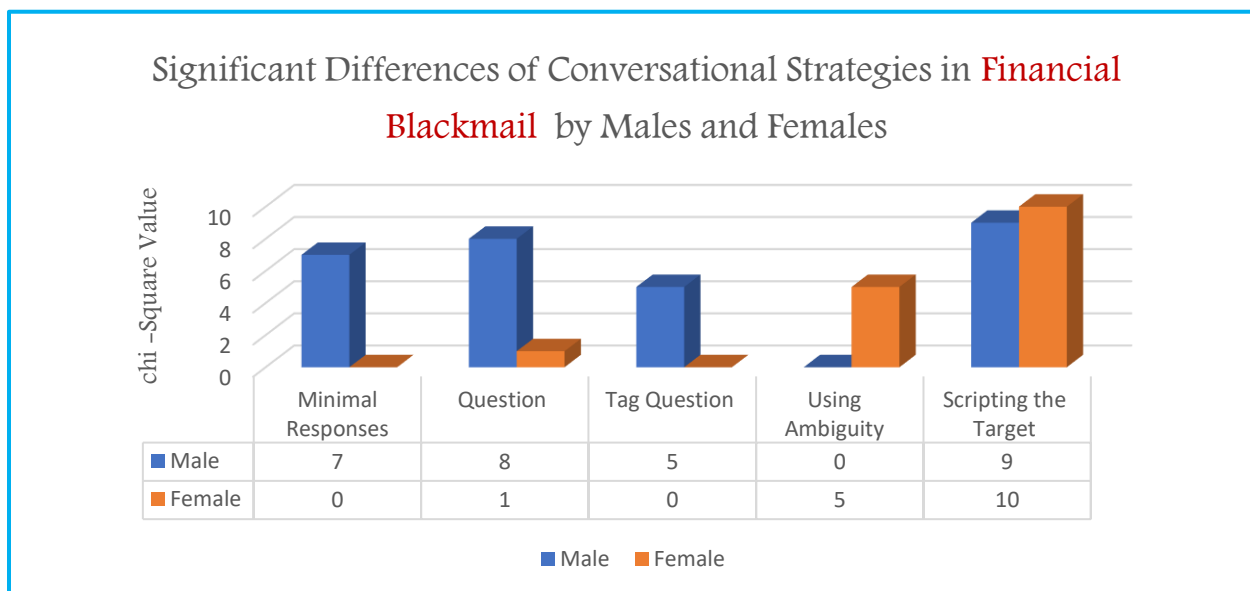


Figure 15. Chi-square Analysis of the Conversational Strategies in Financial Blackmail

B. Sextortion Blackmail

Table (42) demonstrates the differences of the conversational strategies used by males and females in sextortion blackmail.

Table 42

Chi-square Analysis of The Conversational Strategies in Sextortion Blackmail

No.	Conversational Strategies of Sextortion Blackmail	Males	Females	Chi-Square	Statistical Significance	Significance
1.	Minimal Responses	0	2	2	<.001	Yes
2.	Directive /Commands	18	7	4.84	<.001	Yes
3.	Swearing and Taboo Language	4	8	1.33	0.25	Non
4.	Compliment	2	1	0.33	0.56	Non
5.	Question	5	5	0.0	1.0	Non
6.	Tag Question	1	1	0.0	1.0	Non
7.	Hedges	3	1	1.0	0.32	Non
8.	Using Ambiguity	0	1	1	0.79	Non
9.	Blocking the target	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
10.	Hit and run	3	4	0.14	0.71	Non
11.	Camouflaging the illegality	3	1	1.0	0.32	Non
12.	Isolating the target	3	4	0.14	0.71	Non
13.	Ignoring the target when says No	4	1	1.8	0.18	Non
14.	Withholding crucial information	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
15.	Lying the target about crucial information	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
16.	Scripting the target	10	10	0.0	1.0	Non
Total		56	46			

Two strategies indicate statistically significant differences between males and females: *Directive / Commands* ($\chi^2 = 4.84$, $p < 0.05$), Males (18 times) vs. Females (7 times). Males use direct commands significantly more often than females. This suggests that male blackmailers may rely on forceful language to control the victim, whereas females may use other manipulative strategies instead. *Minimal Responses* ($\chi^2 = 2$, $p < 0.05$, but weak significance) Males (0) vs. Females (2 times). Although the frequency is low, the fact that only females use *minimal responses* might indicate a tendency to be more indirect in their approach to sextortion. However, since the Chi-Square value is small, the significance is weak and may not be convincing.

The other strategies show minimal differences, indicating that both genders utilize them at comparable rates. *Swearing and Taboo Language* ($\chi^2 = 1.33$, not significant). While females use this strategy more than males (8 vs. 4 times), the difference is not strong

enough to be statistically meaningful. *Questions, Tag Questions, and Scripting the Target* ($\chi^2 = 0.0$, not significant): These are used equally by both genders, indicating that they are common strategies in sextortion blackmail, regardless of gender. *Hit and Run & Isolating the Target* ($\chi^2 = 0.14$, not significant). The slight difference in frequency between males and females does not indicate a meaningful difference. Finally, *ignoring the Target When They Say No* ($\chi^2 = 1.8$, not significant): Although males (4 times) use this slightly more than females (1 time), the difference is not statistically strong.

As a result, the only significant differences are in sextortion blackmail, which is *Directive/Commands and Minimal Responses*, suggesting that males are more likely to use direct control through commands, while females may rely on more indirect strategies. Other strategies appear to be equally used by both genders, showing that both male and female blackmailers rely on similar conversational methods in sextortion cases.

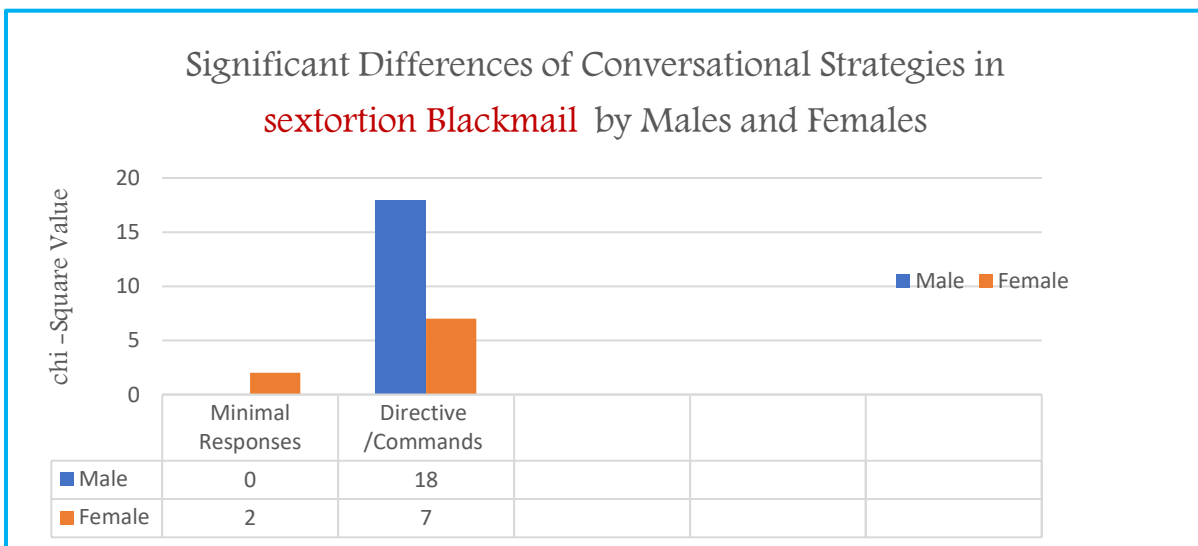


Figure 16. Chi-square Analysis of the Conversational Strategies in Sextortion Blackmail

C. Beneficial Blackmail

Table (43) demonstrates the differences of the conversational strategies used by males and females in beneficial blackmail.

Table 43

Chi-square Analysis of the Conversational Strategies in Beneficial Blackmail

No.	Conversational Strategies of Beneficial Blackmail	Males	Females	Chi-Square	Statistical Significance	Significance
1.	Minimal Responses	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
2.	Directive /Commands	7	2	2.78	0.1	Non
3.	Swearing and Taboo Language	2	1	0.33	0.56	Non
4.	Compliment	0	0	0.0	1	Non
5.	Question	3	0	3	0.07	Non
6.	Tag Question	2	0	2	0.21	Non
7.	Hedges	0	1	1	0.32	Non
8.	Using Ambiguity	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
9.	Blocking the target	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
10.	Hit and run	1	1	0.0	1	Non
11.	Camouflaging the illegality	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
12.	Isolating the target	1	1	0.0	1	Non
13.	Ignoring the target when says No	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
14.	Withholding crucial information	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
15.	Lying the target about crucial information	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
16.	Scripting the target	10	5	1.67	0.2	Non
Total		26	11			

Chi-square values indicate that none of the conversational strategies in beneficial blackmail show statistically significant differences between males and females. With only three cases of beneficial blackmail (2 male, 1 female), the data is too limited to produce meaningful statistical differences.

Many strategies have zero “*Minimal Responses*”, “*Compliment*”, and “*Using Ambiguity*”, which comprises the validity of the chi-square test. When the expected values appear to be too low, the test loses power and reliability. Strategies like “*Hit and Run*” and “*Isolating the Target*” have equal frequencies for both genders (1 time male and 1 time

female), leading to a chi-square value of (0.0), meaning there's no difference to detect. Even in strategies where males and females differ. *“Directive/Commands”* with 7 times for males vs. 2 times for females, or *“Scripting the Target”* with (10 times for males vs. 5 times for females), the differences aren't large enough relative to the total data to be statistically significant.

4.4.2 Impoliteness Strategies

This section compares the use of impoliteness strategies between male and female blackmailers. It presents the statistical results using the Chi-square test.

4.4.2.1 Overall Analysis of Impoliteness Strategies of Cyber Blackmail

This section shows the use of impoliteness strategies by male and female blackmailers across all types of cyber blackmail (financial, sextortion, and beneficial cyber blackmail). It highlights whether there are significant differences between males and females in using impoliteness strategies. Table (44) demonstrates the overall analysis of the impoliteness strategies for all the types of cyber blackmail.

Table 44

Chi-square Analysis of the Impoliteness Strategies for All Types of Cyber Blackmail

No.	Impoliteness Strategies of Cyber Blackmail	Males	Females	Chi-Square	Statistical Significance	Significance
1.	Bald on record	38	19	6.33	<.001	Yes
2.	Positive impoliteness	17	13	0.53	0.47	Non
3.	Negative impoliteness	35	29	0.56	0.45	Non
4.	Sarcasm	1	1	0.0	1.0	Non
5.	Withhold	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
Total		91	62			

The analysis of impoliteness strategies in cyber blackmail reveals key differences and similarities between male and female blackmailers. The most frequently used strategy by both genders is *“Bald on Record”*, where direct and explicit threats are made. Males employ this strategy significantly more than females, with 41.8% of male blackmail cases

using it compared to (30.6%) of female cases ($\chi^2 = 6.33$, $p = 0.01$). This indicates that male blackmailers tend to use a straightforward, aggressive approach, aiming to intimidate their victims through unambiguous threats. The significant p-value suggests that this is not due to random variation but rather a consistent pattern of male blackmail behavior.

In contrast, *Positive Impoliteness*, which involves exclusion, mockery, or ridiculing the victim, does not show a statistically significant difference between genders ($\chi^2 = 0.53$, $p = 0.47$). While males use this strategy in (18.7%) of cases and females in (21.0%), the similarity in usage suggests that psychological manipulation through mockery or belittling is employed by both genders at comparable percentages. Unlike bald on record, this strategy is less about explicit threats and more about undermining the victim's confidence and emotional stability, making it a strategy that may be used in longer-term blackmail rather than immediate coercion.

Negative Impoliteness, which includes humiliation and attacking the victim's autonomy, is another commonly used strategy, with 38.5% of male blackmailers and (46.8%) of female blackmailers employing it ($\chi^2 = 0.56$, $p = 0.45$). The lack of statistical significance indicates that both male and female blackmailers rely on threatening the victim's self-dignity at a similar percentage. This strategy might be particularly effective in cases where emotional or reputational damage is central to the blackmail, such as in sextortion or cases involving social standing.

On the other hand, *Sarcasm* is rarely used with only one case reported for both males (1.1%) and females (1.6%), making the difference statistically insignificant ($\chi^2 = 0.0$, $p = 1.0$). Sarcasm is inherently indirect and ambiguous which likely makes it ineffective in cyber blackmail, where clarity and urgency are crucial. A similar pattern is observed in the Withhold strategy, which was not used at all by any blackmailer in the dataset (0% for both males and females, $\chi^2 = 0.0$, $p = 1.0$). Since blackmail typically requires active engagement with the victim to exert pressure, a passive approach like withholding communication does not align with the nature of coercion.

Overall, the results suggest that males are significantly more likely to use direct threats (Bald on Record), while females are slightly more inclined to use psychological

manipulation (Positive Impoliteness and Negative Impoliteness), though these differences are not statistically significant. Additionally, indirect strategies like Sarcasm and Withhold are largely absent in cyber blackmail, reinforcing the idea that effective blackmail requires active and explicit communication rather than subtle or passive approaches. See Figure 17 for more clarification.

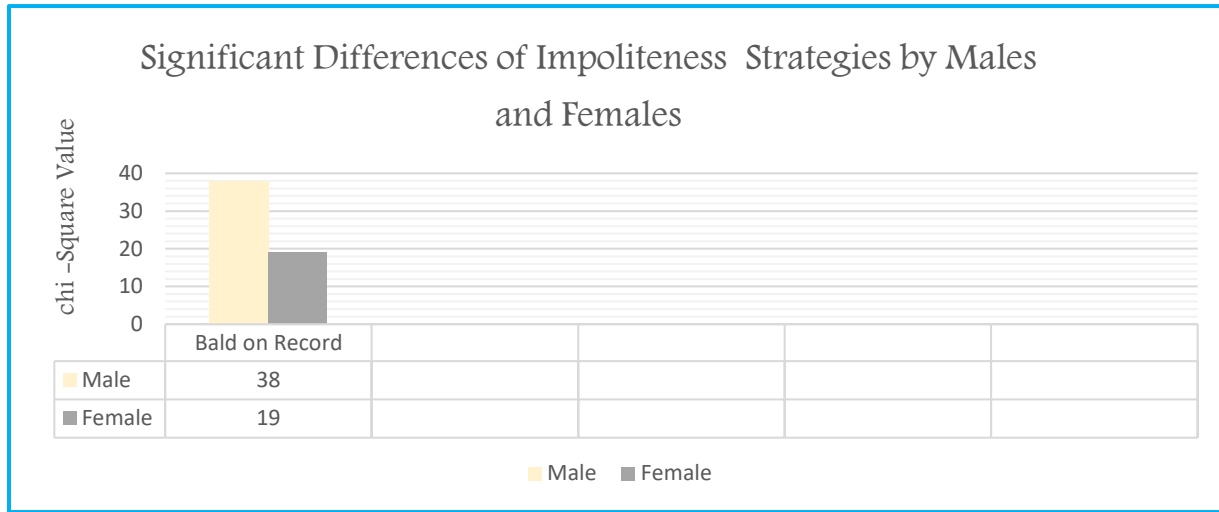


Figure 17. Chi-Square Analysis of the Impoliteness Strategies for All Types of Cyber Blackmail

4.4.2.2 Differences Between Males and Females for Each Type of Cyber Blackmail

1. Financial Blackmail

Table 45

Chi-square Analysis of the Impoliteness Strategies in Financial Blackmail

No.	Impoliteness Strategies of Financial Blackmail	Males	Females	Chi-Square	Statistical Significance	Significance
1.	Bald on record	13	11	0.17	0.68	Non
2.	Positive impoliteness	13	5	3.56	0.06	Non
3.	Negative impoliteness	15	11	0.62	0.43	Non
4.	Sarcasm	1	1	0.0	1.0	Non
5.	Withhold	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
Total		42	28			

The overall chi-square values for both males ($\chi^2 = 11.71$, $p = 0.01$) and females ($\chi^2 = 10.29$, $p = 0.02$) indicate that gender has a statistically significant effect on the choice of blackmail strategies. Since both p-values are below 0.05, we can conclude that the distribution of strategies differs meaningfully between males and females. However, when analyzing individual strategies separately, none of them reach statistical significance. This suggests that no single strategy dominates the gender-based variation, but the collective differences across all strategies contribute to the overall significance.

In the analysis of Individual Strategies "*Bald on Record*" strategy, which involves direct and explicit threats or demands, was used by males (31.0%) and females (26.2%) at similar rates. The chi-square value (0.17) is extremely low, and the p-value (0.68) is well above the significance threshold. This suggests that gender does not significantly influence the use of direct threats in financial blackmail cases. The minimal variation observed between males and females is likely due to random chance rather than any systematic gender difference.

Positive Impoliteness strategy involves using insults, derogatory remarks, or dismissive language to intimidate the victim. Males employed this strategy more frequently (31.0%) compared to females (11.9%). The chi-square value (3.56) and p-value (0.06) indicate that this difference is close to statistical significance but does not quite reach the conventional threshold of (0.05). This suggests that males may be more tend to use this strategy than females.

Negative Impoliteness strategy which involves, making the victim feel isolated or displaying hostility, was used by males (35.7%) and females (26.2%). The chi-square value (0.62) and p-value (0.43) indicate that this difference is not statistically significant. The relatively even distribution indicates that both genders utilize this strategy in financial blackmail at similar rates, and any minor difference is likely attributable to chance.

Sarcasm, which includes using irony or mockery to exert control over the victim, was used minimally by both males and females (2.4% each). The chi-square value of (0.0) and p-value of 1.0 indicate no variation between genders. This means that sarcasm is not a distinguishing factor in gender-based blackmail strategy choice and is rarely employed in financial blackmail cases.

Withhold politeness, where the blackmailer refuses to communicate or provide expected responses to manipulate the victim, was not used at all by either males or females (0.0%). Since this strategy was not observed in any case, it has no variation and thus no statistical significance.

Although no individual strategy reached statistical significance, the overall chi-square results ($\chi^2 = 11.71$, $p = 0.01$ for males; $\chi^2 = 10.29$, $p = 0.02$ for females) confirm that gender plays a role in the general distribution of financial blackmail strategies. This means that while specific strategies do not show major gender-based differences on their own, the combined effect of multiple small differences creates a significant pattern overall.

B – Sextortion Blackmail

Table 46

Chi-square Analysis of the Impoliteness Strategies in Sextortion Blackmail

No.	Impoliteness Strategies of Sextortion Blackmail	Males	Females	Chi-Square	Statistical Significance	Significance
1.	Bald on record	18	6	6.0	<.001	Yes
2.	Positive impoliteness	2	8	3.6	<.001	Yes
3.	Negative impoliteness	11	12	0.04	0.84	Non
4.	Sarcasm	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
5.	Withhold	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
Total		31	26			

The *Bald on Record* strategy involves direct threats without any attempt to mitigate their impact. The data reveal that male blackmailers (18 times) employ this strategy significantly more than female blackmailers (6 times). The chi-square test result (6.0) and a p-value of 0.01 indicate a highly significant difference, meaning that males have a strong tendency to use this strategy compared to females. The preference for direct threats among males may be linked to more aggressive strategies, a desire for immediate compliance, or a tendency to use dominance in coercive situations.

Positive Impoliteness refers to strategies that involve ridicule, exclusion, or other forms of psychological manipulation. Remarkably, this strategy is more common among female blackmailers (8 times) than male blackmailers (2 times). The statistical test results (chi-square = 3.6, p-value = 0.06) suggest that the difference is nearly significant, indicating a noticeable value. The higher use of Positive Impoliteness among female blackmailers may indicate a preference for emotional and psychological manipulation over direct threatening.

Significantly, both *Sarcasm* and *Withhold* strategies are absent in the analyzed sextortion cases. These strategies, which typically involve indirect mockery or deliberate silence to exert psychological pressure, may not be perceived as effective in sextortion contexts where explicit coercion is required to maintain control over the victim. The

absence of these strategies suggests that sextortion blackmailers emphasize direct threats, humiliation, or emotional manipulation over subtle or passive-aggressive strategies. It also indicates that victims are likely to respond more to overt coercion rather than indirect pressure in cases of sextortion.

The overall statistical analysis demonstrates that *Bald on Record* is a significantly preferred strategy among male blackmailers, while *Positive Impoliteness* is used more by females, though not at a statistically significant level. *Negative Impoliteness*, on the other hand, is equally used by both genders, indicating that it is a universally effective strategy in sextortion cases. The significant gender differences observed suggest that male blackmailers may favor direct, aggressive methods, while females might lean towards indirect psychological manipulation. See Figure 18 for more clarification

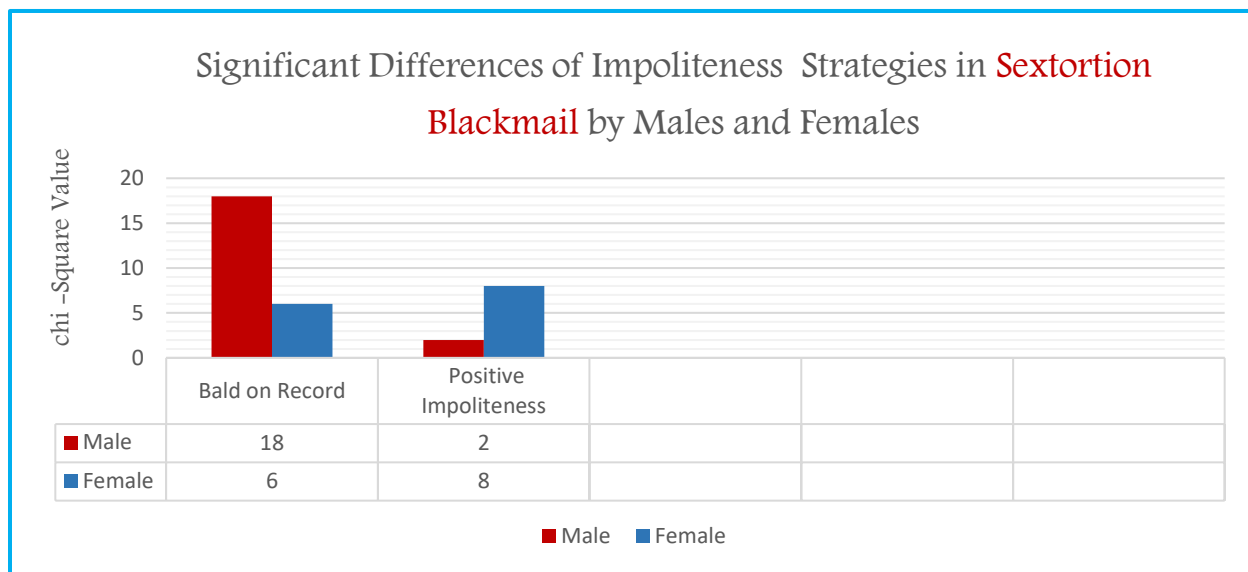


Figure 18. Chi-square Analysis of the Impoliteness Strategies in Sextortion Blackmail

C- Beneficial Blackmail

Table 47

Chi-square Analysis of the Impoliteness Strategies in Beneficial Blackmail

No.	Impoliteness Strategies of Beneficial Blackmail	Males	Females	Chi-Square	Statistical Significance	Significance
1.	Bald on record	7	2	2.78	0.1	Non
2.	Positive impoliteness	2	0	2.0	<.001	Yes
3.	Negative impoliteness	9	6	6.0	0.44	Non
4.	Sarcasm	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
5.	Withhold	0	0	0.0	1.0	Non
Total		18	8			

Males (38.9%) use the Bald on Record strategy more frequently than females (25%). Despite this difference, the p-value (0.1) suggests that the difference is not statistically significant. The choice of direct threats by males could reflect a preference for overt and dominant coercion. This adjusts with findings from other types of blackmail, where males often employ more aggressive strategies. However, since the p-value is above (0.05), this is likely due to sample variability rather than a strong gender-based pattern.

The strategy of *Positive Impoliteness* illustrates the difference, with males (11.1%) employing it more frequently than females (0%). However, the lack of any instances of this strategy among females hinders meaningful statistical analysis. The absence of Positive Impoliteness, particularly in the context of beneficial blackmail, indicates that psychological manipulation via ridicule or exclusion may not be as effective in coercing the victim. Males may prefer it in certain situations, but overall, this method seems less effective in cases of beneficial blackmail.

For *negative impoliteness*, both males (50%) and females (75%) use this strategy frequently. However, the p-value (0.44) indicates that there is no statistically significant difference between the genders in how often this strategy is used. This suggests that humiliation and threats to autonomy are commonly effective strategies in beneficial blackmail for both genders. Despite the higher frequency of use by females, the lack of

statistical significance implies that the strategy is widely applicable and does not significantly depend on gender. Both Sarcasm and Withhold strategies are absent in the analyzed cases, reflected by a p-value of 1.0. This absence suggests that these strategies, which are often passive-aggressive or involve withholding information, are not effective or appropriate in the context of beneficial blackmail. The blackmailers may prefer more direct strategies, such as threatening humiliation or exploiting the victim's weakness rather than relying on subtler forms of coercion.

Overall, the statistical analysis shows that while there is some gender-based differences in the use of blackmail strategies, these differences are generally not statistically significant in beneficial blackmail cases. The absence of sarcasm and withholding associated with the common use of negative impoliteness suggests that blackmailers, regardless of gender, tend to focus on direct coercion methods that threaten the victim's dignity. The marginal difference in *Bald on Record* and *Negative Impoliteness* strategies points to subtle trends, but it is clear that both males and females largely rely on similar strategies for beneficial blackmail, with little evidence supporting a strong gender-based preference. See Figure 19 for clarification

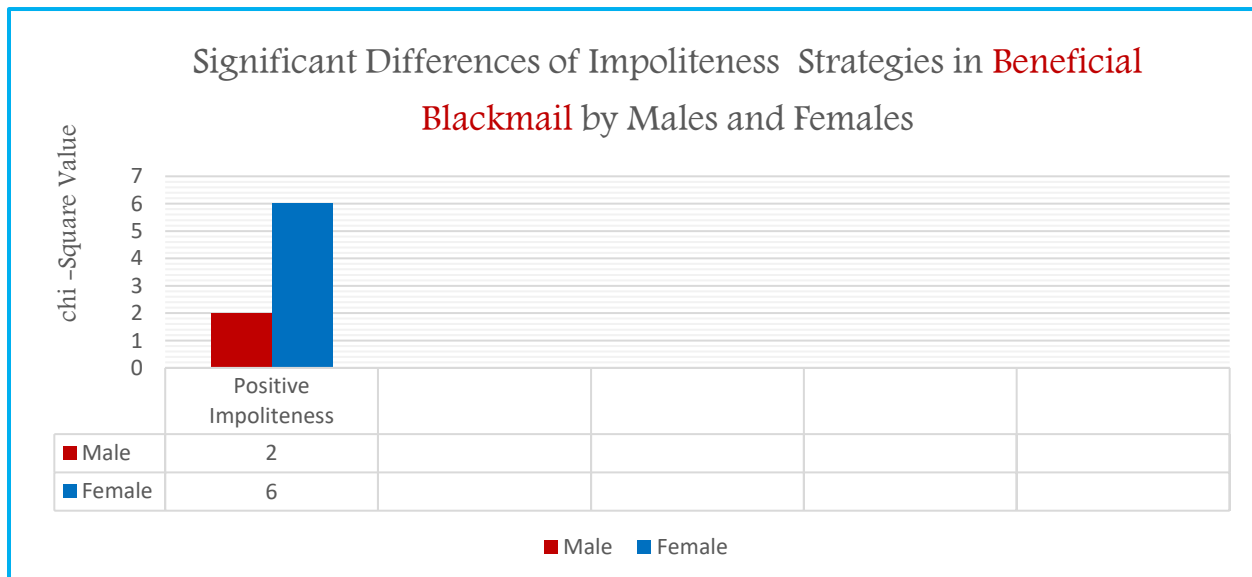


Figure 19. Chi-square Analysis of the Impoliteness Strategies in Beneficial Blackmail

These results answer the fifth question of this study, which reads “*What are the differences between males and females in their use of cyber blackmail, conversational strategies, and impoliteness strategies in the data under study?*”.

Table 48

Conversational Strategies for All Types of Cyber Blackmail Between Males and Females

		Financial Blackmail				Sextortion Blackmail				Beneficial Blackmail			
		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
		Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.
Conversational Strategies	Minimal Responses	7	10.3%	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Chi&p.v	7 & 0.00				2 & 0.21				0.0 & 1			
	Directive /Commands	13	19.1%	11	25.0 %	18	32.1 %	7	15.2 %	7	26.9 %	2	18.2%
	Chi&p.v	0.17 & 0.68				4.84 & 0.03				2.78 & 0.1			
	Swearing /Taboo Language	13	19.1%	5	11.4 %	4	7.1 %	8	17.4 %	2	7.7 %	1	9.1 %
	Chi&p.v	3.56 & 0.06				1.33 & 0.25				0.33 & 0.56			
	Compliment	2	2.9%	0	0.0	2	3.6%	1	2.2 %	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Chi&p.v	2 & 0.75				0.33 & 0.56				0.0 & 1			
	Question	8	11.8%	1	2.3	5	8.9%	5	10.9%	3	11.5%	0	0.0
	Chi&p.v	5.44 & 0.02				0.0 & 1.0				3 & 0.07			
	Tag Question	5	7.4%	0	0.0	1	1.8%	1	2.2%	2	7.7%	0	0.0
	Chi&p.v	5 & 0.03				0.0 & 1.0				2 & 0.21			
	Hedges	2	2.9%	1	2.3%	3	5.4%	1	2.2%	0	0.0	1	9.1%
	Chi&p.v	0.33 & 0.56				0.0 & 1.0				1 & 0.32			

Using Ambiguity	0	0.0	5	11.4%	0	0.0	1	2.2%	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chi&p.v	5 & 0.03				1 & 0.79				0.0 & 1			
Blocking the target	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chi&p.v	1 & 0.32				0.0 & 1.0				0.0 & 1			
Hit and run	4	5.9%	6	13.6%	3	5.4%	4	8.7%	1	3.8%	1	9.1%
Chi&p.v	0.4 & 0.53				0.14 & 0.71				0.0 & 1			
Camouflaging the illegality	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	5.4%	1	2.2%	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chi&p.v	0.0 & 1.0				1.0 & 0.32				0.0 & 1			
Isolating the target	4	5.9%	3	6.8%	3	5.4%	4	8.7%	1	3.8%	1	9.1%
Chi&p.v	0.14 & 0.71				0.14 & 0.71				0.0 & 1			
Ignoring the target	1	1.5%	2	4.5%	4	7.1%	1	2.2%	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chi&p.v	0.33 & 0.56				1.8 & 0.18				0.0 & 1			
Withholding crucial information	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chi&p.v	0.0 & 1.0				0.0 & 1.0				0.0 & 1			
Lying the target about crucial information	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chi&p.v	0.0 & 1.0				0.0 & 1.0				0.0 & 1			
Scripting the target	9	13.2%	10	22.7%	10	17.9%	10	21.7%	10	38.5%	5	45.5%
Chi&p.v	0.05 & 0.82				0.0 & 1.0				1.67 & 0.2			
Total	68	100%	44	100%	56	100%	46	100%	26	100%	11	100%

Table 49

Impoliteness Strategies for All Types of Cyber Blackmail Between Males and Females

		Financial Blackmail				Sextortion Blackmail				Beneficial Blackmail			
		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
		Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.	Fr.	Pr.
Impoliteness Strategies	Bald on record	13	31.0%	11	26.2%	18	58.1%	6	23.1%	7	38.9 %	2	25.0 %
	Chi&p.v	0.17				6.0				2.78			
	Positive impoliteness	13	31.0%	5	11.9%	2	6.5 %	8	30.8 %	2	11.1 %	0	0.0
	Chi&p.v	3.56				3.6				2.0			
	Negative impoliteness	15	35.7%	11	26.2%	11	35.5 %	12	46.2 %	9	50.0 %	6	75.0 %
	Chi&p.v	0.62				0.04				6.0			
	Sarcasm	1	2.4%	1	2.4%	0	2.4 %	0	2.4 %	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Chi&p.v	0.0				0.0				0.0			
	Withhold	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Chi&p.v	0.0				0.0				0.0			
	Total	42	100%	28	100%	31	100%	26	100%	18	100%	8	100%

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS

For Further Studies

5.1 Preliminary Remarks

This chapter comprises three sections. The first section presents the conclusions of the findings arrived at in the analysis of the selected data. The second section is concerned with presenting some recommendations founded on the outcomes of the study. Finally, the third section offers suggestions for further studies.

5.2 Conclusions

In light of the results given in the previous chapter, the present study has reached the following conclusions:

- 1- Cyber blackmail in the data under scrutiny can be categorized into three main types: financial, sextortion, and beneficial blackmail. These three types were present across both male and female offenders, suggesting that the method of blackmail is not determined by gender, but rather by the offender's motivation, their relationship with the victim, and the opportunities presented by the digital context, which means that cyber blackmail is a complex crime that takes different forms depending on the situation. Among these, financial and sextortion blackmail are the most frequently employed by offenders, while beneficial blackmail appears only rarely. This verifies hypothesis **No. 1**, which reads "*Cyber blackmail can be categorized into three types: financial, sextortion, and beneficial blackmail in the data under scrutiny*".
- 2- As it was hypothesized that "*Male and female blackmailers employ different conversational strategies depending on the type of cyber blackmail*", the results verified and proved this point.
 - a) Cyber blackmailers employ a variety of conversational strategies when interacting with their victims. These strategies are not random; rather, they reflect the offender's goals, the type of blackmail, and the nature of the digital environment.

- b) Blackmailers frequently rely on strategies that are directive or manipulative, such as giving commands, pressuring the victim to comply. In addition, emotionally aggressive strategies such as using taboo language, insults, or isolating the victim from others are also present, suggesting that intimidation is a common strategy used to weaken the victim's defenses. Other strategies, like asking questions or using tag questions, serve to maintain engagement and test the victim's reactions.
 - c) Some blackmailers attempt to hide their illegal intentions by using unclear language or vague expressions reflecting a clear awareness of the criminal nature of their actions. Meanwhile, certain strategies that involve more manipulation, like ignoring refusals or withholding information, are employed to extend the control over the victim while avoiding direct confrontation.
 - d) Strategies, such as completely blocking or lying to the victim, were not observed in the data, which might indicate that cyber blackmailers prefer to maintain continuous communication in order to sustain psychological pressure and keep the victim within their control.
 - e) Cyber blackmailers adapt their language strategically to achieve their objectives, shifting between dominance, manipulation, and emotional pressure depending on the situation.
- 3-** Hypothesis **No.3** suggests that male and female blackmailers utilize different impoliteness strategies during their interaction with their victims. The results support this hypothesis:
- a) Both male and female cyber blackmailers employ a diverse range of impoliteness strategies to assert power, manipulate victims, and maintain control within digital interactions. These strategies, such as bald-on-record threats, negative impoliteness, and emotionally aggressive language, are not used randomly but are carefully selected to suit the offender's intent and the context of the blackmail. While both genders rely on similar types of impoliteness, the

- difference lies in the frequency and how these strategies are deployed, reflecting variations in communicative style, tone, and interpersonal dynamics.
- b) Negative impoliteness and bald on record reflect direct and often harsh linguistic behavior. These strategies involve explicit threats, criticisms, and intentional attacks on the victim's self-image, aiming to dominate the interaction and increase psychological pressure.
 - c) Positive impoliteness, which includes ridicule, sarcasm, and dismissiveness, was also observed. It reflects an effort to damage the victim's sense of belonging or self-worth, suggesting a more emotionally manipulative approach. Interestingly, the use of sarcasm was minimal, and withholding responses was not observed at all. This may imply that blackmailers prefer direct engagement to sustain pressure and avoid giving the victim space to withdraw from the conversation.
 - d) The variation in strategy use suggests that male and female blackmailers may adopt certain impoliteness patterns based on the context, type of blackmail, and their communicative style.
- 4- The study has shown that "*scripting the target*" consistently emerges as the most frequently used strategy across all types of cyber blackmail and among both genders; In contrast, "*Directives/Commands*" show a high frequency, particularly among male offenders. Gender-based differences are evident in the use of swearing and taboo language, with males using it more in financial blackmail, while females tend to use it more in sextortion blackmail. Moreover, the strategies of "*Using ambiguity*" and "*compliments*" have been used the least frequently across all the types of cyber blackmail. Concerning impoliteness strategies, Negative impoliteness is the most frequently utilized strategy by both male and female blackmailers across all three types of cyber blackmail, which reflects a clear tendency for coercive, face-threatening acts and aims to undermine the victim's autonomy or self-esteem. The bald-on-record strategy is ranked as the second most common, especially among male blackmailers, who typically prefer more direct and explicit forms of threat. whereas sarcasm has been the least used, Therefore, the fourth hypothesis, **No.4**, which states, "*In terms of*

conversational strategies, Directive /Commands, and Scripting the target are the most frequently used strategies, while Compliments and Using ambiguity are the least utilized. Furthermore, concerning impoliteness strategies, Bald on record is the most frequently used impoliteness strategy by male and female blackmailers, whereas sarcasm and withhold are the least utilized.” is partially valid.

- 5- The results show that, contrary to expectations, male and female blackmailers employ conversational and impoliteness strategies differently across all forms of cyber blackmail, with statistically significant differences. This suggests that males and females employ conversational and impoliteness strategies interchangeably, complementing each other. Thus, all strategies are equally important, and the differences in frequencies and percentages are simply a matter of focus. Consequently, hypothesis **No. 5**, which states that “*No significant differences that can be observed among the various conversational and impoliteness strategies used by male and female blackmailers across all the types of cyber blackmail,*” has been refuted.
- 6- The findings highlight that social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp play a central role in facilitating the crime of cyber blackmail. These platforms serve not only as communication channels but also provide access to personal content that is used in threats, creating a powerful tool in the hands of blackmailers.
- 7- Language is a powerful tool in both committing and solving crimes. Forensic linguistics analysis plays a significant role in detecting and investigating cyber crimes by uncovering linguistic patterns, threatening language, and authorial markers that can be used as evidence in legal proceedings. By examining communicative strategies, forensic linguists help identify perpetrators, interpret intent, and provide insights that support law enforcement and judicial decision-making. Therefore, the sixth hypothesis, which states that “*Forensic linguistics analysis significantly contributes to detecting cybercrimes by identifying patterns, threats, and authorial features that help in legal investigations and court decisions*” is verified.

5.3 Limitations

The current study has several limitations

- 1- The sample size is relatively small, consisting of only twenty-three cases, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to a broader population.
- 2- The data were obtained from National Security Service (NSS), Police Centre (PC) in Najaf, investigative judges at Najaf Court of Appeal, the Directorate of Intelligence and Technology (DINT) in Karbala, and Community Policing (CP) units in the governorates of Najaf, Karbala, and Baghdad which reveals to the documented cases reported to the authorities; thus, unreported cases or those resolved privately were not included.
- 3- Some victims deleted parts of the messages before reporting the cases, making it difficult for the researcher to access the complete original texts.
- 4- The data used in this study are highly confidential. They cannot be copied or provided to the researcher without official approval from the chief judges in the criminal courts and all security institutions. The researcher is only permitted to write the information under strict supervision. Following ethical and legal standards, sensitive information, including the personal identities of victims and offenders, is not disclosed, and all data are reviewed and approved by the relevant institutions to ensure full compliance with privacy and ethical guidelines

5.4 Recommendations

In light of the above conclusions, the following pedagogical recommendations can be put forward:

5.4.1 Pedagogical Recommendations

1. Integrating and introducing forensic linguistics as a part of the university curriculum in law, criminology, and linguistics departments to show the students the role of language in legal contexts, such as police interviews, witness statements, courtroom discourse, and the language used in legal documents.
2. Conduct conferences, workshops, and short courses on forensic linguistics in law and criminology programs at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Training

should include real case analyses, expert lectures from forensic linguists, and simulation activities (e.g., analyzing threats or blackmail evidence) to enhance students' applied skills and understanding of language in legal and criminal contexts.

3. Promoting collaboration among academic institutions, law enforcement agencies, language departments in universities, and legal practitioners to establish a comprehensive interdisciplinary framework for forensic linguistics. This collaboration can improve training, research, and the practical application of linguistic evidence in legal contexts, particularly in investigations related to cybercrime.

5.4.2 Social Recommendations

1. Rising awareness among social media users about the risks of engaging with unknown individuals online.
2. Launch national awareness programs of legal literacy to help the general public understand the importance of law and language in legal and social contexts.
3. Encouraging reporting of cybercrime by promoting collaboration between forensic linguists and community organizations, such as Community Policing (CP), to support victims of cyber blackmail and online harassment.

5.4.3 Legal Recommendations

1. Employing forensic linguists as expertise witnesses in Iraqi courts or giving them the task of rewriting and improving cybercrime laws or other crimes to ensure that legal definitions, regulations, and judicial procedures are clear, precise, and effective.
2. Reinforcement of Iraqi legislation digital evidence and its admissibility in courts, ensuring that linguistic evidence from digital communication (e.g., chat logs, emails, voice notes) is legally recognized in cyber blackmail cases.
3. Iraqi cybercrime divisions should build a database of linguistic patterns used by cybercriminals in Iraq's Arabic, Kurdish, and other regional dialects.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Research

The present study has provided the reader with a Forensic Linguistics analysis of cyber blackmail based on the collected cases. In light of this study, a number of suggestions can be introduced for the researchers to conduct further research:

- 1- A Forensic Linguistic Analysis of Defamation in Political Campaigns.
- 2- A Forensic Phonetics Analysis of Threats in Anonymous Voice Messages on Social Media.
- 3- A Forensic linguistic analysis can be conducted to examine the language of harassment on social media platforms.
- 4- The Representation of Crime in Dan Brown's Novels: A Forensic Stylistic Analysis.
- 5- The Linguistic Construction of "The Other" in Terrorist Discourse: A Forensic Analysis of Dehumanization Strategies in Digital Extremism.
- 6- A Forensic Discourse Analysis of Sectarian Rhetoric in Political Speeches.
- 7- A Forensic Linguistic Investigation of Suicide Notes in the Context of Cyberbullying.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A:

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 1:</p> <p>Blackmailer: Right then, let's meet. Send the money or I'm sharing your pics</p> <p>Victim: I gave you money yesterday - what's with asking for more every bloody day?</p> <p>Blackmailer: Stop chatting - where we meeting?</p> <p>Victim: Same place</p> <p>Blackmailer: Get there and give the money to the lad who comes to you. Don't try anything clever or I'll show everyone who you are - not messing about.</p> <p>Victim: Just don't send anything and delete what you've got.</p> <p>Blackmailer: Send what?? I'll show your minging face to everyone so they know exactly who you are, you waste. Gone quiet now? Hiding? Doing a runner?</p> <p>Victim: Do what you want.</p> <p>Blackmailer: Think I'm having a laugh? You disgrace; I'll expose you proper. Don't send the money, watch me share everything. Then you'll see what happens.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>القضية 1</u></p> <p>المبتز: وين نلتقي؟ رسلي فلوس أو أنشر صورچ</p> <p>الضحية: أمس انطيتك شنو كل يوم مين اجيبك</p> <p>المبتز: كلام زايد ما اريد , وين نتقابل؟</p> <p>الضحية: بنفس المكان</p> <p>المبتز: روجي هناك وسلمي الفلوس بيد الولد اللي يجيچ ومو تسوين حرکه منا منا</p> <p>جاي انبهج وهذا تحذير</p> <p>الضحية: بس بعد متدز شي وتحذف كل شي</p> <p>المبتز: شدز؟؟ أدزلهم وجهج القذر حتى يتعرفون عليه ياقدره ها شنو انخرستي عار انطميتي , طاشه</p> <p>الضحية: سوي اي شي</p> <p>المبتز: متصدكلي هي القذره</p> <p>جاي انبهج ادا مار سلتي فلوس راح انشر كل شي راح تشوفين شيصير</p>

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 2</p> <p>Blackmailer: Oi my love,</p> <p>Listen pet, you know you're special to me but what can I do - I need dosh, need it sharpish. Tell X that today I'm gonna wreck her world - yours too. Tell her all her pics and videos are going everywhere today, first to your lot and that muppet Y's people. You div, let everyone see who you really are and how mental you've gone. Got it or what? Stop arsing about - send it to this number #####.</p> <p>I can do whatever I fancy, just wait and see.</p> <p>Get a move on, bye.</p>	<p>القضية 2</p> <p>المبتز : هلو حياتي</p> <p>شوفي حبيبتي تدرين انت غاليله علي بس شسوي محتاج فلوس محتاج فلوس واريدهن باسرع وقت. گلي ل(س) اليوم الدنيا تحترك عله راسج وراسها. گليلها اليوم تتوزع كل الصور ومقاطع الفيديو مالتها</p> <p>اول ناس جماعتكم وجماعة (ص) الأثنى يا ثوليه وخلي الناس تشوف منو انت وشلون يا ايجله</p> <p>افتهمتي لو لا ؟</p> <p>ولتماطلين، دزي على هذا الرقم #####</p> <p>أقدر اسوي كلشي، انتظري</p> <p>بسرعه، باي</p>

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 3:</p> <p>Victim: I don't do nothing at all, I say God's stronger than everyone</p> <p>Blackmailer: Love, love, just let me tell you two words and I'm off. I'm looking out for you, trust me I want what's best for you, proper honest</p> <p>Victim: I'm gonna delete your number</p> <p>Blackmailer: Yeah, good one</p> <p>Victim: And don't message me again, got it!!!</p> <p>Blackmailer: Yeah. Swear down I'm waiting for you</p> <p>Victim: Whatever, go ahead and share if your conscience lets you</p> <p>Blackmailer: Time's up</p> <p>Gonna send you a link and you'll see who's who</p> <p>Victim: What link?</p> <p>Blackmailer: You'll know what link innit?</p> <p>Victim: What exactly do you want?</p> <p>Blackmailer: Money, asking for money, give us money, want money, right? And if you don't give it, I'm sharing the link</p> <p>Keep sending you the link, you'll see your sis. I'm off, bye</p> <p>Victim: You're proper scum</p>	<p>القضية 3</p> <p>الضحية: اني كولشي ما اسوي اقول الله اقوى من الكل</p> <p>المبتز: حبيبي , حبيبي , بس كلمتين اكلج واروح. ع مودج ثقي اريد مصلحتج , صدگيني</p> <p>الضحية: راح احذف رقمك</p> <p>المبتز: اي خوش</p> <p>الضحية: ومتراسلني بعد فهمت !!!</p> <p>المبتز: اي . بالقران انتظرج</p> <p>الضحية: عادي روح انشر اذا ضميرك سمحلك</p> <p>المبتز: الوقت</p> <p>راح ادزلج رابط وتشوفين منو</p> <p>الضحية: يارابط</p> <p>المبتز: راح تعرفين يا رابط</p> <p>الضحية: انتة شنو رايد بالضبط</p> <p>المبتز: فلوس اطلب فلوس , اطيني فلوس , فلوس اريد تمام . واذا ما طيتيني راح انشر اكلم ادزلج الرابط , تشوفين اختج . رايح اناباي</p> <p>الضحية: انتة نذل</p>

Blackmailer: Seen them, have you?
You'll send money now, won't you?

Yeah, I'm scum and low-life and you're
scum and thick

What happened to you yesterday? Saw
what happened?

I'll make you see what happens and then
block you

Victim: You've got no conscience

Blackmailer: Yeah, I know

Got a conscience just like yours 😏

You don't know who I am

Look, got all your pics and I'll tell your
husband I've got something going with
you if you don't send money

Reckon you get me.

المبتز: شفتيها ها؟ راح ترسلين فلوس مو؟

اي انا نذل وحقير وانتي نذله وغيبه

شصار بيچ امس؟ شفتي شصار؟

راح اخليج تشوفين شصير وبعدين احظرچ

الضحيه: انت ما عندك ضمير

المبتز: اي ادري،

عندي ضمير نفسج 😏 .

ماتعرفين انا منو

شوفي , عندي كل صورچ وراح اكول لزوجچ

عندي علاقه وياها هذا مارسلتي فلوس

اظن تفهميني

المترجم المعتمد: حسين نمر جبر
Hussein N. Jabr
Certified Translator
iTA Card No . 333



English Translation (Informal British Dialect)

Case 4

Blackmailer: Reject my request and you'll see what happens. Give me both your accounts - this one and the old one - and don't dare delete anything.

Accept the request, I said, see the scandal you'll have at uni and round your way.

Yesterday had a secret chat with your brother then pulled out, today I'll chat to him again and show them what their girl's like, they'll see how reckless and off the rails you are, yeah, and might end your life. Look, I want money, won't keep waiting, Won't give me money, will you? Fine then.

Victim: Leave me alone, please

Blackmailer: Went to uni today? See what a scandal?

Victim: Have mercy, May God ruin you.

Blackmailer: Sent you clips to your WhatsApp number ending ###, sent you info and a warning, and I swear by Hussein the martyr and Ali I'll end your life, go read them quick, I'm gonna share. Reckon you know what's good for you proper

See what I'll do when you don't add me !!

Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)

القضية 4

المبتز: أحظريني ولا تقبلين الطلب وشوفي شراح اسوي ببيج . وطيني حسابج هذا والقديم ومتحذفين منهن شي

إقبلي الطلب كتلج , شوفي الطشه الراح تطشيتها بالكلية وبمنطقتم .

البارحه حچيت وي اخوچ بمحادثة سريه ونسحبت , اليوم ارجع احچيله وراوي بنتهم شنو ويشوفون شكذ انت مستهتره ودايحه ها واحتمال يnehون حياتج

شوفي فلوس اريد ما اطل انتظر
مراح تنطيني فلوس مو ؟ بسيطه

الضحيه: اتركني ارجوك

المبتز: رحتي اليوم للكلية ؟ شفتي شلون طاشه ؟

الضحيه : حرام عليك الله يبهدلك كون

المبتز: دزيتلج مقاطعج على رقمج ع الواتساب رقمج نهايته ### ودزيتلج معلومات وتنبيه وحق هو الحسين الشهيد وعلي لانهي حياتج

روحي اقريهن بسرعه راح انشدر
اعتقد تعرفين مصلحتج زين
شوفي شراح اسوي بس تحظريني !!



English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 5</p> <p>Blackmailer: Ten in the morning's your limit. Transfer me money. This is your last chance</p> <p>Victim: Can't take it anymore. Please tell me what you'll do with the video If my dad finds out he'll kill me. Please, enough. Delete everything</p> <p>Blackmailer: Yeah</p> <p>Victim: How can I trust you</p> <p>Blackmailer: Yeah, I'll delete everything</p> <p>Victim: Then you'll use it to threaten me again, won't you?</p> <p>Blackmailer: Nah, won't do that</p> <p>Victim: I know what you're like</p> <p>Blackmailer: Tomorrow at ten you must send a million</p> <p>Victim: Yeah, at ten you'll get it. For all this grief you've caused. Don't want to talk to you</p> <p>Blackmailer: If you don't transfer, I'll do something you won't like, I'll act differently</p> <p>Victim: Told you I'll transfer it</p> <p>Blackmailer: Yeah, alright</p> <p>Victim: I'll sell the gold and give you money. Tomorrow, I swear you'll have it</p>	<p>القضية 5</p> <p>المبتز: بالعشره الصبح حدج . حوليلي فلوس . هاي اخر فرصه الج</p> <p>الضحيه: ما اقدر اتحمل بعد . عفيه كول شراح تشوي بالفيديو</p> <p>اذا ابوي عرف راح يكتلني . عفيه كافي . امسح كل شي</p> <p>المبتز: اي</p> <p>الضحيه: شلون اثق ببيك</p> <p>المبتز: اي راح امسح كل شي</p> <p>الضحيه: وبعدين تهدد بيه مو ؟</p> <p>المبتز: لا ما اسوي</p> <p>الضحيه: انا اعرفك</p> <p>المبتز: باجر بالعشره لازم ترسلين مليون</p> <p>الضحيه: اي بالعشره يمك . على هالاذبه اللبي سويها</p> <p>ما اريد تحجي ويبي</p> <p>المبتز: اذا ماتحولين راح اسوي شي مايجيج ختني</p> <p>اتصرف غير تصرف</p> <p>الضحيه: كتلك راح احولك</p> <p>المبتز: اي ماشي</p> <p>الضحيه: راح ابيع الذهب واطيك فلوس . باجر والله يمك</p>

<p>Blackmailer: Yeah, alright, that's more like it, send it to this number #####</p> <p>Victim: But how can I trust you've deleted the video</p> <p>Blackmailer: Take a pic of the transfer, you get me?</p> <p>Victim: OK, what else</p> <p>Blackmailer: What's happening? Taken the pic? Tomorrow we'll see, I swear I'll destroy you</p>	<p>المبتز: اي ماشي , خوش هيج , رسلي ع هذا الرقم #####</p> <p>الضحيه: بس شلون اثق حاذف الفيديو</p> <p>المبتز: اخذي صورته للتحويل, تفهميني مو ؟</p> <p>الضحيه: اوك وبعد</p> <p>المبتز: شصار ؟ أخذتي صورته ؟ باجر يصير خير والله أدمرچ</p>
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English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 6</p> <p>Blackmailer: Shut your gob I'll show everyone at work what you're like, let the whole lot know about you. You're coming to the house today, got it? Don't show up and watch yourself get exposed I've warned you, just wait and see what happens</p>	<p>القضية 6</p> <p>المبتز: إنجبي لاتحجين راح أفضحج بالدوام , وأفضحج كدام الناس كلها اليوم تجين للبيت افتمتي, واذا ما اجيتي تنفضحين تري اني كتلج وراح تشوفين شيصير</p>

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 7</p> <p>Blackmailer: Alright darlin', it's (X) here, got a new number. What's going on lately? They're saying you're poorly - what's up with that? Tell us.</p>	<p>المبتز: مرحبا عيني اني(س) وياج هذا خطي الجديد شو ماكو هالأيام گالوا مريضه ليش مريضه؟ گایلي</p>

<p>Victim: Got problems though, can't come out every day</p> <p>Blackmailer: Right then, I'll wait till tomorrow and see, but turn your camera on now, can't wait any longer</p> <p>Victim: So you're threatening and using me, do what you like</p> <p>Blackmailer: Do what I like, will I? Maybe you don't know me proper yet</p> <p>Victim: What you gonna do then, do it</p> <p>Blackmailer: Look here, if you don't come to the house, I'll proper hurt you. Either you come on our terms or... don't blame me after.</p> <p>Victim: You want to expose me and then say don't blame you</p> <p>Blackmailer: Let me see you, turn your camera on and take pics like we used to.</p>	<p>الضحيه: بس عندي مشاكل ما أگدر أطلع كل يوم</p> <p>المبتز: أوک, راح أنتظر منا لباچر وأشوف بس هسه فتحي كاميرا ما أگدر أنتظر أكثر</p> <p>الضحيه: يعني أنت تهدد بيه وتستغلي سوي اليعجبك</p> <p>المبتز: أسوي اليعجبني مو, يمكن لسه ماعرفتيني عدل</p> <p>الضحيه: شتريد تسوي سوي</p> <p>المبتز: شوفي اذا ماتجيني للبيت صدك أذيج. اما تجين وعلى اتفاقنا أو.....لاتلوميني بعد</p> <p>الضحيه: تريد تفضحني وتكول لاتلوميني</p> <p>المبتز: خانبي أشوف, فتحي كاميرا واخذي صور مثل ما كنا نصور</p>
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English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 9</p> <p>Blackmailer: Come on, where are you? You want to play it hard? It's easy, tomorrow your pics'll be everywhere. Come here flower, hurry up</p> <p>Victim: Yeah, come on then, where are you?</p> <p>Blackmailer: Take pics of.... come on quick, call me with no sound</p> <p>Victim: Enough, I can't</p>	<p>المبتز: يدا ربيح, انت البديتي سهله, با چر تشوفين صورچ بكل مكان ورده تعاي يله</p> <p>الضحيه: ها، تعال، وينك</p> <p>المبتز: صوري لي يلا بسرعه، اتصلي بيه بدون صوت</p> <p>الضحيه: كافي ما اگدر</p>

Blackmailer: Told you I'll take your pics, then delete the lot and send you the video, it's normal, innit, why can't you?

Victim: Alright but answer me

Blackmailer: You taking pics.... or not?

Victim: And if I turn the camera on and take pics, what happens after?

Blackmailer: I'll delete your pics and we'll both go our separate ways

Victim: And what's the point of that then?

Blackmailer: Stop asking questions, you taking pics or not? Stop this nonsense

Victim: Answer me, let me understand

Blackmailer: Right then, I'll teach you a lesson or rip you apart, just watch

Victim: Stop. Talking to you

Blackmailer: This is what's gonna happen to you. I'm off now. Just wait.

المبتز: كنتج راح اصورج، وراح امسحهن كلهن وادزلج الفيديو تر طبيعي بعد ليش متكدرين

الضحيه: زين بس جاوبني

المبتز: تصورين لو لا

الضحيه: واذا فتحت كاميرا وصورت شيصير وراها

المبتز: امسح صورج وتروحين كلمن بطريقه

الضحيه: وشستفاد بعدين

المبتز: لاتصلين تسئلين , صورتي لو لا ؟ بطلي هاي الكلاوات

الضحيه: جاوبني خل افتهم

المبتز: أوك أعلمج الا ما أمزقج وشوفي

الضحيه: اوكفنا يا احجي وياك

المبتز: هذا اللي حبصين بييج، اترخص، سهله

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)

Case 10

Victim: For God's sake leave me be, end this thing, enough - you're like a nightmare, get off my case

Blackmailer: Today we're getting that camera on, ain't here to mess about or play along with you

Victim: There's something called dreams mate - live with those.

Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)

الضحيه: عليك الله عوفني وحل السالفه كافي انت كابوس حل عني

المبتز: اليوم لازم نفتح كامره مجاي اشاقه ولا اساييرج

الضحيه: اكو شي اسمه حلم عيشه كولش زين

Blackmailer: Right then, you're on your own then, your fate's in my hands. Know your dad, know your house, know where your department at the college is, know your area, and your brothers too. Want more or that'll do?

Victim: Getting anywhere with all this chat?

Blackmailer: Either you come out with me or turn that camera on

Victim: What's that about? Let me go get some grub, better off

Blackmailer: It's your choice, innit, but I swear I'll do what I want - you've brought it on yourself. And trust me, I know how to track you lot down house by house

Victim: God help me

Blackmailer: Even got your brothers' accounts down pat, imagine? One more word and everything's finished. Talking, don't push

me over the edge - I'll sort you out proper, easy.

Get that camera on, sharp

Victim: Threatening me, huh? Fight out in the open too! And you've got the nerve to demand something back - like I'm the one who messed up, not you!

Blackmailer: Where we off to today then?

المبتز: ماشي , انت مسئوله عن نفسج لعد مصيرج بيدي وابوچ أعرفه وببتكم اندله وقسمج اعرفه واخوتج هم ازيدج بعد لو كافي

الضحيه : شفتهم من هالحجي ؟

المبتز: لازم تطلعين وياي، تطلعين وياي لو تفتحين كاميرا

الضحيه : شنو مفتهمت خلي اروح أكل احسلي

المبتز: بس انت مسئوله والله اسوي اللي أريده وطبج مرض وحسب علمي تدرين انا اندلكم بيت بيت

الضحيه : حسبي الله ونعم الوكيل

المبتز: وحتى حسابات اخوتج حافظهن تتخيلين

گتلج بعد مره وحده وينسد كلشي جاي احد لاطلعين من طوري اني اعلمج بسيطه

فتحي كاميرا بساع

الضحيه : تهددني موو بالعلن هم . وتريد تقابل يعني الغلط غلطك

المبتز: وبين نروح اليوم ؟

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 11</p> <p>Blackmailer: Salam Alaikum, [Hello].</p> <p>Victim: Yeah, hi</p> <p>Blackmailer: Listen, I'm gonna talk for your own good - what's your deal with (X) and what info you got?</p> <p>Victim: I know what's good for me, mate. Don't know 'em, got nothing to do with 'em</p> <p>Blackmailer: Look here, I'll believe you for now, but consider this a warning. Better watch yourself before it's too late</p> <p>Victim: Alright then, no worries.</p> <p>Blackmailer: Watch yourself these next few days, and mind you don't slip up</p> <p>Victim: Yeah</p> <p>Blackmailer: You're not scared of me, are you? What d'you know about (X)? Answer me You know full well I ain't messing about</p> <p>Victim: OK</p> <p>Blackmailer: You know who I am, don't you? I swear I'll wreck you. Give me (X)'s account Tonight, I'm telling you, the dirt's getting spread around the group if you don't give me (X)'s account.</p>	<p><u>القضية 11</u></p> <p>المبتز: سلام عليكم الضحية: عليكم السلام المبتز: راح احجي لمصلحتك شنو علاقتك ب (س) وشنو المعلومات اللي عندك ؟ الضحية: اعرف مصلحتي زين ما اعرفه وما عندي علاقه وياه المبتز: شوف راح اصدك بيك هسه، بس اني حذرتك , تلاحك نفسك قبل فوات الاوان الضحية: يله ميخالف المبتز: دير بالك ع نفسك هل كم يوم ودير بالك لا توگع الضحية: اي المبتز: متخاف مني مو ؟ شتتعرف عن (س) ؟ جاوبني تعرف عدل ما عندي لحيه مسرّحه تر الضحية: اوك المبتز: متعرفني مو؟ بس والله ابيهك اطيني حساب (س) اليوم بالليل تر الفضايح تنزل ع الفريق اطيني حساب (س)</p>

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 12</p> <p>Blackmailer: I swear by Almighty God, you step out - to the street, school, wherever - I'll kill you, I'll kill you. And by the Prophet Mohammed and Ali, I'll shoot you. Don't think I'm not around you lot. You and that stupid donkey you got married to. Don't think I'm not here - either I'll kill you myself or I'll have my mates kill you, and by Mohammed, I'll kill you, I'll kill you.</p> <p>Have you heard me or not? That's fine. and I swear by [Imam] Ali, I'll keep watching and waiting there, and when you go out with him, I'll have someone put a bullet in both of you. So shut your mouth, stay put, and stick to your house - and accept it.</p>	<p>القضية 12</p> <p>المبتز: والله العظيم تطلعين للشارع تطلعين للمدرسه تطلعين ما ادري وين، اکتلج اکتلج، ومحمد وعلي ارميچ بعد خاف عبالچ ماموجود اني يمکم يا هذا الحمار الگرن القبتي بي خاف عبالچ انا ماموجود هنا يا اکتلج اني يا اخلي ربي يکتلوج ومحمد اکتلج اکتلج</p> <p>سمعتي لو لا وعلي اظل منتظرچ هناك، بس تطلعين وياه گبل اخليهم يکتلوج طلقه انت وياه ف انچبي وگعدي ولزمي بيتچ و أقبلي بيه</p>

Appendix B:

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 1</p> <p>Blackmailer: Right now, I know what I'm gonna do at night, it'll be sorted, innit? I swear I won't leave any bloody place without postin' everything. You worthless, vile, cheatin' coward. I'm givin' you just two days, that's it. Send the dosh and send everything I want and I'll delete all the videos and clear off. And you won't see me again after. Decide quick, yeah?</p>	<p>القضية 1</p> <p>المبتز: هسه اني اعرف شسوي بالليل يصير خير والله ما ابقى مكان اذا ما انشر بيه كلشي نذل حقير خاين جبان انطيك مهله يومين بس , تذب فلوس وذب كل شي اريد وامسح فيديوهات كلها وامشي ومراح اتشوفني بعد. قرر باسرع وقت</p>

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 2</p> <p>Blackmailer: Where are you?</p> <p>Victim: Go ahead</p> <p>Blackmailer: Bottom line, 50 million today or I'm sharing the photo. So, what've you decided? I'm waiting. Transfer the money quickly Bye I'm gonna share it, you've gotta pay the price</p>	<p>القضية 2</p> <p>المبتز: وين انت؟</p> <p>الضحية: تفضلي</p> <p>المبتز: من الاخير 50 مليون يجن اليوم لو انشرها الصورة ها شكلت ؟ ماتضر حوآي الفلوس بسرعه باي راح انشرها , لازم تدفع الثمن</p>

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 3</p> <p>Blackmailer: Today your uncle wants to complain about me, So what? I'll teach you lot a proper lesson, I swear I'll finish you off. Look, I've got your pictures now. Listen mate, I need money. What you've sent ain't enough for me. Send me more, and if you don't, I'll wreck your family and you're finished. Even your missus will ask for a divorce. You know bloody well what I've got on you, so let's make a deal, yeah? That's better for everyone.</p>	<p>القضية 3</p> <p>المبتز : ها عود</p> <p>اليوم عمك يريد يشتكي عليه اني اعلمكم والله انهيمك شوف صورك صارت يمّي شوف عيني فلوس اريد متكفيني اللي دزيتها , دز لي بعد واذا مادزيت تر أخرّب عائلتك وتنتهي وحتى زوجتك تطلب الطلاق وتعرف زين شلازمه عليك فخلينا نتفق أحسن</p>

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 4</p> <p>Blackmailer: Answer on Snapchat quick. I'll have everyone's mouths running about you and make it so killing you becomes fair game - get lost, bye</p> <p>Victim: What you on about with these threats?</p> <p>Blackmailer: "Told you I'm in a sticky situation - help me out, and that, yeah? But you're just not accepting it, dunno why. Listen, everything's good when it's time, innit?</p> <p>God's generous" generous [What goes around comes around]</p>	<p>القضية 4</p> <p>المبتز : جاوبي ع السناپ بسرعه</p> <p>اذا ماخليتج علج بخلگ العالم واخلي كتلج يصير حلال روعي باي</p> <p>الضحيه : شنو تهدد</p> <p>المبتز : كتلج وگعت بموقف ساعديني وكذا زين بس انت متقبلين ما اعرف ليش</p> <p>يا به كلشي بوقته حلو الله كريم</p>

Victim: "But I've got nothing left, sold everything and gave it to you - that's enough now"

Blackmailer: "Alright then, I'll show you how you'd sort it out, God's generous [What goes around comes around], alright. You told me your brother works at the restaurant, right then, you turned out to be a proper snake"

Victim: "I swear I've got nothing, understand"

Blackmailer: "Get it from your mate Sort it from your mate, your mum, your brother, sort it sort it

Don't care how, just sort it sort it - I've got no other way but I'm stuck on you so sort it out for me"

* The expression in square brackets is the translator's addition

الضحيه: بس ماعندي , بعث كل شيء وانطيتك كافي بعد

المبتز: ماشي , انا راح اخليج شلون تدبريهن الله كريم ماشي

كثيلي اخوج يشتغل بالمطعم يله ماشي طلعتي حيه

الضحيه: ماعندي والله افهم

المبتز: دزي من صديقتج

دبريلي دبريلي من صديقتج امج اخوج دبريليني

ما اعرف دبريلي دبريلي اني ماعندي حل بس انت اعلمك

بيج فدبريلي



English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 5</p> <p>Victim: Who are you, girl?</p> <p>Blackmailer: Doesn't matter, just take this as advice from your sister.</p> <p>Victim: I still need to know who you are. Thanks for the advice though. There's nothing that can't be sorted, it's just a matter of time</p> <p>Blackmailer: I don't want to gloat, but look - it's been ages and you still haven't given me anything.</p> <p>Victim: Thanks</p> <p>Blackmailer: Haven't figured out who I am yet, eh? What I've shared is just one in a thousand, and no one's gonna show mercy to you or your sister - she might as well top herself, get it over with. If you don't sort this out, I'm posting it all public. I won't show you any mercy and you know in - you better come today.</p>	<p><u>القضية 5</u></p> <p>الضحية: منو حضرتج ؟</p> <p>المبتز : مايهم بس هاي نصيحه من أختك اعتبرها</p> <p>الضحية : غير أعرف منو حضرتكم , مشكوره ماكو شي ماينحل بس هي مسئلة وقت عالنصيحه</p> <p>المبتز: ما أريد أشمت بس شوف أخذت وقت هواي ولحد الان ماقدمتلي شي</p> <p>الضحية: مشكوره</p> <p>المبتز : ماعرفتني ها؟ هذني اللي نشرتهن واحد من ألف ومحد راح يرحمك ويرحم أختك عود تريد تتحر يله خلصوا مني , واذا ماسويت حل راح أنشر ع العام مراح أرحمك وأنت تفهم لازم تجي اليوم</p>

English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 6</p> <p>Blackmailer: Hi, Better respond, it's proper urgent innit And if you don't, I'll try something else - either way mate, you're the one who's losing. Check out these pics I sent ya - this is just the first warning, and there's loads more Do you really have the guts to not respond, you crooked-mouthed muppet?</p> <p>Victim: I'm proper knackered from dealing with you, can't take it anymore</p> <p>Blackmailer: Whatever, innit? you're used to it now. - you've already wasted yourself in brothels haven't you, so don't stress, you can handle it.</p>	<p><u>القضية 6</u></p> <p>المبتز: مرحبا حاول ترد وضروري هم وإذا مترد أستخدم غير أسلوب المهم حبي أنت خسران شوف هذني الصور اللي دزيتهم أول تهديد وبعد خير من الله أكو .هسه أنت يعني بيك حظ ومتجاوب أثول أبو حلك الأعوج الضحيه: تر تعبت منج بعد ماأقدر المبتز: عادي أنت تعودت المفروض متخاف بعد هو أنت خلصتها ببيوت دعاره ف لاتخاف تگرد</p>

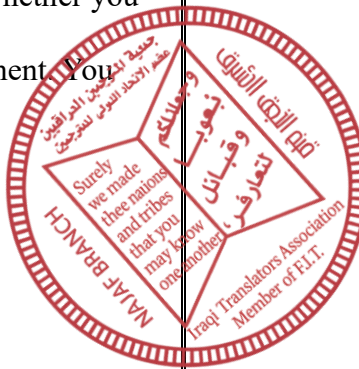
English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 7</p> <p>Blackmailer: Oi, listen up, yeah? I've got your daughter—picked her straight up from school Next, my lot are gonna take the other one. And don't even think about running to the cops, alright? I'll make life proper hard for you lot. See, I write these messages from my own gaff and time 'em just right, so when you go crying to the coppers, they'll think it's you making the threats. I even know your bloody Wi-Fi password. Here's the deal—either (X) marries me, or (Y) does, or you find me someone else. If none of that works, then (Z) has to dump his missus and marry me, or I'll just take him myself.</p>	<p><u>القضية 7</u></p> <p>المبتز: اسمع زين خطفت بنتكم أخذتها من المدرسه وبعد راح أودي جماعتي تخطف الثأنيه ألكم خاف ترحون تشتكون ترى أديكم وتتورطون لأن أنا أكتب الرّسائل من بيتي وأوقتهن علمود تشتكون ويجون الشرطه يلگون التهديد منكم وحتى رمز شبيكتكم أعرفه شوفوا اذا مترّوجني (س) خلي (ص) يزّوجني أو شوفولي واحد أتزّوجه أو تنطوني (س ص) ويعوف زوجته وكل شي أو أخطفه اله</p>

<p>Listen, if you don't sort this, I'll come to your house, and drag your name through the dirt. Sod off and rot for all I care. You lot know I ain't messing—I know exactly where he is, and right now, I'm standing outside your gaff. Oh, and your car? Proper trashed it—4 in the bloody morning. Today, I sent some lads to keep an eye on your daughter. I've got a little arrangement with some bloke from the street—I write the messages, pass 'em on, and he sends 'em your way.</p> <p>المترجم المعتمد: حسين نمر جبر Hussein N. Jabr Certified Translator iTA Card No . 333</p>	<p>أغلكم اذا متردون راح أجي لبييتكم وأفضحكم وطبكم مرض حسب ما تعرفون أندله وأنا هسته واكفه كبال بيتكم أنا كسرت وسويت هيچ بالسيتاره ودمرتها الساعه 4 الصبح واليوم دزيت ولد علمود يراقبون بنتكم أنا متفقه ويا واحد من الشارح وأنا أكتب وأنطي وهو يدز لكم</p>
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English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 8</p> <p>Blackmailer: Salam Alaikum [Hello] Salam Alaikum Salam, Salam, Salam Listen, brother, if you don't give me 7 million, I'll post your daughter's pictures all over social media... Do you know who helped me get her pictures? It's (X) – she hates you. And someone else gave me her wedding photos too. Aw, poor you. Maybe you can't afford it, I'll drop it to 5 million— just as much as the number of your creatures. I will make your day as dark as night</p> <p>المترجم المعتمد: حسين نمر جبر Hussein N. Jabr Certified Translator iTA Card No . 333</p>	<p>القضية 8</p> <p>المبتزر: سلام عليكم سلام عليكم سلام سلام سلام أغولك خويه اذا متطوني 7 ملايين راح أنشر صور بنتكم تدرون منو ساعدتني وانطتني صورها هي (س) لأن تكرهم ووحده ثانيه انطتني صور زواجها خطيه خاف ماعدكم راح أسويهن خمس ملايين على عدد خلقتكم الأ أراويكم نجوم الظهر</p>

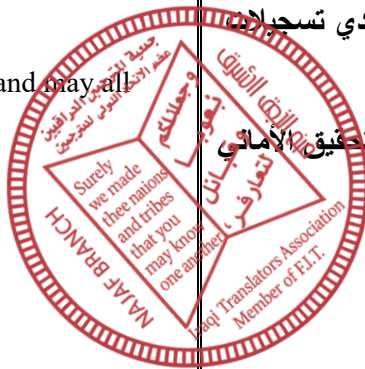
English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 9</p> <p>Blackmailer: Why ain't you coming to my flat tomorrow? Seriously, why ain't you coming? Come over, we'll get intimate, then sort everything out.</p> <p>Victim: Sort everything out? How? And then you'll just come back.</p> <p>Blackmailer: Yeah, I'll sort it all, trust me.</p> <p>Victim: And that's it?</p> <p>Blackmailer: I swear on God.</p> <p>Victim: Do you even dare look me in the eye after that?</p> <p>Blackmailer: Listen, don't keep mucking about. Better get rid of me if you can. Right now, I'm sort of mad keen on you, but .. I will humiliate you; you'll come over whether you like it or not. The main thing is I get my enjoyment. You follow?</p>	<p>القضية 9</p> <p>المبتز : أنت ليش متجي باجر للشقه مالتى ؟ صدگ ليش متجي؟ , تعال نتونس وبعدين ننهى كلشي</p> <p>الضحيه : تنهين كل شي شلون وبعدين هم ترجعين</p> <p>المبتز : أي أنهى كل شي صدگنى الضحيه : وبهيج طريقه المبتز : اي والله الضحيه : وهم الحج عين بعد وتباوعين عليه</p> <p>المبتز : شوف لا تظل تماطل بالحجي بيك خير تخلص منى , هسه أنا ميته عليك مثلا بس الا ماأذلك , تجي وغصبا عليك والا أهم شي أتونس شكلت</p>

المترجم المعتمد حسين نمر جبر
Hussein N. Namer
Certified Translator
iTA Card No . 333



English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 10</p> <p>Victim: I've answered your question, so don't keep yapping on.</p> <p>Blackmailer: Speak straight, or I'll do what I say. You'll see—so watch yourself and cover your back. What are you scared of? Man up, even if you're the biggest bullshitter. And if there's any soft git here, it's you.</p> <p>You're such a bloody coward. I'll make you regret it. Respond, don't be a coward.</p> <p>Let's have a voice call. Stop texting. Be careful; make sure no one else knows anything. Last warning, I swear to God, I've got recordings of everything.</p> <p>Anyway, happy holidays, long life, and may all your wishes come true.</p>	<p><u>القضية 10</u></p> <p>الضحية : أنت سألتني جاوبتج لاتضلين تحچين زايد</p> <p>المبتز : احچي عدل واني أفعل ما أهدد وراح تشوف فأحترم روحك وتلاحگها</p> <p>شنو خايف من شي خليك رجال ولو أنت أكبرچذاب واذا أكو واحد خنيث هو أنت</p> <p>لعد شگد جبان الّا أندمك رد لتصير جبان</p> <p>خلي أحچي ويأك صوت لتظل تراسل ودير بالك واحد يعرف شي , اخر مره أگلك وحق ربك عندي تسجله</p> <p>على كل شيء</p> <p>عموما كل عام وأنت بخير عمر الطويل وتحقيق الأمانه</p>

المترجم المعتمد: حسين جابر
Hussein Al-Jabr
Certified Translator
iTA Card No . 333



English Translation (Informal British Dialect)	Original Text (Iraqi Colloquial Dialect)
<p>Case 11</p> <p>Blackmailer: Listen, I'll send you some proper dodgy pics and vids tonight. You're not bricking it?</p> <p>Victim: May God strike you down.</p> <p>Blackmailer: Know what'll happen if I show these to your brother? Know what that means? Check it, got all your pics and your outings. I've got someone in your circle who's grassing you up. They're bringing me everything - even your voice messages. And they'll all end up with your brother. Also, got your pics in the uni and the beach resort.</p> <p>One message from me and you're done for mate. They'll destroy you.</p> <p>Right, after uni, I'm coming to get you and we'll go picturing.</p> <p>*[meaning to do the same as in the pics referred to] added by the Translator</p>	<p>القضية 11</p> <p>المبتز: شوفي بالليل أدزلج صور وفيدوهات ولج ماخفتي؟</p> <p>الضحية: روعي الله يعاقبج</p> <p>المبتز: تعرفين اذا أدز الصور لأخوچ شصير؟ تعرفين شنو معناها؟</p> <p>شوفي صورچ وظلتاچ كلها يمي وأكو منچ وبيچ ديخونچ ويوصل كل شي عليچ حتى محادثات وكلهن حيوصلن لأخوچ وصورچ بالجامعة والمنتج هم وصلنتي</p> <p>برساله وحده مني يدفنوچ وأنت عايشه شوفي بعد الجامعة أجيچ ونروح نصور</p>

المترجم المعتمد حسين نصر جبير
Hussein N. N. J.
Certified Translator
ITA Card No. 333



I, **Hussein Nasse Jabr (PhD in Translation)**, hereby certify that I am professionally proficient in **Iraqi Arabic dialect** and **English (including colloquial/slang variations)**, and that I have accurately translated the attached conversational texts from **Iraqi vernacular Arabic** into **colloquial English** (American/British slang as context required).

This translation was prepared for "**a Master's thesis research entitled 'A Forensic linguistic study of Cyber Blackmail on social Media in Iraq' by Zahraa Aamir Kamil** " and adheres to the following:

- ✓ Faithfully renders the original meaning without additions or omissions.
- ✓ Preserves cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions.
- ✓ Maintains linguistic consistency for research integrity.

Translator's Name: *Hussein Nasser Jabr*

Signature: 

Date: 07/07/2025

Contact (Email/Phone): hussainalibadi@gmail.com Phone No. 07801475448

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ترجمة المقتصد : حسين ناصر جبر
Hussein N. Jabr
Certified Translator
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E-ISSN: 2582-7138
Manuscript Acceptance letter

[International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Growth Evaluation]

[alljournal.paper@gmail.com]
[19-06-2025]

To,
Zahraa Aamir Kamil
University of Kerbala
Iraq

Subject: Acceptance of Manuscript **MGE-2025-3-410**

Dear **[Zahraa Aamir Kamil]**,

We are pleased to inform you that your manuscript titled "**[Conversational Strategies of Cyber blackmail In Criminal Investigations: A Forensic Linguistics Study]**", **[Written By: Zahraa Aamir Kamil, Dr. Muayyad Omran Chiad Ph.D.]**", submitted to **[International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Growth Evaluation]**, and has been accepted for publication after a rigorous peer-review process. The manuscript has been evaluated for its originality, scientific merit, and contribution to the field, and we appreciate your valuable work.

Your manuscript will now proceed to the production phase, including final proofreading, formatting, and publication. Our editorial team will contact you if any additional details or corrections are required. Please ensure that you comply with all journal guidelines regarding copyright, author agreements, and publication ethics.

We sincerely appreciate your contribution to **[International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Growth Evaluation]** and look forward to publishing your work. Should you have any questions regarding the next steps, please feel free to contact us.

Congratulations once again!

Best regards,

[Dr. M.UPENDRA KUMAR]
[Editor in Chief]
[www.allmultidisciplinaryjournal.com]

For Anfo Publication House
Kamal
Proprietor

Acceptance Letter

Issue Date: 3rd July 2025

Paper ID : R FORA-6-30-007185

Paper Title : Language as Evidence in Legal Contexts: An Overview of Forensic Linguistics

Authors : Zahraa Aamir Kamil, Muayyad Omran Chiad

The Researcher, Congratulations!!!

The organizing committee has received your manuscript submission for the **International Conference on Forensic Linguistics - (ICFL-25)**

We would like to thank you for your participation. We also intend to inform that your paper will be presented at the conference and we warmly invite you to attend the event that will be held **25th - 26th July 2025 in Bali, Indonesia**

For Registration: <https://www.researchfora.net/event/registration.php?id=3004248>

For more queries you can contact us at abstracts@researchfora.net

Regards,



Technical Program Committee Head,
Research Fora (RF)

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الشيخة
2025



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كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية
شهادة تقديرية
للمشاركين في المؤتمر العلمي الاول للدراسات العليا الموسوم بـ:
(فاعلية البحث العلمي في تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة لدو طلبة الدراسات العليا)في يوم الأربعاء الموافق (٢٠٢٥ / ٢ / ٢٦)متمنين لكم مزيداً من العطاء العلمي والمعرفي خدمة للمسيرة العلمية في بلدنا الحبيب



الى / زهراء عامر كامل المحترماً..



أ. د. هادي شندوخ حميد

عميد كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
جامعة كربلاء
كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية
الشؤون العلمية
الدراسات العليا



Ministry of Higher Education
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College of Education for
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التاريخ: 2023/10/9 العدد: 2831 /6/ع

الى / جهاز الامن الوطني في النجف

/تسهيل مهمة

تحية طيبة ...

يرجى تقضاكم بتسهيل مهمة الطالب/أ.م. هراء عامر كامل)
ماجستير/ دكتوراه في كلياتنا قسم اللغة الانكليزية / اللغة ، لغرض المراجعة
والحصول على البيانات المطلوبة لإكمال متطلبات بحثه الموسوم بـ (دراسة في
علم اللغة الجفاني للإبتراز الإلكتروني على وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي في
العراق) .

مع التقدير ..

أ.م. مؤيد عمران جواد
معاون العميد للشؤون العلمية والدراسات العليا

2023/10/9

نسخة منه الى/
الدراسات العليا .
الصلور .

info@uokerbala.edu.iq (فرد) - جامعة كربلاء - كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية - جامعة كربلاء

وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
جامعة كربلاء
كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية
الشؤون العلمية
الدراسات العليا



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التاريخ: 2023/10/9 العدد: 2832 /6/ع

الى / مديرية استخبارات كربلاء / قسم التقنيات والمعلوماتية

/تسهيل مهمة

تحية طيبة ...

يرجى تقضاكم بتسهيل مهمة الطالب/أ.م. هراء عامر كامل)
ماجستير/ دكتوراه في كلياتنا قسم اللغة الانكليزية / اللغة ، لغرض المراجعة
والحصول على البيانات المطلوبة لإكمال متطلبات بحثه الموسوم بـ (دراسة في
علم اللغة الجفاني للإبتراز الإلكتروني على وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي في
العراق) .

مع التقدير ..

أ.م. مؤيد عمران جواد
معاون العميد للشؤون العلمية والدراسات العليا

2023/10/9

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الدراسات العليا .
الصلور .

info@uokerbala.edu.iq (فرد) - جامعة كربلاء - كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية - جامعة كربلاء

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العدد: 2924/6ع / التاريخ: 2023/11/21

إلى / محكمة الحيدرية / مجلس القضاء الأعلى

ع/ تسهيل مهمة

تحية طيبة ...

يرجى تفصلكم بتسهيل مهمة طالبة الدراسات العليا (زهراء عامر كامل) / ماجستير في قسم اللغة الانكليزية، لغرض المراجعة والحصول على البيانات والمعلومات المطلوبة لإكمال متطلبات بحثها الموسوم (دراسة لغوية في علم اللغة الجانبي للانتباز الالكتروني على مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي في العراق).

... مع التقدير...

أ.د. مؤيد عمران جواد
معاون الصيد للشؤون العلمية والدراسات العليا
2023/11/21

نسخة منه إلى /
الدراسات العليا .
الصادر .

info@uokerbala.edu.iq / جامعة كربلاء - كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية - المدينة الجامعية (الربيع) /

وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
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العدد: 2925 / التاريخ: 2023/11/21

إلى / الشرطة المجتمعية في النجف

ع/ تسهيل مهمة

تحية طيبة ...

يرجى تفصلكم بتسهيل مهمة طالبة الدراسات العليا (زهراء عامر كامل) / ماجستير في قسم اللغة الانكليزية، لغرض المراجعة والحصول على البيانات والمعلومات المطلوبة لإكمال متطلبات بحثها الموسوم (دراسة لغوية في علم اللغة الجانبي للانتباز الالكتروني على مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي في العراق).

... مع التقدير...

أ.د. مؤيد عمران جواد
معاون الصيد للشؤون العلمية والدراسات العليا
2023/11/21

نسخة منه إلى /
الدراسات العليا .
الصادر .

info@uokerbala.edu.iq / جامعة كربلاء - كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية - المدينة الجامعية (الربيع) /

جمهورية العراق
مجلس القضاء الأعلى
رئاسة محكمة استئناف النجف
محكمة بداءة الحيدرية



العدد : ٨٣٨
التاريخ : ٢٠٢٣/١٢/١٧

إلى / مركز شرطة الحيدرية

تحية طيبة

مجهسهييل مهمة

راجين تسهيل مهمة طالبة الدراسات العليا(زهراء عامر كامل) ماجستير لغة انكليزية لغرض الحصول على البيانات والمعلومات والوثائق المطلوبة حول بحثها (دراسة لغوية في علم اللغة الجنائي للابتنزاز الالكتروني على مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي في العراق) وفق القانون والضوابط واعلامنا مع فائق التقدير .



القاضي الأول

عيسم علي الجبوري
٢٠٢٣/١٢/١٧

المكتب الرئيسي

أيدى
٢٠٢٣/١٢/١٧

Higher Judicial Council - Iraq
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مجلس القضاء الاعلى - العراق
رئاسة محكمة استئناف النجف - دار القضاء في الحيدرية
النجف الاشرف - ناحية الحيدرية - شارع نجف كربلاء
هاتف - ٠٧٨٣٢٤٧٥٧٦١
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الدراسات العليا

التاريخ: 2024/1/23

العدد: 16/ع 246



إلى / الشرطة المجتمعية في بغداد

م/ تسهيل مهمة

تحية طيبة ...

يرجى تفضلكم بتسهيل مهمة الطالب/ة (زهراء عامر كامل) ماجستير في
كليتنا / قسم اللغة الانكليزية / تخصص اللغة ، لغرض المراجعة والحصول على البيانات
المطلوبة لإكمال متطلبات بحثه /ها (دراسة لغوية في علم اللغة الجنائي للابتزاز
الالكتروني على مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي في العراق).

مع التقدير ..

أ.د. مؤيد عمران جياذ

معاون العميد للشؤون العلمية والدراسات العليا

2024/1/23

نسخة منه إلى /

كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

- الدراسات العليا .
- المصادر .

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وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
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كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية
الشؤون العلمية
الدراسات العليا

التاريخ: 2024/10/14

العدد: 16/ع 3972

الى/ وزارة الداخلية / مكتب الوزير دائرة العلاقات والاعلام / قسم الشرطة المجتمعية في بغداد

م/ تسهيل مهمة

تحية طيبة ::::

يرجى تفضلكم بتسهيل مهمة الطالب/ة (زهراء عامر كامل) ماجستير في كليتنا / قسم اللغة الانكليزية / تخصص لغة لغرض الحصول على العينات اللازمة لالتمام البحث وبناءً على طلبها زودت بهذا الكتاب.

...مع التقدير...

أ.د. مؤيد عمران جواد
معاون العميد للشؤون العلمية والدراسات العليا

2024/10/14

نسخة منه الى /

• الدراسات العليا ، الصادر مع الاوليات.

جنان

Ministry of Higher Education
And Scientific Research
College of Education for
The Humanities
Postgraduate Studies



وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
جامعة كربلاء
كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية
الشؤون العلمية
الدراسات العليا

التاريخ: 2024/10/14

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الى/ دائرة استخبارات كربلاء /قسم التقنيات والمعلوماتية

م/ تسهيل مهمة

تحية طيبة ...

يرجى تفضلكم بتسهيل مهمة الطالب/ة (زهراء عامر كامل) ماجستير في كليتنا /قسم اللغة الانكليزية / تخصص لغة لغرض الحصول على العينات اللازمة لالتمام البحث وبناءً على طلبها زودت بهذا الكتاب.

...مع التقدير...

كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

أ.د. مؤيد عمران جواد
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جنان

الى / وزارة الداخلية / مكتب الوزير _ دائرة العلاقات والاعلام / قسم الشرطة
المجتمعية في بغداد

م / تسهيل مهمة

تحية طيبة...

يرجى تفضلكم بتسهيل مهمة الطالب/ة (زهراء عامر كامل) ماجستير / قسم اللغة الانكليزية /
اللغة / كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية بجامعةنا لغرض المراجعة والحصول على البيانات المطلوبة المتمثلة
ب (نماذج محادثات تخص جرائم الابتزاز الالكتروني) لاكمال متطلبات بحثها الموسوم ب (دراسة لغوية
جنائية للابتزاز الالكتروني على مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي في العراق) وبناءً على طلبها زودت بهذا الكتاب.

... مع التقدير...



أ.د. مؤيد عمران جيايد

معاون العميد للشؤون العلمية والدراسات

2024 / 11 / 28

كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية نسخة منه الى:

- الدراسات العليا للعلم.. مع التقدير..
- لصادر للحفاظ مع الاوليات. لطفاً.. مع التقدير..
- إضبارة الطالب

جنان جعفر

الى / وزارة الداخلية / مكتب الوزير _ دائرة العلاقات والاعلام / قسم الشرطة المجتمعية في بغداد

م / تسهيل مهمة

تحية طيبة...

يرجى تفضلكم بتسهيل مهمة الطالب/ة (زهراء عامر كامل) ماجستير / قسم اللغة الانكليزية / اللغة/ كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية بجامعة كربلاء لغرض المراجعة والحصول على البيانات المطلوبة المتمثلة بـ (نماذج محادثات تخص جرائم الابتزاز الالكتروني) لأكمال متطلبات بحثها الموسوم بـ (دراسة لغوية جنائية للابتزاز الالكتروني على مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي في العراق) وبناءً على طلبها زودت بهذا الكتاب.

... مع التقدير...



أ.د. مؤيد عمران جيايد
معاون العميد للشؤون العلمية والدراسات

2025/ 2 / 2

كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

نسخة منه الى:

- الدراسات العليا للعلم.. مع التقدير..
- لصادر للحفاظ مع الاوليات. لطفاً.. مع التقدير..

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العنوان: العراق- محافظة كربلاء المقدسة- المدينة الجامعية في فريحة



Photographs were taken on October 30, 2024, with Brigadier General Ali Ajmi, the Director of Community Police at the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad, and Lieutenant Colonel Basma Al-Zaidi, the Director of the Women's Division within the Community Police in Baghdad.

المستخلص

غُنيت هذه الدّراسة بجرّيمة الإبتزاز الإلكتروني بوصفها ظاهرة إجتماعيّة دخيلة تهدّد السّلم المجتمعي حيث تمّ تحليل الإبتزاز الإلكتروني كجرّيمة لغويّة عن طريق ثلاث وعشرين قضية مدوّنة من وزارة الدّاخلية في العراق من مختلف المؤسّسات الأمنيّة. وعلى الرّغم من إنتشار هذه الظّاهرة إلّا إنّ هناك أبحاث محدودة حول الإستراتيجيات اللغويّة المستعمله من قبل مجرمي الإنترنت لاسيما مايتعلق في الإختلاف بين الجنسين من منظور علم اللغة الجنائي، وبالتالي فإنّ هذه الدراسة تحاول سد هذه الثّغرة من خلال تحديد إستراتيجيات المحادثة والفظاظة لكلا الجنسين من مجرمي الإنترنت .

فالهدف الأساس التي تتوخاه هذه الدراسة تحديد أنواع الإبتزاز الإلكتروني ، وإستراتيجيات المحادثة والفظاظة الأكثر والأقل إستعمالاً من قبل المبتزين الذكور والإناث، فضلاً عن الإختلافات في إستعمال الإستراتيجيات لكلا الجنسين لجميع أنواع الإبتزاز، حيث حدّدت الدّراسة عدّة فرضيات: هناك ثلاثة أنواع من الإبتزاز الإلكتروني والإبتزاز المالي والجنسي هما أكثر الأتواع إنتشاراً في البيانات قيد الدّراسة ، إستراتيجيتنا الأوامر وتسجيل الهدف هما الأكثر إستعمالاً من قبل المبتزين الذكور والإناث في حين إنّ إستراتيجيتنا المجاملة والغموض هما الأقل إستعمالاً ، كما لا يمكن ملاحظة فروقات واضحة بين مختلف إستراتيجيات المحادثة للمبتزين الذكور والإناث لكل أنواع الإبتزاز ، . وطورت الدّراسة انموذجا تحليلياً يتألف من ثلاث مستويات. يشمل المستوى الأوّل أنواع الإبتزاز الإلكتروني. أمّا المستوى الثاني فهو يعتمد على نماذج كوتس (Coates,2013), شوي (Shuy, 2005) و أندرسون و تروجل (1990). أمّا المستوى الثالث يتكون من نموذج كليبير (Culpeper,1996) كما وتستعمل الدّراسة نهج الطّريقة المختلطة (النّوعية والكميّة) في تحليل البيانات عن طريق البرنامج الإحصائي للعلوم الإجتماعيّة (SPSS).

وإستناداً الى النّتائج المتحصّلة، فقد توصّلت الدّراسة الى الإستنتاجات التالية: (1) هناك ثلاثة أنواع من الإبتزاز الإلكتروني , الإبتزاز المالي والجنسي أكثر أنواع الإبتزاز إنتشاراً في البيانات قيد الدّراسة (2) سجّلت كل من إستراتيجية(الطلب) أعلى مستوى لاسيما المبتزين من

الذكور في الإبتزاز المالي والجنسي أما إستراتيجية (تسجيل الهدف) ظهرت بشكل ملحوظ في الإبتزاز النفعي بينما جاءت إستراتيجيتا (المعاملة والغموض) في المستوى الأخير من إستراتيجيات المحادثة لكلا المبتزين من الذكور والإناث لجميع أنواع الإبتزاز ، كما وإن بعض الإستراتيجيات لم تظهر لكل نوع من أنواع الإبتزاز وعلى النقيض ممّا فرض ،(3) توجد فروقات ذات دلالة إحصائية بين المبتزين الذكور والإناث لكل أنواع الإبتزاز، (4) وللغوي الجنائي دور في المحاكم من خلال مشاركته بتحليل لغة المجرمين وصياغة القانون . وبذلك توصل البحث الى إثبات كل من الفرضيات الأولى , الثانية والثالثة بالإضافة الى السادسة باستثناء الفرضية الرابعة فهي صحيحة جزئياً، أما الخامسة أثبت البحث بطلانها. ثم إنتهت الدراسة ببعض التّوصيات والمقترحات لمزيد من الدّراسة.



جمهورية العراق
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قسم اللغة الانجليزية

دراسة لغوية جنائية للإبتراز الإلكتروني على مواقع التواصل الإجتماعي في العراق

رسالة مقدمة
الى
مجلس كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية - جامعة كربلاء لنيل شهادة الماجستير في اللغة
الانكليزية وعلم اللغة

الطالبة:
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بإشراف:
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2025 ميلادية

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