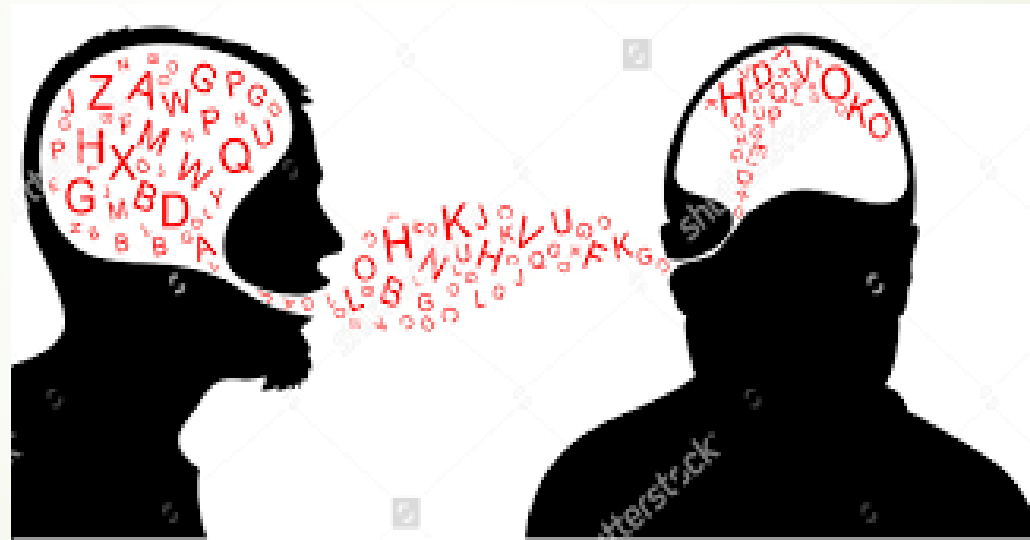





Lecture three: Speech Acts: Force Behind Words



A collage on a light green background. On the left, a headless man in a dark pinstripe suit, light shirt, and brown tie is visible from the chest up. Above him, the text 'What Can We Do with' is written on two pieces of light brown paper. To the right, 'Words?' is written on two pieces of dark brown paper. The background is decorated with several floating, stylized eyes in various shades of gray.

What Can We Do
with

Words?



Through communication, the trade of thought among people, which directly contributes to the development of the quality of life itself, can be **performed**.

Speech acts are acts that refer to the action performed by produced utterances. The **utterances** that the speakers produce in communication contain deeper sense than the actual meaning of the words or phrases themselves. People can **perform** an action by saying something. Through speech acts, the speaker can convey physical action merely through words and phrases. The conveyed utterances are paramount to the actions performed.

Speech Act Theory



Kamo Araz Ahmad

1-DEFINITION OF SPEECH ACTS

Speech act, a variety of verbal communication, often takes place in verbal and nonverbal communication. Yule (1996) states that **speech acts** are a study of how the speakers and hearers use language. Bach (1979) explains that an action in verbal communication has message in itself, so **the communication is not only about language but also with action**. Speech act is the utterance that occurs and act refers to an action.

Austin (1994) explains that speech acts are acts that refer to the action performed by produced utterances. Through speech acts, the speaker can convey physical action merely through words and phrases.

2- TYPES OF SPEECH ACTS

❑ There are three types of acts in the speech acts, they are **locutionary**, **illocutionary**, and **perlocutionary**.

a- Locutionary speech act

It is roughly equivalent to uttering certain utterance with certain **sense** (meaning) and **reference**.

b- Illocutionary speech act

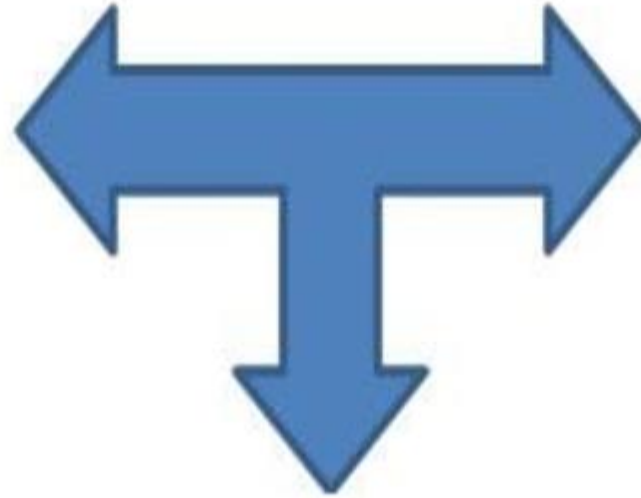
It is performed via the **communicative force** of an utterance, such as **promising**, **apologizing**, **offering** (Yule, 1996).

c- Perlocutionary speech act

It is the act that is carried out by a speaker when making an utterance. It also refers to the **effect** the utterance has on the thoughts or actions of the other person.

Locutionary Act

What the speaker says



Illocutionary Act

What the speaker intends

Perlocutionary Act

The effect of the utterance on the hearer



"In our trip report, we visited the Louvre Museum in Paris."



"I hereby declare a national emergency due to the recent natural disaster."



"After extensive coverage of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, viewers flooded social media platforms with calls for immediate action to provide aid and support to the affected civilians."

3- CLASSIFICATION OF ILLOCTIONARY SPEECH ACTS

Speech acts can be classified into five categories as Searle in Levinson (1983: 240) states that the classifications are **representatives**, **directives**, **commissives**, **expressive**, and **declarations**.



a. Representatives

Representatives are speech acts that the utterances commit the speaker to the **truth** of the expressed proposition. **Statements of fact, assertions, conclusions, and descriptions** are all examples of the speaker representing the world as he or she believes it is.

"The United Nations Secretary-General issued a statement condemning the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and calling for an immediate ceasefire to protect civilian lives."

b. Directives

Speaker uses directive speech acts to get someone else to do something. These speech acts include **requesting**, **questioning**, **command**, **orders**, and **suggesting**. For example, when someone says “Could you lend me a pencil, please?” the utterance represents the speaker requests that the hearer to do something which is to lend him a pencil.



"I urge all citizens to abide by the new regulations implemented for public safety."

c. Commissives

Commissives are speech acts that the utterances commit the speaker to some **future course of action**, these include **promising, threatening, offering, refusal, pledges**.

For example when someone says “I’ll be back”, represents the speaker’s promise that he/she will be back.



"I assure you that justice will be served and the law will be upheld in this case."

d. Expressives

Expressives are speech acts that the utterances **express** a psychological state. These speech acts include **thanking**, **apologizing**, **welcoming**, and **congratulating**.

Feel at home!



e. Declaratives

Declarative speech acts refer to utterances that directly **change a situation** once they have been uttered; The speaker declares something that has the potential to bring about a **change** in the world.

I now pronounce/declare you husband and wife.



Al Jazeera's Gaza bureau chief, **Wael Dahdouh**, provided more details about the dire situation in the Strip and his relentless media coverage on the ground of the genocide during a conversation with Qatari daily, [Al-Sharq](#), on Sunday.

“It was as if I drank poison when I left Gaza. But I had to get out. To my colleagues, I certainly hope that they will always be armed with strength, determination, will, patience, and commitment to complete professionalism and continue to carry this message and perform their duty to convey the truth of what is happening on the ground,” Dahdouh said.

“I felt that my family had paid the cost of my work twice,” he said.

Describing his late wife, Amna, Dahdouh said she was “his entire home”. “With her loss, I lost everything[...] but I decided to stay there, accompanying my injured family members in Gaza City, which is the most dangerous area,” he said.





"You are enduring with patience, my father", Hamza added, "Do not lose hope in recovery, have faith in God's mercy, and trust that God will generously reward you for your resilience."



Erdoğan said, “we will step up our efforts to end the war through diplomacy and dialogue on the basis of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity.