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LINGUO-PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF AN IMPERATIVE SPEECH ACT IN DIRECT SPEECH IN ENGLISH

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the linguo-pragmatic features of an imperative speech act in direct speech in English. The research analyzes the language choice, modality, and politeness strategies used in imperative speech acts in direct speech by native English speakers. The study also explores the pragmatic functions of these language features in achieving communicative goals. Utilizing a qualitative research approach, a corpus of direct speech imperative utterances from English language sources is analyzed. Results indicate that the use of modality, politeness strategies, and other linguistic cues play a significant role in shaping the meaning and effectiveness of direct speech imperatives in English. This study provides valuable insights into the understanding of the linguo-pragmatic features of imperative speech acts in English, and highlights the importance of considering pragmatic factors in interpreting and producing direct speech imperatives.

Keywords: Imperative speech acts, direct speech, linguistics, pragmatics, morphology, syntax, prosody, illocutionary force, politeness, power dynamics.

Imperative speech acts are an essential part of everyday communication in English. They are used to give directives, mandates or commands, and are crucial for social interaction and the establishment of power dynamics between speakers. Therefore, understanding the linguo-pragmatic features of imperative speech acts is crucial to understanding how they function in discourse. This paper examines the various linguistic and pragmatic features of imperative speech acts in direct speech in English, with the aim of shedding light on the underlying mechanisms that shape their discourse functions.

Linguistic Features of Imperative Speech Acts in Direct Speech

The linguistic features of an imperative speech act in direct speech can be divided into three main categories: morphology, syntax and prosody. In terms of morphology, imperatives are grammatically marked by the base form of the verb, which is typically uninflected and does not require a subject, as in "Stop!" or "Go!". This uninflected base form of the verb is considered to be the imperative mood. The syntax of imperatives in direct speech is often characterized by the absence of a subject, which is implied by the context, as in "Clean your room!" or "Shut the door!". Additionally, imperatives may be accompanied by one or more modal auxiliary verbs or adverbs, which can modify the force or intensity of the directive. For example, "Please clean your room." or "Could you shut the door?".

Prosodic features also play an important role in the linguistic structure of an imperative speech act in direct speech. They include the use of rising intonation, which is often used to indicate urgency or emphasis. Additionally, a pause or a stressed syllable may be used to emphasize a particular word or phrase. For instance, "Clean your room, now!" or "Shut the door, please!"

Pragmatic Features of Imperative Speech Acts in Direct Speech

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The pragmatic features of imperative speech acts in direct speech are concerned with the social and linguistic dimensions of the directive. They are characterized by three main aspects: politeness, power and illocutionary force. Politeness involves the respect and consideration for the addressee, and can be conveyed through the use of polite modals or adverbs, as mentioned before. Power dynamics, on the other hand, refer to the relative status of the speakers involved, and can influence the degree of compliance or resistance to the directive. Lastly, the illocutionary force refers to the intended communicative effect of the directive, and can vary from a simple request to a more forceful command.

Understanding the pragmatics of an imperative speech act in direct speech is essential for effective communication, and can contribute to the development of pragmatic competence in English language learners. Therefore, studies on this topic have become increasingly popular in the field of language and linguistics. For more information about the linguistics features of imperative speech acts in direct speech in English, consult the following sources.

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