

## EXPRESSING CONGRATULATIONS IN LATIN: THE CASE OF CICERO'S CORRESPONDENCE

**Svetlana Kochovska**

PhD Candidate, Department of Classical Studies,  
Ss Cyril and Methodius University

In Austin's classification of performative utterances<sup>1</sup>, expressions with the verb 'congratulate' used in the first person singular present tense fall into the category of *behabitives* – performatives concerned with attitudes and feelings (Austin, 1962: 159). In Searle's classification of illocutionary acts, the expressions of congratulations are subsumed under the class of *expressives* – illocutionary acts whose 'illocutionary point is to express the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a state of affairs specified in the propositional content' (Searle, 1976: 12). The act of congratulating, according to Searle, is governed by the following four rules:

- 1) there is some event or act that is related to the hearer (propositional content rule);
- 2) the event is in the hearer's interest and the speaker believes the event is

in the hearer's interest (preparatory rule);

- 3) the speaker is pleased at the event (sincerity rule);
- 4) it counts as an expression of pleasure at the event (Searle, 1969: 67).

According to Searle and Vanderveken, congratulating must be related to the hearer, but need not involve an act or anything the hearer is responsible for. It may be merely 'some item of good fortune' (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985: 212). Unlike Searle and Vanderveken, Wierzbicka claims that the hearer must be, at least partly, responsible for the 'happy event' (Wierzbicka, 1987: 229). In her view, it is impossible to congratulate a friend who has just received an inheritance without being ironic. In her view, the speaker performs the congratulating act because he wants to cause the hearer to know how he feels due to the good event (*ibid.*).

From the standpoint of Brown and Levinson's politeness theory, the congratulating, since it is oriented towards the positive face needs of the addressee, can be perceived as a positive politeness strat-

<sup>1</sup> Performative utterances or performatives are defined in the speech acts theory as sentences which are not describing a given reality, but they are changing the reality they are describing. Their use under appropriate circumstances is a performance of an action. See Austin, 1962: 1–11.

egy<sup>2</sup>. The linguistic realizations of positive politeness are considered to be representative of the normal linguistic behavior between intimates (Brown and Levinson, 1983: 101). They are used, as Brown and Levinson explain, ‘as a kind of metaphorical extension of intimacy’ or ‘as a kind of social accelerator where S [a speaker], in using them, indicates that he wants to ‘come closer’ to H (a hearer)’ (*ibid.* 103). In Leech’s classification of illocutionary functions according to the notion of politeness, congratulations are assigned to the so-called *convivial* illocutionary function. This class involves acts in which the illocutionary goal coincides with the social goal. The act of congratulating, along with the acts of offering, inviting, greeting and thanking, is considered by Leech as intrinsically polite. By congratulating someone, the speaker adheres to the hearer’s positive face (Leech, 1983: 104–5).

There are several studies which investigate congratulations from a cross-cultural perspective<sup>3</sup>. In these studies, it has been shown that there are many differences among cultures in regard to the situational aspects of congratulations, the frequency and content of semantic formulas. The issue of congratulations in Latin, at least as far as we know, has been touched upon only by Miller (1914: 55) and Hall (2009: 47–9). In both studies, congratulations are examined from the perspective of their social role and the importance in aristocratic correspondence of Late Republican Rome. The realization patterns of the speech act of congratulating have not been yet examined.

<sup>2</sup> See Brown and Levinson, 1987: 70.

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, Coulmas, 1979, Elwood, 2004, Dastjerdi and Nasri, 2013.

In Roman aristocratic circles, the intention to express pleasure for something good that has happened to other people sometimes was the main motive for writing letters. Among Cicero’s letters there are some that can undoubtedly be classified as congratulatory letters (*Fam.* 15.7 = 99 SB, 15.8 = 100 SB, 15.9 = 101 SB, 15.12 = 102 SB, 15.14 = 106 SB and 2.7 = 107 SB). As Hall noted, this kind of letter was a standard feature of the Roman aristocratic etiquette (Hall, 2009: 47)<sup>4</sup>. Expressions of pleasure for the addressee’s success or for the success of someone related to him are present also in other letters which have more than one theme. In most cases the occasion for congratulating is some event of social or political importance: the addressee’s election or election of someone related to him to a public office (*Fam.* 2.9.1 = SB 85, 15.7 = 99 SB, 15.8 = 100 SB, 15.9 = 101 SB, 15.12 = 102 SB), a received title (*ibid.* 1.9.2 = 20 SB), a victory gained (*ibid.* 15.14 = 106 SB) or a case won in court (*Fam.* 7.2.2 = SB 52). Congratulation notes were also written on the occasion of someone’s engagement (*ibid.* 1.7.11 = 18 SB, 8.13.1 = 94 SB), when buying a new house (*ibid.* 16.21.7 = 337 SB), for received inheritance (*Att.* 3.20.2 = 65 SB), a wise decision (*Fam.* 7.1.1 = 24 SB) or a course of action in a given situation (*Att.* 4.1.1-2 = 73 SB). Several utterances are instances of self-con-

<sup>4</sup> The congratulatory letter (*συγχαριστικός*) is mentioned as a letter type in two ancient letter-writing manuals: *Epistolary Types* (*Τύποι ἐπιστολικοί* or *Formae epistolicae*) by Pseudo-Demetrius (Malherbe, 1988: 30–41) and *Epistolary Styles* (*Ἐπιστολιμαῖοι χαρακτήρες* or *Characteres epistolici*) by Proclus or Pseudo-Libanius (Malherbe, 1988: 66–81). On ancient epistolary theory see, for instance, Klauck, 2006: 183–227 and Poster 2007: 21–51.

gratulation (*Fam.* 4.11.1 = 232 SB, *ibid.* 12.16.1 = 328, *Att.* 15.22.1 = 399 SB). The observation that in most cases an occasion for congratulation is some event of social or political importance has led Hall to the conclusion that the performance of congratulations in letters ‘regularly involves matters of face and *dignitas*’ (Hall, 2009: 49). The offering of congratulations in letters is considered by him as a strategy of affiliative politeness and the politeness of respect.

From the following passage, taken from Cicero’s letter to Pompey, it is apparent that people who achieved something of social or political importance expected congratulations from the people they considered friends:

(1) Ac ne ignores quid ego in tuis litteris desiderarim, scribam aperte, sicut et mea natura et nostra amicitia postulat. res eas gessi quarum aliquam in tuis litteris et *nostrae necessitudinis et rei publicae causa gratulationem expectavi*; quam ego abs te praetermissam esse arbitror quod vererere ne cuius animum offenders (*Fam.* 5.7.3 = 3 SB)<sup>5</sup>.

(Still, not to leave you in any doubt as to what it was I missed in your letter, I shall be as frank with you as my own nature and our mutual friendship alike demand. My achievements have been such that I did expect some congratulatory reference to them in your letter, in consideration not only of our intimacy, but of their importance to the state; and I can only suppose that you omitted any such reference because you were afraid of wounding anybody’s feelings)<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> This and all other quotations from *Ad Familiares* are taken from Shackleton Bailey’s edition of *Ad familiares* [Cicero: Epistulae ad familiares, edited by D. R. Shackleton Bailey. Vols. 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977].

<sup>6</sup> The translations of this and of all other cited

Cicero expected congratulations from Pompey on his services as a consul for the sake of their friendship and for the sake of the Republic (*nostrae necessitudinis et rei publicae causa*). In the Roman system of friendship, giving congratulations was obviously a kind of ethical obligation<sup>7</sup>. This is evident by the presence of parentheticals *ut debeo* ‘as I am bound to do’ and *ita enim rerum ordo postulat* ‘for that is what the sequence of events demands’, which in a few cases are embedded in the speech act of congratulating<sup>8</sup>. In polythematic letters, congratulations often come first. In one letter, where this is not the case, the author writes to the addressee: *hoc loco me tibi gratulari non mirari* ‘don’t be surprised at my congratulations coming in at this point in my letter’ (*Fam.* 16.21.7 = 337 SB). The position of the speech act of congratulating in the macro-structure of the polythematic letters was certainly not established due to the pragmatic priority of congratulating over other themes, but because the author wished to fulfil his ethical obligation first. The failure to meet this obligation or the delay in fulfilling it had been labeled as

---

passages from *Ad Familiares* are by Williams [Cicero, *The letters to his friends*, with an English translation by W. Glynn Williams M. A. Vols. 3. London: William Heinemann Ltd, Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1958 (1<sup>st</sup> edition 1927)].

<sup>7</sup> It is important to note that the Roman concept of friendship was different from the modern one. The friendship (*amicitia/necessitudo*) was a voluntary alliance between equals with a primary social function. This alliance was based primarily on the exchange of services and favors (*officia/beneficia*), solidarity, and mutual respect. The intimate dimension could be present, but was not necessary. On Roman friendship, see Brunt, 1988: 351–81, Konstan, 1997: 122–48.

<sup>8</sup> See *Fam.* 1. 9. 2 = 20 SB, 3.12.1 = 75 SB, 2.9.1 = 85 SB.

negligence (*neglegentia*). This is evident from Cicero's letter to Caelius Rufus:<sup>9</sup>

(2) Primum tibi, ut debeo, gratulor laetorque cum praesenti tum etiam sperata tua dignitate, ***serius non neglegentia mea sed ignoratione rerum omnium***. (*Fam.* 2.9.1 = 85)

(*In the first place, I congratulate you, as in duty bound, and rejoice not only in your present, but in your anticipated promotion. I am rather late in the day, not through any negligence on my part, but because I know nothing at all of what is going on.*)

The expressions of congratulations in letters are sometimes followed or preceded by expressions of thanks<sup>10</sup>. This phenomenon is due to the fact that among the Romans the act of congratulating and the act of thanking were similar in several respects. How strong the relationship was between the concepts of congratulating and thanking can be seen in the etymology and meaning of the Latin verbs *gratari* and *gratulari*. They are both derivatives from the adjective *gratus* 'grateful', 'thankful', 'appreciative', 'pleasant', 'charming', and they both mean 'to congratulate' and 'to give thanks'<sup>11</sup>. The noun *gratulatio* also means 'congratulation' and 'thanksgiving' at the same time. Congratulating and thanking share some common properties in general: the illocutionary point of both is to express a positive psychological state; the object of both may refer only to an act related to or performed by the hearer in the past; and they both protect the needs

of the positive face of the hearer. The key difference is in the way they relate to the interests of the speaker and the hearer: congratulation is an expression of pleasure at something that is beneficial *to the hearer* and thanking is an expression of gratitude for something that has been done by the hearer and is beneficial *to the speaker*. In the Roman value system, apparently there was a conviction that if someone had done something of political importance, he was not only to be congratulated, but also thanked for the thing he had done. This conviction was probably based on the belief that the thing in question was good not only for the hearer, but also for the speaker. Thus, in one letter to Dolabella, Cicero quotes a fragment of Caesar's letter to him, in which Caesar both congratulates and thanks Dolabella for his election as a consul:

(3) Dolabellae vero tuo ***et gratulor et gratias ago***, quem quidem post te consulem solum possumus vere consulem dicere. (*Fam.* 9.14.3 = 326 SB = *Att.* 14.17A.3 = 371 A SB).

(*As for your Dolabella, I both congratulate and thank him; indeed, since your year, he is the only man whom we can truly describe as a consul.*)

In several cases, the expression of congratulations is followed by expressions of well wishes<sup>12</sup>. The compatibility of the expressions of congratulations and of well wishes<sup>13</sup> is so strong that in many lan-

<sup>12</sup>See *Fam.* 15.7.1 = 99 SB, 2.7.1 = 107 SB and 16.21.7 = 337 SB.

<sup>13</sup> In Risselada's typology of speech acts, wishes are borderline cases between expressives and directives. By performing them, the speaker expresses emotions towards the state of affairs that is not yet realized and whose realization often involves some kind of action by the addressee (Risselada, 1993: 41).

<sup>9</sup> Cf. *Fam.* 2.7.1 = 107 SB.

<sup>10</sup> See, for instance, *Fam.* 2.9.1 = 85 SB, 9.14.3 = 326 SB, 16.16.2 = 44 SB, *Att.* 14.17A.3 = 371 A SB.

<sup>11</sup> See Ernout-Meillet, 1932: 281-2, de Vaan, 2008: 271.

guages expressions of well wishes are perceived as expressions of congratulations. In fact, some expressions of well wishes, when used in an appropriate context, are actually expressions of congratulations by their illocutionary point: by performing the expression of well wishing the speaker actually congratulates the hearer.<sup>14</sup> The expressions of congratulations are often followed by such expressions, most likely because the speaker wants to show a higher degree of strength of the sincerity condition of the speech act of congratulating. He tries to enhance the warmth and sincerity of the congratulation by saying to the interlocutor something like: ‘My congratulations are not just for the sake of politeness. I am truly delighted by your success and I wish you all the best.’

Expressions of congratulations in Cicero’s correspondence, according to their realization patterns, can be divided into two main groups:

- I. *Expressions with an illocutionary force indicating device (IFID)*, and
- II. *Expressions of joy for the success of the addressee or someone related to him.*

### **I. Expressions with an illocutionary force indicating device (IFID)**

Into this group fall declarative sentences in which the verb *gratulari* ‘to congratulate’ is used mainly in the first person present tense of the indicative mood – *gratulor* ‘I congratulate’. *Gratulor* is almost always<sup>15</sup>

followed or preceded by NP in dative case: *tibi* (*Fam.* 2.5.1 = 49 SB, *Fam.* 2.9.1 = 85 SB, 2.7.1 = 107 SB, 6.12.1 = 226 SB etc.), *Baiis nostris* (*Fam.* 9.12.1 = 263 SB), *Do-labellae tuo* (9.14.3 = 326 SB), *mihi* (*Fam.* 4.11.1 = 232 SB), *nobis* (*Att.* 15.22.11 = 399 SB) etc. The action denoted by the predicate *gratulor* in several cases is intensified by the adverbs *vehementer* ‘im-mensely’, ‘tremendously’, *vere* ‘really’, ‘truly’, ‘indeed’ and *libenter* ‘with pleasure’, ‘gladly’:

(4) Ego vero **vehementer gratulor** de iudicio ambitus,... (*Fam.* 3.12.1 = 75 SB)

*(I do indeed congratulate you heartily on the result of the trial for bribery and corruption, ...);*

(5) Gratulor tibi, mi Balbe, **verequē gratulor** (*Fam.* VI. 12. 1 = 226 SB)

*(I congratulate you, my dear Balbus, and my congratulations are sincere);*

(6) itaque tibi, quod vere facere possum, **libenter quoque gratulor** nec minus etiam nobis, quod eum quem necesse erat diligere qualiscumque esset talem habemus ut libenter quoque diligamus (*Fam.* 12.16.1 = 328 SB)

*(I therefore congratulate you with pleasure also, as I can with sincerity, and myself too no less, on finding that he whom we were bound to love, whatever his character, is the sort of man whom it is also a pleasure to love).*

The occasion may be expressed in various ways, may emerge from the context, or may not be expressed at all<sup>16</sup>. When the occasion is expressed, it is usually expressed by:

<sup>14</sup> For instance, in English, the expressions *best wishes* / *good wishes* and *congratulations* are considered as synonyms. See, for example, Rodale, 1978: 215.

<sup>15</sup> An exception is *Fam.* 3.12.1 = 75 (the example under (4)).

<sup>16</sup> The occasion for congratulations is not expressed at all in the letter to L. Minucius Basilus, which actually is not an ordinary letter, but a very short congratulatory note (*Fam.* 6.15 = 322 SB). See Merril, 1913.

– Subordinate clause of cause introduced by *quod*:

...*quod abes gratulor*... ‘I congratulate you on your absence’ (*Fam.* 2.5.1 = 49 SB),  
*gratulor tibi quod ex provincia saluum te ad tuos recepisti* ‘I congratulate you on your safe return from your province’ (*Fam.* 13.73.1 = 273 SB).

– Prepositional phrase introduced by *de* or *pro*:

...*gratulor de iudicio ambitus* (*Fam.* 3.12.1 = 75 SB) ‘I congratulate you on the result of the trial for bribery’,  
...*cum pro rerum magnitudine quas gessisti tum pro opportunitate temporis gratulor*... (*Fam.* 15.14.3 = 106 SB) ‘I congratulate you not only on the magnificence of your achievements, but also on their being so opportune in the point of time’.

– Subordinate clause of condition:

*Gratulor Baiis nostris si quidem, ut scribis, salubres repente factae sunt* (*Fam.* 9.12.1 = 263 SB) ‘I congratulate our dear Baiae, if it be true, as you write, that it has suddenly become salubrious’.

– Accusative of direct object:

*gratulor tibi adfinitate<m> viri me dius fidius optimi* (*Fam.* 8.13.1 = 94 SB) ‘I congratulate you on your connexion by marriage with one who is, on my solemn oath, a most excellent fellow’.

– Construction accusative and infinitive (ACI):

*gratulor nobis Quintum filium exisse* (*Att.* 15.22.1 = 399 SB) ‘I congratulate ourselves on young Quintus’s departure’.

– Independent discourse act or a sequence of discourse acts which precedes the speech act of congratulation. In these cases, the author refers to the occasion of congratulation by the prepositional phrases *qua in re* and *in hoc*:

*qua in re tibi gratulor ita vehementer ut te quoque mihi gratulari quam gratias agere malim* (*Fam.* 6.11.1 = 224) ‘In regard to this matter, while I warmly congratulate you, I wish you to congratulate rather than thank me’,  
*itaque in hoc ego mihi gratulor* (*Fam.* 4.11.1 = 232 SB) ‘on this, therefore, I congratulate myself’.

Into the group of expressions of congratulations that contain an IFID should also fall the utterances in which the verb *gratulari* is not used in the first person present tense of the indicative mood. These utterances are not performative in the strict sense, but they still belong to this group, because the intention of the author is the same as it is in the utterances in which the performative verb *gratulari* is used in the first person present tense of the indicative mood. In the example under (7), Cicero congratulates Atticus on all efforts he had made to bring about his recall from exile with the expression *nihil prius faciendum putavi quam ut tibi ... gratularer* ‘I thought the very first thing I ought to do was to congratulate you’:

(7) *Cum primum Romam veni fuit<que> cui recte ad te litteras darem, nihil prius faciendum mihi putavi quam ut tibi absentgrati de reditu gratularer* (*Att.* 4.1.1 = 73 SB)

(As soon as I arrived in Rome and came to a suitable person to take a letter to you, I

considered it my first duty to congratulate you on my return.<sup>17</sup>

In the example under (8), Cicero congratulates Marcus Marcellus on the courage he had shown during his exile to Mytilene by the expression *gratulari magis virtuti debeo quam consolari dolorem tuum* ‘I ought rather to congratulate you on your courage than console your sorrow’:

(8) nam si ea quae acciderunt ita fers ut audio, ***gratulari magis virtuti debeo quam consolari dolorem tuum*** (*Fam.* 4.8.1 = 229 SB)

(For if you are bearing what has happened as I hear you are, I ought rather to felicitate you on your manliness than to console you in your grief)<sup>18</sup>.

## II. Expressions of joy for the success of the addressee or someone related to him

The expressions that contain an IFID in some cases are followed by other expressions of joy. An example of such utterances is (2), where the verb *gratulor* ‘I congratulate’ is followed by the verb *laetor* ‘I rejoice’, ‘I am glad’, ‘I am delighted’<sup>19</sup>. That the function of these expressions, which in many cases stand alone, is identical to the function of expressions with an IFID is evident from the example below:

<sup>17</sup> The quotations and translations from *Ad Atticum* are taken from Shackleton Bailey’s edition of this collection [Cicero’s letters to Atticus, edited by D. R. Shackleton Bailey. Vols 7. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1965–1970].

<sup>18</sup> The expressions under (7) and (8) are comparable to the English expressions *I want to congratulate you on...*, *I would like to congratulate you on...*, *I should/must congratulate you on...* *Let me congratulate you on...* and similar, in which the verb ‘to congratulate’ is not used as a performative verb.

<sup>19</sup> See also, for instance, *Fam.* 2.7.1 = 107 SB.

(9) *emisse te praedium gaudeo feliciterque tibi rem istam evenire cupio. hoc loco me tibi gratulari noli mirari* (*Fam.* 16.21.7 = 337 SB)

(That you have bought a farm is a great joy to me, and it is my sincere wish that your transaction may turn out happily for you. You might not be surprised at my congratulating you at this point in my letter).

In this passage, the author of the letter Cicero Minor sends his congratulations to his addressee Tiro by an expression of joy (*emisse te praedium gaudeo* ‘I am glad that you have bought an estate’) and by an expression of well wishes (*feliciterque tibi rem istam evenire cupio* ‘and I wish you success with that’). The type of speech act he performs with these two expressions in the next discourse act is labeled by him as an act of congratulation: *hoc loco me tibi gratulari noli mirari* ‘don’t be surprised that I congratulate you at this point in my letter’.

The common lexical devices in the expressions of joy for the success or good fortune of the addressee are the verbs *laetari* ‘to rejoice’, ‘to be glad’, ‘to be delighted’ and *gaudere* ‘to be glad’, ‘to be pleased’, ‘to rejoice’, used in the first person present tense, and the phrase *laetitia affici* ‘to be strongly moved or affected by joy’, used in the first person perfect tense. The presence of these lexical devices in a particular speech act is not an indicator that the speech act in question is congratulation as in the case of the expressions with *gratulor*. Namely, the use of these lexical devices is not only limited to expressions of joy for the success or good fortune of the addressee<sup>20</sup>. The expression of joy is con-

<sup>20</sup> Cf. *Ac primum tibi perspectum esse iudicium de te meum laetor* (*Att.* 1.20.1 = 20 SB) ‘To begin with, I

gratulation only if the event or act at which the speaker expresses joy is in the interest of the hearer. Otherwise, the expression of joy is not a congratulation, since the propositional content rule and the preparatory rule are not fulfilled.

The use of *laetor* is similar to the use of *gratulor* in the sense that in most cases the verb is used in expressions of pleasure in the events of social or political importance. In the example under (10), even the parenthetical phrase *ut debeo* ‘as I am bound to do’ is inserted into the speech act of congratulation, which, as we have seen, is common in the congratulations with an IFID. The occasion for congratulation in these expressions is always expressed by ACI:

(10) *quamquam tua quidem causa te esse imperatorem provinciamque bene gestis rebus cum exercitu victore obtinere, ut debeo, laetor* (*Fam.* 1.9.2 = 20 SB)  
*(And yet on your account I rejoice, as I am bound to do, that you are now emperor and with your victorious army are holding your province after your successful operation).*

Similar to the expressions with *laetor* are the expressions in which the author expresses joy by the phrase *laetitia affici*. The noun *laetitia* (‘joy’, ‘gladness’, ‘pleasure’, ‘a source of joy’, ‘a delight’) in these expressions is preceded by the superlative *maxima* ‘the greatest’ or by the adjective

---

am glad to know that you are well aware of what I think of you’; *Gaudeo tibi iucundas esse meas litteras* (*Q. fr.* 2.11.1) ‘I am delighted that you were pleased with my letter’; *Quanta sim laetitia adfectus cognitis rebus Bruti nostri et consulum facilius est tibi existimare quam mihi scribere* (*ad Brut.* 11.1.1) ‘It is easier for you to imagine than for me to express in writing how delighted I was to be informed of the doings of our friend Brutus and of the consuls.’

*incredibili* ‘unbelievable’. The occasion for congratulations is apparent from the adverbial clause of time, which follows the main clause *maxima / incredibili sum laetitia affectus*:

(11) *Maxima sum laetitia affectus, cum audivi consulem te factum esse,...* (*Fam.* 15.7.1 = 99 SB)  
*(I was extremely delighted to hear that you had been made consul, ...)*<sup>21</sup>

The verb *gaudere* is always used in the first person present tense of the indicative mood. The reason for congratulations is expressed by ACI (see the example under (9)). In some congratulatory letters, the action denoted by *gaudeo* is intensified by the phrase *mirandum in modum* ‘in a remarkable way’ or by the adverb *vehementer* ‘immensely’, ‘tremendously’:

(12) *Marcellum tuum consulem factum teque ea laetitia adfectum esse quam maxime optasti mirandum in modum gaudeo,...* (*Fam.* 15.8.1 = 100 SB)  
*(That your son Marcellus has been made consul, and that you have felt that thrill of joy for which you most devoutly prayed, is an inexpressible pleasure to me, ...)*<sup>22</sup>

The analysis of the speech act of congratulating in Cicero’s correspondence shows that not all of these expressions were identical and interchangeable. It seems that the choice of the expression depended on the occasion for congratulating and on the degree of the author’s commitment to the propositional content.

Thus, the use of the expressions with an IFID *gratulor* is common when the au-

---

<sup>21</sup> See also *Fam.* 15.12.1 = 102 SB.

<sup>22</sup> See also *Fam.* 15.9.1 = 101 SB.

thor congratulates on the occasion of an event of social or political importance (an election for public office, a received title, a gained victory) or on the occasion of someone's impressive course of action or a wise decision in a given situation. The expressions with an IFID are also used for self-congratulations, which are comparable with congratulations given for someone's impressive course of action.

When the reason for congratulations is an event of social or political importance, expressions with *gratulor* are interchangeable with expressions of joy realized by the verb *laetor* and by the phrase *laetitia affectus sum*. The use of the expressions of joy with *laetor* and of all other expressions of joy in general, is impossible when it comes to congratulations addressed on the occasion of someone's impressive course of action or a wise decision. The collocability of *gratulor* and *laetor* (example under (2)) indicates that expressions with an IFID and expressions of joy with *laetor* were not quite identical in respect to the degree of the author's commitment to the propositional content. It seems that by using the expressions with *laetor*, the author shows a lesser degree of commitment to the content of the proposition. Indicative in this respect is the fact that the expressions of joy realized by this verb, first, do not occur in the beginning of the letter (see example under (10)) and, second, the action denoted by *laetor* is never intensified by an adverb or an adverb equivalent.

In respect to the degree of author's commitment to the content of the proposition, the author shows a higher degree of commitment to the propositional content by the use of the expressions of joy in which the phrase *laetitia affectus sum* is used than by the use of expressions with *gratulor*. The presence of phrases like *ut debeo* 'as I am bound to do' and intensifiers like *vere* 'really', 'truly' or *libenter* 'with pleasure', 'gladly' in the congratulations with *gratulor* indicates that these expressions were often used just for the sake of politeness. This, of course, does not mean that the author was always sincere when using the expression of joy with the phrase *laetitia affectus sum*. This expression was undoubtedly also used when the speaker/author wanted only to fulfil his ethical obligation – to express pleasure at the friend's success. Yet, by the use of this less conventional and less formulaic expression of joy, he attempted to show that he does not express pleasure at the addressee's success because he is bound to do so, but rather because he is truly delighted by his success.

The expressions of joy with *gaudeo* differ from other expressions in the sense that they are never used to congratulate the addressee for his success in the public sphere. They are used to congratulate for buying a new house, receiving an inheritance or if someone related to the addressee achieved success in the public sphere.

## TEXT EDITIONS

Cicero: *Epistulae ad familiares*. Edited by D. R. Shackleton Bailey. Vol. 2. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 1977.

*Cicero's letters to Atticus*. Edited and translated by D. R. Shackleton Bailey. Vol. 7. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 1965–1970.

Cicero: *Epistulae ad Quintum fratrem et M. Brutum*. Edited by D. R. Shackleton Bailey. Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press. 1980.

Cicero, *The letters to his friends*. With an English translation by W. Glynn Williams. Vol. 3, London: William Heinemann Ltd/Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1958–1960.

Cicero, *Letters to Atticus*. With an English translation by E. O. Windstedt. Vol. 3. London: William Heinemann Ltd/Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1960–1961.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Austin, John L., 1962: *How to Do Things with Words*. Oxford-New York: Oxford University Press.

Brown, Penelope and Levinson, Stephen, 1987: *Politeness: Some Universals in Language Usage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Brunt, Peter A., 1988: *The Fall of the Roman Republic and Related Essays*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Coulmas, Florian, 1979: 'On the sociolinguistic relevance of routine formulas'. *Journal of Pragmatics* 3, 239–266.

Dastrjerdi, Hossein V. and Nasri, Najmeh, 2013: 'A cross-cultural study of speech acts: situational aspects of congratulations in English, Persian and Arabic', *Global Journal of Foreign Language Teaching* 1, 15–22.

de Vaan, Michiel, 2008: *Etymological Dictionary of Latin and the other Italic Languages*. Leiden: Brill.

Elwood, Kate, 2004: "'Congratulations!": A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Responses to Another's Happy News'. *The Cultural Review, Waseda Commercial Studies Association* (25), 355–386.

Ernout, Alfred and Meillet, Alfred, 1932: *Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue latine: Histoire des mots*. Paris: Klincksieck.

Hall, Jon, 2009: *Politeness and Politics in Cicero's Letters*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Klauck, Hans-Josef, 2006: *Ancient Letters and the New Testament: A Guide to Context and Exegesis*. Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press.

Konstan, David, 1997: *Friendship in the Classical World*. Cambridge NY: Cambridge University Press.

Leech, Geoffrey N. 1983: *Principles of pragmatics*. London: Longman.

Malherbe, Abraham J., 1988: *Ancient Epistolary Theorists*. Atlanta GA: Scholars Press.

Merrill Elmer T., 1913: 'On Cicero to Basilus (Fam. VI. 15)', *Classical Philology*, Vol. 8, No 1 (Jan., 1913), 48–56.

Miller, Anna B., 1914: *Roman Etiquette of the Late Republic as Revealed by the Correspondence of Cicero*. Lancaster PA: Press of the New Era Printing company.

Poster, Carol, 2007: 'A Conversation Halved: Epistolary Theory in Greco-Roman Antiquity' in eds. Carol Poster and Mitchell Linda C., *Letter-writing Manuals and Instruction from Antiquity to the Present: Historical and Bibliographic Studies*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 21–51.

Risselada, Rodie, 1993: *Imperatives and Other Directive Expressions in Latin: A Study in the Pragmatics of a Dead Language*. Amsterdam: J. C. Gieben.

Rodale, Jerome I. (ed.), 1978: *The Synonym Finder*. Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press.

Searle, John R., 1969: *Speech Acts. An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*. Cambridge: University Printing House.

Searle, John R., 1976: 'A classification of Illocutionary Acts', *Language in Society*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (Apr. 1976), 1–23.

Searle, John R. and Vanderveken Daniel, 1985: *Foundations of Illocutionary Logic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wierzbicka, Anna, 1987: *English Speech Act Verbs: A Semantic Dictionary*. Sydney: Academic Press.

## SVEIKINIMŲ RAIŠKA LOTYNŲ KALBOJE: CICERONO LAIŠKAI

Svetlana Kochovska

### S a n t r a u k a

Straipsnyje nagrinėjama sveikinimų raiška Cicerono laiškuose: kokiais atvejais Ciceronas ir jo korespondentai sveikina vienas kitą, kokia sveikinimų raiška, ar abiejų sveikintojų ji sutampa. Dažnu atveju sveikinimas įgauna socialinę ar politinę svarbą: jis reiškiamas adresato ar jam artimo asmens išrinkimo į valstybines pareigybes atveju, gavus titulą, pelnius pergalę ar laimėjus teisme. Sveikinama ir sužadėtuvių proga, įsigijus naują namą, gavus palikimą, priėmus protingą sprendimą.

Kalbose galima išskirti dviejų rūšių sveikinimus: illokucinio tipo išraiškas ir džiaugsmo raiškos dėl sėkmės atvejus. Pirmajam tipui priklauso performatyvios raiškos veiksmažodžiai su *gratu-*

*lor*, antrajam – su *laetari* ir *gaudere*, abiejų tipų esamojo laiko tiesioginės nuosakos I asmens, taip pat perfekto laiko I asmens frazės su *laetitia affici*. Analizė atskleidžia, kad sveikinimo raiškos pasirinkimas priklauso nuo situacijos ir sveikintojo santykio su kalbos turiniu. Sveikinimas *gaudeo* vartojamas tik griežtai privačioje sferoje, o *gratulor* skirtas sveikinti su pasiekimais socialinėje ar politinėje sferoje. Jeigu politinės ar socialinės sferos įvykis vertinamas kaip itin pozityvus ir džiugus, *gratulor* vartojamas pakaitomis su *laetor* ir *laetitia affectus sum*, tačiau jie niekada nevartojami džiaugiantis dėl deramo elgesio ar išmintingų sprendimų.

*Gauta 2013-10-16*

*Priimta publikuoti 2013-10-26*

*Autorės adresas:*

Department of Classical Studies, Faculty of Philosophy,  
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University  
blvd. Goce Delcev 9, 1000 Skopje, R. Macedonia  
E-mail: Svetlana.kocovska@fzf.ukim.edu.mk