

## Micropragmatics of language code units (based on the analysis of elucidative speech acts selected from BNC)

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**Abstract.** The article brings out the scheme of relation of the elucidated illocutionary key predicate to the specific type of the elucidative speech act. The analysis has been conducted with the account of the communicative-and-pragmatic structure of the key predicate of the principal clause of the elucidative utterance. The influence of its microsense composition on the formation of the overall sense of utterance has been described. The structure of communicative-and-intentional sense of the analyzed utterance has been studied and a certain type of addresser's intention has been revealed. The elucidative utterance with a certain communicative-and-intentional sense has been related to the specific type of speech acts proceeding from the type of intention.

**Keywords:** *micropragmatics, elucidative speech act, illocutionary key predicate, communicative-and-intentional sense, communicative intention, communicative-and-pragmatic type of speech act*

**Introduction.** Rapid development of the modern linguistic study intensifies the research of the communicative-and-pragmatic orientation of all units of language expression modi – Language, Speech and Communication. It contributes to the emergence of a number of new scholarly works that attract the attention of linguists. The research focuses on the micropragmatic aspect of language units analysis. In this context, significant role is attributed to revealing the relation of language code units to speech act units.

**Brief review of publications.** The theoretical backbone of the research is formed by propositions worked out by Ukrainian and foreign linguists regarding the description of the notion and semiotic origin of pragmatics (N. Arutiunova [1; 2]; V. Bogdanov [5]; T. Bulygina [6]; K. Bühler [7]; R. Carnap [11]; F. Kifer [13]; Ch. Morris [15; 16]; R. Eckard [37]; Ch. Peirce [19; 20]; P. Sgall [24]; R. Stalnaker [27]; G. Leech [40]; S. Levinson [41]; J. Meibauer [42]; I. Susov [28]), fundamentals of the communicative-and-pragmatic theory and its application (P. Watzlawick [8]; V. Kashkin [12]; L. Minkin [14]; O. Selivanova [25]; F. Sharkov [31]; P. Grundy [39]; P. Sgall [45]), taxonomy of speech acts (V. Bogdanov [4]; J. Austin [18]; H. Pochieptsov [21]; J. Searle [26]; K. Bach [34]; G. Leech [40]; D. Wunderlich [46]), discourse pragmatics ([T. van Dijk [9; 36]; S. Noskova [17]; I. Shevchenko [33]; G. Redeker [44]), pragmatic aspect of the interrogative sentence (O. Pochieptsov [23]; A. Tlapshokova [29]; I. Frolova [30]; I. Shevchenko [32]; G. Fauconnier [38]).

The previous studies showed the potential of the pragmatic analysis of sentences [22] and focused on conducting research at the micropragmatic level and establishing the pragmatic types of simple sentences [10]. The idea of the American linguist J. Mey [43] concerning the distinction of micropragmatics has been developed by F.S. Batsyevych [3], who introduced the studies of lingual code on the micropragmatic level into Ukrainian linguistics.

**The purpose of this essay** is to study the communicative-and-pragmatic structure of complex sentences with elucidative subordinate clauses in the English language. The research aims at analyzing predicates as keystone micropragmatic units expressing communicative-and-pragmatic category of intentionality. The predicates are claimed to serve the basis for establishing the communicative-and-pragmatic type of analyzed sentences.

**Materials and methods of research.** The elucidative speech acts, selected from texts of the British National Corpus [35], served as research material. A comprehen-

sive approach to the studies of language code units predetermines the choice of research methods: valency (i.e. colligation), transformational, componential, valency (i.e. collocation) and intent analyses.

**Results and their discussion.** A thorough study of key predicates of complex sentences with elucidative subordinate clauses has contributed to the elaboration of a scheme reflecting the relations of semes and senses in the microsense structure of the key predicate, which is of primary importance for establishing the communicative-and-pragmatic type of the analyzed utterance in different speech acts (Fig. 1).

The research of the key predicate in complex sentences with elucidative subordinate clauses showed that the addresser can select for realization of a certain type of intention one out of four types of speech acts representatives, expressives, commissives and directives. Five predicates *know, promise, see, teach, confirm* have been selected for the representation of the scheme realization in each case.

Illocutionary key predicate *know* is engaged in the formation of the communicative-and-pragmatic structure of the elucidative utterance. Microsenses based on its nuclear illocutionary semes *INFORMATION* and *MIND* are combined within it, forming the communicative-and-intentional sense of *knowledge*. It is complemented by the microsense of one of the peripheral illocutionary semes *EXPERIENCE, LEARNING* or *TALK*, which provides information on how the speaker acquired knowledge. The microsense composition of the illocutionary key predicate *know* provides information that the elucidative utterance is communicatively and pragmatically directed at replenishing the information background of the recipient. The structure of the communicative-and-intentional sense of *knowledge* of the analyzed illocutionary key predicate manifests the *informative intention* of the speaker. Thus, the elucidative utterance with the communicative-and-intentional sense of *knowledge* can be referred to the communicative-and-pragmatic type of speech acts called representatives (i.e. assertives):

*e.g.: (a) We know that all of us will eventually die from disease, natural disaster, accidents or whatever. (experience); (b) I know that stress is one of the main factors. (learning); (c) I knew that at the end of the four sets of treatment I would have the final scan. (talk).*

Representatives (i.e. assertives), which are formed by the key predicate *know*, include utterances with the communicative-and-intentional sense of *awareness, understanding, knowledgeability*:

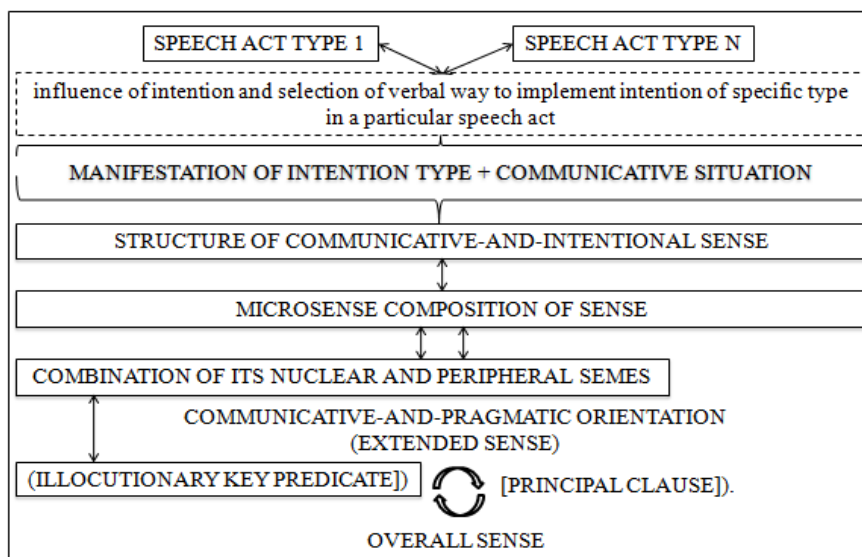


Fig. 1. Correlation of the illocutionary key predicate with the type of speech act

e.g.: (a) *I know that you are serious in your wish to leave home*; (b) *I know that in some way I've offended you*; (c) *They know that just one small slip can make a joke in dance*.

In elucidative utterances-expressives with the illocutionary key predicate **know**, the speaker expresses a firm belief in the correctness and truth of what he/she said:

e.g.: (a) *I know that you will all play your part with calmness and courage*; (b) *I knew that they must be lurking there somewhere*; (c) *I knew that my horse was capable of running well so long as he was all right*.

Elucidative utterances frequently have the illocutionary key predicate **promise** in its communicative-and-pragmatic structure. The combination of microsenses of nuclear and peripheral illocutionary semes **TELLING**, **FUTURE**, **DEFINITENESS**, **DOING**, **NAUGHT** and **HAPPENING** of the analyzed predicate provides the information that: (1) the speaker brings to the attention of the recipient his/her obligation either to perform or not to perform something; (2) the speaker assures the recipient that the event is taking place. Microsense composition of illocutionary key predicate **promise** forms the communicative-and-intentional sense of *promising*. When it is embodied in the elucidative utterance, it is not a spontaneous act, but renders the *obligative intention* of the speaker to perform an action which meets the expectations of the addressee. When communicative-and-intentional microsense structure of *promising* is being analyzed, the manifestation of *obligative intention* of the speaker is clearly traced, i.e. his/her interest to impose an obligation on the recipient to perform an action or follow a certain line of conduct. This manifestation allows attributing the utterance of this type to communicative-and-pragmatic type of speech acts – commissive:

e.g.: (a) *I also promise that the Government will look seriously at all proposals for sensible reform*; (b) *Mr Fujimori has now promised that new laws will be debated in advance by the general public*; (c) *He promised that the sale of cigarettes would be stopped immediately*.

In the principal part of the communicative-and-pragmatic structure of the elucidative utterance there occurs the illocutionary key predicate **see** in the form of the imperative mood. Actualization of the nuclear seme **MAKING SURE** conveys communicative-and-intentional senses of *to*

*make sure/ascertain* within the analyzed type of utterances. Complementation of the microsense **DOING** ‘introduces’ into the elucidative utterance the sender’s advice, which is a prompt or instruction for the recipient how to act in a particular situation. In microsense content of the analyzed predicate *compelling intention* of the speaker is manifested. Thus, we attribute the elucidative utterance, which is the bearer of communicative-and-intentional senses of *making sure/ascertaining* to the communicative-and-pragmatic type of speech acts of directives:

e.g.: (a) *See that you write or print out from your computer a clear explanation of each part of your analysis as you do it*; (b) *See that your child has everything for ski school: lift pass, ski school tickets, boots, skis, poles and money for a hot drink*.

Pragmatic directive can be expressed by pragmatic key predicate **teach** in affirmative form. Its definition *to make somebody feel or think in a different way* allows to single out the nuclear **MAKING** and peripheral microsemes **FEELING**, **THINKING** and **DIFFERENCE** that become relevant within the microcontext. Microsense combination in the principal part of the elucidative utterance urges the recipient to react to the utterance. The *compelling intention* expressed through the analyzed key predicate is elucidated in the subordinate clause. The communicative-and-pragmatic structure of the predicate allows to refer the elucidative utterance to directive type of speech acts:

e.g.: (a) *The Bible also teaches that God provides all men with certain common benefits – conscience, the recognition of right and wrong, and certain institutions (family, state, church) which encourage good and discourage evil*; (b) *Tracy Kidder's story teaches that economic success comes through the talent, energy, and commitment of a team – through collective entrepreneurship*; (c) *Aquinas taught that in every corporeal being there is one substantial form*.

Thus, the directive pragmatics of the utterance is caused by the key directive in the principal part, the subordinate one being its component. The key directive is expressed by: 1) pragmatic key predicate in the imperative mood (e.g. *See ...*); 2) pragmatic key predicate in the affirmative form (e.g. *I recommend ...*).

Communicative-and-pragmatic key predicate **confirm**

provides for the formation of the communicative-and-intentional sense of *approval* within the microcontext of the elucidative utterance. By applying microintent-analysis to its definition *to state or show that something is definitely true or correct, especially by providing evidence*, we decompose the studied communicative-and-intentional sense into nuclear semes *STATING, DEFINITENESS, TRUTH, CORRECTNESS* and peripheral – *PROVIDING EVIDENCE*. Coupling of analyzed microsenses of the key predicate *confirm* in the communicative-and-pragmatic structure of the elucidative utterance contributes to the expression of the speaker's positive attitude to the actions and behaviour of the recipient. Communicative-and-intentional sense of *approval*, actualized through illocutionary key predicate in the elucidative utterance, manifests the *emotional-evaluative intention* of the speaker. Thus, we refer elucidative utterance with the communicative-and-intentional sense of *approval* to the expressive type of communicative-and-pragmatic acts:

e.g.: (a) *I can confirm that it was an excellent Commonwealth conference;* (b) *I can also confirm that the site shown for the station car park extension is acceptable;* (c)

*I can confirm that there are no spare rooms in the whole of this city.*

**Conclusions.** The thorough analysis of the communicative-and-pragmatic structure of the elucidative utterance viewed as the intentional speech action in the situation of communication has revealed that: a) the illocutionary key predicate of the principal clause of the research object is the key one in determining the pragmatics of the elucidative utterance; b) microsenses formed by the nuclear illocutionary semes of the illocutionary key predicate form the communicative-and-intentional sense of the speaker; c) the microsense composition of the illocutionary key predicate provides information about the communicative-and-pragmatic orientation of the elucidative utterance; d) the structure of the communicative-and-intentional sense of the analyzed illocutionary key predicate shows the manifestation of the informative, obligative, compelling or emotive-and-evaluative intention of the speaker; e) the type of the speaker's intention and the situation, in which its verbal realization is carried out, define the communicative-and-pragmatic type of the speech act – representative, commissive, directive or expressive.

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