

ILLOCUTIONARY FEATURES OF ENGLISH STATEMENTS OF APPROVAL

Karazhekova Oleksandra

Graduate Student

Izmail State University of Humanities

From the viewpoint of linguistic status, approval, which is the subject of our research, can be considered as a special pragmatic type of utterance with illocutionary force.

In each utterance, the speaker puts not only a certain meaning, but also a certain communicative intention. Like any activity, speech activity begins with motivation, that is, the appearance of the speaker's needs to convey some information to anybody, encourage one's action, express an attitude, etc. Motive is the main motivating force in psychological activity, a cognitive-emotional psychological system that performs the function of a behavior regulator [2, p. 58]. Speech activity, as a rule, is included in higher-order activities: the production of utterances or the exchange of utterances is not an end in itself. It acts as a means of planning and regulating practical activities determined by the corresponding motive. Therefore, in each individual case, we are dealing with a certain hierarchy of motives.

The motivation stage is also a pre-speech mode stage. At the next (also preceding the actual verbalization) stage, under the influence of this motive, a general idea is formed, a kind of "action plan" drawn up by the speaker to achieve one's goal, a semantic image of what the speaker intends to report, that is, the general meaning of an utterance arises.

It should be noted that the motive does not coincide with the illocutionary force, and this circumstance is important for understanding speech expressions of approval.

The illocutionary force of an utterance usually consists of seven components [5, p. 251–257]: the illocutionary goal; the method of achieving the illocutionary goal; the intensity of the illocutionary goal; the conditions of the propositional content; the preconditions; the conditions for sincerity; the intensity of sincerity conditions.

1. **The purpose** of a particular type of illocutionary act is the intention inherent in it as an act of this type. In the case of statements of approval (further – SA), its illocutionary goal is to express the addressee's positive assessment, one's qualities and/or activities:

"You've got my applaud. You did it perfectly," he told Rita [8].

"I'm impressed with you, kid. You've got a future, Toby. You've got a bright talent." Caruso said [10].

Kevin made a point of keeping Max close at hand. Taciturn, brusque, his talent for putting diagnostic pieces together was superb. "You are good at what you've done" [7].

"You should have been chief resident", Kevin once said to him. "You're the best medical man on house staff" [7].

2. The illocutionary goal is achieved in various ways:

– by face-to-face way, when SA is directed to the object of positive evaluation or produced in its presence:

"You're a real help, my girl. We couldn't have done it without you. We are proud of you" [9];

– by correspondence way, when SA is produced in the absence of the object of positive evaluation:

"I see a lot of improvement in Kevin's work," said Dr. Felder to Nan [7].

According to the method of implementation, SAs can also be direct or indirect. This distinction reflects, first of all, the different degree of intensity of their illocutionary force. The illocutionary formula of direct SAs directly reflects the propositional content of the utterance. In addition, the object of positive evaluation and the evaluation predicate are expressed explicitly in the case of direct approval and together create an evaluation phrase:

"You are strong. You're smart. Good at what you do" [7].

"Your reading is perfect. I like it" [7].

"It's good to talk to you, Pippa. Thank you for ringing. It was kind of you and brave" [6].

Indirect SA differs from direct one by transmitting more information to the addressee in compassion with that one literally contained in the statement. In such cases, the addressee needs more interpretive efforts to reconstruct the content of the transmitted message:

"I've never thought to find such an interesting companion as you are" [10].

"You proved you could do it" [12].

The speaker can produce both direct and indirect approval in various modifications by using different speech acts in the forms of SAs considered as pragmatic varieties of this utterance type.

3. The degree of intensity of the illocutionary goal of approval depends on two factors: the intensity of the sincerity conditions and the intensity associated with the way the goal is achieved. Therefore, the intensity of the illocutionary goal will coincide with the intensity of the sincerity conditions:

"Miranda, you are extraordinary" [7].

"Rina, you are my best actress" [10].

"You are superstar of our show, Toby" [11].

To reinforce the illocation of SA, the speaker may refer to one's authority, social status, or life experience, which give the right to evaluate the addressee's personality or actions:

“Look how far you’ve come with your last operation, my boy,” said the Professor approvingly [12].

“I salute the show you’ve produced because it’s the best one in this season,” said the old actor [11].

4. Some illocutionary forces impose restrictions on the propositional content. These restrictions are called as **the conditions of the propositional content** of the illocutionary forces [5, p. 258]. A proposition as a unit of representation is understood as a kind of mental structure, a reflection of a certain situation and relationship types in it, generalized and organized in our consciousness [4, p. 84]. However, propositions have their own properties. Firstly, each proposition represents a certain state of affairs and has a true meaning. To understand a proposition is to know its conditions of truth, that is, to know what states of affairs must take place in order for it to be true. In case of approval, the main condition for the propositional content is that the motive SA is always determined by the communicative situation of cooperation [3, p. 63], when the speaker expresses a positive assessment of the addressee and one’s activities, seeking to create or maintain non-antagonistic relationships between the participants in the communicative act.

The second important condition for propositional content consists in the fact that the proportion is the content of an illocutionary act. In this sense, the content of a speech act represents SA of an individual’s qualities or activities.

5. The preconditions associated with the propositional content of an utterance explain that the speaker is able to implement the line of activities represented by the propositional content.

6. To determine **the conditions of sincerity**, it is necessary to find out what psychological state the speaker expresses. In the case of SA, the condition of sincerity is realized in case when the speaker is satisfied with the current state of affairs: if the speaker expresses approval to the addressee, it means that the former expresses sincere approval of the latter’s activities. In such a situation the speaker’s confidence demonstrates a positive assessment understood as deserved and objective one.

7. **The intensity of sincerity conditions** of SA may be greater or less one, depending on the psychological state of the speaker, which determines the appropriate degree of illocutionary force of the utterance.

By performing a speech action, the speaker can also express respect, sympathy, love, affection, pleasure and other "positive" feelings in addition to the illocution of approval. These additional co-values enhance the approval effect as an evaluative statement and the strength of its impact on the addressee, who interprets the information received appropriately and thereby modifies one’s inner world [1, p. 16].

The intensity of the illocutive goal coincides with the intensity of sincerity conditions, in other words, the intensity with which the psychological state of the illocutionary act of approval is expressed cannot be higher than the

intensity of its illocutionary goal (i.e. exaggerated approval will not correspond to the sincerity condition).

The prospect of research is to analyze linguo-pragmatic status of statements of approval on the material of English fiction texts.

References:

1. Демьянков В.З. Специальные теории интерпретации в вычислительной лингвистике. Харьков : Изд-во ХГПУ, 1999. 416 с.
2. Дубров А.Г. Парапсихология и современное естествознание. Киев : Киев.ун-т, 1990. 215 с.
3. Ключко Л.И. К проблеме моделирования речевого акта похвалы. Харьков : Константа, 2000. С. 58–66.
4. Панкрац Ю.Г. Пропозициональная форма представления знаний. Язык и структуры представления знаний. Сб. науч.–аналит. обзоров. Харьков : Мысль, 2000. С. 78–97.
5. Серль Дж.Р., Вандервекен Д. Основные понятия исчисления речевых актов. Новое в зарубежной лингвистике. Москва : Прогресс, 1996. Вып. 18. С. 242–262.
6. Elgin E. *Whisper on the Wind*. London : Harper Collins Publishers, 1992. 592 p.
7. Green G. *The Healers*. New York : A Berkley Book, 1980. 516 p.
8. Hailey A. *The Evening News*. New York : Dell Publishing, Fifth Avenue, 1991. 585 p.
9. Murdoch I. *The Bell*. Falmouth : Triad Granada, 1996. 317 p.
10. Segal E. *The Class*. London : Bantam Books, 1986. 531 p.
11. Sheldon S. *A Stranger in the Mirror*. Great Britain : Hodder and Stroughton Ltd, 1986. 302 p.
12. Smith M. *Polar Star*. New York : Ballantine Books, 1989. 366 p.