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**"MAY GOD FORGIVE HIS SINS": IRANIAN STRATEGIES IN RESPONSE TO
AN OBITUARY NOTE¹**

Research in speech act studies has only focused on those that are regularly performed in one's daily life (e.g. apologies, requesting, complaints) (Elwood, 2004). Compared with other speech acts, few studies have attracted researchers' attention on how people express their feelings to an obituary. The present study is an attempt to find out the strategies Iranian native speakers of Farsi used when responding to an obituary note. Data were collected and analyzed from the condolences notes on a deceased contemporary Iranian actor in 2008. Two hundred comments were analyzed to examine the strategies used in expressing condolences. The findings are anticipated to add to the body of research in speech act and pragmatic studies.

Key words: *condolence, strategies, responding to obituary note, Iranians.*