A Pragmatic Study of Wisdom in Elderly Care Institutions

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Abstract

This study investigates the concept of wisdom in certain elderly care institutions from a pragmatic perspective. It aims at: pinpointing the speech acts that are utilized in elderly residents' wisdom; and figuring out the types of deictic expressions which are widely observed in them. An eclectic model is utilized for analyzing the data of the study which are collected from certain institutions for elderly namely: St. Clair Nursing Centre, Birch Creek Assisted Living, Orbost Regional Health, Dungate Manor Care Home, and College View Nursing Home. The model consists of two pragmatic tools: speech acts and deixis. The findings show that elderly residents exploit two pragmatic means to generate their pieces of wisdom: the speech act of directive and person deixis. The conclusions of the study prove that elderly residents' pieces of wisdom are transmitted by the use of three speech acts: recommending, warning, and advising and that each piece of wisdom consists of one or two of person deictic expressions to achieve certain purposes.

Keywords: *pragmatics. speech acts. deixis. elderly care institutions.*

1. Introduction

Wisdom is a master virtue. It seeks a common good. Wisdom is greatly related to the pursuit of moral life. Nowadays, the world is confronted with a series of conflicts and crises such as drugs, terrorism, domestic abuse, political struggles, atheism and the like. Hence, an urgent need to wisdom is required. This study investigates wisdom in certain elderly care institutions pragmatically. Thus, it attempts to answer the following two questions: 1. What are the speech acts that are used in elderly residents⸜ wisdoms? 2. Which are the types of deictic expressions widely exploited in them?

The study aims at: 1. Pinpointing the speech acts that are utilized in elderly residents' wisdoms. 2. Figuring out the types of deictic expressions which are widely observed in these wisdoms.

It is Hypothesizes: 1. The directive speech acts of advising, recommending, and warning represent the major categories of speech acts which are utilized in generating elderly residents' wisdoms. 2. The second person deictic expression is supposed to be the prevalent utilized type of deictic expressions in the formulation of such wisdoms.

The following procedures are adopted in this study: 1. Presenting a brief theoretical endeavor

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about the concept of wisdom. 2. Developing a model for the study by stating the relevant literature about the pragmatic means that are exploited in issuing elderly residents' wisdom. 3. Analyzing the selected data qualitatively and quantitatively in accordance with the model of the study. 4. Discussing the findings of the analysis to draw certain conclusions.

2. The Concept of Wisdom

The concept of "wisdom" is ubiquitous across cultures and is often embedded within religious traditions and philosophies (Birren and Svensson, 2005: 7). It is an ancient concept which is dated back to 30000 years ago. as a trait that seeks the common good, people used to impart their wisdom from one generation to another by various means such as myths, stories, songs, and even cave paintings (Birren and Svensson, 2005: 3).

The Sumerians, who lived in area known as Mesopotamia (now Iraq), are the oldest known civilizations that present the foundation of wisdom literature (Durant, 1935).

Wisdom is a fuzzy concept. There is not yet a unified definition of the concept of wisdom across different disciplines or dictionaries. To define it, various perspective should be considered: philosophical, religious, psychological and many others.

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (2020: 1791) defines it as "the ability to make sensible decision and give good advice because of the experience and knowledge that you have".

From a philosophical view, various ancient and contemporary philosophers who aim at giving reasonable solutions to queries about how to conduct our lives say that wisdom is a primary constituent of a "well-lived life" (Kaaufman, 2006: 129). In the Greek philosophical tradition, wisdom (sophia) originally refers to "adeptness at professional skills or crafts". In this sense, it is greatly associated with the practice that is necessary to master a skill. Therefore, sophia is pertinent with "virtue" in these early stages 600 BCE (Dysinger, 2014:42).

From a religious angle, wisdom is a realization of the possible results of our deeds and utterances before we act or utter. Wisdom means "having the knowledge and understanding to recognize the right course of action and having the will and courage to follow it". In Christianity, to approach wisdom is to follow the teaching of the Holy Bible. Thus, wisdom is: live your life in line with the core of the Commandments of the Bible (Leitch, 1996: 5). In Islamic tradition, the Glorious Qur'an, the text of the Islamic religion, wisdom implements four types of resources: knowledge of the facts, knowledge of the Qur'an, prophesy, and Sunnah (Alammar, 2020: 182). For Ibn Rushd, wisdom is the knowledge of Allah whereas philosophy is the path to it. Accordingly, wisdom represents a linking bridge between philosophy and religion (Al Kubaisi, 2011: 20).

From a psychological viewpoint, wisdom can be defined as "a cognitive process used in attempts to understand the world in a disinterested way, seeking the ultimate causes and consequences of events while preserving the integration of knowledge". Additionally, wisdom can also be understood as a "virtue providing a compelling guide to action". By the aid of wisdom, we can improve our lives to grasp the best way to order our actions so as to achieve a closer harmony with the laws of the physical universe (Sternberg, 1990: 4).

To sum up, our operational definition for wisdom in this study is that it is an activity which

aims at influencing others positively. Thus, its ultimate purpose is the interest of its recipient. It shows a high degree of pertinence to the idea of making decisions. As such, it offers as far as possible the most suitable solution to highly controversial cases when it seems that there are no white or black choices.

3. Speech Act Theory

Speech act theory represents the core of pragmatics. Its significance resides in the idea that people use language, whether in its oral or written mood, to do things (Cutting, 2002: 16). Thus, utterances are considered as acts which are used by the speaker with respect to the hearer in a particular context (Traugott and Pratt, 1980: 229).

It is Austin (1962) who first gives credit to the development of speech act theory in his book "How to Do Things with Words" (Finch, 2005: 171). Then, Searle (1969a and 1975), Austin's student, updates the speech act theory. With respect to the meaning and function of each speech act, Searle(1969b) classifies illocutionary speech acts into five main categories: representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. Searle (1976:11) states that directive speech acts are acts utilized by the speaker with the aim of persuading the hearer to commit some future course of actions. Thus, they show the speaker's desires (Yule, 1996: 54). According to Allan's (1986: 199) classification, directives are sub-classified into six categories; request, question, requirements, prohibitive, permissive, and advisories. The major core of the current research is the category of advisories.

For Bach and Harnish (1979: 49), the term "advisories" implies the idea that the speaker utterance is not performed for the benefit of the speaker but it is the reverse. Thus, the speaker's utterance works as a justification for the hearer to commit specific course of actions.

According to Allan (1986: 200), recommendation, warning, advice, suggestion, caution, urge , counsel and admonish fall within advisories. The speech acts of advising, recommending, and warning are what concern the current study.

3.1 Advising

Haverkate (1979: 31-32) states that advising represents non-impositive speech acts since they perform an action while positing the interest to the hearer himself.

In advising, the information that is supplied by the speaker functions as a guide for the hearer to commit a future action (Prayitno, 2011: 70). For example:

(1) *Final exam will be held on 10 March, Don't forget to study.*
(Savitri, 2017: 30)

To perform a speech act of advising, a set of felicity conditions must be fulfilled. Searle (1969a: 67) states that the felicity conditions of the intended speech act are as follows:

- Propositional Condition: future act is expected.
- Preparatory Conditions: the speaker has some reason to believe that the act will be beneficial to the hearer. Besides, it is not clear to both the hearer and the speaker whether the hearer will perform the act or not.
- Sincerity Condition: the speaker is sincere that the intended act will be beneficial for the hearer
- Essential Condition: the speaker issues the utterance to count as advice which is in the

hearer's benefit.

3.2 Recommending

Vanderveken (1990: 197) explains the notion of recommendation stating that "to recommend is to advise while presupposing that the future action recommended is good in general, and not only for the hearer". When one recommends a person or thing to a hearer, one recommends that he favors that person or thing. For example,

(2) Lock the door before you go to bed.
(Quirk et al, 1985: 831)

To achieve its purpose, the speech act of recommending requires the following felicity conditions (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 203-204):

- Propositional Condition: future act is expected.
- Preparatory Conditions: the speaker has some reason to believe that the act will be beneficial in general and not only to the hearer .Besides, it is not clear to both the speaker and the hearer whether the hearer will perform the act or not.
- Sincerity Condition: the speaker is certain that the intended act will be beneficial for the hearer.
- Essential Condition: the speaker intends to account his utterance as recommendation which is in the hearer's benefit.

Searle and Vanderveken (1985: 203) point out that recommending differs from advising in that it carries an additional preparatory condition which means that the situation carried out by proposition is specified not only to the hearer but it is generally delivered. Hardin (2010: 167) adds that the degree of intensity helps to distinguish between the speech act of advising and that of recommending. They differ lightly in the degree of intensity. Recommendation carries less illocutionary force than advice. Thus, advice could carry a strong negative connotation but both may interfere in function. Besides, he notes that advising acts are closer to those of requests than recommending acts, which are classified as being far further from requests.

The researchers believe that the meaning of the proposition introduced in the sentence is vital in recognizing the delivered act. Furthermore, imperative constructions and adverbs of frequency can be considered as the criteria of measuring the degree of intensity of a particular act. The use of negative imperative conveys a high degree of intensity, which for the most part, can be counted as a marker of advising speech act. In the presence of the adverbs never, which recalls negation, and always within imperative constructions, the strength of the proposition of the sentence is increased. Thus, in most cases, they can be counted as signs of direct advice but at the same time it depends on the meaning of the sentence as a whole. The rest of adverbs of frequency as often and sometimes which reflect a light degree of force can be considered, in most cases, as signs of recommending. As such, the meaning of the sentence contributes in the process of figuring out the particular type of speech act. Likewise, the meaning of modals can help to identify recommending acts. Thus, the modal verbs may, might, and could carry a low degree of intensity with respect to their meaning which can be mostly counted as markers of recommending.

3.3 Warning

In warning, the state of affair works as a reminder to tell people about a probable occurrence of a bad or unpleasant thing in the near future so as to be ready to avoid it by taking a particular

course of action (Hornby, 2020: 1757).

According to Hernandez (2011:181), warning utterances are of two groups. In the first, the speaker tells the hearer that a probable bad or unpleasant event may take place in the future in order to avoid it. The syntactic form of this type is often declaratives and imperatives.

(3) This year, there will be massive floods.
(Hernandez, 2011: 181)

(4) "Watch your back. He is trying to nail you", he warned.
(Hernandez, 2011: 182)

In the second, the speaker introduces the hearer with a set of actions to be taken in order to avoid the probable negative events. The syntactic devices of this form is often negative imperative and conditional (Hernandez, 2011: 181).

(5) Don't lean out of the window.
(Hernandez, 2011 :181).)

(6) If you don't pay him, you will be killed.
(Hernandez, 2011: 183).

In example (3) and (4), since nothing can be done to avoid such disasters, the speaker warns the hearer to take some anticipatory steps to avert some of the possible bad consequences. In (5) and (6), the speaker suggests a course of actions to be taken by the hearer to save his life and get rid of such possible danger *(*Hernandez, 2011: 184*)*.

Searle (1969a: 67) suggests the following felicity conditions for warning:

- Propositional Condition: the content implies a future event.
- Preparatory Conditions: the speaker has some reasons to believe that an event will soon happen and it will not be beneficial to the hearer. Besides, it is not clear to both speaker and the hearer if the event will take place or not.
- Sincerity Condition: the speaker is certain that the intended act will not be beneficial for the hearer.
- Essential Condition: the utterance accounts as an understanding that the future effects of the event is not in the hearer's interest.

4. Deixis

The etymology of deixis comes from a Greek word meaning "pointing via language" (Yule, 1996: 9). Thus, deixis is the phenomenon whereby features of context of an utterance are encoded by lexical means in a language. It is immediately concerned with the relationship between the structure of a language and the context in which the language is used (Huang, 2007: 169). Levinson (1983) lists five types of deixis: personal, temporal, spatial, social, and discourse. In this study, it is person deixis that concerns the analysis.

Yule (2010: 130) defines person deixis as "any expression used to point to a person (me, you, him, them)". The role of person deixis is introducing participants in the speech event like speaker, addresser (Saeed, 1997: 192). The category of person deixis includes first, second, third person, and non-specific references. They are commonly expressed by pronouns, possessive affixes of nouns and agreement affixes of verbs. personal pronouns have singular and plural

forms (Cruse, 2006: 127).

First person are deictic expressions that are utilized to refer either to the speaker or a group of referents that either includes both the speaker and the addressee or the speaker and others but not the addressee. First person singular pronouns include I , me , myself , and mine whereas first person plural pronouns include we , us , ourselves , our , and ours (Cruse, 2006: 127). Second person deixis refers to the addressee who receive the message of the speaker as you, yourself, yourselves, your, yours (Yule, 1996: 10). Third person deixis refers to referents that are not identified as the speaker or the addressee such as he, she, they, him, himself, her, herself (Levinson, 1983: 62). Indefinite pronouns are used to refer to non-specific referents like all, anybody, anyone, everybody, everyone, none, many, few (web source 1).

5. Methodology

5.1 Data Collection

The data of the study are collected from certain institutions for elderly namely: St. Clair Nursing Centre (America), Birch Creek Assisted Living (America), Orbost Regional Health (Australia), Dungate Manor Care Home (England), and College View Nursing Home (Ireland). Seven texts of elderly's speeches which include wisdom are chosen to be analyzed in accordance with the model of the study.Texts are copied as it is from its original site.

5.2 The Method of Analysis

The model of analysis is an eclectic one depending on two pragmatic means: speech acts and deixis which have been discussed in the previous sections as illustrated in the figure below.
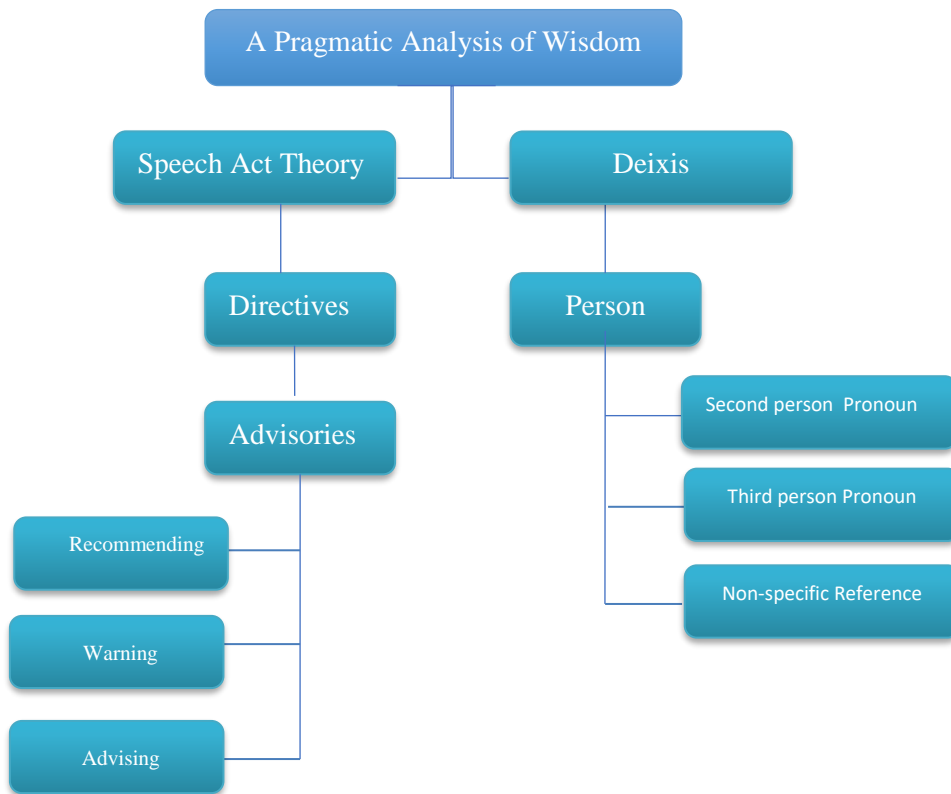
Figure (1): The Model of Analysis.

The selected data are going to be analyzed pragmatically. Besides, the researchers offer a short note about each selected text to explicate the wisdom on display and its purpose. It is to be noted that the selected pieces of wisdom are written and posted in elderly care institutions from 2019 to 2022 and the residents' age ranges from 81 to 93 years old.

5.3 Data Analysis

Text (1)

St. Clair Nursing Centre
Name: Mildred
Age: 93
Advice for the younger generation:
Put God first in everything you do.
Be respectful to all of God's creations. Thank him (sic)for the blessings in your life.
https://www.facebook.com/121936114514395/posts/pfbid02jHLcWYZjXgsNiW3eomD2LHQ4wdtwfWmuYCwUeJQgqkAHeSog3AJefLphAY6acpXMl/?mibextid=yeseh4

Preliminary Note

The wisdom on display recalls youngsters to manage their daily life problems in accordance with God's teachings. This demands that appreciating all God's creations is a must because God does not create things arbitrarily. Everything is created for reasons and purposes. Besides, it implies that youngsters should be characterized with gratification to achieve inner peace.

Inner peace is released in bearing gratitude to God, satisfaction to each's fate, and respect to all God's creation.

Pragmatic Analysis:

Pragmatically, the directive speech act of recommending is utilized to send this wisdom successfully since it is delivered to a large number of society. She recommends youngsters directly to live in accordance with God's teaching and to be thankful for God's endless blessings in their life such as health, job, family, friends, home, education, etc. Moreover, second, third person, and non-specific deictic expressions you, all, Him, your are utilized.

Table (1): Pragmatic Analysis of Text (1).

Put God first in everything you do. Be respectful to all of God's creations Thank him for the blessing in your life.	Recommending	Speech Acts
you, all, Him, your	Person: second, non-specific, third	Deixis

Text (2)

St. Clair Nursing Centre
Name: Lourine
Age: 81
Advice for the younger generation:
Be kind .Always tend a helping hand to those in need.
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0rzNsZs17NqWgBcSpbMNL6Hjg5YG57fgV2kj c6LCh3FWeJH52nEBheHWVUxNZNxcTl&id=121936114514395&mibextid=Nif5oz

Preliminary Note

Two essential virtues, kindness and help, are introduced within this wisdom. Kindness does not cost money but it equals a lot to the addresser himself and his recipients. In a neat description, in life, it is not the case that people must take, sometimes, it is necessary to give, especially to those who are in need. The feeling of donation brings more happiness and peace of mind than that of earnings.

Pragmatic Analysis

Pragmatically, the wisdom on display employs the directive speech act of recommending to transfer its intended goal and prompt actions on the part of the addressee. The speaker recommends youngsters to treat others in a kind way and always to give a hand to those who need any help. With respect to the category of deixis, the third person pronoun *those* is utilized as Table 2 reveals .

Table (2): Pragmatic Analysis of Text (2).

Pragmatic Analysis		
Be kind. Always tend a helping hand to those in need.	Recommending	Speech Acts
Those	Person: third	Deixis

Text (3)

Birch Creek Assisted Living
Name: Karen
Advice for the younger generation:
Be aware of your surroundings and take advantage of opportunities.
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0uLr9zv6Ris3u2hXsbMpaNrYZfHGU
Mh2Na5eQpP2oBW2vvAstc6Q2HYArN5vKQdtSl&id=110862993911595&mibextid=yese
h4

Preliminary Note

The wording of this piece of wisdom is not long yet it presents a very rich content. At first, it implies that one should be aware of most of the things that could affect his life. Such step looks very valuable as that it will help to fix potential problems, alter plans, rearrange priorities, etc. Moreover, it sheds the light on the importance exploiting opportunities. Success is the fruit of the smart use of opportunities. Opportunities rarely reiterate. They are gifts that are not bestowed every day. As such, the smartest people are those who make use of available opportunities rather than wasting time while waiting a better one. It is a one's duty to catch such chances and make the most for life.

Pragmatic Analysis

Pragmatically, two directive speech acts are noticed in the wisdom above: warning and recommending. The speaker initiates her speech by implicitly warning the hearer of potential dangers that surround his life. Then, she recommends him directly to make use of opportunities which have some interest on his life. As for deixis, the second person pronoun your is employed.

Table (3): Pragmatic Analysis of Text (3).

Pragmatic Analysis		
Be aware of your surroundings.	Warning	Speech Acts
Take advantage of opportunities.	Recommending	
Your	Person: Second	Deixis

Text (4)

Orbost Regional Health
Words of wisdom
Name: Elsie
Age: 90
What is your secret?
Don't expect the world to fall at your feet, work hard for what you want in life. Save hard.
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0WkF54ouAjYVehtWsZLNduavw6jry
zZmCieWNfRvKBkLJUX61zo2iuggxuVmfPF2sl&id=100063762932178&mibextid=Nif5oz

Preliminary Note

The wisdom above urges people to work harder to achieve their wants, needs, and dreams. It invites them to stop wishing and start working. Since dreams are not achieved easily, hard work is the only means and path to fulfill them. What is more, the problem of wasting is highlighted implicitly. Since money is not achieved easily, people should save most of their earnings because it is very handy in difficult times.

Pragmatic Analysis

The pragmatic analysis of this piece of wisdom reveals that two directive speech acts are used: Advising and warning. At first, the speaker advises the listeners directly to work harder to approach their wants. Then, he warns them implicitly from wasting money on unworthy things. Besides, the second person deictic expressions *your* and *your* and *you* are utilized.

Table (4): Pragmatic Analysis of Text (4).

Pragmatic Analysis		
Don't expect the world to fall at your feet, work hard for what you want in life.	Advising	Speech Acts
Save hard.	Warning	
your, your, you	Person: second	Deixis

Text (5)

Dungate Manor Care Home
Margret
Aged 82
Advice For the younger generation :
Enjoy yourself .
Be good.
Follow your dreams.
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02WNHqerJJhV5RHTQWzmbbqQC5dZpviABDVyDYu25JK49mu6SJ7hJ32X6UJdXu57sil&id=2318625588403734&mibextid=Nif5oz

Preliminary Note

The wisdom above issues hope to every dispirit sou. It invites people to be optimistic and keep on pursing their dreams. Nothing could stand in the way of a hopeful person .Even the farthest dreams could become true with hope. In our life,every success starts as a dream and successful people never retreat. What is more, it is working on encouraging youngsters to conduct their lives morally.

Pragmatic Analysis

The directive speech act of recommending is used to produce this piece of wisdom. The speaker directly recommends the hearer to enjoy life, characterize with goodness and follow his dreams till achieving them. It encourages youngsters to be optimistic and keep on looking for opportunities to accomplish their dreams. Additionally, the second person deictic expressions yourself and your are used.

Table (5): Pragmatic Analysis of Text (5).

Pragmatic Analysis		
Enjoy yourself. Be good. Follow your dreams.	Recommending	Speech Acts
yourself, your	Person: second	Deixis

Text (6)

College View Nursing Home
Name: Kitty Smith
Advice for the younger generation:
- Always listen to your parents
- Always treat people with respect.
- Never do harm to anybody.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02TTs3GE7nnFrgk2oRuBfBY4oc36A buEbxbFVch1Ptc6231juKPP2Gt7npQZYbFfhxl&id=102647088424181&mibextid=yeseh4

Preliminary Note

To live morally and make the best of one's life, the ongoing piece of wisdom is introduced. It works on planting three main virtues in the race of human being: parents' righteousness, respect, and kindness. At first, it implements the importance of parents' advice, opinions, and controls. God's gift to parents is a foresight about their sons' life. Then, it sheds the light on the need for respect and for averting harm to others as whatever you do to others will back to you.

Pragmatic Analysis

The pragmatic analysis of the previous wisdom identifies two directive speech acts: advising and warning. The speaker first offers youngsters direct advice. She advises them to follow their parents' words and behave politely with others since everyone deserves to be treated in a respected manner. Then, she implicitly warns them from avoiding treating people in a harmful way. Deictically, second person pronoun and indefinite pronoun are utilized as it is revealed in Table 6.

Table (6): Pragmatic Analysis of Text (6).

Pragmatic Analysis		
Always listen to your parents. Always treat people with respect.	Advising	Speech Acts
Never do harm to anybody.	Warning	
your, anybody	Person: second and non-specific reference	Deixis

Text (7)

College View Nursing Home
Name: Doreen Cullen
Advice for the younger generation:
- Keep out of trouble.
- Surround yourself with good company.
- Enjoy life, it passes so fast.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02TTs3GE7nnFrgk2oRuBfBY4oc36A buEbxbFVch1Ptc6231juKPP2Gt7npQZYbFfhxl&id=102647088424181&mibextid=yeseh4

Preliminary Note

The preceding text introduces the audience with very valuable pieces of wisdom. At first, it clarifies that troubles are the source of lots of difficulties and worries, so it is better to stay

away from them. Then, it points out the crucial importance of good company which means people who surround someone. It is this company that mostly influences one's life progress and future. So, it is a must to filter the people who one chooses to be in his life in a cautious manner. Finally, it highlights the fact that life does not last long so it reminds people to enjoy their life moments, which are more precious than diamonds.

Pragmatic Analysis

Pragmatically, two directive speech acts are used to convey the preceding wisdom : warning and recommending. At first, the speaker implicitly warns the hearer from being involved in troubles of any type and to live in peace and tranquility. Then, she directly recommends them to be surrounded by a good company due to their role on the betterments of their lives. Finally, she adds that they should live their life in a pleasant way because neither youth nor life will last long. As for the use of deictic expressions, the speaker utilizes the second person deixis yourself.

Table (7): Pragmatic Analysis of Text (7).

Pragmatic Analysis		
Keep out of trouble.	Warning	
Surround yourself with good company. Enjoy life, it passes so fast.	Recommending	Speech Acts
yourself	Person: second	Deixis

6. Results and Discussions

The results in Table 8 show that elderly residents' pieces of wisdom are transmitted by the use of three speech acts: recommending, warning, and advising. It is noticed that the most common speech act exploited in elderly residents wisdoms is recommending with (63.15%) percentage. This reflects that elderly residents transfer their wisdoms as lightly as possible to lessen the possible threats on the part of the hearer. With a lower percentage amount to (21%) , the speech act of warning comes second. Elderly residents utilize this act to warn people from taking specific courses of action. Finally, the speech act of advising is noticed with a percentage amounts (15.78%). Advising acts are employed to deliver stronger pieces of wisdom than those that are delivered with recommending acts. As such, the advisor wants to convey that the hearer should commit specific course of actions in particular cases which are on his behalf with the aim of conducting their lives morally and wisely. With the aid of the above results, the speech acts that are used in elderly residents' wisdom are identified as follows: recommending, warning, and advising.

Table (8): Frequencies and Percentages of the Speech Acts.

Speech Acts			No. of Item
Warning	Recommending	Advising	
0	3	0	Text (1)
0	2	0	Text (2)
1	1	0	Text (3)
1	0	1	Text (4)
0	3	0	Text (5)
1	0	2	Text (6)
1	2	0	Text (7)

4	12	3	Total
21%	63.15%	15.78%	Percentage

Table 9 shows, approximately, that each piece of wisdom consists of one or two of person deictic expressions to achieve certain purposes. With dominant percentage amounts (69.23%), the second person pronoun appears, which implements that the residents attempt to catch the addressees' attention that these messages are delivered to them. They never use the first person pronoun, which indicates that their words are empty of any personal benefit. Their words are sent entirely to youngsters with the aim of betterment of the entire society. As for non-specific reference, it scores (15.38 %) percentage which indicates that elderly residents convey their pieces of wisdom, generally, to every reader. With the same percentage for non-specific reference, another type of person deictic expressions is observed in elderly residents' pieces of wisdom which is the third person pronoun. This has proved that elderly residents exploit the criterion of person deictic expressions to deliver their pieces of wisdom accurately.

Table (9) Frequencies and Percentages of Person Deixis.

Non-specific reference	Third person	Second person	No. of text
1	1	2	Text (1)
0	1	0	Text (2)
0	0	1	Text (3)
0	0	2	Text (4)
0	0	2	Text (5)
1	0	1	Text (6)
0	0	1	Text (7)
2	2	9	Total
15.38%	15.38%	69.23%	Percentage

7. Conclusions

This study comes up with the following conclusions:

1- The pragmatic analysis of speech acts reveals that three main speech acts contribute greatly to the process of generating wisdom in elderly care institutions: recommending, warning, and advising with percentages amount to "63.15%", "21%", "15.78%" respectively. Consequently, the first hypotheses is verified.

2- With respect to the criterion of deixis, it is observed that second, third person pronoun, and non-specific reference are the types of deictic expressions which are exploited by elderly residents in transmitting their pieces of wisdom. The second person pronoun deictic expression is the most prevalent deictic expression employed in elderly residents' wisdoms with "69.23 %" percentage. Accordingly, the second hypothesis is proved.

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