ABSTRACT

This master thesis, entitled Evaluating the Felicity and Infelicity of Speech Acts, focuses on the analysis of illocutionary speech acts based on the linguistic works of authors John Langshaw Austin and John Rogers Searle. Both of these authors introduced five types of illocutionary speech acts, and each of them also constructed the felicity conditions by which a speech act achieves its intention. If this happens, the speech act can be described as felicitous. Furthermore, the thesis deals with situations in which irony, sarcasm or humour is used in communication. Since these are not situations on which the above-mentioned authors focus their attention, we have tried to propose a reformulation of the felicity conditions using John Rogers Searle's model. The aim of this paper is both the analysis of specific types of speech acts and the analysis of acts containing irony and other mentioned phenomena.

KEYWORDS

speech acts, felicity and infelicity of speech acts, truth conditions, pragmatics, John Langshaw Austin, John Rogers Searle