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A Comparative Study of The Speech Acts of Advice and Suggestion in English

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ
صَدَقَ اللّٰهُ الْعَلِیُّ الْعَظِیْمُ
سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ: الْآیَةُ (201)

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful
Our Lord! Give us in this world that which is good and in the
Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the
Fire.

Believe God Almighty
Surah Al-Baqarah (201)

(Al-Munjed,1997:2)

Dedication

To

my mother

my father

and my friends

With respect and love

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1.The Problem of the Study

The present study is a comparative study of the speech acts of advice and suggestion in English. The study tackles these two speech acts in English to show the similarities and differences between them in English.

In other words the study tries to answer the following questions:

- 1.What are the felicity conditions of the speech acts of advice and suggestion in English.
- 2.What are the pragmatic strategies of the speech acts of advice and suggestion in English?
- 3.What are the similarities and differences between these two speech acts in English?

1.2.Aims of the Study

- 1.Investigating the felicity conditions of the speech acts of advice and suggestion in English.
- 2.Finding out the pragmatic strategies of the speech acts of advice and suggestion in English.
- 3.Shedding light on the similarities and differences between these two speech acts in English.

1.3.The Hypotheses of the Study

1.There are a set of felicity conditions for the speech acts of advice and suggestion in English.

2.The speech acts of advice and suggestion are realized by certain pragmatic strategies like "I advise you to study more" and "Don't try to use this program".

3.There are some differences and similarities between the speech acts of advice and suggestion in English.

1.4. The Procedures of the Study

1.Presenting a theoretical background about the speech acts of advice and suggestion in English.

2.Conducting a comparison between these two speech acts in English to come up with the similarities and differences between them.

3.Coming up with some conclusions regarding the similarities and differences between these two speech acts in English

1.5.The Limitation of the Study

The study is limited to make a comparison between the speech acts of advice and suggestion in English to find the similarities and differences between them

1.6.Value of the Study

The study is supposed to be of value to researcher, who are interested in making comparative studies. It is also hoped that it will be beneficial to student who are learning English as a foreign language.

Chapter Two

Theoretical Background

2.1. Speech Act of Advice

The speech act of advice can be a face-threatening act because it puts the hearers in a position where they are being requested to do something and it restricts their options for action (Jenetto,2019:44).

Advice has the illocutionary power to suggest to the hearer a future action that, in the adviser's opinion, will be to their advantage. Similar to requests, advice also asks the hearer to perform a future action; however, advice differs from requests in that it instructs the hearer on the optimal course of action (Hinkel,1997: 3).

Searle (1969:7) defines advice as "telling you what is best for you." According to Searle's classification of speech acts, advice belongs to the directive category of speech acts. As a directive act, the speaker wants his/her advisee to do something. In this case, advice-giving is somehow related to a request with the difference that an advice is beneficial to its recipient (Al-Aadeli,2013:17).

Searle (1979:29) states that the act of advising can take two illocutionary points. It takes the directive point and the assertive point. For example: "I advise you to go there (Directive)." and Passengers are hereby advised that the train will be late (Assertive)". In the first utterance, the speaker advises the hearer in terms of directing him/her to do a future action (to go there).

Brown and Levinson (1987:82) state that the speech act of advice is a potentially face-threatening act because it places the hearer into the position that he/she is asked to do something and thus limits the hearer's freedom of action, and because it puts the speaker into a position of authority and power, as someone who knows what is good for the hearer.

For Hinkel (1997: 5), advice-giving is a complex speech act that must be performed with caution when the speaker is reasonably certain that the hearer is likely to do what is being advised, that all advice must be hedged and softened and never given explicitly to avoid offending the hearer, and that the speaker is presupposed to have the right or the authority to give advice.

2.1.1. Felicity Conditions of Advice

Searle (1969:67) presents a set of felicity conditions for the speech act of advice. These can be stated as follows:

1. The propositional content condition (PCC): the speaker expects a future act of the hearer.
2. The preparatory condition (PC): (A). The speaker has some reason to believe that the act will benefit the hearer. (B). It is not obvious to both the speaker and the hearer that the hearer will do the act in the normal course of events.
3. The sincerity condition (SC): the speaker believes that the act will benefit the hearer.
4. The essential condition (EC): the speaker intends his/her utterance to count as an advice which is in the best interest of the hearer.

2.1.2.Strategies for Expressing Advice

Martinez-Flor (2003:144) remarks that there are three types of strategies used to indicate advice. These strategies include: direct, conventionally indirect and indirect strategies.

Direct advice is a pragmatically transparent expression which is classified into four different realizations: imperatives as in "Study", negative imperatives: 1."Don't go out until late".

Declarative sentences with should or ought to as in:

2. "You should study more for that exam", and declarative sentences with performative verbs as in:

3. "I advise you to study more." In this case, the verb advise and the noun advice as in:

4. "My advice to you is...." are used.

The second type of strategies, that is indirect conventionalized strategies, includes three linguistic realizations: conditional as in:

5. "If I were you.

6.I would study".

Probability, 7."It might be better for you to study hard", and specific formulae (Ibid,145).

Matsumura (2001:677) mentions that the difference between direct and indirect advice depends on the strength of the forms used to express advice. For example, forms as "you must", "you should", "you'd better" and

imperatives would be categorized as direct advice. Other forms such as "you can/could", "you might want to" and "it may/would be a good idea to" could be categorized as indirect advice.

The third type of advice, indirect nonconventionalized acts, includes those hints in which the speaker's intentions are not made explicitly as in:

7. "You want to pass, don't you" (Ibid,678).

2.2.Speech Act of Suggestion

A suggestion is an expression that the speaker freely makes. The decision to accept or reject the suggestion is left up to the listener. This means that when the speaker makes a specific proposal to the listener, he does not put any sort of obligation on the listener to accept it; instead, the listener is free to accept or reject it (Kratzer, 1991:645).

According to Searle's definition of speech acts, suggestions fall under the category of directives, which are acts in which the speaker seeks to persuade the listener to commit to a specific future course of action. Therefore, when creating directive speech actions, it is important to consider both the speaker and the hearer (Thomas, 1995:161).

Suggestion is a statement made with the intention of getting the recipient to do something for their own good. Because it is not evident to both the speaker and the hearer that the hearer would perform the act without the suggestion being made, the speaker is doing the hearer a favor (ibid,162).

For Rintell (1979: 97), suggestions are acts in which the speaker asks the hearer to perform an action that will potentially benefit the hearer. Despite this fact, suggestions are regarded as face-threatening acts since the speaker is

in some way intruding into the hearer's world. As such, suggestions are regarded as an imposition upon the hearer by affronting his/her negative face.

2.2.1.Felicity Conditions of Suggestion

Edmondson (1981:141) assumes that suggestion has the following felicity conditions:

1. The propositional content condition (PCC): the speaker wishes the hearer to believe that the speaker is in favour of hearer's performing a future act as in the interests of the hearer.

2. The preparatory condition (PC): (A). In making a suggestion, the speaker assumes that it is possible for the hearer not to do the suggested act. (B). The speaker assumes that it is possible, though not definite, that the hearer will do the act after the suggestion.

3. The sincerity condition (SC): the speaker believes that it is a good idea for the hearer to do the suggested act.

4. The essential condition: the speaker wants the utterance to count as a suggestion to the hearer to do something which may be beneficial to both of them.

2.2.Strategies for Expressing Suggestion

Suggestions can be expressed through the use of various strategies including direct strategies, conventionalized strategies and indirect strategies (Hinkel,1997: 6).

In direct suggestions, the speaker clearly states what he/she means through the use of a performative verb denoting suggestion as in:

1. "I suggest that you change the data of the exam".

A noun of suggestion as in

2. "My suggestion to you is to get into that" or imperatives and negative imperatives as in:

3."Try using this computer"

4. "Don't try to use this program" (Ibid,7).

According to (Thomas, 1995:180) remark that the use of a performative verb and a noun of suggestion to denote suggestion is not widely employed in everyday life since it is very direct. Also, they state that the use of imperatives is regarded as the most direct and impolite form of making a suggestion since it has the most literal pragmatic force.

The second type of suggestion, that of conventionalized forms, is not as direct as the first type. It allows the hearer to understand the speaker's intentions behind the suggestion. Within this type, a greater variety of linguistic realizations are employed, such as the use of interrogative forms

5. "Why don't you phone this person?", by means of the verbs should and need, and the use of the conditional:

6. "If I were you.

7. "I would buy a new computer" (Koike,1996:264).

The third type of suggestion, that is indirect strategies, refers to those expressions in which the speaker's true intentions are not clearly stated. In these indirect forms for suggestions, there is no indicator of the suggestive force in the utterance, so the hearer has to infer that the speaker is actually making a suggestion. The use of different impersonal forms as in "It would be helpful if you could find his telephone number" has been regarded as a way of making indirect suggestions (Hinkel,1994:71).

Chapter Three

Comparison between The Speech Acts of Advice and Suggestion

3.1. Similarities

(1) Both advice and suggestion are speech acts used in daily communication to influence other people. They are milder than commands since the decision about what to do is in the hands of the hearer.

(2) Both suggestion and advice belong to directives, which are acts in which the speaker's purpose is to get the hearer to commit himself to some future course of action.

(3) Both advice and suggestion are performed to get the hearer take some kind of action. However, the action that is mentioned is directed to the hearer only in the case of advice, whereas in suggestion, it can include the speaker as well as in "Let's try that restaurant"; "Shall we go now?"

(4) Both speech acts are face-threatening acts and both of them are rarely given explicitly in English.

3.2. Differences

(1) In suggestion, the predicted act is performed either by the hearer or by the hearer and the speaker together, whereas in advice, the predicted act is performed by the hearer alone.

(2) The main feature that distinguishes advice from suggestion is the fact that advice implies a future course of action which is in the sole interest of the hearer, while suggestion may imply benefits for both interlocutors

(3). Advice has the possibility of strong negative connotation, while suggestion is less assertive and forceful than advice. It does not include a negative connotation and it may be tentative

(4). Some synonyms for advice that do not apply for suggest include admonish, offer an opinion, encourage, caution and warn. Meanings unique to suggest include propose, move, submit and advance.

Chapter Four

Conclusions

4.1. Conclusions

Both suggestion and advice are speech acts employed in everyday conversation to persuade listeners. Given that the hearer decides what to do, they are more kind than demands.

Advice belongs to the directive category of speech acts. As a directive act, the speaker wants his/her advisee to do something. Advice is considered to be of benefit to the hearer rather than the speaker.

Advice is not a part of the request because advising does not mean trying to get someone to do something for the speaker. In fact, it is a choice for advice seekers toward some problems for an action. Advice offers one of the possible solutions for the hearer's problems.

Suggestions belong to the group of directive speech acts which are acts in which the speaker's purpose is to get the hearer to commit him/herself to some future course of action .

Suggestions are acts in which the speaker asks the hearer to perform an action that will potentially benefit the hearer. Despite this fact, suggestions are regarded as face-threatening acts since the speaker is in some way intruding into the hearer's world.

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