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CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF LINGUISTIC STRATEGIES USED TO EXPRESS EXPLICIT, EMOTIONAL GRATITUDE IN MACEDONIAN AND ENGLISH

ABSTRACT: The lack of pragma-linquistic competence, i. e. the inadequate implementation of the forms and functions of speech acts in interactions among interlocutors with different cultural backgrounds and different native languages often leads to misunderstandings and difficulties in their communication. These issues emerge especially due to non-native speakers' unawareness that certain forms have more than one function. In this paper[1] we focus our attention on comparing the linguistic strategies used for expressing explicit, emotional gratitude in Macedonian and English, "fala" and "blagodaram" and "thanks" and "thank you" respectively, with regard to their usage in informal and formal speech and their functions as politeness and discourse markers.
Key words: politeness, gratitude, discourse markers.

1. INTRODUCTION

Expressing gratitude is a universal linquistic phenomenon which plays a vital role in maintaining equilibrium in human interactions and relations. Or as Eisenstein and Bodman (1986) put it:

"The language function of expressing gratitude is used frequently and openly in a wide range of interpersonal relationships: among intimates, friends, strangers, and with superiors and subordinates. When performed successfully, the language function of expressing gratitude can engender feelings of warmth and solidarity. Failure to express gratitude (or express it adequately) can have negative social consequences—sometimes resulting in severing the relationship of speaker and listener" (Eisenstein and Bodman 1986: 167).

However, the approach to realizing this speech act in different communities, among native speakers of distinct mother tongues inevitably varies. In this paper we would attempt to outline some basic similarities and differences in one segment of

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the speech act of expressing gratitude, i. e. the linguistic strategies used for expressing explicit, emotional gratitude[2] (SEEG) in Macedonian and English, "fala" and "blagodaram" and "thanks" and "thank you" respectively.

At the very outset of this analysis several monolingual (English) and bilingual (Macedonian–English and English–Macedonian) dictionaries[3] were consulted and the existence of a major parallel in these two languages with regard to SEEG was confirmed. Namely, alongside with the definitions of these linquistic forms it was stated that "fala" and "thanks" are used as informal variants, whereas "blagodaram" and "thank you" as their formal counterparts. Hence, one of the aims of this analysis would be to investigate whether the speakers of these two languages restrict the usage of the informal SEEG only to informal and the formal ones only to formal speech.

Apart from this distinction on the level of formality and its implications for SEEG's distribution in formal and informal speech, some light will be shed on SEEG's functions as politeness markers (PM) (e. g. responding to compliments, well-wishing, thanking for favours or services done etc.) and discourse markers (DM) organizers of discourse structure (e. g. interrupting somebody's speech, saying goodbye, signalling the beginning or the end of someone's speech or utterance etc.).

2. METHODOLOGY AND HYPOTHESES

As for the methodology, we opted for compiling our own corpus of linguistic data upon which we based this analysis of SEEG in the two languages. In that direction the most expedient way of gathering linguistic data in both languages was to exploit the TV as an easily accessible, extremely resourceful and versatile medium to supply us with conversations on various topics. The selected TV conversations included two or more interlocutors, normally one of whom was the host of the programme and the rest had the roles of guests. Some of the programmes also permitted the guests to pose questions, whereas some other programmes encouraged the viewers to take part in the conversations via their open phone lines.

In order to observe how SEEG are used by people with as versatile social backgrounds as possible, the conversations included participants who had different levels of education and different professions (politicians, pensioners, artists etc.).

Inspecting the usage of SEEG in both formal and informal speech required inclusion of TV conversations from two completely different types of TV programmes, i. e. conversations about politics and economics on the one hand, and entertaining and informative talk shows on the other hand. The reference section provides the list of pro-

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[2] The term "explicit, emotional strategies for expressing gratitude" is borrowed from Aijmer's (1996) classification of the strategies for expressing gratitude in general. Namely, apart from these strategies her classification includes three other major categories: implicit, emotional strategies; explicit, unemotional strategies and implicit, unemotional strategies.

[3] The list of the dictionaries that we consulted is provided in the references.

grams which were submitted to analysis. They were divided into the following categories: English political and economic conversations (EPEC); English entertainment and informative talk shows (EEITS); Macedonian political and economic conversations (MPEC) and Macedonian entertainment and informative talk show (MEITS).

The political and economic TV conversations encompassed debates, discussions on serious political and economic issues, where the usage of formal speech was practically unavoidable, since the speakers, who wanted primarily to impress the viewers with their profound knowledge and expertise in politics and economics, formulated their utterances very carefully, observing the rules of the standard language. The entertainment and informative talk shows, which normaly include usage of informal speech, i. e. everyday colloquial language were predominantly used by the participants with the main purpose to inform and entertain the viewers in a relaxed and comfortable manner.

On these grounds we analysed SEEG in 40 TV conversations in total (20 Macedonian and 20 English conversations). In both of the languages, 10 of the TV programmes were about politics and economics and the other 10 were entertaining and informative talk shows. The total duration of the TV conversations in both languages was limitted to 1350 minutes of conversation.

We based this comparative analysis of SEEG in Macedonian and English on two hypotheses:

1. The formal SEEG are used only in formal speech and the informal SEEG only in informal speech in both Macedonian and English;
2. In informal speech SEEG function predominantely as PM, whereas in formal speech as DM.
3. Analysis of the results

3.1 The distribution of SEEG in formal and informal speech

The first observation we could make based on the results, which are presented in Table1, is that the total number of expressions with SEEG used in the English conversations was far greater than in the Macedonian conversations. This result generally may imply that the English speakers use SEEG more frequently than the Macedonian speakers.

No. of ex. with SEEG	conversations about politics and economics	entertaining and informative talk shows	Total
Macedonian conversations	117	81	198
English conversations	187	70	257

Table 1. The number of expressions with SEEG
in both types of conversations in Macedonian and English

The overall number of SEEG in the English entertaining and informative talk shows was somewhat lower compared to the number of SEEG in the Macedonian conversations of the same type. However, this difference in the persentage in the talk shows without further and more elaborate research cannot be regarded as a solid proof that in informal speech Macedonian speakers use SEEG more frequently than English speakers.

distribution of SEEG	conversations about politics and economics		entertaining and informative talk shows	
	formal SEEG	informal SEEG	formal SEEG	informal SEEG
Macedonian conversations	100%	0%	65%	35%
English conversation	58%	42%	73%	27%

Table 2. The distribution of formal and informal SEEG in Macedonian and English formal and informal discourse

With regard to our first hypothesis, which referred to the distribution of the formal and informal SEEG in formal and informal speech, it was easily discernible that unlike the Macedonian informal "fala" which was limited only to informal speech, the formal "blagodaram" and "thank you" were not limited just to formal speech and the informal "thanks" was also not constrained just to informal speech (see Table 2).

If we monitor the results of the analysis from another perspective it becomes evident that the formal SEEG were predominantly used in both formal and informal types of conversations in both languages. Perhaps this indicates that most participants in TV conversations chose the formal mode of expressing gratitude because they were on TV and wanted to put their best accent. Thus except for the English hosts and their preference for the informal "thanks",[4] the Macedonian hosts and the rest of the participants both in the English and Macedonian TV conversations almost unvariably applied the formal SEEG, "blagodaram" and "thank you".

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[4]   Surprisingly, in the English conversations, the hosts, in general, were more inclined towards using the informal "thanks" even in the serious and formal conversations about politics and economics. It is our conjecture that this was due to their efforts to defuse their guests' feelings of uneasiness and discomfort by reducing the social "distance" between them and lowering the level of formality. Another possible explanation would be that the hosts were on "familiar grounds" (their programme) and they felt comfortable enough, or even somewhat superior in comparison with the rest of the participants and they took the liberty to assume an informal stand when thanking their interlocutors.

3.2 The functions of SEEG as DM and PM

Aijmer (1996) was one of the first linguists who observed that SEEG can function as both PM and DM. When SEEG are used as PM, the person expressing gratitude wants to manifestly admit that he feels indebted and he wants to reciprocate his interlocutor by being polite and by stating the fact that he feels grateful. However, due to the process of pragmaticalization these forms have acquired other functions as well, which secures their position in the group of the so-called discourse markers (DM) which are words and phrases that help develop ideas and relate them to one another (Schiffrin 1987).

The second hypothesis set in this paper was that SEEG in formal discourse (here presented by conversations on politics and economics) would function mainly as DM organisers of discourse and in informal discourse (here presented by the entertaining, informative talk shows) as PM.

However, as it is presented in Figure 1, in the conversations about politics and economics, SEEG in both languages were predominantely used as DM and only slightly as PM, whereas in the entertaining and informative talk shows in both Macedonian and English, SEEG were almost equally used as PM and DM. Hence, it can be deduced that the formality of the speech applied in the conversations has its own bearing on SEEG's functions, i. e. in formal discourse SEEG are more likely to be used as DM organisers of discourse structure and in informal discourse they could equally function as PM and DM.
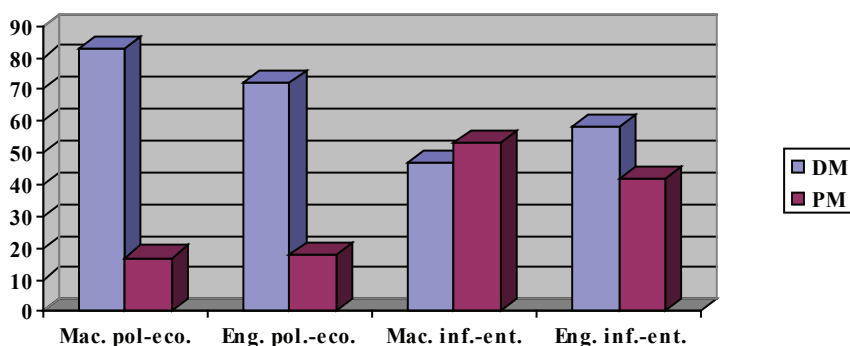

Figure 1. SEEG as PM and DM in Macedonian and English formal and informal discourse

Furthermore, the analysis of the functions of various expressions with SEEG was based on the previous contributions made by Jung (1994) and Aijmer (1996). According to Jung (1994) apart from the basic function – appreciating benefit, SEEG also have the function of conversational opening, changing, stopping and closing;

then the function of leave-taking and positive answer and finally the function of emotional dissatisfaction and discomfort. Ajmer (1996) claims that SEEG are used to signal the beginning or the end of someone's speech; to change the topic, to interrupt the interlocutor or to completely shut him off the conversation, to express sarcasm, irony etc.

What follows is sections of examples and explanations of SEEG's different functions detected in the linguistic corpus in both Macedonian and English.

3.2.1 SEEG as DM organizers of discourse

In general, the identified functions of SEEG as DM organisers of discourse structure were more or less present in both languages and they could signal:

- the beginning/ end of the speaker's utterance or speech;
- the beginning of the speaker's conversation with his/ her interlocutor;
- the end of the conversation or one part of the conversation and the beginning of another part of the conversation (usually with another interlocutor);
- the beginning/ end of the programme;
- interruption;
- leave-taking and
- ironic thanking.

No. of SEEG	BOBOU/S	EEOU/S	BBOC	EEOC	BBOP	EEOP	interruption	leave-taking	ironic thanking
fala/ blagodaram	12	9	/	72	/	12	27	5	1
thanks/ thank you	18	23	21	72	16	27	16	2	2

Table 3. SEEG as DM organizers of discourse (BOU/S – the beginning of the utterance/ speech; EOU/S – the end of the utterance/ speech; BOC – the beginning of the conversation; EOC – the end of the conversation; BOP – the beginning of the programme; EOP – the end of the programme)

However, the range of the Macedonian SEEG's functions was slightly more limited than the range of the English SEEG since in the Macedonian conversations there were no examples of expressions with SEEG to signal the beginning of the programme and the beginning of the speaker's conversation with his/ her interlocutor.

The most frequently used function of SEEG as DM in both Macedonian and English, was to signal the end of the conversation or one part of the conversation and the beginning of another part of the conversation (usually with another interlocutor).

Whenever SEEG were used to signal the beginning of the speaker's speech or utterance, the speakers by uttering SEEG at the very beginning of his/ her utterace put emphasis on the fact that from that moment on he/ she held the right to the "floor" and that the other participants in the conversation should not interrupt him/ her. This was the case especially with debates and discussions where the host timed the participants' comments to ensure that they all get equal opportunities to express their opinions.

(1) Гостин во публика: ... Ме интересира вашиот став, дали може ...?
> (A guest in the audience: I am interested in your stance, is it possible ...?)
> Г: **Ви благодарам**. Како прво ние...
> (G: **Thank you**. First of all we...)(MPEC1)

(2) H: The next question is for President Bush, and it comes from Nikki Washington.
> G: **Thank you.** Mr. President, my mother and sister traveled abroad this summer …(EPEC2)

SEEG as DM signalling the end of one's speech or utterance were present in situations when the speaker believed that he/ she has already concluded expressing his/ her opinion and had no further commments to add, so his/ her next logical move would be to relinguish the right to speak to someone else.

(3) Г: ...И второ сакам г-нот Ставров да каже нешто за поголемата концентрација на аромати во нафтените деривати. Дали имало или немало во рафинеријата Окта? **Благодарам.**
> (G: ... And secondly I would like to hear from Mr Stavrov something more about the increased concentration of aromas in the oil derivatives. Was that the case with the OKTA refinery or not? **Thank you**.)(MPEC2)

(4) G: Each situation is different, Robin. ..(comment). And my opponent's plans lead me to conclude that thay would still be in power, and the world would be more dangerous. **Thank you.** (EPEC2)

Using SEEG to signal the end of the conversation or the end of one part of the conversation and the beginning of another part of the conversation usually with a new interlocutor was especially common for the hosts of the shows. In those situations the interlocutors (the guests) were expected to interpret the host's act of expressing gratitude as a signal that their conversation is completed and that she/ he should not make any additional comments which will prolong their conversation.

(5) Г:... Албанците нити Македонците не го гласаа него.
> (G: The Albanian and the Macedonian people did not vote for him.)
> В: **Благодарам**. Маја повели.

(H: **Thank you**. Maja go ahead.)(MPEC6)

(6)   G:... I know some of you want to go much further, and we are willing to do this joint journey, and I hope that the discussion today can help in this direction. Thank you.

H: **Thanks very much, Mr. Holzmann.** The next speaker is David Smith. ... (MPEC4)

In the English programmes the hosts were signalling the beginning of the conversation with their interlocutors by thanking the guests at the beginning of their conversation for their presence and taking part in the programme, but this was typical only for the English hosts. The Macedonian hosts found it more appropriate to thank their guests at the very end of their conversation.

(7)   H: ... Prime Minister, welcome to "Late Edition." **Thanks very much for joining us**. Before we talk about the Israeli-Palestinian peace process . .. (EPEC5)

SEEG very frequently were used to signal the beginning and the end of the programme itself. In the Macedonian programmes (unlike the English ones) there were no examples found of SEEG used to announce the beginning of the program. In fact, the Macedonian hosts only used SEEG to signal the end of the programme.

H: It's 11:00 here in Washington, 8:00 a.m. in Los Angeles, and 9:00 p.m. in Islamabad. **Wherever you're watching from around the world, thanks very much for joining us for "Late Edition".** (EPEC5)

(8)   B: Тука некаде е крајот на денешното издание на Економски клуб. *Благодарам што бевте со нас и пријатна вечер.*

(H: This is the point when we should conclude today's edition of the Economic Club. **Thank you for joining us and have a pleasant evening)** (EPEC8)

(9)   H: And that's your LATE EDITION for Sunday, October 8. Be sure to join us next Sunday and every Sunday at noon eastern for the last word in Sunday talk. … **For now, thanks very much for watching.** Enjoy the rest of your weekend. (EPEC8)

The hosts of the programmes used SEEG to signal interruption since they had to observe the time constraints of the programme or the nature of the conversation itself (eg. a political debate where each participant is allocated the same amount of time to express his/ her views.)

(10) Г: ... имаме дупки, кучиња, неосветлени улици...

(G: ... there are holes, dogs, no street lights...)

B: **Благодарам.** Благодарам. Ѓунер Исмаил продолжете.

(H: **Thank you**. Thank you. Gjuner Ismail go on.) (MPEC6)

(11) G: (comment) ...this means that…

H: You're out of time. **Thank you, Senator.** (EPEC1)

Also when the conversations were at its end, and no announcement for another interlocutor or another topic of discussion followed, SEEG were intended to be interpreted as leave-taking signals.

(12) В: И им посакувам сè најдобро на моите денешни учесници во пирамида бр. 4. **Благодарам.**

> (H: I wish all the best to all of today's participants in Pyramid no 4. **Thank you**.) (MPEC3)

(13) H: You're out of time. Thank you, Senator. You're going to go off this way. Thanks. **Thank you.**

> G: **Thank you.** (EPEC1)

In the conversations about politics and economics there were no examples of SEEG used as signals of dissatisfaction and discomfort, i. e. ironic thanking, whereas there were several such examples of SEEG in the talk shows.

(14) В: (кон музичката група во студиото која дискутира нешто и прави доста врева): Дечки благодарам. Емисија имаме во живо.

> (The host addresses the band in the studio since they discuss something out loud and make a lot of noise): Guys**, thank you.** This is a live show. (MEITS8)

(15) H: All right. Now wait a second. The only way we're going to get anything out--the only way that we want...

> G1: My husband's white, **thank you**.

> G2: Little do you know. (EEITS4)

To sum up, in all of the examples shown above, it is evident that the speakers in both languages were not using SEEG in order to express appreciation and gratitude because they felt indebted to their interlocutors for their services or favours. Actually, they were used as organisers of the discourse structure and their main purpose was to alleviate the communication among the participants in the conversation. More precisely, they were utilized by the speaker to familiarise his/ her interlocutor with his/ her communicative intentions, i. e. whether he/ she is beginning/ finishing his/ her statement, their conversation or the programme itself. The interlocutor on his/ her part was expected to interpret these signals properly and to act accordingly.

3.2.2   SEEG as PM

Despite our expectations that SEEG won't be used as PM in the TV conversations, some of the SEEG in the analysed TV conversations performed their basic function – expressing gratitude, i. e. politeness. However, SEEG in the TV conversations were mainly used to express phatic thanking which means mechanical, automatic thanking which does not involve sincere feelings and which is opposite of emphatic (honest/ sincere) thanking when the speaker feels particularly indebted to

his interlocutor for some major favours and services done for him/ her (Tsurikova 2004: 149).

The usage of SEEG for phatic thanking is in line with Watts' claim that:

"SEEG are formulaic, ritualised utterances which in the flow of the conversation are not perceived as overt expressions of politeness, even though they all make supportive contributions towards the facework being negotiated among the participants and thus contribute towards the politic behaviour of the interaction. On the other hand, if they are missing, they tend to lead to an evaluation of a participant's behaviour as 'impolite', 'brash', 'inconsiderate', 'abrupt', 'rude' etc. (Watts 2003: 169)."

total No. of SEEG	CGW	RC	RG	RBW	RI	RT	RQ
blagodaram/ fala	11	14	16	/	/	20	9
thanks/ thank you	9	15	1	4	7	26	4

Table 4. SEEG as PM (CGW – Congratulations and good wishes; RC – responses to compliments; RG – responses to greetings; RWW – responses to bidding welcome; RI – responses to introduction; RT – responses to thanking; RQ – response to the question 'How are you?')

We detected the following functions of SEEG when used as PM in the analyzed TV conversations:

1. Responses to congratulations and good wishes;
(16) В: Повелете на својата позиција. Со среќа.
 (H: You can take your position. Good luck.)
Г: **Благодарам.**
(G: **Thank you**.) (MEITS8)
(17) H: Happy birthday Larry.
G: **Thank you.** (EEITS6)

2. Responses to compliments;
(18) H: Thank you, Major Jeff Davis of the Marine Corps Air Station, based in Miramar. You're a hell of a soldier.
C: **Thank you**. (EPEC3)

3. Responses to greetings;
(19) Г: Ало, добар ден. Поздрав до емисијата и до министерот.
(C: Hello, Good day. Greetings to the programme and to the Minister.)
В: **Благодариме**.

(H: **Thank you**.)(MPEC9)
(20) H: We are going to exit off this way. (applause from the audience) **Thank you**. Pleasure. (EPEC1)

4. Responses to bidding welcome;
(21) H: ...The former senator, John Edwards, is joining us now from Los Angeles. Senator, welcome back to "Late Edition."
G: **Thank you**. Good morning, Wolf. (EPEC1)

5. Responses to introductions;
(22) H: … First, though, it's my pleasure to introduce Senator Barack Obama.
G: **Thank you**. (EPEC1)

6. Responses to thanking;
(23)   В: Господине Џафери, Ви благодарам што бевте љубезни и дојдовте во Скопје.
(H: Mr Jhaferi, thank you for being so kind as to come to Skopje.)
Г: Благодарам за поканата и со задоволство би ја прифатил поканата да бидам гостин повторно.
(G: **Thank you for the invitation and I would gladly accept an invitation to be your guest again**.) (MPEC8)
 (25) H: Thank you so much.
G: **Thank you. Thank you very much**. (EEITS2)

7. Responses to the question "How are you doing?"
(26) G: How are you?
H: I am fine, **thank you**.(EEITS2)

In the TV conversations when SEEG were used as PM they were most frequently used as responses to thanking (at the beginning or the end of the conversation in English and at the end of the conversation in Macedonian). SEEG were also used by the hosts as responses to thanking in situations when the guests signalled the end of their utterance/ speech by using SEEG.

In the Macedonian programmes, SEEG were not used as responses to bidding welcome since in Macedonian the corresponding phrase used as a response is "Dobre Ve najdov" which basically means "It's good that I found you well". Also in Macedonian there were no instances of SEEG used as responses to introductions since the Macedonian guests nodded their heads when they thanked their hosts for their introduction.

As it was uncommon for English speakers to address each other by directing explicit greeting expressions in the English conversations SEEG weren't used as responses to greetings.

6. CONCLUSION

To sum up, the contrastive analysis of SEEG in Macedonian and English proved that there are a number of similarities which can make the communication among speakers of these two languages a lot easier, but also there are some differences which if overlooked could lead to serious misunderstandings.

The benefit of this research and the results obtained are primarily directed towards language teachers and coursebook planners who should include in their work more detailed explanations and presentations of the speech act of thanking, especially the strategies used for expressing explicit and emotional gratitude. They should raise the awareness of language learners of both Macedonian and English that the formal as well as the informal variants of SEEG in both languages can be used in different contexts and can perform more than one single function. Namely, they could express phatic and emphatic gratitude in different contexts (compliments, favours, services, well-wishing, bidding welcome etc.) which is directly linked to the process of expressing linguistic politeness. SEEG could also be used as DM organizers of discourse structure and they can have various functions in that respect such as: signaling the beginning or the end of a conversation, the beginning or the end of somebody's utterance or speech; interrupting the interlocutor, leave-taking, ironic thanking etc.

Finally, paying attention to SEEG's various functions would certainly lead to better understanding among English and Macedonian speakers when they use these strategies, irrespective of whether their communication is being conducted in Macedonian or English.

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MEITS2 "Po polnok so Suze i Aleksandar", A1 Televizija, 24. 11. 2007.
MEITS3 "Dzvon", MTV1, 06. 12. 2007.
MEITS4 "Bliski sredbi", Tera, 06. 12. 2007.
MEITS5 "Top Shou", A1 Televizija, 26. 11. 2007.
MEITS6 "Iselenichki dzuboks", MTV1, 23. 12. 2007.

MEITS7 "Nikoj da ne znae", Kanal 5, 27. 12. 2007.
MEITS8 "Aj da te vidam", Sitel Televizija, 10. 01. 2008
MEITS9 "PULS", Alfa TV, 08. 01. 2008.
MEITS10 "Opushteno", A1Televizija, 09. 12. 2007.

MPEC1 "Glasot na narodot", MTV1, 30. 09. 2007.
MPEC2 "Nasha Zemja", Sitel Televizija, 09. 12. 2007.
MPEC3 "Paramida", MTV1, 09. 12. 2007.
MPEC4 "Farmer", A1 Televizija, 09. 09. 2007.
MPEC5 "Chumu", A1 Televizija, 12. 09. 2007.
MPEC6 "Piramida", MTV1, 24. 12. 2007.
MPEC7 "Bumbar", Sitel Televizija, 17. 01. 2008.
MPEC8 "Ekonomski Klub", Alsat Televizija, 17. 01. 2008
MPEC9 "Farmer", A1Televizija, 20. 01. 2008.
MPEC10 "Bumbar", Sitel Televizija, 08. 01. 2008.

EPEC1 CNN THE SITUATION ROOM Special Edition: Sojourners Presidential Fo-
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EPEC2 CNN The Second Bush-Kerry Presidential Debate, October 8, 2004.
EPEC3 CNN LARRY KING LIVE Southern California Burns , October 23, 2007.
EPEC4 "A Role for Labor Standards in the New International Economy?" Seminar
    and Panel Discussion 2:40 p.m., Wednesday, September 29, 1999 Hampton
    Room, Omni-Shoreham Hotel Washington, D. C.
(http://www.imf.org/external/np/tr/1999/tr990929.htm)
EPEC5 CNN LATE EDITION WITH WOLF BLITZER Interview With Tony Blair;
    Interview with Senators Dodd, McCain, November 4, 2007.
EPEC6 CNN LARRY KING LIVE Interview with Al Gore, May 22, 2007
EPEC7 Panel Discussion on Macroeconomic Policies and Poverty Reduction Friday,
    April 13, 2001, 3:30 p. m. IMF Auditorium
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ANALYSE CONTRASTIVE DES STRATÉGIES LINGUISTIQUES
UTILISÉES POUR EXPRIMER UNE GRATITUDE EXPLICITE
ET ÉMOTIONNELLE EN MACÉDONIEN ET EN ANGLAIS

Résumé

Cet article aborde les stratégies formelles et informelles pour exprimer la gratitude explicite et émotionnelle (SGEE) en macédonien et en anglais, en se concentrant sur leur distribution dans le discours formel et informel, ainsi que sur leur fonctions en tant que marqueurs discursifs et de politesse. La comparaison est particulièrement intéressante étant donné que les deux langues possèdent une stratégie formelle (*blagodaram* en macédonien et *thank you* en anglais) et une stratégie informelle (*fala* en macédonien et *thanks* en anglais). L'analyse est fondée sur un corpus de données linguistiques extraites de deux types de conversations de télévision: des conversations sur la politique et sur l'économie et des talk-shows divertissants et informatifs, qui représentent le discours formel et informel respectivement. En premier lieu, concernant leur distribution, il a été noté que seul l'utilisation de *fala* informel macédonien était limitée au discours informel, tandis que le formel *blagodaram* et *thank you* et l'informel *thanks* peuvent être utilisés à la fois dans le discours formel et informel. En ce qui concerne les fonctions de la SGEE en tant que marqueurs discursifs, organisateurs de la structure du discours, il a été confirmé qu'elles pouvaient signaler: le début/la fin de l'énonciation ou du discours du locuteur; le début/la fin de la conversation ou d'une partie de la conversation et le début d'une autre partie de la conversation (généralement avec un autre interlocuteur); le début/la fin du programme; l'interruption; la prise de congé et le remerciement ironique. En outre, lorsque les SGEE fonctionnent comme des marqueurs de politesse, elles sont utilisées en tant que réponses aux: félicitations et voeux; compliments; salutations; souhaits de bienvenue; introductions; remerciements et la question "Comment allez-vous/vas-tu?" Enfin, quoique l'analyse contrastive ait prouvé l'existence d'un certain nombre de similitudes qui facilitent la communication entre les locuteurs de ces deux langues, il y a cependant quelques différences dont la négligence pourrait mener à des malentendus sérieux.

Mots-clés: politesse, gratitude, marqueurs discursifs.