

THE IMPORTANCE OF PERLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN WRITTEN SPEECH

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Annotatsiya

This scientific article discusses the impact of spoken and written speech and the speech acts within them on human communication. It also examines the role of perlocutionary acts in written speech and the extent to which these acts influence written communication in modern written media.

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Speech is the primary means of communication between people, playing an active role in the exchange of ideas, communication, and mutual information sharing.

In linguistic theory, the concept of speech is contrasted with the abstract concept of language, which is considered a system of expression tools accepted within a particular language community, and with the concrete, somewhat general concept of language as one of the most characteristic manifestations of social reality (life). Genuine speech (external speech), which serves to convey information and messages to others to influence their behavior and activities, manifests as either the articulation of language signs perceived by the auditory organs (recorded and replayed using sound recording devices) or the conditional representation of these signs in writing.¹

In addition to external speech, there is also internal speech. It is an extraordinary phenomenon in which various events and occurrences are continuously thought about and discussed in the human mind. During a conversation, speakers naturally think about, imagine, discuss, and find solutions to the events occurring in the conversation process. This process is manifested in external speech through sounds and voices.

Besides its communicative function, speech can also perform a poetic function. A distinct form of speech is reading.

Every person's speech is a unique individual phenomenon, possessing distinct characteristics. While the fundamental elements of language—vocabulary and grammatical structure—are not exclusive to individuals but are reflected in all people, belonging absolutely to a particular language community. Speech is closely linked with human thought and consciousness. A person's thoughts are formed in their mind and manifested in their speech. In speech, a person's thoughts are shaped and expressed. All abstract reflections of reality transcend individuality and become the product of speech through spoken language. Speech plays a crucial role in the manifestation and functioning of a person's psyche, thoughts, perceptions, memory, will, and emotions. It is also significant in the development of human consciousness. Depending on its application, speech can take forms such as artistic speech, scientific

¹ Wikipediya (wikipedia.org)

speech, and formal speech. Regardless of the form or situation, clarity, fluency, simplicity, and expressiveness should remain the most important features of speech.

Spoken speech is the conversational form of speech. It differs from written speech through sounds. Spoken speech is divided into monologic and dialogic speech.

Monologue (from Greek “mono” meaning “one” and “logos” meaning “word, speech”) is one of the components of a literary work, representing the speech directed at oneself or others by the characters in the work. In literature, monologue is used as an important means of expressing the inner world and experiences of characters.

Monologic speech is a form of speech directed at oneself, not considering the listening and responding of another person. In some dramatic works, the monologic speech of a character is directed at the audience. Monologic speech is also present in prose works. In poetry, it is one of the main forms of speech. Sometimes, the climax of a work is conveyed through monologic speech.

Monologic speech typically features a specific segment of text that is structurally and content-wise interconnected, possessing a unique compositional structure and logical completeness. Monologic speech can be expressed in oral (speech delivery) or written (journalism, memoirs, diaries) forms. In oral monologic speech, intonation plays a crucial role, while in written monologic speech, intonation depends on the syntactic structure of the text and the placement of logically emphasized words. Monologic speech is one of the main forms of speech for an orator; it is a linguistic-stylistic method with several types, such as persuasive (propagandistic) monologic speech, dramatic monologic speech, lyrical monologic speech, and narrative (informative) monologic speech. Monologic speech can appear as open speech or internal speech; in open monologic speech, the character expresses their speech aloud, while in internal monologic speech, the monologue is manifested as the character’s internal speech, thoughts, and reflections.²

Dialogue (from Greek “dialogos” meaning “conversation”) is a type of speech involving the exchange of speech between two or more individuals. In drama, it is the main means of expressing characters and the development of events; in prose (and sometimes poetry), it is a method of artistic expression. Dialogue is also an independent journalistic and philosophical genre.

Written speech has evolved somewhat from spoken speech. It is characterized by the meticulous selection of words, precise but complex grammatical structures, and the absence of direct use of intonation, facial expressions, and gestures typical of spoken speech. Through written speech, people express their thoughts, imaginations, impressions, future plans, or their reactions and emotions towards events. Hundreds of years ago, people used letters, messengers, or birds to convey messages to each other, which required a significant amount of time. This process was not always successful. In their letters, people conveyed their emotions, feelings, experiences, and politically significant messages to their interlocutors, using the perlocutionary factors of that time to emphasize the importance of the matter. The level of confidentiality of these communication methods was ambiguous for everyone back then.

Today, advanced technologies have made long-distance relationships between people much easier. Examples of these technologies include phones, tablets, computers, and other modern devices. There are many programs available for remote communication, such as SMS, E-mail, Telegram, Facebook, WeChat, Instagram, and Twitter, which are actively used for communication between people. These programs allow people to easily converse with their relatives, friends, colleagues, and many others. The convenience of these technologies lies in the fact that conversations between interlocutors are only known to them, and these programs offer many functions to convey the importance of their conversations.

² O‘zME. Birinchi jild. Toshkent, 2000-yil

People actively use exclamation marks, ellipses, and various emojis in their messages to convey the emotional states of importance, joy, sadness, excitement, fear, and pleading. Additionally, they repeat certain vowels to express requests, pleading, and anger, and repeat consonants at the end of words to indicate necessity, importance, and determination. The role of perlocutionary acts in enriching written communication between interlocutors with such tools is invaluable.

In the mid-1950s, John Austin developed the theory of speech acts, emphasizing that the unit of communication is not just a sentence but a speech act associated with statements, questions, explanations, and descriptions. These acts are performed according to generally accepted principles and behavioral rules. The research focused on speech acts uttered in direct communication with an interlocutor.³

Austin realized that any judgment has an active nature, so he rejected the division of statements into performatives and constatives. To replace this idea, he created a more deeply considered linguistic classification, identifying three acts: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary.

Locutionary act: This involves producing sounds, using words, and establishing connections between them according to grammatical rules and meaning, essentially the act of saying something.

Illocutionary act: This conveys the communicative purpose of the sentence, the reason for its utterance. Locutionary acts correspond to descriptive statements, while illocutionary acts correspond to performative ones. However, Austin noted that it is impossible to classify a particular sentence as purely performative or constative. During a conversation, people simultaneously perform a purposeful action beyond mere language use. People speak not just to enjoy the process of pronouncing words and sounds but to construct sentences that reflect the situation in the world.

Austin attempted to systematize the characteristics of speech acts, believing that it was necessary to identify all verbs that describe actions created during a conversation and help assess the force of the word.⁴

After studying the vocabulary, Austin developed “usage classes” of performative verbs based on their demonstrative force:

- Judgments, any judgments, decisions
- Exercises, expressions of influence, manifestations of power
- Commissions, promises, obligations, and intentions
- Behavior, social settings
- Demonstrations, results of discussions, evidence, clarifications of reasons

Perlocutionary act: This is the sum of additional expressive means that consciously influence the addressee to achieve the desired result.

Through speech, people can achieve certain outcomes, make changes in the surrounding world and in the interlocutor’s mind, and the resulting outcome may or may not align with the speaker’s original intention. A speech act, when viewed from the perspective of its real consequences, performs the function of a perlocutionary act.

It is important that all three levels manifest simultaneously in a single sentence, meaning that when performing a speech act, the speaker simultaneously asks a question, responds to it, expresses their

³ Рябинская Наталья Сергеевна. Текст и социальная структура. Текст научной статьи по специальности «Социология». *depot.ceon.pl*. Социологический журнал (2000). — Научный редактор Г. С. Батыгин. Дата обращения: 16 ноября 2023.

⁴ Чистанова Светлана Сергеевна. Концепт иллокуции в теории речевых актов Джона Остина // Гуманитарный вектор. — 2017. — Т. 12, вып. 3. — ISSN 1996-7853. Архивировано 28 ноября 2018 года.

opinion, or reports something. John Austin defines their differences only for stylistic purposes. The unique feature of perlocutionary acts is the degree of influence on the listener. If a locutionary act is limited to a warning or command, a perlocutionary act can include threats, persuasion, convincing, coercion, and more.⁵

Examples:

Locutionary act: "He told me I should read the book."

Illocutionary act: "He demanded that I read the book."

Perlocutionary act: "He made me read the book."

In conclusion, it is worth noting that speech acts play a significant role in expressing our reactions to all events in our daily lives, our emotions, and many emotional states unique to individuals.

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⁵ Речевой акт Архивная копия от 20 мая 2009 на Wayback Machine // Энциклопедия «Кругосвет».