

Abstract

Listening comprehension is regarded as one of the most challenging tasks for students for a variety of reasons. The majority of test-takers struggle to grasp the purpose meaning of the TOEFL listening test. This research aims to investigate the kinds and the dominant type of speech act in short dialogues of TOEFL listening test items. The researchers used a qualitative descriptive approach with content analysis research design to reach the objectives of this research. The objects was taken through 30 short dialogues in TOEFL listening test items. The result shows that short dialogues in TOEFL listening examination are divided into four speech act types namely directive is found in 44% of the total 27 utterances, the assertive is found in 42% of the total 26 utterances, the expressive is found in 11% of the total 7 utterances, and the last one commissive is only found in 1.5% of the total 1 utterance. The research concluded that the most dominant type is directive and commissive is less found. To comprehend the proposed meaning of the TOEFL listening items, test takers must be familiar with the context of the speech. The research recommended that test takers can evaluate the meaning of the utterances using the speech acts theories. The speech acts theories will assist the test taker in identifying the different sorts of utterances and understanding the proposed meaning of the utterances

Keywords: *pragmatics, speech acts, TOEFL, short dialogues*