Review Report on "Politeness strategies and pragmatic functions in selected doctor-patient interaction in Private Hospitals in Akure"

The submission fits the scope of the Ghana journal of Linguistics for providing an illuminating article in pragmatics. The interdisciplinary article explores a linguistic analysis of language use in the medical consultation. The subject of health communication and particularly doctor-patient communication has attracted the attention of linguists as it has medical sociologists, pychologists and anthropologist apart from the medical practitioners. The exploration of how doctors and patients exploit politeness strategies in performing pragmatic functions by negotiating through the power play in the doctor-patient consultation is an issue of concern not just to discourse analysis, pragmatics and sociolinguistics scholarship.

The article will make a good read especially with the good organization the author has presented his study. The abstract sets the pace for the article with a clear introduction and a quick review of previous studies in the use of politeness strategies and their innate pragmatic functions in the medical encounters. In the literature review on previous studies in doctor patient interaction the author could consider including some of the local studies over and above the one study he mentions that has been done in Southwestern Nigeria. The author could consider including a few other studies probably in West Africa or Africa generally because the medical circumstance of the global south is more or less related. To enrich the author's literature review, I suggest that the author incorporates some of the following the sources so that the article could be more current and authoritative. The list provided is both local and international and current.

i. Amadi, S. C., Maduako, I. K. (2019)-. An Analysis of Linguistic Politeness' Strategies in a Superior / Subordinate Communication: A Speech Event in a University Setting. *KIU Journal of Humanities*, [S.l.], 4(1), 28-38.
ii. Ayeloja, A. K. & Alabi, T.O. (2018) Politeness and Discourse Functions in Doctor-Patient Verbal Interactions at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. *International Journal on Studies in English Language and Literature*, 6(12), 1-12
iii. Basweti, N.O. (2018) Argumentation in doctor-patient consultations in EkeGusii: a pragma-dialectical approach. Stellenbosch University: Unpublished PhD Dissertation
iv. Graham, S. L. (2009) Hospitalk: Politeness and hierarchical structures in interdisciplinary discharge rounds. *Journal of Politeness Researc,* 5(1), 11-31

v. Lazzaro-Salazar, M. V. (2017). Ingroups and Outgroups in Complaints: Exploring Politic Behaviour in Nurses' Discourse. *Logos: Revista de Lingüística, Filosofía y Literatura*, 27(2), 319-334. DOI: 10.15443/RL2725

vi. Matsuoka, R. & Poole, G. (2015) Politeness strategies in healthcare communication at "difficult times": A pragmatic analysis of the manga discourse in Nurse Aoi. Journal of Pan-Pacific Association of Applied Linguistics, 19(2), 89-109.

vii. Swafat, S & Faiq, A. M. (2018) Hedging in Doctor-Patient Communication: A Pragmatic Study. *Journal of Raparin University*, 5(14), 57-74

viii. Unger, J. , Ghilbert , P. & Fisher, J. P. (2003) Doctor-patient communication in developing countries. *BMJ* 327, 23:450

The author has employed a workable qualitative research design and provided the relevant data from which he/she has drawn his findings and discussions. The analysis is well executed and and conclusion well written. Nevertheless in concluding the author could consider making a comment on the medical practice implications which could inform policy even in the development of the health communication or doctor-patient communication curricula. Consideration can also be given in the conclusion on the possibility of considering health literacy programs targeted for patients generally for them to realize their important role in the medical consultation so as to improve their communication skills whenever they visit their doctors.

The article written in standard English will definitely have an impact in the field of pragmatics and medical discourse analysis apart from informing medical practice. The article addressees the subject of investigation sufficiently but can be improved in terms of quality. However after making the following revisions, the article can be published after the following **minor revisions**

SECTION	**EXPRESSION**	**COMMENT/SUGGESTED CORRECTION**
Topic	Politeness strategies and pragmatic functions in selected doctor-patient interaction in Private Hospitals in Akure	The Title could be changed to Politeness strategies and pragmatic functions in doctor patient interactions in selected private hospitals in Akure OR Simply leave out the term "selected"
Abstract	the private sector of medical practices	Private medical practice

Introduction	Scholars have investigated the interactional function of language as it fosters social relationship between doctor and patients	The author could cite some of the local and international scholars who have studied doctor-patient interaction/communication
	medical practices	'Medical practice' is the right expression. Medical practices changes the author's intended meaning.
	To achieve this reality, it is required to strategise how language is deployed for effective medical output	The author should also consider examining articles or studies in strategic manoeuvring in doctor-patient consultations to beef up his work.
Previous studies	Many studies have been carried out to investigate this relationship as it relates to language use and human behaviours	Citations are needed to back this statement up.
	the bases of professional specificity	the basis of professional specificity
Methods	fifteen randomly face-to-face doctor-patient consultative encounters	Randomly selected face to face doctor-patient consultative encounters
Analysis and discussion	The strategies that can be doctor-motivated, patient-motivated or Doctor and Patient co-motivated.	The author should consider revising this statement otherwise it is hanging.
Diagnostic elicitation	Sometimes, questions do not seem exactly related to the health of the patient is asked by the doctor, and this may be posing a threat to the patient's autonomy face, but since the doctor is superior in the conversation, his place of power gives him the privilege of doing that.	The sentence is not clear. The author should consider revising it into short sentences to be more communicative.
	The inference (INF) was wrong then	This sentence is not clear. The mix of the tenses

	the doctor actually reinforced the input to which the patient infers (INF) that the doctor actually means time for talks and companionship and not exclusively sex.	makes the sentence lose meaning.
Consultation focusing	clerking context	The author needs to find a way to explain to the ordinary reader what this clerking context is.
Conclusion	Despite campaigns that medical consultation should move from a doctor-centred approach to patient-centred approach....	The author should look at the "campains" in the context of Global Health and Universal Health Coverage requirement.

Thanks.