THE ILLOCUTION OF ORDER WITH DIFFERENT ATTITUDES: SOME CONSEQUENCES FOR THE EMPIRICAL STUDY OF ILLOCUTIONS

Painel temático: As ilocuções e a estruturação informacional

OBJECTIVES

This paper presents the categories of illocution and attitude and advocates that the study of the prosodic forms of illocutions must consider its relations with different attitudes. Also, we will present data from an ongoing research which studies the illocution of Order and the effects that a small set of attitudes produce on it. From there onwards we propose adjustments on the LABLITA's methodology for the studying of illocutions, which does not considers the interaction between illocutions and attitudes.

METHODS

This research is based on the Language into Act Theory (Cresti, 2000; Moneglia, 2005; Moneglia & Raso, 2014), an empirical theory designed to analyze the information structure of the utterance taking into consideration the actional nature of speech and the role played by prosody. In L-AcT, the utterance is defined as the linguistic unit that accomplishes a speech act (Austin, 1962) and is prosodically autonomous. Each illocution is associated to a specific configuration of a set of prosodic parameters (F0 movements, duration, timing, f_0 values and intensity), called prosodic form. A mandatory portion of each utterance (the Comment unit) is produced in order to convey an illocution. Empirical studies has found more than 80 types of different illocutions in Italian (Cresti, 2000), but not all of them has exclusive prosodic profiles. It means that some prosodic profiles are shared between two or more illocutions. It raises importance to the fact that the interpretation of an illocution on communication events depends not only on its linguistic clue (i.e. its prosodic profile), but also on the pragmatic and cognitive features associated with each illocution. Moneglia (2011) shows a small set of pragmatic and cognitive features that can be used to describe a large number of illocutions.

The methodology for the study of illocutions developed by LABLITA group (Cresti *et al.*, 1998; Cresti e Firenzuoli, 2001; Firenzuoli, 2003; Moneglia, 2011) consists on: a. extraction of examples of a given illocution on spontaneous speech corpora; b. description of the pragmatic-cognitive features of each illocution; c. production of a video recorded fictional context in which the illocution is elicited as a function of the context; d. extraction of the prosodic profile produced in the fictional context; e. substitution of the prosodic profile produced in the elicitation context of one illocution by the profile produced on the scene of another illocution. If the substitution of a given profile for another one is not acceptable, it means that the two illocutions has different prosodic forms.

According to Mello and Raso (2012), attitude is a "socio-interactional conventionalized level in which the speaker shows her mood while performing a specific illocution (with a specific modality)". Attitude is conveyed by prosodic variations in the whole tone unit (and not only in its nucleus, like illocutionary variation). Rocha and Raso (2014) and Rocha (in preparation) analyses utterances with and without the attitude of Politeness in Order illocutions with examples taken from a Brazilian Portuguese corpus.

In this paper, we will analyze utterances of Order with different attitudes taken from corpora to understand wich are the prosodic marks that are due to the attitudinal variation. Then, we will compare the prosodic profiles obtained in video recorded fictional contexts that elicitates Orders with the same attitudes found in corpus to verify the prosodic features found before.

RESULTS

Both the corpus examples and the prosodic profiles obtained in the videos confirms that the prosodic form of Order is affected by the attitude with which it is accomplished. Therefore, we sustain that is not possible to study a prosodic form without studying also its attitudinal variation. The only way to properly describe the prosodic form of a given illocution would be to compare the profiles containing different attitudes and verify what remains constant in these profiles.