The Important Usage of Tag Questions in English Sentences

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Abstract

Canonical Tag Questions are important hedging devices in the English language and are used very often by native speakers . Almost all languages have tag language and are used very often by native speakers . Almost all languages have tag questions ; however , Canonical Tag Questions are unique to the English language (Bublitz , 1979) and mastering them requires a high level of proficiency in English(Holmes , 1982) . This study investigates the difficulties that adult Arabic - speaking ESL learners have in the formation and use of English canonical tag question . Two groups of participants were recruited : thirty - two adult Arabic - speaking participants and ten adult native speakers of English . The study's findings demonstrate that non-native speakers are unable to employ Canonical Tag Questions correctly, not because of the questions' syntactic complexity, but because of their pragmatic constraints. The findings also highlight the need of including a pragmatic theory as well as the social contexts in which discourses occur in ESL programs.