



# LINGUOCULTURAL SPECIFICITY OF THE ACT OF GRATITUDE IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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## ANNOTATION

The article is devoted to the study of gratitude as an act of speech, which is an important element of interpersonal communication. The article deals with the linguistic peculiarities of expressing gratitude in different cultures, as well as its social and regulatory functions. The author analyses the role of gratitude in maintaining social ties, its importance for the formation of politeness and respect in society, as well as the influence of cultural traditions on the ways of its expression. The paper shows how gratitude can take different forms depending on the context (formal or informal) and cultural norms, which emphasizes the importance of understanding it for effective intercultural communication. The paper is intended for researchers studying speech culture and intercultural communication, as well as for a general audience interested in politeness and social norms.

**KEY WORDS:** Gratitude, Speech Act, Appreciation, Social Bonds, Social Function, Regulatory Function, Linguistic Nature, Politeness, Cultural Differences, Formal And Informal Expressions

## INTRODUCTION

Gratitude is one of the universal forms of social interaction manifested in different cultures and languages. The question of linguocultural specificity of the act of gratitude in different languages provides an opportunity to understand how a certain culture perceives and expresses feelings of gratitude. In this regard, it is interesting to compare the acts of gratitude in English and Uzbek languages, because despite the common purpose of expressing gratitude, their forms and ways of expression may differ significantly.

The act of gratitude is a universal expression of appreciation, but its expression may vary considerably from culture to culture. It plays an important role in human relationships, strengthening the bonds between people and creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. The act of gratitude can be expressed through different gestures, words or actions in different cultures, reflecting unique cultural traditions and values.

## METHODS

The act of gratitude fulfils several key functions in communication. The first and most obvious is the expression of gratitude. When a person expresses gratitude, he or she is communicating to the other person his or her respect and appreciation for the help or favour provided. For example, the phrase 'thank you for your help' or 'thank you for your support' not only shows personal appreciation, but also helps to strengthen positive relationships.

In addition, gratitude in speech fulfils a social function. There is a certain code of politeness in society, and expressing gratitude is an important part of it. A polite and grateful attitude helps to maintain harmony in social interactions and avoid conflict situations. For example, in a business context, expressing gratitude for co-operation or assistance to

colleagues helps to create a positive image and strengthen trusting relationships in the team.

Gratitude can also fulfil a regulatory function. It can signal the end of a service or act of assistance and indicate the completion of an interaction, for example, when a person says 'thank you' after performing an action as a sign of completion and satisfaction.

## RESULTS

In English, the act of gratitude is expressed through various phrases such as "Thank you", "I appreciate it", "Many thanks" and others. These expressions can be used in a variety of contexts ranging from formal to everyday situations. English-speaking societies tend to favour short, straightforward expressions of gratitude. The phrase "Thank you" is universal and is used in both formal and informal conversations. In more formal settings, qualifiers such as "I appreciate your help", "I am grateful for your support" are added to emphasize the depth of gratitude.

An important aspect of English culture is that gratitude is often perceived as a social duty and its expression is not always associated with strong emotions. For example, the British often use gratitude in situations where it is not necessarily related to actual thanks, but rather a polite gesture. This can be observed in phrases such as "Cheers" (meaning 'thank you'), which are used in everyday speech even if the situation does not imply deep emotional ties.

In Uzbek, gratitude also plays an important role in social interactions, but unlike in English, expressions of gratitude are often accompanied by more vivid emotional connotations. One of the most common expressions of gratitude is "Rahmat" (from Arabic "rahmat" - favour), which can be used in a variety of contexts, from simple gestures of politeness to expressions of deep respect and appreciation. In response to 'rahmat', one



often says “salomat bo’ling”. which indicates a more cordial nature of communication.

SITUATION	DESCRIPTION
<b>For help received</b>	When someone assists you in solving a problem, completing a task, or provides physical help.
<b>For gifts</b>	When someone gives you a present, whether it's for a special occasion or just as a kind gesture.
<b>For compliments or kind words</b>	When someone gives you a compliment or expresses kind words about you or your achievements.
<b>For attention and care</b>	When someone shows interest in your well-being or offers emotional or practical support.
<b>For politeness or small gestures</b>	When someone does something polite, like holding a door open or offering help in a small way.
<b>After a successful event or project</b>	When someone helps you organize or contributes to the success of an event, project, or goal.
<b>For friendship or personal relations</b>	When expressing gratitude for long-term friendship, support, or personal relationships.
<b>For charitable actions or kindness</b>	When someone helps you in difficult times or shows generosity through charitable actions.
<b>In cultural or religious contexts</b>	When gratitude is expressed as part of customs, traditions, or religious rituals.

## DISCUSSION

In Uzbek culture, gratitude has a significant social component. The act of thanking is expected to be more conscious, and people tend to place a high value on respect for the interlocutor. Not only simple expressions of gratitude may be used in conversation, but also more complex constructions such as “katta rahmat” (thank you very much), reflecting a high level of appreciation.

In addition, Uzbek often uses additional forms of expressions of gratitude, such as gratitude for help or participation in a person’s life. For example, “Yordamingiz uchun rahmat” (thank you for your help) emphasises the importance of the interlocutor's contribution to a particular situation. This creates a closer bond between people, which is a reflection of deeper cultural traditions where gratitude can be an expression of sincere respect and appreciation for relationships and help.

Although acts of gratitude in both languages serve to express appreciation, there are several key differences in their perception and expression. In English, gratitude is often formal and can be used to fulfil a social duty. In turn, in Uzbek culture, gratitude is a more multi-layered and emotionally rich act that expresses not only recognition of help but also respect for the interlocutor.

In addition, English often uses short forms of gratitude, while in Uzbek it is customary to add additional words to show the sincerity and depth of gratitude. For example, the expression “katta rahmat” (thank you very much) has a more emotional colouring than just “Thank you”.

Uzbek also often emphasises respect and close relationships, reflecting the importance of family and social ties. In response to gratitude, wishes such as “Yordamingiz uchun rahmat, Allah madadkor bo’lsin” (thank you for your help, may God help you) are often added, emphasising not only gratitude but also the strong bond between people.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, the act of gratitude in English and Uzbek, despite the universality of the idea itself, has linguocultural peculiarities. English tends to be brief and formalistic, while Uzbek emphasises the emotional depth and meaning of relationships. These differences demonstrate the uniqueness of cultures where language serves not only as a means of communication but also as a reflection of the values and traditions of a society.

It is important to note that in different cultures, the meaning of gratitude and how it is expressed may depend on the context. In a formal setting, stricter expressions and gestures may be used, while in an informal setting they may be more relaxed or even humorous. However, in every culture, the act of giving thanks always serves to reinforce social order, good relations and mutual respect.

Thus, although gratitude is a universal concept, the ways in which it is expressed vary according to cultural traditions and social norms. Understanding these differences is important for effective intercultural communication and harmonisation of relations between people of different cultures.



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