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DIRECTIVE INTERJECTIONS IN ENGLISH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

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Abstract. *The use of directive speech acts represented by interjections in professional communication in the Army, the Navy, in sports, cinema and television and some other fields of human joint activities is analysed. The examples of transposition of such units into another sphere of use are considered. Conventionally determined meaning of such interjections is emphasised. The material is amply illustrated with relevant examples.*

Keywords: command; conventionally determined meaning; directive speech act; interjection; order.

1. Introduction

The mainstream of contemporary linguistic research studies language in the real environment of its functioning. Special attention should be given to the pragmatic potential of different parts of speech. That is why such part of speech as interjection which is actualised in discourse as a separate utterance is thought to be of immediate interest for the pragmatic analysis.

2. Research and related publication analysis

Interjections as a separate lexical grammar category occupy a particular place in the parts of speech system. Characterising interjections V.V. Vinogradov pointed out that “while interjections convey emotions, feelings and temper they do not denote or name them. Not possessing nominative function interjections have collectively comprehended meaningful content” [Vinogradov 1972, p. 584]. From the semantic point of view interjections service three spheres: emotions and emotional estimation, expression of will and etiquette [Linguistic...1990, p. 290]. Demand and command can be regarded as expression of will [Russian... 1980, p. 735]. In terms of communicative pragmatic analysis, according to the classification given by J. Searle [1986], such utterances can be regarded as directive speech acts. Actualization of the latter requires definite ritualised social context [Cognitive...2004].

The paper is aimed at the study of the pragmatic potential of directive interjections realised in the specific areas of human activities.

3. Directive conventionally determined interjections

The examples of ritualised social context are represented in the environment of professional

communication between a superior and a subordinate. There occur such situations when a superior has to give a brief order or a command which does not admit any inaccuracy in interpretation. Interjections among which there are military orders and commands, marine orders, sports commands, commands and instructions used in some professional jargons etc. constitute language component of such directive speech acts.

Informational incompleteness of the utterance in the speech acts with implicit propositional part is compensated by the context. Whether to involve context to adequately interpret the speaker's expressed intention depends on the degree of conventionality of the speech act, the way its illocutionary force is expressed (direct/indirect, explicit/implicit) and also its pragmatic potential [Medvedeva 1988, p. 35]. Taking this into consideration one can distinguish context free and context dependent speech acts. If we speak about a language stereotype which expresses intention in a typical way, then a native speaker does not need any context to recognise and understand this intention. Pragmatic meaning of such interjectional utterance is conventionally determined or, in another terminology, is context free [Kokh 1978, p. 150]. Applying R. Harweg's nomenclature, these utterances can be defined as communicatively strong which means that they can be understood without reference to the surrounding utterances [Nikolaeva 1978, p. 467]. Their meanings belong to the common language and are understandable without any context, thus they are conventionally determined.

Conventionally determined meaning is characteristic of the interjections with specific semantic functions (monosemantic) [Russian...1980, p. 733].

Orders, commands and instructions represented by directive interjections belong to this class of units. Classification according to the usage domain allows to distinguish military orders and commands, marine orders, sports commands and commands and instructions used in some professional jargons and in the process of joint labour activities.

4. Military orders and commands

Military orders and commands comprising units like *about face, about turn, action stations, as you were, at ease, attack, attention, battle stations, boot and saddle, by the left, change arms, close ranks, dismiss, dress, easy, fall in, fall out, forward march, front pass, left oblique, left shoulder arms, left step, left turn, left wheel, man on the floor, mount, mount up, one pace forward march, order arms, present arms, port arms, quick march, right dress, right form, right turn, right wheel, shoulder arms, show a leg, slope arms, stand easy, stand fast, step short, wakey* and others are used in different corps. The majority of them are drill commands. For example: "Hill: You're no good. Smiler, you're no good. Shoulder arms! Smiler, one pace forward march. The rest, about turn! By the left, quick march" [Wesker 1990, p. 193]; "Man on the floor! In front of your cots at attention! Barracks ready for inspection, Captain" [Private...]. Military orders and commands expressed by interjections can be divided according to their meaning and use into the following groups:

1) commands to start moving: (*forward*) *march, one pace forward march* ("Left, column right, march! Left! Left! Left, right, left. Left! Left! Left, right, left. Squad, halt!" [Renaissance...]), to speed it up: *double time, quick march, move it, show a leg* ("Come on. Come on. Double time. Double time. Pick it up. Move it. Move it. Come on! Move it! Let's go. Let's go. Let's go" [Police...]) or slow it down: *slow march* ("On the command, Slow – March, squad members shall: A. Maintain the head and body erect and arms steady at the sides. B. Step off smoothly with the left foot, with the toe clear of the ground and pointing downwards. With a gliding motion, complete a 15 inch glide pace with the ball of the left foot coming to the ground first and then all subsequent paces are 30 inches" [Marching...]) and to stop: *halt* ("Platoon, halt! Fall out!" [Private...]);

2) commands to start action: *attack, reveille, close ranks, fire* ("Reveille! Let's go! Everybody up! Move it! Everybody up! Everybody move!

Everybody, Benjamin!" [Private...]; "Aye, Rabbit, get ready to fire a spread. Tubes one and two. Zero gyro. Fire ! Rabbit, fire!" [U-571...]) or to finish it: *at ease, cease fire, freeze* ("At ease, gentlemen... and ladies. I'm your post commander. Colonel Clay Thornbush" [Private...]);

3) commands to change the direction of the movement: *about (left, right) turn, left (right) wheel, left (right) form* ("When the recruits have been acquainted with as well as shown the nature of the foregoing directions, they will be trained to the execution of the wheelings, and, therefore, after the rank has been properly dressed, receive the caution To the Right Wheel, at which the right-hand man faces outwards in the line..." [A treatise...]);

4) marine orders: *action station, all ahead, all hands ahoy, all hands on deck, all hands to quarters, anchor's aweigh, as she goes, as you go; back her, bear for action, bear off, bear steady; carry on, cast off, ease(y) her, emergency full speed, full(steam/speed) ahead, full(speed)astern; heave ho, hold fast; keep her so/steady; ready all; ship oars, slow ahead together, slow astern together, stand from under, steady as you go; word to be passed* ("Cast off all lines forward ! Cast off forward! Take in all lines aft. Cast off aft! Rudder amidships, all ahead one-third. All ahead one-third!" [U-571...]).

5. Sports commands

Another field of ritualized human activities which may require brief and unambiguous expression of will is sport, e.g. *anchor, get/set, go; on the line, on your mark(s); ready, steady, go; your service*. An online dictionary wiktionary defines command *on your mark, get set, go!* as: "(sports) A three-command start when racing: *on your mark* (get on your lane/spot) *get set* (get to starting position) *go!* (take off)" and offers interjectional utterances *ready, set, go* and *ready, steady, go* as synonyms [Wiktionary...]. Use of these units is not restricted to the sphere of sports competitions. The examples of their use can be found even in song lyrics: "Hey honey watch me walking down the street/ I get invitations from the girls that I meet/ Since you went away/ I've been dancing every night and day/ Better watch your step/ 'Cause honey Ready! Steady! Go! I'm gonna break your heart in two" [Brainpool...].

Some military commands, in particular drill commands: *fall in, fall out, front pass, left step, line up, rest*, are constituents of this group and can be used in sports activities. For example: "I'm going to

call out your names and I want you to line up behind me. Abbott. Barnett. Benjamin. Benjamin! – Sir. – Fall in, Benjamin” [Private...] and “Wing Commander: The men in your squad are slobs. Their standard is low and I’m not satisfied. No man passed out of my camp unless he’s perfect – you know that. Hill: Yes, sir. All right, fall in, the lot of you. (Boys enter)” [Wesker 1990, p. 196]. In the first example military command expressed by interjectional utterance *fall in* is addressed to the military personnel while in the second example it orders scouts to fall into line. Likewise we can observe extension of use of the cavalry command *mount* beyond the military domain: “All right. Mount up, Tackleberry. Let’s go” [Marching...] (command addressed to a policeman) and “Captains, shake hands,” ordered the referee Madam Hooch, as Angelina and Montague reached each other. Harry could tell that Montague was trying to crush Angelina’s fingers, though she did not wince. “Mount your brooms...” [Rowling 2004, p. 609] (sports command).

6. Commands in work and other joint activities

There are situations in human work activities when commands and instructions should be brief and unambiguous. Thus a number of interjectional directives are typically used in some professional jargons and during joint labour activities. They are:

1) commands in cinema and radio: *action*, *action stations*, *camera*, *light*, *run for it*, *stand by*. For example: “– Places, everyone. – One, two, three, four! – Run for it!” [Ella...] where interjectional utterance *run for it* acquires meaning of the order to start a show. We should mention that some interjectional commands used in joint activities are borrowed from the military sphere. For example command *action stations* is defined in the dictionary as: “(military, UK, Canada) The positions or activity assumed by the crew of a warship immediately in advance of combat or other hostile action; also, the signal given to indicate such imminent action”, but an additional meaning is given: “Any general state of intense anticipatory activity” [Wiktionary...]. Another dictionary underlines that among other definitions of the word *action* there is an interjection which can be determined as “a command given by a film director to indicate that filming is to begin” [Wordreference...];

2) commands in circus: *allez*, *on with the parade* which are given to the participants of the show when it is carried out: “Ladies and gentlemen, and children

of all ages, welcome to the most extravagant extravaganza the human eye can behold! Welcome the stars of the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth! Move up! Up! In the big top! Allez!” [Water...];

3) commands in joint activities: work, weights lifting, etc.: *anchor aweigh*, *gung – ho heave ho*; *lift*; *one, two, heave*; *one, two, three*; *one, two – up she goes/comes*; *you – heave – ho*; *yo – ho*. For example: “– Ed, we’re going to jump. – We’re gonna jump? – Yes. – On three. Ready? – Okay. – One, two... three!” [Baby’s...]. In the example mentioned above interjection *ready* functions as a query whether everybody is ready for the joint jump and interjection *one, two... three* is a command to fulfil the jump. In the next example interjections *hep*, *heave*, *heave ho* function as commands in joint weights lifting: “Hep! Heave! Hep! Swing that sledge. Sing that song. Let’s go. Let’s go... – Heave ho. Heave ho. – Let’s go, Dumbo. Up, down. Up, down. – Heave ho. – One, two, One, two. One, two. – Heave ho!” [Disney...];

4) commands in joint exercising, singing, dancing, etc.: *all together now*, *come on*, *once again*. For example: “I think we all ought to try that,” said Angelina. “If we could just keep the rain off our faces it would really help visibility – all together, come on – Impervius! OK. Let’s go.” [Rowling 2004, p. 495] where interjectional utterances *all together* and *come on* function as a command to repeat the exercise simultaneously. Usually a conductor or a choirmaster directs performers’ rendition with the help of directive interjections: “Gilbert urges his students to stop living in the moment; giving a Get ready! cue just one beat ahead of a Now! creates a little shiver of panic. A conductor has to be simultaneously ahead of the music and with it, experiencing and expecting at the same time —manufacturing an extended déjà vu” [What Does a Conductor...].

7. Conclusions

Interjections/interjectional utterances analysed in the paper constitute one group of interjectional commands, orders and instructions. This can be proved by the fact that they have common illocutionary force: expression of the speaker’s firm will which does not admit any objection. Consequently all these units are usually characteristic of the speech of a communicant with the higher social status. Interjections have potential to communicate pragmatic type of information immediately.

Thus the usage of such language units for the expression of will allows to economise efforts spent on speech production. High degree of conventionality of such units used as commands, orders and instructions practically eliminates the risk of misunderstanding on the part of the addressee and promotes efficiency of communication.

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О.В. Каптюрова. Вигуки-директиви в англomовній професійній комунікації

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На матеріалі англійської мови розглянуто використання вигуків – директивних мовленнєвих актів у професійному спілкуванні в армії, на флоті, в спорті, кіно, на телебаченні та в деяких інших видах спільної діяльності. Приділено увагу прикладам транспонування таких одиниць в іншу сферу вживання. Зроблено акцент на конвенційно-обумовленому значенні таких вигуків. Розглянутий матеріал ілюстровано відповідними прикладами.

Ключові слова: вигук; директивний мовленнєвий акт; команда; конвенційно-обумовлене значення; наказ.

Каптюрова Е.В. Междометия-директивы в англоязычной профессиональной коммуникации

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На материале английского языка рассмотрено использование междометий – директивных речевых актов в профессиональном общении в армии, на флоте, в спорте, кино, на телевидении и в некоторых других видах совместной деятельности. Уделено внимание примерам транспонирования таких единиц в другую сферу использования. Сделан акцент на конвенционально-обусловленном значении таких междометий. Рассматриваемый материал проиллюстрирован соответствующими примерами.

Ключевые слова: директивный речевой акт; команда; конвенционально-обусловленное значение; междометие; приказ.

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