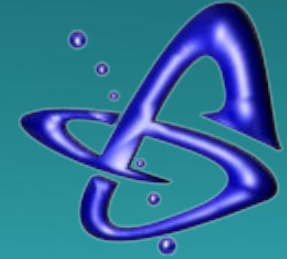




UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL EXPERIMENTAL
"FRANCISCO DE MIRANDA"
APRENDIZAJE DIALÓGICO INTERACTIVO
EDUCACIÓN MENCIÓN INGLÉS
U.C. ANÁLISIS DEL DISCURSO

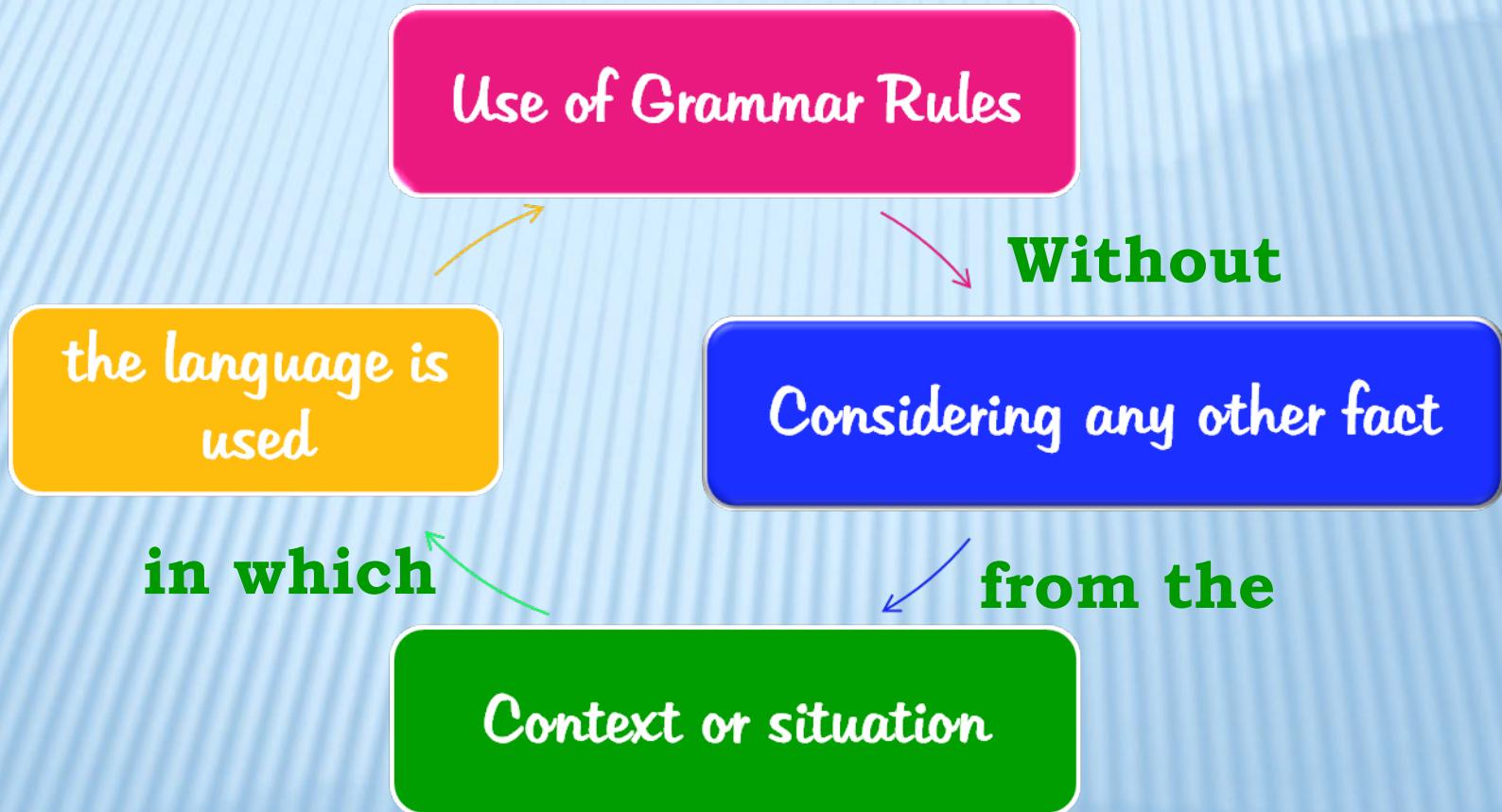


The Theory of Speech Acts

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SANTA ANA DE CORO; MAYO DE 2009

Correctness



Appropriateness

Whether we say or write is appropriate

We are speaking

Context where the communication is taking place

Of the language

the respect for the rules

According to the

Taking into consideration

Signification



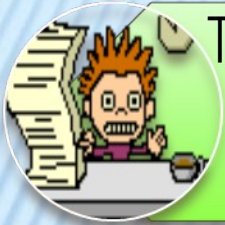
The meaning that words, phrases, sentences or expressions take when they are used in isolation, that is *descontextualized*.



The meaning that a linguistic item has by itself.



Value



The meaning that those words, phrases, expressions or sentences adopt when they are used in context.



That contextual meaning can change as the context changes, which implies that the meaning they can adopt is infinite.



The meaning that a linguistic item has depending on the situation in which it is being used.



Let's Analyze



CASE 1

- Let's go dancing!
- *It's too late!*



CASE 2

- What time is it?
- *It's too late!*



CASE 3

- May I come in?
- *It's too late!*

The Theory of Speech Acts

THE MAIN AIM OF THIS THEORY IS:

We can do things with words



I sentence
you to
death



Describe



Apologize

Ritualized expressions

It is obvious that in some “Ritualized Expressions” saying is equivalent to doing; such as:

I pronounce them Man and Wife

I name this Building Arai

I order you to clean the house

Their use operates appropriately only in situations in which certain conditions are given and the one who speaks is socially or academically invested with the authority necessary for saying them.

The Theory of Speech Acts

Discourse is a social phenomena rather than a linguistic one.



The theory of speech acts explains how communication functions in social interactions.

The Theory of Speech Acts

It is just by analyzing LANGUAGE USE in natural contexts that we can draw reliable conclusions about what is grammatically possible, feasible, appropriate, and really used in a language.



Austin (1962) and Searle (1981) established that whenever we say something, three simultaneous acts are performed:

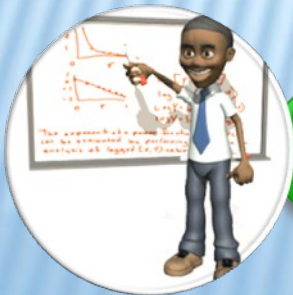
Locutionary Act



Is the act of saying or writing something in a language.



It should be constructed by respecting the grammatical rules of the language we are speaking.



It can be analyzed syntactically, morphologically, phonetically, etc.

Illocutionary Act



Is the "intention" we have when saying or writing something.



The real Value that it takes because of the context where it is uttered.

For Example:

I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY

- Son-Father
- Girlfriend-boyfriend
- Classmates

Perlocutionary Act



Is the effect produced in the listener or reader when they listen or read a locutionary act.

For Example:

**I DON'T HAVE
ANY MONEY**

•Accepting the request

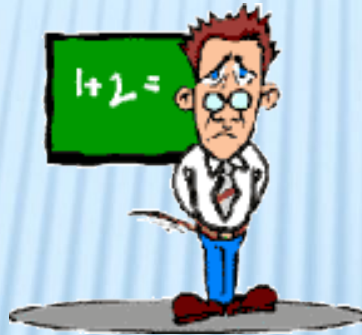


•Denying the request



Classification of Illocutionary Acts

In colloquial language use we don't really mean what we say. In these cases the listener/reader must infer our illocutionary acts since the meaning is not directly expressed in our message.



The Philosopher Searle (1981) established a classification which is useful for inferring the illocutionary force or value of an utterance in a given discourse.

Classification of Illocutionary Acts



Commissive Illocutionary Acts

A promise or a threat.

If you don't pay the bill we'll call the police

Repeat



Declarative Illocutionary Acts

Suggestions, requests or a command.

Please, come in!

Classification of Illocutionary Acts

Expressive Illocutionary Acts



An apology, a complain, thank or congratulate.

The letter was so beautiful; I'm sorry for being late.

Representative Illocutionary Acts

A claim, a report

*The rain destroyed the crops
This is a German car.*



Direct and Indirect Speech Acts

Any speech act can be *Direct* or *Indirect*.
It depends on the speaker.

Direct

The locutionary act and the illocutionary act coincide.

The intention is expressed in the message

Indirect

There is no coincidence between the type of illocutionary act and the syntactic structure of the message

The intention is not explicitly expressed in the message



**Now, let us
Practice**



Thanks for your attention!

