

## SPEECH ACTS IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

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### ABSTRACT

*The article discusses theory of speech acts in modern linguistics, the main characteristics of a speech act, which are distinguished by researchers according to various linguistic concepts. Another important point is emphasized in the article by A. Davison: there are sentences in the logical structure of which quantifier words and adverbial phrases modify the indicator of illocutionary force. Speaking, we choose one of the forms: statement, question, generalization or clarification, repetition or addition of a new one. In today's linguistics, attempts to improve this theory are made in the following directions: go beyond the boundaries of a single speech act, connect it with other units of communication in such a way that a complete picture of live communication is obtained with its turns, failures, corrections, improvements in style.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Speech, Interlocutor, Main Characteristics Of A Speech Act, Modern Linguistics*

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### INTRODUCTION

Speech act, the minimum unit of speech activity, singled out and studied in the theory of speech acts - a doctrine that is the most important part of linguistic pragmatics.

One of the provisions of the theory of speech acts is that the minimum unit of human communication is not a sentence or statement, but "the implementation of a certain type of act, such as a statement, a question, an order, a description, an explanation, an apology, gratitude, congratulations, etc. "

This attitude turned out to be consonant with those views in modern linguistics, which are characterized by the desire to go beyond the sentence, to expand the scope of linguistic analysis [6, 41]. Such an expansion of the research outlook is not an end in itself, but a means of "unloading" the semantic description of the sentence and text, removing from it some components of the general communicative order.

### Discussion:

Linguists pin the following hopes on the theory of speech acts:

- 1) Go beyond the material processed by purely linguistic methods, but at the same time try to develop a sufficiently reliable toolkit;
- 2) Explain and describe the strategies of speech impact based on the atomic concepts of this theory;

- 3) extend the “principle of compositionality of G. Frege” to the area of speech interaction; that is, to establish such structures and rules for their transformation, which would allow, based on the interpretation of the constituent parts of verbal communication, to obtain - in a "compositional way" - an interpretation of the whole;
- 4) Explain and formally show how some apparently independent statements form a coherent context;
- 5) explain the relationship between the clarity of expression and the effectiveness of the impact; these notions of rhetoric link the "transparency" of the embodiment of illocution to the perlocutionary effect; the theory of speech acts could give recommendations on how to achieve "fail-safe" achievement of rhetorical goals;
- 6) get taxonomy of speech means and a metalanguage for a lexicographic description; for example, when describing verbs of speech, it is convenient to use the conceptual apparatus of the theory of speech acts;
- 7) to include in the scope of the theory of pragmatics communicative intentions, psychological and behavioral reactions, usually inherent in the recipient in the course of communication; explore the social consequences of acts of communication in terms of relations of social dependence and equivalence;
- 8) deepen the theory of paraphrases, taking into account not only purely logical relationships between sentences that are close in meaning, but also the communicative properties of such sentences;
- 9) establish relations between the repertoire of acts of utterance in a particular language, on the one hand, and illocutionary acts of a universal nature, on the other;
- 10) Include units larger than a sentence within the scope of truth semantics, assuming that the denotation of a message is the function performed by the statement; the meaning of this function is determined, in turn, by the elements of the situation and the form of the utterance (such is the premise of the "message denotation" model).

Within the framework of the general linguistic approach to the theory of speech acts, two disciplines can be distinguished: the actual theory of speech acts (analysis, classification and establishing the relationship between speech acts, regardless of speech means) and "analysis of speech acts", or linguistic analysis of speech (establishing a correspondence between speech acts and units of speech). Within the framework of the first discipline, the question of how the goals and intentions are realizable in a particular communication is not significant. For the second discipline, the linguistic material is the starting point; this is where linguistics sees its field of study.

Researchers in the concept of a speech act emphasize various points that are essential for linguistics. Thus, M. Halliday considers a speech act as a choice of one of the many intertwined alternatives that form the "semantic potential" of the language. Speaking, we choose one of the forms: statement, question, generalization or clarification, repetition or addition of a new one. In other words, as opposed to looking at language as a set of rules or formal prescriptions, here the concept of language is proposed as a set of choices that individuals can evaluate in different ways. It is in this sense that a speech act is associated with “speech planning” and is a complex

entity in which cognitive and other functions are combined with interpersonal ones, with a certain specific weight of these functions in a particular situation[4,135].

Let's give a short list of the main characteristics of a speech act, which are distinguished by M. Halliday according to various linguistic concepts:

- 1) The conditions for the success of a speech act are laid down in the fact that within the framework of a sentence it is customary to refer to a modus - this is the corresponding component of the sentence, its performative part;
- 2) A speech act is an elementary unit of speech, a sequence of linguistic expressions uttered by one speaker, acceptable and understandable to at least one of the many other native speakers;
- 3) A speech act is the final act in a series of other actions; different is the degree to which the speech act is universal; universal and socially conditioned speech acts are opposed; an example of the former is a statement; an example of the second is the question of the presence of children, which in a number of African tribes is used as a simple greeting;
- 4) The universal properties of the speech act are opposed to those that are specific to a particular language: perlocutions are always universal, and illocutions are both universal and specific (they are presented in different ways - in a different set - in different languages). This allows us to designate a new aspect in the problem of studying linguistic universals;
- 5) A speech act can be either larger than a sentence (statement) or smaller than it, that is, it can be an integral part of a sentence; thus, a nominal phrase can be represented (although this is not done in the classical theory of a speech act) as a speech act of description, more or less successful;
- 6) The speech act connects non-verbal and verbal behavior;
- 7) The speech act, considered as the surface structure of the sentence, is not derived from "hidden" structures, but is the immediate reality of speech with its textual connections and with the rules for the use of language units specified within the framework of grammar;
- 8) The speech act allows you to distinguish between text and subtext;
- 9) The speech act is associated with the concept of "frame" or "framework" in some concepts of modeling speech activity: this refers to the "ritual" sequences of the speech act, interpreted on the basis of knowledge about the world and involving metaconditions for their interpretation (associated with the establishment of the context of which frame we are currently in, that is, with the choice of frame), as well as based on the previous, present or future (expected) actions of the communicants;
- 10) A typical task of a speech act is to influence the addressee's thoughts when he interprets the speaker's statement. At the same time, the general properties of the speech act are the properties of the cooperative conscious and intelligent interaction of several subjects. All this makes it possible to define the concept of the relevance and acceptability of speech at the macro level, which is not covered by the grammar of a single sentence;
- 11) The speech act includes in the grammatical description, the pragmatic concepts of the context and the role of the speaker and the addressee, which lie within the conventions and

norms of a particular society. The latter determine which variant of expression is preferable for a given speech act;

12) the understanding of the sentence in which the speech act is realized is connected with the process of deductive inference in everyday thinking, which in a new way raises the question of the correlation of the grammar (and norms) of the language, on the one hand, and thinking, on the other;

13) One cannot speak of understanding a sentence only in its literal meaning: it is necessary to establish the purpose of the speech act. Therefore, the identification of the illocutionary power of the sentence is included in the description of the language;

14) A speech act connects a sentence with an utterance.

Another important point is emphasized in the article by A. Davison: there are sentences in the logical structure of which quantifier words and adverbial phrases modify the indicator of illocutionary force. This implies that the pragmatic and syntactic approaches to speech acts are closely intertwined. The phenomenon of the so-called "modalized speech acts" apparently also testifies to this. In other words, grammar must implicitly include the theory of speech acts.

### **Analysis:**

In today's linguistics, attempts to improve this theory are made in the following directions: go beyond the boundaries of a single speech act, connect it with other units of communication in such a way that a complete picture of live communication is obtained with its turns, failures, corrections, improvements in style. As is sometimes pointed out in this connection, the context in this theory is nothing more than a "possible context", and the truly creative aspect of language activity in its everyday manifestation remains obscured; eliminate the gap between the intentions and means of expression accepted in this society. Otherwise, the meaning of the speech action is unclear. However, in today's theory of speech acts, it is possible to reveal only the properties of the logical-syntactic representation of a speech action, and not real speech actions; to reflect in theory the fact that the syntactic and semantic properties of a sentence as a unit of language alone (that is, the properties of a "pseudo-sentence") outside of speech cannot determine the usability of a particular sentence in a specific form of a speech act. Otherwise, the conditions for the adequate use of the sentence will, contrary to the initial assumptions of this theory, be unique for each specific sentence, and not typical; it is necessary to clarify the initial concepts; otherwise, during the transition of the theory of speech acts from deductive reasoning to the analysis of specific material (for example, in literary analysis), the following happens: terms and basic concepts begin to be used so approximately that they lose their strict meaning. As a result, all terminology and theoretical apparatus can be perceived simply as another way of metaphorically defining phenomena; take into account not only the intentions and opinions of the speaker, but also the nature of verbal communication, which mainly depends on the relationship and interaction between the speaker and the listener.

### **CONCLUSION:**

There are other directions of criticism of this theory - both constructive and destructive. D. Frank gives an interesting systematization of the directions of this criticism. It should be born in mind that in his book D. Frank uses this systematization to build an improved concept in which the dialogical properties of speech are involved in the description of grammar.

So, many of the shortcomings of the modern theory of speech acts can be explained by its incompleteness and ongoing development. The prospects for the application of the theory of speech acts, as shown above, are very diverse, so its importance for linguistics today should not be underestimated.

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