



## THE REBUKE AS A SUBJECT OF ANALYSIS IN THE SPEECH ACT OF COMMUNICATION

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### ABSTRACT

This article deals with topical issues in interpersonal relations. Reprimand is primarily as an evaluative speech action regulating interpersonal relations between communicants and expressing the specifics of human conflict behaviour.

### KEYWORDS

Speech act, illocutionary, implicit, rebuking, assertive rebukes, family scenes, asymmetrical-symmetrical relations.

### INTRODUCTION

Communication between people is not only characterised by speech acts which contribute to a favourable atmosphere of interpersonal relations. For example: such as rebuke, censure, accusation, express conflicting human behaviour.

In our material, rebuke in most cases is expressed through a sequence of speech acts. Such reproaches are functional units consisting of a sequence of

elements: introductory part, main part, explanatory/reinforcing part and concluding part. There are few instances of rebukes in which all of the above elements are present; more often there are rebukes consisting of a combination of the main part and one of the additional elements.

### THE MAIN FINDINGS AND RESULTS



Human communication is characterized not only by speech acts that contribute to a favorable atmosphere of interpersonal relationships. Some of them, such as rebuke, accusation, threat to a large extent express the specifics of certain human behavior - conflict behavior. The study of specific communication situations, including conflict situations, taking into account the regularities of the real functioning of language means in them, is a necessary link in creating a theoretical model of natural conversation. Reprimand should be seen primarily as an evaluative speech action, regulating interpersonal relations between communicants and expressing the specificity of human conflict behavior. A rebuke is an expression of disapproval, disappointment, dissatisfaction on the part of the speaker, caused by provocative behavior on the part of the rebuked (the rebuked committed an action not the one the rebuker expected from him). "The reprover evaluates a phenomenon as deceiving his expectation and makes this clear to the addressee of the speech. It is important to note that when evaluating, the speaker relies not only on his subjective opinion, but also on generally accepted notions of what is good and what is bad. In rebuking something, the subject relies on the position that the relevant situation occurs, but unlike in condemnation, he or she does not state that it is bad, but rather reminds of it or indirectly points to it.

An important feature of rebuke associated with its indirectness is the reluctance of the speaker to attach too much importance to the reason for the rebuke. What the speaker is reproaching about or for exists as if on the background of a generally good attitude toward the person being reproached. The act of reproach may be a separate statement or a sequence of statements, which are oriented to achieve a certain goal (to indicate that the one being reproached has cheated one's expectations), the reason for the

reproach is assumed to be known to the addressee. By conveying the addressee's negative attitude to the object of speech, a rebuke may cause an undesirable emotional perlocutionary effect - insult, intentional misunderstanding, etc., so they often use a variety of ways to reduce categoricity, which to the greatest extent meets the requirements of the communicative postulate of politeness. Compliance with the principle of politeness implies the choice of an implicit form of rebuke, to which the speaker resorts in order to disguise his intentions, avoid open conflict and create an environment of positive interaction. To this end, predominantly rhetorical questions, ironic rebukes, and the downplaying of positive qualities are used. The reproach, as a subject of analysis, refers to evaluative speech actions, regulating interpersonal relations between communicants in the acts of communication. The reproach is one of the linguistic possibilities of indirect expression of disapproval. The reproach, undoubtedly, can be considered a lyco-threatening speech act, while the reproach, expressed indirectly, allows to preserve the positive face of the reprover.

Thus, it is in the pragmatic act of "rebuke" that the subordination to the Principles of Cooperation and Politeness, the action of which is aimed at neutralizing the rebuke, is most acutely observed. Under the speech act of reproach we propose to understand the speech act expressing disapproval in relation to the actions and deeds of the interlocutor in order to influence his emotional sphere and stimulation of guilt/shame. The speech act of reproach is a single statement (or a sequence of statements) aimed at achieving the specified goal, and a dynamic speech formation (pragmatic act) taken in the context of the situation, taking into account the actions that caused the reproach, and the recipient's response. The specifics of the Speech Act "rebuke" is that it correlates with the action of the present or past tense,



as a person rebukes another for something already done or imperfect. Assertive rebukes are most often rebukes about the past, and Directive rebukes about the future. The reaction to such a speech act can be a mutual reproach, justification, admission or rejection of one's guilt, as it can be seen from the above example. The study of the reasons preventing the explication of the rebuke intention by the verb reproach and the expression of a negative evaluation does not clash with the illocutionary purpose of the speaker. Expressing reproach about the committed/incomplete (but desired) action by the communication partner, the speaker is not trying to hide his disapproval, disappointment, thus, the "subversive factor" will refer to the factors of social, communicative nature. Observations of the linguistic material have shown that the reproach is a speech action of a bidirectional nature. On the one hand, a rebuke implicates the causality of such behavior as a result of provocative behavior on the part of the one being rebuked (he/she committed a "bad" action, not the one the rebuker expected from him/her). On the other hand, rebuke reflects inadequate behavior of the speaker (expression of disapproval, disappointment, dissatisfaction) that does not comply with the rules of both speech and non-verbal behavior and this characterizes the illocutionary purpose as conflictual, unacceptable in terms of the social nature of the communicants' relationship.

All this creates a conflict situation of communication. A.G. Pospelova singles out reproaches of assertive and directive type, which can be oriented both to the past and to the events of the present. The author refers reproaches to the so-called "fused" speech acts, which include as obligatory an emotional component fused with the illocutionary one. The analysis of the linguistic material shows the possibility of conveying the conflict intention of the speaker by

linguistic means. The principle of linguistic politeness is defined as the leading one, as it allows masking the "impolite" intentions of the reprover by linguistic means with indirect and implicit meanings. Since rebuke is a potentially dangerous action for the rebuker (he is responsible for non-cooperative behavior), he chooses the strategy of indirect expression of rebuke, thus avoiding the responsibility for damage to his reputation, because the responsibility for the correct interpretation of illocutionary force in this situation lies on the rebuked. The use of indirect forms is caused by the desire of the reprover to avoid open conflict; the mitigation of conflict illocution is ensured by linguistic means. The indirect expression of intention is connected with the use of means of other speech acts, when a sentence containing the indicators of illocutionary force for one type of the illocutionary act can be pronounced in order to perform the illocutionary act of another type. The implicit meaning of the utterance is revealed only at direct speech communication. Outside of the situation of communication, such a speech act, in the following example, cannot be understood as a rebuke. The hero! Nick the conqueror! Nick the showman! In order to achieve his communicative goal, the rebuker mostly uses rhetorical questions, ironic reproaches, understatement of positive qualities, character traits.

The choice of linguistic means in the speech action "rebuke" is determined by the nature of the relationship between the communicants, the situation of communication and other factors that constitute the communicative competence of a native speaker. The most important of them, influencing the embodiment of the communicative intent of the reproach, are the factor of the addressee (the reproach is always addressed to someone), status-role equality and inequality of the partners in communication (the reprover assumes the role of the



Parent, who knows better how things should be in the world), as well as the communication distance between them. The analysis of the modifications of the communicative situation has shown that the combination of pragmatic variables (asymmetrical-symmetrical relations of communicants, positional advantage, distant/close communication distance) determines the functioning of various language forms.

In a situation where the subject and the object of evaluation coincide (in the situation of self-reproach), the expression of rebuke is defined as the individual's desire for self-regulation of his or her personality. Self-reproach refers to one of the types of interiorized speech actions that do not require direct verbal feedback, but rather designed for psychological feedback, the source of which must be another person. The whole variety of reasons causing self-reproach comes down to the following: properties, qualities of the person, as well as the action/inaction of the person, which caused the actualization of the component "blame" (self-reproach -the act of finding fault with or blame oneself). How can I have been so blind and so stupid? When analyzing the various forms and ways of expressing the rebuke, it was noticed that all of them characterize an indirect way of communicative intention of the speaker.

The variety of existing means of rebuke expression is created by excluding the verbal denotation of a negative evaluation (the method of excluding the evaluative component from the verbal composition of a speech act helps to reduce the traumatic effect of evaluation) and comparing the real situation with the desired one from the point of view of the rebuked (subjective evaluation factor). The reproach can be expressed not only with the help of verbal means. It is important to analyse the non-verbal components in realising the illocutionary force of a reproach. Non-verbal components - looks, gestures, intonation,

manner of behaviour, silence - play an important role in the realization of communicative intent of reproach, provide a more complete, effective expression: He looked reproachfully at Paul.

The intonation also plays an important role, which models the pragmatic variation of reproach: gentle reproach, dignified reproach, mild reproach. It has been found that communicatively meaningful silence is capable of preserving the intentional content of the speech act. It could be argued that the reasons specifying the "silent" reproach are explained by the nature of the relationship between the communication partners. Silent reproaches are addressed to close people, friends.

The main reason for the rebuke of silence is not to offend the person being rebuked for an unintentional act. The unintentional nature of the act is obvious to the person being rebuked. You have to remember that the rebuke is damaging to the positive person being rebuked and the conflict can be resolved with a speech act like an apology.

But if the person being rebuked questions the right of the rebuker to make an evaluation, then the reactive rejoinder signals a communicative failure. Responses on the part of the accused (indignation, rebuffs, an indication that the reproach is unfounded, etc.) are caused by the accused's striving to save his "face/reputation" and contribute to a worsening of interpersonal relations and provoke a conflict situation: accusations, quarrels, scolding, recriminations, insults, etc. Undoubtedly, it is worth agreeing with E.V. Kliuyev that "everything that is formulated too 'bluntly' risks being socially condemned" [Kliuyev 1998:80]. [Kliuyev 1998:80].

The rebuke is one of the so-called "lycosuppressive" speech acts, i.e. it contains a potential danger of occurrence and development of communicative



conflict, so it is important to continue studying the factors contributing to conflict and what is especially important for the practice of English language teaching, from a linguistic point of view. The study of such factors will allow communication partners to carry out their speech intention more effectively. First of all, the Speech Act of "rebuke" is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon, which should be studied taking into account semantic, grammatical and pragmatic aspects. On the other hand, the investigated speech act of reproach expresses a negative attitude to the action or statement of the interlocutor, thus it is an informative, evaluative or imperative statement and has a certain embodiment in speech with the help of means of expression, which use in a particular situation depends on several reasons: on the speaker's intentions, on the nature of the remark and on the features of the speech situation. Thus, the speech act "rebuke" is an act expressing the speaker's negative attitude to the interlocutor's action or statement, representing an informative, evaluative or imperative statement with various emotional connotations (judgement, disapproval and others) and having in speech a certain embodiment. The entire speech act "rebuke" can be divided into assertive type or directive type rebukes.

## CONCLUSION

Self-recriminations. The functional group of self-reproaches is represented by speech acts of rebuke, the addressee and the addressee of which is the same person. The illocutionary purpose is for the speaker to express dissatisfaction with his or her own actions or behaviour. Self-reproach is characterised by the direct targeting of the speaker by means of a personal pronoun as the subject. The expressiveness of the self-pronunciation depends on the communicative situation as well as the speaker's subjective

assessment of the extent of the harm caused to others and to oneself.

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