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CLASSIFICATION AND WAYS OF EXPRESSION OF SUGGESTIVES

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The article focuses on different classifications of speech acts called suggestives in the framework of speech acts theory on the basis of modern English literature. Each type of suggestives is characterized and ambivalent cases of suggestives and other types of speech acts are looked upon.

Keywords: suggestive, speech act theory, speech act, indirect speech act, intention.

КЛАССИФИКАЦИЯ И СПОСОБЫ ВЫРАЖЕНИЯ САДЖЕСТИВОВ (РЕЧЕВЫХ АКТОВ ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЯ)

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В статье рассматриваются разносторонние классификации сажестивов в рамках теории речевых актов на примере современной англоязычной литературы, и дается характеристика каждому типу речевого акта, а также рассматриваются пограничные случаи между сажестивами и другими типами речевых актов.

Ключевые слова: сажестив, теория речевых актов, речевой акт, косвенный речевой акт, интенция.

The article is based on one of the most popular and developed pragmalinguistic theories, speech acts theory, and is devoted to classification and ways of expression

of suggestives (speech acts of suggestion). The examples for the analyses are taken from modern English literature of the early 21th century.

The theory of speech acts invented by English philosopher John Austin and developed by his follower Gorge Searle originally focused on the description of the performatives, self-referent by nature. However, in the course of time it became interested in a wider range of linguistic phenomena due to the division of the speech acts into direct and indirect ones [6, с. 135]. Direct speech acts are those uttering which the speaker means exactly what he says [4, с. 195], i.e. the speaker's intention is expressed explicitly. The typical way of expression of a certain speech act is used to express it.

The term *suggestives* was introduced by us as a derivative from the English verb *to suggest*, typical for speech acts of suggestion by analogy with existing terms such as *promisives*, *requestives*, *commisives*, etc.

Direct suggestives are expressed by the verbs *to offer*, *to suggest* and *to propose* which are considered to be the typical verbs for the intention of suggestion and denote the process of the completion of the action. Let us call affirmatives with performatives direct explicit suggestive as in the examples *I offer you a cup of tea*, *I suggest going to the theatre*, *I propose a toast*. It is worth mentioning that direct explicit suggestives occur extremely rarely in speech. Direct implicit suggestives are more common. They are also suggestives with performatives but having unusual expression. For example, the interrogative such as *May I offer you some help?*, which has the verb *to offer* but is expressed by an unusual for suggestive form, an interrogative. The affirmatives introduced by *let's* can also be included in the group of direct suggestive. For example, *Let's go for a sandwich*. Although such constructions don't have a performative, they express the intention of suggestion and aren't used for any other type of speech acts.

In spite of separating direct suggestives from the other types of suggestives and subdivision of this group, the amount of direct suggestive in speech is rather low. Very often the speaker pronouncing the utterance means not only what he utters but

something else. For example, the speaker asks the listener *Would you like some coffee?*, willing to offer him a cup of coffee. Of course, the speaker questions the listener but the question is not the point of the utterance. The point is the suggestion which is expressed by a question. In such cases constructions typical for a certain type of speech acts, in our example requestives, are used to express another type of speech acts, in our example suggestives, i.e. the speakers pronouncing the utterance means not only what he says but something more without changing the propositional content of the utterance. In our example the intention of suggestion is added to the intention of a question, and the former becomes the point of the utterance as the point of the utterance is not to question if the speakers wants a cup of coffee or not, but to offer it to him. Such type of suggestives is called indirect suggestives, in which the real communicative intention is expressed implicitly. The way of expression doesn't suit the pragmatic meaning of a speech act. Decoding the "hidden" meaning is one of the aspects of communicative competence of a native speaker and his general ability of perception. Acquisition of communicative competence means ability of decoding the intention of the utterance.

After denoting the indirect speech act it became possible to differ the semantic meaning of a sentence from its pragmatic meaning, the latter meaning "what the speaker wants to say". Grice interprets it as the speaker's intention to affect the listener in a certain way, making him to guess the "hidden" intention [1, c. 365].

Indirect speech acts are divided into conventional and situational ones (the latter term was invented Formanovskaya) [5].

In his scientific research George Searle analyzing production and perception of indirect speech acts introduces the term *conventional speech act*, i.e. such indirect speech act which is unambiguously understood by the listener and to interpret it differently the speaker should use his imagination [4, c. 223]. For example, the suggestive *Can I get you something to eat?* expressed by a question is so conventional that it can't be used for requestives.

Conventional suggestives are expressed by interrogatives. This type of suggestives is divided into three groups. Semantically Group 1 denotes the speaker's desire to get something or to fulfill some action. Semantical syntax describes it as having explicit benefactor being the subject of the sentence. According to the structure of the speech acts the following cases can be distinguished:

1) *Would you like a cup of tea? (Would you like to go to the cinema?) or it ellipses Tea?*

2) *Why don't you stay at the campsite?*

3) *Are you up for some coffee?*

4) *Okay (do) you want to hear the absolute truth about that job or about any job?*

5) *The café's full, do you mind if I join you?*

6) *Wouldn't you like me to bring some more next time I come?*

7) *Would you rather I came on Tuesday?*

Group 2 denoted the speaker's desire to do some action for the benefit of the listener. Semantically such constructions have the first person singular being the agent:

1) *How can I help you?*

2) *How's about I make it easier for you by arranging for him to come to you?*

3) *Why don't I speak in a way that you understand*

4) *Shall I carry your bag?*

Group 3 denotes the speaker's desire to do some action for the benefit of the both the speaker and the listener:

1) *How can we fulfill your need?'*

2) *Shall we arrange to meet again?*

Group 4 is based on the speaker's desire to reach an agreement with the listener. Such constructions have an objective, often being the subject:

1) *How does nine a.m. suit?'*

2) *How about seven p.m.?*

3) *What about your lunch break?*

4) *Would a lunch meeting suit you?*

Situational suggestives are such speech acts which can't be interpreted as suggestives without a context as they can be expressed like other types of speech acts. Situational suggestives include the construction *will + infinitive*, which can be used for promissives and predictions as well. Compare: suggestive (1), promissive (2) and prediction (3): 1) *'I should put these in water,' Mum said, still admiring the flowers for my benefit though the moment had long since past. 'I'll do it for you,' I jumped at the chance. I saw the perfect vase for them inside.'* (2) *'I'll do it tomorrow'. Do you promise?* (3) *"Sweetheart, would you be my bridesmaid? Maybe we could do that with your hair again, it's so lovely." "She'll get a cold." 'But she didn't get one last night.'*

Imperatives typical for directives can have the illocutional force of suggestive. Compare: (1) requestive, (2) promissive: (1) *Go out of the room, please.* (2) *Try this. It's delicious.*

Situational suggestive include the construction *could + infinitive*, which can be used for directives. Compare: (1) requestive, (2) suggestive: *Could you speak a little louder, please.* (2) *May be we could do that with your hair again, it's so lovely.'*

It is worth mentioning that sometimes scientific literature interprets indirect speech acts as only conventional ones, while the other indirect speech acts are considered to be transitive. According to Makarov, there is no clear boundary between conventional and non-conventional indirect speech acts, but there are a lot of transitive cases. Once used, the indirect utterance can become conventional, having passed all the stages of ritualization and having become "background knowledge" [2].

Thus, suggestives can be direct and indirect. Direct suggestive are divided into explicit and implicit, while indirect can be conventional and situational, each of them having its own peculiarities.

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