Investigating the Illocutionary Force of the Pragmatic Function of Intonation in Some Political Speeches Selected from the American Vice –President Joe Biden

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التحقق من القوة الانجازية للوظيفة التداولية للتنغيم في بعض الخطابات السياسية لنائب الرئيس الامريكي السابق جو بايدن

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الملخص

يُعد التنغيم والتداولية مجالين اساسين من مجالات اللغة التي ترتبط ارتباطا وثيقا بمجال الوحدات التلفظية تهدف الدراسة الحالية الى التحقق من القوة الانجازية للوظيفة التداولية للتنغيم في بعض الخطابات السياسية التي تم اختيارها من خطابات نائب الرئيس الامريكي جو بايدن . يسعى البحث الحالي للتعرّف على :

1. نوع افعال الكلام التي استخدمها جو بايدن
2. الأنماط الاساسية للتنغيم التي تستخدم بشكل كبير لإظهار القوة الإنجازية

وقد تم اختيار عشرة خطابات سياسية من الانترنت. يحاول الباحث التحقق من انماط التنغيم المختلف لمختلف انواع الافعال اللغوية وتحليل الخطابات السياسية التي تنقل الافعال التقييمية والتوجيهية والواعدة والسلوكية والعرضية. وقد تبنى الباحث منهج اوستن Austin لتصنيف افعال الكلام (1975) ومنهج كيمسن Gimson لأنماط التنغيم (2001). وقد جمع الباحث الخطابات السياسية وبعد ذلك قام بوصف وتحليل النتائج حيث تم جمع الخطابات من شبكة الانترنت والتأكد من صحة البيانات وثم تحليل القوة الانجازية وبعد ذلك التوّصل الى الاستنتاجات والتوصيّات ومن بين اهم النتائج التي تؤصل اليها البحث هي : التنغيم يلعب دورا اساسيا في تحديد القوة الانجازية للخطابات السياسية وقد وجد بان افعال الكلام العرضية تستخدم بشكل كبير لان المتكلم يعبّر عن توضيح وتأكيد قوله من خلال هذه الخطابات. وكذلك يعبر عن التصريح والتأكيد عن الخطابات السياسية التي يعطي تفاصيل دقيقة عن طبيعة العبارات السياسية وكذلك فقد وجد بان جون بايدن يستخدم الافعال الواعدة التي يلتزم بها بفعل او بإعطاء وعود الى الشعب والمطلوب منه ان ينفذها في المستقبل .

الكلمات المفتاحية : التنغيم ، خطابات سياسية ، التداولية ، منهج اوستن لتصنيف افعال الكلام ومنهج كمسن لأنماط التنغيم .

Abstract

Intonation and pragmatics are two fields of language that are correlated to the scope of utterance. The present study aims to investigate the illocutionary force of the pragmatic function of intonation in some political speeches selected from the American vice president Joe Biden. The paper attempts to identify the type of speech acts that Joe Biden used as well as the key patterns of intonation mostly used to reflect the illocutionary force. Ten political speeches have been downloaded from the internet. The researcher attempts to investigate intonational patterns of different speech acts in English as well as to analyze political speeches that convey different verdicative, expositive, behabitative, commissive, and excersitive forces.

The researcher has adopted an eclectic model by using Austin's classification of speech acts (1975) and Gimson's intonation patterns (2001). The researcher has the role of collecting, describing and analyzing the research findings. The steps of collecting the data are the researcher downloading the script and the video of the speech in the internet and then double checked it by watching the video of the speech in the internet and analyze the illocutionary force searching the most used acts from the data and ultimately drawing conclusion and recommendations.

Results show that intonation plays a vital role in determining the illocutionary force of political speeches. It is found that expositive acts have been widely used since they involve speakers' assertive act.

Keywords: Austin's classification of speech acts, illocutionary force, intonation, political speeches, pragmatics

Section One: Introduction

1.1   Preliminaries

To begin with, language plays an important role in effective communication and social interaction among people. Accordingly, the study draws attention to the fact that it is unlikely possible to write a quite convincing paper about a more recent topic like pragmatic function of intonation because the use of intonation may convey different linguistic and pragmatic meanings as well as different intonation patterns have different meanings .Accordingly, there are several purposes behind writing this topic .Firstly, non-native learners must be aware of the meaning of pragmatics and pragmatic force; secondly, the topic is of great value for phoneticians who try to know the effect of many intonational patterns on the meaning of utterances , the study is of value for pragmatists who are interested in figuring out the meanings of political speeches depending on the pitch of the speakers. The current section sheds light on the aims, procedures, limits and significance of the study.

1.2   The Aims

The ongoing study is basically intended to investigate the illocutionary force of the pragmatic function of intonation in Joe Biden's political speeches that have been downloaded from the internet for the period starting from 2016-2019.

1.3   Procedures

The researcher has adopted an eclectic model consisting of Gimson's patterns of intonation (2001) and Austin's speech acts theory (1975).The data will be analyzed phonologically by investigating the type of illocutionary acts found in Joe Biden's   political speeches.

1.4   Limits

The current paper is limited to describe, investigate and analyze the ten political speeches selected from Joe Biden political speeches which have been downloaded from the internet and analyzed both phonologically and pragmatically to show the pragmatic force of each speech.

Investigating the Illocutionary Force of the Pragmatic Function
of Intonation in Some Political Speeches Selected from the
American Vice –President Joe Biden

1.5   Significance

The study may be of a great value to those who are interested in Pragmatics through   investigating the illocutionary force of political speeches. Besides, the present study would be of importance to those who are concerned with phonology through learning patterns of intonation that Joe Biden has used to convey different illocutionary force.

2. Pragmatics Related Literature

Pragmatics is viewed meaning in interaction in which pragmatics making meaning is a dynamic process, involving the negotiation of meaning between speaker and hearer, the context of utterance (physical, social and linguistic) and the meaning potential of an utterance (Thomas,1995: p.22) Similarly , Yule(1996:p.3) views pragmatics as the study of meaning which is concerned with four dimensions of meaning : the study of speaker meaning , the study of contextual meaning, the study of how more gets communicated than is said and the study of the expression of relative distance. In the same way, Levinson (1983, p.19) defines pragmatics as the study of those relations between language and context that grammaticalized in the structure of language.

2.2 Speech Acts Theory

Speech act is a term suggested by Austin (1975, p.60) and widely used in linguistics nowadays. It refers to a theory which analyzes the role of utterances in relation to the behavior of speaker and hearer in interpersonal communication. He states that in every utterance, a speaker may perform an act such as stating a fact or opinion, confirming or denying something , making a prediction or a request, asking a question, issuing an order, giving advice or permission and so forth. This act consists of three related sub-acts:

1.   Locutionary act, is the act of saying something in the full sense of say.
2.   Illocutionary act is the act performed in saying something; the act identified by the explicit performative.
3.   Perlocutioanry act is the act performed by or as a result of saying (Cited in Coulthard, 1977, p.17).

2.3 Classification of Speech Acts

There are several approaches for classifying speech acts including Austin's classification, Weirzbicha's classification, Venler's classification, Searle's Classification and so forth. But the basic distinction still being employed in this study is due to Austin's classification.

2.4 Austin's Classification

Austin (1975, p.150) comes up with five classes of speech acts:

1. Verdicative acts: are speech acts in which the speaker makes an assessment or judgement about the acts performed by the addressee. These acts include assessing, appraising, accusing, blaming, promising, greeting, warning, inviting and verdicative verbs include accuse, charges, excuse, thank, assess, diagnose, rank, grade, define, analyze. For example:

1. a. I accuse him of stealing my money.

1. b. We congratulate her for her success.

2. Exercitive act is an assertion of influence or exercising of power (p.154). Exercitive verbs include: appoint, pardon, name, bequeath, nominate, order, dare, beg,and request. For instance:

2. a. I name this dog Tom

2. b. We appoint him a captain.

3. Commissive act: is a term used to refer to a type of utterance where the speaker makes a commitment to a future course of action (Crystal,2003:p.84).The commissive verbs include promise, bet, apologize, guarantee, refuse threat offer ,and propose, vow. For example:

3. a. I promise I will help you

3. b. I congratulate you on your success.

I bet you six pence it will rain tomorrow

4. Behabitive act is a term used to refer to a type of utterance where the speaker reacts to others people's behaviour and fortunes and of attitudes and expressions of attitudes to someone else's past conduct or imminent conduct. Behabitive verbs include thank, deplore, resent, bless, dare, welcome and apologize. For example:

Investigating the Illocutionary Force of the Pragmatic Function 2020 [2020], Iss. 1, Art. 80
of Intonation in Some Political Speeches Selected from the
American Vice –President Joe Biden

Midad AL-Adab Refereed Quarterly Journal, Vol. 2020 [2020], Iss. 1, Art. 80

4. a. I thank him very much

4. b. God bless you

5 .Expostitive act is an act which involves the expounding of views, the conducting of arguments and clarifying of usages and of references. Expositive acts include I say, I turn next to, I quote,
I cite, I repeat that, I mention that, I assume, I reply and include verbs like affirm, deny, state, believe, doubt, mention, doubt, identify, correct and inform. For instance:

5. a. I ask him a question

5. b. The teacher corrected our papers.

(Finch, 2004, p. 234)

Section Three: Phonology Related Literature

3.0   Introduction

The present section is concerned with the related phonology literature that involves stating and defining the key terms including phonology, intonation, patterns of intonation and functions of intonation.

3.1   Phonology

Lass (1984, p. 141) defines phonology as "concerned with the function ,the behaviour and organization of sound as linguistic items". According to Akmaijan et al (1995, p.322), phonology refers to the abstract rules and principles that govern the distribution of sounds in a language. Similarly, Kelly (2004.p.16) defines phonology as "a branch of Linguistics which studies the sound system of language with how we interpret and systemize sounds."

3.2 Intonation

Ladd (1980:p.6) defines intonation as " the use of suprasegmentl phonetic features (pitch) to convey post lexical or sentence level pragmatic meanings in a linguistically structured way." Likewise Kelly (2006:p.86) defines intonation as "the process by which sounds go up and down in pitch." Intonation helps people to determine meaning and gives information about the attitudes of the speakers and get clear messages about their attitudes from the way the things are said.

3.3Patterns of Intonation

According to Gimson(2001:p.89),there are four basic patterns of intonation. They are as follows:

1.   Falling Intonation (   )

Falling intonation is used to describe a situation when speakers lower their voices on the final stressed syllable of a phrase or a group of words. Falling intonation very common occurs in statements, WH – questions, commands and greetings.

a.   Statements are used to display assertive character (the speakers' intentions, opinions and wishes, etc.).For example:

I have to do my research paper.

b.   WH-questions are used to display interrogative information the speaker would like to ask or inquire about something. For instance,

What are you doing now?

c.   Commands are used to display imperative information the speaker would like to get the listener do in certain circumstances. For example:

Stop talking.

d.   Greetings are used to show a formal expression of politeness or sign of welcome.

Good morning.

(Al-Hamash ,1982:p.80).

Investigating the Illocutionary Force of the Pragmatic Function
of Intonation in Some Political Speeches Selected from the
American Vice –President Joe Biden

2.   **Rising Intonation** (   )

Rising intonation is used to describe the situation when the speakers raise the pitch of their voices at the end of the sentences. This pattern is used in the following:

a. Yes-No questions

e.g. Are you going to the zoo?

b. Polite request

e.g. Would you please open the door.

(Al-Hamash ,1982:p.81)

3.   **Falling –rising Intonation** (   )

Falling –rising intonation is used to describe the situation when speakers lower their voices and then raise their voices. This pattern is used at the end of statements when the speaker would like to say that they are not sure or certain of the answer they are giving to a question or they are reluctant to reply. Falling –rising intonation is found in polite requests or suggestions.

e.g. I don't quite re member

4.   **Rising –falling Intonation** (   )

Rising falling intonation is used to describe the situation when speakers rise their voices and then lower their voices. This pattern is used for choices , lists, conditional sentences and unfinished talks .

e.g. Does she speak   English or   Spanish

(Al-Hamash ,1982:p.82)

3.4 Functions of Intonation

In spoken language, intonation serves diverse linguistic and paralinguistic functions .These functions include the attitudinal function, the grammatical function, the accentual function, and the pragmatic function. The attitudinal function is used to express people's attitudes and emotions to show shock or surprise, pleasure or anger, interest or boredom. Moreover, the grammatical function is used to help identify grammatical structure. In speech, intonation is used to mark the beginning and of grammatical units such as clauses and sentences and intonation is used to distinguish clause types such as questions vs. statements. Besides, the accentual function of intonation helps to show what information in an utterance is new and what is already known (Roach, 2009, p.193).

Concerning the pragmatic function of intonation for the purpose of conveying the intention of the speaker, intonation is said to play an important role. "The use of intonation can convey linguistic and pragmatic meanings."(Wennerstorm, 1994, p.403).Accordingly, in English, it is understood that "different intonation patterns have different meanings."(Gimson, 2001, p.255)

Section Four: Research Methodology

4.1 Introduction

The current section is devoted to studying and investigating the illocutionary force of the pragmatic function of intonation in some political speeches selected from Joe Biden which has been downloaded from the internet and the procedures followed in this study are Austin's classification of speech acts (1975) and Gomson's patterns of intonation (2001). Ten political speeches have been selected and analyzed according to the above eclectic model of analysis. This section also sheds some light on data collection, data description and data analysis.

4.2. Data Collection

The present study is limited to describing, investigating and analyzing the illocutionary force of the pragmatic function of intonation in some political speeches selected from Joe Biden. Ten political speeches have been downloaded from the internet in order to elicit the illocutionary force of pragmatic function of intonation existed in the political speeches.

4.3 Data Description

The data collected are analyzed pragmatically by adopting Austin's model of speech acts (1975) and Gimson's patterns of intonation (2001).The data can be described in terms of pragmatic aspects that include speech acts types, according to Austin (1975), including locutionary act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary acts, as well as types of illocutionary acts which consist of five sub-classes namely, verdicatives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives and expositives. Besides, the data can also be described in terms of phonology aspects that include falling intonation, rising intonation, falling-rising intonation, and rising –falling intonation.

Investigating the Illocutionary Force of the Pragmatic Function
of Intonation in Some Political Speeches Selected from the
American Vice –President Joe Biden

4.4. Data Analysis

The current section is devoted to the interpretation of the data analysis. The data consists of ten political speeches selected from Joe Biden .The period of gathering political speeches is from 2016-2019.

Speech (1)

We need to get tough with China

The American vice president, Joe Biden, in this speech uses falling intonation to mark a grammatical statement and displays a kind of verdicative act in which he makes assessment or judgment in which his illocutionary force entails that he worried about the communist nation's economic and military use. Accordingly, the perlocutionary act behind his speech is that he plans on telling Iowans and that he attempts to warn Iowan citizens and to convince voters that Democrats cannot be trusted in dealing with trade negotiations with China.

Speech (2)

Does anyone in this room think Donald Trump understand that?

Phonologically speaking, Biden uses rising intonation to label yes-no question with interrogative senete nce.Moreover, Pragmatically speaking , the illocutionary act of his speech is that of expositive act in which he asks the American reporters if they think that Trump understands the results of trade war with China which hurts the American citizens a lot.Thus,the perlocutionary act is that he tries to convince the American voters to elect him in the next presidential election and he affects them emotionally.

Speech (3)

And let me take one additional moment to talk about this

Phonologically speaking, falling –rising intonation is used to designate a suggestion that is expressed in a statement such as with the phrase "let me". Pragmatically speaking, the illocutionary force of this speech is that of commissive act in that Biden intends to send a message to the American people that Trump is doing so much damage to the country and they should elect him to be their next president. The perlocutionary act is that Biden

affects the American voters' emotional level and they are very sympathetic with Biden's elections campaign.

Speech (4)

If we invest in our people, we can out-compete anyone

Phonologically speaking, rising-falling intonation is used to mark conditional clause introduced by "if". Moreover, the illocutionary act of Biden speech is of verdicative act in which Biden assesses and analyzes the American situation in that he has a vision for America enables him to give people equal opportunity, equal rights, and equal justice as well as America can invest its people and will be great, prosperous with global economy.
The prelocutionary act is that of determination and certainty.

Speech (5)

It is great to be in Iowa

Phonologically speaking, Biden uses falling intonation to mark a statement and the illocutionary act of this speech is behabitive act in which he expresses his attitude of welcoming Iowan citizens and he blesses them all. The perlocutionary act is that he tries to excite American voters to elect him in presidential elections.

Speech (6)

Do you think he just backed off his tariff threat with Mexico?

Phonologically speaking, Biden uses rising intonation to denote yes-no question along with interrogative sentence. Pragmatically speaking, the illocutionary act is that of expositive act in which Biden asks the reporters if they think that Trump supports his tariff threat with Mexico since this measure will affect the American economic situations. As a result the perlocutionary act is that Biden attempts to get general compassion and sympathy of American citizens to support him in the next presidential elections.

Investigating the Illocutionary Force of the Pragmatic Function
of Intonation in Some Political Speeches Selected from the
American Vice –President Joe Biden

Speech (7)

I'm sorry I couldn't attend the Hall of fame events over the weekend.

Falling –rising intonation is used to show that Biden is not certain of the answer he is giving to the reporters as well as he is hesitant or reluctant to reply. The illocutionary act of this speech is that of expositive act in that Biden informs the reporter that he is very sorry and he couldn't attend the Hall of fame events to deliver his speech. Thus the prlocutionary act denotes hesitation, uncertainty and reluctance.

Speech (8)

Well, folks, I'm going to say something outrageous.

Rising –falling intonation is used to mark intorductory "well" word or comment clause.The illocutionary act is the commissive act in which Biden makes a commitment to the future course of action and he intends to promise American People that he will say something outeageous and accordingly the expected perlocutionary effect is encouragement and determination.

Speech (9)

How many farmers across this State have had to face the prospectus of losing their business because of Trump's tariffs?

In this speech, Biden uses falling intonation to illustrate wh-question with interrogative sentence and the illocutionary force of this speech involves that Biden intends to send a message that the American farmers have to encounter Trump's deal of imposing tariffs on China and Mexico. Accordingly, the expected perlocutionary effect is that he tries to gain the American citizen support, backup and sympathy to object Trump's deal of tariffs.

Speech (10)

America's farmers have been crushed by his tariff war with China

Phonologically speaking, Joe Biden uses Falling intonation to mark a grammatical statement with declarative sentence and pragmatically speaking, the illocutionary act is expositive act in which he states a fact that those American farmers have been overloaded and burdened by tariff imposition. Accordingly, the perlocutionary act is that he wants to say that Trump's trade war with China is hurting farmers and they want to free trade deal.

To sum up, table (1) shows the distribution of the number of the political speeches, syntactic categories, patterns of intonation and types of illocutionary acts:

Table (1) Number of the political speeches, syntactic categories, patterns of intonation and types of illocutionary acts

Political Speech No.	Syntactic Categories	Patterns of Intonation	Types of Illocutionary act
Speech (1)	Statement	Falling	Verdicative Act
Speech (2)	Yes/No question	Rising	Expositive Act
Speech (3)	Suggestion	Falling-rising	Commissive Act
Speech (4)	Conditional Clause	Rising-falling	Verdicative Act
Speech (5)	Statement	Falling	Behabitive Act
Speech (6)	Yes/No question	Rising	Expositive Act
Speech (7)	Uncertainty	Falling-rising	Expositive Act
Speech (8)	Comment Clause	Rising -falling	Commissive Act
Speech (9)	WH-question	Falling	Expositive Act
Speech (10)	Statement	Falling	Expositive Act

Investigating the Illocutionary Force of the Pragmatic Function
of Intonation in Some Political Speeches Selected from the
American Vice –President Joe Biden

Conclusion

The paper has come up with the following concluding points:

1. Intonation is crucial for communication and plays a vital role in determining the illocutionary force of political utterances.

2. The pragmatic function of intonation is determined by how different grammatical patterns could convey the same illocutionary force and how one grammatical pattern could deliver different illocutionary patterns.

3. It is found that expositive acts have been widely used since Joe Biden expresses his proposition and commits himself to tell the truth by stating facts and assertive information about the American situation as well as he clarifies reasons , justification and reasonable argument

4. It is appeared that commissive acts have also been used since Biden commits himself to give promises and offers and assumes obligation as well as he declares his intention to the American people.

5. Identifying illocutionary forces requires analyzing five subclasses according to Austin's classification of speech acts namely verdicative , expositive, commissive, behabitives and excercitives .

6. Identifying phonological patterns requires analyzing four patterns of intonation according to Gimson, namely falling, rising, falling –rising, rising –falling.

7. It is found that intonation impacts pragmatic meaning since illocutionary force is unveiled by the type of pitch patterns.

8. Understanding and interpretation of the illocutionary force of political speeches largely depend on the choice of intonation patterns.

Recommendations

In the light of the results of the present study, the following recommendations are presented:

1.   Intonation should be introduced in terms of pragmatic contexts in order to understand the illocutionary force of speakers.

2.   Non-native speakers should communicate with native speakers and be exposed to different authentic materials.

3.   Intonation patterns should be taught in the form of songs, rhymes and chants.

4.   Speech acts classification should be taught through dialogues and situational –based texts designed for role- play.

5.   Political speeches should be presented in the form of video based research in education.

Investigating the Illocutionary Force of the Pragmatic Function of Intonation in Some Political Speeches Selected from the American Vice –President Joe Biden

Midad AL-Adgb Refereed Quarterly Journal, Vol.2020 [2020], Iss. 1, Art. 80

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