

Journal of Educational Research & Social Sciences Review (JERSSR)

A Speech Act Analysis of the Prime Minister IK's Speech at UNGA with respect to Kashmir Dispute

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Abstract



Main objective of this research is to highlight the power and importance of specific speech acts used by PM Imran Khan (henceforth being used as IK) in his speech delivered at UNG (United Nations General) Assembly on 27, September 2019. The research paper uses those speech acts, particularly, spoken for Kashmir cause. This research paper investigated the various speech act types IK used in his UNG assembly speech. The intersecting of these acts, and the use of direct and indirect acts were also pointed out. Qualitative research methodology was used to dissect the speech acts from the prescribed angles. The theory utilized for this analysis was Austin and Searle's (1975) Speech Act theory. The results of the study exposed the maximum use of representative and expressive acts. In addition to this, the direct speech usage was also noticed. This research study winds up that this stylistic analysis of speech acts foregrounds the accurate, explanatory, and compassionate attitude IK.

Keywords: Direct Speech Acts, Indirect Speech Acts, IK, UGNA Speech, IK's Speech Acts.

Introduction

It is the quality of human beings to present themselves by the use of language. This language is the collection of verbal and non-verbal symbols and they are meant to do specific tasks for which they are produced. These verbal and non-verbal symbols are represented as speech acts. In Applied Linguistics, the speech act is described, evaluated in the context of the presenter's intention and the effects it has created over the listeners. The speech acts provoke actions which are intended to incite actions in the targeted audience. The speech act may include, "request, warning, promise, apologies, greeting, or declarations". In the beginning, speech act theory was proposed by John Langshaw Austin a very famous British philosopher and professor at the University of Oxford. He was famous for his speech act theory which he presented in (1962). In this theory, Austin differentiated between the two main speech act as per-formatives and constatives. Per-formatives are used to assume an action which is rather fortunate or infelicitous. Constatives are used to make just a statement which can be either true or false. For more clarification, Searle (1976) used three different situations to describe the phenomena of speech acts theory:

Locutionary acts: These acts are considered as meaningful verdicts that are understood and comprehended easily by the audience.

Illocutionary acts: These statements are having purposeful contents and used to inform the listeners.

Per-locutionary acts: These acts show the impact or response of the audience that is caused after the act has been performed.

Austin is of the view that the pivot idea of his theory is an illocutionary act which he calls it "The real action". According to Nordquist (2019), Implicit and explicit meanings of the utterances cannot be derived without a suitable context. Therefore, linguistic choices, speaker's communicative competence and the speaker and listener relationship must be considered to understand this speech act theory pragmatically. According to Austin, speech acts may also be categorized depending upon their structures. These are: imperative, declarative, and interrogative speech acts. Moreover, speech acts have also divided into direct and indirect. When the relationship between function and structure of

speech act is direct the action is called direct speech acts. On contrary, when the relationship between function and structure is indirect, the action is said to be indirect speech act. According to illocutionary acts are classified into five forms:

Representatives: In this speech act, the speaker describes the case as it is, by using verbs such as a report, concludes, denies, believes, and affirms.

Expressive : In this speech act, the speaker presents his attitude, and state of mind by using the words such as regret, welcome, thanks, congratulate, hate, appreciate, and condemn.

Directive: In this speech act, the speaker compels others to perform some action by inviting, requesting, commanding, begging, asking, and insisting.

Commissive: In this speech act, the speaker tells the audience categorically about his future plans by promising, undertaking, pledging, and warranting.

Declarative: Declarative speech acts are said in a straightforward way that can change the world through utterances.

The main goal of the research is to highlight the types of speech acts, coinciding of these types, and the speech acts which may be direct in nature or indirect and are deliberately been used in the Prime Minister IK's speech at UN general assembly. The key focus of the research is to examine the part of the PM' speech which is related with the core issue between two nuclear powers, "The issue of occupied Kashmir".

In this speech the Prime Minister says, it is the act of humiliation that Kashmiris are caged into their houses like animals and their political leadership has been arrested and youngsters are being taken up to the unknown places. The revocation of the article 370, that gives Kashmir a special status is totally against the UN resolutions and the article 370 must be recommenced on immediate basis. He has clearly mentioned that the suspension of this law gives birth to another "Pulwama attack" and also forces Kashmiri people towards radicalization. IK is of the opinion that if such incident happens India will definitely blame Pakistan and tries to escalate then there is a sure sign of conventional war between two nuclear countries and when two nuclear countries confront, the consequences go far beyond the border. He has clearly said that although Pakistan is seven times smaller country than India but we will fight till the end because we believe on the oneness of Allah and eternal life. Therefore, it is the responsibility of UN to fulfil the promise of self-determination and urge India to lift the curfew on urgent basis.

Literature Review

PM IK has delivered a thought provoking speech in the UNGA, in which he has discussed Pakistani point of view on various local and international issues including the burning issue of Kashmir (Khan, 2019). IK has put forward four main issues in front of the international community and leadership but he has given prominence to the core issue of Kashmir (Khan, 2019). According to (Asif et al, 2020) analysis, IK has used clear and defined words choices to achieve the results of his speech. Word choices and ideas organization in IK's speech reveal that specific word choices have dialogue value that enable him to influence the international community. The main lexical cohesive devices used in this speech are, repetition, synonym, collocation, noun and super ordinate. According to Keraf theory (2006), repetition is related with the repetition of sounds, words, syllables and parts of sentences, to emphasis on the content of discourse. With the special reference of the issue of Kashmir, IK emphasizes the leadership of the world to bring under worthy consideration the core issue of Kashmir and the consequences relating to this problem like radicalization, terrorism in the both countries. As a result of the usage of these lexical cohesive devices, IK 'speech has been admired and well-received by the global audience and the members of the UN General Assembly.

Research Questions

The followings questions were the research questions:

- Which kind of speech acts are used in the speech of IK at UN General Assembly regarding the issue of Kashmir?
- What type of direct and indirect speech acts are used by IK to give emphasis to the issue of Kashmir in his speech?
- What type of intersection of speech acts is represented in IK 'speech with reference to the issue of Kashmir?

Methodology

The qualitative methodology is used for this research paper to analyze the data. The discourse data for the analysis was collected from IK's speech that has been delivered on 27 September 2019. This speech has been presented in the English. The researcher has chosen only 25 specific utterances for analysis in order to probe IK's concealed purposes. The researcher has selected only one part of the speech which is related to the issue of Kashmir. The researcher has delimited his research by selecting only 25 utterances from this portion. The researcher has selected particular 25 utterances that express almost all possible reasons to understand the importance of the issue of Kashmir by the world community.

Qualitative Data Analysis

The researcher has analysed the selected data and explained all the research questions.

- “Joining the war on terror, Pakistan went through one of its worst periods.”(**Illocutionary act and Representative**).
- “we lost 70,000 people to the war, 150 billion dollar to our economy”.(**Illocutionary act and Representative**)
- “So when we came into power; we decided to disband all militant groups”. (**Illocutionary act and Representative**)
- “I know that India keeps saying we have militant organizations but I invite UN observers to come and see for themselves”.(**Locutionary and Directive speech acts**)
- “So my first move was to reach out to Modi and I said lets work our differences, leave our past behind and our main priority should be our people as we have similar problems; poverty and climate change. (**Locutionary and Directive speech acts**)
- “On zero response from India” (**Illocutionary act and Representative**)
- “A kashmiri boy radicalized by Indian forces blew himself up on an Indian convoy”. (**Illocutionary act and Declarative**)
- “Immediately India blamed Pakistan” (**Illocutionary act and Representative**)
- “I told India to give us any proof” (**Locutionary and commissive speech act**)
- “We captured their pilot; but returned them the next day because we did not want the situation to escalate.” (**Illocutionary and commissive speech act**)
- “Mr.Modi used the term like ‘This was just a trailer’. The movie is yet to come”. (**Locutionary act and Representative**)
- “We realized that Indians were trying to push us on the FATF blacklist to economically isolate us”. (**Illocutionary and Representative speech act**)
- “The revocation of the article 370 happened which used to give Kashmir special status”. (**Illocutionary speech act and Declarative**)
- “I have to explain what the RSS is?”. (**Illocutionary and Representative speech act**)
- “What I know of the west”. (**Illocutionary and Representative**)
- “Materialism has trumped humanity”. (**Locutionary and Declarative speech act**)
- “I fear their will be a bloodbath”. (**Locutionary and Representative speech acts**)
- “We fear another Pulwama incident and for that India will again blame Pakistan”. (**Locutionary and Representative speech acts**)
- “You are forcing people towards radicalization”. (**Locutionary and Directive speech acts**)
- “If a conventional war starts between two nuclear countries anything could happen”. (**Locutionary and Commissive speech acts**)
- “We will fight” (**Illocutionary and Declarative speech acts**)
- “I am not threatening here about a nuclear war”. (**Locutionary and Expressive**)
- “You are the one who said Kashmir right to self-determination”. (**Locutionary and Expressive speech acts**)
- “This is the time when you, the UNs, must urge India to lift the curfew”. (**Locutionary and Directive speech acts**)
- “This is the time when the UN must insist on kashmir's right to self-determination”. (**Locutionary and Directive speech acts**)

Findings

In this speech the PM IK has discussed the issue of Kashmir in a very comprehensive manner. In this research paper, only 25 sentences were taken from the whole speech for stylistic analysis. In the

selected speech acts, 13 are locutionary speech acts and 12 illocutionary speech acts. Prime Minister IK has forced the international community to seriously understand the issue of Kashmir and informed the audience logically about the consequences.

In this research, the researcher has also discussed the indirect and direct usage of such acts and the overlapping has been analyzed. By this analysis, it is seen that the representative speech act has been used more frequently in this speech to report the facts and figures about the issue of Kashmir. The representative speech acts are used 12 times out of 25 utterances. The expressive speech acts are used 02 times, representing the Prime Minister's feelings and psyche. Directive acts are used 04 times to awake the consciences of the world community to play a dominant role in the solution of Kashmir. Commissive acts are used 03 times to emphasis on the role of UN and recall its responsibilities. Declarative acts are used 04 times out of 25 utterances to aware the international community about the clarity of the consequences.

Conclusion

Concludingly, it is stated that the Prime Minister IK has delivered a very impressive speech to raise the issue of Kashmir and compelled the UN to force India to up-lift the curfew and free 13000 kashmiris. IK has also clearly stated through the use of different speech acts that the UN must play its constructive role and fulfill the promise of self -determination to kashmiris.

Future Recommendations

Current research has examined the speech acts, Prime Minister IK used at United Nation General Assembly during his speech in 2019. The researcher has selected only one part of the speech which is related to the issue of Kashmir. The researcher has delimited his research by selecting only 25 utterances from this portion. Therefore, it would be helpful for the future researcher to investigate the remaining utterances of this speech. This paper is related to speech act analysis, the future researcher can conduct critical discourse analysis of this part of the speech. This research can also helpful for conducting comparative analysis of any two political discourses.

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