

The Implied Meaning of Thanking Expressions in Students' Drama Performance: "The Pursuit of Happiness" Drama

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated thanking expressions used in a drama performance at the English Department of Pasir Pengaraian. Thanking expression has an essential role in giving a sense of communication. The research design was descriptive qualitative, especially in phenomenology. The data was collected from 29 sixth-semester students. The data were collected by using non-participant observation. This research data was analyzed by using Hymes' theory (1972) and Yule (1996). Based on the research, there were 60 thanking expressions used in this drama. The result of data showed some implied meanings of thanking expressions in this drama. There were 14 data (27%) as acknowledging a major favor, 8 data (15%) as acknowledging a favor, 4 data (7%) as assuring a person of one's gratitude, 3 data (6%) as dismissing a person's service, 15 data (29%) as closing the conversation, 6 data (10%) as accepting an offer, 1 data (2 %) as making the hearer feel good (phatic function), and 1 data (2 %) as ending the conversation. Thus, the implied meaning of thanking expression would be a particular function to fill gab language and culture in teaching and learning, especially in drama performance

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language holds an essential role in human life because it is an effective way to communicate with others. People use language as a tool to do things. Languages are also used to show others' ideas, feelings, and thoughts. It means that the human being should have the ability to explore and express it inappropriately and in context. However, language communication should consider some aspects, such as the culture and context of the user or speakers. In this case, culture and context contribute to presenting the meaning of language. In other words, it is needed the understand the speakers' intention in communication (Ghaedrahmat, Alavinia, & Biria, 2016; Kini, Wong, McInnis, Gabana, & Brown,

2016; Rezaei, 2020). In addition, communication recognizes the language itself and the meaning behind the communication itself (Kia & Salehi, 2013; Panagopoulos, 2011).

However, there are many expressions in daily conversation, such as the expression of thanking, because this expression appears more often and plays an important role in building the relationship between individuals or communities. Furthermore, thanking is the feeling of being grateful or the desire to express a thankful feeling ((Aijmer & Rühlemann, 2014; Araki, 2018; Herbland, Goldberg, Garric, & Lesieur, 2017). Thanking is a speech act frequently and abundantly utilized in human interactions. People give thanks to a sense in daily communication. The speech act of thanking has a unique aspect of being investigated because it often occurs in our daily lives when people give help, gifts, advice, does a favor, or being kind.

Furthermore, there are some scholars who investigate such as thanking is meant as a positive feeling and appreciation (Thamimi & Wiranty, 2019; Wang, Wang, & Tudge, 2015; Zhou, Zheng, & Tai, 2020), as thanking as apologizing (Azima & Hesabi, 2015; Frania, Abdul Sattar, & Mei, 2014; Garcia & Garcia, 2016), and thanking is used as a medium to make good relationship (Gkouma, Andria, & Mikros, 2020). In this case, the context used for thanking expressions has influenced the meaning (Grant & Gino, 2010).

Furthermore, thanking expressions have the implied meaning side the utterances themselves. In line with this, Qusay & Sattar (2014) state that thanking expression is pathic communication. It has the function of making a good relationship between speaker and hearer. In addition, thanking expression is investigating the sense of thanking, praise, and benefit (Dwi & Zulaeha, 2017; Kustini & Sulyaningsih, 2016; Nahak, Sarwiji Suwandi, & Nugraheni Eko Wardani, 2020; Shim et al., 2018). So, it is clear that thanking expression is a social conversation phenomenon. Sometimes, there is the appropriate conventional meaning in one context of communication.

The uniqueness of meaning thanking expression can be found in many aspects of human life, such as "the pursuit happiness drama". There are many thanking expressions in the dialog of the characters such as thank you very much for inviting and really appreciate (Yusefi, Gowhary, Azizifar, & Esmaili, 2015). The conversation above happened between Chris Gardner and the staff of Dean Witter. There is thanking expression used "thank you very much". Generally, the audience understands the meaning of the speaker in this dialog. The expression appears because the speaker says "thanks" for the invitation. But, it can be categorized as acknowledging a major favor because the hearer has benefited from the speaker. In this case, not all of these expressions can be categorized as acknowledging the major favor, such as irony or apologizing (Faqe, Jbrael, & Muhammad, 2019; Hong & Song*, 2020; Meiramova & Kulzhanova, 2015)

Besides, thanking means apologizing in one conversation, like a drama performance. Algoe, Fredrickson, & Gable (2013) argue that there is a social function of the emotion of gratitude via expression that is influenced the gender, society, and the setting of communication. In addition, Faisal (2017) states that thanking expressions are presented by gender performance and the way of communication. Thus, thanking expression itself can be interpreted from many perspectives (Slotta, 2018).

Due to the importance of understanding the implied meaning in drama's dialog, especially in "the pursuit happiness" drama, it is necessary to mark the sense of thanking expression in this drama. In this case, there are some exciting points in covering this study such as (1) drama is the intellectual and emotional environment that is represented in its dialog, (2) drama as media to explore the new language, especially in thanking expression, and (3) Drama is culture representative.

In this case, no most profound study investigated the meaning of thanking expression in drama. Mainly, the previous study investigated the intention of thanking in daily life in such an area or country. There is no focus in the language used especially thanking expressions in a different setting and acting in one performance. Thus, this study is highly important to be conducted. Furthermore, understanding the implied meaning of thanking expression is needed to elaborate on the intention of thanking itself in conversation or dialog that effectively performs drama.

2. METHODS

The type of this research was descriptive qualitative research. This research data was collected and contributed to understanding language phenomena in drama. According to Gay, Mills, and Airaisan (2012), qualitative researchers collect descriptive-narrative and visual-nonnumerical data to gain insights into the phenomena of interest. It means the description of data is the appropriate studying in this research. The research was done in the following three-step; collecting data, analyzing data and presenting data.

The researcher used the non-participant observation method in collecting data. There were 52 thanking expressions obtained from the drama. The data was obtained from watching the drama as the primary data. After collecting the data, the data were analyzed using the pragmatics identity method. The data was analyzed by the theory of Hymes (1972) and Yule (1996). In addition, this process would get the implied meaning of thanking expression in the drama of "the pursuit of happiness". The last step was presenting data. The results of this research were presented using formal and informal methods. It means that the meaning of thanking expressions was described using verbal language, and there were further or detailed descriptions of implied meaning of thanking expressions in drama performance.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Findings

The result of this research proved that thanking expressions did not only have a meaning as thanking expression itself but also some implied meaning used in the Drama " the Pursuit Happiness". There were acknowledging a major favor, favor, assuring a person of one's gratitude, dismissing a person's service, closing the conversation, accepting an offer, making the hearer feel good, and accepting a proposal that the conversation should end.

Table. 1. The Implied Meaning of Thanking Expressions in Drama "Pursuit Happiness"

No	Function	Number of Case	Percentage
1	Acknowledging A Major Favor	14	27%
2	Acknowledging A Favor	8	15%
3	Assuring A Person Of One's Gratitude	4	7%
4	Dismissing A Person's Service	3	6%
5	Closing The Conversation	15	29%
6	Accepting An Offer	6	12%
7	Making The Hearer Feel Good (Phatic Function)	1	2%
8	Accepting A Proposal That Conversation Should End	1	2%
		52	100%

The researcher found eight types of thanking expressions in The Pursuit of Happiness Drama based on the table above. There were 14 data (27%) as acknowledging a major favor, 8 data (15%) were categorized in acknowledging a favor , 4 data (7%) meant as assuring a person of one's gratitude, 3 data (6%) meant as dismissing a person's service, 15 data (29%) were categorized as closing the conversation , 6 data (12%) were accepting an offer, 1 data (2%) were as making the hearer feel good (phatic function), and 1 data (2%) were categorized as accepting a proposal that should end. The data showed that the dominant types of thanking expressions were as closing the conversation and acknowledging a favor.

Acknowledging a Major Favor

The function of acknowledging a major favor refers to the gratitude expression, which is used as an acknowledgment that the speaker has benefited from an action by the hearer. This meaning appeared when the speaker got a major favor such as a gift, kindness, help, or other major.

Table 2. Function of Thanking as Acknowledging a Major Favor

No	Data	Meaning of Thanking
1	Thank you for the opportunity to discuss it with you. I Appreciate it	Acknowledging a Major favor
2	Thank you very much for inviting me into the program.	Acknowledging a Major favor
3	Thank you very much, Sir.	Acknowledging a Major favor
4	Thank you very much for your business	Acknowledging a Major favor
5	Yes, sir. Thank you very much	Acknowledging a Major favor
6	Thanks a lot	Acknowledging a major favor
7	I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for your time.	Acknowledging a major favor
8	Again, thank you very much,	Acknowledging a major favor
9	Thank you very much for this, really	Acknowledging a major favor
10	Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for your time.	Acknowledging a major favor
11	Five is lovely. Thank you. Thank you.	Acknowledging a major favor
12	Thank you very much	Acknowledging a major favor
13	Chris, thank you very much.	Acknowledging a major favor
14	Yes, sir. Just calling to thank you very much for your support at last month's seminar	Acknowledging a major favor

Most of the data represented the meaning of the thanking expressions as acknowledging a major favor. It means that the speakers gave the benefit to the hearers. Further, the expression of thanking as acknowledging a major favor could be found in some adverbs used in thanking expressions such as "very" and "lot". In addition, these adverbs indicated or stated the mutual expressions interlocutor. Acknowledging a major favor covered a promise, offer, or invitation. Thus, most of the expressions above concern actions by the beneficiary.

Acknowledging a Favor

The function of acknowledging a favor refers to the gratitude expression which is used when the speaker receives favor from someone that usually happens in usual and daily activity. The expression can be found in the following table:

Table 3. Function of Thanking as Acknowledging a Favor

No.	Data	Function of Thanking
1	Thanks anyway. Very much.	Acknowledging A Favor
2	Thank you	Acknowledging a favor
3	Excuse me. Thank you	Acknowledging a favor
4	Thank you Rachel	Acknowledging a favor
5	Yes, absolutely. Thank you	Acknowledging a favor
6	Thank you, sir.	Acknowledging a favor
7	Thank you, sir	Acknowledging a favor
8	Thank you. Thank you, Thank you	Acknowledging a favor

Furthermore, the expressions used in the drama showed that the speaker used simple ones such as "thank". In this case, this expression in the drama dialog was shown in different situations like opening, changing situations, stopping, and closing the conversation. In this drama, speakers uttered "thank" as a politeness marker of exchange, such as opening a dialogue or greeting. The additional word used in the expression could be seen such as name, title, and other pronouns.

Assuring a Person of One's Gratitude

The other finding of meaning of thanking expression is assuring a person of one's future gratitude like the word "Thank you" can also assure somebody in advance of one's gratitude for such as service, offer, promise, even though the truth of the propositional content cannot be presupposed. The data could be seen the following table:

Table 4. Function Of Thanking as Assuring a Person of One's Future Gratitude

No.	Data	Function Of Thanking
1	And, Mr. Ribbon, I also wanna thank you for giving me the opportunity.	Assuring a Person of One's Future Gratitude
2	Yes, Sir. Absolutely. Thank you very much	Assuring a Person of One's Future Gratitude
3	All right, Dad	Assuring a Person of One's Future Gratitude
4	Well, I like to think so	Assuring a Person of One's Future Gratitude

The implied meaning of thanking expression could be seen as assuring a person of one's future gratitude. The fact showed that the conversation took place in one during the day. In this case, there were conversations between interlocutors. The participants offer some future activities like providing the product or cooperation. Further, thanking expression as future gratitude could be found some words such as and, yes, all right and well. These words would be followed by saying "thank you very much". Thus, it was claimed as future gratitude because the speakers or hearers convinced the expressions or conversations.

Dismissing a Person's Service

The other implied meaning of thanking expression was a representative of dismissing a person who service are not needed (the dismissive thanks). The data can be seen in the following table.

Table 5. Function Of Thanking as Dismissing a Person's Service

No.	Data	Function Of Thanking
1	Thank You	Dismissing a Person's Service
2	No, This is good, Thank you. Thank you.	Dismissing a Person's Service
3	No, thank you.	Dismissing a Person's Service

However, the others meaning of thanking expression was dismissing a person's services. It was usually at the end of the conversation or a marker of refusal expressions or statements. In this case, the refusal word used in this expression was the word "no" followed the expression of thanking. Thus, the uttered by speakers could be classified as dismissing a person's service because the hearers refused the speaker's declaration or statement.

Closing the Conversation

The implied meaning of thanking in the drama means as a closing the conversation. This expression was used when the speakers want to end the conversation by expressing gratitude the data could be seen the following table:

Table 6. Function Of Thanking as Closing the Conversation

No.	Data	Function Of Thanking
1	Thank You	Closing the Conversation
2	Thank you. Thank you	Closing the Conversation
3	Thank you very much	Closing the Conversation
4	Thank you	Closing the Conversation
5	Thank You	Closing the Conversation
6	Okay, yes, thank you.	Closing the Conversation
7	Okay, Thank you, Sir	Closing the Conversation
8	Okay, Thank you very much	Closing the Conversation
9	Thank you very much	Closing the Conversation
10	Thank you, sir	Closing the Conversation
11	Thank you very much, sir	Closing the Conversation
12	Well, thank you, Dean.	Closing the Conversation
13	Thanks, Chris.	Closing the Conversation
14	Thank you very much. Bye Bye	Closing the Conversation
15	Thank you	Closing the Conversation

The other data can be seen of thanking as closing a conversation such as the conversation happen in one condition between speakers and hearers. This expression was used to end the conversation. This situation explored the polite way in closing the conversation because, in some cases, the speakers asked permission to leave immediately. In this case, the expressions "bye-bye" and title always follow the expression "thank" or "thank you". Thus, the words "Thank you" could be classified as thanking as a closing expression because the conversation was a polite way in one conversation.

Accepting an Offer

In this case, the word of "thank you" was meant to accept offering a person. An offer can be in the form of suggestion, attempt, present, and others as follow:

Table 7. Function of Thanking as Accepting an Offer

No	Data	Function Of Thanking
1	Thank you . Bye	Accepting an Offer
2	Thank you, Mr. Twistl	Accepting an Offer
3	Oh, yeah, thanks. Thank you	Accepting an Offer
4	Yeah, Thanks	Accepting an Offer
5	Oh, yeah, thanks. Great idea	Accepting an Offer
6	Well, thank you. Thank you. We appreciate it	Accepting an Offer

Most of the data above were categorized as accepting an offer. An example of thanking expression as accepting an offer could be found in the conversation between interlocutors. This expression was marked by some accepting words such as "oh," "well," and "yeah". These words indicated the agreement or the suggestion in conversation. Besides, One example was "oh yeah, greats idea". This expression shows a sense of politeness in accepting the offer or suggestion

Making the Hearer Feel Good (Phatic Function)

This expression was used when an offer is rejected (No thanks) or one's answer enquires about one health (Fine Thanks). However, when an offer is rejected, gratitude expression has functions as a phatic function. Means that thank you" can make the hearer feel good when an offer is rejected. The data of thanking expressions were categorized as phatic expression as follow:

Table. 8. Function Of Thanking as Making the Hearer Feel Good (Phatic function)

No.	Data	Function Of Thanking
1	Fine, Thank you for asking	Making the Hearer Feel Good (Phatic function)

There was the meaning of thanking expression that meant phatic expression. In addition, the speakers used phrases as well as everything that ran well. The expression has started the word "fine" told everything was good. Then it was followed "Thank you for asking". In this case, there was the probably meaning; the speakers tried to make the condition of the conversation well. There was a contradiction between the actual and expected situation.

Accepting a Proposal that Conversation Should End.

Thanking or gratitude expression can accept a proposal that the conversation should end, in which case the phrase has a terminating or discouraging organizing function. This function usually occurs when the hearer wants to end the conversation. Then, the speakers accept that the conversation should be ended by expressing gratitude or thanking such as the following data

Table. 9. Function of Thanking as Accepting A Proposal that Conversation Should End.

No	Data	Function Of Thanking
1	Thank you very much	Accepting A Proposal That Conversation Should End.

The last finding of the implied meaning of thanking expression was accepting a proposal to end the conversation. In this part, thanking expression signed the speakers and hearers should end the conversation or dialog. This situation happened because they should do some activities for the next. Sometimes, the condition/event occurred suddenly during the conversation occurred

3.2. Discussion

The result shows the meaning of thanking expression in acknowledging the major favor. It was indicated that thanking expression meant the speakers or hearers benefited from the previous action. Dealing with this result, (Ahmad Afip, Ustati, & Md Dahan (2013) state that thanking expression appears when the speakers or hearers have a mutual relationship in the same situation. Here, the mutual relationship gives the impact to the meaning of thanking expression itself. In line with this idea, Claudel (2015) points that the meaning of thanking is sometimes influenced by the previous relationship between the speakers and the hearers. In addition, according to Julehah (2014), there is active cooperation with each other in this situation. Also, the meanings of thanking expressions were indicated by the closing of the conversation. It provides a good sense at the end of the conversation. Furthermore, Liao (2013) argues that thanking expressions are polite in closing conversation and making a harmonious relationship between speakers and hearers. At the sometimes, the speakers represent their thanking to hearers. These ideas relate to Azima & Hesabi (2015), who state thanking expression in the end of the conversation is the polite way from cultural perspective. On the other hand, thanking expression represents accepting an offer and making the hearers feel good. This idea is supported by

Ting, Lau, Soong, & Chong (2009) who point to thanking expressions as symbolizing people's respect in communication. Then, Tan, Teoh, & Tan (2016) add that thanking expression is usually used to seduce the hearers in communication. It means that thanking expression is used to erase the previous mistake of the speaker.

4. CONCLUSION

This research proved that the meaning of thanking was not only repayment of the statement but also showed the other meaning of thanking. Therefore, it had the most profound meaning or implied meaning depending on the context of the speakers. In addition, in this research were found eight the implied of thanking expressions in *The Pursuit of Happiness* drama. The researcher concluded that the theory of thanking has been successfully used and applied the data of thanking, this research proved that thanking is not only used to express thanking when the speaker got benefits from action the other speaker, but it also could be used for the other reason such as closing the conversation or make the hearer feel good. In addition, this study also proved that the meaning of thanking is available with the speakers' intention.

In this research, the students' different cultures in one class make it difficult to understand the implied meaning of thanking exactly. So, the researcher can investigate how to integrate thanking expression in two or more languages.

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