

## **Positive Politeness in Writing Centre Consultations with an Emphasis on Praise**

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### **Abstract**

In a writing centre, learning takes place during the conversation between the writing centre tutor and the student. This interaction is an integral part of writing centre research and is the focus of this largely qualitative study, employing a politeness lens, as drawn from Brown and Levinson (1987). There is very little research that specifically addresses praise as a positive politeness strategy. This study attempts to fill this gap by analysing 10 video-recorded consultations in a faculty-specific writing centre to determine how tutors utilise the positive politeness strategy of praise. Findings indicate that while tutors exploit a range of politeness strategies, praise is used more often than any other strategy and is utilised significantly more when commenting on higher-order concerns, which is in line with the writing centre literature. The benefits of this study include insights into how such analyses can be used to better prepare and equip the writing centre tutors for the work they do.

**Keywords:** writing centre; positive politeness; praise; writing; writing tutor; writing centre tutorials