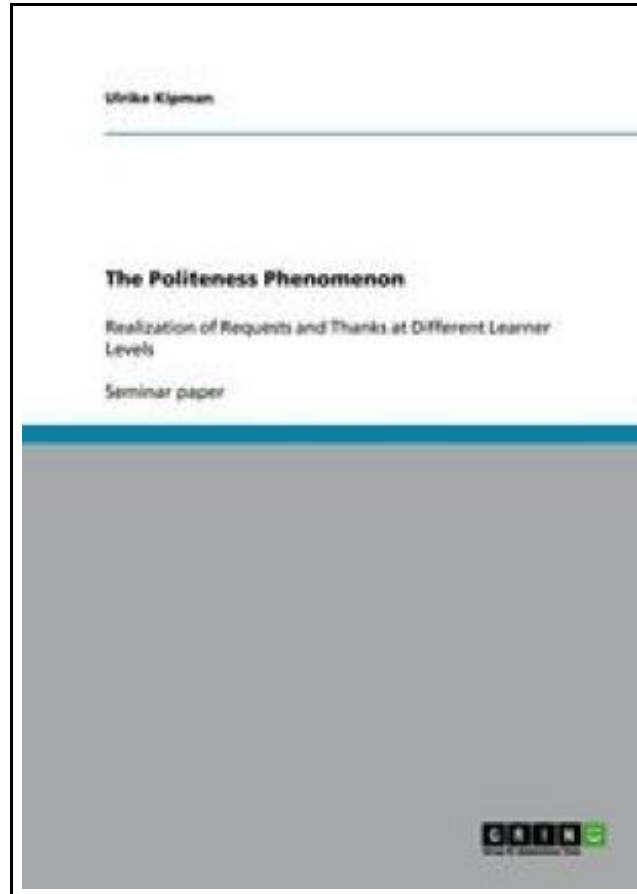


# The Politeness Phenomenon



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## THE POLITENESS PHENOMENON



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GRIN Verlag Sep 2010, 2010. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 211x147x23 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 2, University of Salzburg (Anglistik), language: English, abstract: The term 'politeness' goes back to the sixteenth century (e.g. Burke 1993) and is described as 'having or showing that one has good manners and consideration for other people' in the Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary. However, since it is associated to the terms 'civility' and 'courtesy', there are several connections to civilization and life-experience (see for example the Dutch translation 'be-leefd-heid'). Therefore 'politeness' is not an absolute term, but influenced by social hierarchy and social status. For about 30 years by now politeness is a very popular research topic and the term has received many different definitions and interpretations (Eelen, 2001). I therefore want to start by summarizing and discussing the most important approaches to linguistic politeness. One of the most interesting aspects of this research field is its situation in the intersection of language and social reality. To study linguistic politeness may lead to a deeper understanding of the connections between society, ethics and language. In the linguistic perspective politeness is a form of language use, which is therefore invariably coupled with social roles and relationships. Not only the social state in a given speech community, but also the language itself influences the expression of politeness, since speech communities differ in their notion of politeness. In second language acquisition not only vocabulary and grammar rules have to be learnt, but also the set of social norms of the foreign speech community. It is therefore of great interest, how second language learners show politeness at different learner levels. I will present an...



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