

speech acts exercise

May, 11 2007

Part 1. Randomly pick 8 persons in the streets of Saarbrücken (or wherever you're around, for that matter):

- 2 male, older age
- 2 male, your peer
- 2 female, older age
- 2 female, your peer

For each of these groups, ask one person the following question (use exactly these words!): **(1)** “*Können Sie mir die Uhrzeit sagen?*” and the other person **(2)** “*Wissen Sie wie spät es ist?*”. Write down their **complete response**: the exact words you hear before you say “Thank you” and (if any) non-neutral non-verbal behaviours (e.g. laughter, non-neutral gaze, etc.). Make a table as below summarizing the results:

	gender	age	question	response	comments
subject 1	m	older	(1)		
subject 2	m	peer	(2)		
subject 3	m	older	(1)		
subject 4	m	peer	(2)		
subject 5	f	older	(1)		
subject 6	f	peer	(2)		
subject 7	f	older	(1)		
subject 8	f	peer	(2)		

Part 2. Randomly pick 4 shop assistants in any store in Saarbrücken: 2 male, 2 female. Ask one male and one female assistant the following question: **(3)** “*Schliessen Sie heute vor sieben?*” and the other male and female the following: **(4)** “*Können Sie mir sagen wann Sie heute/am Samstag schliessen?*”; choose either “heute” or “am Samstag”. As above, write down full responses in a table:

	gender	question	response	comments
subject 1	m	(3)		
subject 2	m	(4)		
subject 3	f	(3)		
subject 4	f	(4)		

Write up a brief summary of observations: were there any differences in responses? if so, what were the differences?

Send me your tables and summaries.