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**THE DISCOURSE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FROM A CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE
(AN ENGLISH-UKRAINIAN ACADEMIC CONTEXT)**

Статус английского языка как академического *lingua franca* способствует росту международного общения и сотрудничества.

Цель данной статьи проанализировать и предоставить лингвистические и прагматические особенности выражения благодарности как неотъемлемого элемента академического жанра. Формат выражения благодарности в научных публикациях рассматривается как академический микрожанр и как тип письменного текста. Особенности выражения благодарности/acknowledgements анализировались и сравнивались в межкультурном аспекте, соответственно в англоязычном и украинском контекстах.

Материалом исследования послужили многочисленные англоязычные и украинские книги и пособия в области лингвистики, педагогики, методики преподавания английского языка, а также бизнеса и менеджмента. Проанализирована и описана типичная структура дискурса благодарности.

В результате исследования сделан вывод о том, что формат благодарности является факультативным в украинских научных публикациях в отличие от англоязычных изданий, что свидетельствует о различных культурных академических традициях.

Nowadays, English has become the language of international academic communication. The status of English as an academic *lingua franca* promotes the growth of international communication and cooperation between academics on a global scale.

The **goal** of this paper is to analyze and present linguistic and pragmatic features of an *Acknowledgements* section, i.e. the expression of gratitude, as an integral element of academic genre. The **novelty** of the research done is predetermined by its cross-cultural approach. The features of acknowledgements writing have been compared across English and Ukrainian academic traditions. A wide range of books in various fields of knowledge (Linguistics, Pedagogics, Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Business, Management etc) has become the object of a detailed empirical research. The objectives of the research were to set out the essential generic elements of the Acknowledgements section together with their linguistic features as well as to analyze how the key parts are typically organized and structured.

Since the Acknowledgements section is considered an integral element of academic genre [13] the theory of genre has been employed as a theoretical basis for analysis and argumentation. Genre is an event of communication aimed at achieving certain communicative purposes and serves as a means of accomplishing such purposes [11, 12]. Genres may be treated as a textual realization of discourse. The definition of genre as a type of a written or oral text with a recognizable set of relatively stable features [13, p.24] is relevant for the research carried out and the outcomes achieved.

In this paper, the Acknowledgements section is considered a micro-academic genre and a type of a written text.

Essential Features of the English Acknowledgements section

The purpose of the Acknowledgements section is to thank people. The production of knowledge involves a large number of individuals and institutions. Different people give their labor (intellectual or manual) to every aspect of scholarly and scientific work. The input of those who have contributed substantially should be acknowledged, Author/s should include acknowledgements to donors, funding agencies, research award committees and all those who have made financial contributions to the project.

Acknowledgements, i.e. the expression of gratitude to colleagues, sponsors, supervisors etc, have become a standard constituent of English academic research publications and books. In case of books, they are usually placed at the beginning, after Preface, before Table of Contents and the main text. Yakhontova [13, p.93] singles out the following most widespread elements of acknowledgements:

- thanks to colleagues
- thanks to editors and reviewers
- financial support (grants, sponsors etc)
- sources of the materials used (copyrighted or manuscript materials, transcripts etc)
- disclaimers

Most Acknowledgements have a similar general structure. The introductory sentence normally mentions work done by others (individuals, departments, sources etc).

The register of Acknowledgements combines formal and informal features. Thus, the first person pronoun *I* is used for a single author and *we* for co-authors. Besides colleagues, reviewers and office staff Acknowledgements may address the author's parents, grandparents and siblings. The following informal sentence has been come across in Acknowledgements in Gertrude Moscovitz's book «Caring and Sharing in the Foreign Language Class»: *A big bouquet should go to ... for the sketch of the cover and to ... for the layout of the cover design* [8, p.v].

The paradigm of lexical means expressing gratitude is really broad though rather standard and predetermined by its pragmatic purpose. It includes **verbs**: *I thank to*; the edition *owed* much to; *contributed* greatly to; *share* their expertise; *to facilitate*; **past participle**: *I am indebted* to;

nouns: *gratitude*; *thanks*; *help*; *encouragement*; *patience* and *support*, intellectual *stimulation* and other forms of *assistance*; *improvements*.

adjectives: *grateful*; *valuable*; *helpful*; *sincere*; *generous* (with their time and knowledge), *invaluable*.

All the above lexical means are positively marked. In numerous examples their positive effect is enhanced by intensifiers: *especially*, *very*, *a very specially*, *greatly*, *much*. The negative effect of the denotative meaning of the word combination *critical remarks* is usually lessened, softened by the positive connotative meaning of the adjective *valuable*.

The volume of the Acknowledgements section is arbitrary. It may range from one paragraph to one page and a half.

The concluding sentence normally contains a disclaimer in different wording, e.g.:

The responsibility for any shortcoming rests with me alone.

None of the sponsoring organizations is responsible for the views expressed.

A Comparative Cross-cultural Analysis of the Acknowledgement Format

Research has demonstrated that there exist cultural differences in the Acknowledgements section. First of all, it is *optional* in Ukrainian academic genre unlike English one. Most Ukrainian research publications do not include it as an integral element. It is limited to indicating reviewers' names and affiliations, e.g. С. А. Карпільовська «Суфіксальна підсистема сучасної української мови: Будова та реалізація»[2]; Бачевич Ф. С. «Основи комунікативної лінгвістики» [1]; Н. М. Петренко «Вступ до перекладознавства» [3]; О. Rebryi «Dictum Factum Translation Course. Interpreter/s Shorthand» [9] etc.

Words of gratitude may conclude Preface. A very concise paragraph (three lines) in «Словник паронімів української мови» Д. Г. Гринчишина та О. А. Сербенської [4] may serve an example:

«Автори висловлюють глибоку подяку працівникам Інституту мовознавства ім. О. О. Потебні за доброзичливу допомогу і цінні критичні зауваження, а також можливість користуватися матеріалами картотеки» [4, с. 6]. The positively marked lexical means of the analyzed Ukrainian text is similar to those of the above English samples: *глибока подяка; доброзичлива допомога; цінні критичні зауваження.*

A different trend can be traced when analyzing books and manuals written by Ukrainian authors in English and published in Ukraine. As a rule, they include an Acknowledgement section. It confirms the statement made by Scollon, an expert in intercultural communication, that «many aspects of western culture, especially western patterns of discourse, are carried within English» [10, p. 4]. The Acknowledgements section in Ukrainian scholarly publications reflects the cross-cultural awareness of Ukrainian authors and their sense of belonging to the international academic community. The examples of such publications may be a collective manual by Miriam G. E., Daineko V.V. et al. «Basic Translation. Основи перекладу» [7].

Gratitude to the reviewers, consultants and sponsors has been expressed by the author of the book «English Academic Writing» Yakhontova T.V. [13] in Preface (Передмова).^{*} Typical lexical means have been used: *глибоко вдячна за уважне ознайомлення; цінні критичні зауваження; за поради та допомогу; посібник підготовлено за сприяння Відділу з питань освіти і культури Держдепартаменту США.....*

A different format of acknowledgements is typical of books and manuals written in English and published in the framework of international projects. The manual for university students «Getting on in English» [6] – a joint effort of the cooperation between Lviv State Polytechnic University, Department of Foreign Languages and Coventry University, School of International Studies & Law- has been produced with support of the European Union under Tempus-Tacis Joint European Project. The Introduction section, Contents and the main text are preceded by acknowledgements to the funding sources and the administration of the Universities involved both in English and Ukrainian:

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A very rare example of using subheadings *ПОДЯКА* and *ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS* may be found in «Dictum Factum Translation Course. Law» edited by L.Chernovaty and V. Karaban [5]. A one-paragraph text (in Ukrainian and English) includes the above mentioned essential elements of expressing gratitude: thanks to colleagues and reviewers (за допомогу і поради у створенні посібника), funding sources (*Асоціація юристів штату Огайо та Фонду юристів штату Огайо за надання дозволу використання їх видання, Асоціація міст-побратимів Цинцинаті-Харкіс*). The English *Acknowledgements* includes a disclaimer: *Needless to say, all errors of fact and judgment are our own* while it is omitted in the corresponding Ukrainian pattern.

Some post-graduate students at the Department of Applied Linguistics of Lviv National Polytechnic University were rather embarrassed and ill at ease when suggested that their supervisors and consultants should be mentioned and thanked at the end of their scholarly papers. The post-graduate students considered it inappropriate, very personal, informal and, thus, non-academic.

But the pragmatic purpose of Acknowledgements typically organized and structured is academically predetermined. This is not merely a matter of courtesy and gratitude. It is part of the process of declaring interests, providing information that the reader requires in order to evaluate potential bias of research. This is part of international academic culture and demonstration of belonging to a certain academic community.

Ukrainian authors writing both in English and Ukrainian should include the *Acknowledgements* or *Подяка* section in their publications since the latter would have not been possible without the contribution and help of other people.

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Примечания

^{*}The author of the presented paper is one of the reviewers of this book.