



DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURE OF THE SPEECH ACT “PLEASE”

Shokirova Shahnoza

researcher of Andijan branch of Kokand university.

The theory of speech acts, which, due to its methodological status, has become a separate field of anthropocentric theory, is a phenomenon formed on the basis of a philosophical view of language, the main essence of which is associated with speech phenomena. Issues of the theory of speech acts are essentially at the center of a number of areas of linguistics, such as the relatively new “Psycholinguistics, pragmalinguistics, sociolinguistics, ethnolinguistics, communicative syntax, rhetoric, semiotics”. One of the promising areas of speech research is linguistic pragmatics, which studies speech activity in terms of the point of determining the correlation between the use of language units and the goals of speakers. It can be seen from this that the manifestations of colloquial etiquette, which represent a colloquial relationship between people, are the object of study of linguopragmatics, and its development in the second half of the 20th century is due to the formation of the theory of speech act as a linguopragmatic doctrine that was formed during this period. In the penetration of the concept of Speech Act into linguistics, the American scientist, the founder of pragmatics, Ch.S.Pierce's view of language as a logical-philosophical category was founded.

A speech act is considered a purposeful act of speech, which is carried out in accordance with the principles and rules of speech behavior adopted in a particular society. It seems that a speech act is a purposeful communicative act carried out in accordance with the rules of linguistic behavior and includes three components, such as the speaker (addressee), the listener (addressee) and the speech situation. A person's communication with the help of a word, or the expression through speech that someone intends to do something, gives rise to a speech act.

In the late 20th century, the theory of the act of speech emerged as a linguopragmatic doctrine. The concept of the act of speech was also used earlier by Humboldt, Sh. Balli, K. Büller, E. Benvenist, M. The theory of the act of speech, which is present in the teachings of such scientists as Bakhtin, but as a complete doctrine, the English logician scientist J. Austin, American psychologist J. It arose in the research of Searl et al. Philosophers at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge focused on the multivariate nature of linguistic activity and its interrelationship with the human form of living. Language is associated with the fact that people perform verbal or writing actions, and in the process of performing these actions, in addition to the original meaning of the sentence, it also manifests the possibility of expressing content such as affirmation, ordering, warning, promising. These meanings are the result of the oratory activity performed by the person giving them. Therefore, the act of speech is a linguistic appeal of the speaker to the listener to express a specific purpose, in a given environment.

The first to promote the idea of interpreting the oratory movements generated during communication as a separate linguistic unit and classifying them in content was Professor John Austin of the University of Oxford. He had put this problem in the midst of his lectures at the traditional “William James readings”, which would be organized at Harvard University in 1955. The lectures were later published in 1962 as “how to deal with words?” title.

J. Austin focuses on what inconveniences and uneven conclusions can lead to confusion in the expression of the concepts of “sentence” and “judgment (affirmation)”, which are used in philosophical

logic and traditional grammar. In the grammatical tradition, it is recognized that not every sentence can be judged or affirmed, and that there are also sentences that express question, exclamation, desire, or other types of content. But philosophers do not always agree with linguists. Many of the sentences seen in grammars as “judgmental affirmation” (where we would like to warn that the concepts of “judgmental affirmation” and “narrow sentence” in traditional grammar do not exactly repeat each other) represent no confirmation of what is happening. Also, J. Austin wrote that they were “not intended to inform, report, or record events”. As a result, Oxford philosophers prepared a kind of “coup” in the analysis of the content of the sentence. J. Austin and his co-conspirators believe that when each sentence is pronounced, in addition to the expression of its own meaning, a certain action is performed, that is, a message is communicated about an event, this message is confirmed or denied, something is requested, prohibited, and an order, advice, permission is given, promised or offered, and takalluf, gratitude is expressed, etc.

The speech act “please” serves several important functions and can be understood through its structure and context in communication. Here’s a breakdown:

1. Politeness Marker:

- “Please” is primarily used to soften requests, making them more polite. It signals respect and consideration for the listener's feelings.

2. Requesting:

- It transforms a command or request into a more courteous form. For example, “Close the door” becomes “Please close the door,” which is less authoritative.

3. Encouraging Cooperation:

- By using “please,” the speaker often seeks to foster goodwill and increase the likelihood of compliance from the listener.

4. Expressing Gratitude:

- In some contexts, “please” can also convey an underlying sense of gratitude or appreciation, indicating that the speaker values the listener's help.

5. Emphasizing Urgency or Importance:

- Adding “please” can also signal that the request is significant or time-sensitive, prompting quicker action.

1. Position in Sentences:

- “Please” typically appears at the beginning or middle of a request. For example:

- Beginning: “Please pass the salt.”

- Middle: “Can you, please, help me with this?”

2. Grammatical Function:

- It functions as an adverb, modifying the verb in the request. It does not change the grammatical structure of the sentence but enhances its tone.

3. Contextual Use:

- The effectiveness of “please” can depend on context, tone, and relationship between speaker and listener. In formal contexts, it may be more essential than in casual conversations.

4. Cultural Variations:

- The use and importance of “please” can vary across cultures. In some cultures, politeness markers are crucial for social interactions, while in others, directness may be preferred.

The speech act “please” is a versatile tool in communication that enhances politeness, encourages cooperation, and conveys respect. Its placement and usage within sentences are key to its effectiveness, and understanding its functions can improve interpersonal interactions.

The speech act “please” serves as a vital tool in communication, enhancing politeness and fostering cooperation between speakers and listeners. Its multifaceted functions—ranging from softening requests to expressing gratitude—underscore its significance in social interactions. The structure of “please,” typically functioning as an adverb, allows it to seamlessly integrate into various sentence constructions, adapting to different contexts and relationships. Understanding the nuances of “please” not only enriches interpersonal communication but also highlights the importance of cultural considerations in the use of politeness markers. Ultimately, “please” exemplifies how language can facilitate respect and understanding in our everyday exchanges.

In summary, the speech act "please" serves multiple crucial functions in communication, acting as a marker of politeness, a tool for softening requests, and a means of expressing gratitude or acknowledgment. Its structure, primarily functioning as an adverb, allows it to be easily incorporated into various sentence types, making it versatile across different contexts and social dynamics.

Moreover, the use of "please" can significantly influence the tone of a conversation, fostering a sense of cooperation and mutual respect between interlocutors. By understanding the strategic placement and implications of "please," speakers can navigate social interactions more effectively, enhancing their ability to build rapport and minimize potential conflicts.

Cultural variations in the use of "please" also highlight the importance of context in communication. Different cultures may have distinct norms regarding politeness and request-making, which can affect how "please" is perceived and utilized. Recognizing these differences is essential for effective cross-cultural communication.

Ultimately, the speech act "please" exemplifies the intricate relationship between language, social norms, and interpersonal dynamics. Its thoughtful application can lead to more harmonious exchanges, demonstrating that even simple words can carry profound significance in our daily interactions.

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