to other components of spoken discourse.

2.2   Speech genre vs. speech act

The short definition of speech genre above can be mistaken for speech acts. However, these concepts are not just disconnected in history, but they also belong to different theoretical models. Nonetheless, they both have been claimed to be units of discourse and their relationship can be clearly distinguished.

Speech genre, being the term most extensively used in ethnography of communication categorizes discourse based on how it is presented structurally and what principles govern its creation in communication. Speech acts, however, are the conceptual units in pragmatics which define most minimal utterances with a performative function (Searle, 2011). Speech acts are "intentional, purposeful, conventional acts of speakers which are themselves parts of communicative action and communicative context" (Komleva, 2011, para. 7). Searle (2011) defines five types of speech acts: representatives (such as judgments), directives (such as commands), commissives (such as promises and other commitment statements), expressives (usually define psychological states), and declaratives (create a new state of affairs or define social relationship). In their essence, speech acts represent actions that can be performed in speech by one utterance.

In conversation analysis, the speech act theory is best applied to the studies of adjacency pairs. To construct an adjacency pair there have to be at least two speech acts. For example, in complaints, it is expected for one interlocutor to initiate the complaint while the addressee typically provides an excuse or a remedy. So a single conversation may consist of a number of speech acts, certain combinations of which construct adjacency pairs and define conversational turn-taking. From the point of view of its analysis, CA studies speech acts starting with the outcome – what has been achieved by an utterance is the most important feature in its understanding.

The relationship between speech acts and speech genre is unilateral with the acts creating the genre. Just like conversations are the constellations of adjacency pairs, particular speech genres consist of multiple single speech acts. The way that they are combined, constructed, and accepted by the speakers defines the differences between them. Importantly, speech genre, however, is not just interested in the outcome, but also in the goals and intentions of a communicative action. Conversational genre of talk can be considered a subgenre, or a micro speech genre that maintains the general intention of the communication activity by employing certain kinds of speech acts in a particular order. Since speech genre can be expressed by a prolonged interaction, there are no limitations with regards to its structure in terms of turn-taking, monologues, or dialogues (Komleva, 2011).

In sum, genre helps to approach conversation as a network of speech acts that can be patterned based on diachronic expectations of this communicative act. As CA is interested in discovering the "routines and patterns emerg[ing] as solutions to interactional troubles," (Aakhus, 2004, p. 138), investigation in conversational subgenre could reveal how conversations are designed and shaped to follow a communicational direction and be applicable to certain contexts. Understanding that the two belong to different theoretical models furthers their distinction in claiming that speech act theory is based on the grammar of an utterance, which speech genre theory is based on speech communication (Komleva, 2011).

2.3   Genre vs. register

In linguistics, the focus on the metapragmatic and metalinguistic aspects of text conflates genre with speech events and register, which prompted Swales (1990) to report that linguistics generally finds genre "indigestible" (p. 41). Hymes (1974) also noted this conceptual similarity but argued that genres and speech events are different analytical tools: while he restricted speech events to the activities governed by rules for the use of speech, the concept of genre he associated with types of speech sharing similar structures but being invoked at