1.A study on the use of speech acts

Abstract

In this study, it was tried to determine by which strategies 150 participants continuing their education in Preschool Teacher Education Program carry out the acts of apologizing, complaining, refusing, and thanking. Data was collected through content analysis of the short memories that participants wrote. Accordingly, ten apology, six refusal and six thanking strategies were identified. While the participants generally express the acts of thanking, apologizing and refusing explicitly, they mostly perform the act of complaining implicitly. The research findings are suggested being verified and expanded by the other studies made on the speech acts.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study showed that the participants used different strategies depending on the type of performatives. The variety of the strategies used is associated with specific conditions of the communication and qualities of the parties involved in a communication. On the other hand, there is a relationship between the various cases in that the acts carried out, as well. At this point, to determine at which points the strategies used in specific speech acts especially gathered is an important finding for further studies.

The findings of the study showed that there were eight different strategies in dimension of apology. Giving a reason, especially, appears to be the most common used strategy of apology. This result supports the findings of the study conducted by Tuncel (2011). In his study, Tuncel (2011) did not encounter any consistent use in speech acts application of undergraduates. Eight different apology strategies also achieved in this study are indirectly associated with this finding. The strategies determined regarding the speech act of apologizing are similar to the data obtained from the study carried on Korean students learning English by Jung (2004). Expression of apology that Jung (2004) discovered for the act of apology and expression of regret, explanation and giving a reason, acknowledgment of responsibility and taking the responsibility, offer of repair, promise of non-recurrence and making a commitment in this study are the strategies that have the same functions. In the act of complaining, a total of ten strategies were determined. The most frequently used strategy among these is reflecting results strategy. Reflecting results in the act of complaining provides an implicit justification for the person aggrieved to eliminate the negativity emerged. Reflecting results strategy which serves as an indirect expression, in some cases can be treated as a gentle form of communication. Other strategies are used according to different variables in the communication process. Some of the strategies obtained in this study (2010) are similar to the functions in the study of Deveci (2010). Complaint strategy which was identified in the research on the act of complaining in Turkey conducted by Deveci (2010) is similar to complaining directly in this study in terms of function. However, justification, candidate solution, explanation of purpose and criticism discovered by Deveci (2010) are the complaining strategies identified differently than this study. In the act of refusing, a total of six strategies were determined. The most frequently used strategy among these is giving a reason strategy. Giving reasons strategy is important compared to other strategies in terms of justifying a refusal to offer. Direct refusal, refusing particularly by using swear words and expressing nonnecessity of offer among other strategies, can be explained by the low level of respect between the parties communicating. However, refusing directly can be considered as one of the strategies applied in some cordial relations, as well. Al-Eryani (2007) has focused on three strategies in among these and giving a reason in this study, offer of an alternative and offering another option have the same function with each other. Guo (2012), likewise, has focused on strategies such as direct, reason, alternative, avoidance and criticism. Among the strategies Guo (2012) identified, reason, direct and alternative function in the same way with some strategies in this study. The last speech act dealt with in this study is thanking. A total of six different strategies were determined with regard to thanking. Among these, thanking directly is the most frequently referred strategy. Thanking has a reinforcing function in relations as it shows that the parties recognize the goodness done and it reflects their corresponding sensitivities. That thanking directly is a frequently referred strategy may be associated with this. The other strategies used have the characteristics of linguistic expressions conveying thanking more implicitly. In his study, Intachakra (2004) also discovered strategies, similar to those in this study, related to thanking in English and Thai languages. An explicit expression of gratitude and expressing gratitude in this study, an account or acknowledgment of favour and emphasizing the positive impact, an expression of admiration and complimenting, a promise of repayment and expressing indebtedness have the same functions. An indication of unnecessity of favour is a different finding that Intachakara (2004) determined. Zarei (2011) obtained more strategies about the act of thanking in his study, and he divided them into sub-strategies. These are the sub-strategies Zarei (2011) determined: thanking, appreciation, repayment, recognition of imposition, apology, positive feeling et al. Most of the strategies of Zarei (2011) have the same functions with the strategies determined in this study. 220 Nihat Bayat / Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences 70 ( 2013 ) 213 – 221 One of the responses tried to be reached in this study was related to explicit or implicit usage rate of the speech acts. It was identified that the act of apologizing performed explicitly in terms of explicitness and implicitness. Generally being expressed this act explicitly is a reasonable case as apologizing is associated with the fact that the speaker does not want the fault made to damage the relationship. However, it is not the same case for the act of complaining. The act of complaining is mainly performed implicitly. The reason for this may be that the speaker complaining is under the risk of continuity of relationship with the other party. Therefore, such a risk-free way of thanking was performed considerably in an explicit manner. As for the act of refusing, it was conducted nearly to the same degree in a similar manner in terms of explicitness and implicitness. In this study, it was aimed to determine which strategies have been used while performing the speech acts undertook. The other studies on speech acts are generally in regard to determining to what extend and how foreign language learners perform those in the target language. However, discovering the strategies generally used in a language shall facilitate interpretation of results obtained from comparative studies. In this regard, following suggestions may be made for further studies: 1. Forms of realization of other speech acts in Turkish should be described by other studies. 2. The findings obtained regarding the use of speech acts should be reconstructed with different patterns in order to determine response types that different participants may give in the same contexts. 3. Studies should be done on the level of competence of the responses given in communication cases in terms of admissibility and courtesy.

2.Anxiety Level in Students of Public Speaking: Causes and Remedies

Abstract

Despite being competent in their field of work, professional’s worldwide struggle due to lack of good public speaking skills. Their assessments and appraisals are often not depictive of their professional competitiveness; therefore, it is important for students to overcome public speaking anxiety before they transit from academic life to professional life. The purpose of this study is to analyze the reasons behind the anxiety level in undergraduate students of a public speaking class and recommend strategies to overcome this fear. This study was entailed quantitative research paradigm on a sample of 50 students using convenience sampling technique from a reputable private sector business school in Karachi. The findings showed that students who fear public speaking can perform well if they use certain strategies to fight their fears. 75% participants admitted their fear of public speaking and 95% participants agreed that if proper counseling, instruction and coaching is provided, this fear can be overcome. Research revealed that exposure to virtual environment can facilitate student confidence and enables themto face audience irrespective of the size.

Conclusion

This study was carried out to investigate the anxiety level in the students of public speaking and to provide sufficient results which prove that this fear is very common among individuals, especially among university students. Literature was reviewed to shed light on researches that have been conducted earlier in the same area to validate the study and to build upon what has already been done. To summarize, the research proves that fear of public speaking is a learned skill and can be overcome by practicing and rehearsing before presentations or speeches and people who experience public speaking anxiety can perform as well as those who have a good command over public speaking. The following techniques can help students overcome public speaking anxiety

3. Listen, Attend, and Spell

**Abstract:**

This paper introduces a neural network model for speech recognition called "Listen, Attend, and Spell" (LAS). The LAS model incorporates an attention mechanism to improve speech recognition accuracy by focusing on relevant parts of the input sequence.

**Conclusion:**

The LAS model demonstrates promising results in speech recognition tasks, outperforming traditional models. It showcases the potential of attention mechanisms in enhancing the accuracy of speech-to-text systems.

4.Deep Speech 2: End-to-End Speech Recognition in English and Mandarin

**Abstract:**

Deep Speech 2 is a deep learning-based approach to end-to-end speech recognition. It achieves state-of-the-art performance in both English and Mandarin speech recognition tasks by using deep neural networks with convolutional and recurrent layer.

**Conclusion:** Deep Speech 2 demonstrates that end-to-end approaches can yield competitive results in speech recognition, simplifying the traditional multi-stage process of feature extraction and decoding.

5.Tacotron: Towards End-to-End Speech Synthesis

**Abstract:**

Tacotron is a novel sequence-to-sequence architecture for speech synthesis that generates human-like speech from text input. This paper discusses the Tacotron model's design and its ability to generate natural-sounding speech.

**Conclusion:**

Tacotron represents a significant advancement in end-to-end speech synthesis, making strides toward more natural and expressive computer-generated speech.

6.Speaker Recognition: A Review

**Abstract:**

This paper provides an overview of speaker recognition technologies, including both text-dependent and text-independent methods. It covers various aspects of speaker recognition, from feature extraction to modeling and evaluation.

**Conclusion:**

The review paper summarizes the state of the art in speaker recognition and highlights the challenges and future directions in the field.

7.Wavenet: A Generative Model for Raw Audio

**Abstract:**

This paper introduces WaveNet, a deep generative model designed to generate raw audio waveforms. WaveNet employs dilated causal convolutions and autoregressive modeling to generate high-quality and expressive audio waveforms directly from a sequence of input samples.

**Conclusion:**WaveNet represents a significant advancement in generative audio modeling, producing audio that is more natural and coherent compared to previous methods. Its ability to generate high-fidelity audio waveforms has led to applications in speech synthesis, music generation, and more, showcasing the potential of deep generative models in the field of audio processing.

8.Attention Is All You Need

**Abstract:**

This influential paper presents the Transformer model, which is a neural network architecture based solely on self-attention mechanisms. The authors demonstrate the Transformer's effectiveness in natural language processing tasks, including machine translation, by achieving state-of-the-art results without recurrent or convolutional layers.

**Conclusion:**

"Attention Is All You Need" has had a profound impact on the field of natural language processing and speech recognition. It has paved the way for the development of models like BERT and GPT-3, which have significantly improved the state of the art in various language-related tasks, including speech processing and understanding. The paper highlights the importance of attention mechanisms in capturing long-range dependencies in sequential data, making it relevant to the broader field of speech processing and recognition.

**9.**"DeepVoice: Real-time Text-to-Speech Synthesis with Convolutional Sequence-to-Sequence Learning"

**Abstract:**

This paper introduces the DeepVoice model, a convolutional sequence-to-sequence neural network for real-time text-to-speech synthesis. DeepVoice aims to generate high-quality, natural-sounding speech from text input and is trained on a large dataset of multilingual and multitask supervised data.

**Conclusion:**

The DeepVoice model represents a significant advancement in the field of text-to-speech synthesis, enabling real-time generation of natural and expressive speech. Its use of convolutional sequence-to-sequence learning offers promising results for various applications, including voice assistants, accessibility tools, and more. The paper showcases the potential of deep learning in enhancing the quality and efficiency of speech synthesis systems.

10.Listen, Attend and Spell

**Abstract:**

This paper introduces a sequence-to-sequence model with an attention mechanism for automatic speech recognition (ASR) tasks. The model, known as Listen, Attend and Spell (LAS), utilizes an attention mechanism to improve the accuracy of ASR by dynamically focusing on relevant parts of the input audio during the decoding process.

**Conclusion:**

The Listen, Attend and Spell (LAS) model represents a significant advancement in automatic speech recognition. It has demonstrated superior performance in various ASR benchmarks and applications, showcasing the importance of attention mechanisms in improving the accuracy and robustness of speech recognition systems. This paper highlights the potential of deep learning approaches to revolutionize the field of speech processing.

11.Deep Residual Learning for Image Recognition"

**Abstract:**

While primarily focused on image recognition, this paper introduces the ResNet model, which has also found applications in speech processing. ResNet presents a deep neural network architecture with residual connections that helps mitigate the vanishing gradient problem, making it easier to train very deep networks.

**Conclusion:**

ResNet has significantly impacted deep learning across multiple domains, including speech recognition and generation. Its architecture's ability to train deep neural networks effectively has led to improved performance in various speech-related tasks.

12.BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding"

**Abstract:**

BERT, which stands for Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers, is a model designed for natural language understanding. It has been influential in various speech applications, including speech recognition and sentiment analysis. BERT's key innovation is pre-training on a large corpus of text to create contextual word embeddings.

**Conclusion:**

BERT has revolutionized the field of natural language processing and has been adapted for use in various speech-related tasks, allowing models to better understand spoken language context and semantics.

13.End-to-End Speech Recognition with Transformers

**Abstract:**

This paper explores the application of Transformer-based models to end-to-end speech recognition. It discusses the advantages of using Transformers for this task and presents experimental results demonstrating their effectiveness.

**Conclusion:**

Transformer-based models have shown great promise in simplifying and improving the accuracy of end-to-end speech recognition systems, representing a notable trend in the field of automatic speech recognition.

14.Deep Voice 3: Scaling Text-to-Speech with Convolutional Sequence-to-Sequence Learning"

**Abstract:**

This paper presents Deep Voice 3, an improved version of the Deep Voice model that leverages convolutional sequence-to-sequence learning for text-to-speech synthesis. Deep Voice 3 aims to produce high-quality speech with fewer parameters and faster training times.

**Conclusion:**

Deep Voice 3 demonstrates the continued advancement of sequence-to-sequence models in speech synthesis, achieving state-of-the-art results in generating natural and expressive speech from text.

15.Conformer: Convolution-augmented Transformer for Speech Recognition

**Abstract:**This paper introduces the Conformer model, which combines convolutional neural networks (CNNs) with the Transformer architecture for speech recognition tasks. Conformer is designed to handle both the temporal and contextual aspects of speech data effectively.

**Conclusion:**

The Conformer model demonstrates the effectiveness of integrating CNNs and Transformers for improved speech recognition accuracy. It represents a state-of-the-art approach in this domain, highlighting the importance of combining different neural network components for better results in speech-related tasks.

Top of Form

WaveGAN: A Generative Adversarial Network for Raw Audio"BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language UnderstandingBERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language UnderstandingDeep Residual Learning for Image Recognition"Deep Residual Learning for Image Recognition"Deep Residual Learning for Image Recognition"Top of Form

Top of Form