

# Speech Acts / Illocution (J.L. Austin 1962)

Idea: Some utterances can be performed just by saying them.

Distinction between **constatives**, utterances to make assertions or statements, and **performatives**, which are themselves used to perform acts.

Explicit performatives make use of a **performative verb** whereas implicit performatives only make an action secondarily. One test is can you use the present tense, first person, and the word "hereby" and retain the meaning.

Note the difference between illocution and **performative**.

# Illocutionary Types (J.L. Austin, 1962)

<b>Verdictives</b>	giving a verdict, such as acquitting or diagnosing
<b>Exercitives</b>	excising power, such as resigning or excommunicating
<b>Commissives</b>	commit to cause of action, such as promising or betting
<b>Behabitives</b>	attitudes or social behavior, such as apologizing or toasting
<b>Expositives</b>	clarifying discourse itself, such as defining or postulating

# Felicity Conditions (J.L. Austin, 1962)

Conditions for a speech act to be felicitous, that is, for one to genuinely perform the associated action. These were given as:

A1. Accepted conventional procedure having the conventional effect.

A2. Situation must be appropriate for the procedure.

B1. Procedure being performed must be executing *correctly*, and

B2. *completely*.

Γ1. When required, participants must intend to conduct themselves as is according the action.

Γ2. and must conducty themselves subsequently.

Breaking A1-B2 is a **misfire**; breaking Γ1 or Γ2 is the result of **abuse**.

# Pragmatics vs. Semantics

From the first chapter, we had that pragmatics can be defined by either or both of the following:

meaning that is context-dependent

meaning that is non-truth conditional

With semantics defined as the opposite of these two things. Boundary conditions exist that somewhat complicate these two elements, such as the resolution of references and polysemy.