

# TYPOLOGICAL PECULIARITIES OF ILLOCUTIONARY SPEECH ACTS: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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**Abstract:** *This article provides a comprehensive analysis of English illocutionary speech acts' typological peculiarities of utterances-statements in dialogic discourse of Old-, Middle-, and Early Modern English. The research is the first attempt to identify and prove the relevance of English affirmative, imperative, interrogative statements' use as direct, indirect illocutionary speech acts in diachrony. Corpus data of the research are certified and argued in English utterances-statements as the illocutionary speech acts in the paradigm as: assertive or verdictive utterances, directive or exercitive utterances, commissive utterances, expressive or behabiative utterances, declarative or expositive utterances. Illocutionary force intensity feature is characterized by the speaker's intentional purpose in English utterances-statements of illocutionary assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, declarative goals, which actualize different types of illocutionary speech acts as "strong illocutionary force – weak illocutionary force". Direct / indirect illocutionary speech acts are highlighted in the objective / subjective content of an utterance, depending on the illocutionary force and purpose, the syntactic type, and conventionality / unconventionality of the speech acts as "affirmative statements", "imperative statements", "interrogative statements". Peculiarities of English illocutionary speech acts' relevant use in diachrony are outlined as the realization of speaker's intentional verbal proposition, depending on illocutionary paradigm of the main illocutionary verbs in utterances-statements.*

**Keywords:** *direct / indirect illocutionary speech act, utterance-statement, illocutionary force, illocutionary verb, Old- / Middle- / Early Modern English.*

## Introduction

Nowadays, the study of the speech acts taxonomy in the dialogic discourse of modern Germanic languages is the subject of numerous discussions and controversies among worldwide well-known linguists, where they do not always find a unanimous solution as to the usage of a

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certain type of the speech act in the appropriate context. Modern philological studies offer a solution to the issue of the speech acts typology realization by taking into account the application of a three-level stage of the speech acts analysis, namely a comprehensive analysis of illocutionary, locutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts. The scientific research of foreign and Ukrainian scholars is increasingly focused on the study of Germanic languages' modern discourse of speech by illocution, locution, and perlocution of an utterance by a speaker (addresser) for the achievement of the set goal.

In historical Germanic and English studies, the direct / indirect speech acts' feature by illocutionary purpose and utterance force in complex sentences with illocutionary verbs in the diachronic development of languages acquires special significance. Despite the wide range of researches to the field of speech acts' implementation in dialogic discourse, there still remain insufficiently covered issues, which are referred to coverage of actualization and functioning of direct or indirect speech acts as illocutionary ones in discourse of different texts' genres in a diachronic perspective: in Old-, Middle-, Early Modern English. This is a certain gap in the analysis of language discourse in the studied periods.

**The object of the present scientific research** is complex affirmative sentences with illocutionary verbs that implement different types of speech acts in Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English. **The subject of the research** is the communicative and pragmatic properties of affirmative utterances-statements in diachrony. **The aim of the article** is to provide a comprehensive communicative-pragmatic analysis of the illocutionary speech acts of objective intentional affirmative content within the subjective context in complex affirmative sentential constructions in historical English studies.

Thus, **the key objectives** of the research involve:

1) characterizing the syntactic and communicative paradigms of direct / indirect illocutionary speech acts of affirmative utterances-statements in the Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English periods;

2) finding out and highlighting the basic peculiarities of the speech acts' feature and functioning with the illocutionary goal of different utterances intentions in complex sentences with matrix verbs of illocutionary force of speech in historical diachrony.

**The material of the study** served English positive / affirmative utterances-statements (12382 sentences) with main illocutionary verbs (66 verbs) in the dialogic discourse from Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English, selected from the corpus of 77 different written works by Jeffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, Tomas Middleton and 1 epic work by an unknown (anonymous) author.

## Literature Review

Within the theory of speech acts, modern philological studies are distinguished by numerous achievements of scientific research in various communicative, pragmatic aspects of linguistic discourse in modern and historical Germanic, as well as English studies. For the last decades of XX-XXI centuries, scientific researches of foreign and Ukrainian pragmatic English studies were focused, primarily, on the following aspects: 1) speech acts taxonomy studies – J.L. Austin<sup>1</sup>, J.R. Searle<sup>2</sup>; 2) general conceptual principles of communicative and pragmatic syntax – G.G. Pocheptsov<sup>3</sup>, D.E. Ekoró & M. Gunn<sup>4</sup>; 3) illocutionary, locutionary, perlocutionary aspects of speech acts – S. Bäckström<sup>5</sup>, A.I. Prihodko<sup>6</sup>, N. Kravchenko et al.<sup>7</sup>; 4) direct / indirect speech acts in an illocutionary perspective – N. Kravchenko<sup>8</sup>, J.M.G. Núñez<sup>9</sup>; 5) pragmatic peculiarities of English sentence in a synchronic perspective – O.M. Tuhai<sup>10</sup>.

The current literature review shows that modern linguistics lacks the particular historical works on the comprehensive analysis of communicative syntax in terms of the study of illocutionary speech acts in complex affirmative sentences-statements with the involvement of basic periods in the English language development, namely Old-, Middle-, and Early Modern English. Even though there are numerous publications on speech acts, public speech's utterances in the discourse of modern language on various topics, the ones based on the dialogic discourse in diachrony of the English language are missing from these studies. Additionally, locutionary and perlocutionary phenomena of the modern dialogic discourse speech acts are still to be studied as well. So, the present paper is aimed to make a major contribution to the research of pragmatic

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<sup>1</sup> J.L. Austin, *How to do things with words*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1962, 166 p.

<sup>2</sup> J.R. Searle, *A taxonomy of illocutionary acts*. In K. Gunderson (Ed.), *Language, mind and knowledge*, 1975, pp. 344-379.

<sup>3</sup> G.G. Pocheptsov, *Selected works on linguistics*. Vinnitsa: Nova kniga, 2013, 560 p.

<sup>4</sup> D.E. Ekoró, & M. Gunn, *Speech act theory and Gricean pragmatics: A review*. LWATI: A journal of contemporary research, 18 (4), 2021, pp. 130-143.

<sup>5</sup> S. Bäckström, *A dogma of speech act theory*. *Inquiry*, 2020, pp. 1-17.

<sup>6</sup> A.I. Prihodko, *Illocutive typology of evaluatory utterances*. *Science and education a new dimension: Philology*, 4, 2013, pp. 32-36.

<sup>7</sup> N. Kravchenko, M. Prokopchuk, A. Pozhar, L. Kozyarevych-Zozulya, & Y. Rozhkov, *Illocutionary Pragmatic Adaptation Challenge: Ukrainian Translations of English-language Soft Law Texts*. *Amazonia Investiga*, 11(49), 2022, pp. 267-276.

<sup>8</sup> N. Kravchenko, *Illocution of direct speech acts via conventional implicature and semantic presupposition*. *Lege artis. Language yesterday, today, tomorrow. The journal of University of SS Cyril and Methodius in Trnava*, II (1), 2017, pp. 128-168.

<sup>9</sup> J.M.G. Núñez, *Embedded root phenomena and indirect speech reports*. *Linguistics*, 59 (6), 2021, pp. 1531-1566.

<sup>10</sup> O.M. Tuhai, *Pragmatic potential of Early Modern English sentence with clausal complementation*. *Transcarpathian philological studies*, 10 (2), 2019, pp. 28-36.

aspects in terms of illocutionary speech acts characteristics with illocutionary verbs in the historical perspective.

### **Theoretical Framework**

One of the directions of modern linguistics in terms of communicative-functional syntax is historical pragmatic linguistics, which outlines the pragmatic properties of speech communication in the language discourse as a system in the historical development of a language with the definition of constant and variable elements of speech acts in complex sentences, which is the result of dynamic processes in verbal communication, self-development of language, culture, and society<sup>11</sup>.

Language and speech are the main sources of information, which constitute the basis for the establishment of laws, categories, forms of human thinking. Language serves as a form of thought existence in situations of objective reality. In the process of linguistic communication, the important aspect for perceiving and understanding particular features, patterns, varieties of human thinking is the comprehensive study of sentence semantics, which occurs to become an important legitimate object of a linguistic research. The social essence of a language is to provide the communicative component between the participants of information or news imparting, where the latter is implemented by utterances or sentences<sup>12</sup>. As a system of arbitrary speech sound signs, language can be interpreted as the sound, produced by the human speech apparatus. Based on this concept, pragmatics and communicative linguistics can be interpreted as knowledge of understanding words' semantics in relevant situations and sentence utterances as speech acts in the closely related context<sup>13</sup>.

The basics of the theory of language or speech acts were developed by J.L. Austin (1962) in the 30-th of the XX-th century and foremost covered in his lecture courses at Oxford University (1952-1955) and then at Harvard University (1955) – "How to do things with words", where for the first time ever the researcher represented the concept of performative utterances, speech acts in the interaction "sentence – utterance – speech

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<sup>11</sup> L.P. Kalytyuk, *English interrogative sentence. Structure. Semantics. Pragmatics: A manual for students of higher educational institutions*. Kyiv: Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, 2014, 116 p.

<sup>12</sup> Pocheptsov, *op. cit.*, pp. 391-392.

<sup>13</sup> F. Faisal, D. Saputri, E. Nurliza, N. Azmi, S.N. Fauzia, & I. Indani, *Indirect speech act analysis of Indonesian education department students of Serambi Mekkah University*. In M. Usman, W. Khafidah, & M. Daud (Eds.), *The proceeding book of the 4<sup>th</sup> international conference on multidisciplinary research*, 4 (1), 2021, p. 85; O. Tuhai, *Subject Control Infinitive Constructions in Early Modern English*. *World Journal of English Language*, 12 (1), 2022, pp. 367-383.

act", as well as he provided his own classification of speech acts. The central idea of this interaction is that all utterances-statements can be performing illocutionary, locutionary, perlocutionary speech acts at the same time<sup>14</sup>.

Some of the Austin's developed speech acts types such as verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives, expositives were transformed then by Searle (1975) into utterance acts as representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, declarations. And "in the context, an illocutionary act is carried out by way of pronunciation, that is the performance of an illocutionary speech act in saying or announcing something. Context is one of the factors that determine an illocutionary act by uttering a statement"<sup>15</sup>.

In our study of complex sentences of affirmative nature in Old English (OE), Middle English (ME), Early Modern English (EModE), we focus on sentences-statements as illocutionary speech acts' utterances, taking into account communicative and pragmatic orientation of addresser's verbal propositional actualization in the utterances-statements, depending on semantics of illocutionary verbs in the dialogic discourse as the semantic material organization in communication. The rationale stance of our research is based on the verbal intentional action of the speaker in complex sentences along with significant illocutionary aspects within the theory of speech acts by Austin (1962), Searle (1975).

(1) ME: "*For I defye the seurtee and the bond Which that thou seyst that I have maad to thee*". – "*For I renounce the bond and its demand Which you assert that I have made with you*" (Chaucer, "The Canterbury tales: The knight's tale")<sup>16</sup>.

In example (1) we witness the usage of the illocutionary verb assert (seyst – ME) as an illocutionary speech act-assertive in the dialogic discourse of Middle English, where the knight as a speaker addresses to the addressee and claims that he rejects the bond and its demand – what the listener asserts that the speaker had made with the latter one. The illocutionary force of assertiveness, the purpose of this statement are directed to the addressee, who is aware of this fact and accepts the addressed statement as appropriate.

In order to solve the tasks set in our study, it is essential to consider and clarify such concepts and points as pragmatics, speech act,

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<sup>14</sup> Austin, *op. cit.*

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 83-99; Searle, *op. cit.*, pp. 354-359.

<sup>16</sup> M. Hutchins, (Ed.), *Troilus and Cressida and the Canterbury tales by Geoffrey Chaucer. With modern English versions of both works*. In *Great books of the western world*, Vol. 22. Chicago – London – Toronto – Geneva – Sydney – Tokyo – Manila: William Benton, Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1952, p. 186.

illocutionary force of an utterance, locution and perlocution, as well as direct / indirect speech act and discourse.

Pragmatics describes any language units regardless of confession or differentiation of their linguistic nature, and unites them into groups on the basis of commonality of an addressee's reaction. It classifies linguistic units from the standpoint of the theory of human behaviour in communication<sup>17</sup>. Pragmatics is the study of language use in human communication of society conditions as to pragmatic aspects of implicature, presupposition, deixis, and speech acts<sup>18</sup>. Language pragmatic aspects are fully manifested within the speech acts, which stand to be the main components of communicative acts, where an addresser in the process of generating a communicative unit (statement) performs a certain action. A speech act is a sentence in action reported by an utterance<sup>19</sup>.

The analysis' leading parameters in any speech act are locutionary, illocutionary, perlocutionary aspects, which describe an utterance, namely its content, form, force of influence that corresponds to the plan of content, expression, and actualization of an utterance in speech<sup>20</sup><sup>20</sup>. Generally, there are four types of speech acts such as: 1) locution – an act of pronunciation; 2) proposal – an act of instruction; 3) illocution – an act of giving a statement the communicative purpose; 4) perlocution – an act of influence on the addressee<sup>21</sup>.

Speech acts are distinguished by the degree of a speaker's illocutionary force expression and by semantic features in a sentence-utterance<sup>22</sup>. The illocutionary force is distinguished by the illocutionary goal, the way to achieve it, the intensity of illocutionary force, and so on. One of the most important components of illocutionary force is the illocutionary goal, which serves as a fundamental concept of illocutionary logic. The purpose of any illocutionary act is an idea that is intrinsic to it as an act of this type. Moreover, each illocutionary verb of a natural language names or claims some illocutionary force or any type of an illocutionary speech act<sup>23</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> Pocheptsov, *op. cit.*, p. 434.

<sup>18</sup> A.P. Jaya, & H. Haryati, *Illocutionary act and paradigmatic case in selected chapters of short stories book "Australia day" by Melanie Cheng*. Proceeding of national seminar on linguistics, literature, culture and language teaching, 11, 2021, p. 44.

<sup>19</sup> R.D. Orizka, Oktaviani, & A. Triyogo, *An analysis of speech acts used in Peter Rabbit movie*. E-link journal, 8 (2), 2021, pp. 150-157.

<sup>20</sup> M.M. Buzrukova, *The study of speech act as a unit of discursive activity*. JournalNX- A multidisciplinary peer reviewed journal, 6 (9), 2020, pp. 5-7.

<sup>21</sup> Capone, *Speech acts: Classification and definition*. In K. Brown (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of language and linguistics*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford: Elsevier, 2006, p. 682.

<sup>22</sup> Pocheptsov, *op. cit.*, p. 434; E.W. García, *Toward a pragmatic account and taxonomy of evaluative speech acts*. *Pragmatics*, 29 (1), 2019, pp. 107-131.

<sup>23</sup> Bäckström, *op. cit.*, pp. 1-17.

The term "verbs of the speech act" is widely used to apply to all verbs that belong to any type of verbal behaviour such as to claim, to threaten, to praise, to complain, to boast, or to a less common group of verbs that actualize the target intentions of a speaker such as to say, to interrupt, to whisper. Such terms as "verbs of illocutionary force", "verbs of communication", "verbs of speech", "performative verbs" are considered synonymous with the above mentioned term to denote verbs of the speech acts realization<sup>24</sup>.

In pragmatic linguistics, language discourse is considered as a verbalized form of social activity, which is "determined by values, social norms, conventions or social practice"<sup>25</sup>. The term "discourse" is the multidimensional phenomenon and is used in different contexts as "the blurred category". Discourse is the environment for diverse linguistics and speech phenomena functioning; it is operational space for dynamic meaning creation. Classic definitions of discourse are as "coherent text in conjunction with extralinguistic – pragmatic, socio-cultural, psychological, and other factors", "text in the post event / action aspect", "speech, which is immersed in life"<sup>26</sup>. Moreover, the lingual aspect of discourse development includes communicators' speech actions and the text itself, where a discourse space is described as "a communicative event, in which the speakers' interaction is mediated by a text"<sup>27</sup>.

Example (2) is considered as the linguistic discourse in the dialogic speech between the speaker Lord Bassanio and the listeners Antonio and Portia in the context of social speech activity in the work of Shakespeare:

(2) EModE: *Lord Bassanio (to Antonio and Portia): "Nay, but hear me: Pardon this fault, and by my soul I swear I never more will break an oath with thee"* (Shakespeare, "The merchant of Venice")<sup>28</sup>.

Complex sentence can convey an action that serves as a speech act,

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<sup>24</sup> K. Proost, *Speech act verbs*. In K. Brown, & K. Allan (Eds.), *Concise encyclopedia of semantics*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Oxford: Elsevier, 2009, pp. 915-916; O.M. Tuhai, *Performative verbs as expression of volitional inducement in Early New Modern English*. In L. Shlossman (Ed.), *The fifteenth European conference on languages, literature and linguistics*. Proceedings of the conference, May 10, 2017, pp. 27-31.

<sup>25</sup> O. Kolesnyk, & M. Holtseva, *Lies and deception in modern English diplomatic discourse: pragmatics in interdisciplinary focus*. *Cogito – Multidisciplinary Research Journal*, Vol. 14, Issue 1, 2022, pp. 154-173; D. Skrypkaru, & O. Kolesnyk, *Semantic dimension of discourse space (based on the scripts of English TV series "How to get away with murder")*. *Studia philologica*, 17 (2), 2021, pp. 59-60.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., Skrypkaru & Kolesnyk, pp. 59-60.

<sup>27</sup> S. Zhabotynska, & N. Slyvka, *Emotive speech acts and their discourse modifications in the literary text*. *Discourse and interaction*, 13 (1), 2020, p. 122.

<sup>28</sup> A.L. Rowse, (Ed.), *The annotated Shakespeare: Three volumes in one illustrated: The comedies, the histories, sonnets, and other poems, the tragedies and romances*. New York: Greenwich House, 1988, p. 332.

which can be expressed directly and indirectly through a sentence. As a direct speech act, a sentence and a speech act equally realize identical semantic correspondence with unanimous illocutionary force expression. An indirect speech act implies the implicit expression of speaker's communicative intention, where it is clearly illustrated by the definition of pragmatic meaning as the formula that a speaker wants to express.

Namely, assertive-statements realize the illocutionary force of a dominant statement. Indirect speech acts-assertives actualize ascertaining shades of assertion, assumption, doubt, (dis)agreement<sup>29</sup>.

Next examples demonstrate direct speech acts (3) – (4) and indirect speech acts (5) in the dialogic discourse of Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English:

(3) OE: "*benden reafode rinc oðerne, nam on Ongendio irenbyrnan, heard swyrd hilted ond his helm somod, hares hyrste Higelace bær. He ðam frætsum feng ond him fægre gehet leana mid leodum, ond gelæste swa*". – "One warrior stripped the other, Looted Ongentheow's iron mail-coat, His hard sword-hilt, his helmet too, And carried the graith to King Hygelac; He accepted the prize, promised fairly That reward would come, and kept his word" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>30</sup>.

(4) ME: "*Of him thenke I my tale for to holde, Bothe of his joye, and of his cares colde; And al his werk, as touching this matere, For I it gan, I wil ther-to referre*". – "My proper tale hereafter I shall hold, Both of his joy and of Ins cares so cold. And all the business of this sad affair, As I began, I shall to you declare" (Chaucer, "Troilus and Cressida")<sup>31</sup>.

(5) EModE: Fenton: "Her father hath commanded her to slip Away with Slender and with him at Eton Immediately to marry: ..." (Shakespeare, "The merry wives of Windsor")<sup>32</sup>.

## Methodology

Presently, the scientific study of speech acts is characterized by interdisciplinary approaches, taking into account related scientific paradigms in the linguistic area of the issue under discussion. The overall methodology of our scientific research is complex and includes the following methods: 1) the theory of speech acts was used to determine illocutionary acts of utterances-statements in dialogic discourse of the Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English periods; 2) the taxonomy of speech acts, introduced by Austin (1962) and Searle (1975),

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<sup>29</sup> Kalytyuk, *op. cit.*, pp. 54-62.

<sup>30</sup> S. Heaney, (Trans.), *Beowulf: A new verse translation*. New York – London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2000, pp. 200-201.

<sup>31</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 6.

<sup>32</sup> Rowse, *op. cit.*, p. 495.



was involved to identify the relevant basic types of speech acts as utterances-statements; 3) the method of communicative-pragmatic analysis was used to outline the communicative feature of complex sentence constructions as direct and indirect speech acts in the English language of the studied periods; 4) the descriptive qualitative and quantitative methods were introduced to describe diverse phenomena of illocutionary speech acts and highlight the exact number of their most / least usage in Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English; 5) historical analysis was used to compile the corpus of research, to characterize the formulated sample sentences as utterances-statements in their functional realization as illocutionary speech acts in the historical diachronic perspective.

## Results and Discussion

### Basic types of illocutionary speech acts with illocutionary verbs in Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English

In this study, we focus on the illocutionary aspect of the analysis of sentences-utterances as the illocutionary speech acts, as we consider and witness particular complex sentences that contain illocutionary verbs of different types of speech acts in the dialogic discourse of Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English. Foremost, it seems relevant to highlight the typology of speech acts by Austin (1962) and Searle (1975), taking into account the general meaning and particular semantics of the studied illocutionary verbs. According to semantics of illocutionary verbs under the research (66 verbs from our corpus data) and their historical or Anglo-Saxon equivalents from Old- and Middle English<sup>33</sup>, we distinguished five types of illocutionary speech acts in the English diachronic dialogic discourse – total 12382 sentences (see Appendix, Table 1):

I. Assertives or verdictives as illocutionary speech acts in the studied complex sentences with the illocutionary verbs such as *assert*, *assure*, *predict*, *inform*, *tell*, *notify*, *inform*, *acknowledge*, *admit*, *remind*, *testify*, *confirm*, *certify*, *prove*, *confess*, *assume*, *guess*, *state*, *swear*, *insist* (total 5202 sentences from OE, ME, EModE).

Examples (6) – (8) show complex sentences as utterances-statements from Old-, Middle-, and Early Modern English dialogic discourse, where the exemplified sentences actualize implementation of illocutionary assertive or verdictive speech acts with the help of illocutionary verbs as *inform* (*secgan* – OE), *assure* (*graunte* – ME), *predict* – EModE:

(6) OE: *Beowulf mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes: "Nu we sæliðend secgan wyllað, feorran cumene, þæt we fundiaþ Higelac secan. Wæron*

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<sup>33</sup> H. Sweet, (Ed.), *The student's dictionary of Anglo-Saxon*, 11<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1981.

her tela willum bewenede; þu us wel dohtest". – Beowulf, son of Ecgtheow, spoke: "Now we who crossed the wide sea have to inform you that we feel a desire to return to Hygelac. Here we have been welcomed and thoroughly entertained. You have treated us well" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>34</sup>.

(7) ME: "Ther were never two so wel y-met, Whan ye ben his al hool, as he is youre: Ther mighty god yet graunte us see that houre!" – "You two will make the best pair ever yet! And heaven bless the day which well assures That you are his as much as he is yours" (Chaucer, "Troilus and Cressida")<sup>35</sup>.

(8) EModE: "Nor can I fortune to brief minutes tell, Pointing to each his thunder, rain and wind, Or say with princes if it shall go well, By oft predict that I in heaven find: But from thine eyes my knowledge I derive, And, constant stars, in them I read such art As truth and beauty shall together thrive, If from thyself to store thou wouldst convert; ..." (Shakespeare, "Sonnets")<sup>36</sup>.

II. Directives or exercitives as illocutionary speech acts in the studied complex sentences with the illocutionary verbs such as *ask, order, command, request, plead, pray, invite, prescribe, demand, offer, induce, incite, persuade, seduce, beg, advise, recommend* (total 3594 sentences from OE, ME, EModE).

Examples (9) – (11) demonstrate complex sentences as utterances-statements from Old-, Middle-, Early Modern English dialogic discourse, where these sentences actualize implementation of illocutionary directive or exercitive speech acts with the help of illocutionary verbs as offer (*wordum* – OE), pray (*preyen* – ME), request – EModE:

(9) OE: "Gesæt þa wið sylfne se ða sæcce genæs, mæg wið mæge, syððan man-dryhten þurh hleoðorcwyde holdne gegrette, meaglum wordum". – "After Hygelac had offered greetings to his loyal thane in lofty speech, he and his kinsman, that hale survivor, sat face to face" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>37</sup>.

(10) ME: Melibee, Dame Prudence: "And therefore, dere and benigne lady, we preyen yow and biseke yow as mekely as we conne and mowen, that it lyke unto your grete goodnesse to fulfillen in dede your goodliche wordes; ...". – "Therefore, dear and benign lady, we pray and beseech you, as humbly as we can, that it shall please you, in your great goodness, to fulfill your goodly words in deeds; ..." (Chaucer, "The

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<sup>34</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 124-125.

<sup>35</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 32.

<sup>36</sup> Rowse, *op. cit.*, p. 1501.

<sup>37</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 134-135.

Canterbury tales: The tale of Melibeus")<sup>38</sup>.

(11) EModE: *Lord Cardinal*: "Your news is pleasing. Whilst you remain in Milan, I request you To know the welcome of no house but ours" (Middleton, "More dissemblers besides women")<sup>39</sup>.

III. Commissives as illocutionary speech acts in the studied complex sentences with the illocutionary verbs such as *commit, promise, contract, undertake, intend, threaten, agree, vow, vouch, refuse, decline* (total 1180 sentences from OE, ME, EModE).

Sentences (12) – (14) exemplify complex utterances-statements from Old-, Middle-, Early Modern English dialogic discourse, where the exemplified sentences realize implementation of illocutionary commissive speech acts with the help of such illocutionary verbs as *refuse (nolde – OE), vouchsafe (voucheth – ME), threaten – EModE*:

(12) OE: "ða se gīst onfand þæt se beadoleoma bitan nolde, aldre sceþðan, ac seo ecg geswac ðeodne æt þearfe; ...". – "But he soon found His sword fails to do his battle-torch extinguished: the shining blade refused to bite" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>40</sup>.

(13) ME: "Now voucheth sauf that I may yow devyse How that I may been holpe and in what wyse". – "Now vouchsafe that I may for you devise A plan to help me, telling in what wise" (Chaucer, "The Canterbury tales: The Franklin's tale")<sup>41</sup>.

(14) EModE: *Edmund*: "When I dissuaded him from his intent, And found him pight to do it, with curst speech I threaten'd to discover him: he replied, 'Thou unpossessing bastard!'" (Shakespeare, "King Lear")<sup>42</sup>.

IV. Expressives or behabiatives as illocutionary speech acts in the studied complex sentences with the illocutionary verbs such as *congratulate, thank, deplore, welcome, praise, compliment, regret, condole, greet* (total 1888 sentences in OE, ME, EModE).

Complex sentences (15) – (17) exemplify utterances-statements from Old-, Middle-, Early Modern English dialogic discourse, where the represented sentences actualize implementation of illocutionary expressive or behabiative speech acts with the help of such illocutionary verbs as *welcome (wilcuman – OE), thank – ME, praise – EModE*:

(15) OE: þa to dura healle Wulfgar eode, word inne abead: "Eow het secgan sigedrihten min, aldor Eastdena, þæt he eower æþelu can, ond ge him syndon ofer sæwylmas heardhicgende hider wilcuman". – At the

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<sup>38</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 428.

<sup>39</sup> G. Taylor, & J. Lavagnino, (Eds.), *Thomas Middleton. The collected works*. Oxford – New York: Clarendon Press, 2007, p. 1041.

<sup>40</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 104-105.

<sup>41</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 356.

<sup>42</sup> Rowse, *op. cit.*, p. 1899.

door of the hall, Wulfgar duly delivered the message: "My lord, the conquering king of the Danes, bids me announce that he knows your ancestry; also that he welcomes you here to Heorot and salutes your arrival from across the sea" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>43</sup>.

(16) ME: "And thanked god, that he mighte han hire al, That no wight of his blisse parten shal". – "And he thanked God that he might have her, all, That none partook of his bliss now, nor shall" (Chaucer, "The Canterbury tales: The merchant's tale")<sup>44</sup>.

(17) EModE: *Master to wife*: "Was it in man to wound so kind a creature? I'll ever praise a woman for thy sake" (Middleton, "A Yorkshiere tragedy")<sup>45</sup>.

V. Declaratives or expositives as illocutionary speech acts in the studied complex sentences with the illocutionary verbs as *declare, announce, proclaim, approve, authorize, excommunicate, name, reproach, surrender, bless* (total 518 units in OE, ME, EModE).

Examples (18) – (20) represent complex sentences as utterances-statements from OE, ME, EModE dialogic discourse, where the exemplified sentences implement realization of the illocutionary declarative or expositive speech acts with the help of such illocutionary verbs as announce (*bodode* – OE), proclaim (*dorste* – ME), bless – EModE:

(18) OE: "Reste hine þa rumheort; reced hliuade geap ond goldfah; gæst inne swæf oppæt hrefn blaca heofones wynne bliðheort bodode. ða com beorht scacan scima after sceadwe". – "That great heart rested. The hall towered, gold-shingled and gabled, and the guest slept in it until the black raven with raucous glee announced heaven's joy, and a hurry of brightness overran the shadows" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>46</sup>.

(19) EModE: *Dogberry*: "Come hither, neighbour Seacole. God hath blessed you with a good name: to be a well-favoured man is the gift of fortune; but to write and read comes by nature" (Shakespeare, "Much ado about nothing")<sup>47</sup>.

(20) ME: "And hardily, they dorste leye hir nekke, The miller shold nat stele hem half a pekke Of corn by sleighte, ne by force hem reve; ...". – "And stoutly they proclaimed they's bet their neck The miller should not steal one half a peck Of grain, by trick, nor yet by force should thieve; ..." (Chaucer, "The Canterbury tales: The reeve's tale")<sup>48</sup>.

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<sup>43</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 26-27.

<sup>44</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 325.

<sup>45</sup> Taylor & Lavagnino, *op. cit.*, p. 466.

<sup>46</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 122-123.

<sup>47</sup> Rowse, *op. cit.*, p. 420.

<sup>48</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 226.

## Utterances-statements as illocutionary speech acts in Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English

I. Assertive utterances / verdictive utterances: they include the delivering of an official or an unofficial evidence fact or value verdict that is based upon the truth and belief of a speaker's propositional action.

(21) ME: "*Nay*," *quod the syke man*, "*by Seint Simoun! I have be shriven this day at my curat; I have him told al hoolly myn estat*";. – "*Nay*," *said the sick man*, "*by Saint Simeon! I have been shriven today by my curate; I have him told the whole truth of my state*;" (Chaucer, "The Canterbury tales: The summoner's tale")<sup>49</sup>.

In example (21), we evidence the assertive or verdictive utterance as the assertive or verdictive illocutionary speech act with the illocutionary verb *tell*, where the speaker – a sick man – expresses his statement about the fact (evidence fact) of the truth of his current affairs that he has already told a third person (curate) the whole truth about the state of his affairs under the confession. Thus, we can confirm actualization of assertiveness in Middle English discourse and the illocutionary effect of the represented assertive speech act.

II. Directive utterances / exercitive utterances: they include the intentional / urged direction proposition, based upon the speaker's decision of a certain cause of actions to get an addressee to do / to induce (persuade) something to be performed.

(22) EModE: *Duke of York*: "*At your pleasure, my good lord. Who's within there, ho!*" (to a Servingman) "*Invite my Lords of Salisbury and Warwick To sup with me to-morrow night. Away!*" (Shakespeare, "King Henry VI" Part II)<sup>50</sup>.

Sentence (22) demonstrates the directive or exercitive utterance as the directive or exercitive illocutionary speech act with illocutionary verb *invite* in the imperative mood. Based on his intentional directive proposition with illocutionary verb *invite*, the addresser, the Duke of York, invites the addressees (Lords Salisbury and Warwick) to come to dinner (to sup) with him the following evening. Such communicative act of invitation's expression along with the speaker's urgent directive proposition stands as the exemplification of recipients' inducement to perform the suggested communicative action regardless of the addressees' desire. By this fact, we can surely confirm the feature of illocutionary exercitive speech act as a directive / exercitive utterance in Early Modern English discourse.

III. Commissive utterances: they include the speaker's commission / obligation to perform some course of an action in the future.

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<sup>49</sup> Ibid., p. 291.

<sup>50</sup> Rowse, *op. cit.*, p. 836.

(23) OE: *Wiglaf maðelode, wordrihta fela sægde gesiðum him wæs sefa geomor: "Ic ðæt mæl geman, þær we medu þegun, þonne we geheton ussum hlaforde in biorsele, ðe us ðas beagas geaf, þæt we him ða guðgetawa gyldan woldon gif him þyslicu þearf gelumpe, helmas ond heard sweord". – Sad at heart, addressing his companions, Wiglaf spoke wise and fluent words: "I remember that time when the mead was flowing, How we pledged loyalty to our lord in the hall, Promised our ring-giver we would be worth our price, Make good the gift of the war-gear, Those swords and helmets, as and when His need required it" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>51</sup>.*

In complex sentence (23), the commissive utterance with the illocutionary verb *promise* (*geheton* – OE) represents the commissive illocutionary speech act, where the speaker Wiglaf expresses their (his and other people's) commitment and obligation to the person, who gave them the rings, to be worthy of this award and repay for the provided fighting or combat equipment. By the fact of the obligation utterance or obligatory speech commitment by Wiglaf before the addressee, we testify and prove the addresser's relevant use of illocutionary speech act of commission in the spoken discourse of Old English.

IV. Expressive utterances / behabiative utterances: they include the speaker's psychological / emotional state under the certain conditions about the state of affairs, specified in the propositional content.

(24) EModE: *Tangle: "Non declaravit adversarius, sayst thou? What a villain's that. I have a trick to do thee good: I will get thee out a proxy, and make him declare with a pox to him". – First suitor: "That will make him declare to his sore grief. I thank your good worship. But put case he do declare?" (Middleton, "The phoenix")<sup>52</sup>.*

In the dialogic discourse of sentence (24), we testify the reaction of the First suitor as a speaker to the previous offer of the addresser Tangle to do him good, namely to release him (the speaker) from all powers (obligations) and force the enemy to declare that he has a pox on the skin and can not be married. As a reaction to Tangle's speech, the First suitor expresses his emotional state – namely gratefulness in his speech-utterance to the addresser with the help of the illocutionary verb *thank*, where the expressive or behabiative utterance realizes the expressive illocutionary speech act in the form of gratitude and high appreciation for the expressed proposition. Based on this example, we confirm the appropriate use of the expressive / behabiative utterance as an expressive or behabiative illocutionary speech act in the dialogic discourse of Early

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<sup>51</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 177-179.

<sup>52</sup> Taylor & Lavagnino, *op. cit.*, p. 100.

Modern English.

V. Declarative utterances / expositive utterances: they include the speaker's proclamation of the state of affairs, based on the propositional content and reality.

(25) OE: "*Swa hit oð domes dæg diope benemdon þeodnas mære, þa ðæt þær dydon, þæt se secg wære synnum scildig, hergum geheaðerod, hellbendum fæst, wommum gewitnad, se ðone wong strude, næs he goldhwæte gearwor hæfde agendes est ær gesceawod". – "The high-born chiefs who had buried the treasure Declared it until doomsday so accursed That whoever robbed it would be guilty of wrong And grimly punished for their transgression, Hasped in hell-bonds in heathen shrines. Yet Beowulf's gaze at the gold treasure when he first saw it had not been selfish" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>53</sup>.*

In the linguistic discourse of Old English (25), we witness the use of the illocutionary verb declare (benemdon – OE) in the declarative or expositive utterance for the implementation of the declarative / expositive illocutionary speech act as the proclamation by high-ranking leaders (þeodnas mære – OE), who buried the treasure, of their will (desire) or volition that anyone, who robs this place with the gold treasure, will be found guilty of wrong, grimly punished in this crime for their transgression, and hasped in hell-bonds in heathen shrines. In fact, in their speech-utterance þeodnas mære (the high-born chiefs) as the speakers proclaim and expose the current state of affairs, based upon the real situation about the buried gold treasure, specifying the fact that "Yet Beowulf's gaze at the gold treasure when he first saw it had not been selfish".

Thus, the speakers proclaim both the latest state of affairs and their will, but at the same time they expose their warning about the consequences of the wrongdoing or the violation of the law in case of robbery of the buried gold treasure. Moreover, this way of addressers' declarative proclamation along with their expositiveness and warning with the help of the verb benemdon (declare) gives us the reason to assert the relevant use of the declarative or expositive statement as an illocutionary speech act to achieve the purpose of the addresser in the presented dialogic discourse. So, we confirm the relevant use of the declarative / expositive utterance in the OE language.

### **Illocutionary force and goal of utterances-statements in complex sentences of Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English**

In our research, it is witnessed that the studied utterances-statements in complex sentences of Old-, Middle-, and Early Modern English

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<sup>53</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 206-207.

demonstrate certain illocutionary force of the speaker's utterance intentional orientation or direction in order to realize a particular illocutionary goal by the corresponding illocutionary verb from our corpus data.

In terms of the speech acts theory, the main types of the speaker's illocutionary goals are distinguished as: 1) an assertive goal – to state how things are going on; 2) a directive goal – to motivate or force someone to do something; 3) a commissive goal – to oblige a speaker to do something; 4) an expressive goal – to express personal feelings, instructions; 5) a declarative goal – to change a world by way of this utterance<sup>54</sup>.

According to the five types of an illocutionary goal of utterances-statements in complex sentences of the Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English periods, we distribute sentences-utterances as illocutionary speech acts by an illocutionary purpose or a goal along with the determination of the intensity of illocutionary force in the paradigm: "strong illocutionary force:: weak illocutionary force", taking into consideration such following aspects as, respectively: 1) social status of a speaker in the paradigm "authoritative / equal status:: subordinate status", 2) obligation of speaker's propositional action realization in the paradigm "obligatory implementation of a speaker's verbal proposition:: optional implementation of a speaker's verbal proposition", 3) controllability of speaker's propositional action realization in the paradigm "controllability of speaker's verbal proposition implementation by an addresser:: controllability of speaker's verbal proposition implementation by an addressee", 4) direction / orientation of speaker's propositional action realization in the paradigm "focus of speaker's verbal proposition implementation on a recipient / an addressee:: focus of speaker's verbal proposition implementation on the interests of an addresser".

I. Utterances-statements of the illocutionary assertive goal:

(26) EModE: *Mariana (to the Duke): "My lord, I do confess I ne'er was married; And I confess besides I am no maid: I have known my husband; yet my husband Knows not that ever he knew me"* (Shakespeare, "Measure for measure")<sup>55</sup>.

In example (26), the illocutionary assertive goal is realized by the illocutionary verb confess in order for the speaker Mariana to utter the statement as the fact to convince the Duke as an addressee that she is not married and is not a servant. The social status of the addresser is defined as the subordinate status to the reference of the Duke as an addressee, because he has a higher social level. Implementation of the speaker's

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<sup>54</sup> Egoro & Gunn, *op. cit.*, pp. 130-143.

<sup>55</sup> Rowse, *op. cit.*, p. 741.



propositional action's illocutionary goal is optional, but controlled.

So, the intensity of a speaker's assertive goal in speech act of an assertive utterance-statement is defined as the weak illocutionary force.

## II. Utterances-statements of the illocutionary directive goal:

(27) OE: *The coast-guard: "Swylce ic maguþegnas mine hate wið feonda gehwone flotan eowerne, niwtyrwydne nacan on sande arum healdan, oþðæt eft byreð ofer lagustreamas leofne mannan wudu wundenhals to Wedermearce, ...". – The coast-guard: "What's more, I'll order my own comrades On their word of honor to watch your boat Down there on the strand keep her safe In her fresh tar, until the time comes For her curved prow to preen on the waves And bear this hero back to Geatland"* (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>56</sup>.

## III. Utterances-statements of the illocutionary commissive goal:

(28) ME: *Author: "This Januarie is ravished in a traunce At every time he loked on hir face; But in his herte he gan hir to manace, That he that night in armes wolde hir streyne Harder than ever Paris dide Eleyne". – Author: "January was rapt into a trance With each time that he looked upon her face; And in his heart her beauty he'd embrace, And threatened in his arms to hold her tight, Harder than Paris Helen did, that night"* (Chaucer, "The Canterbury tales: The merchant's tale")<sup>57</sup>.

In examples (27) – (28), the directive and commissive illocutionary goals of the illocutionary verbs *order* (*hate* – OE), *threatened* (*manace* – OE), respectively, actualize the strong intensity of the speech act's illocutionary force of the speakers' commissive utterances-statements due to the authoritative / equal social status of the addressers – the coast-guard (27), January (28). The latter fact determines obligatory implementation of speakers' verbal propositions of order, threat with controllability by the addressers and the direction or orientational focus on the recipients.

## IV. Utterances-statements of the illocutionary expressive goal:

(29) ME: *"Thou seist also, that it displeth me But-if that thou wolt preyse my beautee, And but thou poure alwey up-on my face, And clepe me "faire dame" in every place; ...". – "You say also that it displeases me Unless you praise and flatter mv beauty, And save you gaze always upon mv face And call me "lovely lady" every place; ..."* (Chaucer, "The Canterbury tales: The physician's tale")<sup>58</sup>.

In sentence (29), the illocutionary expressive speech act is realized by illocutionary verb *praise* (*wolt preyse* – ME) in the speaker's expressive

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<sup>56</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 20-21.

<sup>57</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 327.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, *op. cit.*, p. 261.

utterance-statement. The intensity of the illocutionary expressive goal is determined as the weak illocutionary force due to the subordinate social status because of speaker's less authority that exclusively causes the addresser's feeling expression of addressee's glorification as his own interest without any controllability from a speaker's side. Thus, implementation of an illocutionary expressive goal of an addresser's verbal propositional action is confirmed as optional with focus of speaker's verbal proposition implementation on the interests of an addresser.

V. Utterances-statements of the illocutionary declarative goal:

(30) OE: "*cwæð, he guðcýning ofer swanrade secean wolde, mærne þeoden, þa him wæs manna þearf*". – "*He (Hygelac) announced his plan: To sail the swan's roads and search out that king, The famous prince who needed defenders*" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>59</sup>.

In example (30), the illocutionary verb *announced* (*cwæð* – OE) actualizes the illocutionary declarative goal of the speaker's declarative utterance-statement. The social status of the addresser (Hygelac) and the addressee (king) is defined as the equal social status with focus on the latter. Hence, it is witnessed and determined the strong intensity of the illocutionary declarative goal with the obligation of speaker's verbal propositional action implementation and the controllability by the addresser.

Thereby, numerous exemplifications from of Old-, Middle-, Early Modern English dialogic discourse witness and confirm the characteristics of utterances-statements with:

I. The strong illocutionary force, which implements and includes:

- 1) authoritative social status:: equal social status of a speaker;
- 2) obligation of speaker's propositional action implementation;
- 3) controllability of speaker's verbal proposition implementation by an addresser;
- 4) direction / orientation / focus of speaker's verbal proposition implementation on a recipient / an addressee.

II. The weak illocutionary force, which actualizes and contains:

- 1) subordinate social status of a speaker;
- 2) optionality of speaker's propositional action implementation;
- 3) controllability of speaker's verbal proposition implementation by an addressee;
- 4) direction / orientation / focus of speaker's verbal proposition implementation on the interests of an addresser.

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<sup>59</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 14-15.

## Direct and indirect illocutionary speech acts in Old English, Middle English, and Early Modern English

In historical English studies, it is noticed that complex sentences with the studied illocutionary verbs can realize direct or indirect speech acts of utterances-statements of different types as *assertives*, *directives*, *commissives*, *expressives*, *declaratives*.

In sentences (31) – (37), it has been exemplified *assertive* utterances, *directive* utterances, *commissive* utterances, *expressive* utterances, *declarative* utterances as the direct speech acts (31) – (33), (36) – (37) with such illocutionary verbs as *thanked* (*þancedon* – OE), *swear* (*swere* – ME), *intend* (*entende* – ME), *command* (*command* – EModE), *bless* (*bless* – EModE), and the indirect speech acts (34) – (35) with such illocutionary verbs as *persuade* (*glose* – ME), *ask* (*ask* – EModE):

(31) OE: "*þá wæs sund liden éoletes æt ende. Panon up hraðe Wedera léode on wang stigon saéwudu saéldon syrcan hrysedon gúðgewaédo; Gode þancedon þæs þe him ýþ-láde éaðe wurdon*". – "It was the end of their voyage and the Geats vaulted Over the side, out on to the sand, And moored their ship. There was a clash of mail And a thresh of gear. They thanked God For that easy crossing on a calm sea" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>60</sup>.

(32) ME: "*And this on every god celestial I swere it yow, and eek on eche goddesse, On every Nymphe and deite infernal, On Satiry and Fauny more and lesse, That halve goddes been of wildernesse; And Atropos my threed of lyf to-breste If I be fals; now trowe me if thou leste!*" – "*And this I swear, by every God supernal, And swear it, too, by every bright Goddess, By every Nymph and Deity infernal, By every Faun and Satyr, more and less, Those demi-gods that haunt the wilderness, That Atropos may snip her fatal shears If I am false or justify your fears!*" (Chaucer, "Troilus and Cressida")<sup>61</sup>.

(33) ME: Author: "*Whan that she leyser hadde, and for to entende To lernen bokes was al hir lyking, How she in vertu mighte hir lyf dispende". – Author: "*Whenever she hail time; she did intend To learn from books, which were to her liking, I low she in virtue might her whole life spend*" (Chaucer, "The Canterbury tales: The monk's tale: Zenobia")<sup>62</sup>.*

(34) ME: "*Ye shal eek seen, your fader shal yow glose To been a wyf, and as he can wel preche,...*". – "*You'll see – your father shall you so persuade, You'll marry there, for he knows how to preach; ...*" (Chaucer, "Troilus and Cressida")<sup>63</sup>.

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<sup>60</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 16-17.

<sup>61</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 117.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 440.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 116.

1. (35) EModE: *Follywit*: "Yet I am a fool to ask that, for how can they keep their countenance that have lost their credits?" (Middleton, "A mad world my masters")<sup>64</sup>.

(36) EModE: *Temper (to Jesus)*: "If thou be the son of God, command that these stones be made bread" (Middleton, "The two gates of salvation: The evangelists")<sup>65</sup>.

(37) EModE: *Florizel*: "I bless the time When my good falcon made her flight across Thy father's ground" (Shakespeare, "The winter's tale")<sup>66</sup>.

At this given point of direct and indirect illocutionary speech acts with English illocutionary verbs, it should be mentioned that specific share of direct / indirect speech acts in different periods of English language development varies, where the use of complex sentences to denote direct / indirect speech acts is the peculiar reflection of general trends in the speech behaviour of communicators<sup>67</sup>. In the period from the VI-th to the XVII-th centuries, there occurs the tendency for the amount increase of direct speech acts realizations by complex sentences implementations with the studied illocutionary verbs at the expense of assigning to the statement more categorical, confidential sense with corresponding illocutionary verbs in specific speech acts, as it was exemplified in (38):

(38) EModE: *Sir Nathaniel*: "When in the world I lived, I was the world's commander; By east, west, north, and south, I spread my conquering might: My scutcheon plain declares that I am Alisander" (Shakespeare, "Love's labour's lost")<sup>68</sup>.

Direct and indirect speech acts are characterized by morphological and syntactic indicators. In some languages, linguists distinguish three leading syntactic types of sentences, which are typically associated with three basic illocutionary forces of utterances, namely complex sentences are considered in the paradigm "syntactic type of a sentence – illocutionary force / type of an utterance" as: declarative sentences – "assertiveness / statement", interrogative sentences – "request / question" and imperative sentences – "order / request"<sup>69</sup>. Hence, in case of the direct corresponding of a sentence's syntactic type with the illocutionary force of an utterance, a complex sentence actualizes the direct speech act. However, the indirect relationship between the syntactic type of a complex sentence and the illocutionary force signals about the indirect speech act.

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<sup>64</sup> Taylor & Lavagnino, *op. cit.*, p. 418.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 689.

<sup>66</sup> Rowse, *op. cit.*, p. 2369.

<sup>67</sup> Kalytyuk, *op. cit.*, p. 54.

<sup>68</sup> Rowse, *op. cit.*, p. 223.

<sup>69</sup> Y. Huang, *Speech acts*. In K. Brown, & K. Allan (Eds.), *Concise encyclopedia of semantics*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Oxford: Elsevier, 2009, p. 922.

An illocutionary speech act is associated with intentionality and sentence proposition that actualize the objective content of the discourse, and with the utterance conventionality or conventions, which are considered as the subjective content of context with speaker's independent ways of his purpose and intentions' implementation, and identification by the listener. Actualization of an illocutionary speech act as an objective content of the dialogic discourse is based on the subjective content of language discourse, pragmatic conventions, where the latter are associated in consciousness of a native speaker with a certain scenario interaction within a given communicative situation. Realization of an illocutionary speech act is based on conventions as the ability of language signs to represent related concepts in a particular language environment<sup>70</sup>.

Functioning of complex sentences-statements of affirmative nature in the dialogic discourse of Old-, Middle-, Early Modern English is witnessed, according to such parameters as: 1) illocutionary force and illocutionary goal as an objective content of an utterance-statement – assertive, commissive, directive, declarative, expressive; 2) syntactic type of the sentence-statement, depending on the intentional purpose – in the paradigms: "affirmative statement", "imperative statement", "interrogative statement"; 3) conventionality / unconventionality of the speech act as +/- subjective content of an utterance-statement.

From our corpus data of Old-, Middle-, Early Modern English, we witness and testify that sentences-utterances of the affirmative character actualize *direct illocutionary speech acts* in all five types of the speech acts of the English language dialogic discourse as:

I. Affirmative statements:: conventional speech acts :: + / + objective / subjective content of the English dialogic discourse:

(39) ME: "*Who fedde the Egipcien Marie in the cave, Or in desert? no wight but Crist, sans faille. Fyve thousand folk it was as gret merveille With loves fyve and fisshes two to fede. God sente his foison at hir grete nede*". – "*Who gave Egyptian Mary food to eat In cave or desert? None but Christ, say I. Five thousand folk, the gospels testify, On five loaves and two fishes once did feed. And thus God sent abundance for her need*" (Chaucer, "The Canterbury tales: The tale of the man of law")<sup>71</sup>.

(40) EModE: *Demetrius*: "*I am full sorry That he approves the common liar, who Thus speaks of him at Rome: but I will hope Of better deeds to-morrow. Rest you happy!*" (Shakespeare, "Antony and Cleopatra")<sup>72</sup>.

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<sup>70</sup> I. Budi, *Conventionality and intentionality in the performative concept*. A young scientist. Vol. 4.3 (44.3), 2017, p. 23.

<sup>71</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 243.

<sup>72</sup> Rowse, *op. cit.*, p. 2011.

II. Imperative statements:: conventional speech acts :: + / + objective / subjective content of the English dialogic discourse:

(41) EModE: *Lucius (to Captain)*: "This forwardness Makes our hopes fair. Command our present numbers Be muster'd; bid the captains look to't" (Shakespeare, "Cymbeline")<sup>73</sup>.

(42) OE: *Wiglaf (to the old King – the leader of the Geats)*: "hátað heaðo-maére hlaéw gewyrcean, beorhtne æfter baéle æt brimes nósan". – "Order my troop to construct a barrow on a headland on the coast, after my pyre has cooled" (Anonymous, "Beowulf")<sup>74</sup>.

(43) ME: "And at o word, with-uten repentaunce, Wel-come, my knight, my pees, my suffisaunce!" – "I am content, befall what may befall; Welcome, my knight, mv peace, mv all in all!" (Chaucer, "Troilus and Cressida")<sup>75</sup>.

Examples (39) – (43) are defined as complex sentences of declarative and imperative nature with such illocutionary verbs as testify, approve, command, order, welcome, which implement the direct illocutionary speech acts in concordance of the specified syntactic types of the exemplified sentences with particular illocutionary force of utterances-statements in paradigms "affirmative statement", "imperative statement". The assertive goal (39), the declarative goal (40), the directive goal (41) – (42), the expressive goal (43) as the intentional purpose of these utterances-statements actualize the objective content in studied complex sentences with the conventional use of speech acts in the subjective context of their representation as the statements with identification by an addressee as the affirmative, imperative statements of affirmative nature in discourse of OE, ME, EModE.

Interestingly, in speech act's theory development, as noticed by Lewiński (2021), the basic form of illocutionary pluralism is recognized to be the one, involved in indirect speech acts realized as questions or requests, where illocutionarily secondary (indirect) speech acts, but locutionarily primary (direct) speech acts, are the means to perform illocutionarily primary (direct) speech acts, but locutionarily secondary (indirect) speech acts.

Hence, questions and requests are regarded as indirect illocutionary speech acts with direct locutionarity<sup>76</sup>.

According to our research results, we can confirm that the rationale stance of the indirect speech act's use in the Old English, Middle English,

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<sup>73</sup> Ibid., p. 2312.

<sup>74</sup> Heaney, *op. cit.*, pp. 188-189.

<sup>75</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 79.

<sup>76</sup> M. Lewiński, *Speech act pluralism in argumentative polylogues*. Informal logic, 41 (3), 2021, pp. 430-431.

Early Modern English languages can be considered by speech act's realization at the syntactic / grammatical level by the complex sentence itself in the form of an interrogative statement, as well as by an indirect question, which is placed in the subordinate / complementary clause in the postposition of the main illocutionary verb of the speech act.

*Indirect illocutionary speech acts* are witnessed in the complex sentences of the studied periods in diachrony as utterances-statements of the interrogative affirmative character as:

III. Interrogative statements:: unconventional speech acts :: + /-objective / subjective content of the English dialogic discourse:

(44) ME: *But Pandarus brak al this speche anoon. And seyde to Deiphebus: "wole ye goon, If yourë wille be, as I yow preyde, To speke here of the nedes of Criseyde?" – Till on the conversation Pandar broke And said: "Deiphebus, to all this folk, May I now beg you somewhat to declare Of Cressida's unfortunate affair?"* (Chaucer, "Troilus and Cressida")<sup>77</sup>.

(45) ME: *"Eek though I speke of love unfeleingly, No wonder is, for it no-thing of newe is; A blind man can nat juggen wel in hewis". – "And if unskilled in love my pen I ply, No wonder that, for who would dare assert A blind man should in colors be expert?"* (Chaucer, "Troilus and Cressida")<sup>78</sup>.

(46) EModE: *Mother Gruel: "Then she demanded of me whether I was your worship's aunt or no?"* (Middleton, "Michaelmas tearme")<sup>79</sup>.

(47) EModE: *Cade: "Dare any be so bold to sound retreat or parley, when I command them kill?"* (Shakespeare, "King Henry VI" Part II)<sup>80</sup>.

Sentences (44) – (47) from Middle English and Early Modern English have been exemplified as complex sentences of the interrogative affirmative character with such illocutionary verbs as *beg*, *declare*, *assert*, *demand*, *command*, which implement or actualize indirect illocutionary speech acts in concordance of the interrogative syntactic type of these sentences with the illocutionary directive or exersitive force (beg, demand, command), declarative force (declare), assertive force (assert) of the above mentioned utterances-statements in the paradigm "interrogative statement". The objective content of these interrogative statements is ensured by actualizing the relevant illocutionary force and the intentional purpose of the utterances-statements as the directive, declarative, or assertive force / goal in the interrogative context, where the latter is perceived by the listener not as the subjective content, but more as the

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<sup>77</sup> Hutchins, *op. cit.*, p. 51.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 22.

<sup>79</sup> Taylor & Lavagnino, *op. cit.*, p. 356.

<sup>80</sup> Rowse, *op. cit.*, p. 872.

objective content of the speaker's verbal proposition, which is implemented or realized by the directive statements, declarative statements, and assertive statements.

To recapitulate, in the English dialogic discourse in diachrony, above mentioned exemplifications of the illocutionary speech acts (44) – (47) are fixed as the unconventional speech acts in the objective content of the objective context, which determines their actual perception or identification by the addressee as the interrogative statements, outlining the latter as indirect illocutionary speech acts.

### **Conclusions**

In the long run of our discussion, we put forward and claimed our rationale stance that in the dialogic discourse of Old-, Middle-, Early Modern English complex sentences as the utterances-statements with illocutionary verbs were testified as assertive utterances (verdictives) (with such illocutionary verbs as *assert, assure, predict, inform, tell, notify, inform, acknowledge, admit, remind, testify, confirm, certify, prove, confess, assume, guess, state, swear, insist*), directive utterances (exercitives) (with such illocutionary verbs as *ask, order, command, request, plead, pray, invite, prescribe, demand, offer, induce, incite, persuade, seduce, beg, advise, recommend*), commissive utterances (with such illocutionary verbs as *commit, promise, contract, undertake, intend, threaten, agree, vow, vouch, refuse, decline*), expressive utterances (behaviatives) (with such illocutionary verbs as *congratulate, thank, deplore, welcome, praise, compliment, regret, condole, greet*), declarative utterances (expositives) (with such illocutionary verbs as *declare, announce, proclaim, approve, authorize, excommunicate, name, reproach, surrender, bless*).

The findings showed the studied English utterances-statements to function as the illocutionary direct and indirect speech acts of the illocutionary goal with weak or strong illocutionary force depending on the addresser's intentional verbal proposition. The feature of the speaker's illocutionary force is characterized by the social status of an addresser, the obligatory implementation of a speaker's verbal proposition, controllability and orientation or direction of a speaker's verbal propositional action.

It has been defined the meaning of the objective and subjective contents of the illocutionary direct and indirect speech acts as "affirmative statements", "imperative statements", "interrogative statements" due to the indicators or parameters of illocutionary force / goal, of the special syntactic type of utterances-statements, and conventionality / unconventionality of the studied speech acts. Further research perspectives are considered in the study of the pragmatic potential of



locutionary, illocutionary, perlocutionary speech acts in the linguistic discourse space of the diachronic Germanic studies.

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### Appendix

Table 1. Realization of illocutionary speech acts with illocutionary verbs in Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English

<b>Illocutionary speech acts in complex sentences as utterances-statements with illocutionary verbs in dialogic discourse of Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English</b>					
<b>Illocutionary speech acts / verbs</b>	<b>Old English</b>	<b>Middle English</b>	<b>Early Modern English</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>"Beowulf"</b>	<b>Chaucer</b>	<b>Shakespeare</b>	<b>Middleton</b>	
<b>I. assertives / verdictives</b>					
1. assert	1	3	0	0	
2. assure	0	34	123	107	
3. predict	1	0	1	1	
4. inform	2	8	42	6	
5. tell	16	1387	1414	390	
6. notify	0	3	2	1	
7. acknowledge	1	8	25	30	
8. admit	1	4	48	36	
9. remind	0	2	0	0	
10. testify	0	3	6	9	
11. confirm	0	7	42	39	
12. certify	0	0	3	10	
13. prove	9	46	64	64	
14. confess	0	62	162	200	
15. assume	0	3	16	8	
16. guess	0	50	54	46	
17. state	0	2	1	0	
18. swear	0	56	313	220	

19. insist	0	7	2	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1685</b>	<b>2318</b>	<b>1168</b>	<b>5202</b>
<b>II. directives / exercitives</b>					
20. ask	4	180	235	214	
21. (take/give) order	20	16	19	21	
22. (give) command	1	23	96	57	
23. (have) request	1	5	8	15	
24. plead	1	7	56	32	
25. pray	0	295	812	768	
26. invite	0	4	36	57	
27. prescribe	0	0	4	6	
28. demand	0	13	17	8	
29. offer	3	11	42	84	
30. induce	0	1	9	2	
31. incite	0	2	6	1	
32. persuade	0	1	63	51	
33. seduce	0	0	11	6	
34. beg	1	35	25	24	
35. advise	1	41	90	46	
36. recommend	0	1	4	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>1394</b>	<b>3594</b>
<b>III. commissives</b>					
37. commit	2	16	88	53	
38. promise	4	42	68	53	
39. contract	0	2	7	5	
40. undertake	2	34	53	34	
41. intend	1	8	87	32	
42. threaten	4	4	35	30	
43. agree	1	47	29	35	
44. (make) vow	2	14	57	33	

45.(avouch) / vouch(safe)	0	28	88	30	
46. refuse	3	17	44	54	
47. decline	1	3	22	8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>1180</b>
<b>IV. expressives / behabiatives</b>					
48. congratulate	0	0	1	1	
49. thank	7	125	303	322	
50. deplore	0	5	1	5	
51. welcome	7	35	373	507	
52. praise	5	13	56	40	
53. compliment	0	0	1	1	
54. regret	1	4	0	0	
55. condole	0	1	2	0	
56. greet	3	12	40	17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>1888</b>
<b>V. declaratives / expositives</b>					
57. declare	2	54	8	10	
58. announce	4	2	0	0	
59. proclaim	0	5	81	44	
60. approve	0	11	43	35	
61. authorize	0	0	1	1	
62. excommunicate	0	0	2	1	
63. name	3	8	46	50	
64. reproach	0	11	6	1	
65. surrender	0	0	2	0	
66. bless	1	20	31	35	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>518</b>
<b>Total speech acts / verbs</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>2841</b>	<b>5426</b>	<b>3999</b>	<b>12382</b>