ABSTRACT

The communicative rovce of utteraules in محمود عطية فرحان. (رسالة ماجستير).- بغداد : onellis the havy ape and empertons الجامعة المستنصرية : كلية الاداب : قسم اللغة الانكليزية ، ٢٠١٠.

The main problem of the present study may be attributed to the fact that some characters may vary their use of language and; therefore, there may be different meanings for one utterance. Moreover, misunderstanding may be caused by ambiguity or vagueness which may mislead addressees. Furthermore, communication could be more problematic if certain characters violate or flout the cooperative principle suggested by Grice (١٩٧٥). Accordingly, the present study seeks to analyze the pragmatic aspect of communicative force of utterances in some extracts selected from *O'Neill's THE HAIRY APE* (١٩٢٠*)* and *THE EMPEROR JONES* (١٩٢٢) in terms   of implicature, presupposition and indirectness.

The study aims at discussing Grice's maxims of conversation, the cooperative principle and how they are sometimes violated or flouted, and direct vs. indirect speech. It also endeavors to analyze O'Neill's selected literary extracts pragmatically by investigating the type of context, levels of meaning and cultural peculiarities identified in the selected works.

The study intends to verify that:

(١) The use of indirectness by addressers can lead to ambiguity and/or vagueness.

(٢) Some characters are supposed to flout or violate Grice's maxims of conversation.

(٣) The communication of the characters' force involves making assumptions, inferences, presuppositions, and implicatures.

The following procedures will be followed to achieve the above-mentioned aims:

(١) Classifying the types and/or levels of meaning.

(٢) Analyzing the collected data by adopting *Thomas's Model of Meaning* (١٩٩٥) and *Grice's Model of Conversation Maxims* (١٩٧٥).

The study is limited to studying and analyzing certain extracts selected from the American playwright, *O'Neill's The Hairy Ape* (١٩٢٠) and *The Emperor Jones* (١٩٢٢) by focusing on a pragmatic concept of communicative force of utterances.

The study comprises a preview and four chapters. The preview presents the problem of the study, the aims and hypotheses, procedures, limits and value of the study. Chapter one is a review of literature of pragmatics which includes different definitions of the term pragmatics. This chapter also fathoms the concepts speech acts, implicature, presupposition, cooperative principles, context, and ambiguity and vagueness.

Chapter two is mainly concerned with the core of the study (i.e., the communicative force of utterances). It deals with

several notions that are of relevance to the notion of meaning. It elaborates the level of meaning according to *Thomas's Model of Meaning* (١٩٩٥) for the purpose of identifying the force. It cites several definitions and notions that are of relevance to the notion of force. It also tackles the relationship between force and utterance meaning by identifying four manifestations in figuring out force and utterance meaning.

Chapter three is devoted to the pragmatic analysis of the communicative force of utterances in some selected extracts from O'Neill's above-mentioned plays. This chapter also includes summaries of both plays in order to give a clear idea of O'Neill's language and style in the two plays. Two models are adopted for the analysis of the communicative force of utterances including *Thomas's model of meaning* (١٩٩٥) and *Grice's Model of Conversation Maxims* (١٩٧٥). Chapter four ends with relevant conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for further research and two appendices as well as one glossary.

The main conclusions are as follows:

(١) Meaning is the result of interaction between abstract meaning, the speaker, the hearer and the context.

(٢) The process of interpretation of the communicative force of utterances by addressees/ addressers undergoes assigning sense to words in context, assigning reference to words in context and then comes to the force.

(٣) It is found that some characters may vary their use of utterances, depending on context and therefore their meanings are of three levels which are abstract manning, utterance meaning and force.

(٤) Some characters tend to violate or flout *Grice's Maxims of Conversation*.

(٥) Indirectness may be preferred by certain characters for saving faces, avoiding confrontation and making jokes.

(٦) Misunderstanding may arise when certain addressees fail to figure out both utterance meaning and force, and context of utterances.

(٧) Some causes of pragmatic failure are attributed to the fact that there are cultural differences, and some addressees often understand literal meaning but not intended meaning.

(٨) Figuring out pragmatic force involves making contextual inferences, identifying the background of the communicators and their relationships, recognizing the interlocutors' past and present experiences and their psychological and cultural status.