

Elocutional Force of expression in speech

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The issue of the elocutional force of expression is closely related to the question of indirect speech acts. By definition of J. R. Searl, “The problem of indirect speech acts lies in clarification of how the speaker is able to express by means of expression not only what he means directly, but also something different. And as the importance of expression is partly the aim to achieve comprehension on the listener's part, the mentioned problem comes to the ability of a listener to comprehend an indirect speech act, when the sentence heard and understood by him means something else”. (Searl J, 1986, 131)

Is the information perceived by the receiver always equal in volume to the information sent by the addressor and what it depends on? This many-sided problem has attracted attention of researchers of various fields for a long time. Among them are philosophers, sociologists, psychologists, linguists, writers, specialists in the field of the information theory. It is hard to name all of the people who observed and generalized the experience gained as a result of their observations of the relationship of the meaning and the means of its expression. To achieve this we ought to commence from Aristotle and refer to the long list of scientists who deal with the questions of language and speech.

The theory of speech acts gives essential impetus to research indirect usages. The analysis of the elocutional force of expression enabled us to demonstrate that the type of sentence and the type of speech acts are not the same essences and that the same speech acts can be achieved by means of several different sentences. This fact, on the one hand, suggests that in grammar a specific branch must exist which studies speech acts and the aim of which is to establish how one speech act may be expressed by means of another speech act. This is required particularly due to the fact that the notion of spontaneous embodiment of any speech act in any language structure still makes quite a widespread impression.

D. Gordon and J. Lakoff have emphasized several typical applications of interrogative questions with modal and auxiliary verbs in the work of Rosengren. (1979). The questions like **Can you pass me salt?** are being studied by them in connection with the so-called conditions of success of the speech act and make a conclusion that clarification of whether the listener is able to execute any action, may be equal to the demand (not only an indirect one) to execute this action. This conclusion was formulated in the form of the well-known “Postulates of Verbal Communication”, but Gordon and Lakoff underlined that the given rules are applicable only to definite situations and therefore are subject to only out grammar, i.e. pragmatic limitations, in a certain sense. According to the statement of the authors, an interrogative sentence may express either a question, or demand, but not both of them at the same time, since the corresponding rules are applicable in mutually exclusive situations (Gordon D, 1985, 276). Specific type of general questions representing indirect particular questions was described by Ph. Kiffer in 1980 (Kiffer Ph, 1978, 333).

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In his article “Indirect Speech Acts” J. Searl analyses typical patterns of usage of interrogative questions with other verbal intentions. He considers that indirect meaning is derived from direct meaning of the interrogative question, though in his article he supplements this thesis in two respects.

Firstly, Searl underlines that interrogative meaning in the sentences of indirect question is still maintained and thus he rejects to join to the widespread opinion that in similar cases interrogative meaning disappears completely. Secondly, Searl connects the interpretation of sentences as indirect speech acts with more general regularities, considering it a result of definite operations of logical choice.

In a facilitated form, the problem to be analyzed may be formulated as follows: the initial, direct meaning of sentences as linguistic structures is an element of a language system, whereas indirect meanings belong to the field of realization of this system. The decisive importance for interpretation of expression as a direct speech act is attached to the parameters of speech situations, and as the language is included in human's activities, speech behaviour is required to be considered in a wider, non-language context. In the opinion of R. Conrad, this means the following:

1. For each speech act there are specific situational conditions of success, which should be considered executed if a sentence is used as a speech act in accordance with some of its main functions. The main function of an interrogative question is an expression of a question. This is its standard meaning, tightly attached to it in the language system and not allowing any alterations to different meanings of a language system level.
2. The type and level of dissonance between semantics of interrogative sentence and the situation may vary, though they are not totally arbitrary and therefore represent an object of scientific research.
3. Making the existing definition of a direct speech act more precise, R. Conrad writes: “The formula, according to which a direct speech act takes place when by means of the language structure which is connected in the language system with the expression of one speech act, another speech act is expressed, admits various interpretations”. That's why Conrad offers us the following definition of an indirect speech act. “Indirect speech act takes place in case when it may be obtained by means of a logical conclusion from the direct meaning of a sentence and definite information about corresponding situation not connected with the sentence and direct speech act”.
4. The situation in which an interrogative question is expressed, is generally followed by some request, which is directly connected with one of the possible expected answers to the question asked. Thus, R. Conrad considers succession of several speech situations a source of direct applications of interrogative sentences. It can be expressed by means of two main schemes:



Symbol F denotes interrogative sentence pronounced by a speaker in this or that situation of a question. Symbols A A denote two different possible answers, “yes” and “no” respectively. Depending on the final aim of the question, in case of positive answer A or in case of negative answer A arises, for example, a situation of request inducing a speaker to plan the speech act SA (i.e. for example, of a request), directly following this answer. As this correlation is evident for the listener as well, he not only gives the demanded answer, but also makes it clear by means of his reaction R sa, that he has perceived the question as an indirect request, i.e. that at the same time he reacts to the speech act (SA) implied by the speaker but not yet achieved by him (Conrad R, 1985,357).

By indirect speech acts potential, i.e. as a matter of fact, omitted, imaginary, but not real speech acts are meant. Locution act necessary for achievement of SA is lacking though the listener despite this still advances by one step. It appears that in many cases a specific reinterpretation takes place and it happens particularly when they say that by means of a definite interrogative question an indirect request is expressed and so on.

Typical cases of indirect application of the expressions we are interested in are presented by a scheme.

1. Interrogation as an elocutional intention in indirect speech acts:

- 1) A question in an affirmative construction.
- 2) A question in an inducing construction.
- 3) A question in a conditional construction.

2. Interrogative constructions in indirect speech acts applied for expression of other elocutional intentions:

- 1) Question affirmation
- 2) Question negation
- 3) Question elucidation
- 4) Question emotional reaction of a speaker
- 5) Question enhancer of attention
- 6) Question incentive

V. G. Hack classifies cases of usage of narrative and inducing sentences with the function of interrogative sentences as a transposition in a more comprehensive sense by which he means “transfer of one language form (for example, verbal types of sentences), when one language form is used in the function of another form - its opposition in paradigmatic chain” (Hack V, 1989,542).

The aim of current importance of the researches conducted in the course of theory of speech acts is the study of correspondence between intentions and means of expression. Correlation between interrogation as an elocutional intention and the form of its expression in various lingo-cultural communities has its settled stereotypes. Therefore, while analyzing the primary and secondary functions of

various types of interrogative questions we have relied upon the data of “The grammar of Russian” under the editorship of N. U. Shvedova. (Shvedova N, 1980,353 355)

In their secondary functions interrogative questions direct their efforts not only toward reception of answer but also toward transfer of positive information. Moreover, in the opinion of Shvedova, this information is always expressively coloured. The following types of interrogative constructions are distinguished which in the communication process, in conditions of typical speech acts may express different aims:

1. Question affirmation

This is a question consisting of a confident, expressively coloured affirmation. Categoricality of affirmation, certainty of presence of anything, possibility, expediency, commonness, regularity of anything may be accentuated:

Is not it a beauty?

Is not it an evidence of a true democracy?

Which Russian doesn't like fast riding?

2. Question negation.

Question negation contains confident expressively coloured negation, the so called rhetorical question. But for all that the flatness of negation, impossibility, unnecessary or inexpediency is stronger and universality and absoluteness of negative situation as well:

Who can restrain love?

Who bears malice to himself?

How should I hold myself back from responding.

Who could raise a voice to condemn him?

3. Question elucidation.

This is a question repeating oral structure of a former remark and usually complicated with emotional colouring of surprise, perplexity, uneasiness, disapproval. Depending on the former remark questions understandings can be divided into two subtypes:

- a) The former remark - interrogative:

Were you there yesterday, can you tell what happened?

What happened? Nothing. It is nothing.

What do you want?

What I want? I do not know.

- b) The former remark noninterrogative:

And what shall we do?

Run.

To run? How?

4. Question enhancer of attention.

This is question that is intended to get someone interested.

What can we think of?

5. Question emotional reaction of a speaker.

This is a question, representing emotional statement of a fact, appraisal, attitude, affect state:

Shame on you!

**So you took into your head to teach me?
So it was he who wrote it?**

6. Question incentive.

This is question impelling the speaker to do smth:

a) Question impelling to the action.

By the way, why are we standing?

Shall we go ahead?

b) Question impelling to stop the action:

Will you stop you music after all?

N. Y. Shvedova chooses only above mentioned types, but we think it necessary to single out subtypes Questions requests and question prohibitions into two separate group (or pick them out as subtypes in the sixth group questions - incentive).

7. Question request.

In contrast of questions incentive in this type of sentences the negative particle “no” is used as certain. Semantics of incentive in them is softened: the speaker allows the possibility of refusal and that explains the appearance of the negative particle under the circumstances of described transposition:

Can you change me fifty rubles, please?

(Please, change me fifty rubles).

Can you tell me where the telephone is?

(Please, tell me where is telephone) .

Such sentences are used in the living speech, but more often during the intercourse with unknown people that is in the official relation between the communicators.

8. Question prohibition.

The interrogative questions getting corresponding emotional colour can be turned into categorical prohibition, which differs from the question being incentive to stop the action by the, degree of its absoluteness.

Why are you getting into the puddle?

This sentence does not require the explanation of motives of action it does not leave any choice, in the mouth of worried mother, it clearly prohibits the child to get into the puddle. The categorical order is given, requiring its immediate fulfillment.

Why have you taken my colors? (meaning put my

colors immediately into their place and do not take them again) .

Stylistically colored rhetorical questions operate in spoken, artistic and publicist speech.

Resources:

1. Gordon D. Lakoff J. - *Postulates of Speech intercourse*. Novelty in foreign linguistics, XVI., M., 1985 (Gordon and Lakoff 1985, 276-303)
2. Kiffer F. Presuppositions. *Novelty in foreign linguistics*, VII., M., 1978 (Kiffer 1978, 333-349)
3. Konrad R. *Interrogative sentences as indirect speech acts*. *Novelty in foreign linguistics*, XVI., M., 1985 (Konrad 1985, 349-384)
4. LES, M, 1989 (LES, 1989, 542)
5. Serly J. *What the speech act is?* *Novelty in foreign linguistics*, XVII., M., 1986 (Serly, 1986, 131-151)
6. Shvedova N.U, *Russian Grammar*, P. II, M, 1980 (Shvedova, 1980, 353-355)

Abstract

The problem of indirect speech acts is tightly connected with the problem of illocutive strength of expression. The problem is how to make possible understanding of indirect speech act by a hearer, when hearable and understandable means something more.

Analysis of illocutive strength of expression showed that the same speech act can be realized by means of some different sentences.

The direct meaning of sentences is the element of language system, as the language is included into the sphere of a human activity, so the speech act is necessary to consider in more wide context.

The main function of an interrogative sentence is the expression of question.

The following interrogative constructions are used for the expression of other illocutive means

1. Question statement
 2. Question - negation
 3. Question - understanding
 4. Question emotional reaction of a speaker
 5. Question expressing actual attention
 6. Question - motive
 7. Question request
 8. Question - prohibition