

CLASSIFICATION OF SPEECH ACTS

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Abstract: The article gives information about speech acts and their classification according to pragmatics. Each type of speech act is closely examined with appropriate examples in the form of the sentences, phrases. Moreover, examples are provided not only for one type of speech acts which was firstly used by John Searle, but also for second type which differs from the first type.

Key words: Constative-assertive speech, directives, assertives, expressives, commissives, the second classification of speech acts, locutionary acts, perlocution.

As we know, speech acts are one of the main aspects of linguistics which are being studied by a great number of linguists. It should be mentioned that the term illocutionary acts is normally used instead of speech acts after John Searle put this term into use. In the following, the types of speech acts are mentioned with the examples in order to make the statements clear for the reader.

1. Assertives. This type of the speech acts involves itself information about the speaker's certain belief, or in other words, it is based on the information that is true or false.

- There 12 months in a year.

This sentence is constative-assertive speech act due to the fact that it only conveys the information only. There is not any intention of the performance of the action. If we look at the information, we can infer that the given information is true, because we all know that there are really 12 months in a year.

2. Directives. These are attempts by the speaker to try to get the hearer to do something. Correct uses of directives must always refer to future voluntary acts. Directives include orders, commands, requests and refer to pleading, begging, praying, insisting, and suggesting.

- Do your home task on time!

This example is a directive-performative speech act. The addressor is ordering the addressee to perform a certain action. From this sentence, we can also infer that the addressee is much more younger from the speaker. Here, the addressor is conveying the speech act in the way that the listener precisely must perform the action.

3. Commissives. Commissives reveal the intention of the speaker. Commissives refer to vows, threats, pledges, guarantees, contracts, promises, covenants, and oaths. An offer is also a commissive but it only commits the speaker to some action upon the condition of the offer being accepted.

- I'll give you 1000 sums for the watch.

This speech act is a commissive-implicit performative. Here, we can observe the intention of the speaker to perform a contract with the listener. As commissives are related to the future, we can infer that the action will be performed in the future. Somehow, the addressor is aiming at persuading the listener to make a deal.

4. Expressives. They reveal the speaker's attitudes and emotions towards a particular proposition. Expressives include thanking, apologizing, congratulating, and welcoming.

- Thank you for giving me the money

This sentence is an expressive-constative speech act. Because the addressor is not intending to perform any action. Instead, he is just stating his feeling or, in other words, emotions. Here, we can observe the speech act of thanking.

5. Declarations. Declarations are utterances that change the reality by representing it as being so changed. In short, we can say that these type of the speech act is used by the addressor to change a certain reality or situation.

- From now on I announce that you are a Bachelor of English .

This sentence is a declarative – constative speech act, because the reality or the truth about the addressee has changed. He, surely was a student before acquiring his Bachelor's degree. But, after the commencement, his state changed from being a student to becoming a Bachelor.

Second classification of speech acts

There are 3 dimensions of speech acts. They are the followings:

1. Locutionary act. It is the performance of an [utterance](#). The term equally refers to the surface meaning of an utterance. A speech act should be analysed as a locutionary act concerning the following features: the actual utterance and its ostensible meaning, comprising [phonetic](#), [phatic](#), and [rhetic](#) acts corresponding to the [verbal](#), [syntactic](#), and [semantic](#) aspects of any meaningful utterance.

- Don't go into the water

In this sentence, the locutionary act is analyzed with distinct phonetic, syntactic and semantic features For, example, from locutionary point, the sentence is uttered with a rising tone, the sentence, semantically have a simple construction, according to the purpose of the sentence it is imperative sentence.

2. Illocutionary act. It is the statement that the speaker means to convey. [Illocutionary acts](#), then, carry a directive for the audience. It might be a promise, an order, an apology, or an expression of thanks—or merely an answer to a question, to inform the other person in the conversation. These express a certain attitude and carry with their statements a certain illocutionary force.

How's that salad doing? Is it ready yet?"

This is inexplicit performative illocutionary act. Thus, if a speaker asks this from the waiter as a way of ("politely") enquiring about the salad, his/her intent may be in fact to make the waiter bring the salad. Thus the illocutionary force of the utterance is not an inquiry about the progress of salad construction, but a demand that the salad be brought.

3. Perlocution. It is the hearer's reaction to speaker's message. [Perlocutionary acts](#), on the other hand, bring about a consequence to the audience. They have an effect on the hearer, in feelings, thoughts, or actions, for example, changing someone's mind. Unlike illocutionary acts, perlocutionary acts can project a sense of fear into the audience.

- "I will not be your friend."

Take for instance the perlocutionary act of saying, "I will not be your friend." Here, the impending loss of friendship is an illocutionary act, while the effect of frightening the friend into compliance is a perlocutionary act.

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