

Speech Act Theory in Arthur Miller's the Crucible

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Abstract

The research aims to illustrate the important function of Speech Act Theory of Searle (1969) in literary analysis. It shows the action of language in literary discourse. The research traces illocutionary performative speech acts in Miller's play "The Crucible" depended on selected texts. Kinds of illocutionary speech acts are traced. The research introduces the concept of locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary speech acts. The selected data is a representative one and it's taken from the four acts in literary discourse.

Keywords: pragmatics, speech acts, locutionary, illocutionary, perlocutionary.

المستخلص

يهدف البحث إلى توضيح الوظيفة المهمة لنظرية قانون الكلام لسيرل (١٩٦٩) في التحليل الأدبي. يظهر دور اللغة في الخطاب الأدبي. حيث يتتبع البحث أفعال الكلام الأدائي الإنذاري في مسرحية كتبها الكاتب المسرحي ارثر ميلر والذي يعد اهم الكتاب المسرحيين واعتمد البحث بالتحليل على مسرحية " البوتقة" التي اعتمدت على نماذج من النصوص يتم تتبع أنواع أفعال الخطاب الإنذاري. يقدم البحث مفهوم الأفعال الخطابية الخطابية و الخطابية التنبيهية. البيانات المختارة .

الكلمات المفتاحية

البراغماتية ، الافعال اللغوية ، أفعال الكلام ، قوة فعل الكلام ،تأثير فعل الكلام.

1. Introduction

One of the most important theories of language study is Speech Act Theory particularly in studying discourse analysis in addition to pragmatics. Austin (2008: 16) gives a clear definition of speech act theory as "the actions performing in saying something". Yule (1969:47) states that the linguistic labels such as apology, complaint, promise and invitation are actions performed utterances of speech acts. Speech acts theory shows the function and purpose of language in studying language and communication. Searle (1969:16) illustrates that making command, asking question, is performing speech acts through language.

In pragmatic, the role of speech acts theory is to focus on parasentential meaning i.e., the implicit meaning, the unsaid meaning. The role of pragmatic is to discover the unsaid utterance by the speaker as Yule states (1969: 3) "the study of how to get communication than what is said".

The research presents the relation between pragmatics and discourse analysis from one side and discourse and speech act theory from another side. Searle's speech act theory is selected to be applied to the literary discourse in order to show that literary discourse have speech act and perform an illocutionary force.

2. Miller's *The Crucible*

Miller's *The Crucible* is about Salme's witches trials. The play starts when Rev. parrise caught a group of girl's dance and practice witchcraft on the wood. Among these girls are his daughter, Berta, and his niece, Abigail, who conjures evils by drinking chicken's blood. Abigail wants to be a witch to avenge Elizabeth who fired her from being a servant because of having affair with her husband. Parrise's daughter falls into a coma. People think that she is bewitched. Her father sends after Rev. Hale, an expert on witchcraft, who suspects Abigail to practice witchcraft, she denies that and she threatens other girls not to admit it .Rev Hale asks Parrise's black servant, Tituba, who was with the girls to admit it. He confesses that the girls were conjured the evil. To protect himself, he accuses many people whom he hates. Abigail also accuses many innocent women to be witches including her innocent rival, Elizabeth. Many innocent people are sent to prison. Proctor tries to prevent the officer from arresting his wife because of her pregnancy, the judge delays her sentence. Proctor is accused of practising witchcraft. He tries to save his wife's life by admitting adultery with Abigail. When Elizabeth asked to confirm this, she denies protecting her husband from this grace. Abigail escapes and takes the lifesaving of Parrise and ruins the lives of many

people. Danforth, the judge finds it difficult to admit his fault that ruins the life of many people. He asks under the pressure of Parrise and others to grant Proctor an opportunity to save his life, he agrees on one condition, Proctor should sign on having practising witchcraft. This paper will be hung in the church. He refuses to accept death rather than life with disgrace.

3. Speech Act Theory and Pragmatics

John Austin in his book "How to Do Things with words" emphasizes the idea that the purpose of producing an utterance is to perform an act (parker & Riley 2005:13). Language is not separated from human communication. Its main aim to carry or exchange ideas, opinions and messages. The reaction of uttering a sentence is to do something either verbal or non- verbal. These performing actions are known as speech acts (Yule 1996:47).The following example will clarify the concept if someone says to leave the place. The purpose behind uttering this sentence is a command to the hearer to go and leave the place. Speech act theory states the ability of language to describe things as well as do things (Kempson 2001).

There are three types of act: locutionary act, the act of producing a sentence. Illocutionary act is the utterance that the speaker has a purpose or aim in uttering it as to perform offer,

promise or command. Previously, the analysis of language was directed only to formality issues that include: morphological, semantic, phonological, and syntactic. Recently, the priority includes beside formality functional analysis which requires nonlinguistic knowledge as it helps to understanding unsaid meanings or the meanings beyond linguistics tools.

One of the branches of linguistics is pragmatics. Its role is to study the meaning of utterances through context. Morris (1938:29) defines pragmatics as "the relation of signs to users". Whereas, Yule (1996:3) points four situations in which pragmatics act (1) "the study of the meaning". It focuses on the speaker utterance and the reaction of the hearer utterance.

(2) Pragmatics can be defined as "the study of contextual meaning". Pragmatics in this definition takes into consideration the whole situation including the speaker utterance, what he intended to say , why t is the atmosphere. (3) Pragmatics is "the study of how to get a commutation that what is unsaid". The role of pragmatics in this situation is to predict what is unsaid by the speakers. (4) Pragmatics is "the study of the expression of relative distance". The close or distant determine how much require to be utterance by the speaker to the listener. Speech Act Theory stands out of other theories which do not focus on

pragmatics, Austin (1911- 1960) produces and names this theory speech act theory after hard studying and researching.

Then, Searle (1969) adds to develop it. He emphasizes in his book "Speech Act" on the function points of utterances. The importance of speech acts is the performative role in language. It illustrates the fact that there are several utterances in communication that needs to perform the meaning. These types of utterances are speech acts. (Mey1993:110) Yule (1996:47) states, the communication involve speaker and the hearer is called speech event "speech event that determines the interpretation of an utterance as performing a particular speech act," Searle views the importance of the analysis of speech acts, as linguistic communication requires linguistic acts. Searle's believes "speaking a language is performing speech acts," such as commanding, promising, requesting and so on.

The gist, theory of speech acts is a theory that includes the communication between the speaker's intention and listener's understanding in a specific event (Rozik 1989:131).

3. 1 Locutionary, Illocutionary and Perlocutionary Speech Acts

Austin states that every utterance consists of three types of acts label: locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary

(Parker& Riley 2005:13). Binker (2004: 110) describes locutionary acts as meaningful and clear to hearer. The meaning of the act is linked with the determinate and reference. For instance, if the teacher says to the students you must study hard. A reference (noun phrase) is you and a predicating (verb phrase) is studying hard. The purpose behind uttering locutionary is to introduce only meaningful linguistics expression. Locutionary Acts includes three subacts: the act of vocal noises, the act of words related to lexicogrammatical rules, the act of using these words with meaning and reference.

Uttering an illocutionary speech act means that a speaker has some functions and purposes to be done by the hearer. The acts reflect the force or power of the speaker in saying something. It describes with concerning the communicative. The act may be persuading, annoying to achieve something or not (Levin1976:110). The speaker creates an uttering to achieve an effect, so the effect on the hearer is labelled prelocutionary (Robson and Stockwell 2005: 83).

3.1.1 Searle's classifications of Speech acts

There are six kinds of Searle's classifications of speech act, especially in illocutionary act (Parker & Riley 2005:13).

3.1.2 Representative

It reflects the reality of the utterance (Yule 1996: 53). It shows truth by connecting a word fit with the world as they believe it to be. As in, "the car is too expensive." The statement fulfils success of fit, in case of it is expensive. The utterance that used to define some state of affairs is called representative such as (summer is hot). This kind of act achieves actions such as predicting, asserting, confessing and so on.

3.1.3 Directive

It is an utterance that is used to direct the hearer to achieve something. That matches the world fit with the words (Peccei1999:51).For instance, "close the window". The statement fulfils success of fit if the hearer really closes the window. This kind involves directive, insisting, advising ordering, requesting and so on.

3.1.4 Question

It is an utterance that used to direct the hearer to give specific information. This kind of utterance involves asking, inquiring (Finch 2005:173).

3.1.5Commissive

Searle states that such utterance commits the speakers to achieve specific things in the future. Commissive speech acts have a world to word direction of fit. for instance "I will help you in your work." The utterance fulfils success of fit, if the speaker help the hearer in his duty. This kind of utterance, involves offer, the act of promising and so on (ibid14).

3.1.6 Expressive

In this type of utterance the speaker states his emotion state for instance "never mind." Presupposes, It is a response to a person who offers an apologizing. Apologizing expresses the speaker state of the affair rather than reality. Expressive has no direction of fit. This kind of utterance involves: congratulating, apologizing and so on.

3.1.7 Declaration

The illocutionary speech act results in changing the status of something. An utterance "The judge sentences the criminal twenty years" performs success of fit, if the judge achieves this act in putting the criminal in jail for twenty years. It involves: appointing, naming, baptizing and so on.

4. Data Analysis

Data Analysis is selected from the literary discourse, Miller's play "The Crucible". Thirty samples reflect the way the words connected to the world.

4. 1 the Data Analysis

Data 4. 1.1

"Tituba, backing to the door: My Betty not going die... "

The locutionary act is in the form of negative. The illocutionary speech acts is a representative statement in which Tituba asserts that "Betty {is] not going die." It's a word to world direction of fit. The psychological state is asserting.

Data 4.1.2

"Parris, Betty .Child .Dear child, Will you wake, will you open up your eyes! Betty, little one..."

The locutionary level is a request according to Searle's model (1979), the illocutionary is directive. It is a world to word direction of fit. Parris tries to wake his daughter, Betty, when she falls in a coma- like after practicing witchcraft on the wood.

Data 4. 1.3

"Parris: Oh? Let her come, let her come."

The form of locutionary act is a command in form of repeated short sentences. According to Searle's (1979) model, the illocutionary act is in the form of directive. It is a world to word

direction of fit. Parris eagerly requests Susanna to tell him the physician's news about Betty.

Data 4. 1.4

"Parris, eagerly: What does the doctor say, child?"

The locutionary act is in the form of interrogative. The illocutionary act is a question. The psychological state is an inquiry. Parris directs this question to Susanna.

Data 4. 1.5

“Parris: Go directly home and speak nothing of unnatural causes.”

The locutionary act is in the form of a command. The illocutionary act is directive. Parris fears from the reaction of people if they know Betty's state and she has a connection to witchcraft. He orders Susanna not to tell anyone. It is a world to word direction of fit.

Data 4. 1.6

“Abigail: Speak nothing of it in the village, Susanna.”

The locutionary act is in the form of a command. The illocutionary act is directive. It is a world to word direction of fit. The psychological state is a warning.

Data 4. 1.7

“Parris: Child .Sit you down.”

It is a directive illocutionary speech act in which Parris directs Abigail to sit down. The locutionary is a command. It is a world to word direction of fit. Parris orders Abigail to sit down. He suspects her practices witchcraft.

Data 4. 1.8

"Abigail, quavering, as she sits : I would never hurt Betty .I love her dearly."

The locutionary is in the form of obligation. The illocutionary speech act is commissive. The psychological state is an act of promising. It's a world to word direction of fit. Abigail denies Parris's suspicion and expresses her love for Betty.

Data 4. 1.9

"Abigail: She always sings her Barbados songs, and we dance."

The locutionary act is in the form of a simple present sentence. The illocutionary act a representative. The propositional content is present. While the psychological state is asserting. It is a word to word direction of fit.

Data 4.1.10

"Parris:I cannot blink what I saw, Abigail, for my enemies will not blink it. I saw a dress lying on the grass."

The locutionary act is in the form of a negative statement. The illocutionary act is a representative. The psychological state is asserting. It's a word to world direction of fit. Parris is asserting on seeing them practicing witchcraft on the wood.

Data 4. 1.11

Putnam, glancing at Betty: "How high did she fly, how high?"

The locutionary is in the form of repeated interrogative. The illocutionary act is a question. Mrs. Putnam is questioning Parris, How high did she fly, how high? The psychological state is inquiry.

Data 4. 1.12

"Mrs Putnam: Her soul, her soul seems flown away .She sleeps and yet she walks..."

The locutionary act is in the form of short repeated sentences. The illocutionary act is representative. The psychological state in the form of an act of state. It is a word to world direction of fit. Mrs.

Putnam depicts the state of her daughter who seems to be caught by the devil.

Data 4. 1.13

“Elizabeth: What keeps you so late? It’s almost dark.”

The locutionary act in the first utterance is interrogative. The illocutionary act is a question in which Elizabeth is questioning

her husband, Proctor, as he was late. The second utterance is representative. The psychological state is inquiry. It is a word to world direction of fit.

Data 4. 1.14

Proctor: "Pray now for a fair summer."

The locutionary act is in the form of a command. The illocutionary speech act is directive in which Proctor directs Elizabeth to pray for a fair summer. It is a world to word direction of fit.

Data 4. 1.15

"Proctor: Are you well today?"

The locutionary act is in the form of yes /no interrogative. The illocutionary speech act is a yes /no question. The propositional content is expressed.

Data 4. 1.16

"Proctor, drinks a long draught, then, putting the glass down:
You ought to bring some flowers in the house."

The locutionary act is in the form of an obligation. Illocutionary is commissive in which Proctor commits Elizabeth to bring some flowers in the house. The psychological state is ordering. It is a world to word direction of fit.

Data 4. 1.17

"Elizabeth: Then let you not earn it."

The locutionary act is in the form of negative. The illocutionary is directive. It is a world to word direction of fit. The psychological state is forbidding.

Data 4. 1.18

“Elizabeth: John, you are not open with me .You saw her with a crowd, you said .Now you –”

The locutionary act is in the form of negative. The illocutionary act is representative. The psychological state is an act of stating. It is a word to world direction of fit. Elizabeth hints to her husband pervious relation with Abigail.

Data 4. 1.19

"Mary Warren: I am sick, I am sick, Mr. Proctor. Pray, pray, hurt me not."

The locutionary act is in the form of short repeated sentences. The illocutionary is representative. It is also directive in which Mary Warren directs him not to hurt. It is a world to word direction of fit. Mary Warren is Elizabeth's servant. She conveys the news of considering Elizabeth as a witch.

Data 4. 1.20

"Mary Warren, with a trembling, decayed voice: We must all love each other now, Goody Procto."

The locutionary speech act is in the form of obligation. The illocutionary speech act is in the form of commissive. It is also representative in which Mary Warren asserts to love each other. It is a world to word direction of fit. The psychological state is asserting.

Data 4. 1.21

"Mary Warren, glancing at the room: I'll get up early in the morning and clean the house .I must sleep now."

The locutionary speech act in the form of statement. The illocutionary is in form of commissive in which Mary Warren promise that she will get up early in the morning and clean the house. It is a world to word direction of fit. The psychological state is promising.

Data 4. 1.22

“Proctor: Mary. She halts. Is it true? There are fourteen women arrested?”

The locutionary speech act in the form of interrogative. The illocutionary act is a question. Proctor is questioning Mary Warren about the number of arrested women. The psychological state is inquiry.

Data 4. 1.23

“Proctor: What work you do! Its strange work for a Christian girl to hang old women!”

The locutionary speech act is in the form of exclamation. The illocutionary act is representative. It is a word to world direction of fit. The psychological state is denying.

Data 4. 1.24

"Elizabeth, hurriedly, as Proctor approaches: Mary, promise now you'll stay at home – "

The locutionary act is in the form of command. The illocutionary act is in the form of commissive. It is a world to word direction of fit. The psychological state promising.

Data 4. 1.25

"Mary Warren: I wish to go to bed!"

The locutionary speech act is in the form of wish. The illocutionary act is expressive. The propositional content is to be in bed.

Data 4. 1.26

"Mary Warren: I cannot lie no more .I am with God, I am with God."

The locutionary speech act in the first sentence is in the form of negation. In the second one is in the form of short repeated sentences. The illocutionary act is representative. It is a word to

world direction of fit.. Mary Warren is admitting that she is with God.

Data 4. 1.27

"Mary Warren: Don't touch me -don't touch me! At which the girls halt at the door."

The locutionary speech act is in the form of repeated command sentences. The illocutionary act is directive. It is a world to word direction of fit. The psychological state is warning.

4.

1.28

"Mary Warren: I'll not hang with you! I love God, I love God."

In the first sentence, the locutionary speech act is in the form of negation, whereas the second one is in the form of repeated sentences. The illocutionary act is commissive. It is a world to word direction of fit. The psychological state is promising.

Data 4. 1.29

"Danforth: Marshal! Take him and Corey with him to the jail!"

The locutionary speech act is in the form of command. The illocutionary act is directive. The psychological state is ordering. It is a world to word direction of fit. Danforth, rigid judge, begins to arrested all the accused people without being certain about their involve.

Data 4. 1.30

"Tituba, calling to the window: Take me home, Devil! Take me home! "

The locutionary speech act is in the form of command. The illocutionary act is directive. The psychological state is ordering. It is a world to word direction of fit. Tituba is Parris's slave. He admits under pressure conjuring the evil with the group of girls on the forest.

Conclusion

The research has proved that the theory of Searle's speech act taxonomy (1979) can be applied in literary discourse. Miller's "The Crucible" is selected to be analyzed. It also has concluded the great connection between pragmatics and literary discourse. The research has focused on the fact that the speakers through the literary discourse say utterances in order to achieve certain things such as commissive, representative, directive and expressive.

Recommendation

This research recommends adding more emphasis on the speech act theory in analyzing any literary text. Rereading of the old texts applying this theory will add a new meaning to the text.

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