



STUDYING ABOUT THE ANALYSIS OF INDIRECT SPEECH ACTS AND ITS PROBLEMS

V RAMANGOUD

RESEARCH SCHOLAR, SUNRISE UNIVERSITY, ALWAR, RAJASTHAN

DR. VIBHA GUPTA

RESEARCH SUPERVISOR, SUNRISE UNIVERSITY, ALWAR, RAJASTHAN

ABSTRACT

In this paper, we address several puzzles concerning speech acts, particularly indirect speech acts. We show how a formal semantic theory of discourse interpretation can be used to define speech acts and to avoid murky issues concerning the metaphysics of action. We provide a formally precise definition of indirect speech acts, including the subclass of so-called conventionalized indirect speech acts. This analysis draws heavily on parallels between phenomena at the speech act level and the lexical level. First, we argue that, just as co-predication shows that some words can behave linguistically as if they're 'simultaneously' of incompatible semantic types, certain speech acts behave this way too. Secondly, as Horn and Bayer (1984) and others have suggested, both the lexicon and speech acts are subject to a principle of blocking or 'preemption by synonymy': Conventionalized indirect speech acts can block their 'paraphrases' from being interpreted as indirect speech acts, even if this interpretation is calculable from Gricean-style principles. We provide a formal model of this blocking, and compare it with existing accounts of lexical blocking.

Keywords: - Indirect Speech, Speech, Book, Blocking, Acts.

I. INTRODUCTION

Basically, language is used in a variety of real-world circumstances. Such circumstances might be social, political, cultural, or professional, among others. In addition to reflecting reality, literature also reflects the language individuals use to perform a variety of functions in the society in which they live. One of the key components of theater is dialogue. Even in fiction, speech often takes the form of character-to-character conversations. Such a discussion helps the reader to assess or sketch the interlocutor(s)' personalities. Any conversation's context aids comprehension of the speaking situation and, therefore, the conversation's inclusion in a literary work.



Speech Acts are the means by which conversation flows. There are two types of speech acts: direct and indirect. According to the second chapter's definition, direct speech acts are those in which form and purpose are consistent, such as when an interrogative is used to ask a question or to request information or a response. However, in indirect speech acts, the form and function are mismatched, such as when a request is made in the form of a question by utilizing the imperative function. It has been noticed that most of the time, discussion participants favor indirect speech acts than direct ones. This might be the interactor's effort to be cordial or diplomatic. Indirect Speech Acts are used by the speaker, according to NozarNiazi.

II. ANALYSIS OF INDIRECT SPEECH ACTS

Indirect Speech Acts are instances in which one illocutionary act is carried out indirectly by virtue of the performance of a direct one, according to Searle's distinction between Direct and Indirect Speech Acts. (1979:60)

Therefore, when an utterance's form and function are directly related, it is referred to as a Direct Speech Act; yet, when they are indirectly related or implicitly related, it is referred to as an Indirect Speech Act. In this chapter, a number of problems will be looked at from an indirect angle.

Rhetorical Questions

Questions that are rhetorical do not follow its form or structure. Although the rhetorical question has an interrogative form, it is really a statement that is often negative. For instance, a woman may ask her husband, "Who cooks food for you and the kids every day and keeps this home clean?"

She doesn't anticipate any other solution or another lady in answer to this inquiry, but she wants to make it clear that she is the only one who cares for her husband, kids, and house. Therefore, she uses a rhetorical question, which is plainly more powerful than a simple remark, to establish her significance in his life. The rhetorical question is different from a regular question in this regard. According to M. H. Abrams and Geoffrey Galt Harpham's *A Handbook of Literary Terms*, "A rhetorical question is a sentence in the grammatical form of a question which is not asked in order to request information or to invite a reply, but to achieve a greater expressive force than a direct assertion."

Rhetorical questions are often used by speakers for a variety of goals, including persuasion, dissuasion, expression of surprise, rage, grief, and suffering, among others. Rhetorical inquiries have a more powerful perlocutionary impact than direct speech acts. The primary quality of a rhetorical inquiry, as previously stated, is indirect statement. The following



categories include additional traits and the role played by rhetorical questions in the books under consideration.

- **Characterization**

In the books being studied, rhetorical questions play a key role in defining the personalities, ways of thinking, and behaviors of the protagonist as well as other characters. The White Tiger's rhetorical inquiry that follows sheds information on VikramHalwai, Balram's father.

- **The Power Structure (the High and Low Class People)**

The following exchange between the judge and the chef, who represent the master and servant, makes a major contribution to comparing and contrasting their respective personalities. As was already said, the judge is a very frugal guy and gives the chef a pitiful wage. Only twenty-five rupees had been added to his previous rise. They engage in the following conversation in the backdrop of this scenario.

- **Expressing Frustration**

Indirect Speech Acts in general and rhetorical inquiries in particular are used by persons who are frustrated. Typically, persons who are in sorrow would ask, "How can I live without you?" or "Why did you leave me alone?" For example, "Oh God, why don't you take me too?" Therefore, using rhetorical questions is a way to express intense anguish. Giving pertinent instances from the books under examination will help to clarify the same.

- **Arguing**

In addition to being angry or mourning someone's passing, people frequently employ rhetorical questions while debating with one another. Sai, the judge's granddaughter, and Gyan, Sai's teacher, argue in the book *The Inheritance of Loss*. Gyan, a Nepali woman, objects to Sai's Christmas celebration since Sai is a Hindu woman and Christmas is a western holiday. Sai, who disagrees with him, argues that Christmas is also an Indian celebration.

III. FORM AND FUNCTION OF THE UTTERANCE

An expression's formal composition and literal interpretation may not always capture its whole meaning. Understanding the meaning also requires understanding the context. An utterance's purpose and form are not necessarily related. Declaratives may be used to ask questions (interrogatives), and interrogatives can be used to ask for things that need to be done immediately. The goal of this chapter's part is to analyze a few instances of declaratives,



imperatives, and interrogatives that serve many purposes. We'll make an effort to show how less is spoken and more is conveyed. Indirect Speech Acts are those in which the utterance has an interrogative form but performs an urgent action such as asking, recommending, or commanding. In the books under study, interrogatives often take the form of imperatives. The questions that are used in the following passages are those that different characters use to propose, ask for, or order things in the 2008 book *The White Tiger*.

IV. THE INDIRECT SPEECH ACT PROBLEM

The relation between speech acts and the devices used to indicate them is complicated by the fact that performative verbs are seldom present and the same device can be used to perform many illocutionary acts. The interrogative mood, for example, can be used to

Request: "Can you pass the salt?"

Question: "Do you know the time?"

Inform: "Do you know that Sam got married?"

Warn: "Did you see the bear behind you?"

Promise: "Would I miss your party?"

As many authors have pointed out, an utterance conveys its indirect illocutionary force by virtue of its literal one (Searle [1975], Morgan [1977], Morgan [1978]). "It's cold here" can function as a request to, say, close the window, in part because it's an assertion that the temperature is low.

Most of the literature on the treatment of indirect speech acts within the theory of grammar stems from the work of Gordon and Lakoff [1975] (hereafter GL). They claim that direct and indirect instances of the same speech act have different "meanings", i.e. different logical forms, and they propose a set of "conversational postulates" by which literal forms "entail" indirect ones. The postulates for requests correspond to conditions that must obtain for a request to be sincere. For A to sincerely request B to do ACT, the following sincerity conditions must hold:

(1) A wants ACT.

(2) B can do ACT.

(3) B is willing to do ACT.



(4) B will not do ACT in the absence of the request.

They then propose that one can convey a request by asserting a speaker-based sincerity condition (condition 1), or querying a hearer-based sincerity condition (conditions 2-4).

The postulates for indirect requests given in GL do not account for the readings of 2.3a and 2.3b as requests, and although more rules could be added (and some should be weakened) we believe this solution to be misguided.

V. CONCLUSION

This chapter makes a modest effort to examine several types of issues in order to determine how they affected the creation of the books under consideration. Due of their indirect purpose, rhetorical questions have received particular consideration. The thematic and structural relevance of the books under consideration is greatly influenced by these concerns. It has been noted that the characters in the chosen literature regularly use rhetorical inquiries. These queries have served a variety of purposes, including informing, griping, making a forceful assertion, expressing emotions such as wrath, resentment, amazement, helplessness, grief, and frustration, as well as attaining the desired (perlocutionary) outcome. The answers to these questions provide insight on the attitudes, actions, and methods of the pertinent characters. As a result, rhetorical inquiries are quite helpful in characterizing the interlocutors. Through the questions they ask from an indirect stance, an effort is made to infer the characteristics of those characters and pinpoint their qualities and quirks.

The form and purpose of the utterance have been in-depth examined from its indirect point of view in the second section of the chapter. It has been noted that the discord between speech actions' form and function shows that one kind of sentence may suit the purpose of another type of phrase. A inquiry may thus make a request, a command, a statement, or a proposal. A declarative statement may also issue an order, a request, or a question. Indirect Speech Acts are a result of this phenomenon.



REFERENCES:-

1. Xavier, K. (2010). 'A Study of Indirect Speech Acts with Special Reference to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*'. (Unpublished M.Phil. dissertation) India: University of Pune.
2. Verma, B. (2010). 'A Study of Indirect Speech Acts the Selected Plays of George Bernard Shaw'. (Unpublished Ph. D dissertation) India: University of Pune.
3. Thorat, A., and Chindhade, S. (2009). *An Introduction to Research*. Delhi: Cambridge University Press.
4. Thorat, A. (2000). *Five Great Indian Novels: A Discourse Analysis*. New Delhi: Prestige Books.
5. Rehman, A. (2008). 'A Study of Indirect Speech Acts in GirishKarnad's *Tughlaq*'. (Unpublished M.Phil dissertation). India: University of Pune.