

FUNCTIONAL AND PRAGMATIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGULATIVE SPEECH ACTS IN RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN COMMUNICATIVE CULTURES

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Main parts: Contents, Introduction, three Chapters, Conclusion, Bibliography, List of Reference Books, Supplements.

Key Words: pragmalinguistics, speech act theory, speech variation, communicative behavior.

Abstract: This investigation is centered round one of the most important aspects of modern linguistics: the speech act theory.

The main purpose of this study is to identify the national specific character of verbal regulation of behavior and interlocutor status in US and Russian communicative cultures.

The research objectives:

1. To describe the feature set of communicative situations regulation of behavior and state of the interlocutor within their regulative intention.
2. To identify and describe the speech acts types that are used in a variety of communicative situations in Russian and American communicative cultures.

The object of study in our work is the regulative statements, collected by the entire sampling of film scripts, drama and prose works of contemporary Russian and American authors. The sample size is approximately 900 examples.

The subject of the study is the direct and indirect speech acts (used in the situation of control and regulation of behavior and the state of the interlocutor in both communicative cultures).

The identification of the verbal ways to control behavior and state of the interlocutor including national character in Russian and American communicative cultures is possible under consideration of speech acts pragmatic force.

There are several types of speech acts according to their illocutionary force:

- assertives (speech acts that commit a speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition), e.g. reciting a creed;
- directives (speech acts that are to cause the hearer to take a particular action), e.g. requests, commands and advice;
- commissives (speech acts that commit a speaker to some future action), e.g. promises and oaths;
- expressives (speech acts that express the speaker's attitudes and emotions towards the proposition), e.g. congratulations, excuses and thanks;
- declarations (speech acts that change the reality in accord with the proposition of the declaration), e.g. baptisms, pronouncing someone guilty or pronouncing someone husband and wife.

The cardinal way to control behavior and state of the interlocutor in the Russian and American communicative cultures is the usage of directive speech acts.

According to our research, the model field of speech acts being used to control behavior and state of the interlocutor consists of:

- the centre (nucleus) – 60% (requests, advices, instructions and commands);
- the near-by periphery – 30% (demands, prohibition and offers);
- the distant periphery is made up of the speech acts of suggestion (5,5%) and reproach (4,5%).

There is a range of modes to influence the behavior and state of the interlocutor, among them: performative utterances; modal verbs; imperative, interrogative and even declarative constructions.

The communication sovereignty in American communicative culture is protected by:

- the use of indirect forms as the way of influence on the behavior and state of the interlocutor;
- limitations on the overt expression of the negative attitude to the addressee behavior;
- absence of the speech act of criticism.

Correcting the behavior of the interlocutor, Russian communicants appeal to the conscience of the recipient. In the US a similar communication reception is impossible because it violates the sovereignty of the individual.

Summarizing the results, we can say that the Russian communicants are more emotional compared to the US. In addition, the communicant's sovereignty in Russian communication is more vulnerable than in the US.

Collectivism is an integral feature of the Russian mentality.

On the whole the American communicative behavior aiming at the control of the behavior and state of the interlocutor may be evaluated as emotionally restrained in comparison with the Russian communicative behavior.