

Speech Acts As Evidence in Bottom Line and General Issues in Voice 89.9fm, Ado Ekiti and Newcruse 92.7fm, Ikere Ekiti, Ekiti State

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ABSTRACT

Original research paper

Speech act or the act of speech utilization was very important in communication and day to day discussion. This study examined the speech acts that were evidence in bottom line and general issues in the two stations of voice 89.9FM and Newcruse 92.7FM. to carry out the study, five editions of the programme in the two stations were analysed, thus, making a total of 10 editions in all. More so, each of the edition was critically analysed in order to determine the speech acts in the edition. The finding of the study revealed that the speech act either in the bottom and general issues could take the forms of assertives, declaratives and expressives. The author concluded that speech act in the general issues and bottom line was more assertives. It was recommended that speech act should guide the way we communicate as well as the way we conduct communication.

Keywords: Speech Act, Bottom Line, General Issues, Assertives, Declaratives, Expressives.

1. Introduction

It has been affirmed through scholarly research that language is pivotal to every human activity, radio programmes inclusive. The general perception of those that study pragmatics is to recognize the basic principles of communication that is interactive (Harris, 2000). As the earliest form of electronic mass communication, radio quickly became embedded in the everyday communicative patterns of modern society. It has remained a trusted medium for sharing information, offering entertainment, and fostering audience

engagement through a wide range of programme formats. Among the various radio formats, the phone-in segment stands out. This involves audience members calling into live shows to converse with hosts or guests, and has been the subject of extensive academic analysis due to its communicative and participatory nature.

A number of studies have been carried out on radio programme discourse. Some of these have focused on the subset of sport discourse (Osisanwo, 2012; Alolade 2020). Specifically, Alolade (ibid.) examined the pragma-stylistic manifestations in sport discourse from selected radio stations in Ibadan Metropolis. Similarly,

Conelia Ilie (2001) studied entertainment of TV talk shows and averred that “the international conversation will determine how culture affects the flow of spoken discourse”. However, little attention has been paid to the exploration of pragmatic tactics in radio conversational programmes especially within the context of general issues and current affairs in Nigeria. Therefore, this study identifies and analyse speech acts that are evident in “Bottom line” and “General Issues” in the two radio stations. It must be noted that While on a live radio programme, inflammatory statements, foul/abusive languages such as cursing, ridiculing and insulting co-participants are not acceptable. The principle of decency and politeness must be strictly adhered in radio programmes. These are areas considered to be less examined by scholars in diplomatic communication in Nigeria, thus, addressing the lacuna of the current study. In doing this, the study is divided into five parts, introduction, literature review, methodology, empirical results and conclusions and recommendations.

2. Literature Review

This review of literature is divided into three namely conceptual, theoretical and empirical review.

Conceptual

Concept and Interpretation of Speech Acts

The term speech act refers to an utterance that performs a function in communication beyond merely conveying information. Rather than being limited to stating facts, speech acts involve doing something through speaking, such as making a request, offering an apology, issuing a command, or giving a promise. The concept was initially introduced by philosopher J.L. Austin in his seminal work *How to Do Things with Words* (1962), where he argued that utterances can carry out actions. Later, John Searle (1969) expanded this theory by classifying speech acts into various categories based on their communicative purpose. From a practical standpoint, actions carried out using language fall within the concept of speech acts. According to Yule (1996), a speech act involves performing an action through spoken words. For instance, if an employer says, “You are fired!”, the statement itself enacts the dismissal of the employee. In this case, the utterance directly causes a change in the employee’s position or role (Mey, 1994). Dylgjeri (2017) further explains that speech act theory explores the way individuals accomplish different actions through verbal communication and how particular

outcomes result from what is spoken. Similarly, Wijana (2021) describes speech acts as any action a speaker may carry out by expressing certain words. Language often carries underlying or unspoken meanings as well.

Levinson’s perspective also aligns with the view expressed by Griffith. According to Griffith in 2006, a speech act is not limited to the act of speaking alone but involves the entire communication setting. This includes the background situation in which the speech occurs, the people involved, any earlier verbal or physical exchanges, and even nonverbal features that help convey meaning. Austin, as cited in Cutting in 2002, introduced the idea of felicity conditions, which are the appropriate circumstances and roles of the people involved that must be understood and accepted by everyone for the speech act to be effective. Furthermore, the intended action must be fully performed and supported by the right intentions. For example, if someone says “I sentence you to five months in prison,” the statement would be meaningless or inappropriate unless it is said by an authorized person such as a judge in a courtroom setting.

The Classification of Speech Acts

Speech act theory falls under the study of pragmatics, which focuses on how language is used and how spoken or written expressions produce meaning and effect within both verbal and nonverbal. Speech acts are commonly grouped into five main categories, which are;

- **Declarations:** Declarations are speech acts that result in an immediate change in the state of affairs simply by being spoken. Such utterances often have the power to alter a situation due to the speaker’s authority or role. Common examples include approving, naming, resigning, blessing, confirming, and dismissing. For instance, when someone says, “I quit this job,” they are not just making a statement—they are also performing the act of resignation through their words.
- **Representatives:** This category refers to speech acts where the speaker expresses something they believe to be true. These include actions like asserting, describing, reporting, arguing, complaining, and informing. For example, the sentence “I met your sister yesterday” is a representative act in which the speaker is providing information about a past encounter.
- **Expressive:** Expressive speech acts convey the speaker’s emotions or attitudes regarding a specific situation. These acts do not provide factual

information but instead reflect personal feelings. Examples include apologizing, thanking, congratulating, praising, and regretting. When a speaker says, "I like your house very much," they are expressing admiration or appreciation.

- **Directives:** Directive speech acts are aimed at encouraging or influencing the listener to take some action. They include forms such as commands, requests, suggestions, or invitations. An example is "Would you like to come to my tea party?" Here, the speaker is making a polite request for the listener's presence at an event.
- **Commissive:** Commissive speech acts occur when the speaker makes a commitment to a future course of action. These include promising, offering, vowing, refusing, or volunteering. For instance, when someone says, "I will be there at five o'clock," they are making a promise to be present at a specific time.

Conceptualize Bottom Line and General Issues

The idea of bottom lining can be applied during meetings to help reach the main point of a conversation more efficiently. This concept involves communicating clearly and briefly by focusing on the core message instead of giving lengthy explanations or detailed narratives. Akingbade (2024) opined that the idiom "bottom line" is used to refer to the most important or essential point of an issue, statement, or decision. It is a phrase that summarizes the main idea or conclusion of something. The figurative meaning of this idiom is to get to the crux of the matter and avoid any unnecessary details or distractions. Furthermore, Ojo (2025) argued that bottom line is usage is in five stages;

- The bottom line is that we need to cut costs if we want to stay profitable.
- She was too emotional during the meeting, but her boss cut straight to the bottom line.
- I don't care about the details, give me the bottom line.
- After several rounds of negotiations, they finally agreed on the bottom line.
- The bottom line is that we need to hire more employees to meet our production goals.

Moreover, Ojo (2024) further pointed out that the concept is synonyms in English language to refer to;

- Main point
- Core issue
- Crucial point

- Essential element
- Central argument

The general issues is always in confusion or generally speaking the word that compasses the entire process or communication in view. Akinlo (2023) opined that in general issues it may be difficult for the listeners to pin point the main ingredient of the discourse or communication. This according to the author may lead to confusion and lack of understanding of the main concept to the listeners. To solve this problem the author approves the break down of the general issues into the different segment of the main issues, thus, increasing understanding of the listeners. In communication in particular, it is better to communicate mainly in the main point so that listeners may be able to understand and take the needed action. This according to Olorunleke (2024) is necessary for the purpose of clarification. Therefore, while the general issues may be confused, lack understanding for the listeners, the main point may help in its clarification.

Pragmatics: A Necessity in Speech Act

Language plays a crucial role in everyday human interaction and communication. It serves as a medium through which individuals convey their thoughts and ideas, making mutual understanding essential. Yule (1996) explains that pragmatics deals with how meaning is interpreted within a given context, focusing on what people intend to communicate and how their surroundings affect the interpretation of their words. Expanding on this, Griffiths (2006) describes pragmatics as a study that explores the mental tools people use to create meaning. This includes both vocabulary knowledge and the structures used to build complex ideas during communication. In essence, pragmatics involves an understanding of how language interacts with real-world knowledge and situational context. Leech (1983) also defines pragmatics as the examination of how speech gains meaning depending on the situation in which it is used. Billy (2020) adds that pragmatics explores how communication often extends beyond the literal meanings of the words spoken. It is a branch of linguistics that analyzes how language forms relate to the circumstances in which they are used. According to Taguchi and Kadar (2023), experts in this field focus on how speakers create, interpret, and share meaning within various social situations to fulfill communication goals. Based on the above viewpoints, pragmatics can be understood as the study of how utterances gain meaning through context,

guiding speakers to choose the most appropriate expressions to effectively convey their intentions.

In the study of language and its related disciplines, pragmatics focuses on how meaning is influenced by context. This area includes several key elements such as implicature, speech acts, conversational relevance, and interaction patterns. Pragmatic theories often complement semantic theories, which are more concerned with meanings that are encoded in grammar and vocabulary. The capacity to grasp what a speaker truly means, beyond the literal words used, is referred to as pragmatic competence (Betti, 2021). Yule (1996, p. 3) describes pragmatics as the exploration of how meaning is communicated by the speaker and interpreted by the listener. From this perspective, pragmatic analysis emphasizes the intended message behind utterances rather than simply interpreting the dictionary meanings of words. Importantly, meaning in pragmatics is not viewed as fixed or static. Instead, as Verschueren (1999) points out, it is constructed and shaped dynamically during communication.

Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis

Both pragmatics and discourse analysis explore how language functions within specific contexts. While pragmatics examines how meaning is shaped by context, discourse analysis looks at how both spoken and written texts relate to their social environments. These two areas of study are often seen as overlapping or interdisciplinary because they both focus on context-dependent elements of language use (Barron and Schneider, 2014). Many methods used in discourse analysis are considered pragmatic in approach, as they prioritize the study of interaction and communicative function over grammatical structure. This includes emerging subfields such as discourse pragmatics and critical pragmatics, which emphasize how language operates within real-world social interactions.

Conversational Principles, Discourse Participants and Turn Taking as Relevant Pragmatic Tools

Conversational Principles

In the field of conversation studies, one of the most important ideas is the cooperative principle. This principle is based on the assumption that individuals engaged in conversation usually aim to communicate in ways that are truthful, relevant, clear, and appropriately detailed. Grice, in 1989, introduced this concept to explain how people naturally follow certain unwritten

rules that make communication effective. According to him, individuals generally strive to ensure that their message is understandable and contributes meaningfully to the discussion. To further explain this idea, Grice outlined what he called the maxims of conversation. These maxims act as informal guidelines that people typically observe to make their exchanges coherent and productive.

Discourse Participants

Discourse involves both those who create messages and those who interpret them. The creators may be speakers, writers, or individuals who design the structure of a message, while the receivers are those who listen, read, or observe and provide feedback. For instance, in a radio show, communication may occur between a host and a guest. However, the person delivering the message might not always be its original author. In many communication settings, particularly in the media, the final output is often shaped by multiple contributors such as editors, content writers, producers, and technical staff who each play a role in shaping what the audience receives.

Turn Taking

In normal conversation, people engage in a process called turn taking, where they alternate between speaking and listening. This process allows for an organized and respectful exchange of ideas. While one person speaks, the other listens, and when one finishes, the other has the chance to respond. According to Nikolaeva in 2018, turn taking goes beyond spoken words and often includes body language, facial expressions, and gestures that guide the flow of the interaction. As the conversation progresses, each participant must be attentive and know when to contribute and when to pause, ensuring that communication remains smooth and cooperative.

Transition Relevant Point

A transition relevant point is the moment in conversation when a speaker completes their turn, allowing another participant to begin speaking. It is crucial for maintaining smooth and respectful dialogue. Listeners often recognize this point through verbal cues like completed sentences or pauses, and nonverbal signals such as eye contact or gestures. In both casual and formal interactions, observing transition points helps prevent interruptions and ensures orderly communication. This process supports turn taking and promotes mutual understanding. By recognizing when to speak and when to pause, participants contribute to

effective and cooperative exchanges in everyday and structured conversations alike.

Theoretical framework

This research adopts the analytical perspective initially developed by Grice in 1974. In his later discussion in 1989, Grice offers a scenario to illustrate how meanings are shaped within conversations. He describes two people speaking about a mutual friend who has recently started working at a bank. One of them asks how the friend is settling in, and the other responds, "Oh, quite well, I think. He likes his coworkers and he has not been to prison yet." Grice draws attention to the final remark, explaining that it conveys more than its surface meaning. Although the literal interpretation refers only to the friend's lack of criminal history, the speaker's intended message carries an additional, implied meaning that is shaped by social and conversational context. Grice emphasizes that such implications do not originate from the literal definitions of the words but from the expectations that guide natural communication. These implications are different from concepts like presupposition and entailment, which depend more directly on word meanings. Grice (ibid: 25) argues that conversational implicatures (CIs) are based on the assumptions in which the maxims are being well-maintained in which the speaker(s) implicates (Q) if:

1. (S) is supposed to be adopting the maxims.
2. The assumption (Q) is requisite to preserve (1)
3. (U) considers the receiver will recognize (2)

Schiffrin (1994, p. 9) offers a valuable summary of Grice's theoretical approach, suggesting that his main argument is that individuals rely on minimal assumptions to draw highly specific conclusions about what a speaker truly intends. A political example of implicature can be seen in Hillary Clinton's comment regarding Iraq and war, where she stated, "Iraq was Bush's Vietnam." This likely refers to George W. Bush and the conflict in Iraq, implying that the rationale behind entering the Iraq war may have been as flawed as the reasons that led the United States into the Vietnam War.

Implicature has been selected in this study's analytical framework to help explain how diplomatic language operates during press conferences. From a pragmatic point of view, such responses aim to maintain politeness and adhere to cooperative communication. However, speakers occasionally bend or violate Grice's conversational maxims, which results in indirect messages or multiple layers of meaning. These subtle

deviations often enhance the informativeness and appeal of the speaker's response, making it both more engaging and strategically vague when necessary.

Empirical Review

Several scholars have carried out research on the speech act of making requests. One such study is by Shams and Afghari (2011), titled *Effects of Culture and Gender in Comprehension of Speech Acts of Indirect Request*. This research aimed to explore how Iranian speakers understand and interpret indirect requests in everyday conversation. The findings revealed that participants generally preferred using indirect forms of request rather than direct expressions, regardless of their cultural background. This preference is attributed to the desire to maintain politeness, as directness in communication is often seen as threatening to the listener's social image.

Another relevant study is by Nina Sulistyowati (2012), entitled *A Pragmatic Analysis on the Speech Act on Request Used by the Main Character in The Pursuit of Happiness*. Her work focused on identifying the various types and strategies of request used by the film's main character, applying Trosborg's framework for request types and Tsui's model for responses. The results indicated that the character employed four distinct types of requests: unconventionally indirect, conventionally indirect based on the hearer, conventionally indirect based on the speaker, and direct requests. Additionally, seven request strategies were identified, including the use of hints, questioning the hearer's willingness or ability, suggestive expressions, statements of personal need or demand, statements of obligation, necessity, and use of imperatives. The analysis also found that the responses to these requests could be grouped into three categories: positive responses, negative responses, and delayed or temporary responses.

Ogunniyi (2022) examined the prominence of usage of speech act in general issues and bottom line among freelance journalists in Lagos State, Nigeria, using a descriptive research design. Three hundred and fifty (350) freelance journalists were selected for the survey and the instrument used was distributed accordingly. The descriptive statistics and inferential statistics of factor analysis were used to analysis the data for the study. Meanwhile, from the 350 copies of questionnaire distributed to the respondents only 330 were corrected returned. The result of the factor analysis revealed that speech act was prominently used in bottom line than in the general issues. the author concluded that speech act

was more impactful when referring to the bottom-line issues than the general point in speech usage.

Akintaju and Ogundele (2023) investigated the pragmatic tactics in broadcasting in some selected private television programmes in Lagos State. In order to empirically carry out the study, the author selected 20 private television that did programmes on family health issue and carefully selected 2 respondents each from each of the television stations, thus, making forty respondents. The forty respondents were put in discussion groups by the authors and asked to discuss some selected health issues already specified in the schedule questionnaire gave to the discussants. The result of the study showed that the respondents were more active when discussing the main point of a particular health question but passive when discussing the general issues. The author concluded that the issue on bottom line was better discussed by the respondent than the general issue. Therefore, the pragmatic tactics in broadcasting was more active, effective and fuller in main issue than in the general issues.

Kortmann (2020) examined the effect of speech act on bottom line and general issues in farming programme on selected audience in Radio Asian using discussant group research design. One hundred and twenty respondents which were audience and listeners of the radio programme were selected and the researcher took note of the general use of speech act as it related to bottom line and general issues concerning the farming programme. The result of the finding was descriptively analysis. The finding revealed that audience concentrated on more on bottom line when discussing the main point than the general issues. The author concluded that speech act had a positive effect on bottom line than on the general issues.

Li (2013) conducted a study to examine how speech acts influence bottom-line discussions compared to general topics. The research employed a survey method, targeting 230 viewers of a well-known programme aired on Channel Television in China. Data collection was done through questionnaires administered to the purposively selected sample. Out of the 230 questionnaires distributed, 200 were completed and returned appropriately for analysis. Chi-square (X^2) was used to test the hypothesis. The findings indicated that speech acts appeared more frequently in bottom-line discussions than in conversations about general matters. Based on this, the study concluded that speech acts play a more significant role in bottom-line interactions.

According to Yule (1996), a speech act refers to an action carried out through spoken words. This concept highlights how language is not only used to convey information but also to perform certain functions. For instance, when an employer states, "You are fired," the statement itself enacts the termination of the employee. In this case, the speaker is not merely describing an action but is actually executing it through language. This illustrates how certain utterances can bring about real-world consequences and alter a person's status or situation.

Moeschler (1998) also notes that there is an ongoing discussion among philosophers and linguists about whether speech act theory can be effectively applied to the analysis of discourse. At the heart of this debate is the view that conversation is made up of a sequence of individual speech acts.

3. Methodology

This research adopted a descriptive qualitative design. Qualitative research involves procedures that generate detailed data drawn from participants' spoken or written language, as well as observable behavior. The focus of this study was to explore the pragmatic elements present in two selected radio broadcasts. To achieve this, the descriptive qualitative method was used to explain findings through narrative descriptions and interpretive analysis.

The researcher visited both radio stations and, with the presenters' permission, accessed the stations' digital archives to collect relevant materials. By listening attentively to the recorded programmes, the researcher aimed to fully understand their content and extract data aligned with the study's objectives. Since no official transcripts were available, the researcher manually transcribed the presenters' spoken English into written form.

The next step involved a careful review of the transcripts. The researcher read through the text multiple times to identify and classify key segments based on specific categories relevant to the study. These classified data were then organized systematically into data sheets. As the study followed a qualitative approach, the data consisted of linguistic elements such as words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that reflected the use of conversational principles within the two selected radio programmes. The data were sourced directly from the radio stations where they are aired. This study examines two conversational programmes from two different radio stations. The first programme

is titled, “General Issues” and anchored by Fortune Omosola from 9:00am-10:00am every Friday on Voice 89.9 FM, Ado-Ekiti. The second programme is titled, “The Bottom Line” on New Cruse 92.7 FM, Ikere- Ekiti anchored by Joshua Adegbite from 9:00am -10:00am, Mondays to Friday, every week.

More so, five editions of the programmes were purposively selected from each of the two radio stations making a total of 10 programmes that were analysed in all. The programme selection was carefully done based on the level of their conversational indulgence, that is, how interactive they are with the audience. Existent patterns were themed and analysed based on Grice’s conversation theory and Austin’s 1962 speech act. These were used to analyse the data from the selected radio programmes.

Methodological Framework

This study examines two radio programmes from two different radio stations. The first programme is “General Issues” anchored by Fortune Omosola from 9:00am-10:00am every Friday on Voice FM, located in Ado Ekiti. The second programme is “The Bottom Line” anchored by Joshua Adegbite from 9:00am -10:00am on Monday to Friday. Five editions were selected from each of the two radio stations making a total of 10 programmes that were analysed in all. The selection was based on the level of their conversational indulgence, that is, how interactive they are with the audience. Leech’s Politeness theory, Back Channel responses, and Presupposition were used to analyse the selected programmes.

4. Results and Discussion

Austin’s 1962 *Assertives, Directives and Expressives* as defined in Speech Act Theory complemented Grice’s in the analysis. The Speech Act Analysis examines not only the language but the social context and implications of utterances as it reflects the society in the programmes. These were explained pragmatically. The data and discussion are presented below:

Speech Acts Analysis of the Radio Programmes

There are three speech acts that manifested in the data. There are: *Assertives, Declaratives and Expressives*

I. Assertive speech acts are used to express the speaker’s commitment to the truth of a particular statement or proposition (Searle, 1979). In this context, such speech acts are employed to make claims or declarations about situations in Nigeria. These acts are evaluated in terms of being either true or false, depending on how

accurately they represent reality. For an assertion to be considered true, it must align with the actual state of affairs. Typically, assertions reflect the internal convictions of the speaker, meaning that when someone presents a statement as factual, it is usually backed by personal belief and a sense of certainty. Again, excerpt 1 shows INEC, which is the electoral body in Nigeria, excerpt 2, talks about the primary elections and the Federal Government, excerpt 3 shows the house of Reps members, excerpt 4 talks about the DOWEN school incident, excerpt 5, shows the “Nigerian society”, all these are true and conform to Speech Act. The context of the co-text provided by the immediately preceding and following utterances, which helps to determine the meaning of the specific excerpts, attests to the truism that these events happened in Nigeria. Understanding context is crucial in pragmatics because it helps to explain how the presenters convey meaning and how the audience listeners interpret that meaning beyond the literal words used. It allows for the analysis of how language is used to achieve communicative goals effectively in diplomatic communication situations. Since *Assertive* is about commitment to the truth in conversation, the personal expressions of the presenters cannot be verified as being true or false. These expressions are seen in excerpts 7-13.

Excerpt 8 & 9: “Nigeria should not be relying on loan to frivolous issues”, the audience may agree with the presenters but cannot evidentially say that the government is frivolous of that the Federal government is only favouring themselves” and “not about ordinary Nigerians.” Excerpt 9 too follows the trend. There is an exception in excerpt 11, “A lot of lecturers are poorly treated”, this comes with contextual proof and asserted true. In excerpt 12: “...some fools are at the National Assembly earning millions of naira”. True the National Assembly members earn either constitutionally or statutorily provided allowances in millions compared to their intellectual counterparts but how do we ascertain them “fools” More so, when they were supposedly elected by the people? Excerpt 13: “AFCON starts on Tuesday Nigeria vs. Egypt “this statement is also assertive and follows Grice’s speech act. Excerpt 14: the constitution provides that the Governor is “the Chief Security of the state.” The radio presenter may be oblivious of this fact when he called for such responsibility to be undertaken by the Governor.

II. Directives: Directives are the speech acts that cause the hearer to take a particular action like command, request, and advice. “This is their illocutionary point; at

the extreme of this category, there are imperatives” (Mey, 120). This category has speech acts which depict the attempt of the speaker to get the hearer to do something. This is their illocutionary point. Their ‘fit’ is that the speaker seeks to change the world to match his or her words or utterance. The following extracts are analysed in line with the tenets *directives*: Excerpt 32: “Parents should look after their children.” This is in form of a command and at the same time a request demanding and appealing for parents to pay attention to their wards. In excerpt 33, the anchor of the programme wanted the advice/opinion of the callers on: “female genital mutilation” and commands in excerpt 34 that “Female genital mutilation should stop. Abuse has to stop. We have to press it to the grassroots” as an attempt to match the word with the world. The speaker in excerpt 35, states his mind as he sees fit concerning the case of the DOWEN school boy: “I blame the parents and the school authority”.

In excerpt 35, the speaker speaks thus: “I think for Nigeria to move forward, direct primary is the best for Nigeria”, this is an advice for the electorates and the politicians and to a large extent conforms to the directive tenet of speech act. Excerpt 36: “WHO said people should not panic because of the omicron type of Covid-19. Vaccines are being put together.” here the presenter presents the advice of WHO to the public in order to allay their fears of the COVID-19. Excerpt 38: “Nigerian government doesn’t have the ability to apologize. They discredit the report of the panel.” In this excerpt, is embedded the advice for the Nigerian government to apologize where and when the need arises. Excerpt 40: “Let’s quickly talk about ASUU strike. ASUU is saying one thing, Ministry of Education is saying another thing...” reveals a situation where there are dissenting voices of the ASUU and The Ministry of Education. The presenter would wish advice that these two bodies spoke with one voice.

Excerpt 42: “About Segun Oni, he should go back to the ruling party.” This is an advice on the programme for the candidacy of Segun Oni, a governorship aspirant in Ekiti State. Another form of advice in form of a proverb is seen again in excerpt 43: “It is difficult for a person who married wrongly to prosper - proverbial saying.” Excerpts 45 and 46 respectively: “...They should accept reconciliation”, “Temidayo calling - PDP don’t have chance in Osun since they are going into the election with divided house.” is doling out another advice to party members on the need to forge a united front if they must win the oncoming election

III. Expressives: As the name indicates, the speech act here in the excerpts expresses the psychological or inner state of the speaker. It does not say anything about the world. It is subjective at times particularly so in excerpts 47-65. Expressives expresses one’s disposition or feelings about the occurrence and the excerpts below aptly capture this: excerpt 46, reads that Dino’s tweet is objective, we may ask according to whose judgment? So we see bias and emotions coming to play here. Excerpt 47 also follows in line about “the grace of God that one is still alive.” this is also subjective for some listeners might believe in some other spiritual forces or element that preserves them alive, some might believe in what they consume as their source of sustenance.

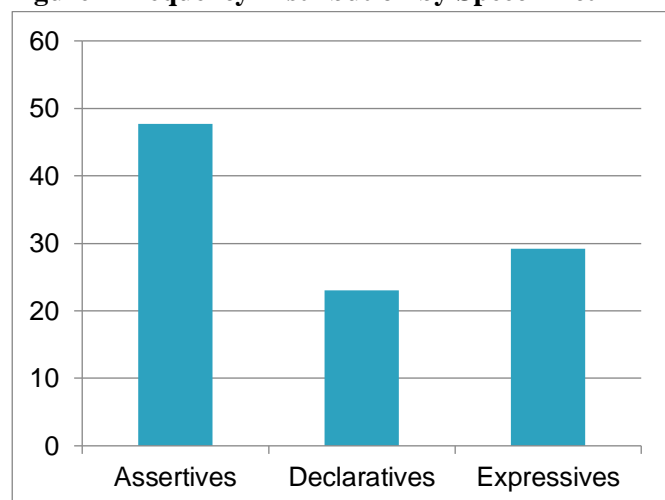
Hence, it may not be categorically stated that “the grace of God that one is still alive”, Excerpt 48: “Many people have served the country.” the “serve” here is subjective and depicts the emotional nature of the presenter. What do we mean when we say someone has served or is serving? And that some people cannot stand with Dino in excerpt 50 is also according to the speaker’s view and not at all generalizable. Excerpt 51: “We don’t even know who is responsible but NNPC should be held responsible as, the sole importer of fuel, also, the black marketers. We have the regulatory body, which can bark but can’t bite.” Excerpt 52: “Regulatory body is not fighting because government is involved.” Excerpt 53: “People are being killed daily in this country, what is the federal government trying to protect?” Excerpt 54: “We need to hammer on this for people to always come out to cast their vote.” Excerpt 55: “A lot of people were bought during election” Excerpt 56: “Some people believe that since our leaders have failed, this is what I can get.” The excerpts above are revelatory of the human nature of the psychological or inner state of the speakers. This is also applicable to what is obtained in excerpts 56-64. This line of thought and argument runs through all the excerpts in this category; expressive. So we can say that Grice’s cooperative maxim of manner is synonymous to Austin’s Speech Acts of expressives.

4.3 Tabula and Chart Presentations of Speech Acts in the Data

Table 3

Speech Acts	Percentage (%)
Assertives	47.7%
Declaratives	23.07%
Expressives	29.23%
TOTAL	100%

Source: Researcher’s Fieldwork, 2025

Figure I Frequency Distribution by Speech Act

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2025

Explanations and Discussions of Speech Acts in Percentages

a) Assertives

In speech act analysis, an *assertive* speech act refers to statements that assert a proposition or express a belief. At 47.7% of speech acts in a call-in radio programme are assertive, several implications can be inferred. A high percentage of assertive speech acts indicates that the programme is primarily focused on conveying information or opinions to the audience which is characteristic of *General Issues* and *Bottom Line*. There was also listeners' engagement as listeners engage actively with the content, as assertive speech acts tend to prompt reactions or further discussion. . Since there was audience engagement, there was audience response: The audience responded by either agreeing or disagreeing with the assertive statements, potentially leading to more dynamic and interactive discussions, Also the hosts or presenters on the two programmes play a significant role in shaping the discourse, as assertive speech acts often come from authoritative figures or knowledgeable sources. This makes the programme's structure revolve around some facts, opinions, or arguments, rather than focusing on other types of speech acts like directives or commissives.

b) Declaratives

An analysis showing 23.07% declaratives in speech acts within a call-in radio programme suggests several implications among which is the fact that declaratives primarily convey information or facts, indicating that the programme focuses significantly on informing listeners rather than engaging in other types of speech acts. Apart from informing, declaratives reveals an educational tone where hosts or guests are likely

imparting knowledge or explaining concepts to the audience. It was found that the radio presenters using declaratives are perceived as authoritative or knowledgeable, potentially enhancing the programmes's credibility among listeners. This encouraged the listeners to perceive the programme as reliable and factual, fostering trust in the information presented. This reflected in the response of the communication participants. There was also diversity and exploration of different topical issues bothering on state and national politics. The programmes delved deeply into various topics, using declaratives to present thorough explanations or analyses of issues presented.

c) Expressives

Having 29.23% expressives in a speech acts analysis in diplomatic call-in radio programme suggests expressions of emotions, feelings, or attitudes, which indicate that the programme resonates emotionally with the audience. For instance, the DOWEN school case and the ENDSARS shootings evoke both the presenters' and listeners' emotions. Listeners relate personally to the content and feel empathetic towards the speakers. This naturally leads to connection with the audience. The presence of expressives helps build a connection between the hosts or speakers and the audience. It humanises the discourse, making it more relatable and engaging as previously expressed in Grice's maxim of relation. Hosts using expressives establish rapport with listeners by acknowledging their emotions or validating their viewpoints, which enhance listener loyalty and engagement. The programmes include subjective commentary or personal reflections, adding depth and nuance to discussions beyond factual information. A lot of personal biases reflected in the data and as previously discussed in conversational maxims above, these personal effects and experiences may not be verifiable by the listeners but somehow they enhanced diplomatic communication.

4.4. Conclusion

The data for this research was presented and analysed in line with Grice's conversational maxims and Austin's speech act theory. It was discovered that while these maxims were originally meant to describe how people intuitively communicate, they can be used to actively guide the way we communicate in various situations. In this research, we see the intricacies of radio conversation based on Grice's maxims of conversation. In this case, the maxims of conversation might seem almost less important, since they are all fairly intuitive,

and follow what common sense dictates. Violation of such can mar conversations.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

The goal of the study was to perform a conversational maxims analysis of some extracts of two radio programmes to demonstrate how effectively the presenter's used language in certain situations. First, the study looked into how the language is presented to the receiver. Being orderly in presentations enhanced clarity and familiarised audience with the issues raised on the radio programmes. Additionally, the research revealed that radio presentations are not perfect as we cannot verify some claims made by the presenters themselves. For the fact that audience were able to participate in the broadcast is impressive regardless of the aforementioned shortcoming. This study finally concluded that speech act either in bottom line or general issues might be assertives, expressives and declaratives. More so, that assertives speech act was commonly used in bottom line and general issues than declaratives and expressives.

Recommendations

Based on the literature reviewed and the findings of this research, the following recommendations are made:

- Larger linguistic data can help researchers and linguists to compare radio conversations and face-to-face conversations. There might be some interesting nuances that distinguish both modes.
- This study can be replicated with larger data to be able to make some generalisations, since radio presentations are on-going.
- Researchers can study the effects of code-switching, code mixing and switching in on-air presentations. This will result in valuable finding in the field of pragmatics.
- Also, there is need for the presenter or speaker of the speech to use simple and coherent speech in order to aid the understanding of the listeners, thus, enhancing the right issuance of speech from them.

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