

Pragmatic Analysis Of The Phatic Speech Act Of Greeting

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Abstract

This article is focused on the greeting type of phatic speech acts, the problem of its classification according to semantic features, and discusses the three main elements of the greeting speech act.

Keywords: phatic speech act, communication, interlocutor, semantics, speech situation, element.

At a time when the development of modern science is accelerating rapidly, there are certain changes in the field of linguistics and new trends in this field are being discovered and developed, so being aware of them are considered to be very important.

The emergence of "Speech Act Theory" in the field of linguistics in the mid-20th century gave impetus to the advancement of this field to a new level, and now new areas called semantics, pragmatics, and discourse analysis have been introduced into linguistics. A language is considered a means of communication between people, which helps them understand each other and easily gain the information they want to convey. Speech is a form of communication using language devices, following certain rules. In other words, speech is the ability to speak and express one's feelings through words, either orally or in writing.

In defining the concepts of speech communication, we will dwell on the history of the development of modern concepts about the nature of speech. It is necessary to emphasize that the theory of speech acts has developed on the basis of specific speech act models, and this issue is an aspect that we need to touch upon for the analysis of the principles of communicative success.

We know that J. Austin, the founder of the field of semantics, divided speech acts into several types. It talks about the necessity of their usage and that each of them has certain characteristics¹. J. Austin's theories, later enriched by his follower J. Searle, considered that speech acts serve a specific purpose. More than that it is clear that the content of the message expressed in a particular speech situation is determined by the communicative purpose.

According to R. Jakobson² phatic speech acts are mainly used to establish communication between communicators: the sender (speaker) and the receiver (listener).

According to the definition of P. Brown and S. Levinson³, greeting is considered the main action of the approach strategy, which plays an important role in establishing contact between interlocutors, creating a first impression, and often predetermines the further course of communication.

"Politeness" is most clearly manifested at the initial stage of verbal communication, when contact is established between the speaker and the receiver. In most cases, the initial stage of communication predetermines the achievement of the speaker's communicative and social goals. Establishing appropriate contact using stereotypical and traditional formulas reflecting the model of politeness is an integral part of interpersonal communication. On the contrary, conversations that begin without a greeting can be interpreted in two ways. In the first case, the interlocutors have already started the conversation and are continuing it after a certain period of time. In the second case, it is not excluded that the speaker is not in the mood or is angry.

¹ Chistanova S. S. Koncept illokutsii v teorii rechevyx aktov Djona Austin //Humanitarian vector, 2017. – T. 12. – no. 3. - S. 85-90.

² Jakobson R. The speech event and the functions of language //On language. - 1990. - S. 69-79.

³ Brown P. Politeness: Some universals in language usage. - Cambridge University Press, 1987. - T. 4.

N.I. Formanovskaya writes that: "Greeting is sometimes a gesture of goodwill and respect, a gesture of courtesy towards a stranger"⁴. This definition reflects the importance of greetings when establishing initial relationships. It is appropriate to use various linguistic means to create a friendly tone.

V.V. Leontiev also speaks about the important role of greetings (including English)⁵: "Not only does greeting eliminate possible hostility in situations where verbal communication is assumed, but greetings also serve as a sign of social solidarity between communicants and show them what social role they assign to each other."

Taking into account all of the above points, we can say that, based on various approaches to classifying the speech act of greeting, it can be recognized that the specific features of greeting are an attitude towards the listener, an expression of politeness initiated by a certain situation (greeting embodies positive politeness).

Greeting is not only the first step in any communication, but also a small conversation that is considered acceptable in terms of etiquette. This speech formula, which does not semantically intend to convey a specific message, shows that the speaker perceives and recognizes the recipient and his importance. The answer to this phatic question can be positive, neutral or negative. Of course, intonation and voice tempo are also important. It can also be said that a person's facial expression (smiling or frowning) also helps to determine the speaker's intention. The "forms of address" indicated in the second element of the speech act of greeting that we mentioned above include:

– direct mention of names ("Mr. Johnson/ Mrs. Jackson/ Ms. May):

"Dear Mr. Potter,

We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry." (Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Chapter 4 by J.K. Rowling, p 31.)

– by emphasizing different levels and titles: ("Doctor, professor"):

"Professor Dumbledore, sir," said Harry. (Dragon Alley, Chapter 5 by J.K. Rowling, p 82.)

– using degrees of kinship (Dad, mom, aunt Polly, uncle Sam, granny...);

"Uncle Vernon, please!" said Harry, trying to explain. (The Keeper of the Keys, Chapter 4 by J.K. Rowling, p 30.)

– with affectionate, diminutive forms of address to children and close friends (honey, dear, sweetie, my friend, my love);

"Take care, my friend," said Dumbledore. (The Lost Prophecy, Chapter 37 by J.K. Rowling, p 840.)

– nicknames and abbreviations given to the listener (bunny, little one, kitty).

"Don't worry, little one, I'll see you're looking after." (Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Chapter 4 by J.K. Rowling, p 86.)

The use of forms of address depends on a number of extralinguistic factors: the relationship between the communicants, age, gender, education, social status, etc. It is precisely that such characteristics determine the manner and tone in which the conversation between the speakers begins, and the speaker begins the first step towards communication taking such factors into account.

Phatic communication elements, which are semantically empty and often uninformative, are nevertheless of great importance in determining the status roles, relationships, and social characteristics of communicators.

CONCLUSION.

The speech act of greeting in English is divided into several types, including several semantic features. The speech act of greeting is primarily a small conversation, which is considered mandatory from the point of view of politeness, and indicates the degree of willingness of the interlocutors to communicate. Depending on the constituent parts, greetings indicate social

⁴ Formanovskaya N. I. Blagopojelanie kak konsept v osnove rechevogo etika //Rechevoe obshchenie: spetsializirovanny vestnik. – 2011. – no. 12 (20). – S. 69.

⁵ Leontiev V. V. Komplimenty kak komponenti formula privetstviya i blagodarnosti (na materiale angliyskogo zzyka) //Vestnik Volgogradskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta. Series 2: Yazykoznanie. – 2006. – no. 5. – S. 132-137.

status and distance. Greetings in English often consist of three elements: the greeting itself, the address, and the “small talk” elements.

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