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- 3. The research study has concluded that the speakers in the play make their utterances with intentions, i.e., they use them to commit themselves or let others be committed to an action or actions.
- 4. The text analysis has concluded that the speakers in the play does not only use words but words with various speech acts.
- 5. The research paper has concluded that the most frequent act used are the commissives, representatives, directives, and expressives. The less frequently used acts are the declarative and questions.
- 6. It is feasible sometimes to use more than one speech act in the same excerpt. For instance, representative with an expressive; and a commissive with a directive.
- 7. There are numerous other speech acts that can be attained in literary analysis.

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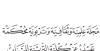
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Oh if you could only see into Enry's soul, the depth of his contempt for a gentleman, the arrogance of his pride in being an engineer, would appeal you."

The locutionary speech act is in the form of an exclamation. The illocutionary act is representative and expressive at the same time as asserts to the listener the truth of the expressed proposition and expressing a psychological state which is honoring . it is a word to world direction of fit.

### 5.5.1.18 Excerpt Eighteen

" Violet: I wish your father were not so unreasonable ."

The locutionary act is in the form of a wish. The illocutionary act is expressive. The propositional content is inviting the hearer to be reasonable.

5.5.1.19 Excerpt Nineteen olet: We can't afford it. You can be romantic as you please about love, Hector, but you mustn't be romantic about money." The locutionary act is in the form of negative sentence. The



illocutionary act is commissive. The psychological state is warning. It is a world to word direction of fit.

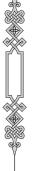
### 5.5.1.20 Excerpt Twenty

" Straker: I dunno about the bee and the spider, but the marked down victim, that's what you are, and no mistake, and a good job for you, too, I should say."

The locutionary act is in the form of a simple sentence. The illocutionary act is commissive. The psychological state is threatening or warning. It is a world to word direction of fit. The propositional content expressed is belief.

#### 6.6 Conclusions

- 1. The paper has concluded that Searle's speech act taxonomy (1979) ) is applicable in literary genre, especially in Shaw's " Man and Superman"
- 2. The study has demonstrated that pragmatics and literary discourse are correlated and pragmatics can account for literary works.



trivial book. The psychological state on mind is denying.

## 5.5.1.11 Excerpt Eleven

" Ramsden: Stuff sir, Talk sense; or else go and waste someone else's time: I have something to do than listen to your fooleries."

The locutionary act is in the form of an imperative. The illocutionary act is directive. The psychological state is ordering. The speaker fits his words to the world in order to express a belief through the established proposition.

## 5.5.1.12 Excerpt Twelve

" Octavius : May I make a suggestion?"

The locutionary act is in the form of a yes/ no interrogative. The illocutionary act is a yes / no question. It is a world to word direction of fit. The propositional content is expressed.

## 5.5.1.13 Excerpt Thirteen

" Tanner: My blood interprets for me, Ann. Poor Ricky Ticky Tavy."

The locutionary act is in the form declarative statement having punning

words .the illocutionary act is representative. The psychological state is denying. It is a world to word direction of fit.

#### 5.5.1.14 Excerpt Fourteen

"Ann: Hadn't you better go with her, Tavy?"

The locutionary act is in the form of yes /no interrogative. The illocutionary act is directive. The psychological state is asking.

## 5.5.1.15 Excerpt Fifteen

" Tanner : Do come in, Violet; and talk to us sensibly."

The locutionary act is inviting. The illocutionary act is commissive. It is a world to word direction of fit

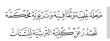
#### 5.5.1.16 Excerpt Sixteen

" Straker : That's miss Whitefield's sister, isn't it?"

The locutionary act is in the form of a tag question. The illocutionary act is representative. The psychological state is concluding.

## 5.5.1.17 Except Seventeen

"Tanner: Sarcasm, Tavy, sarcasm!









She'll put everything on us; and we shall have no more control over her than a couple of mice on a cat."

The locutionary speech act is in the form of order " get me out of it", the illocutionary act is directive. It is also expressive as he is warning his friend Tavy "Octavius" from Ann's future behavior being an ambitious woman, who might have control on them just as a cat over a couple of mice. It is a world to word direction of fit. The propositional content is begging.

5.5.1.7 Excerpt Seven "Ramsden: I shall refuse to act."

The locutionary act is in the form of a statement. The illocutionary act is representative in which Ramsden asserts that he will not accept to be a guardian of Ann alongside Tanner.it is a a word to world direction of fit. The speaker expresses a belief through the propositional content.

## 5.5.1.8 Excerpt Eight

" Tanner: He leaves you two thousand five hundred for your trouble.



He leave Tavy a dowry for his sister and five thousand for himself."

The locutionary act is a statement. The illocutionary act is representative as he states that Mr. Whitefield left Octavius a big sum of money so as to convince him to accept being a guardian of Ann. The preparatory conditions is available for felicitous speech act.

## 5.5.1.9 Excerpt Nine

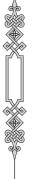
" Octavius : Oh, Jack, you are talking of saving me from my highest happiness."

The locutionary act is formed in simple sentences. The illocutionary act is expressive. The propositional content is present. While the psychological state is believing.

## 5.5.1.10 Excerpt Ten

"Ramsden: Do you suppose I would read such a book, sir?"

The locutionary act is in the form of an interrogative. The illocutionary act is a question. Ramsden is questioning Tanner's supposition of reading his



to word direction of fit. The speaker wish es the hearer to undertake courageous action by facing death. It refers to the way the words match the world. Both directives are based on a world to word direction of fit to fulfill his request must be changed according to the speaker's words.

## 5.5.1.2 Excerpt Two

"Octavius: Yes: We must face it, Mr. Ramsden, but I owed him a great deal. He did everything for me that my father could have done if he had lived."

It is a representative speech act in which Octavius asserts that Mr. Whitefield took care of him after his father's death. The locutionary speech act in the first statement is in the form of obligation. The illocutionary speech act is also expressive. It's a world to word direction of fit. The psychological state is believing.

## 5.5.1.3 Excerpt Three

" Octavius : About Ann! Oh, do tell me that, Mr. Ramsden."

The locutionary speech act is in the

form of an urgent request. The illocutionary force is directive. The psychological state is begging.

### 5.5.1.4 Excerpt Four

" Octavius : At all events I promise you shall never ask anyone else."

The words "promise" and "shall" in locutionary act reflects forceful commitment. The illocutionary act is commissive. Octavius is committing himself to Ramsden that he would ask Ann for marriage again. It is world to word direction of fit. The psychological state is promising.

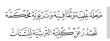
## 5.5.1.5 Excerpt Five

" Tanner: I mean our Ann, your Ann, Tavy's Ann, and now Heaven help me, my Ann."

The locutionary act is in the form of short repeated sentences. The illocutionary act is declarative. The psychological state is in the form of simple present. It is a word to world direction of fit.

## 5.5.1.6 Excerpt Six

"Tanner: Get me out of it somehow.





quest, the sincerity condition involves that the speaker wants the hearer to do the act of a request.

#### 4.4.4 Essential Conditions

They are the constitutive rules which govern the issuance required for building up an utterance related to a given speech act. For instance, in case of a request, the utterance must count as an attempt to get the hearer to do the act

Levinson (1983:245) illustrates that saying that taking these conditions altogether, one can specify the context in which a specific speech act is performed, and moreover can provide more abstract and principled classification of illocutionary acts in terms of these conditions, because they can jointly identify and constitute the nature of a particular speech act.

#### 5.5 Data Analysis Methodology

The data analysis will be based on key selected sample excerpts from Shaw's play " Man & Superman " text. Twenty samples representative



will be selected from the four acts in " Man & Superman" text.

Searle's speech act model (1979) will be applied as a model of analysis to see how feasible this model is in this kind of data analysis.

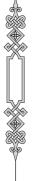
The analysis will be on two levels. The first level will be on the locutionary level. The second one will be on the illocutionary level.

### 5.5.1 Data Analyses

### 5.5.1.1 Excerpt one

" Ramsden: Well, well Octavius. It's the common lot. We must all face it someday. Sit down."

It is a directive illocutionary speech act in which Ramsden directs Octavius to sit down, and also an expressive act as Ramsden is consolidating him for the death of Mr. Whitefield. The sentence on locutionary level is an exclamation and a request. According to Searle's (1979) model, this sentence is a directive one. The illocutionary point is to direct the hearer to sit down. They designate a world



the term felicity conditions refers to the conditions that must be in place and the criteria that must be satisfied for a speech act to achieve its purpose. Also called presuppositions ( Yule 2000:55) (Justova 2006:43)

Establishing a satisfactory analysis of an illocutionary act requires that certain necessary and sufficient conditions must be fulfilled if the performance of an act is to be achieved happily and successfully, i.e., the act must be executed completely and correctly by all participants.

Searle (1969:57) sets up four kinds of conditions which govern the happy execution of an illocutionary act, so that the violation of any of them would render the act infelicitous.

# 4.4.1 Propositional Content Conditions

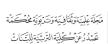
These conditions specify restrictions on the content of the speaker's utterance expressed in a sentence ( declarative, imperative, interrogative, etc.) for instance, the speech act of request: come here, please, the propositional content condition requires a future act of the hearer.

### 4.4.2 Preparatory Conditions

These conditions designate the real world prerequisites to each illocutionary act. That is, they have to do with the status of the speaker performing the act who has the right or authority to do so. They also match the appropriate utterance to the related illocutionary act. For instance, the preparatory conditions for the speech act of a request state that (i) the speaker believes that the hearer can do the act, and(ii) it is not obvious that the hearer would do the act without being asked.

## 4.4.3 Sincerity Conditions

They indicate the essential beliefs. beliefs, feelings, and intentions of the speaker, being appropriate to the type of the illocutionary act in question. If the speaker is without the appropriate beliefs or desires, the act will be considered as abuse (in Austin's term (1962:16)). For instance, for a re-







that some illocutionary acts are more closely related than others. For instance, promises and vows seem to be more alike than promises and requests. Thus Searle attempted six main types as quoted in (Parker & Riley 2005: 13):

## 3.3.2.1 Representative

It is an utterance used to describe some state of affairs, for instance, I have five toes on my right foot. This type includes acts of stating, asserting, denying, confessing, admitting, concluding, predicting and so on.

#### 3 3 2 2 Directive

It is an utterance used to try to get the hearer to do something, for instance, shut the door. This type includes acts of requesting, ordering, forbidding, warning, advising, suggesting, insisting, recommending.

### 3.3.2.3 Question

It is an utterance used to get the hearer to provide information. This type includes acts of asking, inquiring (Finch 2005:173)



#### 3.3.2.4 Commissive

In this type Searle clarifies that an utterance is used to commit the speaker to do something, for instance, I'll meet you at the library at 2:00 p.m. this type includes acts of promising, vowing, volunteering, offering, guaranteeing, betting, etc. (ibid: 14)

## 3.3.2.5 Expressive

It is an utterance used to express emotional state of the speaker, for instance, I'm sorry for being late. This type includes acts of apologizing, congratulating, welcoming, condoling, objecting, etc.

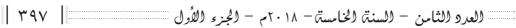
#### 3.3.3.6 Declaration

It is an utterance used to change the status of some entity, for instance, You are out. Uttered by an umpire at a baseball game (ibid). this type includes acts of appointing, naming, resigning, baptizing, surrendering, excommunicating, or resting.

4.4 Felicity Conditions and Performatives

In pragmatics and speech act theory,





tention of the speaker to do particular thing or things by uttering his words. Austin is interested in the illocutionary act as the term " speech act " is taken to mean an illocutionary act. By uttering certain words, a speaker can state, request, apologize, approve, welcome, etc. By saying, for instance, Get out, the speaker is performing the act of ordering someone to get out.

Illocutionary acts are bound with physical or psychological effects on the hearer, such effects are pragmatically known as perlocutions. Thus,

perlocution act simply refers to the consequential effects of uttering something on the audience or listener. To account for the distinction between locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts, let us examine Austin's (p.102) example: You can't do it. The locutionary act represents the uttering of "You can't do it", the illocutionary act is that of protesting ,i.e. I protested against you doing it, and the perlocutionary act is the effect of saying this sentence on the hearer, I might stop him, annoy him or persuade him to do something or not ( Levin 1976: 144 )and (Saeed 1997:212).

The distinction between an illocutionary act and a perlocutionary act lies in the fact that the latter requires the former to be successful. If the speaker is" able to successfully issue the act of ordering by saying stop her", this utterance could bring about the required perlocution by getting the hearer to stop her. Therefore, it is to be noted that the conditions required for the successful perlocutionary act involve both what the speaker says and its effect on the hearer. (Robson and Stockwell 2005:83).

3.3.2 Types of Illocutionary Speech Acts

Searle (1979) pointed out that there is endless number of illocutionary acts. There are statements, assertions, denials, requests, thanks, condolences, namings, appointments, and so forth. At the same time, he observed









or the symbol or word or sentence in the performance of the speech act ... particularly, the production or issuance of a sentence token under certain conditions is a speech act, and speech acts, are the basic or minimal units of linguistic communication. (Searle 1969:16 & 1971:39)

To sum up, a speech act theory is a theory that involves a communication activity achieved in relation to the speaker's intention and the hearer's interpretation in a certain situation under certain social conventions or rules (Rozik 1989: 131).

3.3.1 Locutionary, Illocutionary, and Perlocutionary Speech Acts

Abandoning the dichotomy of constative/performative, Austin explains that in issuing an utterance, a speaker can perform three acts simultaneously, namely: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts ( Parker & Riley 2005:13)

The locutionary act is the act of simply uttering a sentence from a language, it is a description of what the speaker says. Typically, it is the act of using a referring expression, for instance a noun phrase, and a predicating expression, a verb phrase. If a doctor says to a patient You must stop smoking. The referring expression is You, and the predicating expression is stop smoking (ibid). It is the act of uttering words that correspond to the phonological, syntactic, and semantic rules of language. In other words, a locutionary act involves three subacts (i) the act of vocal noises(the phonetic act), (ii) the act of words conforming to the lexicogrammatical rules (the phatic act), and (iii) the act of using these words with certain sense and reference (the rhetoric act). Since an act is meaningful, it can be a locutionary act.

The illocutionary speech act is what the speaker does in uttering a sentence. It has a certain force in saying something. Thus it is identified with reference to the communicative in-



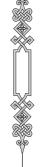
language as action. This theory had its origin in the British philosophy by J.L. Austin (1911-1960). It has been modified and developed in the course of time to be known as " speech act theory ", and later was adopted and developed by the American philosopher Searle (1969) in his influential book entitled "Speech Act "hinges on the functional side of language.

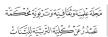
One of the facets of speech acts has to do with performative side of language use. This suggests that in addition to the particular class of statements, there are other types of utterances that are issued to perform certain actions in the world which constitute an integral part of how language is used in a community, such lists of sentences are speech acts since their occurrence requires performing or doing things. (Mey 1993: 110)

On a related direction, Yule (1996: 47) observes that the powerful speaker who says: "you are fired", is performing the act of ending an employment of the addressee, as his communication intention is recognized by the hearer. Here, both the speaker and hearer are involved in this action surrounded by certain circumstances. He calls (ibid) such circumstances the speech event, illustrating that it is the " speech event that determines the interpretation of an utterance as performing a particular speech act."

Searle stresses the significance and importance of the analysis of speech acts, since all linguistic communication implies linguistic acts. To use Searle's words, "speaking a language is performing speech acts," such as promising, swearing, commanding, requesting, etc. in this respect, Searle's theory of speech acts seems to be based on the principle that:

The unit of linguistic communication is not as has generally been supposed, the symbol, word or sentence, or even the token of the symbol, word or sentence, but rather the production of issuance of the symbol







someone who is leaving your office please close the door," you are not just saying something but making a request. Thus each speech act has two facets to it: a locutionary act "

the act of saying something ", and an illocutionary act " the act of doing something ." Prior to the advancement of pragmatic studies, the focus in the description and analysis of language was on the formal side " the phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic properties of language " rather than on the functional side, which refers to the manipulation of the linguistic forms a speaker makes in communication. For a communication to be successful, a speaker of language, in addition to his linguistic knowledge " the rules of grammar and word images ", must acquire extra-linguistic or non-linguistic knowledge about the world, as it plays a significant role in the production and understanding of a certain utterance. It is always obvious that an utterance makes sense only in its suitable context as containing all the necessary conditions required for the successful issuance of the utterance. The issues of language use,



speaker's communicative competence and his choice of linguistic and his choice of linguistic forms, hearer's interpretation of a piece of language, and the relationship between the speaker and hearer- are all discussed within the scope of pragmatics (Searle 1979:15)

The first definition of pragmatics was proposed by Morris (1938: 29) as quoted in Akmajian (2001: 361). He defined it as " the relation of signs to their users." Its addition is the identification and investigation of the intended meaning. In view of the above, the intended meaning, Bates (1976: 10) posits that " meaning is the set of mental acts or operations that a speaker intends to create in his listener by using a sentence. Utterances communicate only in so far as they cause the listener to carry out mental acts similar to those used by the speaker in creating a given meaning."

The theory of speech acts has been initiated as a reaction to many earlier linguistic theories which disregarded



bad influence of his friend, John Tanner. Then to Ramsden's amazement Tanner is announced. He has come to tell him that the girl's father has made Ramsden and himself joint guardians of the girl. Both are annoyed. Ramsden at having anything to do with Tanner, another revolutionary book of him, and Tanner at having any sort of responsibility for Ann. Suddenly, a scandal threatens Octavius' sister, Violet, who has made a secret marriage and will not disclose the name of her husband.

Act two is at Richmond where Octavius tells Tanner that Ann has rejected him. Tanner cheers him up by saying that she is only playing with him, explaining that Ann has marked him as her victim. Then Tanner talks to Ann who complains about her mother's interference with her. Tanner suggests that she should go on a motor tour with him to the continent. To his horror, she agrees. His horror is increased when his chauffeur, Straker, tells him that he is Ann's marked down victim. Tanner flies alone with Straker in his car into the wilds of Spain.

Act three opens in Sierra Navada with Tanner and Straker in the hands of brigands. There Tanner has a dream which constitutes the dialogue called " Don Juan in Hell ", the characters in the play became persons in the dream. The long dream ends, and in the morning, Ann turns up, with her mother and sister, and soldiers also arrive. Act four, which is the end of the play is in a hotel at Grenada, where a mystery of Violet's marriage is cleared up, and Ann makes her capture of Tanner complete. Through the character of Ann Whitefield, the dramatist has explored the romantic fiction that women is to be wooed and won, rather, he has demonstrated that she is the wooer and the winner. Ann is an outstanding character in early 20th century drama, and with her appearance in Man and Superman an invigorating wind blew Western Europe.

## 3.3 Speech Act Theory and Pragmatics

In his book "How TO DO Things with Words", the British philosopher John Austin had the fundamental insight that an utterance can be used to perform an act (Parker and Riley 2005:13). That is, he was the first to point out that in uttering a sentence, we can do things as well as say things. For example, if you say to









#### 1.1 Introduction

Speech Act Theory is one of the major theories of language study, especially in the fields of pragmatics and discourse analysis. It has been a reaction to Formality theories of language study and human understanding. Speech Act Theory, henceforth SAT, came into being based on a fact that language has a functional and purposeful importance in language study and in human life.

In pragmatics, SAT deals with the parasentential meaning, i.e., the meaning bevond uttered or written expressions. One of the most important theories in SAT is Searle's (1969) theory of speech acts in which he had to dig deeper into the study of the functional side of the language rather than the formal and expressive side aspect of language. Arguably, SAT begins with the work of Austin (1965) " How To Do Things with Words," and has been continued most famously by his academic followers, Searle's (1979, 1973, 1969), and Vanderveken (1990 - 1993). Austin's background was in pragmatics and language philosophy, and the concerns of these disciplines shaped the form

of the speech act theory. He also possibly benefited from earlier work of Functional linguist Roman Jacobson and the Prague School linguists.

The paper reviews and debates the correlation between pragmatics and discourse analysis from one hand as well as literary discourse and speech act theory on another hand. The paper endeavors to apply Searle's model on the literary discourse in a bid to see whether or not literary discourse carries speech acts, and finally perform an illocutionary force. The paper also seeks to validate a fact how applicable and how workable is Searle's speech act taxonomy across George Bernard Shaw's modern play " Man and Superman."

#### 2.2 Shaw's "Man and Superman"

It is one of the remarkable products of the modern age as stated by Tilak (2008:72). It opens in Portland Palace, in the study of an old-fashioned radical rationalist Roebuck Ramsden, who is consoling a young man, Octavius, on the death of a friend, father of the girl, Ann Whitefield, whom the young man expects to marry. Ramsden warns him about the



# SPEECH ACT THEORY IN SHAW>S PLAY البحوث المحكمة

#### **Abstract**

The present paper investigates the function of Searle's (1969) Speech Act Theory in literary analysis. It reviews the way language can be an action in literary discourse. The paper accounts for illocutionary performative speech acts in Shaw's play "Man & Superman" based on selected sample texts. Types of illocutionary acts and their force are accounted for with their correlation with Felicity Conditions. The paper draws on the understanding of locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts in "Man & Superman" to be analyzed. The data is a representative one. It's selected from all the four acts in the play.

الملخص يتحرى البحث الحالي تطبيق وظيفة نظرية فعل الكلام للعالم الامريكي سيرل في تحليل النصوص الادبية وكيفية عمل هذه النظرية وتطبيقها على مسرحية الكاتب جورج برنارد شو" مان و سوبرمان". سيتم تحري عبارات تنطق بها الشخصيات المسرحية وتحري انواع الافعال الكلامية المتوخاة في هذا العمل الادبي .





