FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR– Chapter four:

INTERACTION BETWEEN SPEAKER AND HEARER

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CHAPTER FOUR OUTLINE

- Speech acts and clause types
- The declarative and interrogative clause types
- The exclamative and imperative clause types
- Indirect speech acts, clause types, and discourse functions
- Questions, clause types and discourse functions
- Directives

SPEECH ACTS AND CLAUSE TYPES

Speech acts are the acts we perform through words. Certain general types of speech acts
are basic to everyday interaction: statements, questions, exclamations, and directives.

Clause type	Basic speech act	Example
Declarative	making a statement	You are careful.
Interrogative (*yes/no*)	asking a question	Are you careful?
Interrogative (*wh-*)	asking a question	How careful are you?
Exclamative	making an exclamation	How careful you are!
Imperative	issuing a directive	Be careful!

Figure 4.2 Correspondence between clause types and speech acts.

SPEECH ACTS AND CLAUSE TYPES

Each of the basic speech acts is associated in grammar with a type of clause; the declarative is typically used to encode a statement, the interrogative a question, etc. These are the direct correspondences between form and function that we refer to as direct speech acts.
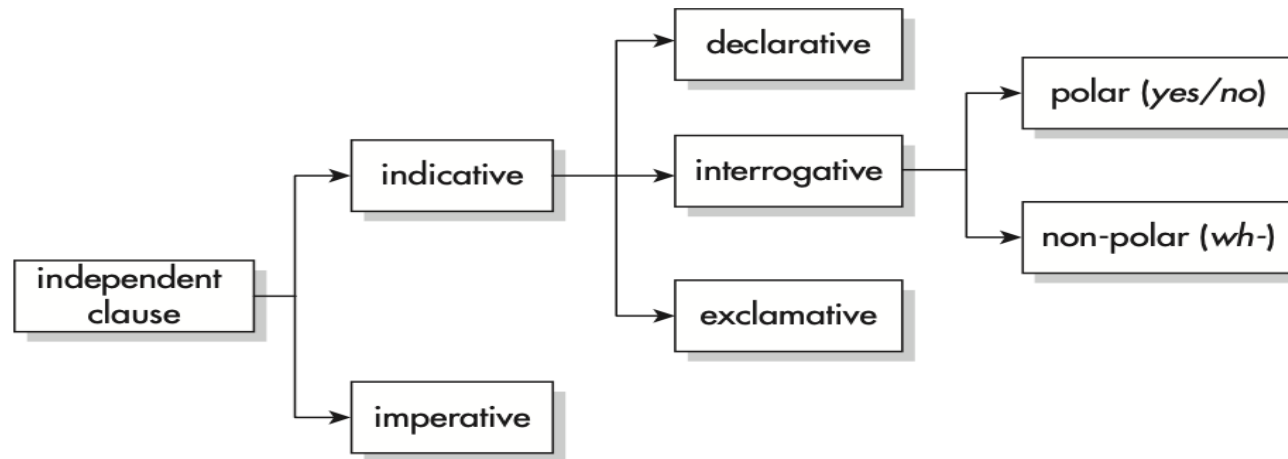

Figure 4.1 Clause type or moods
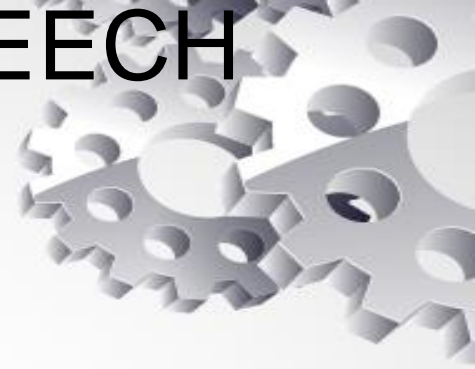
DIRECT SPEECH ACTS AND INDIRECT SPEECH ACTS

When a clause type is used to carry out the speech act typically associated with it, it is considered to be a direct speech act. Thus in a direct speech act, the declarative is said to have the illocutionary force of a statement, an interrogative has the force of a question, an imperative has the force of a directive, and an exclamative as the force of an exclamation.

[...] at particular point in the discourse.

Is that you Dan? Geoff here.
Hi, Geoff.
Has the board reached a conclusion?[2]
They've decided to launch the product,[3] if the terms are right.
How do ours compare?[4]
Very well. But are you sure you can put up the necessary capital?[5]
We've got a huge loan from the Bank of England.[6]
In that case, let's go.[7]
Have we got the deal, then?[8]
You've got it.[9]
Fantastic. How soon do you expect to be able to sign?[10]

[1]interrog./question; [2]interrog./question; [3]declar./statement; [4]interrog./question; [5]interrog./question; [6]declar./statement; [7]imper./directive; [8]interrog./question; [9]declar./statement; [10]interrog./question

In interpersonal interaction, however, the relationship is frequently more complex – and more flexible. Every clause type can carry out different speech acts. When a clause type has any other but its typical force, we consider it an indirect speech act.
Example:
A: The door-bell's ringing.
B: I'm in the bath.
A: Okay. I'll go.

THE DECLARATIVE AND INTERROGATIVE CLAUSE TYPES

SUBJECT-FINITE VARIATION

Clause type	Order	Example
Declarative	Subject-Finite	Jane sings.
Interrogative (yes/no)	Finite + Subject	Does Jane sing?
Interrogative (wh-)	wh + Finite + Subject	What does Jane sing?
Exclamative	wh + Subject + Finite	How well Jane sings!
Imperative	no subject, base form of verb	Sing!

Figure 4.3 Clause types and the ordering of the subject and finite.

THE DECLARATIVE AND INTERROGATIVE CLAUSE TYPES

THE DECLARATIVE CLAUSE TYPE:

The **declarative** is the basic clause type, with Subject-Finite ordering, as in:

	Subject	Finite	Predicator	
1	*We*	*are*	meeting	again tomorrow.
2	*You*	*might*	need	a holiday.

THE DECLARATIVE AND INTERROGATIVE CLAUSE TYPES

THE INTERROGATIVE CLAUSE TYPE:

Finite	Subject	Predicator	
Are	*We*	meeting	again tomorrow?
Do	*you*	need	a holiday?
Does	*She*	expect	us soon?
Did	*They*	emigrate	to Australia after all?

THE DECLARATIVE AND INTERROGATIVE CLAUSE TYPES

THE WH-INTERROGATIVE CLAUSE TYPE:

Wh-word	Finite	Subject		Syntactic function	
What	do	you	want?	(Od)	
What	is	it	for?	(complement of a prep.)	
Who(m)	have	they	appointed?	(Od)	
Who	can	it	be?	(Cs)	
Whose dog	is	it?		(determinative in NG)	
When	shall	we	go?	(A)	
How	did	it	happen?	(A)	
How old	is	she?		(Cs)	
How long	have	you	known him?	(A)	
Why	would	I	do that?	(A)	
Where	have	you most	enjoyed working?	(A)	[BNA]

THE EXCLAMATIVE AND IMPERATIVE CLAUSE TYPES

The exclamative

Wh- element

What a shock	they'll have!
What a mess	we have made.
How dark	it is!
How	it snowed!

The imperative

Imperative	Declarative
Everybody sit down, please!	Everybody sits down.
No-one say a word!	No-one says a word.

Figure 4.4 Imperative and declarative.

INDIRECT SPEECH ACTS, CLAUSE TYPES AND DISCOURSE FUNCTIONS

Performatives
- Explicit performatives

I *promise* I'll be careful.

We *advise* you to book early to avoid disappointment.
- Less explicit performatives with modalisation

I *can offer* you beer, whisky, gin, cola…

Let me thank you once more for your collaboration.

I am afraid I have to request you to move to another seat.
- Negative declaratives

I don't need any more calendars, thank you.

I don't promise you that I'll convince him.

Smoking is not allowed here.

QUESTIONS, CLAUSE TYPES AND DISCOURSE FUNCTIONS

- **Rhetorical questions:**

Do you expect me to wait here all day?

What could I say?

- **Questions as preliminaries:**

Are you going to the hospital this morning?

No.

Well if you do it'll give us a chance to find out whether he's coming home.

- **SOME, ANY, and NEGATIVES forms in biased questions:**

Do you know anyone in Westminster? Vs Do you know someone in Westminster?

Is there no butter? (There should be some butter, but it seems there isn't.)

Isn't there some butter somewhere? (It seems there isn't, but I expect there is.)

Would you like some more coffee?

Do you want something, a soft drink before you go?

DIRECTIVES

1	Peel those potatoes	more cost to addressee	less polite
2	Pick up those papers		
3	Sit down	↕	↕
4	Listen to this		
5	Enjoy your holiday		
6	Have another sandwich	more benefit to addressee	more polite

(Adapted from Leech 1983)

DIRECTIVES

Get out of here!	command
Keep off the grass.	prohibition
Please close the window!	request
Don't tell me you've passed your driving test!	disbelief
Do that again and you'll be sorry.	condition of threat
Pass your exams and we'll buy you a bike.	condition of promise
Don't forget your umbrella!	reminder
Mind the step!/ Be careful with that hot plate!	warning
Feel free to take as many leaflets as you like.	permission
Just listen to this!	showing interest/involvement
Try one of these!	offer
Let's go jogging!	suggestion
Come on now, don't cry!/ Go on, have a go!	encouragement
Sleep well! Have a safe journey!	good wishes
Suppose he doesn't answer.	considering a possible happening
Think nothing of it.	rejecting thanks
[Some people make easy profit.] *Take* drug handlers.	illustrative example of a claim

CLAUSE TYPES AND SPEECH ACTS: SUMMARY

Clause type	Speech act force	Example
DECLARATIVE	Statement	We are ready to go.
	Explicit performative	I beg you to reconsider your decision.
	Hedged performative	We wish to thank you for all your help.
	Biased question	So you went out with her?
	Question (displaced *wh-*)	You took the documents to which ministry?
	Exclamation	It was so hot!
	Directives:	
	order	Papers are to be in by April 15.
	request	I wonder if you would lend me your car.
		I suppose you haven't got any change on you.
	prelude to request	I'm terribly sorry, but could you . . .?
	advice	I'd sell if I were you.
	warning	That plate's hot!
	offer	You must try one of these.

CLAUSE TYPES AND SPEECH ACTS: SUMMARY

EXCLAMATIVE	Exclamation	What an angel you've been!

INTERROGATIVE	Question
	Rhetorical question
	   rebuke
	Exclamation rebuke
	
	Directives:
	
	   order
	   request
	   suggestion/advice
	   offer/invitation
		Who is that man over there?
		Who will believe that story.
		   How could you be so careless?
		Isn't it wonderful!
		   How dare you speak to her like that!
		
		Will you please be quiet!
		Could you lend me a pen . . .?
		Why don't you see a doctor?
		Won't you sit down?

IMPERATIVE:	Directives:
	
	   order
	   request
	   offer
	   warning
	   instructions
	   disbelief
		
		Shut up!
		Save some for me!
		Have a drink!
		Mind your head!
		Twist off.
		Don't tell me you've passed!