A Contrastive Pragmatic Study on the Use of Thanking Expressions in English and Indonesian Movies

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Abstract

English as International language learnt by people around the world has become one subject in Indonesian curriculum. From year to years English curricula in Indonesia focuses on grammar and grammar translation, and miss on teaching pragmatic. Though Indonesian curriculum try to approach an active communicative English learning (Lie 2007), but the test given in Ujian Nasional (National Exam) from the primary school is about passive English learning like reading and listening. Therefore, Indonesian English curricula lacks of pragmatics skill when speaking in English. This caveat motivates this study to find a contrastive pragmatic between English and Indonesian language in expressing thanks. The study is conducted to compare authentic English and Indonesian strategies in expressing thanks and find the pragmatics function behind implicit thanking expression. The study is conducted to compare authentic English and Indonesian strategies in expressing thanks. The data of this study is taken from English and Indonesian movies. The data is transcribed, and analyzed using Eisenstein and Bodman (1983, 1993) and Aijmer (1996) thanking strategies in Intachakra (2004). The results show that thanking expression in English language is likely to use more admiration of the act strategy than Indonesian, and Indonesian use more expressing indebtedness strategy more than English. Furthermore, in the study, the data shows how Indonesian thanking strategy is not only expressed by words, but also by gesture.

Key words: contrastive pragmatics, thanking strategies, speech act.