# ILLOCUTIONARY FORCE INDICATING DEVICES (IFID) MOOD IN ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

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## Abstract

The fact that the illocutionary act is recognized as the minimal unit of linguisticcommunicationis supported by the distinction between the illocutionary force and the propositional content of the illocutionary act. This distinction is reflected even in the syntactic structure of a sentence which leads to the identification of the elements of the propositional content, called *propositional indicator* and the elements of the illocutionary force, called *illocutionary force indicating devices*. The illocutionary force indicating device shows how the proposition is to be taken, that is, what illocutionary act the speaker is performing while uttering the sentence. Illocutionary force indicating devices (IFID) include at least: the word order, the stress, the intonation contour, the punctuation, the mood of the verb and the so-called performative verbs. The aim of this study is the pragmatic analysis of the verb mood category in Albanian language connected to its role in defining the kind of illocutionary act performed during the utterance of the sentence in the context of one of the most developed pragmatic theories; the speech acts theory (SAT). It has been found that the category of mood (as an expression of speakers' attitude toward an action or a reality) and the verbal forms, (by which this category is expressed) are some of the elements which define the type of speechin the Albanian language and one of the most common illocutionary force indicating devices of an utterance. These linguistic elements display some interesting features in form and meaning, constituting an unstudied issue, from a new perspective in this language.

## 1.    Introduction

According to Searle (Searle, 1969) the illocutionary act is not just a simple act of saying something, but an act of doing something, e.g. informing, ordering, warning, asking, stating, wishing, promising, etc. In his analysis he concludes that generally the speech acts have the structure F (P), where F represents the illocutionary force and P represents the propositional content. The F and P components are represented in the syntactic structure of a sentence by linguistic units, which are called *thepropositional content indicator* and *the illocutionary force indicator*. *Theillocutionary force indicating device (IFID)* can be represented by any element of a natural language, which can be literally used to indicate that an utterance of a sentence containing this element has a certain illocutionary force or a range of illocutionary forces. Many researchers in various languages have already accepted and analyzed such devices as the mood of the verbs, punctuation, word-order in a sentence,intonation contour and stress, performative verbs and the performative form, etc., accepting as well that this is the task of the empirical linguistics (Searle &Vanderveken,1985: p.110).

In the following sentences:

1.      *Studentët do të paraqiten në provim me kartë identiteti.(The students will be present in the exam withthe identity card.)*

2.      *A do të paraqiten studentët në provim me kartë identiteti? (Will the students be present in the exam with identity card?)*

3.      *Studentë, në provim do të paraqiteni me kartë identiteti. (Students, you will be present in the exam with identity card.),*

the propositional content (the fact of the presence of the students in the exam with identity card) is the same, whereas the illocutionary force is different and for this reason, the utterance of each of the sentences constitutes a different speech act from the other. The factors defining this difference are linguistic and contextual, are those which indicate how the propositional content can be understood, in other words, what kind of illocutionary act the speaker is performing in uttering of the sentence. The aim is to define those linguistic factors (elements), which are related to the illocutionary function of the utterance of different kinds of sentences in the Albanian language.[1] From this point of view, the attention is being focused on the fact that the essence of the classification of the illocutionary acts in the framework of the speech acts theory (SAT) is also the essence of the classification of the sentences according to the type of meanings in the traditional grammar. In this regard the Indo-European languages indicate one of the numerous similarities since there can be identified three large groups of the sentences which are called the sentential moods: *the declarative (deklarativet), the interrogative (pyetëset), and the imperative (urdhëroret).*

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[1]As being identified even by the research in different languages, to such elements are considered to be the flexion, the structure, the word order, the intonation, the particles etc.

In a more detailed analysisone of the devises that make the difference between the various kinds of sentences is the modality, which is itself the expression of the speaker's attitude uponhis utterance, (in close relation to the objective reality). This speaker's attitude in the Albanian language can be expressed by using different linguisticmeans: through the modalities of the verb[2],through the verbs with modal value, and through the modal particles.

According to Searle (1969:30) the verb mood was one of the devices, which indicate the illocutionary force of an utterance. Later on, he and Vanderveken (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985:2-3) emphasized that the mood together with the context played a crutial role in indicating the illocutionary force. Bach and Harnish (Bach & Harnish, 1979) consider the verb mood to be the locution of the behavior upon the truth of a proposition, whereas, Harnish (Harnish, 1994) treats it as a *sui generis* fact, as a device, which indicates directly the potential illocutionary force of a sentence. According to Wunderlich (Wunderlich, 1980, p.296) the sentential moodwould constitute one of the four criteria of the speech acts classifications.Thusspeech acts can be classified according to the main grammatical markers(and their possible functional equivalents) in a given language. These markersare in languages like English and German at least the following ones: (a) the interrogative mood - speech acts of the erotetic type; (b) the imperative mood - speech acts of the directive type; (c) the declarative mood – speech acts of the representative type; (d) specific performative formulas – speech acts of the declaration type.

According to these points of view, which have already created a tradition in the field of speech acts studies, the sentential mood and,therefore, even the grammatical mood suggest what type of direct illocutionary act is being performed.[3]

## 2. Speech acts

## 2.1. Searle' s taxonomy

Attempting to classify the different types of illocutionary forces, Searle distinguishes 12 different formats, that can be used to define if the force of an utterance is different or not from the force of another utterance. He classifies them in three main formats as the most important ones [Searle, 1979, p.1-8]: *distinctions that appear in the illocutionary point of the (type of the) act, distinctions referring to the direction of fit between the words and the world* and *distinctions referring to the expressed psychological states.* Mainly based on these distinctions (but also based on other supplementary criteria) Searle (Searle, 1979, p. 12-20) introduced five classes of the illocutionary acts:

1. Assertives

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[2]The grammar category of modality expresses the connection between the action appointed by the verb and the objective reality. As such the speaker expresses his attitude which is expressed by the verb, by presenting it as real, possible, desirable, etc. According to the respective modal meanings and the grammatical forms, in the Albanian language there are 6 verb modalities: indicative, admirative (this verbal mood is used to express an action that the speaker wishes could happen or not in the future), subjunctive, conditional, optative, imperative.

[3]The analysis is, particularly, restricted to the direct speech acts, as indirect speech acts of any kind can be performed through the utterance of any type of sentence in any type of verb mood. Indirect speech acts are defined as a phrase, through an illocutionary act – which Searle (Searle, 1979:31) calls *primary act* or otherwise *primary illocution*e.g. request of the speaker for the salt is executed through the performance of another illocutionary act, called *literally secondary act* or otherwise *secondary illocution,* such as for example, *Can you reach for the salt?*.

The illocutionary acts of this class aim to commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. These are submitted to the evaluation of true / untrue. The illocutionary point is that of assertion; the direction of fit is words to the world; the expressed psychological state is *belief*. The simplest testthat can be done to an assertive act is if it can be defined as*true/untrue*;nevertheless this test is neither necessary nor sufficient.

2.      Directives
The illocutionary point of these illocutionary acts referes to the attempt of the speaker to make the hearer to undertake a particular action. Those could be controlled attempts (invitations, suggestions, etc.) or strong ones (orders, persistence etc). The direction of fit is world to words; the expressed psychological state is that of *desire (wish, need)*. The propositional content is when the hearer takes a particular action, e.g., requesting, ordering, commanding, supplicating, imploring, pleading, permitting, advising and even daring, contradicting, challenging, doubting etc.

3.      Commissives
Commissives are those illocutionary acts which illocutionary point is to commit the hearer to a future course of action. The direction of fit is world to words; the expressed psychological state is *intention*. The propositional content expresses the fact that the speaker in the future takes a certain act such as, promising, engaging, undertaking, reassuring, assuring etc.

4.      Expressives

The illocutionary point of these acts is to express the psychological state specified at the condition of sincerity for a certain fact expressed in the propositional content. Expressives do not have a direction of fit, because the truth of the expressed proposition is presupposed. Nevertheless, although the propositional content of an utterance could be different, it should be closely related either with the speaker or with the hearer. Some expressive acts are thanksgiving, apologizing, wishing, congratulating, cursing, blessing etc.

5.      Declarations
Declarations represent a very important group of the illocutionary acts, which have been treated since early times as cases of speech acts, e.g., "You are fired.", "I nominate you...", "I pronounce you...", etc. In these statements, the expressed fact exists only due to its declaration, thus, its successful performance *of what is said* conveys *the fact*, therefore, between the propositional content and the illocutionary force there is no formal distinction.The illocutionary point is that of the declaration; the direction of fit simultaneously word to world and world to word; they are not characterized by the utterance of any psychological state. The status of speech acts of this class is a special one, because in order to have a successful performance there is needed for a system of rules, which belong to a non-linguistic institution and is super positioned over the basic linguistics rules. The speaker and the hearer should have their own status, not only in the linguistics institution, but also in these other additional institutions, that could be the church, the law (justice), private property, the state (local and central government) etc.


**3.      Types of sentences in Albanian**

**3.1.    Types of sentences, verb moods and the types of speech acts.**

Taking into consideration the classification presented above, some parallels could be extended between the sentential mood (types of sentences) and types of speech acts aiming to analyze the verb mood as an important criterion for the classification of the sentential moods and at the same time serving as one of the devices which help defining the illocutionary force of the utterances in the Albanian language.

### 3.1.1. Indicative sentences

The indicative sentences are used mainly to perform acts such as, affirming and declaring one fact, proclaiming an attitude, pretending, giving a verdict etc., but also to promise something, to accuse somebody, to criticise, to guarantee about a fact etc., by including speech acts which are treated within the class of the assertives, the commissives and the declarations. In the class of declarations there are incuded all the performative sentences of the type, *I promise that … ., I declare you unguilty … ., I nominate you … .,*etc., which are treated as a special form of the speech acts within this type (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985:111). The illocutionary point of these classes is to commit the speaker to the truth of the fact expressed (*assertives)*; to commit the hearer to a future course of the action (*commissives*); for the speaker to declare the action or the execution of the action (*declarations*).
The verb (predicate, copula or primary unit) of the indicative sentence is generally in the indicative mood, which indicates in general a real fact. The predicate could be as well in the admirative or in the conditional mood, or, when the sentence is subordinate it is as well in the subjunctive mood (Gramatika II, 2002: § 4.3.):

*Unë **mendoj** ndryshe. (I don't think so.) **Jam** i sigurt për këtë, që **thashë**. (I confirm what I said.) **E shpall** të pandehurin të pafajshëm. (I declare the acused unguilty.) **Të premtoj** se nuk **do të përsëritet** më. (I promise it will not happen again.) Ti **je** fajtori për këto që **ndodhën**. (You are to blame for what happened.)Nuk **veprove** drejt. (You didn't act right.) Ai **do të jetë** këtu nesër në mbrëmje. (He will be here tomorrow evening.)Mirë **e paske** menduar.(You have thought it right.) **I mbetka** qejfi për hiçgjë. (He is easily casted down.) Po **të ishe larguar**, nuk **do ta shihje** këtë skenë. (If you had left, you wouldn't have seen this.) **Të këshilloj të kthehesh** para se **të vijë** profesori. (You should be back, before teacher comes.)*

### 3.1.2. Interrogative sentences

The interrogative sentences are those used by the speaker in order to learn something from the interlocutor or interlocutors, something he does not know, has no complete information about, or about whose truth he wants to be reassured (Gramatika II, 2002: § 4.7).These sentences are used in order to perform acts such as, addressing a question, asking for specific information, introducing a topic for discussion etc.; these acts are treated by Searle as a sub-type within the directives. It has been considered appropriate that the sub-type of speech acts which are performed by the utterance of the interrogative sentences (even though it is going to be subordinated in the class of directives) shall be introduced with the designation suggested by Wunderlich, (*speech acts of erotetic type)*. The latter, in fact, claims that this "sub-type" has all the grammatical indicators and traits; that is to say, it is grammatically marked for a generic type of speech act (Wunderlich, 1980, p.296). The verb mood does not serve as one of the criteria for

the distinction of the interrogative sentences, because this criterion is fully replaced by the intonation, punctuation, question words and word order.

### 3.1.3. Imperative sentences

Imperative sentences in the Albanian traditional grammar are known as the optative and causative sentences; they are the sentences which express the speaker's willpower in the form of desire or request in order to execute or not an action or a situation (Gramatika II, 2002: § 4.6.). Even though they are included within the boundaries of a sentence type, the important distinctions between the two sub-types suggest the need for a separate pragmatic analysis.

**a)       Causative sentences**
Causative sentences are those which express the clear request of the speaker for the execution or non-execution of something and which reveal different aspects of his willpower, starting from the unquestionable order to the proposal, instruction, advice, pleading, accepting etc. They perform such acts as, ordering, commanding, requesting, calling, suggesting, guiding, pleading, inviting (proposing) to do something, supplicating, imploring, permitting, advising etc., which are included in the class of directives. The illocutionary point of this class refers to the attempt of the speaker to commit the hearer to do something. In the causative sentences, is usually used the imperative mood.The present subjunctive occurs especially when it refers to an action or situation in the third person singular or plural or the first person plural; it can be usedas well even in the future of the indicative mood in the second person singular or plural, and in the present tense of this mood in the first person plural (Gramatika II, 2002: § 4.6.2.1.2. – 4.6.2.1.4.):

*Mu përgjigj! (Answer me!) Afrohuni pa frikë. (Get closer, please!) Merre në telefon sa më shpejt. (Call him as soon as possible.) Mos dil para të madhit. (Take your turn.) Le të shkojmë tani. (Let's go now.) Grupi i parëtë drejtojë pyetjen e rradhës. (Let the first group, be the first to ask their question.) Të kthehemi në temë. (Let's go back to our topic.) Nesër në mëngjes do të paraqitesh te drejtori. (You should meet the headmaster tomorrow.) Do të shkosh aty ku shkojnë të gjithë. (You will go where everybody does.) Çohemi. (Let's get up.) Fillojmë mbledhjen. (Let's start our meeting.)*

**b)       Optative sentences**
Optative sentences express a desirable fact of the speaker, wishing that somethingcould happen (or not happen) to him, to the interlocutor or someone else. Here are included the congratulations, curses, offences, greetings, oaths, etc. The illocutionary point and the expressed psychological state,which is the desire of the speaker, enables the speech acts performed by the utterance of this group of sentences, to be classified also as directives. The predicate of the optative sentences is generally in the optative mood. However it can be in the subjunctive mood as well (subjunctive-admirative) and in certain cases even in different tenses of indicative mood (Gramatika II, 2002: § 4.6.1.):

*Na u trashëgofshin e na u shtofshin si zgjoi i bletës! (May they have a happy life and many children together!) Të vaftë udhëtimi mbarë! (Have a good trip!) U shoftë fara e armikut! (May the enemy drop dead!) Sikur të kasha edhe unë njohjet e saj. (If only I had her connections!) Të bëhet një here siç themi ne, pastaj shohim. (Let our word be heard once, then wait and see.) Të*

***kishe thënë*** *një fjalë të paktën. (You should have said something.)* ***Ta paskësha*** *njohur më parë! (If only I had known her/him earlier!) Ah, që* ***s'kishte*** *edhe ai fuqinë e kreshnikëve! (What a pitty he didn't have the strength of the knights!)*

Due to the emphatic expressive character, the sub-type of the optative sentences could be characteristically connected also with the class of the expressives, but the fact which best conveys their directive character is the direction of fit as one of the criteria on which Searle has based his taxonomy, which is also the direction of fit of the directives class.[4]

### 3.1.4. Exclamtory sentences

The type of the expressive reflects similar characteristics with the sentences, which in Albanian are treated as the sub-type of the exclamatories and could be indicative-exclamatory, interrogative-exclamatory and optative-exclamatory orcausative-exclamatory. The exclamatory sentences are considered only or mainly the indicative-exclamatory sentencesin the Albanian grammatical tradition. This is explained by the fact that they are more frequently used and, differently from the other types, they are clearly distinct (Gramatika II, 2002:§ 4.5.5.). The illocutionary point of the expressive speech acts is the utterance of the speaker's psychological state about a certain fact uttered in the propositional content. The most encountered verbal mood is the admirative mood, but the indicative and subjunctive ones as well, (usually accompanied by words with an exclamatory emphatic character):

*Qenka keq puna! (This seems an awkward situation.) Si* ***e mbake*** *mend! (How you can remember!)* ***Ardhka*** *çdo ditë në të njëjtën orë. (How may he come everyday at excactly the same time!)* ***Paska marrë*** *erë muhabeti! (It stinks!) S'****bën fare*** *për këtë pozicion! (You don't fit this office.)* ***Ua si ngatërrohen*** *gjërat! (What a mes is it becoming!) Ç'****ia bëre*** *mirë! (Well done!) Një djalë aq i sjellshëm* ***të përgjigjet*** *në atë mënyrë! (How can such a nice boy give that ungentle reply.)*

The interrogative-exclamatory sentences constitute a considerable part of the reacting sentences and of the rhetorical interrogative sentences, but also, in many cases even of authentic interrogative sentences (Gramatika II, 2002: § 4.7.2.2.1.). These sentences express mostly the speaker's emotional attidute rather than a question, thus the exclamatory characteristic is more emphatic and the factexpressedin these sentences is recognized:

*E ku* ***ta di*** *unë! (How can I know!) Ç'nuk* ***i pjell*** *mendja asaj! (God, she knows how to be resourceful!) Kush* ***pyet*** *për mua! (Who cares about me!) Nga nuk* ***ka qenë****! (He has been everywhere!) A nuk* ***është për të vënë*** *kujën?! (Isn't it to howlover!)* ***Paske*** *ardhur?! (Are you here already?!)* ***Të presim*** *edhe ne?! (Should we wait?)* ***U bëka*** *edhe kështu?! (It even happen like this?!)*

The exclamatory sentences (indicative-exclamatory and interrogative-exclamatory) are often found as elliptical sentences, due to their concise expressivness and nature, e.g., *Sa turp! (What a*

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[4]The direction of fit of the directives is world to word, whereas the expressives lack this criterion, because the truth of the expressed proposition of these acts is pre-understood.

*shame!) Urime! (Congratulations!) E tmerrshme! (Terrible!) Çudi! (Strange!) Si?! (How?!)*
*Tani?! (Now?!) Akoma këtu?! (Still here?!).*

As they always express a desirable fact on behalf of the speaker and not just his psychological state about a fact of the reality, the sentences, which in the Albanian traditional grammar are classified as optative-exclamatory and causative-exclamatory are excluded from the aproach treated above and are treated respectively as optative and exclamatory sentences.

## 4. Summary

The results can be summarized in the following table:

| Illocutionary act | Illocutionary aim | Type of the sentence | Verb mood (according to the range of usage) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assertive | The speaker is committed to the truth of the expressed proposition | Indicative sentences | -indicative <br> -admirative <br> -conditional <br> -subjunctive (subordinate sentence) |
| Directive <br><br><br><br> Erotetic | The speaker attempts to cause the hearer to undertake a particular action | Optative and causative Sentence <br><br><br> Interrogative sentences | -imperative <br> -subjunctive (present, I,III, p.) <br> -indicative (future, II, p) <br> -------------------------- |
| Commissive | The speaker shall commit the hearer to a future course of the action | Indicative sentences | -indicative <br> -admirative <br> -conditional <br> -subjunctive (subordinate sentence) |
| Expressive | The speaker shall express the psychological state specified at the condition of sincerity for a certain expressed fact | Exclamatory sentences (indicative-exclamatory, interrogative-exclamatory) | -admirative <br> -indicative <br> -subjunctive (accompanied with exclamatory words) |
| Declaration | The speaker shall declare the execution of the action. | Indicative sentences | -indicative |

The results of the above table, show that the verb mood in the Albanian language constitute an important classification criterion, since it is directly connected with the action expressed by the

verb. However it cannot be self-sufficient in order to support the classification of the types of the sentences and the classification of the speech acts. In order to define the illocutionary force of an utterance in Albanian, this device needs to be accompanied and completed by other linguistic elements such as intonation (together with the punctuation), word order, helping words (interrogative, exclamatory), performative form and also by the context of the sentence performance, the utterance of which would constitute an illocutionary act.

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