Table of contents

List of tables XIII		
List of figures xv		
CHAPTER 1 Introduction 1		
11111	ouucu	
	PTER 2	-
Sett	-	e scene: Theoretical background 5
2.1		
2.2	Lingu	aistic research on thanking (formulae) 6
	2.2.1	Defining 'thanking formula' 6
		Analysis of formal characteristics of thanking formulae 9
	2.2.3	Analysis of functional characteristics of thanking formulae 12
	2.2.4	Analysis of pragmatic aspects of the usage of thanking formulae 13
	2.2.5	Cultural variation in the use of thanking formulae 14
	2.2.6	Linguistic research on thanking (formulae) – summary
		and outlook 17
2.3	Linguistic research on politeness 19	
	2.3.1	Defining politeness 19
	2.3.2	Brown/Levinson's (1978/1987) politeness theory 21
		2.3.2.1 Face 22
		2.3.2.2 Politeness strategies 23
		2.3.2.3 Critical evaluation of Brown/Levinson's model 25
	2.3.3	Leech's (1983, 2007) politeness principle 26
		2.3.3.1 Maxims of politeness 27
		2.3.3.2 Illocutionary functions 28
		2.3.3.3 Critical evaluation of Leech's model 28
	2.3.4	Watts' (2003) distinction of polite and politic behaviour 29
		2.3.4.1 Relational work: Polite vs. politic behaviour 29
		2.3.4.2 Critical evaluation of Watts' model 31
	2.3.5	
		Linguistic research on politeness – summary and outlook 33
2.4	Digression: The influence of the interlocutors' status on language use 34	

- 2.5 Contrasting British and New Zealand English 37
 - 2.5.1 Phonetic, morphological, lexical, orthographical and syntactic variation 39
 - 2.5.2 Pragmatic variation 40

2.6 Radio talk 42

- 2.6.1 Development and characterisation of radio phone-ins 43
- 2.6.2 Participant roles 44
- 2.6.3 Conversational structure of phone-ins 45
- 2.6.4 Closing (radio) conversations with the help of thanking formulae 46

51

- 2.6.5 Multiple addressees 48
- 2.6.6 Radio talk summary and outlook 49
- 2.7 Summary of the theoretical background and outlook on the present study 49

CHAPTER 3

Methodology

- 3.1 Methods of data collection 51
 - 3.1.1 Classic methods of data collection to investigate pragmatic phenomena 51
 - 3.1.2 Using corpus data to investigate pragmatic phenomena 53
 - 3.1.3 Research design of the present study 56
- 3.2 Data 59
 - 3.2.1 Corpora under investigation 59
 - 3.2.2 Determining search terms 62
- 3.3 Aspects under investigation 64
 - 3.3.1 Examining the form of thanking formulae 64
 - 3.3.1.1 Frequency of occurrence 65
 - 3.3.1.2 Syntactic realisations focus on optional elements 65
 - 3.3.1.3 The position of thanking formulae 66
 - 3.3.2 Determining the functions of thanking formulae 67
 - 3.3.2.1 Organising the ongoing discourse 69
 - 3.3.2.2 Serving the phatic communion 69
 - 3.3.2.3 Responding to material goods and services 70
 - 3.3.2.4 Responding to immaterial goods
 - and interpersonal support 70
 - 3.3.2.5 Thanking formulae used jokingly or ironically 70
 - 3.3.3 Operationalising models of politeness 72
 - 3.3.3.1 Operationalising Brown/Levinson's (1978, 1987) approach 72
 - 3.3.3.2 Operationalising Leech's (1983, 2007) approach 73
 - 3.3.3.3 Operationalising Watts' (2003) approach 74
 - 3.3.4 Exploring the relative social status of speakers and addressees 76

- 3.4 Presentation of results and examples 77
- 3.5 Structure of the following empirical analyses 79

CHAPTER 4

Focus on varieties: Thanking formulae in British and New Zealand English 81

- 4.1 Introduction 81
- 4.2 The form of thanking formulae in British and New Zealand English 83
 - 4.2.1 Overall frequencies 83
 - 4.2.2 Common syntactic realisations 85
 - 4.2.3 Naming a benefactor 86
 - 4.2.4 Using intensifiers 90
 - 4.2.5 Naming a reason 93
 - 4.2.6 Positions of thanking formulae within conversations 96
 - 4.2.7 Discussion: Formal realisations of thanking formulae in BrE and NZE 97
 - 4.2.7.1 Overall frequencies 97
 - 4.2.7.2 Syntactic realisations 98
 - 4.2.7.3 The use of optional elements 98
 - 4.2.7.4 The position of thanking formulae 103
- 4.3 Functions of thanking formulae in BrE and NZE 103
 - 4.3.1 Organising the ongoing discourse: Closing conversations by means of thanking formulae and farewells 106
 - 4.3.2 Serving the phatic communion 126
 - 4.3.3 Responding to material goods and services 132
 - 4.3.4 Responding to immaterial goods and interpersonal support 135
 - 4.3.5 Thanking formulae used jokingly or ironically 138
 - 4.3.6 Unclear cases 140
 - 4.3.7 Discussion: Functions of thanking formulae in BrE and NZE 140
 - 4.3.7.1 Organising the ongoing discourse 141
 - 4.3.7.2 Serving the phatic communion 144
 - 4.3.7.3 Responding to material goods and services 147
 - 4.3.7.4 Responding to immaterial goods and interpersonal support 149
 - 4.3.7.5 Joking/ironic use of thanking formulae 150

4.3.7.6 Summary 151

- 4.4 The politeness of thanking formulae in BrE and NZE 154
 - 4.4.1 Applying concepts of Brown/Levinson's (1987)

politeness theory 154

- 4.4.1.1 Face-threatening acts 154
- 4.4.1.2 Politeness strategies 160
- 4.4.1.3 Discussion: Thanking formulae in the framework of Brown/Levinson (1987) 167

- 4.4.2 Applying concepts of Leech's (1983) politeness principle 173 4.4.2.1 Maxims of politeness 173
 - 4.4.2.2 Illocutionary functions 179
 - 4.4.2.3 Discussion: Thanking formulae in the framework of Leech (1983) 184
- 4.4.3 Applying Watts' (2003) distinction of polite vs. politic behaviour 188
- 4.4.4 Discussion: The politeness of thanking formulae in BrE and NZE 190
- 4.5 Digression: The status of speakers relative to their addressees in BrE and NZE 195
 - 4.5.1 Speakers' status and its relation with formal
 - and functional preferences 196
 - 4.5.1.1 Speakers' status 196
 - 4.5.1.2 Speakers' status and formal preferences 198
 - 4.5.1.3 Speakers' status and intensification 200
 - 4.5.1.4 Speakers' status and functions of thanking formulae 200

209

- 4.5.2 Outlook: The interlocutors' relationship in terms
 - of cultural differences 202
- 4.6 Focus on varieties: Summary 206

CHAPTER 5

Focus on genre: Thanking formulae in radio texts

- 5.1 Introduction 209
- 5.2 The form of thanking formulae in radio texts 211
 - 5.2.1 Overall frequencies 211
 - 5.2.2 Common syntactic realisations 213
 - 5.2.3 Naming a benefactor 214
 - 5.2.4 Using intensifiers 216
 - 5.2.5 Naming a reason 218
 - 5.2.6 Positions of thanking formulae within conversations 219
 - 5.2.7 Discussion: Formal realisations of thanking formulae in radio texts 221
- 5.3 Functions of thanking formulae in BrE and NZE 224
 - 5.3.1 Organising the ongoing discourse: Closing conversations by means of thanking formulae and farewells 226
 - 5.3.2 Serving the phatic communion 234
 - 5.3.3 Responding to material goods and services 238
 - 5.3.4 Responding to immaterial goods and interpersonal support 240
 - 5.3.5 Thanking formulae used jokingly or ironically 241
 - 5.3.6 Unclear cases 242

- 5.3.7 Discussion: Functions of thanking formulae in radio texts 242
 - 5.3.7.1 Organising the ongoing discourse 242

5.3.7.2 Serving the phatic communion 248

5.3.7.3 Responding to material goods and services 249

5.3.7.4 Responding to immaterial goods

and interpersonal support 250

- 5.3.7.5 Joking/ironic use of thanking formulae 251
- 5.4 The politeness of thanking formulae in radio texts 251
 - 5.4.1 Applying concepts of Brown/Levinson's (1987)

politeness theory 252

- 5.4.1.1 Face-threatening acts 252
- 5.4.1.2 Politeness strategies 255
- 5.4.1.3 Discussion: Thanking formulae in the framework of Brown/Levinson (1987) 260
- 5.4.2 Applying concepts of Leech's (1983) politeness principle 261
 - 5.4.2.1 Maxims of politeness 261
 - 5.4.2.2 Illocutionary functions 266
 - 5.4.2.3 Discussion: Thanking formulae in the framework of Leech (1983) 270
- 5.4.3 Applying Watts' (2003) distinction of polite vs. politic behaviour 272
- 5.4.4 Discussion: The politeness of thanking formulae in radio texts 274
- 5.5 Digression: The status of speakers relative to their addressees in radio texts 277
- 5.6 Focus on genre: Summary 280

CHAPTER 6

Conclusion

- 6.1 Summary of the most important findings 285
 - 6.1.1 Variational analysis 287
 - 6.1.2 Genre analysis 290
- 6.2 Outlook: Suggestions for further research 292

Bibliography

Index

293

307