



A Pragmatic analysis of Acceptance in Selected English Sermons

Maryam Hashim Tahreer

Asst.Prof.Lihadh A. Mubarak,(PhD)

University of Babylon

Abstract

The current study investigates the types of acceptance and its advantages in English sermons. The current study aims to determine the acceptance types used in English sermons and its advantages. To achieve the study's aims, the study follows several procedures: Presenting a theoretical survey about acceptance, showing its types and the advantages of them., choosing four texts from English sermons in order to be analyzed ,investigating the types of acceptance and it's advantages. Four texts were taken from English sermons were taken to be the current study's data. The data were analyzed following an adopted model. At the end of the study, it was found that Social and conditional types of acceptance are the most frequently used in the English sermons and the most widely used advantages were an increased potential for productive action and increased compassion and reduced blaming of others.

Email:

maryamalmosawa12@gmail.com
hum.lihadh.abdula@uobabylon.edu.iq

Published:1-12-2023

Keywords : *Impoliteness strategies; politicians; power; Grice's maxims*

هذه مقالة وصول مفتوح بموجب ترخيص

CC BY 4.0

(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

الملخص:

تبحث الدراسة الحالية في أنواع القبول ومزاياه في الخطاب الإنجليزية. تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى تحديد أنواع القبول المستخدمة في الخطاب الإنجليزية ومميزاتها. ولتحقيق أهداف الدراسة تتبع الدراسة عدة إجراءات: عرض مسح نظري حول القبول وبيان أنواعه ومميزاته واختيار أربعة نصوص من الخطاب الإنجليزية لتحليلها وتفصي أنواع القبول ومميزاته. تم أخذ أربعة نصوص مأخوذة من الخطاب الإنجليزية لتكون بيانات الدراسة الحالية. تم تحليل البيانات باتباع نموذج صممه الباحثون. في نهاية الدراسة ، وجد أن أنواع القبول الاجتماعي والشرطي هي الأكثر استخداما في الخطاب الإنجليزية ، وكانت المزايا الأكثر استخداما هي زيادة إمكانات العمل الإنتاجي وزيادة التعاطف وتقليل إلقاء اللوم على الآخرين.

1-Acceptance

Acceptance is defined by (Marvin,2001) as "an express act or implication via action that exhibits acquiescence to the terms of an offer in a way requested or needed by the offer for there to be created a legally binding contract". The performance of a particular act to exercise the power that was granted by request. The behavior of a person to whom something has been offered or tendered by another, whereby the offered proves through an act that they intend to retain the topic of the offer, and the offered demonstrates this purpose by performing the behavior suggested by the offer.

2-Types of Acceptance**1-Self –acceptance**

An agreement with oneself to respect, validate, and support oneself in one's current state is necessary for self-acceptance. To accept yourself, you must stop rejecting who you are. Rejection is harmful to one's physical and mental well-being. Feelings of isolation, loneliness, and rejection that last for an extended period of time tend to coincide with a decline in one's physical health. (Goff,2010)

2-Social-acceptance

Tolerating and accepting other people's unique characteristics and perspectives is one way to conceptualize what it means to be socially accepted. According to the findings, people with higher self-acceptance levels also have an easier time accepting others. Having a buddy who accepts you and who is there for you when you need support are both things that can be beneficial to your mental health and give you a good sense of who you are. (Wüstenhagen.,et ,2007)

3- Conditional –acceptance

When two parties are required to accept the terms of a contract, the terms of the contract can be amended or modified to be satisfactory to both parties. An individual has been offered an offer, which they are willing to accept, provided that certain modifications are made to the deal's conditions. The term for this kind

of acceptance is conditional acceptance, also known as qualified acceptance.(Richards ,1995(

4-Expressed acceptance

Expressed acceptance refers to clearly and overtly accepting the existing facts. Take, for example, the practice of formally and expressly accepting an offer. They consent to the terms in their current form without any changes. (Grover.,et al,2012).

5-Implied acceptance

Through one's actions, it is clear that they intend to abide by the conditions outlined in the statement. Acceptance can be demonstrated through any behavior that gives the impression that a person supports the proposed agreement. When a customer selects an item from a store department, pays the cashier for it, and says, "I accept the offer to sell me the item for the amount that is listed on the price tag," the customer is indicating that they accept the offer to sell them the item for the amount that is listed on the price tag.(Bowerman , 1973).

3-Advantage of Acceptance

According to Ellis and Robb (1994:91), "unconditional self-acceptance" is essential to robust psychological and behavioral health". According to Linehan (1994:75), accepting oneself and others on a moment-to-moment basis is a fundamental aspect of any self-management, interpersonal effectiveness, or emotion control program." Self-acceptance, a high tolerance for dissatisfaction, and an acceptance of uncertainty are all characteristics that Dryden (1987, 1998) considers to be indicators of psychological wellness. Other theorists and researchers, Hayes et al(1994:256), have identified the following advantages associated with acceptance:

- (1) an increased potential for productive action
 - an expanded range of available experiences 2)
 - 3)increased compassion and reduced blaming of others
 - 4)decreased distressing negative emotions; and
- positive therapeutic outcomes

4-Methodology

This part is concerned with data collection, the model of analysis, the analysis of the English data.

4-1data collection

The present study's data consist of four texts taken from English sermons and the sermons are taken from the internet.

4-2 Model of the analysis

The model is eclectic based on the types of acceptance by (Goff, 2010; Richard, 1995; Grove et al. (2012; and Bowerman, 1973). And the advantages of acceptance by Hayes et al.'s (1994)

4.3 The analysis of data

In the current section, the data will be analyzed as shown below:

Text 1

Collazo says that the Gospel of Matthew puts it this way: “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?” (Matt.7:3 NIV). Scripture warns us about being quick to judge others in light of our own opinions and closed off ways. As believers who follow an inclusive and accepting Christ, we are called to live in a diverse and welcoming community with a spirit of acceptance. Paul insisted in our text this morning that we receive into our community those who may be weak in the faith, and those who see things in different ways. All people are accepted at the table, and even more than that, maybe we need to get up from our own tables and go join and sit at tables of folks in the world who are unlike us and experience the world differently. The Spirit of Acceptance, according to Paul, doesn’t just work one way, he thinks that we, too, can be accepted into the lives of other people as well. That is the spirit of God’s law

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael L. Gregg

Date:9/13/20

Passage: Romans 14:1-12

<http://royallane.org/sermons/a-spirit-of-acceptance/>

A-Type of Acceptance

Social Acceptance

The preacher explains and clarifies how social acceptance or acceptance of others is essential and is even referred to in the Bible, as explained by the preacher in the extract above "All people are accepted at the table, and even more than that, maybe we need to get up from our tables and join and sit at tables of folks in the world who are unlike us and experience the world differently". The Bible urges us to accept others even if their opinions and beliefs differ from ours and try to understand and respect their beliefs.

B-Advantage of acceptance

The preacher calls on people to accept each other, sympathize with each other, leave the blame on others, and accept them as they are. This call presented by the

preacher motivates and encourages the audience to be compassionate and to stop blaming each other.

Text 2

The basis or foundation of our acceptance of one another is God's acceptance of us. And God's acceptance of us is at the core of the gospel and at the center of what Jesus came to accomplish. Judgment Day isn't primarily about where we will go (heaven or hell), it is primarily about where we stand with God. The eternal question that will loom over every man, woman, and child on that Day is this: will I be accepted by God or will I be rejected by God? Jesus said that on that Day many will hear him say the words, "Depart from Me, I never knew you". Those tragic words represent the Lord's eternal rejection of a human being from His presence. The greatest torment of hell will be being separated from God our Creator.

Speaker: Allen Snapp.

September 24, 2017

Series: Life Together in Community

Topic: Church Life Passage: Romans 14:1–12, Romans 15:7

<https://www.gracecorner.org/sermons/sermon/2017-09-24/an-atmosphere-of-acceptance>

A-Type of acceptance

The eternal question that will loom over every man, woman, and child on that Day is this: Will God accept me or reject me? Jesus said that on that Day, many would hear him say, "Depart from Me; I never knew you." Those tragic words represent the Lord's eternal rejection of a human being from His presence. The greatest torment of hell will be being separated from God, our Creator. The text makes it clear that our acceptance of each other, or our acceptance in the absolute, is conditional on God's acceptance of us, so that is a conditional acceptance. If God accepts us, we are the winners and will enter heaven; if God rejects us, we will perish and enter hell. Therefore, our acceptance is conditional on God's acceptance of us. God's acceptance means accepting our actions in our lives, and these actions must be sincere for the sake of God. Moreover, God is most merciful to His servants, and He also forgives our sins, even if they are significant, on the condition that we repent to Him sincerely.

B-Advantage of acceptance

The basis for God's acceptance of us is our good deeds. To do the things or deeds that God requires of us or that are mentioned in the holy books. Therefore, this thing motivates us to please God and strive to be accepted. This increases our production.

Our Lord is the most merciful. This thing reassures us. We know that God can forgive our sins or erase them. This thing keeps us from negative feelings and gives us hope to seek again to please God.

Text 3

The grace of God is not fully comprehensible to the natural mind. To the natural mind the story of grace is one that is just too hard to believe. This same mindset also keeps us from knowing that we have been accepted by God and His great love. But you have been accepted by God if you have believed in His Son Jesus Christ. Say it with me, I' am accepted by God. I am accepted by God! You have been accepted by God not because you're good but because God is good. You have been accepted because the Father accepted what the Son did on the cross and when you accepted His Son God automatically accepted you .

We all know how good it feels to be accepted. Accepted on the team, new job, college, the program, among piers. Jesus got us accepted into the family of God .

Jesus got us in .Jesus made it clear that He is the way...Jesus is the only way into the family of God. Not good looks, good giving, good singing, good shouting, or good works.

Jesus got us accepted by God and this acceptance gets us access to all that the Father.Ephesians 1:3-7 - 3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. - NLT

Praise God we are in the family and accepted because we believe in Jesus

The speaker:Marvin Cherry on

The date:Nov 24, 2015

Denomination: Church Of Go

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/you-are-accepted-marvin-cherry-sermon-on-accepted-in-christ-198232>

A-Type of acceptance

Christian people believe that Jesus is the way to God. They believe it is a fixed condition and an item that God has set for Him to accept us. Therefore, the speaker says, (Praise be to God that we are from God's family because we believe in Jesus).

This is implied acceptance, which means acceptance of something while knowing its conditions implicitly.

B-Advantage of acceptance

There is compliance and obedience to God's command to believe in Jesus to be accepted by God. There is also serenity because we are accepted into God's family. Moreover, the rationale is that accepting God gives us access to all that God has. According to all of this, thus the advantage of this text is an increased potential for productive action.

Text 5

we judge based on external appearance. We find it hard to accept others just because they look, they talk, they dress and they act differently. James 2:1-4 strongly condemns this attitude: "My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here's a good seat for you,' but say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit on the floor by my feet,' have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?" There's a sad observation that the rich tends to attract the rich and the poor tends to attract the poor. Somehow, getting the rich and the poor together in a church seems like mixing oil and water. One of our deacons had a chance to talk to Pastor Ed Lapiz of Day by Day Ministries. He asked how come the rich and the poor could sit comfortable together in his church. Pastor Ed said, "Let the church become the church of the Lord .

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/accepting-the-different-part-1-eyriche-cortez-sermon-on-unity-120761>

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 4:3-5, 2 Corinthians 5:16, James 2:1-4, Romans 14:1, Romans 15:7, Romans 5:8

Sermon Topics: Unity

A-Type of acceptance

The preacher talks about the acceptance of others and its importance. He says that we judge others by their outward appearance and find it difficult to accept others because of their appearance or behavior. As James says, if you take sides with the rich and leave the poor, you will have evil thoughts. Therefore, the pastor says, "Let the church be the church of the Lord, meaning we must accept that all people are in the church, whether rich or poor. Therefore, social acceptance is the most important thing about Christ; accepting people is the most important thing for them.

B- Advantage of acceptance

The benefit of acceptance here is to increase compassion and sympathy for others, reduce blaming others because of their appearance or behavior, and accept them despite their appearance or behavior.

5-Result of the analysis

1-Several types of acceptance were present in the texts, including conditional, social, and implied acceptance. The results also showed that the most common type is social acceptance in percentage 50%, followed by conditional acceptance and implied acceptance in percentage 25%. English preachers explained the types of acceptance that were most important and used in their religion. Accepting other people is very important in their religion, as is conditional acceptance. God's acceptance of us depends on many things, including believing in Jesus.

Percentages	%
Frequency	
Type of the acceptance	
0%	
0	
Self-acceptance	
50%	
2	
Social acceptance	
25%	
1	
Conditional acceptance	
0%	
0	
Expressed acceptance	
25%	

1

Implied acceptance

100%

4Total

2-There were advantages to acceptance, and the ones that are used in the study are an increased potential for productive action in percentage and increased compassion and reduced blaming of others, in percentage 50%. The English preachers cared to make the addressee understand that true faith comes from believing in Jesus and continuing to believe in him, and also to stop mocking people and not accepting them because of their appearance and beliefs. All of this is to make the addressee understand and produce well.

Table(4-6) Result of the advantage of acceptance in the English sermons

Percentages	%
-------------	---

Frequency	
-----------	--

Advantage of acceptance	
-------------------------	--

50%	
-----	--

2	
---	--

An increased potential for productive action	
--	--

0%	
----	--

0	
---	--

An expanded range of available experiences	
--	--

50%	
-----	--

2	
---	--

Increased compassion and reduced blaming of others	
--	--

0%	
----	--

0	
---	--

Decreased distressing negative emotions; and positive therapeutic outcomes

100%

4

Total

Conclusion

1- Social and conditional types of acceptance are the most frequently used in the English sermons. Accepting other people is very important in their religion, as is conditional acceptance.

2- The most widely used advantages were an increased potential for productive action and increased compassion and reduced blaming of others. The English preachers cared to make the addressee understand that true faith comes from believing in Jesus and continuing to believe in him, and also to stop mocking people and not accepting them because of their appearance and beliefs. All of this is to make the addressee understand and produce well.

References

- Chirelstein, Marvin (2001). *Concepts and Case Analysis in the Law of Contracts*. New York: Foundation.
- Ellis, A., & Robb, H. (1994). *Acceptance in rational-emotive therapy. Acceptance and change: Content and context in psychotherapy*, 91-102.
- Goff, Ashley (2010). "The Mindful Path to Self-Compassion: Freeing Yourself from Destructive Thoughts and Emotions" Christopher K. Germer New York: The Guilford Press, 2009. pp. 306. £10.95 (pb). *Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapy*. 39 (1): 126–127.
- Grover, K. W., & Miller, C. T. (2012). Does expressed acceptance reflect genuine attitudes? A bogus pipeline study of the effects of mortality salience on acceptance of a person with AIDS. *The Journal of social psychology*, 152(2), 131-135.
- Hayes, S. C., Wilson, K. G., Gifford, E. V., Bissett, R., Piasecki, M., Batten, S. V., ... & Gregg, J. (2004). A preliminary trial of twelve-step facilitation and acceptance and commitment therapy with polysubstance-abusing methadone-maintained opiate addicts. *Behavior therapy*, 35(4), 667-688.



- Linehan, M. M. (1994). Acceptance and change: The central dialectic in psychotherapy. *Acceptance and change: Content and context in psychotherapy*, 73-86.
- Richards, J. (1995). Gandhi's Qualified Acceptance of Violence. *The Acorn*, 8(2), 5-16.
- Searle, J. (1969). *Speech act*. Cambridge :Cambridge University press.
- Wüstenhagen, R., Wolsink, M., & Bürer, M. J. (2007). Social acceptance of renewable energy innovation: An introduction to the concept. *Energy policy*, 35(5), 2683-2691.