

LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF EMOTIONAL AND EXPRESSIVE LEXICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH

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Abstract: The current paper is about the words denoting emotions and feelings in expressive speech acts. The paper consists of three parts: The Introduction, The Body and The conclusion. On its turn, The Body is divided into two Chapters: Speech Act Theory and Words Denoting Emotions and Feelings in Expressive Speech acts.

Key words: emotion, lexical unit, feeling, speech act

Each language has its characteristic features by which they differ from each other. For example every language has its own pronunciation rules, grammatical peculiarities, scope of word-stock. Next to all these differences languages do have common features. One of the main features should be considered the emotional side of the utterance of the language. If there is no emotion or a kind of feeling in one's speech, the speaker may be misunderstood. Consequently, each kind of utterance should be investigated thoroughly to distinguish them properly.

As we know the oral speech is the most important part in investigating a language because before studying our language in written form we speak it. So the study of the theory of speech acts is very important.

What is emotion? And what is feeling? We may easily confuse these two phenomena or even consider them synonyms.

Different people define emotions in different ways.

John D. (Jack) Mayer says, “Emotions operate on many levels. They have a physical aspect as well as a psychological aspect. Emotions bridge thought, feeling, and action – they operate in every part of a person, they affect many aspects of a person, and the person affects many aspects of the emotions.”

Dr. Maurice Elias says, “Emotions are human beings' warning systems as to what is really going on around them. Emotions are our most reliable indicators of how things are going on in our lives. Emotions help keep us on the right track by making sure that we are led by more than the mental/ intellectual faculties of thought, perception, reason and memory.”

Feeling is a sensation that provokes physical response. Feelings are the body's normal reactions to events outside of us as well as to events that occur inside of our minds. Feelings occur in the body.

“Feelings are what matter most in life”. (Charles Birch, 1995)

Feelings are the most important and valuable features in our life. Feelings are as real as anything around us that we can touch (table, pen, and book). Feeling is the main aspect of the reason. When under a certain circumstances the ability of feeling is damaged, the rational feature of life becomes irrational and such people become harmful for the society. (Charles Birch, 1995: 35)

Feelings are senses detecting what you feel through your 11 inputs.

Hearing

Taste

Sight

Smell

Heat

Cool

Pain

Pleasure

Sense of balance (vestibular) Pressure

Motion (kinesthetic)

Emotions, on the other hand are the meaning of those feelings. They are short and subjective. Emotions are feelings or attitudes about someone or something, and usually concerning our character. We are worried about someone, afraid of something or in love with someone.

So one can experience ‘feeling of loneliness’, ‘feeling of hunger’ or ‘feeling of anger’ but he or she cannot experience ‘emotion’ of loneliness, hunger or anger. (Anna Wierzbicka, 1999: 2) This is the main difference between the feeling and the emotion.

One can also distinguish emotions due to their duration. For example surprise is carried out over a period of second, while love or hatred may last for years.

Expressive verbs point to forces whose aim is to signify or to manifest mental condition of the speaker like joy, discontent or admiration. We can articulate our mental condition by means of non-linguistic behavior. For example we can express our anger by frowning or happiness-by smiling or laughing, or admiration-by raising eyebrows and opening eyes wider and we can express our sadness by crying. But when we try to express our feelings and emotions by means of linguistic phenomena we turn to Expressive speech acts.

For example in Martin Luther King’s speech in Washington, August 28, 1963, we can notice: Happiness: I am happy to join with you today. (Martin Luther King, 1963)

Disappointment: But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. (Martin Luther King, 1963)

Anxiety: This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. (Martin Luther King, 1963)

Determination: And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. (Martin Luther King, 1963)

Joy: Free at last! Free at last! (Martin Luther King, 1963) Thankfulness: Thank God Almighty, we are free at last! (Martin Luther King, 1963) Admiration or surprise: How gorgeous! (F. Scott Fitzgerald, 12)

Apart from expressing feelings and emotions via words and performatives, we can also show our emotions by the help of gestures and mimes (body language, kinetics) tone and pitch of the voice and so on. These are non-verbal expressions of communication. So if one opens his eyes wide then he is surprised; when one hangs down his head and blushes he is shame and when one bends his face downward, he is sad. In another word, people can not talk about their feelings, we only need to look at their face and we can easily realize what is going on inside of them.

E.g. 15

‘Terrible place isn’t it,’ said Tom, exchanging a frown with Doctor Eckleburg. (F. Scott Fitzgerald, 29)

This is a fine example of non-verbal communication. The two characters in the novel express their discontentment by frowning. Here we have another example where we deal with admiration:

‘That dog?’ He looked at it admiringly. (F. Scott Fitzgerald, 31)

“Ah! But we have, in our dreams,” answered the children; and the Mathematical Master frowned and looked very severe, for he did not approve of children dreaming. (Wilde O., 1888: 1)

"At the neuromuscular level emotion is primarily facial activity and facial patterning, and secondarily it is bodily (postural-gestural, visceral, and sometimes vocal) response" (Izard 1971:185).

"Music has a wonderful power, as I have elsewhere attempted to show, of recalling in a vague and indefinite manner, those strong emotions which were felt during long-past ages, when, as is probable, our early progenitors courted each other by the aid of vocal tones" (Charles Darwin, 1872: 130)

There can be some clue words (performative verbs) which denote emotions or feelings in expressive speech acts, like:

1. I’m p-paralyzed with happiness. (F. Scott Fitzgerald, 11)

2. I hate that word hulking. (F. Scott Fitzgerald, 15)

3. “I am glad there is some one in the world who is quite happy,” muttered a disappointed

man as he gazed at the wonderful statue. (Wilde O., 1888: 1)

4. “It is very cold here,” he said; “but I will stay with you for one night, and be your messenger. (Wilde O., 1888: 4)

5. Thank you, little Swallow,” said the Prince. . (Wilde O., 1888: 4)

In all of these examples we come across some words which help us to guess the mood (the third example) of characters, their attitude to several phenomena (the second example) or to a certain character and at last their feelings (the first, the second, the third and the fourth examples).

CONCLUSION

Speech acts, as well as emotions and feelings, are very complicated to discuss thoroughly in one paper. So I have tried to combine these two phenomena in one paper trying to be as simple as possible. All kinds of speech acts should be studied from the very minutest details. All of these kinds have their peculiarities and one should take into consideration all of them. It is very important to pronounce every kind of sentence and utterance properly not to be misunderstood. The main part of my study was The Expressive Speech act. By the help of the expressives we help the hearer catch our feelings, emotions and attitudes towards a certain event or thing or a person. Hence we should also learn how to distinguish emotions and feelings and to find examples of their usage in a speech. Mostly performative verbs can help us to distinguish the kind of speech act. So in case of expressives we can come across words denoting emotions and feelings. In this paper I could also study the non-verbal communication though it has little to do with speech act. It is said that gestures and face expressions are more eloquent than a word. People can catch each others' thoughts by their mimics and gestures as well. To sum up I'd like to mention that this study may help you to express your emotions and feelings correctly and to understand others'. If you have no emotions you are a robot. So it is very important to learn to be emotional and to speak in a correct manner.

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