Einführung in die Pragmatik und Texttheorie
Übungsblatt 3

1. Gegeben der folgende Satz:

   (1)   Essen Sie!

(i) geben Sie den entsprechenden expliziten Performative.
(ii) Welcher Illokutiver Akt wird damit vollzogen?

Solution
(i) I demand that you eat. (Ich fordere, daß Sie essen).
(ii) Request.

2. Erläuteren Sie kurz, der Unterschied Austin macht zwischen "constatives" und "performatives". Illustrieren Sie den Unterschied anhand eines Beispiel.

Solution Constatives say things about the world. They can be assessed in terms of truth and falsity. Example: *Jon's dog has long hair.*
Performatives do things. They are assessed in terms of felicity conditions. Example: *I hereby christen you Jon!*

3. Geben Sie ein Beispiel, wo der Satz einen performativen Normalform hat und doch keine Performativ ist.

Solution
A: How do you get me to throw all these parties?
B: I promise to come.
The sentence "I promise to come." has the performative normal form *I (hereby) V_P to S* but does not perform a promise. Rather it says things i.e. it describes the way in which B get to A to throw a lot of parties.

4. Geben Sie drei verschiedene Formen desselben Sprechaktes.

Solution
   (i) I hereby ask you to shut the door (NF).
   (ii) Please shut the door.
   (iii) How about a bit less breeze.

All three sentences perform a request: the speaker requests that the hearer shuts the door. Only (i) is an explicit performative (i.e. has the normal form of performatives).

5. Gegeben der Satz:

    (2)   Ich sage dir, du bist ein Dumkopf.

Erläuteren Sie kurz, seinen Lokutionalen, Illokutionalen und Perlokutionalen Akt.

Solution
Locutionary act: the utterance of the sentence with its given meaning.
Illocutionary act: the making of a statement.
Perlocutionary act: the effect that the hearer feels insulted.

6. Was ist ein indirekter Sprechakt?

Solution An indirect speech act occurs when the speech act performed by a sentence is different from the speech act conventionally associated with this sentence.
    Example: *Would you mind shutting the door?*
Since the sentence is in the interrogative form, the speech act conventionally associated with this sentence is a question (the speaker asks the hearer for information). Nevertheless, the act actually performed by uttering this sentence is a request (the speaker asks that the hearer perform some action), not a question. Thus the request is an indirect speech act rather than a direct one.

7. Geben Sie ein Beispiel für einen Sprechakt, der ohne Kenntnis des Kontexts, sowhol als direkter als auch als indirekter Sprechakt verstanden werden kann. Erläuteren Sie des Beispiel kurz.

Solution (i) The door is here.
In a neutral context, (i) performs an assertion: it indicates the location of the door to the hearer. In a context where the hearer annoys the speaker, (i) performs a request: the speaker is demanding that the speaker leaves.

8. Wann und warum schlägt ein Sprechakt fehl? Geben Sie zwei illustrierendes Beispielen.

Solution A speech act fails when one of its felicity conditions is not fulfilled. For instance,

(i) I hereby name this ship "the Ladybird".
fails to perform the intended naming if the ship already has a name.

(ii) I hereby expell you from this university.
fails to perform the intended expellation if the speaker is not the one who can by law expell students (e.g., the dean of the fakulty or the rector).

9. Was ist die "Performative Hypothesis"? Geben und überlegen Sie Beispiele die für die PH syntaktisch oder semantisch problematisch sein.

$\boxed{\text{Solution}}$ The proponents of the PH do not accept Austin's argument that speech acts (especially indirect ones) cannot be explained in a truth-conditional semantics. On the contrary, they claim that there is no need for a special theory of illocutionary force because the phenomena are assimilable to standard theories of syntax and semantics and they propose to reduce illocutionary force to matters of truth and falsity.

The central claim of PH is: "Every sentence has as deep structure the normal form for performatives."

This implies that every sentence has illocutionary force, felicity conditions on speech acts can be made part of the meaning of the performative verb. In order to capture the intuition that it makes no sense to assert tjhe falsity of a performative sentence, performative sentences are treated as true simply by virtue of being felicitously said.

(i) Syntactic problems:

(3)   The airline hereby declines responsibility for missed connections.
      does not refer to the speaker

(4)   We regret that the airline is forced to hereby request you to wait for another flight.
      the performative verb is not the highest verb in the syntactic structure

(5)   You wouldn't mind waiting for another filght, would you?
      involves more than one illocutionary force, i.e., an assertion, a question, and a suggestion.

(ii) Semantic problems

(6)   I promise that the Earth is flat.
(7)   The Earth is flat.

By the PH, (7) and (6) have the same deep structure. Also by the PH (6) is true by being felicitously uttered. Because (7) and (6) have the same deep structure, they are equivalent in meaning, that is, (7) should be true when (6) is. But (7) is false!

(8)   a. It is raining, because the streets are wet.
       b. I state that it is raining, because the streets are wet.
       c. I know that it is raining, because the streets are wet

According to the PH, (8a) should have the same meaning as (8c). However, (8a) is understood as (8b) and not as (8c).

(9)   Mr. Nasty knew that his daughter was a nun, but he nevertheless ordered her to marry Mr. Slimey.

The PH considers felicity conditions for performative verbs to be part of their semantics. Therefore, for example, the felicity condition that Mr. Nasty believes that his daugther can comply with his order to get married is part of the semantics of the second clause in (9) above. Because this is in contradiction with the daughter being a nun, the sentence in (9) should therefore be meaningless (or, contradictory), but it is not.

10. Geben Sie ein Beispiel wo die "literal force" einem Satz überhaupt nicht relevant ist, aber nur die illokutionale Akt wichtig ist.

Solution

Instructions : *Will you be careful?*
While the literal force is a question, the actually performed speech act is a suggestion (or a pledge; or a demand for promise).
recipes: *Cook on low heat!*
manuals: *(In order to delete a file:) Move the icon to the wastebin.*
While the literal force is a command, the actually performed speach act is a suggestion.

Offers : *Would you like another drink?*
While the literal force is a question, the actually performed speech act is a suggestion/offer.

Welcoming *Come in!*
While the literal force is a command, the actually performed speach act is an invitation.

Wishes : *Have a good journey!*
While the literal force is a command, the actually performed speach act is a wish.