

Speech Act Analysis

Linguistics

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Find a *very* short clip from a movie or TV show, a political speech, a press conference, a bit of stand-up comedy, or any other recording. The clip should be 30-60 seconds long at the most. Be ready to play this scene for the class.

1) Transcribe the scene.

2) Break up each speech act and analyze it. Depending on the speech act, you might address

- Whether the speech act is direct or indirect
- Whether the speech act includes presupposition or implicature, and what kind.
- Whether the speech act is constative, performative, or phatic
- Whether the speech act is representative, commissive, directive, declarative, or expressive
- The locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary levels of the speech act
- How the context of the speech act and the identities of the speakers / hearers influences the speech act
- Whether there are anomalies, metaphors, or idioms at play
- Whether there are lexical or semantic ambiguities
- Whether the speakers follow Grice's maxims of conversation and where they break them (if they do); where you see a maxim clash
- The truth conditions of the act
- Whether the speakers follow Grice's cooperative principle
- Whether and where positive politeness or negative politeness are at work
- The speaker's register

You will write up your transcription of the scene and your analysis. You will then present the scene and your analysis to the class.

Criteria	Points
Clip / excerpt is well-chosen and transcribed thoroughly and correctly.	____ / 5
Each speech act is analyzed in detail. Includes all relevant dimensions of the analysis (listed above), and discusses how the context in general influences the speech act(s).	____ / 10
Paper is clearly organized and shows strong control of language.	____ / 5
Presentation includes all relevant dimensions of analysis.	____ / 5
Presenter is prepared, organized, confident, and clear.	____ / 5
Total	____ / 30