

A Pragmatic Study of Searle's Classification of Speech Acts: Performative Verbs in Pride and Prejudice

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Abstract:

The present study is a descriptive qualitative analysis of Searle's classification of speech acts: performative verbs in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The theoretical background is about types of speech acts. The main focus of this study is on Searle's classification of speech acts including performative verbs of five classes: assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives. The practical side of this paper includes analyzing the data collection which is taken from Austin's *Pride and Prejudice*. It is a descriptive qualitative analysis of this novel according to Searle's model of the performative verbs. The conclusions of the study are mentioned at the end of this paper to show what performative verbs of Searle's classification are used in *Pride and Prejudice*.

Keywords: : representative verbs, directive verbs, commissive verbs, expressive verbs, and declarative verbs.

دراسة تداولية لتصنيف سيرل لأفعال الكلام: الأفعال الأدائية في رواية كبرياء و تحامل

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الملخص:

تتناول الدراسة الحالية تحليلاً نوعياً وصفيًا لتصنيف سيرل للأفعال الكلامية: الأفعال الأدائية في رواية جين أوستن "كبرياء وتحامل". وتتناول الخلفية النظرية أنواع الأفعال الكلامية: الكلامية، والإلقائية، والفعلية. ويركز البحث بشكل أساسي على تصنيف سيرل للأفعال الكلامية بما في ذلك الأفعال الأدائية من خمس فئات: الأفعال التأكيدية، والأفعال التوجيهية، والأفعال الإلزامية، والأفعال التعبيرية، والأفعال التقريرية. ويتضمن الجانب العملي من هذه الدراسة تحليل مجموعة البيانات المأخوذة من رواية أوستن "كبرياء وتحامل". وهو تحليل نوعي وصفي لهذه الرواية وفقاً لنموذج سيرل للأفعال الأدائية. وقد تم ذكر استنتاجات الدراسة في نهاية هذه الدراسة لتوضيح الأفعال الأدائية لتصنيف سيرل المستخدمة في رواية أوستن "كبرياء وتحامل".

الكلمات المفتاحية : الأفعال التمثيلية، والأفعال التوجيهية، والأفعال الإلزامية، والأفعال التعبيرية، والأفعال التقريرية.

This paper is about Searle's classification of illocutionary acts which is divided into five classes: representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives. The study clarifies that each class contains performative verbs as appeared in *Pride and Prejudice*. This study tries to answer the following questions:

1. What is Searle's classification of speech acts in *Pride and Prejudice*?

2. What are Searle's performative verbs which are used in *Pride and Prejudice*? The paper aims at investigating Searle's classification of speech acts in *Pride and Prejudice* and identifying Searle's performative verbs used in *Pride and Prejudice*. It is hopeful that this study is of good value to researchers who would like to write about Searle's classification of illocutionary acts and the performative verbs of each class.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Speech Acts

Speech acts were first introduced by John Austin in his 1962 *How to Do Things with Words, and were subsequently refined* by John Searle in 1969. They contend that language can be used to carry out actions; in addition to providing information or describing things. Speech is used to carry out actions. According to Yule (1996, 47), a speech act is an utterance that carries out an action.

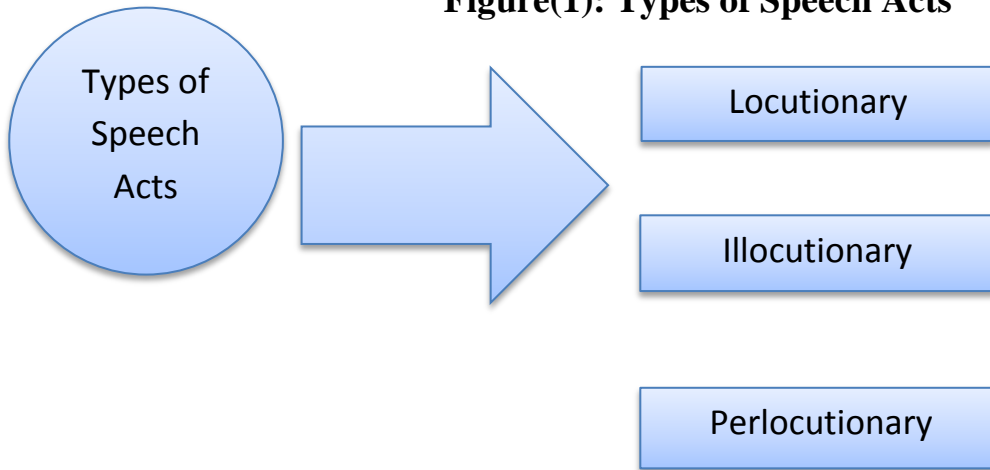
According to Savas (1994, p. 85), speech acts serve their function once they are said or communicated. These are commonly taken to include acts such as apologizing, , answering, requesting, complaining, warning, inviting, refusing, and congratulating which are usually understood to be among them. People tend to use performative verbs in everyday life communication to indicate speech acts (Amin, 2014, p. 1). Communication is the main priority of human beings to interact with each other. People can communicate by using verbs to express their ideas, and feelings (Salih, 2020, p.1). Aziz and Uthman (2010) state that the speech acts can be used in advertising and marketing by using some indicators of deception to attract the attention of the customer.

"Speech act complexity, contextual clues, adopting bottom-up processing, treating each dialogue utterance independently, inability to relate meanings of utterances." (Khamees, 2010, p. 1).

2.2.Types of Speech Acts

The types of speech acts are as illustrated as the following:

Figure(1): Types of Speech Acts



1.Locutionary Speech Acts

The Locutionary speech acts mean the grammatical structure of the utterance (the literal meaning of the utterance) or the meaning in its traditional sense without any intention in communication (Austin, 1962, p.108). Yule (1996, p. 48; Cutting, 2002, p. 16) state that locutionary act is what is said of meaningful utterances.

2. Illocutionary Speech Acts

The illocutionary act is performed via the communicative force of an utterance, such as promising, apologizing, offering. Illocutionary act is the performance of the act with a particular intention or specific goal the speaker has in mind when saying something. Actions performed via utterances are called speech acts such as acknowledgement, surprise, apology, complain, compliment, invitation, promise, and request (Cutting, 2002, p.16).

3.Perlocutionary Speech Acts

Perlocutionary act is the effect of the meaningful, intentional utterances on the hearer's feelings, thoughts, and action such as persuading, convincing, scaring, enlightening, inspiring, or getting someone to do or realize something.

2.3.Searle's Classification of Speech Acts and Performative Verbs

Searle (1969; 1979; 1989) states the alternative classification of illocutionary acts as the following:

1.Representatives

Representatives include statements, assertions, descriptions, classifications, and explanations. They show whether the utterances are "true or false". Representative verbs are (assert, state, describe, assume, complain, and conclude, smoke). For instance,

- Sam *smokes* a lot.

2.Directives

Directives show that getting someone to do something. Directives include orders, commands, and requests, suggestions, etc. Directive verbs are (ask, order, command, request, beg, plead, entreat, invite, permit, and advise). The illocutionary point of directives is "to try to get the hearer to behave in such a way as to make his behavior match the propositional content of the directive" (Searle, 1999, p. 148-149).

-For instance, -*Get out*. I want you to leave.

3.Commissives

Commissives are identified by the speaker's commitment to do something by the future actions. Commissives include promises, threats, refusals, and pledges. Commissives are (shall, intend, favor, offer, and promise) (Searle, 1999). For instance, I *promise* to come tomorrow.

4.Expressives

Expressives of illocutionary acts refer to what the speaker feels "the psychological state). Expressives include expressing pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, sorrow, etc. Expressive verbs are (thank, congratulate, apologize, condole, forgive, deplore, greet, and welcome). -For instance,

-I *congratulate* you on winning the race.

5.Declaratives

Declarations of illocutionary acts state that the speaker declares a new social fact . Declarations show "which effect immediate changes in the institutional state of affairs and which tend to rely on elaborate extra-linguistic institutions" [as appears in (Levinson, 1983, p.240).

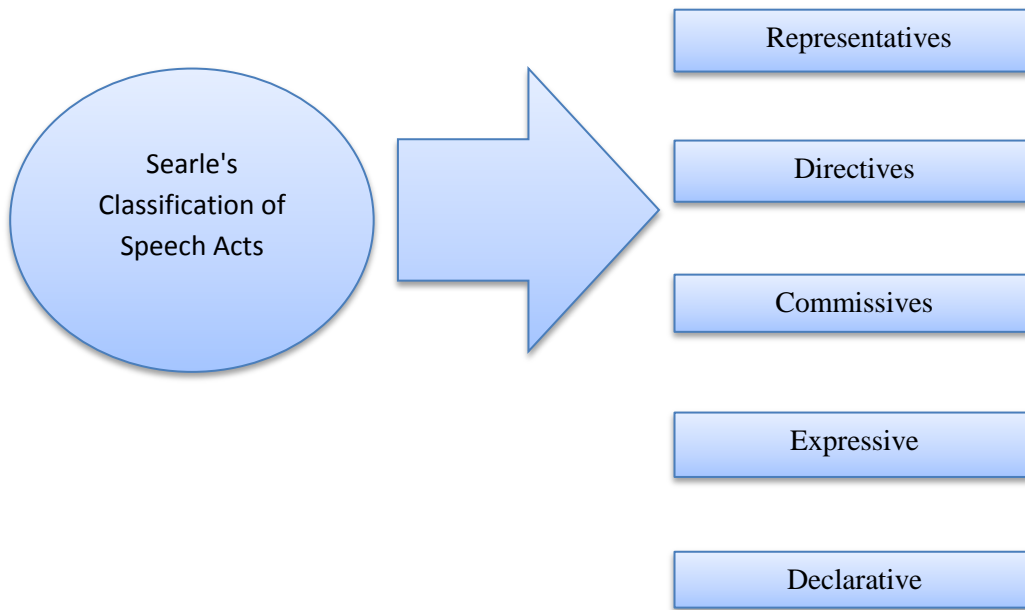
Declarations need an additional language institution that establishes guidelines for their application. The fit is two valued in this class (words-to-world and world-to-words). Weddings, christenings, dismissals, etc. are few examples. They are both linked to the original conventional theory. Nonetheless, several academics have expanded on the theory.

Declarative verbs are (name, marry, sentence, pronounce, and declare).

-For instance,

-I hereby take you as my lawful wedded wife.

Figure (2): Searle's Classification of Speech Acts of Performative Verbs



3.Methodology

This study shows the following methodology. First, an introduction about Searle's illocutionary acts and the divisions of performative verbs into five classes as found in *Pride and Prejudice*. Second, literature review includes the definitions of speech acts, types of speech acts, and Searle's classification of performative verbs. The third one is methodology. The fourth one is data analysis

and discussion and the data is taken from Pride and Prejudice. The fifth is the results of the study. The last one is the conclusions.

4.Data Analysis and Discussion

The data is taken from Jane Austin's novel "Pride and Prejudice". The study is a quantitative analysis of Searle's illocutionary acts and the performative verbs in Pride and Prejudice as the following:

Table (1): Searle's Classification of Speech Acts and Perormative Verbs in Pride and Prejudice

No.	Searle's Classification of Speech Acts	Performative Verbs	Description
1.	Repressentatives	describe	Description
		assert	Asserting
2.	Directives	beg	Asking someone to do something
		ask	Requesting
		Advise	Advice
		Entreat	Requesting
3.	Commisives	promise	promising
4.	Expressives	thank	thanking
		Congratulate	congratulating
		forgive	forgiving
		praise	praising

		apologize	apology
5.	Declaratives	declare	declaration
		insist	Insisting
		confess	Declaration

5.Results

The performative verbs, which are used in Pride and Prejudice, are as follows:

1.Representatives: "describe" and "assert" which are used for the purpose of description and assertion.

2.Directives: "beg", "advise", "ask", and "entreat" which are used for the purpose of "requesting", and "asking someone to do something".

3. Commisives: "promise" which is used for the purpose of promising.

4. Expressives: "thank", "Congratulate", "forgive", "praise", and

"apologize" which are used for the purpose of "thanking, congratulation, forgiving, praising, and apologizing.

5. Declaratives: "declare", "insist", and "confess" which are used for the purpose of declaration.

6.Conclusions

The performative verbs, which are used in Pride and Prejudice according to Searle's classification of speech acts, are as the following:

1.Representatives performative verbs are "describe" and "assert".

2.Directives are "beg", "advise", "ask", and "entreat" which are used for the purpose of "requesting", and "asking someone to do something".

3. Commisives verb "promise" which is used for the purpose of promising.

4. Expressives verbs "thank", "Congratulate", "forgive", "praise", and "apology".

5. Declaratives:

"declare", "insist", and "confess".

6. In *Pride and Prejudice*, there is repetition of the performative verbs: beg, promise, advise, congratulate, thank, retreat, confess, ask, and declare.

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