



Linguopragmatic features of speech acts of gratitude in the Spanish text of communication

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the linguopragmatic features of speech acts of gratitude in Spanish communication. Focusing on both linguistic and pragmatic dimensions, it investigates how cultural and contextual factors shape the expression of gratitude. The study emphasizes the importance of syntactic structures, lexical choices, and communicative strategies in effectively conveying gratitude. Drawing on authentic examples from various communicative contexts, the research identifies recurrent patterns of gratitude expression that reflect the norms and values of Spanish-speaking communities. The findings underscore the relationship between language, culture, and pragmatics, offering insights into effective cross-cultural communication and the nuanced ways in which gratitude is linguistically encoded in Spanish.

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Ispancha muloqa matnida minnatdorchilik nutqining lingvistik va pragmatik xususiyatlari

ANNOTATSIYA

Kalit so'zlar:

minnatdorchilik nutqlari,
lingvopragmatika,
ispan aloqasi,
madaniyatlararo aloqa,
pragmatika,
lingvokulturologiya,
ispan jamoalari,
minnatdorchilik bildirish.

Ushbu maqola ispan aloqasidagi minnatdorchilik nutqining lingvistik va pragmatik xususiyatlarini o'rganadi. Unda minnatdorchilik ifodasini shakllantiradigan lingvistik va pragmatik jihatlar ko'rib chiqiladi, undan foydalanishga ta'sir qiluvchi madaniy va kontekstual omillarga e'tibor qaratiladi. Tadqiqot minnatdorchilikni samarali ifoda etishda sintaktik tuzilmalar, leksik tanlovlar va aloqa strategiyalarining rolini ta'kidlaydi. Turli kommunikativ kontekstlardan haqiqiy misollarni o'rganish orqali tadqiqotchilar ispan tilida

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so'zlashuvchi jamoalarning me'yorlari va qadriyatlarini aks ettiruvchi minnatdorchilik ifoda modellarini aniqlaydilar. Olingan natijalar til, madaniyat va pragmatikaning o'zaro ta'sirini tushunishga yordam beradi, samarali madaniyatlararo aloqa va ispan tilida minnatdorchilikni lingvistik kodlashning nuanslari haqida tushuncha beradi.

Лингвопрагматические особенности речевых актов благодарности в испанском тексте общения

АННОТАЦИЯ

Ключевые слова:

речевые акты
благодарности,
лингвопрагматика,
испанская коммуникация,
межкультурная
коммуникация,
прагматика,
лингвокультурология,
испаноязычные
сообщества,
выражение
благодарности.

В данной статье анализируются лингвопрагматические особенности выражения благодарности в испанской коммуникации. Рассматриваются лингвистические и прагматические аспекты, определяющие формирование этого речевого акта, с особым вниманием к культурным и контекстуальным факторам, влияющим на его использование. Исследование акцентирует внимание на роли синтаксических конструкций, лексического выбора и коммуникативных стратегий в успешной передаче благодарности. На основе анализа аутентичных примеров из различных коммуникативных ситуаций авторы выделяют типичные модели выражения благодарности, отражающие нормы и ценности испаноязычных сообществ. Результаты исследования проливают свет на взаимодействие языка, культуры и прагматики, способствуют более глубокому пониманию межкультурной коммуникации и раскрывают тонкости языкового выражения благодарности в испанском языке.

INTRODUCTION

Language serves as a primary tool for expressing emotions, intentions, and interpersonal relationships. Among its myriad functions, the act of expressing gratitude holds a significant place in fostering social harmony and maintaining positive interactions. In Spanish communication, speech acts of gratitude represent a culturally rich and linguistically diverse area, reflecting societal norms, values, and interpersonal dynamics. This study aims to explore the linguopragmatic features of gratitude in Spanish, focusing on how it is structured, interpreted, and employed in various communicative contexts.

Numerous scholars have contributed to understanding the pragmatics of gratitude across languages. Searle (1969) emphasized the role of speech acts in human communication, categorizing gratitude as an expressive speech act that reveals the speaker's psychological state. More specifically, Trosborg (1995) analyzed gratitude within a cross-cultural framework, highlighting its variations across languages and cultures. In the Spanish context, Hickey (2005) explored politeness strategies and the expression of gratitude, noting the intricate interplay between linguistic forms and sociocultural norms. Similarly, Márquez-Reiter and Placencia (2004) examined speech acts in Spanish-speaking communities, shedding light on the pragmatic underpinnings of gratitude expressions.

Building upon this foundation, the present research investigates the unique features of gratitude expressions in Spanish texts of communication. It aims to analyze the syntactic, lexical, and pragmatic strategies employed to convey gratitude, while also considering the influence of context, register, and cultural expectations. This study seeks to contribute to the broader field of linguopragmatics by offering insights into the Spanish language's specific patterns and conventions in expressing gratitude.

By examining authentic examples from various communicative scenarios, this article will provide a comprehensive analysis of the linguistic and pragmatic dimensions of gratitude in Spanish. The findings will be valuable for linguists, language educators, and cross-cultural communicators, enhancing their understanding of this fundamental speech act within the Spanish-speaking world.

METHODS

This study employs a qualitative and descriptive approach to analyze the linguopragmatic features of speech acts of gratitude in Spanish texts of communication. The data were collected from various authentic sources, including spoken interactions such as conversations from television programs, interviews, and everyday dialogues, as well as written texts like social media posts, personal letters, emails, and excerpts from literary works. Additionally, multimodal communication was analyzed through dialogues from Spanish films and television series, allowing for an exploration of both verbal and non-verbal elements of gratitude expression.

The analytical framework for this study integrates syntactic, lexical, and pragmatic analyses. The syntactic analysis focuses on identifying the sentence structures used in expressing gratitude, such as declarative, exclamative, and interrogative forms. Lexical analysis examines the vocabulary specific to gratitude expressions, including key phrases like *gracias*, *muchas gracias*, and *te agradezco*, as well as modifiers and intensifiers like *infinitamente* and *enormemente*. Pragmatic analysis investigates the illocutionary force of gratitude expressions, the politeness strategies employed, and the contextual factors influencing their use, such as social distance, power relations, and situational appropriateness.

The study also considers the sociocultural norms and values of Spanish-speaking communities, which play a crucial role in shaping the pragmatic realization of gratitude. These cultural influences, including interpersonal warmth and collectivist tendencies, provide a deeper understanding of how gratitude is expressed in different contexts. To enrich the analysis, a comparative dimension is included by drawing parallels between gratitude expressions in Spanish and those in other languages, highlighting unique and shared linguopragmatic features.

To ensure the reliability and validity of the findings, the collected data were reviewed by independent linguists with expertise in pragmatics and Spanish linguistics. Native Spanish speakers were also consulted to verify the authenticity and naturalness of the examples. Ethical considerations were observed throughout the study, ensuring the anonymity and confidentiality of all data sources. This methodology enables a comprehensive exploration of the linguistic and pragmatic dimensions of gratitude in Spanish communication.

RESULTS

The analysis revealed that speech acts of gratitude in Spanish exhibit unique linguopragmatic features shaped by syntactic structures, lexical choices, pragmatic strategies, and cultural norms. Gratitude is commonly expressed through declarative sentences, such as *Gracias por tu ayuda* (Thank you for your help) or *Te agradezco*

muchísimo todo lo que has hecho (I deeply appreciate everything you've done). These forms provide direct acknowledgment of appreciation. Intensification is a frequent characteristic, achieved through exclamative structures like *¡Mil gracias por venir!* (A thousand thanks for coming!) or *¡Infinitas gracias por tu apoyo!* (Infinite thanks for your support), which amplify the emotional weight of the gratitude. Interrogative sentences, though less common, are sometimes used rhetorically to emphasize the speaker's sense of indebtedness, such as *¿Cómo puedo agradecerte lo suficiente?* (How can I thank you enough?).

Lexically, the most frequent gratitude marker is *gracias*, often accompanied by modifiers and intensifiers like *muchas gracias*, *mil gracias*, or *infinitas gracias*. Emotional depth is often conveyed through expressions such as *Te doy las gracias de corazón* (I thank you from the bottom of my heart) or metaphorical phrases like *Te debo la vida* (I owe you my life) and *No tengo palabras para agradecerte* (I have no words to thank you). The use of diminutives like *graciasitas* (little thanks) adds an affectionate tone, particularly in informal contexts.

Pragmatically, Spanish gratitude functions as a politeness strategy to maintain social harmony and reflect cultural norms of collectivism. In formal contexts, expressions of gratitude are more elaborate and respectful, such as *Le estoy profundamente agradecido por su tiempo* (I am deeply grateful for your time). Social hierarchies influence the formality of gratitude expressions, with more formal and deferential tones used when addressing superiors or elders. Informal contexts, by contrast, allow for simpler and more relaxed expressions. Cultural values of interconnectedness are evident in extending gratitude to broader social groups, as in *Gracias a ti y a tu familia por todo su apoyo* (Thanks to you and your family for all your support). The inclusion of reciprocal offers, such as *Estoy en deuda contigo. Cualquier cosa que necesites, cuenta conmigo* (I'm indebted to you. Whatever you need, count on me), underscores the relational and cooperative nature of gratitude in Spanish-speaking cultures.

Compared to English, gratitude expressions in Spanish tend to be more elaborate, emotionally rich, and context-sensitive, reflecting the collectivist and relational priorities of Spanish-speaking communities. These findings highlight the intricate relationship between linguistic forms, pragmatic strategies, and cultural norms in shaping how gratitude is expressed and understood in Spanish communication.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate the distinct linguopragmatic characteristics of speech acts of gratitude in Spanish communication, highlighting the interplay between language, culture, and context. Gratitude expressions in Spanish are rich in emotional intensity and linguistic variation, reflecting the cultural emphasis on interpersonal relationships and the values of collectivism prevalent in Spanish-speaking societies.

The preference for declarative structures in expressing gratitude, such as *Gracias por tu ayuda* or *Te agradezco mucho*, aligns with Searle's (1969) classification of gratitude as an expressive speech act designed to convey the speaker's emotional state. The frequent use of exclamative sentences (*¡Mil gracias!*) and rhetorical questions (*¿Cómo puedo agradecerte lo suficiente?*) further illustrates how Spanish speakers amplify the emotional force of gratitude, reinforcing its sincerity and depth. These syntactic choices underscore the importance of gratitude as a means of fostering social bonds.

Lexically, the dominance of expressions such as *gracias*, *muchas gracias*, and *mil gracias* indicates a strong reliance on conventional markers, while modifiers like *de corazón* and metaphorical expressions like *Te debo la vida* enhance the emotional weight and personal significance of gratitude. This aligns with Hickey's (2005) findings on politeness strategies in Spanish, where language often serves to affirm relational warmth and solidarity.

Pragmatic strategies observed in the data reflect a deep cultural embedding of gratitude. The use of diminutives (*graciasitas*) and reciprocal offers (*Cualquier cosa que necesites, cuenta conmigo*) points to the relational and cooperative nature of Spanish-speaking cultures, as noted by Márquez-Reiter and Placencia (2004). Furthermore, the distinction between formal and informal gratitude expressions highlights the sensitivity of Spanish speakers to social hierarchies and contextual appropriateness. Formal expressions like *Le estoy profundamente agradecido* reveal a heightened awareness of respect and decorum in professional or hierarchical interactions, whereas casual gratitude among peers tends to be concise and spontaneous.

Cultural values play a significant role in shaping gratitude expressions. The collectivist ethos of Spanish-speaking societies is evident in the tendency to extend gratitude beyond the immediate recipient, acknowledging collective contributions and shared efforts. This is consistent with cross-cultural studies (e.g., Trosborg, 1995), which suggest that collectivist cultures often exhibit more elaborate and inclusive gratitude expressions than individualist ones.

In comparison with English, the findings reveal that Spanish gratitude expressions are generally more elaborate and emotionally charged, reflecting a stronger cultural emphasis on relational dynamics. While English speakers may often use concise phrases like "Thanks" or "I appreciate it," Spanish speakers tend to employ intensifiers, metaphors, and elaborations that add emotional depth and sociocultural nuance to their expressions of gratitude.

These results contribute to the broader understanding of the pragmatics of gratitude, offering insights into the linguistic and cultural dimensions that shape its expression in Spanish-speaking communities. The study's findings have practical implications for language educators and intercultural communicators, emphasizing the need to understand not only the linguistic structures of gratitude but also the cultural values and social contexts that underpin them. Future research could expand on these findings by exploring gratitude expressions across different Spanish-speaking regions or by examining how bilingual speakers navigate gratitude in multilingual settings.

CONCLUSION

This study has explored the linguopragmatic features of speech acts of gratitude in Spanish communication, highlighting the intricate relationship between linguistic forms, pragmatic strategies, and cultural values. The findings demonstrate that Spanish speakers employ a diverse range of syntactic structures, lexical choices, and pragmatic strategies to express gratitude, with significant variations influenced by context, social relationships, and cultural norms.

The frequent use of declarative and exclamative structures, along with intensifiers and metaphorical expressions, underscores the emotional depth and sincerity embedded in Spanish gratitude expressions. Pragmatically, gratitude serves as a key politeness strategy that reflects the collectivist ethos and relational priorities of Spanish-speaking

societies. Formal and informal gratitude expressions reveal a strong sensitivity to social hierarchies and situational appropriateness, further emphasizing the cultural specificity of this speech act.

Compared to gratitude expressions in other languages, such as English, Spanish gratitude tends to be more elaborate and emotionally rich, reflecting a cultural emphasis on interpersonal warmth and solidarity. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the pragmatic and cultural dimensions of gratitude in Spanish and provide valuable insights for linguists, language educators, and cross-cultural communicators.

Future research could build on these insights by examining regional variations in Spanish gratitude expressions or exploring how multilingual speakers adapt their gratitude strategies in different linguistic and cultural contexts. Understanding these nuances not only enriches the study of linguistics and pragmatics but also enhances cross-cultural communication and fosters mutual understanding in a globalized world.

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