

Conventionalised Illocutionary Scenarios and Figurative Thought Patterns from the Psychological Schema Constructions in Spoken English

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This paper explores *conventionalised* illocutionary scenarios and figurative thought patterns evoked from the psychological schema constructions in spoken English. So far, considering classical and post-Gricean inferential pragmatics, some cognitive linguists (e.g., Baicchi, 2012; Panther & Thornburg, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2009, 2017; Ruiz de Mendoza & Baicchi, 2007; Stefanowitsch, 2003; Thornburg & Panther, 1997) have theoretically reconceptualized and discussed the relationships between constructions and their illocutionary force as pragmatic (metonymic) inferencing from illocutionary scenarios (e.g., *The stew smelled delicious* can be analyzed as a three-layered structure: [Syn: NP1 The stew vcop smelled Adj delicious (to NP2)]-[Sem: PERCEIVE [EXPERIENCER, PROPERTY [PERCEPT]]]-[Prag: EXIST [PROPERTY [PERCEPT]]]. Specifically, the semantic and pragmatic interface is interpreted as a metonymic link “APPEARANCE FOR REALITY”). Furthermore, such illocutionary scenarios and figurative thought patterns can be evoked from constructions in spoken interaction, where people can share spaces, time, and sequences of conversation (e.g., Deignan et al., 2013; Littlemore, 2015). However, there seem to be a few empirical studies on conventionalised illocutionary scenarios and figurative thought patterns from particular contextually-grounded constructions.

The current study focuses on three psychological schema constructions in Radden and Dirven’s (2007) framework, which are often used in spoken interaction (i.e., Emotion/S experiencer+V+O cause, Perception & Cognition/S experiencer+V+O theme, Mental/S experiencer+V+O theme). The procedure of the current study was as follows: (1) randomly selected 1,000 examples of three canonical verbs of three psychological schema constructions (i.e., LIKE, SEE, and THINK) were respectively extracted from the Spoken BNC2014 corpus (Love et al., 2017); (2) all the examples were coded in terms of three-layered coding schemes considering conversational sequences: (a) three psychological schema constructions mentioned above, (b) six tense-aspect-modality (TAM) markers (i.e., present, past, progressive, perfect, modal, semi-modal), and (c) six indirect speech acts (ISAs) (including 126 subcategorization) (vanEk & Trim, 1991); (3) the association strengths between six TAM specified canonical constructions and frequent ISAs were statistically confirmed through collocation analysis (e.g., Gries, 2015, 2019; Gries, Hampe, & Schönefeld, 2005, 2010; Gries & Stefanowitsch, 2004; Hampe, 2013; Schmidt & Küchenhoff, 2013; Stefanowitsch, 2013; Stefanowitsch & Gries, 2003); (4) conventionalized illocutionary scenarios and figurative thought patterns evoked from the strongly collocational patterns were extracted respectively.

As a result, the following three tendencies were confirmed: (1) the Emotion/S+V LIKE+O construction tended to be related to personal information (wants/desires) imparting-related ISAs in explaining, inquiring, and complaining, advising, requesting, anecdote telling illocutionary scenarios (e.g., WANTS/DESIRES FOR PERSONAL REPORTING (REQUESTING)); (2) the Perception & Cognition/S+V SEE+O construction tended to be related to not only past personal experience imparting-related ISAs, but also present information (including obligation) imparting-related ISAs and future plan (intentions and ability) imparting-related ISAs with explaining, inquiring, complaining, anecdote telling illocutionary scenarios (e.g., VISUAL EXPERIENCE FOR REPORTING (PROMISING)); (3) the Mental/S+V THINK+O construction tended to be related to personal stance (certainty and probability) expressing-related ISAs with explaining, inquiring, complaining, advising, and anecdote telling illocutionary scenarios (e.g., CERTAINTY (PROBABILITY) IMPRESSION FOR PERSONAL STANCE TAKING).

References

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