

**THANKING EXPRESSION IN THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS MOVIE: A
PRAGMATICS ANALYSIS**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor Degree
of Education in English Department School of Teacher Training and Education**

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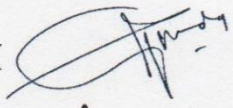
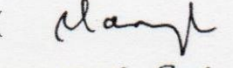
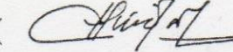
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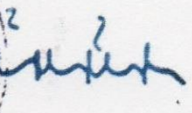
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Abstrak

Penelitian ini berfokus pada (1) jenis ekspresi terima kasih yang digunakan para tokoh dalam film *The Pursuit of Happyness*, dan (2) strategi ungkapan terima kasih yang digunakan para tokoh dalam film *The Pursuit of Happyness*. Peneliti menggunakan penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Data penelitian ini adalah seluruh kutipan yang berisi ungkapan terima kasih dalam film *Pursuit of Happyness*. Peneliti menggunakan analisis dokumen untuk mengumpulkan data. Dalam menganalisis data, peneliti menggunakan teori Hymes (1972) tentang jenis ungkapan terima kasih dan teori Aijimer (1996) tentang strategi ungkapan terima kasih. Hasilnya, peneliti menemukan delapan jenis ungkapan terima kasih yaitu 16 data (31%) as acknowledging a major favor, 16 data (31%) as closing the conversation, 8 data (15%) as acknowledging a favor, 5 data (10%) as accepting an offer, 3 data (6%) as dismissing a person's service, 2 data (4%) as assuring a person of one's gratitude, 1 data (2%) as making the hearer feel good (phatic function), 1 data (2%) as accepting a proposal that conversation should end. Kemudian enam strategi ungkapan terima kasih yang digunakan dalam film *The Pursuit of Happyness* yaitu 36 data (69%) as thanking somebody explicitly, 5 data (10 %) as stressing one's gratitude, 4 data (8%) expressing appreciation of the act, 3 data (6%) as expressing appreciation of the addressee, 2 data (2%) expressing gratitude, 2 data (4%) as expressing emotion. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian di atas, dapat disimpulkan bahwa jenis dan strategi ucapan terima kasih yang digunakan para tokoh dalam film *Pursuit of Happyness* cukup beragam. Sebagai native speaker mereka memiliki kemampuan untuk mengungkapkan rasa terima kasih dengan baik.

Kata Kunci: ekspresi terima kasih, jenis-jenis terima kasih, strategi terima kasih.

Abstract

This research focuses on (1) types of thanking expression are used by characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie, and (2) strategies of thanking expression are used by characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie. The researcher used descriptive qualitative research. The data of this research are the entire excerpts which contained thanking expression in the *Pursuit of Happyness* movie. The researcher used document analysis to collect the data. In analyzing the data, the researcher used Hymes's theory (1972) of the types of thanking and Aijimer's theory (1996) of strategies of thanking. As a result, the researcher found eight types of thanking those are 16 data (31%) as acknowledging a major favor, 16 data (31%) as closing the conversation, 8 data (15%) as acknowledging a favor, 5 data (10%) as accepting an offer, 3 data (6%) as dismissing a person's service, 2 data (4%) as assuring a person of one's gratitude, 1 data (2%) as making the hearer feel good (phatic function), 1 data (2%) as accepting a proposal that conversation should end. Then, six strategies of thanking expression are used by characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie those are 36 data (69%) as thanking somebody explicitly, 5 data (10 %) as stressing one's gratitude, 4 data (8%) expressing appreciation of the act, 3 data (6%) as expressing appreciation of the addressee, 2 data (2%) expressing gratitude, 2 data (4%) as expressing emotion. Based on the result above, the researcher concluded that the types and strategies of thanking are used by the characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie was quite varied. As the native speakers they have the ability to express thanking well.

Keywords: thanking expression, types of thanking, strategies of thanking

1. INTRODUCTION

Languages are the main medium in the process of communication both in oral and writing. Through language we can express opinions, thoughts, ideas, and our feelings to someone directly. In addition, with the language in communication a person will be easier to receive and convey information effectively. The use of language that is effective and easy to understand will have an impact on communication that runs well too. According to Arthur (2003.p.5) Conversation occurs when two or more people have the right to talk or listen without having to follow a fixed agenda. That means that everybody has the right to hear and say something any time. In social interaction usually someone start the conversation by saying or expressing something that performs through language. We can perform an action in communication through our language used.

According to Yule (2003.p.47) people do not only produce utterance containing grammatical structure and words but they also perform by those utterance. In pragmatics, utterance is a form of action in the context of the speech situation which is the activity is called speech act. Speech act is the part of pragmatics. Mey (1993) states that pragmatics is the study of language that people use in the real life to achieve their purposes. According to Yule (1998.p.3) Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning. Then, according to Yule in Fauziati (2009.p.173) speech act is commonly given more specific label, such as apology, thanking, complaint, compliment, promise or request. Thus, each speech act has a different purpose and function depending on the situation and context of the speech.

One of the speech acts are commonly used in daily conversation is the expression of thanking or gratitude, because these speeches appear more often and play an important role in building solidarity between individuals. Thanking expression are expressive speech acts. Hornby (1995.p.45) defines that gratitude is the feeling of being grateful or the desire to express thankful feeling. Einstein and Bodman (1993) declare that when this function is expressed properly, it can create positive feelings and solidarity in interacting, maintaining and enhancing social cohesion and social bonding in the society. Any failure to express gratitude could have negative social consequences for the interlocutors' relationship, leading to irritation, resentment and annoyance (Einstein & Bodman, 1986). Speech act of thanking has a unique aspect to be investigated, because it often occurs in our daily lives when people give kindness, help, gifts, advice, or offers for us.

In this research, the researcher interested to investigate thanking expression are used in The Pursuit of Happyness movie. The researcher is interested to take the phenomenon that often happened in our social life by choosing movie as the source or data because the researcher

found this similar phenomena dealing with thanking expression in a movie. The Pursuit of Happyness is an American biographical drama film directed by Gabriele Muccino and produced by Will Smith, Steve Tisch, James Lassiter, Todd Black and Jason Blumenthal. The movie was released in the United States on December 15, 2006. The reason for choosing these movie is the researcher wants to know whether the characters in The pursuit of Happynes movie use expressions of thanking in various ways.

The researcher used theory of Hymes (1972) to analyze the types of thanking. Hymes (1972) explain types of thanking into ten types those are: (1) acknowledging a major favor,(2) acknowledging a favor, (3)Assuring a person of one's gratitude, (4) dismissing a person's service, (5) closing the conversation, (6) accepting an offer, (7) making the hearer feel good (phatic function), (8) irony,sarcasm,brusqueness, (9) accepting a proposal that conversation should end, and (10) negative request. Meanwhile, Aijimer (1996) states that there are eight strategies of thanking, namely (1) thanking somebody explicitly, (2) expressing gratitude, (3) expressing appreciation of the act, (4) expressing appreciation of the addressee, (5) acknowledging a debt of gratitude, (6) expressing emotion, and (8) commenting on one's own role by expressing one's own importance (self-denigration).

There were many relevant previous studies that relate with this research. The first was conducted by Nur Rohmah (2016) entitled "Gratitude Strategy Used by The Characters of I Love You, Man Movie". The second was conducted by Siti Kustini & Iis Sulyaningsih (2016) entitled "A Pragmatic Analysis of Thanking Strategies among Indonesian Efl Learn Ers Based on Social Status and Social Distance. The third was conducted by Muhammad Khoirul Zamzami (2016) entitled "Speech Act used by Elsa as One of the main characters in Frozen Movie Script". The fourth was conducted by Masyita Dalimunthe (2017) entitled "Expressive Speech Acts by English Teachers in The Classroom Interaction". The fifth was conducted by Rizka Eguh Ashari (2017) entitled " A pragmatic Analysis of illocutionary acts found in finding Nemo movie and its Application in teaching speaking at the twelfth grade of Senior High School". The sixth was conducted by Tri Lestari (2017) entitled "A Pragmatics Analysis of Speech Acts in Thor Movie". The seventh research was conducted by Harun Hidayat (2018) entitled "Expressive Speech Acts in The Fate of The Furious Movie". The eighth researcher was conducted by Mirza Lucky Aulia Alfa (2018) entitled "A Pragmatic Analysis of Thanking Expressed by The Main Characters in Cafe Society movie. Thus, the research is difference with previous studies. The differences between this research and previous studies are the subject and the data source.

Related to the previous research, the researcher focuses on the types and the strategies of thanking expression used by characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie (2006) by Gabriele Muccino. The researcher conducted a research entitle "Thanking expression in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie: A Pragmatics Analysis". The researcher hopes that this research can be used as a reference for future researchers and English teachers in studying thanking expression in linguistics field.

2. METHOD

The type of this research was descriptive qualitative research. Biklen (1982) assume that qualitative research is descriptive which the data is collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. Data in the form of quotes from documents, field notes, and interviews or excerpts from videotapes, audiotapes, or other electronic communications that used to show the finding of the research. The object of this research focuses on thanking expression which includes the types of thanking expression used by the characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie and the strategies of thanking expression used by the characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie. The subjects of this research were all characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie, they are Chris Gardner, Christopher, Linda, Jay Twistle, Mr. Frohm, Mr. Ribbon and so on. The data were excerpts or utterances which containing thanking expressions used by the character in the *Pursuit of Happyness* movie.

Technique of collecting data was documentation. The steps were as follows: Firstly, the researcher searches transcripts of *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie. Secondly, watching *The Pursuit of Happyness* movies while reading the transcripts to know the expressions which are spoken. Third, Note taking expression of thanking in *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) movie. Fourth, identifying the types and the strategies that used by characters in the movie. Last, giving codes on each datum.

In analyzing the data, the researcher used Miles and Huberman's theory. According to Miles and Huberman (1992) there are some steps to analyzing the data, as follows: (1) the researcher was watching the movie and reading the transcript of *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie, (2) the researcher selected the utterances that containing thanking expression and giving codes, (3) the researcher used tables to display the data based on the result, (4) the researcher made conclusion to find out the types of thanking based on Hymes's theory and strategies of thanking based on Aijimer's theory.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

There were 52 data on the thanking expression used by characters in the Pursuit of happiness movie. The data were analyzed based on types and strategies of thanking. The explanation of each component as below:

3.1 Types of Thanking Expression.

The types of thanking expression are analyzed based on Hymes (1972). It is realized in ten types. However in this research, the researcher only found 8 types of thanking used in The Pursuit of Happiness movie. Those are Acknowledging a major favor, Acknowledging a favor, Assuring a person of one's future gratitude, Dismissing a person's service, Closing the conversation, Accepting an offering, Making the hearer feel good, and Accepting a proposal that conversation should end. The number of Types of Thanking expression is showed on the table below:

Table 1. Types of Thanking

No	Types of Thanking	Amount (Σ)	Percentage (%)
1	Closing the Conversation	16	31%
2	Acknowledging a Major Favor	16	31%
3	Acknowledging a Favor	8	15%
4	Accepting an Offer	5	10%
5	Dismissing a Person's Service	3	6%
6	Assuring a Person of One's Future Gratitude	2	4%
7	Making the Hearer Feel Good (Phatic Function)	1	2%
8	Accepting a Proposal that Conversation Should End	1	2%
TOTAL (Σ)		52	100%

Based on the table above, the researcher found eight types of thanking expression in The Pursuit of Happiness movie based on Hymes theory. The researcher found 16 data (31%) as acknowledging a major favor, 16 data (31%) as closing the conversation, 8 data (15%) as acknowledging a favor, 5 data (10%) as accepting an offer, 3 data (6%) as dismissing a person's service, 2 data (4%) as assuring a person of one's gratitude, 1 data (2%) as making the hearer feel good (phatic function), 1 data (2%) as accepting a proposal that conversation should end. The dominant types are acknowledging a favor and closing the conversation.

This research finding has differences with the research finding by Mirza Lucky Aulia Alfa (2018). Mirza (2018) found five types of thanking in Cafe Society Movie. They are acknowledging a major favor, acknowledging a favor, accepting an offer, making the hearer feel good (phatic function), dismissing a person's service, and closing the conversation. Most dominant type was acknowledging a major favor. This condition may be due to different data source.

3.2 Strategies of Thanking Expression

The strategies of thanking expression are analyzed based on Aijmer (1996). It is realized in eight strategies. However in this research, the researcher only found six strategies of thanking used in The Pursuit of Happyness movie, namely thanking somebody explicitly, expressing gratitude, expressing appreciation of the addressee, expressing appreciation of the act, stressing one's gratitude, and expressing emotion.

Table 2. Strategies of Thanking

No	Strategy of Thanking			Number of Case	Percentage (%)
1	Explicit	Emotional	A). Thanking Somebody Explicitly	36	69%
			B). Expressing Gratitude	2	4%
		Non Emotional	E). Acknowledging a Debt of Gratitude	-	-
2	Implicit	Emotional	C). Expressing Appreciation of the Addressee	3	6%
			D). Expressing Appreciation of the Act.	4	8%
			F). Stressing One's Gratitude	5	10%
			G). Expressing Emotion	2	4%
		Non Emotional	H). Commenting on one's role by expressing one's own importance.	-	-

			(Self-denigration)		
	TOTAL (Σ)			52	100%

Based on the table above, the researcher found six strategies of thanking expression in The Pursuit of Happyness movie based on Aijimer's theory. The researcher found 36 data (69%) as thanking somebody explicitly, 5 data (10 %) as stressing one's gratitude, 4 data (8%) expressing appreciation of the act, 3 data (6%) as expressing appreciation of the addressee, 2 data (2%) expressing gratitude, 2 data (4%) as expressing emotion. The most dominant strategies of thanking in The Pursuit of Happyness movie thanking somebody explicitly.

This research finding has differences with the previous research finding by Mirza Lucky Aulia Alfa (2018). Mirza(2018) found five strategies of thanking in Cafe Society Movie. They are thanking somebody explicitly, stressing one's gratitude, expressing emotion, expressing appreciation of the act and expressing appreciation of the addressee. However, this research also has similar finding with Mirza Lucky Aulia Alfa that is most dominant strategy is thanking somebody explicitly.

4. CONCLUSION

In this part, the researcher writes conclusion which related to the problem statement which has been discussed in chapter four of the research. The researcher investigates the expression of thanking by identifying and describing types and strategies of thanking expression in the Pursuit of Happyness movie. Based on the findings, the researcher found fifty two data with 8 types of thanking based on Hymes's theory. They are acknowledging a major favor, acknowledging a favor, assuring a person of one's future gratitude, dismissing a person's service, closing the conversation, accepting an offer, making the hearer feel good (phatic function), and accepting a proposal that conversation should end. From fifty data, most dominant type of thanking that used in The Pursuit of Happyness movie are type of closing the conversation. Then, six strategies of thanking based on Aijimer's theory which used in The Pursuit of Happyness movie. They are thanking somebody explicitly, expressing gratitude, expressing appreciation of the addressee, expressing appreciation of the act, stressing one's gratitude, and expressing emotion. From fifty one data, most dominant strategies of thanking that used in The Pursuit of Happyness movie are strategy of thanking somebody explicitly. Based on the result, it can be concluded that the types and strategies of thanking used by the

characters in the Pursuit of Happyness movie was quite varied. As the native speakers they have the ability to express thanking well.

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