

Polish and French pragmatemes in typical communicative situations of thanking

Summary:

The present dissertation is devoted to the issue of thanking in Polish and French, understood as linguistic behaviour corresponding to the psychological and social phenomenon of gratitude. Gratitude is a positive (and, simultaneously, emotional and conscious) reaction to someone's charitable action. Since the onset of human relationships development, gratitude has been responsible for creating and maintaining social bonds, as well as strengthening the sense of community, thus laying the foundations for the value system that exists today.

The thesis consists of seven chapters. The first chapter outlines perspectives adopted in the study: linguistic (of linguistic units), communicative (the communicative situation of thanking), and cultural (comparative approach). In the case of the linguistic perspective, an extended phraseology approach was adopted. The concepts used in the description of linguistic units involve a phraseme, a conversational formula, and a pragmateme. Among them, the pragmateme is the key concept, allowing for a multidimensional description of the studied entities that reaches various layers (a linguistic and socio-cultural description).

The second chapter, focusing on the communicative approach, presents the communicative situation of gratitude (including the sender and the recipient of thanks, as well as the object of thanks, which may be an action, a verbal action, or a factor arousing gratitude), the starting point of which is the phenomenon of gratitude perceived at the emotional, but primarily social level. The act of thanking is presented in the light of John L. Austin's classic speech act theory, classifying thanking as a behavioral act. Further research on speech acts, mainly continued by John R. Searle, places the act of thanks in the category of expressive speech acts, defining the psychical (psychological, according to Searle) state of the sender. Moreover, the second chapter evokes felicity conditions and presents how thanking acts can be divided into two groups: direct (explicit; with the thanking scheme presented alongside) and indirect (implicit). When presenting the interpretation of indirect acts, the cooperative principle and the theory of maxims of conversation by Herbert P. Grice are referred to. Examples of unusual (secondary) uses of thanking formulas are also provided.

Chapter three focuses on the cultural parameter. It presents cultural determinants of linguistic behaviour: the relationship between language and culture in the broad sense of this term, as well as the phenomena of ritual and linguistic politeness (etiquette), which is a starting point for considerations on the issue of linguistic signaling of gratitude in the form of

verbalized act of thanking. The chapter presents linguistic politeness models of Polish and French native speakers and refers to the concept of flexible ritual formulas. According to the thanking scheme in Polish and French, a distinction between formulas focusing on the sender, the recipient, or the reason for thanking is made. This issue is discussed with a reference to the politeness theory by Penelope Brown and Stephen C. Levinson, which evokes Face Threatening Acts, as well as Catherine Kerbrat-Orecchioni's politeness model (including Face Flattering Acts). The material analysis, based on fundamental features of Polish and French linguistic politeness models, takes into account the parameters adopted in the study: social distance, social stratification, and the reason for thanking.

The next two chapters describe the linguistic shape of thanking formulas: in Polish (chapter four) and French (chapter five). The etymology of Polish words *dziękować* ('to thank') and *dzięki* ('thanks'), as well as French forms *merci* ('thank you', 'thanks') and *remercier* ('to thank') is discussed, followed by a presentation of the thanking scheme and models of thanking functioning in each of the studied languages, together with collocations illustrating them (in the case of direct thanks). Mechanisms of intensifying one's thanks as well as signaling and naming the recipient of thanks are presented, along with indirect ways of expressing gratitude in both languages. The second part of each of these chapters is devoted to different ways of expressing gratitude, which can be understood as established structures used to express thanks without using the words *dziękować* or *dzięki* in Polish and *merci* or *remercier* in French (indirect thanks). The last part of the fourth and the fifth chapter is a space for considerations on the linguistic status of thanks in reference to the concept of phraseology as understood by Andrzej Lewicki and Anna Pajdzińska (an idiom, a phraseme), as well as formulas fixedness degree (*le degré de figement*) according to Catherine Bolly and the classification of collocations according to Agnès Tutin and Francis Grossman.

The description and analysis presented in chapters four and five constitute the basis for comparing the linguistic shape of Polish and French thanking formulas in chapter six. This chapter takes into account differences in both direct and indirect thanks. The thanks collected in Polish and French research material are compared in terms of the presence of (in)direct ways of expressing gratitude. This multi-level comparison is a starting point for considerations on the cultural and situational diversity of thanks expressed by Polish and French native speakers.

The last chapter of this dissertation is focused on pragmatemes of thanking, i.e. those for which thanking is the primary function. The basic criterion distinguishing these pragmatemes is the choice of a given unit as the preferred form in a situation in which the

sender feels and intends to express gratitude (in relation to the definition of pragmateme by Igor Mielczuk, extended by Geneviève Fléchon, Paolo Frassi and Alain Polguère, which includes not only situationally conditioned polylexical expressions with a compositional meaning, but also single-word units: monolexical pragmatemes). The definition of pragmateme adopted in this study comprises semi-idiomatic expressions (with a non-compositional meaning) as well. The essential pragmateme criteria that must be met by a given entity jointly include connection with the situation (content criterion), high frequency (repeatability criterion), and reference to the ritualized behaviour of thanking (reproducibility criterion). The chapter presents the results of the material query in Polish and in French. First, the examples of thanks collected in the survey are examined to identify the most common thanking expressions in this part of the material. Subsequently, this data is verified in the conversational subcorpora within the National Corpus of the Polish Language (in the case of the Polish language) and Corpus d'Étude pour le Français Contemporain (for the French language). The final part of the dissertation provides a summary and presents conclusions drawn from the study.

The dissertation includes a two-part appendix. The first part of the appendix concerns the Discourse Completion Task questionnaire used in the study, presenting its structure (along with the parameters adopted in the study and involved in each of the survey questions), as well as Polish- and French-language questionnaire templates. The second part of the appendix focuses on research material presentation, providing it in the form of tables showing the most common forms of thanking in both languages.

Key words:

act of thanking, intentional act of expressing gratitude, pragmateme, phraseme, conversational formula, collocation, *dziękować*, *dzięki*, *merci*, *remercier*.

Sublim 30.10.2023r.

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