

Pragmatics



language is used to act

Phoneme

Morpheme


Word / meaning

Clause

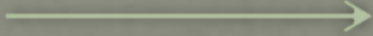
Sentence/utterance

Pragmatics

Discourse

- We have been considering ways in which we interpret the meaning of an utterance in terms of what the speaker intended to convey.
- However, we have not yet considered the fact that we usually know how the speaker intends us to take what is said.
- In other words, we can usually recognize the type of 'action' performed by a speaker with the utterance.
- Which is referred to as  Speech act

A Speech Act

- Is the action performed by a speaker with an utterance.
- We use the term speech act to describe actions such as:
 - Requesting
 - Commanding
 - Questioning
 - Informing
- “ I’ll be there at six”  a speech act of “ promising”

Types of Speech Act



Structures

- Interrogative
- Imperative
- Declarative

Functions

Expressives

- express some sort of psychological state.
- greeting, thanking, apologizing, complaining, congratulating.
- Examples:
 - *This tea is disgusting.*
 - *I'm sorry to hear that.*

Commissives

- commit a speaker to some future action.
- promising, pledging, threatening, vowing, offering.

- Examples:
- *I am going to leave you.*
- *I'll call you tonight.*

Directives

- are used by a speaker who attempts to get the addressee to carry out an action.
- requesting, advising, commanding, challenging, inviting, daring, entreating.
- Examples:
 - *You'd better tidy up that mess.*
 - *Sit down.*

Declarations

- affect an immediate change of affairs.
- declaring,, resigning, firing from employment, hiring, arresting.
- Examples:
 - *We find the defendant guilty.*
 - *I resign.*

Representatives/ assertives

- commit a speaker to the truth of an expressed proposition
- asserting, stating, concluding, boasting, describing, suggesting.

- Examples:
- *I am a great singer.*
- *Bill was an accountant.*

Speech act	Description	Verbs associated with speech act	Example
Assertives	Statements that can be verified as true or false	Assert, claim, affirm, assure, inform, predict, report, suggest, insist, hypothesize, swear, admit, confess, blame, praise	I assure you that we will meet our budget goals in 2001
Directives	Statements that call upon the listener to do something	Direct, request, ask, urge, demand, command, forbid, suggest, insist, recommend, implore, beg	I urge to you vote against this resolution
Commissives	Statements that commit to a course of action	Promise, vow, pledge, swear, consent, refuse, assure, guarantee, contract, bet	I assure that you will receive more funding next year
Expressives	Statements that express a psychological position about a state of affairs	Apologize, thank, condole, congratulate, complain, protest, compliment, praise, welcome	I compliment your achievement in meeting your third- quarter numbers
Declaratives	Statements that, through their utterance, perform an act	Fire, pronounce, declare, appoint, confirm, endorse, renounce, denounce, name, call, repudiate	I am firing you

Source: Searle (1979) and Searle and Vanderveken (1985)

Welcome to the restaurant
Greeting

I don't eat lobster, it's not kosher
Assertion

What is the soup of the day?
Question

Thank you.
Expressive

I will be right back with your dessert
Promise

Can you get me a glass of white wine please?
Directive

- 1) Can you make your bed?
- 2) Have a safe journey.
- 3) Where do you live?
- 4) I wonder what happened to Mary.
- 5) I hear there's a fire in the next building.
- 6) Enjoy yourself
- 7) Can you people at the back hear me?
- 8) Is this the new dress you bought yesterday for 5000 SR?
- 9) Where is your book?

- The room is a mess.
- Can you swim?
- I'll be there.

Utterance	Locutionary/ Structure	Illocutionary/ Function	
Did you eat the pizza ?	Interrogative	question	Direct
Eat the pizza!	Imperative	command	Direct
You ate the pizza	Declarative	Statement	Direct
Can you pass the salt?	Interrogative	Request	Indirect
You left the door open.	Declarative	Request	Indirect
Do you know where Ms.Enas's office is?	Interrogative	Request	Indirect

Direct and Indirect Speech Act

- Direct Speech Act: when a structure is used to perform a function that **is** listed beside it on the same line.
- Indirect Speech Act: when a structure is used to perform a function that is **NOT** listed beside it on the same line.
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According to Austin's theory of speech acts (1962), utterances have three kinds of meaning.

- Propositional/**locutionary**: literal meaning of an utterance
- **Illocutionary** meaning: particular intention in making the utterance.
- **Perlocutionary** force: production of a particular effect in the addressee

are you married?‘

‘can they play tennis?’

‘do you know anything about what happened?’

III- Classify the following utterances:

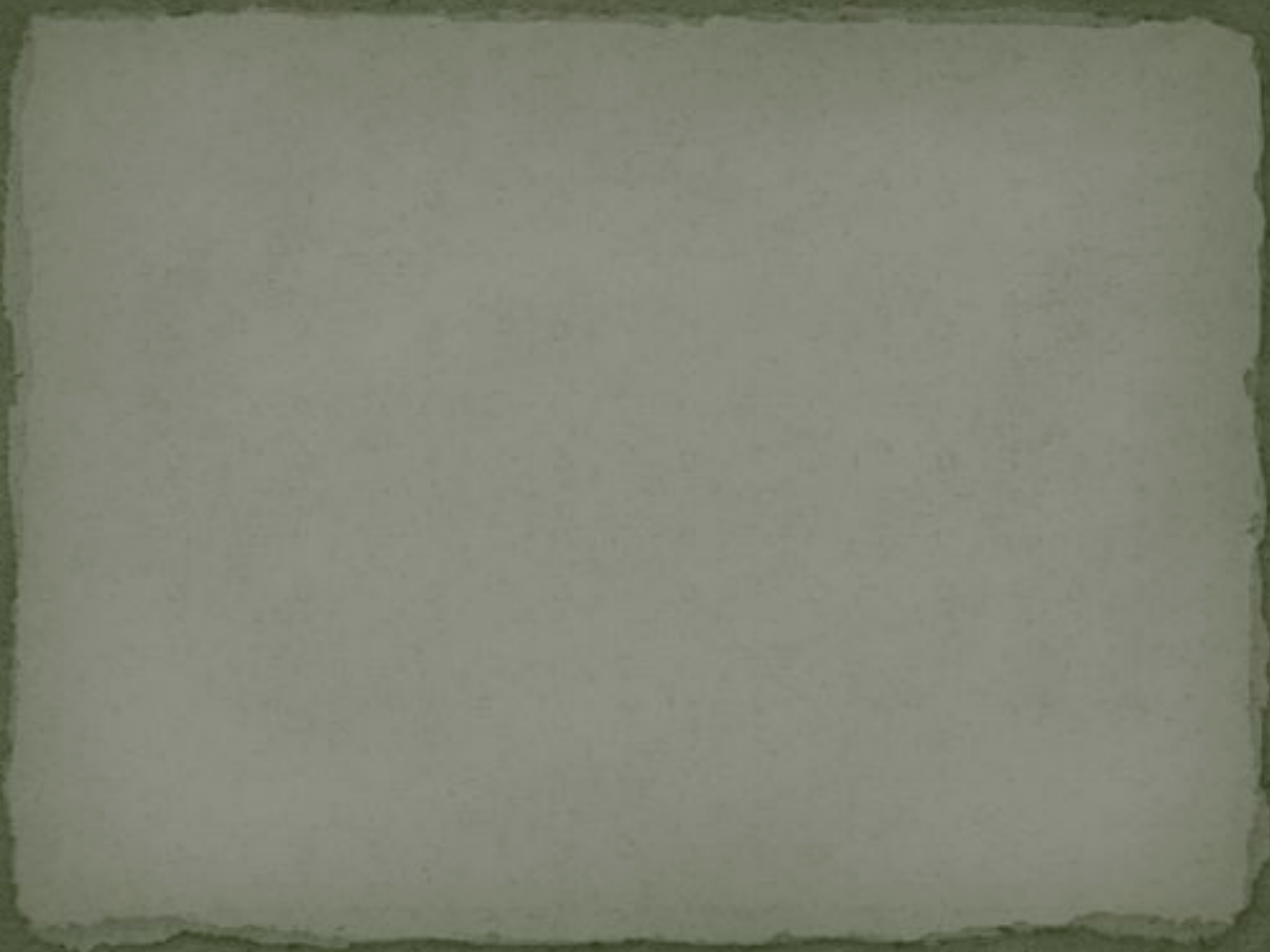
<i>Utterances</i>	<i>Speech Act</i>	<i>Direct or Indirect</i>	<i>Explicit or Non-explicit</i>	<i>Literal or Nonliteral</i>
1) I'm sorry to hear of your loss.
2) Why don't you be quiet?
3) Do you have the time?
4) I state that smoking is glamorous.
5) I suggest that you study hard.

Why do we use indirect speech acts?

Politeness

- In the study of linguistics politeness.
- The most relevant concept is “ face”
- Your “ face” is your self-image.

- Politeness : is the awareness and consideration of another person’s face.



- <http://zentrum.virtuos.uos.de/wikifarm/fields/english-language/field.php/Pragmatics/PragmaticsTypesofSpeechActs>
- <http://www.google.com.sa/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&ved=0CEQQFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Ffaculty.ksu.edu.sa%2F73641%2FExercises%2520%2520Discourse%2520Analysis%2520Eng%2520429%2FFurther%2520Exercises%2520on%2520Speech%2520Acts.doc&ei=U839UvqLJtP74QTnkYBA&usg=AFQjCNGhf7xrUmMpaooasnpTrGmyohf3bA>
- http://iolp.anadolu.edu.tr/dersler/3527/Unito2/task3_2.htm