

LINKS TO:

Stage 2, Module 10

Learning Object 4: Are there other ways of being?

Exercise 1

1.1 Describe the register used in this thank-you letter.

Sample answer:

The letter from Anna and Peter to Pak Hassan is respectful and formal. This is evident both in the layout of the letter and in the language used. Peter and Anna have gone to great lengths to set out the letter according to the conventions of modern Indonesian business correspondence, including the use of an appropriate salutation and a complimentary close. Anna and Peter are also young teenagers, so there is a more personal tone to the second paragraph of the letter. This has been used to demonstrate their personal gratitude at being given the opportunity to meet with Jacki Topp. This slight, but deliberate, lapse in formality has been achieved through the frequent use of the possessive suffix *-nya*, rather than using a full pronoun.

1.2 Explain why Peter and Anna have used this register when writing their thank-you letter.

Sample answer:

By using the formal letter layout, along with an appropriate register, Anna and Peter are demonstrating that they are both respectful towards Pak Hassan, as the President Director of the company in which their father works, and grateful for the opportunity he has given to them to meet their idol.

1.3 Look at your answer to Exercise 1.2. What does this reveal about the relationship between the sender and the receiver?

Sample answer:

The register used in the letter Anna and Peter have written to Pak Hassan reveals that they have a good sense of their audience, and have adjusted their language accordingly to acknowledge that Pak Hassan is not only an adult, but one of significant importance — the President Director of the company in which their father works. Because of this they must maintain a respectful relationship with him.

1.4 What are the similarities to and the differences from the way a thank-you letter is written in Indonesian and in English?

Answer:

While the content of the body of a letter expressing gratitude will not vary much between English and Indonesian, the idea of respect is built into formal Indonesian correspondence through the layout and the forms and terms of address and salutation used. These are different to the 'Dear ...' and 'Yours faithfully' that we use in English. The following are examples of this:

<i>Yth.</i> (abbreviation)	The respected
<i>yang terhormat</i>	who is respected
<i>Hormat kami</i>	Our respect

1.5 Do you think the company representative would be pleased with Anna and Peter's thank-you letter?

Sample answer:

For all the reasons mentioned in Answer 1.1, Pak Hassan would be more than pleased with the letter he received from Anna and Peter. Because they are teenagers, Pak Hassan probably would not have expected a written expression of gratitude from them, which would make the arrival of this letter all the more surprising, and would make him feel that his effort to obtain the services of Jacki Topp for Anna, Peter and his other guests has been appreciated.

Exercise 2

2.1 When and where did the dinner take place?

Sample answer:

The dinner took place the previous Saturday night at the Gloria Restaurant.

2.2 Do you think Anna and Peter enjoyed the dinner? Why? Why not?

Sample answer:

Anna and Peter enjoyed the evening and the meal very much, as is illustrated by the phrase *menikamati santapan yang sangat lezat*, 'enjoyed a very delicious meal'.

Exercise 3

3.1 Help Peter and Anna create a thank-you message to Nina.

Sample answer:



3.2

3.2.1 What text type have you chosen to use for your thank-you message?

Sample answer:

The text type that I chose for Anna and Peter to express their gratitude to Nina was a thank-you card.

3.2.2 Why did you choose this text type to deliver your thank you?

Sample answer:

I selected this text type because I felt it was the most appropriate for the situation. A formal thank-you letter to a friend of the same age would be a little 'over the top' in this situation. A text message would not be appropriate as it lacks the personal touch. Similarly, an email seems inadequate, and too impersonal as a way of thanking someone: an email costs the sender nothing except a few minutes of their time to write. The thank-you card adds a personal touch and gives an impression that you really appreciate the gift enough to reciprocate in a way that took time, effort, money and care.

3.2.3 What are the similarities and the differences between the thank-you message you wrote to Nina and the one Peter and Anna wrote to the company representative?

Sample answer:

The central purpose of both the thank-you card to Nina and the formal letter to Pak Hassan is to express gratitude. Both texts achieve this aim in an appropriate manner for their intended audience.

3.2.4 If Peter and Anna had used the same text type to thank the company president as the one chosen for Nina's thank-you, how do you think they would be perceived by the company president and his wife?

Answer:

If Anna and Peter had sent a thank-you card to Pak Hassan instead of a formal letter, they may have been viewed as being either unschooled in the ways of appropriate conduct in Indonesian culture, or, worse still, impolite, which would also reflect badly on their parents and their upbringing. However, because Pak Hassan is used to working with foreign consultants, I am certain he would make allowances for them due to their cultural background and lack of maturity, and would appreciate the token gesture.