

## WEEK 6: Pragmatics

Topics: Speech acts. Direct and indirect speech acts. Politeness

### A. Speech acts. Direct and indirect speech acts

**Exercise 1:** Identify the speech act performed in each of the following utterances:

1. Would you like to come to my party this Saturday?
2. I will definitely hand in my essay by Friday.
3. What time is it?
4. Have a biscuit.
5. Awful weather!
6. Sorry I'm late. The bus was late.
7. Passengers are kindly requested to fasten their seat belts.
8. Come in and shut the door behind you.
9. There's a bee behind your ear.
10. If you don't give me the money now, you're a dead man.
11. Shall I get you some coffee?
12. I hereby declare the meeting closed.
13. Can't you make a little less noise?
14. Closed between 12 and 2 p.m.
15. Oh, Jesus, there he goes again.
16. (in a bookshop) Where is the linguistics section, please?
17. The exam is next week.
18. Get out of this room right now! 3.
19. I promise to be here tomorrow by 6 a.m.
20. Thank you very much. It was so kind of you to come.
21. You are sentenced to three years' imprisonment.
22. I name this ship *Queen Elizabeth II*.

**Exercise 2:** Decide whether the speech acts you identified in Exercise 1 are direct or indirect.

**Exercise 3:** Identify the direct speech act performed in the following utterances. Where possible identify also an indirect speech act that may be performed by each one of them.

1. You are in the way.
2. I'll be back.
3. It's quite cold in here.
4. Please go now!

## B. Politeness

**Exercise 2:** Identify the speech act performed in each of the following utterances and say which aspect of face is threatened in each case:

1. Get out right now!
2. You're such a jerk!
3. I cannot agree with you.
4. Lend me five euro, will you?
5. If you don't pay me by noon, you're a dead man!

**Exercise 3:** In the following utterances is the speaker appealing to the addressee's positive or negative face?

1. Shall we do the washing up now?
2. We can study for the exam together.
3. I hope this is not too much trouble for you, but could you bring all the books back by tomorrow afternoon?
4. I know this is too much to ask, but could you take me to the airport tomorrow?
5. Would you like to do your presentation next week?
6. I'm sorry to bother you, but could you drive me to the station?
7. Let's go to the party together, sweetheart. Everybody will be glad to see you!

**Exercise 4:** How would you say the following in Greek and English? Which politeness strategies are you using in each case?

1. Ask a friend to lend you five euros.
2. Ask a friend to lend you five hundred euros.
3. Ask the person in front of you on the bus to validate your ticket for you.
4. Ask your friend to validate your bus ticket for you.
5. Ask a fellow student of yours to lend you his/her notes on last week's class.
6. Ask your lecturer to lend you his/her notes on last week's class.