



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

A Semantic Analysis of Speech Acts of Thanking In Bahdini Kurdish

Hazim kh.Ali / Department of English, College of Education-Akree, Dohuk University

Najim A. Siddiq /Department of English, College of Basic Education-, Dohuk University

ABSTRACT

In Kurdish culture an expression like” thank you “ – “سوپاس” is the most used one in everyday conversation and it has a great effect on the listener. Such an expression makes the listener feels that you do respect him/her and you really appreciate what have been done. This study attempts to investigate the most frequently used thanking strategies in Bahdini Kurdish. For this purpose a DCT (discourse completion task) will be applied. DCT represents various scenarios where the participants are asked to write down the terms they use to thank others in Kurdish language. The participants of this study were 30 students. All the participants were native speakers of Kurdish language and they were students in English department, 3rd and 4th stages, College of Basic Education, University of Duhok. The results have been analyzed according to Aijmer (1996:37) thanking strategies. The data have been descriptively analyzed according to the content and frequency of semantic formulas .In order to arrive at statistical results, the percentage of the frequently used strategies was counted. The results showed that 'explicit thanking strategy was the most common used strategy among the participants.

KEY WORDS: thanking, thanking strategies, speech acts, semantic formula, participants



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

1. INTRODUCTION

In everyday communication, people accustomed to use different speech acts in order to express their attitudes toward actions performed by others. These speech acts are performed by means of a language that is to say that we can do many things by uttering sentences or phrases.

It is known that speech act is an utterance that speakers make to achieve an intended effect on the listener. There are functions that can be carried out by using speech acts such as offering, congratulation, apology, greeting, request, complaint, invitation, thanking, or refusal etc. (Austin, 1962 and Searle, 1969). Levinson (1983:236) claims that "in uttering sentences one is also doing things but we must first clarify in what ways in uttering a sentence one might be said to be performing actions".

No doubts that the Speech acts of thanking is one of those speech acts that express a significant pragmatic functions that are vital to establish and maintain social relationships among interlocutors in communicative interaction and it is the most frequently used speech acts in daily encounters in all languages and cultures. (Bella, 2016: 61).

According to (Emmons, 2004:554), one of the speech acts frequently used in interpersonal relationships between language users is thanking. When somebody does something, kind or helpful it is a kind of respect to say thank you or expressing gratitude. Expressing gratitude or saying thank you is the positive emotion one feels when another person has intentionally given, or attempted to give, one something of value.

A speech act of thanking might consist of just one word or several words or sentences. For example, "thanks" "سوپاس" and "thank you for always being there for me. I really appreciate it" both show appreciation regardless of the length of the statement.

2. SPEECH ACTS OF THANKING



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

One way to keep harmony and intimate among people is to use some expressions that have good effect on the listeners. Thanking expressions are one of them that are used in daily conversation. Haverkate (1993: 160) states, in this sense, the act of thanking is reactive , that is to say, it is determined by an interlocutor’s previous action.

Thanking is one of the most commonly used speech acts in everyday face-to-face conversations. (Pishghadam & Zarei, 2011, p. 141.) .For (Norrick, 1978: 284). “Expressions of gratitude, or thanking, is one of the ‘most formulaic’ of expressive illocutionary acts”

Speech acts of thanking also expresses significant pragmatic functions that are vital for establishing and maintaining social relationships among interlocutors in communicative interactions.(Al Rousan,2018:251).

Thanking or expressing gratitude is one of the acts under the category of expressive speech act. Expressive speech act primarily focuses on representing the speaker’s feelings. In other words, speakers use expressive speech acts to express their feelings by making their words fit their internal psychological world

In speech act theory, the speech acts of thanking is defined as ‘an expression of gratitude and appreciation in response compliments’ (Searle, 1969:203). Speech acts of thanking is considered as a universal acting paralleled with speaking among cultures and languages. Appreciation utterances are used "when a speaker wants the addressee to know that she/he is grateful for what the addressee has said or done" (Jautz, 2008:142).

The speech act of thanking is in two theories. It is one type of expressive, in Searle's (1969) terminology and 'behabitive' in Austin's (1962). In speech act theory, the speech act of thanking is defined as 'an expression of gratitude and appreciation in response compliments' (Searle, 1969:203).

Austin (1962:160) was the first to suggest that speaking is equivalent to performing acts and classified the speech act of thanking as a “behabitive”, since it “include[s] the notion of reaction to other people’s behavior and fortunes and of attitudes and expressions to someone else’s past conduct or imminent conduct”.



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

Searle (1969: 67) explains that thanking is an illocutionary act performed by a speaker who is benefited by the performance of a past act and denotes one's feelings of "gratitude or appreciation" for that particular act, pointing out that the sincerity rule coincides with the essential rule. Searle (1969: 65) also refers to the positive aspects of thanking, which he defines as an illocutionary act produced by a speaker as a reaction to a past act carried out by a hearer which the speaker considers that has been beneficial to him/her. Therefore, expressions of gratitude, like complaints and apologies, and unlike requests, are retrospective acts or post-events, since they refer to a past or ongoing action

Eisenstein and Bodman (1993:65) said that speech act of thanking is a complex act, potentially involving both positive as well as negative feelings on the part of the giver and receiver. They argue that thanking is a face-threatening act in which the speaker acknowledges a debt to the hearer — thus threatening the speaker's negative face.

Aijmer (1996:78) also wrote about the topic and said that showing gratitude is considered as a conventional speech act because the speakers repeatedly use expressing "thank you" when they desire to show their appreciation.

Yule (1996:47) defines thanking as "the feeling of gratefulness directed towards others". From this, it becomes obvious that thanking is one of the effective ways to maintain social rapport. Thanking can express emotions, other than gratitude, sarcasm, irony, and blame as well. It is also used to open, change, and close conversations.

Siregar (2011:118) claims that the expression "thanks" serves the following purposes: to express the feeling of generosity at an act accepted by a speaker, as a courtesy to maintain a relationship, to praise, to end a conversation and to reject a gift or a present given by someone in a polite way. Siregar further states that although the forms of thanking are linguistically simple, but pragmatically the forms are complicated enough because it involves sociocultural values which are different from one language to another. (ibid)



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الأول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

It is worth mentioning that not all expressions using the word thank you refer to gratitude. They can also refer to other language functions such as compliments and closings; for example, thanking expression is only responded by thanking only (Eisenstein & Bodman, 1993: 65)

To sum up, we can say that thanking is the situation where the speakers express their positive feelings to the hearers who have done a service to the speakers

3. SPEECH ACTS OF THANKING AND POLITENESS

From pragmatics point of view, thanking is considered as a minimally face threatening act. Matti (1999:27) demonstrates that the speech act of thanking offends the thanker’s negative face since he has to accept the debt; therefore, his freedom will be sacrificed and his face will be humbled. Nevertheless, thanking is a face-threatening act for the thanker, it is a face saving act for the thanked positive face. However, this threat can be minimized by responding to the thanker.

There are two forms of politeness in politeness theory of Brown and Levinson (1987): positive politeness and negative politeness. Positive politeness strategies are active attempts by a speaker to treat the listener respectfully and cordially in discourse. Negative politeness, on the other hand, is an attempt by the speaker to save the listener’s face by engaging in some formality or restraint or by avoiding imposition on the listener.

Eisenstein and Bodman (1995) introduced two different views of “thanking”. They noted that Brown and Levinson (1986) “categorize expressing thanks as a face-threatening act in which the speaker acknowledges a debt to the hearer thus threatening the speaker’s negative face. Searle (1969), on the other hand, stresses the positive aspects of thanking, which he defines it as “an illocutionary act performed by a speaker based on a past act performed by the hearer that was beneficial”. Consequently, the hearer feels appreciative and expresses “his appreciation in an appropriate statement”. (Eisenstein & Bodman 1995:65).

Leech (1983:104) on his part describes thanking as having a “social goal, which is to create a friendly and polite atmosphere”. Leech adds that thanking is expressive since through it the addressee knows the speaker’s attitude”. He adds that thanking coincides with a convivial,



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

courteous or polite function. In such cases, politeness is often maximized by using intensifying adverbs such as “very much”, “very much indeed”, by prosodic devices, and by using combinations and repetitions.

Intensification can be used in thanking and gratitude for greater politeness. Intensifiers or – to use Holmes’ (1984, passim) terms – “boosters” are particles which modify a thanking routine by increasing its illocutionary force. Holmes (1984:363) demonstrates that the main function of intensifications are used to express “the speaker’s positive feelings towards the hearer...or to increase the harmony and intimacy of the relationship” between the interlocutors.

According to (Holmes 1983: 185), Intensifications are used by interlocutors to express greater gratitude for major services and unexpected or generous offers. Power or social distance can also impose the use of intensification. Intensifications are the most frequent device to create more polite gratitude expressions. Both expressions “thanks” and “thank you” can be intensified by

“so much”, “very much”, “very much indeed”, and “awfully”. Other intensifiers that collocate with “thank you” are “ever so much” and “thousand times”. On the other hand, thanks can collocate with “a lot”, “many”, “ever so”, and “a million”. (ibid)

The intensification of the expressions of gratitude can be done by several grammatical operations: expansion, ellipsis, embedding and combination with other units. The pronouns “I” or “we” can be added to “thank you” and “for + a noun phrase” can follow them. As: *we thank you for your help*. While “I” or “we” are the people who benefit from a favor, you designate the benefactor(s). “Thanks” can be also followed by “for + a gerund or a noun phrase”. The role of expansion is to make explicit the reason for gratitude: *Thanks a million for asking*. (ibid)

4. THE ROLE OF THANKING IN SOCIETY

It is a well known fact that in order to communicate successfully in any language. it requires not only the knowledge of grammar and vocabulary but also pragmatic competence and knowledge about the culture of the target language. One important aspect of pragmatic competence is the



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

understanding and production of speech acts and their appropriateness in a given situation (Cheng, 2005:9).

Expressing gratitude or thanking is one of the speech acts frequently used in interpersonal relationships between the language users. Successful performance of this language function may result in positive feelings, whereas failure of expressing gratitude may have negative consequences.

Eisenstein & Bodman, (1986: 167) define thanking as “An illocutionary act performed by a speaker which is based on a past act performed by the hearer. This past act benefits the speaker and the speaker believes it to have benefited him or her. The speaker feels grateful or appreciative, and makes a statement which counts as an expression of gratitude.”

The term of thanking is a very common one in all cultures and societies. This term is used in different situations and occasion .These occasions are subjected to cultural variations and specificity. Thanking has a vital role in maintaining social relationship among the members of society .It is widely used in many important occasions such as victories, coronations, and the national feasts. Every community has its own traditions, customs and social rituals.

5. THANKING IN BAHDINI KUTDISH SOCIETY

In Bahdini Kurdish culture, expressing thanking is greatly valued as it plays a vital role in establishing and maintaining harmony, on-going social reciprocity and good relationships between interlocutors that are very important to the members of the society. The most common expression that used in thanking each other is the word "سوڤاس" and it is used widely in Kurdish society.

There are enormous variety of polite phrases to express gratitude and thanking in Kurdish language. Most of these phrases invoke God’s blessing upon the speaker who thanks, elegantly-worded traditional blessing, many of them used for generations, can be voiced with much earnestness. Due to the fact that most of the Kurds are Muslim, .Kurdish people used to expresses thanks in expressions with religious meaning. (Sweetnam, 1994:49).



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الأول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

Whenever thanking or gratitude is given, the other person to whom it is spoken will always respond to it by mutually wishing the same goodness from God on the other person. For example, when you do a favor or help your friend, it is a kind of politeness for your friend to say:

(Sweetnam, 1994:179) نهز سوپاسيا ته دكم or سوپاس مالا ته ناڤا

Blessings are the most traditional way to respond to gratitude or thanking. Nevertheless some Kurmanchi -Kurds in northern Kurdistan, including those who want to avoid using phrases with religious meaning may use single word for thanks .In such cases, the most expression used in thanking in Kurdish language is "سوپاس" which is equivalent to "thank you " and sometimes the word "ممنون" is used .(ibid)

From what has been said we can conclude that thanking and gratitude are type of expressive speech act and directly linked to positive politeness as they aim at saving face by enhancing the addressee's positive face.

6. STRATEGIES OF THANKING

According to Johansen (2008:35), the term “strategy” has two distinct senses. The first one denotes a “realization of a speech act”, while the second is the measurement that enables the interlocutor to keep harmonious relationships.

A. AIJMER’S THANKING STRATEGIES

Aijmer (1996:37) classifies thanking strategies as follows:

1. Explicit thanking:

A. Emotional

- Thanking somebody explicitly: Thanks/ thank you. سوپاس
- Expressing gratitude: I am grateful. نه ز سوپاس دارم



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

B. Non-Emotional

a. Acknowledging a debt of gratitude: I owe a debt of gratitude to you
ئەزقە رزارئ تە مە

2. Implicit thanking:

A. Emotional

a. Expressing appreciation of the addressee: That is kind of you. That is nice of you. .
ئە ف ژ . . باشيا تەيە، ئەقە ژ دلسوزيا تەيە.

b. Expressing appreciation of the act: That is lovely. It is appreciated.
ئەقە جەئ ريزيئە. بئخوش حالم.

c. Stressing one's gratitude: I must thank you.
ژدل سوپاس.

d. Expressing emotion: Oh, thank you.
سوپاس.

B. Non-emotional

a. Commenting on one's own role by suppressing one's own importance (self-denigration):

I am ingrates. I am so careless.
ئەز گەلەك خەمسارم.

7. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

As mentioned above, this study is limited to investigate thanking expressions used by Kurdish students in English department, third and fourth stages of the Collage of Basic Education, Duhok University. The main objective is addressed in the following questions:

- What are the thanking strategies used by Kurdish students?
- What are the most used thanking strategies in all situations?

8. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

The participants of this study were 30 students. All the participants were native speakers of Bahdini Kurdish language and they were students in English department, 3rd and 4th stages, College of Basic Education, University of Duhok.

9. DATA COLLECTION

The present study was conducted at Dohuk University. The data were collected by asking the participants to fill in a Discourse Completion Tests. The DCT consists of five situations dealing with daily situations (see Appendix). In each situation, the participant had to thank his/her friend by writing thanking expression in Bahdini Kurdish language. The data were analyzed according to the taxonomy of thanking strategies by Aijmer (1996:37).

10. DATA ANALYSIS

Situation 1

To begin with, the first situation in the DCT requires thanking of his/her friend for bringing some fruit and drinks. In this situation, participants used both explicit and implicit thanking strategies. Twenty-three out of thirty (76.666%) participants who completed the DCT preferred to use the explicit strategy while seven participants (23.33%) preferred the implicit thanking strategy.

Discussion:

As for explicit thanking strategy, the data revealed that 23 participants used emotional strategy since they expressed their thanking in an explicit way. The semantic formula (thanking explicitly - “سوپاس بو ته”) was appeared frequently and it followed by some expressions like “سوپاس ته زمحمه”. This confirms that the semantic formula is followed by different expressions to show more politeness.

As far as implicit thanking strategy is concerned, it is clear that seven participants used emotional thanking strategy. Two of them used the semantic formula “نهفه ژ باشيا ته به” by expressing appreciation of the addressee. On the other hand, five participants preferred using the semantic formula “بئويست ناکهت”



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

In this case, the participants are expressing appreciation of an act. تُعز قهنجيا ته ژبير ناكمم or تُعز شه مزارئ تمه بهر نهدكمت نه ز سوپاسيا ته دكهم

It is worth mentioning that in situation one the intensifier گلهك that means, “Very “was used 9 times with the formula " سوپاس " which expresses greater gratitude and politeness for major services and unexpected or generous offers. Table (1) shows what have been said:

Table (1): The frequency and percentage of preferred strategies used by participants

Situation	Strategy	Freq	Per %	The Most Used Semantic Formula
First	Explicit thanking	23	76.666	Emotional / thanking explicitly e.g., Thanks / سوپاس بوته
	Implicit thanking	7	23.333	Emotional/expressing appreciation e.g., That is kind of you / بي ويست ناكمت تو جاميري

Situation 2

In this situation, you have to thank your friend for lending you his /her car. Participants used both strategies explicit and implicit strategy. Twenty-four (80%) out of thirty participants used the explicit strategy while six participants (20%) used the implicit strategy.

Discussion

Eastern people in general and Badini Kurds in particular consider themselves be in debt to the provider when they receive a favor. Regarding explicit thanking strategy, it has been found that twenty-four participants used this strategy. The participants used three different semantic formula. The most frequent used semantic formula (thanking somebody explicitly+ acknowledging a debt of gratitude) was " سوپاس، قهنجيا ته ژبير ناكمم " which is equivalent to “I owe you “in English and it was used by 14 participants. The second semantic formula (expressing gratitude) was " تُعز مه منونئ ته مه مالا ته ئافاس " that is equivalent to “May God bless you “and used by 4



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

participants. The last semantic formula (acknowledgment adept of the addressee- نه ز قهنجيا ته ژبير) was used by 5 participants .

As for implicit thanking strategy, two semantic formulas were used and the most used semantic formula was (expressing appreciation of act- نهز في قهنجيا ته ژبير ناكم) and was used by 6 participants. The second semantic formula (expressing appreciation of the addressee – نه فا ته كري – ژ باشيا تيمه) was used by one participant and its equivalence is “ that is kind of you” .

In this situation, the intensifier گهلمك was used 15 times with the formula سوپاس that express greater gratitude and politeness for major services and unexpected or generous offers. Table (2) shows what have been said:

Table (2): The frequency and percentage of preferred strategies used by participants

Situation	Strategy	Freq	Per %	The Most Used Semantic Formula
Second	Explicit thanking	24	80	Non-Emotional(thanking explicitly+ acknowledging a debt of gratitude) e.g., Thanks I owe adept of سوپاس نهز قهنجيا ته ژبير ناكم
	Implicit thanking	6	20	Emotional/ expressing appreciation of act e.g., That is kind of you / نهفه ژ باشيا ته يه

Situation 3

The results in the current situation are as the following 27 (90%) out of 30 participants used explicit thanking and three (10%) of them used implicit thanking strategy.

Discussion

In societies like Bahdini Kurdish, in urgent time people usually ask and contact the nearest person for help without considering any relationship. It is common among Kurds when somebody



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

asks for help or favor to give hand immediately without any excuses. For the explicit thanking, what happened in this situation is that 15 of the participants used explicit and implicit strategy together as the most used semantic formula (thanking somebody explicitly + expressing appreciation of the act - (سوپاس بو هاريكاريا ته -) which means “thanks for your help “in English and followed by an expression depending on the type and way of the help. Twelve participants used the formula (acknowledgment adept of the gratitude - (نه ز قنجيا ته ژبير ناکم - .

For implicit thanking strategy, the data revealed that only three participants used the semantic formula (expressing appreciation of the act- (نهفئ هاريكاريا ته نمز ژبير ناکم -). In order to show respect and politeness, the intensifier گهگهک was used by 9 participants with the formula سوپاس. Table (3) shows what have been said:

Table (3): The frequency and percentage of preferred strategies used by participants

Situation	Strategy	Freq	Per %	The Most Used Semantic Formula
Third	Explicit thanking	27	90	Emotional (thanking somebody explicitly + expressing appreciation of the act) e.g., سوپاس بو هاريكاريا ته
	Implicit thanking	3	10	Emotional (Expressing appreciation of the act) e.g., نهفئ هاريكاريا ته نمز ژبير ناکم

Situation 4

In this situation, the results were equal among all the 30 participants. As 30 participants used explicit (% 50) and on the other hand participants used implicit thanking (% 50)

Discussion



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

The situation was about sharing meals among neighbors, which is a social activity in Kurdish society. In an attempt to maintain harmony and good relationship among members of the society, Kurdish families used to share their meals especially in Ramadan month with neighbors.

For the explicit thanking strategy, the data showed that the semantic formula (thanking somebody explicitly + expressing appreciation of the act-سوپاس خودئ زیده کەت) was used by fifty participants. This confirms what we have said that , for being Muslims, members of Kurdish society accustomed to add religious expressions to thanking formula to show their gratitude and politeness.

For the implicit thanking strategy, it is clear that 50 participants were in favor of using the semantic formula (expressing appreciation of the addressee +expressing appreciation of the act- ده ست خوش خودئ خیرا ته مه زن که ت . In this situation, the intensifier گەلەک was used 6 times with the formula سوپاس. Table (4) shows what have been said:

Table (4): The frequency and percentage of preferred strategies used by participants

Situation	Strategy	Freq	Per %	The Most Used Semantic Formula
Fourth	Explicit thanking	15	50	Emotional (thanking somebody explicitly + expressing appreciation of the act) e.g., سوپاس خودئ زیده کەت
	Implicit thanking	15	50	Emotional (expressing appreciation of the addressee +expressing appreciation of the act- e.g., ده ست خوش خودئ خیرا ته مه زن که ت

Situation 5

In this situation, you have to thank your friend after being congratulated by him/her . In Kurdish society, it is a kind of respect and intimacy to congratulate each other in different occasions. The



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

data showed that 24 (80%) of participants were in favor of using explicit thanking strategy while the other participants, 6 (20%) were in favor of implicit thanking strategy.

Discussion

The data collected and analyzed showed that people prefer explicit utterance because responding to congratulations in Bahdini Kurdish cannot be done in an implicit way. The semantic formula (thanking somebody explicitly + expressing appreciation of the addressee) سوپاس نهخشمل تهژی was used by 24 participants. It is worth mentioning that this semantic formula is well known and used frequently in various occasions.

As for implicit thanking strategy, the semantic formula was a blend of implicit and explicit strategy. The most used semantic formula was (expressing appreciation of the addressee+ thanking explicitly) هه ر هه بي و سوپاس – هه ر هه بي و سوپاس عزيزي من , هه ر هه بي و سوپاس عزيزي من and هه ر هه بي و سوپاس عزيزي من.

In this situation, the intensifier گهلهك was used 5 times with the formula سوپاس . Table (5) shows what have been said:

Table (5): The frequency and percentage of preferred strategies used by participants

Situation	Strategy	Freq	Per %	The Most Used Semantic Formula
5	Explicit thanking	24	80	Emotional (thanking somebody explicitly + expressing appreciation of addressee) e.g. سوپاس نهخشمل تهژی
	Implicit thanking	6	20	Emotional (expressing appreciation of addressee+ thanking explicitly) e.g. هه ر هه بي و سوپاس , هه ر هه بي و سوپاس عزيزي من and هه ر هه بي و سوپاس عزيزي من

11. CONCLUSION



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

The present research has come up with the following findings:

1. Thanking is one of the most commonly used speech act and major instruments that strengthen the bonds and harmony among the members of a society.
2. The results showed that participants used thanking strategies ranging from simple thanking to long ones followed by different expressions.
3. The use of these strategies can be attributed to the Kurdish participants' cultural values and politeness. The variety of strategies used by participants, it seems, provide an opportunity for the minimization of face risks, which in turn, can be used to preserve social harmony among friends and to increase solidarity between the speaker and the listener.
4. The result showed that all participants are aware of the use of thanking expressions.
5. Thanking expressions may also occur in intensified forms through including some lexical modifiers “very much” and “so much”. The more the use of intensifications, the more polite the thanking expressions are. The intensifier كملك appeared in all situations which means that its function is to show more politeness and respect.
6. The data showed that expressing gratitude to God and the exaggerated thanking forms appeared only once in the data.

12. REFERENCES

1. Aijmer, K. (1996). Conversational routines in English: Convention and creativity (Vol. 175). London: Longman.
2. Al Rousan, Rafat M. (2018). “Don't Mention It!” A Pragmatic Perspective of Thanking Responses by Native Speakers of Jordanian Arabic. US-China Foreign Language, May 2018, Vol. 16, No. 5, 251-263 .doi:10.17265/1539-8080/2018.05.002
3. Austin, J. (1962). How to do things with words. USA, Oxford.
4. Bella, S. (2016). Responding to thanks: Divergence between native speakers and FL learners of Greek and the consequences for establishing rapport. Glossologia, 24, 61-73.



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الأول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

5. Brown, P. and Levinson, S. (1987). Politeness: Some universals in language usage. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
6. Cheng, S. W. (2005). An exploratory cross-sectional study of interlanguage pragmatic development of expressions of gratitude by Chinese learners of English. A doctoral dissertation, University of Iowa.
7. Eisenstein, M., & Bodman, J. W. (1986). “I very appreciate expressions of gratitude by native and nonnative speakers of American English. Applied Linguistics, 7(2), 167-185.
8. Emmons, R. A. (2004). Gratitude. In M. E. P. Seligman & C. Peterson (Eds.), the VIA taxonomy of human strengths and virtues (pp. 553–568). New York: Oxford University Press.
9. Haverkate, Henk. “Acerca de los actos de habla expresivos y comisivos en español”. Aproximaciones pragmalingüísticas al español. Eds. Henk Haverkate, Kees Hengeveld and Gijts Mulder. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1993. 149-180.
10. Holmes, J. (1983) “The structure of teacher’s directives” in Richards and Schmidt (eds) 1983, 89 – 117
11. Holmes, J., (1984). Modifying illocutionary force. Journal of Pragmatics, 8(3), pp. 345-365.
12. Jautz, S. (2008). Gratitude in British and New Zealand radio programs. Nothing but gushing? In K. P. Schneider & A. Barron (Eds.),
13. Johansen, S.H. (2008). A comparative study of gratitude expressions in Norwegian and English from an interlanguage pragmatic and second language acquisition research perspective. A doctoral dissertation, University of Oslo.
14. Jung, Woo-hyun (1994). Speech Acts of "Thank You" and Responses to It in American English. Ball State University/Yeungnam University
15. Leech, G.: (1983), Principles of Pragmatics. London: Longman.
16. Levinson, P.: (1983), Pragmatics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
17. Matti, Ala’ A. (1999). “Thanks and Apologies in Iraqi Arabic with Special Reference to English”. Unpublished M. A. Thesis, University of Mosul.
18. Norrick, N. R. (1978). Expressive illocutionary acts. Journal of Pragmatics, 2(3), 277-291.



جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني”

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

19. Pishghadam, R., & Zarei, S. (2011). Expressions of gratitude: A case of EFL learners. Review of European Studies, 3(2), p140.
20. Searl, J. (1979). Expression and meaning: Studies in the theory of speech acts. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
21. Searle, J. R. (1969). Speech acts: An essay in the philosophy of language (Vol. 626). Cambridge University Press.
22. Siregar, B. U. (2011). Seluk beluk fungsi bahasa. Jakarta: PKBB Universitas Katolik Atmajaya Jakarta.
23. Sweetnam, L .Denise (1994) .Kurdish Culture: Cross Cultural Guide. Culture and Science Pub. Bonn
24. Yule, George. (1996). Pragmatics. Oxford: Oxford University Press





جامعة دهوك
كلية التربية الاساس



ابحاث المؤتمر العلمي الدولي الرابع المشترك الثاني



الجامعة العراقية
مركز البحوث والدراسات

”المستجدات الحديثة في التعليم العالي في ظل التعليم الالكتروني“

17-16 كانون الاول 2020 (المجلد الثاني)

Situation 1:

You invited your friend for a dinner and the invited one brought some fruit and drinks.

How would you thank him in Kurdish?

.....

Situation 2:

Your friend lend you his car because you were desperate for transportation, after three hours of using his car, you turned it back.

For this favor, how do thank him?

.....

Situation 3:

You were in a tough time and you needed help then you phoned a friend later. The friend helped you out.

How do you appreciate or thank your friend in this case?

.....

Situation 4:

A neighbor shared a plate of his /her meal with you.

What would you say to thank him / her for the meal?

.....