

Cambridge Elements[≡]

Elements in Pragmatics

edited by

Jonathan Culpeper

Lancaster University, UK

Michael Haugh

University of Queensland, Australia

SPEECH ACTS

Discursive, Multimodal, Diachronic

Andreas H. Jucker

University of Zurich



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-009-53296-9 — Speech Acts

Andreas H. Jucker

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009532969

DOI: 10.1017/9781009421461

© Andreas H. Jucker 2024

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009421461

First published 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-53296-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-42149-2 Paperback

ISSN 2633-6464 (online)

ISSN 2633-6456 (print)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

Speech Acts

Discursive, Multimodal, Diachronic

Elements in Pragmatics

DOI: 10.1017/9781009421461
First published online: June 2024

Andreas H. Jucker
University of Zurich

Author for correspondence: Andreas H. Jucker, ahjucker@es.uzh.ch

Abstract: This Element outlines current issues in the study of *speech acts*. It starts with a brief outline of four waves of speech act theory, that is, the philosophical, the experimental, the corpus-based and the discursive approaches. It looks at some of the early experimental and corpus-based methods and discusses their more recent developments as a background to the most important trends in current speech act research. Discursive approaches shift the focus from single utterances to interaction and interactional sequences. Multimodal approaches show that the notion of 'speech act' needs to be extended in order to cover the multimodality of communicative acts. And diachronic approaches focus on the historicity of *speech acts*. The final section discusses some open issues and potential further developments of speech act research.

Keywords: speech acts, research methods, discursive analysis, multimodality, diachrony

© Andreas H. Jucker 2024

ISBNs: 9781009532969 (HB), 9781009421492 (PB), 9781009421461 (OC)
ISSNs: 2633-6464 (online), 2633-6456 (print)

Contents

1	Introduction: The Philosophical Foundations	1
2	The Empirical Turn in Speech Act Studies	8
3	Corpus-Based Approaches	17
4	'Is That Supposed to Be an Insult or a Compliment?': Discursive Approaches	26
5	'He Gave an Apologetic Shrug': Speech Acts and Multimodality	35
6	'O, Cry You Mercy, Sir; I Have Mistook': The Diachronicity of Speech Acts	45
7	Open Issues and Outlook	54
	Data Sources, Corpora and Dictionary	60
	References	61