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Faculty of Humanities

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M.A. Thesis

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND
SOCIAL CAPITAL IN ILAMI KURDISH: A
SOCIOPRAGMATIC APPROACH**

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In the Name of God

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CAPITAL IN ILAMI KURDISH: A SOCIOPRAGMATIC
APPROACH**

BY

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Dedicated to my loving daughter

&

Adorable wife

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ABSTACT

Language as a means in creating and recreating social capital has been a topic of concern over the last few decades. Though much has been written about social capital and its related constructs very little if any has been done on how language can create trust or distrust. The purpose of this paper was then two- folds. First attention was made to give a typology of the lexical categories of oaths used by Kurdish speaking people in Ilam province to enhance trust in their social milieu and second effort was made to see how and why such categories are used and influenced by such variables as age, gender, education, place of living and job. To this end, 382 subjects received a questionnaire on different oath taking categories. The study was undertaken in two phases, First a pilot study was carried out to identify the types of oath taken by the participants. To this end, an open-ended questionnaire was administered. Second, out of the responses extracted from the pilot study, a closed-likert type questionnaire was devised and administered to the main population. To analyze the collected data, descriptive statistics and chi-square were utilized. The findings of the study revealed that there was a strong relationship between the type and frequency of the oath words and the variables under investigation, including the respondents' gender, age, and level of education, employment and place of living. Furthermore, the results showed that religious, death and family member oaths were the most frequent oath words, respectively, taken by the respondents in order to initiate and maintain trust in the interaction with other members of the community. The findings and the implication of the study are discussed and recommendations for future studies made.

Key words: Social Capital, Trust, Communication, Conversation Principles,

Truth- Conditionality

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