

The Components of Speech Events and Speech Situation

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Abstract:

The use of linguistics has become an important part of the teaching and learning process in and out of the class. It gives knowledge of the rules which controls of language as a system of communication. The speech events are motivating because the contextual factors relation includes. Knowing only grammar is not enough. So language must be appropriate to the condition and contributors. Although people from different social groups inter-relate differently, the participants in each group are expected to adopt a specific “way of speaking”. The use of language allows one to maintain relationship with other people in an interaction. However, language is a complex phenomenon. In other words, it is not enough just to recognize the meaning of the sentences spoken, but the context of situation and the context of the culture must be tacit, such as it is public or private, formal or informal, who is being spoken, and who might be hear the sentences. By studying sociolinguistics, we can interact politely studying and appropriately in social situations.

Keywords —Linguistics, Speech situation, Communication, Sociolinguistics, Message.

I. INTRODUCTION

We take as our starting point the speech event which may be defined as a price of linguistic interaction, a communicative happening consisting of one or more utterances. Thus the kind of exchange which takes place between a traveller and a ticker collector is a speech event, as are lengthier exchanges such as that between a door-to-door salesman and his prospective customer and that between two housewives gossiping over the garden wall. A speech event may be such that one speaker more or less monopolizes the speaking role, as in sermons and politicians speeches, or the speaking may be very evenly distributed as in the rapid exchanged of two music-hall comedians telling a joke. Although we use the term ‘speech’, the speech

event is neutral as to medium, and its constituent utterances may be written (with an addressee presupposed) as well spoken (with an addressee physically present). Thus sending a telegram is a speech event. So is putting up a notice reading BEWARWE OF THE BULL [7].

As is perhaps apparent, the notion of speech event is not an easy one to pin down. Here we are in much the same position as the grammarian, who finds that the notion of ‘sentence’ is similarly elusive. But speech events, like sentences, have intuitive reality, as is evident from the fact that labels are readily attached to them. One talks of sermons, sales patter, doing the introductions, over prices, having consultation, and so on people recognize speech events, even though it is difficult to give formal definition to what it is that they

recognize. We will follow the lead of the grammarian, who allow his grammar to define the sentence, by saying that the speech event will be defined in our analysis in terms of the components which go to make it up.

We will build up a model of the speech event by setting down the different factors that come into play when an act of communication takes place. To begin with, we must have someone sending a message to someone else. We may say, then, that three of the constituent factors in the speech event are the addresser and address and the message. As we pointed out above, the addressee need not be physically present, but any act of communication presupposes his existence. He may not be known as an individual, of course, we commonly address people we do not know in speaking and writing.

II. THE BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Speech Event is the occurrence or ongoing linguistic interaction in one form of speech or more that involves two parties namely speakers and opponents of speech, with one point of speech in a particular time, place and situation [1], based on the explanation which was intended by the speech event was the ongoing interaction involving two parties, namely the speaker and the opposing party.

Hymes(1974:53) [5] develops a valuable model to assist the identification and labelling of components of linguistic interaction that was driven by his view that, in order to speak a language correctly, one needs not only to learn its vocabulary and grammar, but also the context in which words are used.

Hymes (1974) [5]proposed three levels of analysis, namely, speech situation, speech event and speech acts, that ‘speech event’ analysis is the most important dealing with particular instances of speech exchange, like exchange of greetings, enquiry, etc.

A. Linguistic

Linguistic is the study of language as a system of human communication. When a language is studied, it is also necessary to know the varieties of a

language used by different social classes in different social situations. In this way, linguistics overlaps with sociology and a new field of study called social linguistics [2, 3]. To know language as a formal system we need to know not only the rules which generate well – formed sentences but also language as a means of social interaction. We need to know those conventions of use which control the selection of well-formed sentences appropriate to a particular social situation.

III. THE SPEECH EVENT

The speech event may be defined as a piece of linguistic interaction, a communicate happening consisting of one or more utterances. For example, the kind of exchange which takes place between a traveller and a ticket collector is a speech event, as are lengthier exchanges such as that between a door – to – door salesman and his prospective customer and that between two houses – wives gossiping over the garden wall. The speech event will be studied with its constituent factors. The most obvious constituents of a speech event are as follows [4, 8].

- a. Addresser and Addressee
- b. Message Form
- c. Channel
- d. Setting
- e. Topic
- f. Code

B. Addresser and Addressee

To Starr from an analysis of a speech event, there must be at least two participants, the “I” and “You” or “a speaker ” and “a hearer” or “the addresser and the addressee.” The addresser is the one who sends a message and the addressee is the one who receives the message. Both addresser and addressee may be singular or –plural. So the speech event may take place.

1. One to One
2. One to Many
3. Many to One
4. Many to Many

As the address need not be physically, present or may not be known as an individual. We don’t know in speaking and writing by identifying them as members of a group [4, 8].

C. Message From

A “Message” is something that the addresser sends to the addressee. What is conveyed in speech or writing from one person to one or more other people. The message may not always be stated in verbal form but be conveyed by other means.

For example.....a wink, gestures. Although the message is usually verbal it may be transmitted without verbal means at all. For example ... signs and signals “spoken” and “written” forms are verbal message while “Gesture” and “Graphic” are nonverbal. If it is extensive, we may have to shorten; if formal, we will select a different set of words [4, 8].

D. Channel

Another constituent factor in speech event is “channel” through which a message is conveyed. For communication to take place, contact must be established between the addresser and addressee. Just the physical nearness of two people does not establish a speech situation. So to get the attention of people, a channel of communication must be opened and also maintained with our perceiving senses such as –

Hearing (Auditory)

Sight (visual)

Hearing+ sight (Audio-Visual)

Touching (Tactile)

Auditory Channel is represented by sound waves passing through the air and perceived our sense of hearing. Visual Channel is stated by marks at the sense of sight. Therefore writing is regarded as “Language in the visual medium” and speaking as “language aural medium.” Gestures also make appeal to the visual. Since, thus writing and gesture are different media which make use of the same channel [4, 8].

But writing is not always apprehended by the sense of sight. So Tactile is a channel which makes appeal to the sense of touch. Audio-Visual Channel makes use of both senses of hearing and sight. One may use both the aural and the visual channel of gesture. Therefore, in many speech events. One may use more than one channel at the same time [4, 8].

E. Setting

The time and place of a speech event is called the setting. For example- a conversation can take place in a classroom, a garden, a church, and it can take place at any hour of the day. The setting of a speech event may have an effect on what it is said. Conversation or communication between people does not take place in a vacuum but at a particular time and place, in a physical and temporal setting, they may be in a crowd or alone, among friends or strangers, in a street or court. All these factors may play a part in what goes on in the conversation [4, 8].

F. Topic

Topic is what is talked about or written about. In different speech communities, there are different rules about what topics may or may not be discussed. For example, in some communities, illness, death, a person’s age may be considered unsuitable topics for conversation. There is always about something a prepositional element or topic in an utterance. So topic is an important element in the speech situation [4, 8].

G. Code

Any system of signals can be used for sending a message. A natural language is an example of a code, as are more code Braille and sign language. We may not be able to communicate, with another person if we do not share the same set of code for verbal conversations or if we have no linguistic code in common. The paralinguistic code is, to some degree at least, known both addresser and addressee. Although the factors are separated, they interrelate in complex ways in particular speech events [4, 8]. The setting may have a very definite effect on the channel not because of physical circumstances in which an exchange takes place; thus bookmakers at race courses convey information about betting odds by the use of signs not only to preserve secrecy but to overcome the noise of the crowd, which would drown out any attempts at speech. The setting also determines the message form. Most Myanmar religious ceremonies are opened by reciting “**earnwo** (namawtatha).

b*0awm (bagawatow) t&[awm(arahatow) ormoAkwf'ó (thamarthemavoadatha)" theretimes. The setting is religious and the message form of reciting "earmwo" is appropriate to the setting.

The setting code and topic are often interrelated. For example –There are certain topics of conversation which are not suitable during mealtimes. Sometimes, setting relates to code in bilingual situations. For example, in the Middle Ages, theological matters were discussed in Latin though they used their own languages in other communication. Topic is related to the addresser and addressee.

For example:

Men and women have different things to talk about. Therefore men hardly talk about babies feeding times. Each of the factors: the addresser, the addressee, the channel, the linguistic code used, the setting, the topic and the form of the message, plays an essential role in everyday speech situations. We are able to understand what variety to use in what situation, how to vary the style according to whom we are addressing when to speak or remain silent.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS OF SPEECH EVENT

Speech event: 1 "Birthday"

Tomorrow is my birthday. I will have a birthday party at home in the evening. I will invite my friends. My mother will cook coconut rice and chicken curry. My father will buy a birthday cake for me. I will sing songs with my friends.

Speech event: 2 "Plan"

My name is Ko Ko. This is my plan for the next week. I will go to school from Monday to Friday. On Friday afternoon, I will play basketball with my friends. On Saturday, I will visit my grandfather. We will play chess. Then, we will go to a restaurant and have lunch there. On Sunday morning, I will go to the park. I will go for a walk there. In the afternoon, I will go to shopping. In the evening, I will stay at home and watch TV.

Speech event 3: "From the Canteen"

Our school has a canteen and a fruit stall. We usually buy snacks there. We sometimes eat lunch there, too. We can get rice and noodles. They are good for energy. We can have fried chicken. This is good for growth. We can also buy sandwiches and orange juice. We can also have mont-hin-gah (rkefh[if;ig;]). Our teacher likes it. We can buy different fruits at the fruit stall. My favourite fruits are watermelon (igz&JoD;t&rf;judkufw,f). It is good for health.

Speech event 4: "Three Season"

We have three seasons in Myanmar. They are the hot season, the rainy season and the cold season. Our country has a festival in every month of the Myanmar calendar. In tagu (wefcl;), the 1st month, we have the water festival. It is famous. Another famous festival is the lighting festival and we have it in Thadingyut (oDwif;usGwf), the 7th month. We like festivals.

Speech event 5: Message 1

1. Wint War

My village is having a bad flood. We cannot go back to our house. Now, many people do not have food to eat. It's cold here and we need food and clothes. Your friend, Htwe Htwe

2. Htwe Htwe

I will bring food and clothes for your family and your friends. Before I come, I will also ask my friends to help. Wint War

3. Hello friend,

My friend Htwe Htwe needs help. Her village is having a bad flood, they need food and clothes. Will you help? Wint War

4. Hello Wint War

I want to help people in your friend's village. I will give biscuits, bread and apples. I will also give a shirt. Longyi (vHkcsnf) and sweaters. Bo Bo

5. Bo Bo

Thank you very much. Wint War

V. CONCLUSIONS

To sum up, knowing only grammar is not enough language must be appropriate to the situation and participants. By studying sociolinguistics we can interact politely studying and appropriately in social situations. That is why; I like sociolinguistics very much.

Thus, in the above sample, the most recurring event in relationship was found to be sharing in a colleague's success story (celebration), friends helping each other, and friends advising each other. Language learners have to pay attention to the recurring speech event. So as to know the appropriate language to employ for such contexts and situations.

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