

SPEECH ACT THEORY: ANALYSIS OF “THE KILLERS” BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY

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ABSTRACT

This article aims at, to prove Ernest Hemingway as a writer of horror, men and masculinity by applying speech act theory as an objective tool. The description of a character by its characteristics is a difficult task, but when there is a use of objective tool it becomes easier. Characters come in front of us like living person. A person can easily see his or his faults. He can give him or her bad values. The writings of a writer are the shadow of his beliefs and ideologies. Therefore by analyzing the characters we can analyze nature of writer.

LITERATURE REVIEW

It is utmost desire that our children obtain knowledge that is important for them like “never play with fire”, “work excellent”, “stop crying” etc. then we use declaration that became reflective of paradigmatic use of communication i.e. we can request, argue, say thanks, give excuses, can promises and instruct etc. but for creating and reacting the logical discourse it is necessary to conclude. Approaching such abilities want the realizing of word creating this knowledge is the true meaning of what is called speech act theory. Speech act theory gives us the meaning of knowing the concealed meaning of discourse and creating the function of what is said. Simply, speech act theory try to make clear how performer uses language to get planned works and how hearer concludes the meaning. What is said, which will, why is not are issue of saying something, to some fact. Austin gave difference between two types of performatives.

- 1- Explicit
- 2- Inexplicit

Austin competed that these stating facts which are neither false nor true are explicit performative utterance for examples a performative promise is not the report that one is promising. It is different kind of act that, usual type (promising) named by performative verb such as “I promise to be good” is a proper way is not a only issue of saying or telling something. They are making this promise. In view of fact that promising is an illocutionary act according to performative act, on the opposite Austin said that sentence may be acted without the purpose to maintain the promise then it is called “infelicitous” according to felicity condition.

Though there are explicit or inexplicit performatives for example, if an important person says “sit” in order to ordering someone to sit then this utterance is a part of performance of a command. The statement cannot be judged as true or false so this statement is performative. Still this statement is not an explicit performative so we cannot say with surety that speaker is performing commanding act.

- 1- A locutionary act: saying something with a definite meaning in usual sense

- 2- An illocutionary act: performing an act in saying something
- 3- A perlocutionary act: the act performed by means of what is said.

Searle gave five illocutionary /perlocutionary points.

Assertive: the utterances in which there is assertiveness is assertive

Directives: the utterances in which there is act of doing something

Commissives: Statements which hand over the speaker to a course of action as described by propositional content.

Declaratives: These statements show process of changing in such a way these statements change the world.

Expressive: these statements express personal things of speaker. They have ability to be polite as in wishing, thanking etc.

Introduction of “The Killers”

“The Killers” was written in 1927 by Ernest Hemingway. There are two main characters in this story

- 1- Al
- 2- Max

The story is about two killers Al and Max ,both entered in Henrey ‘s lunchroom.They acted like jerks by giving George all time, they also frightened Nick Adams.They were asking about Paul Anderson, they wanted to kill him on the behalf of their one friend.

Masculinity

Masculinity means male domination in society. He belonged to a male dominant society so his writings show masculinity. The same thing we can see in “The killers”. It can be said that masculinity is opposite to feminism, it was masculinity that rose the movement of feminism.

Analysis of text

Text	Analysis
1-Al:“you talk too damn much” Al said The Nigger and my bright boy are amused by themselves. I got them tide up like a couple of girl friends in the convent.	1-The nigger and my bright boy are amused by themselves (information,public opinion)
2-Max: “Bright boy can do everything” Max said he can cook and everything. You would make some girl a nice wife bright boy. you would make some girl a nice wife bright boy (suggestive)	2-You talk too damn much(statement,information,personal opinion)
3-Max: What are you looking at?Max looked at George.”The hell you were looking at me”	1-Bright boy can do everything (statement,opinion,information) 2-You would make some girl a nice wife bright boy (suggestive)
4-Max:You don”t have to laugh Max said to George.You don”t have to to laugh at all,see?	1-What are you looking at? (question) 2-The hell you were looking at me (information,reaction)
5-He never had a chance to do anything to us said Al,He never even see us.	1-You don”t have to laugh (order) 2-You don”t have to laugh at all see? (emphasize>alert,order)
1-You talk too damn much(statement,information,personal opinion)	1-He never had a chance to do anything to us (statement,information,opinion)

List of acts

Opine: an act of giving personal opinions.

Inform: an act of giving information.

Suggest: an act of giving suggestion.

Praise: an act of giving admiration.

Order: an act of ordering.

Surprise: an act of surprising someone.

Greet: an act of wishing someone.

Thanks: an act of showing humbleness to someone.

Promise: an act of giving promise to someone.

Respond: an act of answering someone.

Conclude: an act of ending something.

Offer: an act of giving something to someone.

Elicit: an act of getting information of a reaction.

Threaten: an act of terrifying someone.

Apologise: an act of being sorry.

Check: Examine (something) in order to determine its accuracy, quality, or condition, or to detect the presence of something;

TABLE 1: AL

Acts	Frequency	Percentage
opine	2	20%
inform	3	30%
state	1	10%

TABLE 2: MAX

Act	Frequency	Percentage
Alert	1	10%
Question	2	20%
React	1	10%
Emphasize	1	10%
Order	1	10%
Inform	2	20%
Praise	1	10%
state	1	10%
Opine	1	10%

CONCLUSION

From above discussion we come to know that Al and Max all the time gave order, information and their own personal opinion. They are not listening anyone else. This shows their independent and horrifying nature. They were continuously terrifying all members of restaurant. As the fact shows that out of 141 utterances, 58 were spoken by Al and 83 were spoken by Max. 58.86% was Max and 41.13% was Al. Max's utterances were more than Al. He spoke a lot in whole story. His utterances were (question 20%, inform 20%). He is

controlling conversation in whole play. Max has ability to speak a lot and his much conversation shows masculinity by Ernest Hemingway.

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