THE ROLE OF COMMANDS AS ILLOCUTIONARY SPEECH ACTS IN ENGLISH

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Annotatsiya: Maqolada ingliz tilida illokatsion nutq harakatlari sifatida buyruqlarning ahamiyati o'rganilgan. Ular ijtimoiy o'zaro ta'sirni tartibga solish, hokimiyatni ifoda etish va kommunikativ maqsadlarga erishishda hal qiluvchi rol o'ynaydi. Maqolada ingliz tilidagi buyruqlarning funktsiyalari, shakllari va oqibatlarini hisobga olgan holda ijtimoiy-madaniy ahamiyati ko'rib chiqiladi. Muhimi, xushmuomalalik strategiyalari va kontekstual omillar tabiiy nutqda buyruqlarni amalga oshirishga ta'sir qiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: illokatsion nutq aktlari, buyruqlar, ko'rsatmalar, ijtimoiy-madaniy jihat, xushmuomalalik, ingliz tili

Аннотация. В статье исследуется важность команд как иллокутивных речевых актов в английском языке. Они играют решающую роль в регулировании социального взаимодействия, выражении авторитета и достижении коммуникативных целей. В статье рассматривается социокультурное значение команд в английском языке с учетом их функций, форм и подтекста. Важно отметить, что особое внимание уделяется стратегиям вежливости и контекстуальным факторам, влияющим на реализацию команд в естественном дискурсе.

Ключевые слова: иллокутивные речевые акты, команды, директивы, социокультурный аспект, вежливость, английский язык.

Annotation. The article explores the importance of commands as illocutionary speech acts in English language. They play a crucial role in regulating social interaction, expressing authority, and achieving communicative goals. The article examines socio-cultural importance of commands in English taking into account of their functions, forms and implications. Importantly, politeness strategies and contextual factors influence the realization of commands in natural discourse are focused.

Key words: illocutionary speech acts, commands, directives, socio-cultural aspect, politeness, English language

Speech act theory, created by Austin in 1962 and further developed by Searle in 1969. It emphasized that language is not just a tool for communication or conveying data, but also it performs an action. Even through there are several types of illocutionary speech acts, commands play a vital role since they directly influence the behavior of the speaker and listener. In English, commands are common in everyday communication, institutional discourse, education and professional purposes. Understanding socio-cultural aspect of commands is really important for successful intercultural communication and linguistic analysis.

Commands are considered to be one of the categories of directive speech acts. Their primary role is to get the listener to do something (Searle, 1976). The illocutive force of a command lies in the speaker`s intention to impose an obligation or expectation on the listener. On the contrary, commands generally involve power relations, authority and social norms.

In English, commands can be expressed both directly – "Close the door" or indirectly "Could you close the door?". Although their structures are diverse, both forms may carry similar illocutionary force depending on context.

There are several types of linguistic forms of commands in English

Commands in English are created with the help of various grammatical and pragmatic forms which differentiate their socio-cultural norms as well.

1. *The usage of imperative form*

"Sit down" or "Stop talking" are examples of imperative forms. Imperative forms are markers of power and social hierarchy. In English-speaking cultures, imperatives

are frequently used by individuals in positions of authority, namely teachers, parents, military officers and employers who control or ensure compliance. In these contexts, the directness of the imperative is socially sanctioned and expected. The socio-cultural norm allows speakers with institutional and situational authority to use imperatives without being perceived as impolite. On the contrary, when imperative forms are used by individuals of lower status toward those of higher status, they can be interpreted as rude or inappropriate by demonstrating how grammar reflects social hierarchy.

2. Modal constructions

Modal verbs express various levels of obligation and authority by signaling the addresser`s social position and the strength of the command.

- Strong obligation modals (must and have to)

"You must wear a helmet"

These constructions are commonly occur in institutional or legal contexts that reflect hierarchical relationships and formal authority.

- Advisory modals (should, ought to)
  "You should submit the form by Friday"

Such verb forms soften the command and align with socio-cultural forms that favor guidance over pressure. The choice of modal reveals culturally regulated expectations about power and compliance.

3. Interrogative forms with directive force

The widespread use of interrogative forms with directive force highlights socio-cultural norms that discourage obvious imposition and favor indirectness in interpersonal communication.

"Will you be quiet?"

"Could you open the window?"

Despite their interrogative structure, these utterances seldom seek information; instead, they are targeted at prompting action from an addressee.

4. *Declarative statements with implicit commands*

These constructions illustrate how speakers employ indirectness to manage social relationships and adhere to culturally grounded norms of communication.

"You are not allowed to use your phone here"

"Guests are required to sign in at the desk"

Although these utterances do no obviously demand action, their directive force is socially understood and often more acceptable than direct imperatives. The similarity between declarative implicit commands and imperative forms is that both of them are used in institutional and formal contexts, such as education, law, healthcare and workplace environments.

The importance of commands as illocutionary speech acts lies in their ability to organize social behavior and maintain order. In institutional contexts such as classrooms, workplaces, and military settings, commands function as tools of authority and efficiency. However, in everyday interaction, direct commands may be perceived as rude or face-threatening.

According to Brown and Levinson's (1987) politeness theory, commands often threaten the hearer's negative face, as they restrict freedom of action. Therefore, English speakers frequently soften commands using politeness markers, hedges, or indirect strategies (e.g., "Please," "Would you mind…?"). This reflects the cultural

value placed on individual autonomy and interpersonal harmony in English-speaking societies.

Commands are a fundamental type of illocutionary speech act in English, serving to direct actions, express authority, and manage social interaction. Their importance extends beyond grammatical structure to include pragmatic meaning, politeness strategies, and socio-cultural norms. By analyzing commands within the framework of speech act theory, it becomes evident that successful communication in English depends not only on what is said but also on how and in what context commands are delivered.

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