

Gratitude Expressions and Responses used by the Characters in *the Vow* Movie

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Abstract— Gratitude expression and gratitude responses is the choosing way to express and to response one kind feeling or appreciation toward action, saying or benefit received. People look at it as politeness behavior as the crucial part to build and establish good social relationship. This research aims to analyze the expression and response of gratitude by the characters in *The Vow* movie. The researcher describes what are the gratitude expression and gratitude responses used by the characters in *The Vow* movie. This research is qualitative. It is analyzed descriptively based on related to Aijmer Theory of gratitude expression and Hymes Theory of gratitude responses. The data be explains by showing the context of situation and the meaning of the utterances.

Keywords--gratitude expressions; responses

I. INTRODUCTION

When expressing themselves people do not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words, they also perform actions via those utterances. Levinson (1983) considers 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" (p. 236). According to Hornby, gratitude is the feeling of being grateful or the desire to express thankful feeling (1995: 45). For example, a boy will say "*thank you very much*" when someone help him. Besides, a girl say "*don't mention it*" to respond her friend. This act called gratitude response, is uses to minimizing the favor.

Furthermore, this expression and respond can be expressed in different ways depend on the reason of the speaker in uttering it. They can use positive or negative based on person's purpose when they give respond to the speaker.

A gratitude expression occur in various types, especially when it happens in social life. According to Algoe and Haidt "..... Because gratitude expression is uniquely good expression that shows positive emotion, it motivates the benefactor to do the good things or make a good relationship

with other" (2008:15). In the case the benefactor has given advantage for recipient, the recipient should appreciate him/her by expressing gratitude. It is a reciprocity which in the next time will create good relationship among others because of gratitude. There are: feelings of honor, appreciation, mutually require, and the modesty but there is no boasting and egoism. Gratitude is the reflection of mutual need. Furthermore, it can stimulate the hearer to do the good things more and more.

The movie entitled *The Vow* is a 2012 American romantic drama film directed by Michael Sucsy and written by Abby Kohn, Marc Silverstein, and Jason Katims, inspired by the true story of Kim and Krickitt Carpenter. *The Vow* is the eighth highest-grossing romantic drama film since 1980. This was Spyglass Entertainment's last film until the company's resurrection in 2019. This movie describes how relation of love influences the using of gratitude. Besides, this movie contains many gratitude expression and respond in various form. There are: simple thanking, thanking by stating the favor, thanking and mentioning the imposition caused by the favor that can be describe when the person in the movie get a kind, help, favor and other kindness. It is necessary to learn how to understand and to produce language that is appropriate to the situations in which one of functioning, because failure to do so may cause misunderstandings and miscommunication. Below is an example from the movie :

I promise to never forget that. This is a once in a lifetime love and always to know in the deepest part of my soul, no matter what challenges might carry us apart, that we'll always find the way back to each other.

Based on the sample of the sentence above, it can be categorized as gratitude expression. Kim says "*I promise to never forget that.....*" to her wife. It means that Kim shows his gratitude by convincing his wife as a sign of reciprocity because the woman has loved him sincerely. It can be a part of assuring a person of one's future gratitude. It is clear that after

receiving the good thing from the others we should say thanks or thank you.

Therefore, this study will be focused on what types of gratitude expressions and responses used by the characters in *The Vow* movie.

II. THEORETICAL REVIEW

Expressing gratitude is like any other speech act that people perform to show politeness. Brown and Levins (1978) have enriched the literature by introducing a politeness theory that is based on the concept of 'face'. They defined 'face' as "the public self-image that every member wants to claim for himself" (1978. p. 61). They claim that there are two aspects of this 'face': 'positive face' and 'negative face' (p. 13). 'Positive face' is defined as a desire to be valued and appreciated while 'negative face' is defined as the desire to have freedom from imposition. In any human interaction, people may threaten others' face because it competes against one's desires and needs. Many studies have been conducted on the speech act of thanking. Some studies explore the strategies employed by speakers in different languages while other research has focused on analyzing speech acts of thanking with reference to their functions and forms. Others studies investigate the influence of "pragmatic transfer" on EFL/ESL learners' performance of speech acts of thanking.

Gratitude Expressions

Aijmer (1996) states that expressing gratitude is considered a stereotypical speech act because the form of thank you or thanks is almost always used by speakers every time they want to express gratitude. (1996: 78). Eisenstein and Bodman (1995) point out that expressing gratitude can "engender feelings of warmth and solidarity among interlocutors" (1995: 64).

Types of Gratitude Expressions

Here, there are the types of gratitude proposed by Aijmer (1996: 79):

Acknowledging a Major Favor

The function acknowledging a major favor means the gratitude expression is used as an acknowledgement that the speaker has benefited from an action by the hearer, usually the speaker gets a major favor such as a gift, kindness, help or others major. Example "*Thanks, Mom*".

Acknowledging a favor

This expression is used when the speaker receive a favor from someone that usually happens in usual and daily activity. Example "*I was really excited to meet Sam and your family, and then I showed up there and I was just....I got so nervous*".

Dismissing a person's service

It means that "thank you" used to dismiss a person whose service are not needed (the dismissive thanks). Example "*It wasn't so great*".

Accepting a proposal that conversation should end

Gratitude expression can accept a proposal that the conversation should end, in which case the phrase has a terminating or discourse-organizing function. This function usually occurs when the hearer wants to end the conversation then the speaker accepts that the conversation should be ended by expressing gratitude. Example "*All right, thank you. Bye-bye*".

Closing the conversation

Here, the speaker wants to end the conversation by expressing gratitude and this gratitude expression also function as a farewell. Example "*Well thank you for the great open house*".

Accepting an offer

In this case, an offer can be in the form of suggestion, attempt, present and others. Example "*All right. Yeah, great*".

Making the hearer feel good ("phatic" function)

When an offer is rejected ("no thanks") or one answer an enquiry about one's health (fine thanks). However, when an offer is rejected, gratitude expression functions as a phatic function. It means that "thank you" can make the hearer feel good when an offer is rejected (*no thanks*).

Irony, sarcasm, brusqueness

There are derived uses of thank you, signaling irony, sarcasm, brusqueness, which are marked by a characteristic prosody. Example "*Hey, thanks a lot for hooking me up with Elmo over there. That was a blast*".

Negative request ('thank you for not...')

The last function is negative request for example: "*Thank you for not smoking*", where thanking for something which is undesirable. And it is still in the future interpretation as a request not to do it.

Knowing all these strategies are important for the researcher since they are used as main references in the analysis about the strategies of expressing gratitude that are used by the characters in *The Vow* movie.

Gratitude Responses

Hymes (1972: 270) Gratitude response is used to respond when the speaker gets expression of gratitude from someone who has helped. It is clear that speech acts can have a fixed continuation, such as gratitude expression, after people get appreciation of gratitude, they may replay it with the gratitude response.

Types of Gratitude Responses

It is clear that speech acts can have a fixed continuation, such as gratitude expression, after people get appreciation of the gratitude, they may replay it with the gratitude response. There are three types of thanking responds.

Minimizing the favor

It is to restore the imbalance between the participants by minimizing the debt of gratitude incurred. Example: *that's okay*.

Expressing pleasure

It is focus on the benefactor's pleasure in doing the favor. Example: *great pleasure*.

Expressing appreciation of the addressee

It is closely related to the kinds of thanking respond point one. Example: *you're welcome*.

III. METHOD

This study is conducted by using descriptive qualitative research design. This research is intended to describe the types of gratitude expressions and responses used by the characters in *The Vow* movie.

Data and Source of Data

The data of this research is the utterances from the characters in *The Vow* movie.. The source of the data is movie and script of the movie itself.

IV. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. The types of gratitude expressions and responses used by the characters in The Vow movie are:

Data 1a

a. Acknowledging a favor

It's good. Thanks for your help.

Based on data 1a above, this expression is used when the speaker receive a favor from someone that usually happens in usual and daily activity.

Data 1b

b. Acknowledging a major favor

I know, its so exciting. I feel so grown up.

Based on data 1b above, the speaker has benefited from an action by the hearer, usually the speaker gets a major favor such as a gift, kindness, help or others major.

Data 1c

c. Dismissing a person service

Thankyou but I will try it myself.

Based on data 1c above, It means that "thank you" used to dismiss a person whose service are not needed (the dismissive thanks).

Data 1d

d. Phatic function

Thankyou for the suggest, i know my function.

Based on data 1d above, when the speaker rejected an offer someone.

Data 1e

e. Closing the conversation

Thankyou

Based on data 1e above, the speaker wants to end the conversation by expressing gratitude and this gratitude expression also function as a farewell.

Data 1f

f. Irony, Sarcasm

My grave is like to be my lovely car

Based on data 1f, There are derived uses of thank you, signaling irony, sarcasm, brusqueness, which are marked by a characteristic prosody.

Data 1g

g. Accepting a proposal that conversation should end

All right, thankyou.

Based on data 1g above, This function usually occurs when the hearer wants to end the conversation then the speaker accepts that the conversation should be ended by expressing gratitude.

Data 1h

h. Accepting an offer

its great, thankyou girls.

Based on data 1h above, , an offer can be in the form of suggestion, attempt, present and others.

Data 1i

i. Negative request

Thankyou for not being me as your servant.

Based on data 1i above, thanking for something which is undesirable. And it is still in the future interpretation as a request not to do it.

Data 1j

j. Assuring a person of one's future gratitude

I promise to never forget that. This is a once in a lifetime love and always to know in the deepest part of my soul, no matter what challenges might carry us apart, that we'll always find the way back to each other.

Based on data 1j above, stated that speaker gave his appreciation to someone for valuable assistance and will reciprocate in the future.

Types of reponses

Data 1k

k. Expressing pleasure

my pleasure, enjoy yours.

Based on data 1k above, the speaker focus on the benefactor's pleasure in doing the favor.

Data 1L

L. Minimizing the favor

It is okay

Based on data 1L above, It is to restore the imbalance between the participants by minimizing the debt of gratitude incurred.

Data 1m

M. Expressing appreciation of the addressee

You are welcome

Based on data 1m above, It is closely related to the kinds of thanking respond point one.

Having analyzed the data, of the research, the findings are describe as there are ten types of gratitude expressions based on Aijmer' theory and 3 types of gratitude responses based on Hymes theory.

Ten types of gratitude expressions are: acknowledging a favor, acknowledging a major favor, dismissing a person service, phatic function, closing the conversation, irony, accepting a proposal that conversation should end, accepting an offer, negative request, assuring a person of one's future gratitude.

Three types of gratitude responses are: expressing pleasure, minimizing the favor, expressing appreciation of the addressee.

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