

**A SPEECH ACTS ANALYSIS OF STUDENT NURSES – LECTURES INTERACTIONS
IN TUTORIAL CLASSES IN
SOME SCHOOLS OF NURSING IN SOUTHWESTERN NIGERIA.**

ALASIRI THOMAS ABIODUN

B.A. ENGLISH EDUCATION (O.A.U., ILE-IFE).

ARP07/08/H/2016

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE.**

FACULTY OF ARTS,

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY,

ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE, NIGERIA.

2014

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE

HEZEKIAH OLUWASANMI LIBRARY

POSTGRADUATE THESIS

AUTHORIZATION TO COPY

AUTHOR: ALASIRI THOMAS ABIODUN

TITLE: A Speech Acts Analysis of Student Nurses-Lectures Interactions in Tutorial

Classes in some Schools of Nursing in Southwestern Nigeria.

DEGREE:M.A. (English Language)

Year :2013

I ALASIRI THOMAS ABIODUN, hereby authorize the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library to copy my thesis in part or in whole in response to requests from individuals and / or organizations for the purpose of private study or research.

Signature

Date.....

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this project was carried out by ALASIRI THOMAS ABIODUN (ARP07/08/H/2016) of the Department of English in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of M.A. Degree in English Language of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.

Dr. M.O. Ayeomoni
(Supervisor)

Date

Dr. O. Okunoye
Head of Department
(Chief Examiner)

Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God for His mercy and favour that saw me through the study. I returned all the glory to Him now and forevermore. Amen

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indeed grateful to the covenant keeping God who has seen me through the programme when all hope has been lost. In fact, it is his grace that protected me throughout all my journeys to Ado-Ekiti for the past four years. Thus, the Lord is good to me and my family, his works are righteous; there is no searching for his understanding. Blessed be the name of the Lord. I glorify his name for helping me to achieve this academic success.

Similarly, I would not forget the effort of my wife, Lady (Evang.) Mary, Ajoke, Alasiri and my Jesus' treasure (daughter), Okikijesu, Ayomide, Alasiri for their continued love and support throughout my many ups and downs experienced during the study not minding the fact that my wife took the brunt of my frustrations: yet she continued to keep the family tight-knit, a trait that had formed a cornerstone to this success. Her dedication to me and my family members, especially my paternal side whose contributions were too many to recall! May God continue to increase you physically, spiritually, financially and numerically in Jesus name; Amen.

Also, I wish to express my profound gratitude to my erudite and articulate supervisor, Dr Moses Ayeomoni who provided the needed focus and direction for this thesis. It is my prayer that God will grant all your requests and supplications in Jesus name, Amen. I am indebted to doyen of the academic transformation; the intellectual patriarchs who have contributed immensely to my academic growth: former Heads of Department - Professor A.B. Adegbite and Professor O.A. Adekoya current Acting Head of Department: Dr O. Okunoye, Dr. I. C. Anyadike, Dr O.O. Taiwo, Dr T.O. Shoneye, Dr Babalola, Dr. Asiyanbola, Dr Akande, Dr.

Oripeloye, Dr (Mrs.) R. T. Bestman, Dr C. S. Oni, Dr. Babalola J. O from Ekiti State. As well as other members of both SANNU and NASU members of Staff of the department, especially Mrs Akintunde C. O, Mrs Adebisi D. O and Mrs Okolo E. C.

I will not forget the kind gestures of my Parents - late father, Pa Emmanuel Alasiri and Mrs Rachael Alasiri. I thank my foster parents -Deaconess Rachael Kolade and Honorable Samuel Kolade, Dr. & Mrs Tope Oyewole and Mr. & Mrs Ayodele. Likewise, I thank the following people, institutions and authorities: Mr and Mrs. S.I. Afuye, Mr. and Mrs Taiye Ajisafe, Mr & Mrs Tunde Kolade, Mr & Mrs Kayode Kolade, late Uncle Titilayo, late Tope Kolade, Ms Yinka Alasiri, Chief and Mrs Ojo Folusho, Mrs Moji Folorunsho, Sister Tayo, Sister Dada, Aunt Morenike, Pastor and Mrs Jaiyeoba, Prince and Mrs Segun Olatoye, Ms Rachael Alasiri, Mrs. Grace Fakorede, my boss Deaconess Bamigboye T. O, my former Principal, Dr Rev. (SR) Ogunkorode Agatha, Mr. Osakinle, Mr Olaoba, Mr. Ibitoba, MrsOluwayomi, other academic and non-academic staff of EKSUTH School of Nursing, Ado-Ekiti. Pastor and Dr. (Mrs) Oladele, Pastor and Mrs Dairo, the Authorities and Staff of Seventh-Day School of Nursing. Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital (OAUTH), School of Nursing, my Coursemates-Douglas Blessing, Akinkurolere Susan, Agbogun Abbey, Adebite etc last but not the least, the numerous people whose names cannot be mentioned because of the constraints of time and space, I thank you all, and my God will certainly reward you bountifully, (Amen).

May God continue to bless you abundantly; (Amen)

ABSTRACT

The study identified the speech Acts features of the conversational interactions between lecturers and student nurses in some schools of Nursing in Southwestern Nigeria. It analysed the Speech Acts features of the interactions. It also related the features of the interactions to the meaning conveyed in interpreting messages of the interactions. This was with a view to determining the appropriate theory for analysing linguistic features of classroom interactions between student nurses and their lecturers.

The study employed both primary and secondary sources of data collection. The primary source included interactions between student nurses and lecturers during tutorials in the selected schools of nursing in southwest Nigeria. Three schools of nursing were selected to represent the federal; state and private/missionary institutions within the Western geo-political zone. To this end, student Nurse-lecturer interactions were selected from each school. This number was chosen to make the analysis tidy and detailed. The study adopted one elicitation medium, which was the use of electronic audio-tape recorder, while the researcher conducted a random recording of the 10 student nurse-lecturer interactions during the tutorial class. The secondary source included books, journal articles and the Internet. The recorded interactions were carefully transcribed and subjected to speech act analysis theory of J. L. Austin and Searle.

The results showed that the lecturers and students in their tutorial classes used sentences that were directives which was 26% of the total sentences. This was higher than assertive act which had a total of 25%. This was followed by expressive act with 20% and verdictive had 16%, while declarative act had 11% and commissive had only 0.4%. It was, therefore, evident

from the analysis that the lecturers and the students used these acts to perform various pedagogical functions during tutorial classes using the assertive and directive acts mainly. It was discovered that this enabled them to secure a total and complete attention of the students, thus enhancing comprehension and understanding of the lectures.

The study concluded that the speech act theory was relevant and appropriate in analysing all forms of classroom tutorial discourses and interactions between students and lecturers in schools of nursing especially in the Southwestern zone of Nigeria.

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title page	i
Authorization	ii
Certification	iii
Dedication	iv
Acknowledgement	v
Abstract	vii
CHAPTER ONE	
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the study	1
1.2 Importance of Language	3
1.3 Relationship between Communication and Nursing	8
1.4 History of Nursing in Nigeria	8
1.4.1 Nursing Education	10
1.4.2 The Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria	13
1.4.3 Establishment	14

1.4.4	Vision of Nursing in Nigeria	14
1.4.5	Functions	16
1.4.6	Indexing Unit	17
1.4.7	Licensing Unit	18
1.4.8	Examination Unit	18
1.4.9	Registration	19
1.5	Statement of the Research Problems	20
1.6	Aim and Objectives of the study	20
1.7	Significance of the study	20
1.8	Justification for the Use of Speech Act Theory	21
CHAPTER TWO		
2.0	Introduction	23
2.1	Theoretical Review	23
2.2	Nature and Branches of Pragmatics	26
2.3	Speech Art	28
2.3.1	Locutionary Act	32
2.3.2	Illocutionary Act	34

2.3.3	Perlocutionary Act	36
2.3.4	Indirect Speech Act	38
2.3.5	Representative Act	38
2.3.6	Commissive Act	39
2.3.7	Expressive Act	39
2.3.8	Declarative Act	39
2.3.9	Commissive Act	41
2.3.10	Directive Act	42
2.4	Preposition	42
2.5	Implicature	42
2.6	Studies on Register Analysis	42
2.6.1	Applied Linguistics Approach to Register Analysis	42
2.6.2	Linguistic Stylistic Approach to Register Analysis	44
2.6.3	Social Linguistic, Discourse and Historical Approaches to Analysis	45
2.7	Review of some Previous Works on Medical Discourse	48
CHAPTER THREE		
3.0	Introduction	55
3.1	Preamble	55



3.2	Research Design	56
3.3	Population of the Study	56
3.4	Sample and Sampling Technique	56
3.5	Research Instrument	57
3.6	Method of Data Analysis	57

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0	Introduction	58
4.1	Medical Jargons/Registers of Texts: A, B and C	58
4.2	Analysis of Texts A, B and C	63
4.3	Frequency Distribution Tables	98
4.4.1	Table A	99
4.4.2	Table B	99
4.4.3	Table C	100
4.5	Testing of Hypothesis	101
4.6	Findings and Discussion of the Data	101

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0	Introduction	104
5.1	Conclusion	104
5.2	Suggestion for further study	105

REFERENCES	107
------------	-----

APPENDIX

LIST OF FIGURE

Figure 1 Pragmatics

26

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY



LIST OF TABLE

Table Frazer (1986:37) Claims	35
Table 2 Osisanwo's Diatypic Variety Differentiation of Football Commentary	46
Table A School of Nursing, Ado Ekiti	99
Table B O.A.U School of Nursing, Ile Ife	99
Table C Seventh-Day School of Nursing Ile Ife	100
Table D. Summary of Table A-C	100

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter contains the background to the study, linguistic framework, linguistic approach and the concept and history of nursing in Nigeria. It also contains the research problem, specific objectives, scope of the study, etc.

1.1 Background to the Study

As human beings, one of the things that we have not been able to explain their source and say everything about their sterling qualities, is language. Language can be regarded as an immeasurable gift of God. In fact, it's a perfect gift which has an unequalled power to change the lots of humans in their environment. Therefore, language is used to communicate: humans use it to express ideas, thoughts, desires and dreams or aspirations are achieved through this important tool. The effects of Language on human beings cannot be quantified since its presence in all human endeavours is overwhelming; that is, when we talk of religion, social interactions, politics, culture, education, etc., without a well-codified mode of communication that generates mutual intelligibility, there will be a state of chaos and anarchy. Also, the desire for advancement in science and technology will be completely impossible. Thus, language is a code which consists signs and symbols based on tacit agreement within a speech community for the purpose of communication.

Language is viewed, described and pictured variously by linguists according to their different linguistic orientations. The sociolinguistics' perception of language reflects the

functions of language in the community of people in the areas of personal contact and social relationship. In essence, language is defined according to its essence and functional importance among various groups of people in the society. According to Tanya (1991), Language is a means by which we make interpersonal contact, socialize our children and regulate our interaction. Equally, Trudgil (1980), Language indicates something about the way in which the society is structured as reflected in the culture of the people. The codes, conventions and constructs as contained in their linguistic norms are peculiar to the group and this makes the people to be dynamic and unique identity.

Also, personal worth can only be known, assessed and measured with the proper tool of language. According to Christopher (1981), language is a method by which a person expresses his thoughts and feelings in such a way that can be understood by others. Language is seen as a tool voluntarily developed and fashioned out for specific purposes. Nonetheless, the ultimate goal and the target for its design is always the same but the symbols may be greatly different from one language to the other.

In the view of weaver (1990), language is a driving force from inside by the need to express one's mind. As a result of this, the mind is made to develop and this enhances progressive refinement to it. Without language, brain development will be retarded; thinking and meditation may be impossible. Following weaver's submission in this regard, language is seen as both personal and social. In the same strength, Haugen (1974) describes language as "man most distinctive and significant type of social behavior learned anew by a child". The Encyclopedia Americana (1988) submits that human beings expressed their thoughts and feelings through language codes. By natural language, individual speaks their mind and expresses their desire and this remains the defining case of language.

Gimson (1980), a renowned phonetician, sees language as a system of conventional signals commonly used for communication by a whole community. To him, these conventions cover a system of significant sound units (phoneme), the inflexion and arrangement of words and association of meaning with words, the utterance as an act of speech demonstrates this system in a concrete term. Thus, dictionary reference on electronics sees language in the following ways: Language is a body of words and the systems for their use common to a people who are of the same community or nation, the same geographical area or the same cultural tradition: the two languages of Belgium; a Bantu language; the French language; the Yiddish language; it is also seen as communication by voice in the distinctively human manner, using arbitrary sounds in conventional ways with conventional meanings; speech. Language could be an act of communication of meaning in any way; medium that is expressive, significant, etc: the language of flowers, or art. The concepts of language can be multiplied as one endeavors to consider different views and opinions of endless list of linguistics of different orientations. The basic idea of language is its functional essence in the society of humans.

1.2 Importance of Language

Language is inestimable to quantify since it is very important in any culture and community or society. A language does far more than just enable people to communicate with each other. The language of one country is different from the other country and it tells the features of the country which distinguish it from one country to another. A languages shape the way people perceives the world which also provides help to define culture of any society. There are countries in which more than one language is spoken; you will find more than one culture in that society. For example, Canada has the English

For more information, please contact ir-help@oauife.edu.ng