

An Investigation of Communicative Illocutionary Act on Utterances in the Short Story “After Twenty Years”

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Abstract

Speech act is a significant sphere in the field of pragmatics which studies the meaning of the use of language in particular contexts and situations. It can be divided into three categories – locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. The aim of this study is to find out the communicative illocutionary act categories in the short story “*After Twenty Years*” by O. Henry. The observation is based on a theory of Language put forward by J.R.Searle (1979). The result of the study points out that people in communication form utterances to make complaints, deduction, statement or other communicative purposes. Moreover, the findings from this research will be a supportive guidance for the other studies made by the speech acts.

Key words: speech act, illocutionary act, utterances, short story

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