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**MODELING THE SPEECH ACT OF INSULT**

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*Abstract*

It is known that the whole invective vocabulary can be divided into performative and non-performative language units. Performative vocabulary is not taboo, it reflects an invective speech act as a fact and it is supercategorical to a non-performative speech act. Non-performative invective vocabulary is reflected in the category of conventionality and it is implemented at the functional level, which reflects a particular speaker's tactics. Thus, non-performative speech acts of insult represent a subcategory of performative speech acts of insult and reflect the real realization of the nominal potential of insult. The non-performative speech act of insult, meanwhile, is also divided into non-conventional and conventional speech acts, which is a reflection of the undirectedness/directedness of invective vocabulary. There are some ideal models of non-performative speech acts of insult which are revealed on the base of propositional approach in researching. The conventional act of insult is an insult expressed in the object structure. An unconventional act of insult is realized both in the object structure and in the predicate structure. According to the research syntactic French system and androcentric nature of French invective have huge impact on category of performativity / non-performativity.

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## 1. Introduction

In all languages there is a layer of particular tabooed vocabulary. This kind of vocabulary is mostly prohibited, as it reflects, or rather destroys a one's personality, intrudes into his private - intimate - life. In this case, the invective vocabulary turns out to be multifunctional, since the problem of insulting an individual is not always connected with the invective vocabulary. Thus, there is a greater degree of subjectivism in the invective vocabulary: some vocabulary turns out to be offensive and some doesn't. Meanwhile, this inoffensive vocabulary can be tabooed. Therefore, it is more correct to study invective vocabulary in a system with speech acts, i.e. as a result of realizing its nominal potential. It is necessary to separate the subjective perception of the invective from the real act of insult. In this case, this fact proves to be important, since the insult may result in humiliation, which has legal consequences. This article presents a study of speech acts that may result in legal relations.

## 2. Problem Statement

The strong correlation of invective vocabulary with speech acts promotes its active studying in terms of speech act theory. The problem, however, proves to be multifaceted and not completely studied. For example, this is revealed in the existence of various interpretations and characteristics of the act of insult itself. For example, this is revealed in the existence of various interpretations and characteristics of the act of insult itself. Thus, due to its characteristics, the invective is studied through such notions as "verbal aggression" (Kolmakova & Shalkov, 2017), "communicative pressure", "moral influence" (Zhelvis, 2015). The legal basis of the invective is studied in such aspects as the communicative code (Gladkova & Larina, 2018; Wierzbicka, 1992) or the axiological code of the linguistic personality and, of course, the analysis of the language of law, where the results of the research on the invective find the practical application in compiling linguistic expertise on cases, related to the personality insult (Brinev, 2019; Posidelova, 2016). Problems and diagnostics of the invective in the legal aspect in Russia are handled by the specialists of the Guild of Linguistic Experts in Documentation and Information Disputes (Guild of Linguistic Experts in Documentation and Information Disputes, 2020) and the specialists of the "Jurislinguistics" laboratory, its employees issue a periodical scientific journal on this problem in Barnaul. The following aspects fall into the focus of forensic linguists: the use of offensive words involved in a wide linguistic context of the speech community (Chernikova, 2016; Merzlikina, 2016; Voloshin & Politova, 2018); analysis of a conflict statement from the interpreter's point of view (Salimova & Gazizov, 2016; Speranskaya, 1999); study of the author's "criminal intent" and evaluation of his intentions (Kosarenko & Kosarenko, 2015; Srebryanskaya, 2017) and analysis of the communicative conflict (Balakin & Ankov, 2015); study of the most frequent tactical moves leading to offense, mockery and insult (Issers, 1999; Kharchenko, 2015; Kozhevatova, 2015; Sypchenko, 2000) etc.

Thus, there is a need for a comprehensive study of the invective vocabulary system nominal potential, the implementation of which is carried out by means of speech acts of insult. It is necessary not only to qualify, but also to distinguish between speech acts of insults, that can lead to legal consequences. This aspect of the invective has so far not been studied systematically. Despite the fact that the study has

been inspired by the invectives in French, in general the principles of realizing its nominal potential are the same for all languages.

### **3. Research Questions**

A main issue in the classification of speech acts of insult is the correlation of directivity/undirectivity of such speech acts. Directivity (or conventionality) gives the speech act of insult the tinge of insult. The category of conventionality / non-conventionality may serve as a theoretical basis for the development of special methodological literature for court officials and expert criminal laboratories, practicing lawyers facing legal qualification of the speech act of "insult". Despite the fact that the study has been inspired by the invectives in French, in general the principles of realizing its nominal potential are the same for all languages.

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### **4. Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the article is to identify, describe and classify lexico-semantic and syntactic means by which the nominal potential of invective vocabulary in French is realized, as well as to distinguish speech acts of insult, leading to legal relations.

### **5. Research Methods**

The study was conducted from the speech acts theory point of view in the analysis of the invective vocabulary functioning on the basis of the proposition reflecting the relationship between the invector and invecum. At the same time, the most important issue is the invective vocabulary nominative potential realization in such acts of insult, and also the nature of such an act; this connection affects the degree of invectivity, and in general, the conditions of invective vocabulary nominative potential realization.

The relationship between the invector and invecum is formed on the basis of the addressant's statement towards the addressee of language units of deteriorative character. It is considered that the addressee perceives the invective lexicon as insulting due to the fact that there is a strong propositional connection between the addressant and the addressee. This connection is ensured by a directed invective predicate. On the basis of a propositional analysis of invective vocabulary functioning, it is possible to determine types and classification of speech acts of insult.

The presence of at least two parties in an invective act, as well as special relations between them, proves the propositional nature of invective speech act of insult. A propositional structure, or proposition, is a mental representation of the subject's interaction with objects surrounding it. It can be said that the speech act of an invective is the process of actualizing the invective vocabulary in the propositional structure by establishing the correlation between the subject and the object. Meanwhile, the invective has

a propositional orientation: the invective is effective if it is aimed at something or someone. Thus, the propositional structure is subordinated to certain laws of tactics, which are distinguished into stereotypical models subordinated to a certain prototype.

## 6. Findings

From a propositional point of view, invective speech acts can be performative and non-performative, reflecting performative and non-performative language units belonging to the invective field. The performative and non-performative speech act of insult generally denotes a speech act of aggression and, in particular, insult. However, performative linguistic units come into complex correlations with the speech act: they do not carry an invective "charge", but they are classifiers for non-performative invective words. This axiom is fair for all languages. Thus, the classification of verbal acts of insult can be represented as hierarchically interdependent elements.

Being in a more or less independent position, both levels are linked by overlapping a relationship between performative and non-performative particular units. Thus, non-performative invectives belong to one performative classifier. However, even if an invective word contains a certain classifier in its definition, the identification of an invective vocabulary is difficult because one and the same non-performative unit may belong to several performative classifiers. All of this suggests that a non-performative language unit has a blurred denotate, but strongly developed connotative meaning.

Schematically, the performative act of insult looks like this: 1 - A verb (1 person, singular, present tense) - 2 - 3 (a name), where element 1 is considered as a subject of an invective action, a kind of source of performative expression and behaviour, the verb reveals the characteristic of such behaviour (insult, naming, addressing, evaluation, etc.), element 2 denotes an object of influence to which an insult, threat, blackmail, etc. is directed, element 3 symbolizes a name (predicate name or a noun). For example: *I (1) declare (3) war on (2) you (Я (1) объявляю (глагол) вам (2) войну (3))*. A performative invective predicate (verb position in the scheme) can be represented in the remote structure of an invective speech act by a so-called "included" performative predicate, which according to the conditions of communicative interaction is not brought to the level of a surface manifestation (Romanova & Kostyaev, 2009).

The performative expression of a speech act of insult is primarily related to the use of performative language units *insulte*, *injure*, etc. These words do not possess an invective "charge" but designate, as it was said above, a speech act of insult in general and they are classifiers for non-performative invective units.

At the same time, the meaning of the whole speech act depends on the meaning of the language unit denoting the term "insult". It should be noted that the words *insulte* and *injure* are supercategorical notions of invective language units, thus, performative speech acts of insult are supercategorical in relation to non-performative and these are one of the subtypes of performative speech acts of insult.

This is evidenced by the contextual analysis carried out. Thus, the language unit under study characterizes the insult to a specific person, both official (a well-known person) and someone you may know. For example, insults can be directed against political figures. Cf.:

**Insulte lancée à un visiteur au salon de l'agriculture et sur une vidéo filmée: Nicolas Sarkozy est accusé par ses opposants de remettre en cause la fonction présidentielle, tant par son style que sa pratique institutionnelle** (Wortschatz Universität Leipzig, 2020).

*Je me permets de soupçonner une insondable crétinerie car, à aucun moment dans le texte, il n'évoque la raison pour laquelle il insulte ces anciens élus* (Wortschatz Universität Leipzig, 2020).

Non-performatively, the whole French invective is realized through a conventional and unconventional speech act of insult. It is in such acts that "true" invective - swear words – is used, and it is after such speech acts that legal consequences for the offending person may occur. The study shows that the non-performative conventional speech act of insult is statistically the most common insult in French, the types of this act depend on the kind of *invectum* identified in a particular invective vocabulary, as well as on the tactics of the *invector*, which is considered of what language means and what syntactic form was used. In this case, the *invector* selects two options: to express his negative opinion with help of a predicate, or with help of invective vocabulary in the structure of the *inverter*. *Invectum* category is based on the animate / inanimate opposition, i.e. the *invectum* of non-performative conventional insult is divided into two types: *Invectum - animate* and *invectum - inanimate*. Thus, the structure of the non-performative conventional insult is as follows: *inverter - predicate (not open) - invectum (open)*

Here is a list of non-performative conventional speech acts of insults in the inanimate category: 1. *invector - predicate - invectum* (unpleasant feeling); 2. *invector - predicate - invectum* (a conclusion); 3. *invector - predicate - invectum* (unpleasant event); 4. *invector - predicate - invectum* (unpleasant physical item).

Here is a list of non-performative conventional speech acts of insult in terms of the category of animacy: 1. *invector - predicate - invectum* (human mentality); 2. *invector - predicate - invectum* (man and his immoral behavior); 3. *invector - predicate - invectum* (man compared to woman); 4. *invector - predicate - invectum* (woman and her immoral behavior); 5. *invector - predicate - invectum* (a talker); 6. *invector - predicate - invectum* (a person who is not allowed to talk); 7. *invector - predicate - invectum* (threatened person); 8. *invector - predicate - invectum* (one's appearance); 9. *invector - predicate - invectum* (fight); 10. *invector - predicate - invectum* (an immoral behavior in general); 11. *invector - predicate - invectum* (national features).

The non-performative conventional speech act of insult is realized through the actualization of invective verbs in the structure of predicates. In this case, verbs can actualize the following predicates depending on their *invector's* intention: "*invector's* indifference", "*invector's* mockery", "*invector's* negative attitude", "*incorrect actions of the third party*", "*invector's* negligent attitude to something or someone", "*invector's* accusation and curse", "*insulting mental abilities of the person*", "*negative attitude to the current situation*", "*invectum's* incorrect behavior", "*anxiety*". Let's take a closer look at each predicate.

For example, a speech act of insult, in which the *invector* expresses its indifference, is most often actualized by the verbs *se foutre*, *chier*, *se faire chier*. Thus, the *foutre* predicate is actualized in a speech act in which the subject expresses his indifference or gives advice to someone to leave something (someone) alone. Cf.:

***Tu te fous de ma gueule?*** (Wortschatz Universität Leipzig, 2020).

A speech act of insult where the invector expresses its indifferent attitude is realized through the verbs *emmerdrer*, *chier* and *gueuler*. Cf.:

***Fait chierje serais à Strasbourg*** (Wortschatz Universität Leipzig, 2020).

***Çafaitvraimentchier*** (Wortschatz Universität Leipzig, 2020).

For a non-performative conventional insult, a syntactic construction that reflects the locust intentions of the invector becomes an important part.

In this case, the invector directly insults the invectum, but with the help of inappropriate invective words. The predicate is expressed in non-invective verbal constructions. The following fact should be noted: despite its simplified structure, the number of invective units is clearly determined.

As the study in French has shown, the invector uses tactics that are reflected in the syntactic constructions of simple and extended sentences. Based on this, we have the following classification of non-performative conventional insults: 1. a simple sentence, which is divided into: simple act; interjectional act; act of insult with parcellularity; complex speech act of insult; 2. extended sentence, which is subdivided into: acts in which predicates are expressed by means of verbs; speech acts of insult complicated by epithets; speech acts complicated by determinants; speech acts of insult formed by means of a compound verb predicate.

For example, conventional acts formed in a simple sentence are syntactically made up with the help of a compound verb predicate, i.e. "subject + predicate + invective word". Such constructions are the statements expressing a real state of things (circumstances). Cf.:

***Donc, nous pour résumer: tout est foutu?*** (Wortschatz Universität Leipzig, 2020).

***Tu te dis, putain merde, et t'as envie de te foutre en l'air*** (Wortschatz Universität Leipzig, 2020).

A simple, non-performative, conventional speech act of insult is the most offensive. As it is such a speech act of insult, which in the structure of the predicate actualizes the state verb *être* and is equal to the compound verb predicate, i.e. "invectum - être is an invective word". Cf., *il est idiot, il est ribaud, tu es gaffeur*.

***T'es dingue, archidingue: je commence à répéter cet après-midi à la Beauté d'ève, le nouveau cabaret de Montparnasse*** (Wortschatz Universität Leipzig, 2020).

The study shows that it is in such non-performative conventional speech acts that legal consequences for the offender may occur. The last one refers directly to an invective word. This is indicated by the syntactic construction of this type of speech act of insult. The invector only directs a swear word - without additional language units. That is, there is nothing in offensive tactics but a desire to insult. Cf.:

***Tu es gaffeur avec que la bouche pour manger*** (Wortschatz Universität Leipzig, 2020).

***Tu es un animal stupide, qui n'a pas ton serveau, qui ne peut que crier sur les toits et tortiller du cul pour chier droit*** (Wortschatz Universität Leipzig, 2020).

## 7. Conclusion

Thus, the classification of speech acts of insult is based on two global categories: performativity / non-performativity, conventionality / unconventionality. The study found that non-performative acts of

insult reflect the supercategorical nature of non-performative speech acts of insult. A performative act of insult reflects only the fact of insult. Non-performative speech acts of insult represent a subcategory of performative speech acts of insult and reflect the actual realization of the nominal potential of insult. The non-performative speech act of insult is divided into unconventional and conventional speech acts, this reflects the undirectivity/directivity of invective vocabulary.

The category of unconventionality / conventionality is composed of subtypes of syntactic models reflecting the speaker's tactics. The conventional act of insult is an insult expressed in the object structure. The unconventional act of insult is implemented both from the structure of the object and the predicate, and in terms of syntax is divided into two types. Identification (diagnosis) of this type is a very important process, as it is the most offensive to an invectum (person insulted). The recognition of such speech acts is crucial to the decision on the criminal act of insult.

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