

DEPARTMENT OF  
**SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES**

✿ Spanish: Estudios de lenguas segundas ✿

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**César Félix-Brasdefer**

- Associate Professor of Hispanic Linguistics
- Adjunct Associate Professor of Second Language Studies

**Education**

- Ph.D. 2002, Hispanic Linguistics, University of Minnesota
- M.S. 1998, Spanish Linguistics, Georgetown University
- M.A. 1996, Hispanic Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago
- B.A. 1992, Universidad Autónoma de Tlaxcala, México



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**Research Interests**

- Cross-cultural and interlanguage pragmatics, politeness theory, speech act theory, conversation

## **Personal Statement**

My research examines issues of discourse pragmatics, face theory, politeness theory, and the intersection between speech act theory and conversation analysis. I am particularly interested in both politeness as practice and in the scientific conceptualization of politeness as a theoretical construct. I have conducted research on various aspects of cross-cultural pragmatics, comparing the realization patterns of speech acts and interactional patterns among native speakers of Spanish and English. Also, I am interested in sociopragmatic variation in the Spanish-Speaking world which can be examined by means of an analysis of spoken discourse in two or more varieties of Spanish.

I also research different aspects of pragmatics in second language learning, including the realization of speech acts and conversational practices. In this respect, I am interested in the intersection between grammar and discourse pragmatics. For example, I am currently investigating the grammatical resources that second language learners use for the construction of turns and how turns are designed and then put into practice in learner-native speaker interactions. Another related interest is how prosody (e.g., intonation, stress) contributes to pragmatic meaning in conversation. I am currently designing a website that aims at providing a model for the teaching of pragmatics in second and foreign language contexts. The website is based on research in instruction in second language pragmatics and includes on-line activities to equip educators to teach various aspects of pragmatics in the classroom. In

addition, the site features a component on pragmatic variation in the Spanish-speaking world and a series of speech acts that will be available in audio. This website will be available in March 2007.

### **Courses Recently Taught**

- Pragmatics
- Grammar and Social Interaction
- Cross-Cultural Pragmatics
- Research Methods in Linguistics
- The Role of Instruction in Learning Second Language Pragmatics
- Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics

### **Books**

Félix-Brasdefer, J. César. (2008). *Politeness in Mexico and the United States: A contrastive study of the realization and perception of refusals*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Bardovi-Harlig, Kathleen, Félix-Brasdefer, J. César, Omar, Alwiya. (Eds.) (2006). *Pragmatics and Language Learning*, vol. 11. Manoa, HI: Second Language Teaching and Curriculum Center University of Hawai'i.

### **Journal Articles**

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C. (in press). Intra-lingual pragmatic variation in Mexico City and San José, Costa Rica: A focus on regional differences in female requests. *Journal of Pragmatics*

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C. (2009). Pragmatic variation across Spanish(es): Requesting in Mexican, Costa

Rican, and Dominican Spanish. *Intercultural Pragmatics*, 6(4), 473-515.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C. (2009). Dispreferred responses in interlanguage pragmatics: Refusal sequences in learner-native speaker interactions. *Applied Language Learning*, Vol. 19 (1-2), 1-27.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C. (2008). Pedagogical intervention and the development of pragmatic competence in learning Spanish as a foreign language. *Issues in Applied Linguistics*, 16(1), 47-82.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. César. (2008). Teaching Spanish pragmatics in the classroom: Explicit instruction of mitigation. *Hispania*, 91(2), 477-492.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. César. (2008). Perceptions of refusals to invitations: Exploring the minds of foreign language learners. *Language Awareness*, 17(3), 195-211.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. César. (2008). Sociopragmatic variation: Dispreferred responses in Mexican and Dominican Spanish. *Journal of Politeness Research*, 4(1), 81-110.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. César (2007). Natural speech vs. elicited data: A comparison of natural and role play requests in Mexican Spanish. *Spanish in Context* 4 (2): 159-185.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. César (2007). Pragmatic development in the Spanish as a FL classroom: A cross-sectional study of learner requests. *Intercultural Pragmatics* 4(2): 253-286.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. César (2006). Linguistic politeness in Mexico: Refusal strategies among male speakers of Mexican Spanish. *Journal of Pragmatics* 38(12): 2158-2187.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. César (2004). Interlanguage refusals: Linguistic politeness and length of residence in the target community. *Language Learning*, 54(4), 587-653.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. César (2003) Declining an invitation: A Cross-Cultural Study of Pragmatic Strategies in Latin American Spanish and American English. *Multilingua*, 22(3): 225-255.

### **Recent Book Chapters**

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C. (2010). Data collection methods in speech act performance: DCTs, role plays, and verbal reports. In E. Usó Juan and A. Martínez-Flor (eds), *Speech act performance: Theoretical, Empirical, and methodological issues*. John Benjamins Publishing.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C., & Bardovi-Harlig, K. (2010). "I'm sorry. Can I think about it?" The negotiation of refusals in academic and non-academic contexts. In D. Tatsuki & N. Houck (Eds.), *Pragmatics From Research to Practice: Teaching Speech Acts*. Alexandria, VA: TESOL.

### **Book Reviews**

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C. (2010). *Acknowledgments: Structure of phraseology of gratitude in PhD dissertations*. *Journal of Pragmatics*.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C. (2010). Variational Pragmatics: A focus on regional varieties in pluricentric languages. (Eds. K. Schneider & A. Barron, 2008). *Multilingua* 29, 119-123.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C. (2008). *Spanish pragmatics* by R. Márquez-Reiter & M. E. Placencia (2005). Basingstoke, Palgrave, Macmillan. *Spanish in Context*, 5(1), 148-151.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C. (2007). *Research on politeness in the Spanish-speaking world* by M. E. Placencia & C. Garcíá (eds.). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 2007. 442 pp. (Book notice). *Pragmatics* 17(2), 348.

Félix-Brasdefer, J. C. (2004). *Gender and politeness* by Sara Mills (2003). Cambridge University Press. Available in the Linguist List online at:  
<http://cf.linguistlist.org/cfdocs/new-website/LL-WorkingDirs/pubs/reviews/get-review.cfm?SubID=18165>.