

Exercises on Speech Acts

I. Choose two illocutionary acts and give three different locutions which would express each act.

Congratulate - request - apologize - warn - thank.

II. Read the following utterances and then

(i) Specify two possible illocutionary forces for each.

(ii) Provide a situation for each illocution

- (a) Is this your coat On the floor?
- (b) I can't hear a word.
- (c) I'll tell your father.
- (d) I had a flat tyre
- (e) It is seven o'clock
- (f) It is getting quite late.
- (g) It is raining outside.

III. For each of the utterances below

- 1) name the speech act performed
- 2) describe two of its felicity conditions
- 3) decide whether the speech act is direct or indirect and explain in terms of sentence structure

- a) Can you make your bed?
- b) Have a safe journey.
- c) Where do you live?
- d) I wonder what happened to Mary.
- e) I hear there's a fire in the next building.
- f) Enjoy yourself
- g) Can you people at the back hear me?
- h) Is this the new dress you bought yesterday for 5000 SR?
- i) Where is your book?

IV. For each of the following utterance

(i) name the speech act performed

(ii) Describe two of its felicity conditions.

- (a) Where's the book?
- (b) I promise I'll come tonight.
- (c) I name this ship the queen Elizabeth.
- (d) Don't smoke.