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THE SYSTEM OF PERFORMATIVE UTTERANCES IN THE LIGHT OF THE SYNTHESIS OF THEORIES OF ACT AND SPEECH

ABSTRACT

Linguistic studies left almost completely out of their field of view the vast and fascinating area of research for the meaning of the sentence. The conception of language as a means of action has become a topic of sustained investigation by philosophers of language and linguists within the theory of speech acts. The pursuit of this approach is to examine, among such bits, performative utterances and their five general classes of speech acts, by considering them communicative goals. The present paper elucidates the foundations of this pragmatic theory as formulated by one of its leading figure J. Austin and goes even further to search for a general theory of act, including both the theory of act and the theory of speech.

Keywords: Theory, Act, Speech, Performative, Verdictive, Exercitive, Commisive, Behabitive, Expositive.

FƏALİYYƏT VƏ NİTQ NƏZƏRİYYƏLƏRİNİN SİNTEZİ BAXIMINDAN PERFORMATİV İFADƏLƏR SİSTEMİ

XÜLASƏ

Dilçilik tədqiqatları cümlənin mənası üçün geniş və maraqlı tədqiqat sahələrini demək olar ki, tamamilə tərk etdi. Dilin fəaliyyət vasitəsi kimi təsəvvürü danışma aktları nəzəriyyəsi çərçivəsində dil filosofları və dilçilər tərəfin- dən davamlı araşdırma mövzusunə çevrildi. Bu yanaşmanın arxasınca, bu cür suallar arasında, ünsiyyət məqsədləri nəzərə alınmaqla, ifratçı sözlər və onların beş ümumi nitq siniflərini araşdırmaqdır. Hazırkı sənəd bu pragmatik nəzəriyyənin əsaslarını aparıcı simalardan biri olan J. Austin tərəfindən tərtib edil- diyi kimi izah edir və həm hərəkət nəzəriyyəsi, həm də nitq nəzəriyyəsi də daxil olmaqla ümumi bir nəzəriyyə axtarışına davam edir.

Açar sözlər: nəzəriyyə, hərəkət, nitq, performativ, verdiktiv, ekzersitiv, kommisiv, behabitiv, ekspositiv.

СИСТЕМА ПЕРФОРМАТИВНЫХ ВЫСКАЗЫВАНИЙ ВСВЕТЕ СИНТЕЗА ТЕОРИЙ ДЕЙСТВИЯ И РЕЧИ

РЕЗЮМЕ

Лингвистические исследования почти полностью оставили вне поля зрения обширную и увлекательную область исследования значения предложения. Концепция языка как средства действия стала предметом постоянного исследования философов языка и лингвистов в рамках теории речевых актов. Стремление к этому подходу состоит в том, чтобы изучить среди таких деталей перформативные высказывания и их пять основных классов речевых актов, рассматривая их как коммуникативные цели. Настоящая статья разъясняет основы этой прагматической теории, сформулированной одним из ее ведущих деятелей Дж. Остином, которая пойдет еще дальше в поисках общей теории действия, которая объединит теорию действия и теорию речи.

Ключевые Слова: теория, действие, речь, перформативный, вер- диктивный, экзерситивный, комиссивный, бехавитивный, экспозитивный

Linguistics, having studied, down to the tiniest detail, all the aspects and mechanisms of the Language and languages, has left almost completely out of its field of vision the vast and fascinating area of research for the meaning of the sentence. The syntax, which task it is to examine the life of a sentence, was usually limited to studying its formal structure, regardless of semantics and in estrangement from communicative goals. The latter were taken into account only to the extent in which they are reflected by the sentence structure (let us compare the narrative sentence, question, motivation). As a section of grammar, the syntax tried not to go beyond the actual grammatical categories. It paid tribute to semantics mainly by attempts to reveal the meaning of syntactic connections and the semantic definition of the functions of secondary members of a sentence (circumstances of a place, time, reason, etc.). Neither the nature of the meaning of a sentence and its components, nor the semantic types of sentences, nor the semantic types of subjects and predicates, nor the interaction of the formal and semantic structures of a sentence, have until recently been the subject of special analysis. Interest in this group of questions emerged a few decades ago. It was triggered by a number of factors that influenced the development of linguistic thought. This was facilitated by the onset of a new period in the relationship of linguistics with logic that pays a keen attention to the content of sentences - proposition, to a general turn to the semantic feature of the language and speech, to the appeal to the pragmatic component of speech activity, and to the concept of a sentence as a linguistic sign with its own denotative unit. The need to study the meaning of sentences also arose in connection with the theory of syntactic transformations, based on the concept of semantic equivalence of sentences. The same task was called for during the development of models for transforming semantic structures into correctly constructed statements of one or another language.

The idea that speech activity should not be opposed to other types of human acts is not new in itself. This thought was verbalized, in particular, by Hegel (1) in the following definition: "Speeches ... are the actions that take place between people". Psychology and psycholinguistics are developed on the basis of a general theory of act. The "action" approach also determines the psycholinguistic research conducted by N.I. Zhinkin, A.R. Luria, A.A. Leontiev and other scholars (2).

The desire for a synthesis of the theory of act and the theory of speech is also characteristic of many other lines of thought. It led, in particular, to the idea of performative statements put forward by the prominent representative of the everyday language philosophy - J. Austin (3). The proposals, which drew the attention of J. Austin, are not ordinary messages that carry some information. Rather, they are equivalent to act, deed, a certain action, sometimes fraught with serious consequences. "To say is to do something" (4), wrote Austin. In Austin's conception, a sharp contrast between "words" and

"deeds" was thereby removed. If usually the right to consider words as their deeds was considered a privilege of writers and poets (5), now it was recognized by all people. Classical examples of performative utterances are the formulas for declaring war, wills, oaths, oaths, words of promise, challenges to a duel, apologies and invitations, offers of bets, formulas for concluding deals and agreements. Verbal expressions, of course, can lead to the desired effect only if a number of conditions necessary for this are met, which J. Austin called "happiness conditions".

J. Austin deduced performativities from the number of statements expressing the truth value. Instead of truth or falsehood, performative statements, like any act, like any purposeful action, are characterized by the property of efficiency or inefficiency, a happy or unhappy outcome, success or failure (6).

So, performative utterances have the following distinctive features: 1) they do not state anything, 2) they are devoid of truth value, 3) they are characterized by a sign of efficiency / inefficiency; 4) they must comply with some socially legalized, generally accepted procedure, ceremonial; 5) they are unique, one of a kind, 6) classical performative statements contain a verb in the 1st person singular, present tense of the indicative active.

The study of performative utterances and the verbs forming them leads J. Austin to determine the structure of a speech act. To perform a speech act, according to J. Austin, means: a) to make articulate sounds related to a particular language code, b) to make a statement, constructed from the words of a given language in compliance with the rules of its grammar, c) to use a statement with a certain meaning and reference, t. e. give it meaning (7).

The listed steps, however, do not exhaust the process of speech formation. Any speech is carried out with a certain intention. People speak in order to express their opinion about something, give advice, promise or offer something, condemn or approve someone's action, convince or dissuade their interlocutor of something, demand or find out something. Purposefulness turns speech into an illocutionary (i.e., communicative) act (Illocutionary act). J. Austin called the theory of the communicative functions of speech the doctrine of "illocutionary forces" (8).

J. Austin identifies five general classes of speech acts that differ in their communicative significance and are close to performative: 1) verdicts or "judicial acts" (verdictives) containing a judgment about something; i.e., I believe, appreciate, believe, find, etc.; 2) acts of motivation (exercitives); i.e., I command, advise. I urge, dissuade, etc. 3) acts of obligation (commisives), i.e., I undertake, promise, give my word, swear, etc. ; 4) formulas of social etiquette, usually expressing a reaction to the behavior of other people (behabitives); i.e., congratulations, apologize, take my words back, express sympathy, etc.; 5) introductions explicating the function of the replica in commu-

nication (expositives); i.e., I answer, object, agree, etc. All of the listed classes of verbs include the sign of pronunciation, speech expression: “promise” means not only intending to do something, but also express my intention verbally, to inform about. This feature distinguishes performatives from other verbs in the field of propositional relations.

In the logical and philosophical flow of thought, the ideas of J.Austin enjoyed a huge resonance.(9)

Logics of the analytical direction were tasked with determining the relationship of performativity to the truth value of a sentence. This issue is usually resolved in the spirit of “self-verification”: performativities are included in the category of sentences, the very fact of pronouncing them reveals their truth or falsity (the so-called self-confirming and self-denying statements – self-verifying and self-falsifying sentence types - cf. I exist; all the sentences I pronounce, start with a “not” particle. (10)

The main value of the works of J.Austin was that they stimulated the Oxford school adherents to search for a general theory of act, including both the theory of act and the theory of speech.

Resources:

1. Analysis of the linguistic views of Hegel, Cf. D.J. Cook “Language in the Philosophy of Hehel. The Hague-Paris, 1973
2. The principles and methodology used by this school are set out in the book “Fundamentals of the theory of speech act, Moscow 1974 (with a large bibliography attached)
3. J. Austin. Performative – constative. “Philosophy and Ordinary Language”. Urbana, 1963. “How To Do Things With Words”, pp.5-12
4. J. Austin. “How To Do Things With Words”, p.12
5. Cp. the following statement by Blok: “The sounds stolen from the elements and brought into harmony, introduced into the world, themselves begin to do their job. “The poet’s words are already his deeds. They show unexpected power” (A. Blok. On the destination of the poet).
6. J. Austin. “How To Do Things With Words”, p.12, where the doctrine of “speech misfires” or infelicities, according to the terminology of the author
7. J. Austin. “How To Do Things With Words”, p.92
8. J. Austin. “How To Do Things With Words”, p.99
9. This can be judged by the materials of the conference devoted to the discussion of J.Austin’s concept Ref. «Symposium on J.L.AustinEdited by K.T.Fann. London, 1960
10. G,Sampson “Pragmatic Self-verification and Performatives “Foundations of Language”< 1971, V.1, N 2