

Commentary on review

The review lacks a title and bibliographic information which clearly illustrates the article or book which is being reviewed, or the topic question.

Avoid plagiarism: when copying text from a source, acknowledge that the words are not yours but someone else's.

When commenting on individual words or variables taken from the article, italics should be used, such as *nice*, *good*, *like* and *love*.

Avoid using 'I', 'me' or 'my' in a review, and instead use impersonal language, such as 'The article successfully demonstrates...', 'The author is able to show that...'

There is no information about the author's voice and the perspective that s/he adopts. It should not be assumed that Wolfson is American and that the reader here knows that 'foreigners' refers to 'non-Americans'. Instead, this should be made clear: eg. 'Wolfson examines the use of compliments in American English and other languages and offers explanations and advice for Americans and non-Americans in cross-cultural situations.'

How not to write a critical review

Wolfson looks at how Americans and people from other cultures compliment each other. She says that speech acts differ across communities and what counts as a compliment may differ very much from one society to another. Indonesians don't use compliments like Americans use them, and the French don't really understand American compliments. In her study, she found that nice, good, beautiful, pretty and great were the adjectives most used as compliments. Like and love also occur frequently as verb compliments. Americans often offend people because they don't know how to compliment people properly from other cultures.

I like the article because Wolfson gives lots of examples of compliments from different languages, which shows that compliments are often used differently in different cultures. It is useful because it lets foreigners know what kinds of words they can use if they want to give someone a compliment in English. Wolfson concludes by saying that because cultures vary so much we need to know what phrases and proverbs mean in other languages, so we can impress speakers of other languages with our skills. Also, rules for complimenting are mainly unconscious. Therefore, in order for people to make them conscious so they know what they're saying and why they say it, maybe they should get some psychotherapy?

Academic style and conventions

The introduction does not include any information on the broader context of the issue under review, such as past research in the relevant area.

The summary of the text here is too short and simplistic, and only focuses on two aspects, regarding intercultural understanding of compliments and adjectival and verbal compliments.

Avoid contractions like 'don't' or 'can't', and spell out the words in full - 'do not' and 'cannot'.

The evaluation section of a critical review should examine positive and negative attributes of the text.

The evaluation of the article only focuses on one aspect: foreigners utilising compliments,

Register of language. This last sentence is informal, unclear and confusing.

Overall, this critical review is too brief, and therefore it does not examine the article in enough detail.