

## **Socio-linguistic Competence of Turkish and Turkish Cypriot English as a Foreign Language Learners in the English Speech Act of Apology**

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**ABSTRACT** Apologies are formulated when social norms are violated. The objective of this paper is to analyze the interlanguage and socio-pragmatic features of Turkish and Turkish Cypriot English as a foreign language (EFL) for learners in the speech act of apology. The interlanguage variability in the realization patterns of apologies is identified with special emphasis on the comparison between the usages of strategy types. Based on the analysis of the data gathered through a written discourse completion task, the results have revealed that the most frequently employed semantic formulae for the speech act of apology in English for all the groups are expressing regret followed by explanation and offer of repair. It is concluded that although the three groups have employed similar strategy types in apologizing, they have differed in the frequency of these strategies and that in some situations the realization patterns of apologies are influenced by the first language cultural norms.