Arabian Gulf Journal
Humanities and Social Studies

The Speech Acts in Some Selected Prophetic Hadiths (Talks)

أفعال الكلام في بعض الأحاديث النبوية المختارة

Assist. Lect. Riyadh Mohsen Huwail

المدرس المساعد رياض محسن هويل

Faculty of Dentistry ,University of Kufa, Iraq

Abstract:

This paper deals with the *talk acts* in some selected prophetic talks (Hadiths) as one of the most important sources of Islamic law. It deals with the (Hadiths) that narrated by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), recorded by some of his companions, and transmitted from generation to another. In fact, (Hadiths) are of great importance in the Islamic religion, as they are relied on by the scholars and jurists to understand religion and interpret the Holy Quran. Hadiths are also distinguished by their diversity and comprehensiveness, as they contain different subjects including the necessary beliefs, thoughts, morals, behaviors, legal rules, Islamic history, and others. Additionally, the Holy Quran, Hadiths are considered the constitution that govern the lives of Muslims and guides them toward the correct behavior and drawing closer to Allah depending on the *speech acts* that give the Holy Quran and Hadiths a strong rhetoric.

Keywords: Holy Quran, speech acts, Hadiths, diversity, scholars and jurists.

الملخص:

في الواقع، تلعب أفعال الكلام دورًا هامًا في مجال التداولية، إذ تنقل نوايا المتحدث في سياقها. هناك خمسة أنواع من أفعال الكلام في كل لغة، وهي: 1. الأفعال التمثيلية، التي تُلزم المتحدث بصحة القضية المُعبر عنها (مثل: التأكيد، الاستنتاج، إلخ). 2. التوجيهات، وهي محاولات من المتحدث لحثّ المخاطب على القيام بشيء ما (مثل: الطلب، التساؤل). 3. التعبيرية، التي تُعبّر عن حالة نفسية (مثل: الشكر، الاعتذار، الترحيب، التهنئة). 4. الأفعال الإلزامية، التي تُلزم المتحدث بمسار عمل مستقبلي (مثل: الوعد، التهديد، العرض). ٧. الإعلانات، التي تُحدث تغييرًا فوريًا في الوضع المؤسسي، والتي تميل إلى الاعتماد على مؤسسات لغوية مُعقدة (حالات نموذجية: الحرمان الكنسي، إعلان الحرب، التعميد، الفصل من العمل) (ليفينسون، ١٩٩٧: ٢٤٠). بسبب (أشهر أعمال أوستن: ١٩٦٢) "كيفية التعامل مع الكلمات". تتضمن الإعلانات ثلاثة أفعال مرتبطة بأفعال الكلام. غالبًا ما تندرج أفعال الكلام ضمن ثلاثة فروع براغماتية رئيسية، وهي: الكلام (فعل النطق)، والنطق (قصد المتحدث)، والفعل المنطوق (تأثير نطق المتحدث على المستمع). على الأقل، لكل جملة قوة قولية وقوة نطقية. 2- التعريف أفعال الكلام هي ظواهر لغوية يؤديها نطق المتحدث، كالبيان، والسؤال، والالتماس، والنصح، والتحذير، والإقناع في محتوى الرسالة، بالإضافة إلى نية المتحدث وتأثيره على المستمع. وقد أوضح الفيلسوف النمساوي فيتجن شتاين نظرية أفعال الكلام من خلال آراءه حول لعبة اللغة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: القرآن الكريم، أفعال الكلام، الأحاديث النبوية، التنوع، العلماء والفقهاء.

Section (One)

1.1 The Paper Problems:

   a) What are speech acts?

   b) How do we use speech acts?

   c) Why are speech acts so important in the prophet's talk?

1.2- Aims of the Study.

This study aims at the following:

   a) Pointing out the nature of speech acts and their applying in Arabic and English.

   b) Showing how speech acts are dealt in the language.

c) Investigating the practical sides of speech acts in the prophet's talk.

1.3 Methodology

In fact, it is important to explain the speech acts phenomenon in pragmatics in applying through some prophet's talk. Which is working altogether with holy Quran in structuring and guiding people to the right ways in the life.

Most of analysis in this paper will follow on the describing the five kinds of speech acts through the prophet's talk.

1.4 Hypothesis

In the view of the preceding question, it is hypothesized that:

a) speech acts represent our interaction with the movement around us.

b) We use speech acts by realizing of its knowledge and practical side.

c) We study speech acts to expand our knowledge and imagination about the language in our behavior.

1.5 Data

Actually, the main source of data in this paper are some prophet's talk of the great messenger Muhammad which published by academic journals and translated into English.

Also, any sources which are dealing with the interpretation of the prophet talk were taken in consideration.

1.6 Model

This paper includes a model which links the theoretical concepts with the practical side to make the paper so comprehendible for the readers.

It focuses on (Levinson, Searle, Grundy's) theories in this field of pragmatics. to facilitate the communication process by understanding the message clearly and easily.

Introduction:

In fact, *speech acts* play an important role in the field of pragmatics as they convey the speaker's intentions in the contexts where they happen. There are five types of *speech acts* in every language as following:

i. *Representatives*, which commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition (paradigm: asserting, concluding, etc.)

ii. *Directives,* which are attempts by the speaker to get the address to do something (paradigm cases: requesting, questioning.)

iii. *Expressive,* which express a psychological state paring case: thanking, apologizing, welcoming, congratulation)

iv. *Commissive,* which commit the speaker to some future course of action (paradigm cases, promising, threatening, offering).

v. *Declarations,* which effect immediate change in the institutional state of affairs and which tend to rely on elaborated extra linguistic institutions (paradigm cases: excommunication declaring war, christening, firing from employment) *(Levinson.1997:240)* says.

Due to (Austin's most well-known work:1962) *"How To Do Things With Words".* SAs include three actions that are associated with *speech acts . Speech acts*, often are enclosed three main pragmatic branches, viz., locution " the utterance act", illocution " the speaker's" intention " and perlocutionary " a speaker's utterance effect on hearer"

At least, every sentence has both a locutionary force and an illocutionary force.

2- Definition

Speech acts are linguistic phenomena that performed by a speaker utterance as, stating, asking, requesting, advising, warning or persuading in the content of a message, also the intention of a speaker and the effect on a hearer.

Speech acts theory, were showed by the Austrian philosopher Wittgenstein's views about language game.

Section (Two)

2. The Practical Side of Talk Acts

This paper is dealing with some kinds of the prophet's talks which are mostly studied in the schools of the Arab homeland.

The prophet's talk is an explanation of what said in the holy Quran indicating the way in which humans can live happily and peacefully. Here are ten of prophet's talks with their translation into the English and analyzing linguistically from pragmatic point of view that are related to speech acts.

Here are ten expressive prophetic hadiths their purposes:

(1) **"اية المنافق ثلاث إذا حدث كذب، وإذ وعد اخلف، وإذا ائتمن خان"**

There are signs indicate the hypocrite man, when he speaks; he tells a lie, when he promises, he will do nothing and when he is asked by someone to keep his own things, he will not. According to *(Hornby,1985:473)* "informing' is giving knowledge about something, for example, we were informed that two prisoners escaped."

(2) " أبغض الحلال الى الله الطلاق"

The most hateful right to Allah is divorce. *According to (Hornby,1985:473)* " informing' is giving knowledge about something, for example ,we were informed that two prisoners escaped."

(3) ان الدعاء هو العبادة

Prayer is worship.

These three prophets talk is expressing stating, declaring and describing something.

(4) اتقو الله واعدلوا في اولادكم

Fear Allah, and treat your children vastly. *Levinson (1983: 240)* says "Directive, when a speaker attempts to make a listener perform an act."

(5) تهادوا تحابوا

Exchange gifts to love one another, *Levinson (1983: 240)* says "Directive, when a speaker attempts to make a listener perform an act."

(6) تنظفوا فان الإسلام نظيف

Clean up your selves, as Islam is clean. *Levinson (1983: 240)* says, "Directive, when a speaker attempts to make a listener perform an act."

These three prophet's talks are expressing order to life happily and orderly, therefore, they are directives according to *(Levinson: 240).*

(7) اللهم أني اسألك العفو والعافية في الدنيا والاخرة

Oh God, I ask you forgiveness and wellness in this world and hereafter. *Levinson (1983: 240) says,* "Directive, when a speaker attempts to make a listener perform an act." Here the directive used as a prayer.
Actually, there are three types of speech acts that are almost used in prayers: directives, expressives, and assertive. These speech acts show the structure and content of the prayer·

(8) اللهم اتنا في الدنيا حسنة وفي الاخرة حسنة وقنا عذاب النار

Oh God, great us a goodness in this world and in the hereafter and protect us from the punishment of the hell. *Levinson (1983: 240)* says, "Directive: when a speaker attempts to make a listener perform an act.". Here the directive used as a prayer.

(9) أفضل العبادة الدعاء

Best worship is prayer.

These prophet's talk is expressing prayers and calling for forgiveness they are within the expressiveness. *(Hornby,1985:473)* "informing' is giving knowledge about something ...."

(10) إذا حييتم بتحية فردوها او بأحسن منها

 If you are greeted, you should reply better than it or reply like it. *Levinson (1983: 240) says*, "Directive, when a speaker attempts to make a listener perform an act."

(11) افشوا السلام بينكم

 Spread greeting among you. *Levinson (1983: 240) says*, "Directive, when a speaker attempts to make a listener perform an act."

(12) اذا لقى احدكم اخاه المؤمن فيسلم عليه بتحية الإسلام

If anyone of you meets his Muslim brother, he should greet him by greeting of Islam *Levinson (1983: 240) says*, "Directive, when a speaker attempts to make a listener perform an act."

(13) اوفوا بعهد الله إذا عاهدتم

Fulfill the covenant of God, if you have promised. *Levinson (1983:240) says,* "Directive, when a speaker attempts to make a listener perform an act."

(14) والذي نفسي بيده لا يؤمن احدكم حتى يحب لأخيه ما يحب لنفسه

No one believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.

" A perlocutionary effect concerns the effect of utterance may have on addressee " *(Huang, 2007:103).*

(15) ادوا الامانات الى أهلها

Get back the consignments to their owners.

Searle (1976) in Levinson (1983: 240) tried to classify the functions of SAs pragmatics as the following:"…………Directive, when a speaker attempts to make a listener perform an act."

 All the prophet's talks above are expressing the commands to order people to something good and recommended, therefore, they are mostly directives or informative.

Section (Three)

3.1 Conclusion

In fact, speech acts are the corner stone in understanding the message between speaker and hearer clearly and easily.

They are arise by so many linguists like Austin, Searle, Leech, Grundy and others, but their initial concepts traced back to the 1930s of the last century by the Austrian philosopher, Wittgenstein's theory.

This paper shows speech acts theory as a central notion in the field of pragmatics by apply of some of the prophet's talks when they were analyzed structurally and literary to show the speech acts phenomenon.

3.2 Recommendations

Recommendations

Depending on the conclusions aforementioned above, it is recommended that:

1- As this paper is dealing with an important corner of our Islam, it is necessarily to take in consideration seriously to be understood by people especially who are not Muslims.
2- It is hopefully to take in consideration this paper will be as a way to make the points of view closer between Muslims and the   other people.
3- It is advisable that many linguists and scholars write and deal

with the subject of this paper to make the Islam principles to be understood by the peoples of other religion to interact with Muslims.

References

Academic Article. (2014). *Selections of the Prophet's talks.* Wikimedia.

Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to do things with words.* Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Hornby, L. R., & Ward, G. (2006). *The handbook of pragmatics.* Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Huang, Y. (2007). *Pragmatics.* Oxford University Press.

Levinson, S. C. (1997). *Pragmatics.* University of Cambridge.

صحيح مسلم والبخاري. *(Sahih Muslim & Al-Bukhari).*