

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology

PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF ALLAMA MUHAMMAD IQBAL'S LETTER TO MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH: A STUDY OF SPEECH ACTS

Khizar Ali¹, Sajid Ullah², Anum Saleem³

¹Lecturer, department of English, Bacha Khan University Charsadda

²Visiting Lecturer, department of English, Kohat University of Science and Technology

³Lecturer and Head, department of English, Bacha Khan University Charsadda

Email: khizark.chd@gmail.com

Khizar Ali, Sajid Ullah, Anum Saleem. Pragmatic Analysis Of Allama Muhammad Iqbal's Letter To Muhammad Ali Jinnah: A Study Of Speech Acts -- Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 19(4), 1514-1524. ISSN 1567-214x

Key Words: Allama Muhammad Iqbal's Letter To Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Speech Acts

ABSTRACT

A politician may express his or her political thoughts and narratives in the form of letters. The politician's letter may include various speech acts. Those speech acts can be used for various purposes such as revealing their political thoughts and ideology. Keeping this notion in view, this paper intends to analyze Allama Muhammad Iqbal's letter to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, posted on May 28, 1937. This letter is selected using purposive sampling as Iqbal wrote many letters to Jinnah during pre-partition of Pakistan and India. The analysis of the letter is carried out both qualitatively and quantitatively. Qualitative analysis includes identifying the various types of speech acts in the letter employing Searle's (1969) taxonomy of illocutionary acts. Qualitative analysis shows that speech acts are used for various purposes such as stating, concluding, directing, planning, expressing, and showing attitude. Quantitative analysis includes frequency (number) distribution of speech acts through column chart. This analysis highlights that representative act dominates the letter, followed by directive, commissive, and expressive act. It is also noted that no declarative act is found in the letter. This paper is significant in a sense as it analyzes the language of a politician used in their letters in the light of speech acts. This paper encourages the pragmatists to use various other pragmatic tools of inquiry such as explicature and implicature, deixis, presupposition, etc. In addition, it invites future researchers to analyze these letters in the light of several other perspectives such as discourse analysis, systemic functional linguistics, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

INTRODUCTION

Language is considered as a system of communication. Using language, people share ideas, thoughts, and feelings. A language can be produced either verbally or non-verbally. Like other people, politicians also make use of political language to share their political thoughts and narratives. They may produce their political language either in the form of speech or letter. Their political language may reflect the way they maintain social relationships, expressing feelings, and revealing their policies and narratives.

From the perspective of pragmatics, people express themselves through utterances. With the help of producing utterance, they also perform actions. According to Austin (1962), speech acts are the acts of communication and they are produced via utterances. Keeping this notion in mind, it can be seen that during pre-partition of Pakistan and India, Allama Muhammad Iqbal wrote various letters to Muhammad Ali Jinnah for expressing his political thoughts and narratives. Those letters may include various speech acts and those could be used for various purposes.

Allama Muhammad Iqbal (November 09, 1877- April 21, 1938) was a South Asian Muslim writer, philosopher, scholar, and politician. His Urdu poetry is considered among the greatest of the twentieth century. He was the person who revealed his vision for independent Muslim state. He is also the national poet of Pakistan and he is commonly referred to the honorific, Allama.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah (25 December 1876 – 11 September 1948) was a barrister, politician and the founder of Pakistan. Jinnah served as the leader of the All-India Muslim League from 1913 until the inception of Pakistan on 14 August 1947, and then as the Dominion of Pakistan's first governor-general until his death. He is revered in Pakistan as the Quaid-e-Azam (Great Leader) and Baba-e-Qaum (Father of the Nation).

This paper is set to bring into focus the various speech acts used by Allama Muhammad Iqbal in his letter to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, posted on May 28, 1937, and to find out the various purposes behind using those speech acts. This paper is also intended to identify how those speech acts are being patterned in the letter. This paper addresses the following questions:

- Q1. What are the various speech acts used by Allama Muhammad Iqbal in his letter to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, posted on May 28, 1937?
- Q2. What are the various purposes behind using various speech acts in the letter?
- Q3. How speech acts are being patterned in the letter?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pragmatics constitutes one of the branches of linguistics. According to Barron et al. (2016), this branch of linguistics developed out of the philosophy of various philosophers after 1970s such as John Austin and Rodger Searle who introduced and explored speech acts, Paul Grice's conversational implicature, and his maxims of quality, quantity, relevance and manner, and various others. Bossan (2017) adds that in 1960s and early 1970s, Lakoff, Ross, and Katz,

who were generative semanticists, inspired by the works of Philosophers like Austin, Searle, and Grice, thus they criticized Noam Chomsky's perspective of studying language as an abstract and mental device separated from its uses and functions. As a result of such criticism, extensive studies were carried out in 1970s related to different contents in pragmatics, Jucker and Taavitsainen (2013) mention that the first major textbooks in pragmatics appeared in 1970s and 1980s, and in 1977, *The Journal of Pragmatics*, a publication, also started. But Allan (2013) brings some fascinating stuff to the origin and development of pragmatics by stating that pragmatics dates back to the Greek Sophists who favoured the pragmatic mode of conveying moral instructions than storytelling.

This particular branch deals with the language being used by interlocutors in a particular social and cultural context. In pragmatics, it is significant to have an understanding of the context wherein something is said and interpreted. Kroeger (2019) states that pragmatics deals with understanding the meaning of an utterance that is actually dependent or derived from a way in which words and sentences are used. Cutting (2008) also argues that pragmatics primarily focuses on revealing meanings out of words or sentences produced in a context, therefore, it is significant that a pragmatist should have knowledge about the physical and social world, certain social and psychological factors that affect communication, and knowledge about time and place must be taken into consideration.

According to Austin (1962), speech acts deal with what we say is actually what we do. He states that a statement can be expressed in many ways such as describing or expressing or suggesting something. Based on all such observations, speech acts are divided into different categories such as requesting, complementing, apologizing, greetings, refusing, suggesting, advising, etc. He divides speech acts into three different dimensions: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary act refers to the propositional meaning of an utterance, illocutionary act refers to the value that a person gives to locutionary act or the intended meaning of it, and Perlocutionary act refers to the effect of illocutionary act on a listener. Alston (2015) adds that illocutionary acts are employed to issue locutionary acts with the help of a force called illocutionary force, for instance, the force of warning, suggestion, question, threatening, etc.

Kissine (2013) states that locutionary act is a phatic act which means it is a phonetic act (production of sounds in sequence) with morphological and syntactical structures and proposes the initial content of an utterance in a particular context, or it is a way of presenting. Illocutionary acts are those that draw their propositional content from locutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts bring the connection between an utterance and its effect. While focusing on the illocutionary dimension of speech acts, Austin (1962) proposes five categories of performative verbs: verdictives, exercitives, commissives, expositives, and behabitives. Whereas Searle's (1969) classification of illocutionary speech acts is: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative act. This classification is a modified version of Austin's taxonomy of illocutionary speech acts.

Altikriti (2016) analyzes inaugural speeches Of Barack Obama and his last state of the union address in the light of Bach and Harnish's (1979) taxonomy of illocutionary speech acts to find out acts of persuasion. These speeches were delivered in 2009 and 2013 and his last state of the union address was addressed in 2016. It is found that assertive acts were used for persuading Americans regarding new political policies. Commissive acts were used for bringing sympathy to the heart of Americans. Directive acts were used to bring back Americans towards technology, economy, democracy, and security. Requirements acts were used within directive speech acts for persuading subjects towards change and reformation. Argumentative acts were employed as persuasive acts to convince the audience to achieve what is left. Informative acts were used by the president to let the audience know what has been done in past and what needs to be focused in future. Requirement and requestive acts within directives were used by the president to make the Americans agree with his opinions related to issues such as fulfilling responsibilities, education, how to face dangers, etc. Rohid and Mahdi (2018) study assertive illocutionary speech acts in Barack Obama's speech that was delivered in Cuba. This study employs Searle and Vanderveken's assertive speech acts classification (1985) along with Stuart Hall's reception theory (1980). The analysis reveals that there are 7 assertive illocutionary speech acts found in the speech which are argue, report, state, suggest, assure, inform, and remind. Similarly, Mufiah and Rahman (2018) study Donald Trump's speech by focusing on illocutionary speech acts. Their analysis bring into consideration that representative act recorded most in the speech (46%) that shows the informative and supportive nature of the president. It is followed by directive speech acts (16%) that show his power whereas expressive act is recorded least in the speech (11%).

Extensive studies have been conducted to find out speech acts used by Pakistani politicians in their speeches. Hussain et al. (2020) employ Searle's (1969) taxonomy of illocutionary acts to identify the type of speech acts used by Imran Khan in his first speech as prime minister of Pakistan. They conclude that commissive act records for most of the time while expressive act records least in the speech. Along with it, they also investigate that direct commissive and indirect directive record most in the speech while direct declarative and indirect expressive do not record in the speech. Similarly, Raza et al. (2021) analyze speech acts in the speech of Ex-Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, using Searle's (1969) taxonomy of illocutionary acts. This study reveals that representative act records most in the speech (21.9%) while commissive act records least in the speech (5.5%). On the other hand, Hussain et al. (2021) analyze speech acts of insult in the speeches of members of provincial assembly of Sindh, using Searle's (1969) taxonomy of illocutionary acts. This study concludes that these politicians use speech act of insult (expressive) when they discuss issues related to Sindh's administrations and management of its water resources. This study also recommends that since these politicians are public representative, hence they should behave in a civilized way and use the language accordingly.

In the light of available literature, it is significant to understand that pragmatics as a branch in linguistics helps us to analyze the language that is

used by its interlocutors in particular social and cultural contexts. The language can be analyzed using certain pragmatic tools of inquiry and speech act is one of those. Various researchers analyzed speech acts in the speeches of various politicians such as Barack Obama, Donald Trump, Imran Khan, Nawaz Sharif, and many others. These studies arrive at a conclusion that these politicians use various speech acts in their speeches and which unfold their political views. Based on the current studies, it can be seen that most of the researches have analyzed the speech acts used in the political speeches but no attention is given to politicians' letters that could be sent among them for exchanging political views. Therefore, this study aims at studying the speech acts used in Iqbal's letter to Jinnah, posted on May 28, 1937, by using Searle's (1969) taxonomy of illocutionary acts.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A Mixed-method Approach

The researcher chooses a mixed-method approach as this study analyzes the selected letter both qualitatively and quantitatively. The qualitative research method suits the nature of data as this research aims at finding out the type of illocutionary speech acts used in the selected letter. As the quantitative method describes the results in terms of statistical figures or numbers, therefore, this study also explores the pattern of speech acts in terms of frequency (number) distribution through column charts. This method helps a researcher to get a comprehensive view of speech acts presented in the letter.

Collecting the Letter

The letter is taken from the website, the available link is given:

http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00islamlinks/txt_iqbal_tojinnah_1937.html

This letter is selected using purposive sampling as Allama Muhammad Iqbal wrote many letters to Muhammad Ali Jinnah during pre-partition of Pakistan and India.

The Framework

To analyze the letter, the researcher uses pragmatics as a tool of analysis. However, pragmatics itself consists of many theories. But this study adopts the taxonomy of speech acts given by Searle (1969). He classified different illocutionary speech acts. Those different categories are discussed below:

A. Representative Act

The point of purpose of representative is that it commits the speaker to the truth of a presented case. The case could be assessed either true or false. The simplest test of a speech act being representative is to see if it can be literally

categorized as true or false. This type of act can be seen in the form of informing, asserting, concluding, claiming, and deducing.

B. Directive Act

This act commits the hearer doing an action. This act can be seen in the form of ordering or commanding, asking, requesting, pleading, advising, begging, questioning, defying, and challenging.

C. Commissive Act

This act commits the speaker to some future actions. This act can be seen in the form of vowing, promising, pledging, etc.

D. Expressive Act

This act shows the attitude of speaker and it can be seen in the form of regretting, congratulating, welcoming, deploring, appreciating, detesting, etc.

F. Declarative Act

This is the act that changes the world via utterance. This act can be seen in the form of pronouncing, declaring, baptizing, appointing, and nominating.

Data Analysis

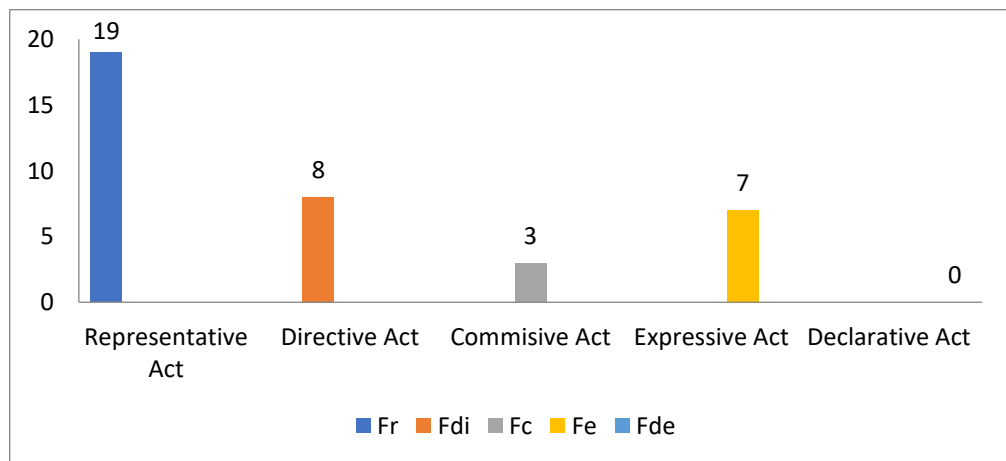
The data analysis is carried out both qualitatively and quantitatively. Qualitative analysis includes analyzing the letter using Searle's (1969) taxonomy of illocutionary act while quantitative analysis of the data includes the frequency (number) distribution of illocution acts through column charts. Qualitative and quantitative analysis are revealed in the following table and column chart:

Table 1 Analysing Iqbal's Letter to Jinnah in the light of Searle's (1969) Illocutionary Acts

Locutionary Acts/ Statements	Type of Illocutionary acts
28th May, 1937 <i>My dear Mr. Jinnah, Thank you so much for your letter which reached me in due course.</i>	Expressive Act
<i>I am glad to hear that you will bear in mind what I wrote to you about the changes in the constitution and programme of the League.</i>	Expressive Act
<i>I have no doubt that you fully realise the gravity of the situation as far as Muslim India is concerned.</i>	Expressive Act
<i>The League will have to finally decide whether it will remain a body representing the upper classes of Indian Muslims or Muslim masses who have so far with good reason, taken no interest in it.</i>	Commissive Act

<i>Personally I believe that a political organisation which gives no promise of improving the lot of the average Muslim can not attract our masses</i>	Representative Act
<i>Under the new constitution the higher posts go to the sons of upper classes; the smaller ones go to the friends or relatives of the ministers.</i>	Representative Act
<i>In other matters too our political institutions have never thought of improving the lot of Muslims generally.</i>	Representative Act
<i>The problem of bread is becoming more and more acute.</i>	Representative Act
<i>The Muslim has begun to feel that he has been going down and down during the last 200 years</i>	Expressive Act
<i>Ordinarily he believes that his poverty is due to Hindu money-lending or capitalism</i>	Representative Act
<i>The perception that it is equally due to foreign rule has not yet fully come to him.</i>	Representative Act
<i>But it is bound to come.</i>	Commissive Act
<i>The atheistic socialism of Jawaharlal is not likely to receive much response from the Muslims.</i>	Representative Act
<i>The question therefore is: how is it possible to solve the problem of Muslim poverty?</i>	Directive Act
<i>And the whole future of the League depends on the League's activity to solve this question.</i>	Representative Act
<i>If the League can give no such promises I am sure that Muslim masses will remain indifferent to it as before</i>	Representative Act
<i>Happily there is a solution in the enforcement of the Law of Islam and its further development in the light of modern ideas.</i>	Expressive Act
<i>After a long and careful study of Islamic Law I have come to the conclusion that if this system of Law is properly understood and applied, at last the right to subsistence is secured to everybody.</i>	Representative and Directive Act
<i>But the enforcement and development of the Shariat of Islam is impossible in this country without a free Muslim state or states.</i>	Representative Act
<i>This has been my honest conviction for many years and I still believe this to be the only way to solve the problem of bread for Muslims as well as to secure a peaceful India.</i>	Representative and Directive Act
<i>If such a thing is impossible in India the only other alternative is a civil war which as a matter of fact has been going on for some time in the shape of Hindu-Muslim riots.</i>	Representative Act
<i>I fear that in certain parts of the country, e.g. N.-W. India, Palestine may be repeated.</i>	Representative Act
<i>Also the insertion of Jawaharlal's socialism into the body politic of Hinduism is likely to cause much bloodshed among the Hindus themselves.</i>	Commissive Act
<i>The issue between social democracy and Brahmanism is not dissimilar to the one between Brahmanism and Buddhism</i>	Representative Act
<i>Whether the fate of socialism will be the same as the fate of Buddhism in India, I cannot say.</i>	Representative Act

<i>But it is clear to my mind that if Hinduism accepts social democracy it must necessarily cease to be Hinduism.</i>	Representative Act
<i>For Islam the acceptance of social democracy in some suitable form and consistent with the legal principles of Islam is not a revolution but a return to the original purity of Islam.</i>	Representative Act
<i>The modern problems therefore are more easy to solve for the Muslims than for the Hindus.</i>	Representative Act
<i>But as I have said above in order to make it possible for Muslim India to solve the problems it is necessary to redistribute the country and to provide one or more Muslim states with absolute majorities.</i>	Directive Act
<i>Don't you think that the time for such a demand has already arrived?</i>	Directive Act
<i>Perhaps this is the best reply you can give to the atheistic socialism of Jawaharlal Nehru.</i>	Directive Act
<i>Anyhow I have given you my own thoughts in the hope that you will give them serious consideration either in your address or in the discussions of the coming session of the League.</i>	Directive Act
<i>Muslim India hopes that at this serious juncture your genius will discover some way out of our present difficulties.</i>	Directive Act
<i>Yours sincerely,</i>	
<i>(Sd.) Muhammad Iqbal</i>	
<i>P.S. On the subject-matter of the letter I intended to Write to you a long and open letter in the press.</i>	Expressive Act
<i>But on further consideration I felt that the present moment was not suitable for such step.</i>	Expressive Act



Column Chart 1 Frequency (number) Distribution of Illocutionary Speech Acts Used in the Letter

Fr shows the frequency of representative act.

Fdi shows the frequency of directive act.

Fc stands for commissive act.

Fe stands for the expressive act.

Fde represents declarative act.

The above column chart demonstrates that the letter contains a total of 37 statements. It is found that representative act recorded most in the letter (19 times). It is followed by directive act which is recorded for 8 times in the letter. Commissive and expressive act are recorded for 3 and 7 times respectively. It is also revealed that declarative act is not being recorded in the letter. Such frequency distribution shows the way speech acts are patterned in the letter. It can be seen that representative act dominates the letter.

DISCUSSION

Based on the illocutionary speech act analysis given in the table 1 and frequency (number) distribution of these acts displayed in the column chart 1, it is asserted that in the letter, the writer/addresser (Allama Muhammad Iqbal) make use of different illocutionary acts to convey his thoughts to receiver/addressee (Muhammad Ali Jinnah). Speech acts are patterned in a way that representative act is dominating the script as it is found 19 times, followed by directive, expressive, and commissive act that are recorded for 8, 7, and 3 times respectively. But no declarative act is recorded in the letter. These speech acts are used for different purposes that are discussed below:

Purposes of Using Representative Act

- Conveying thoughts in the form of statements
- Drawing conclusions to interpret how the writer has experienced the world and how much he finds himself committed to truth and reality. In this letter, it can be seen that the writer gives his views and concludes about political organization, Islam and Islamic laws, Muslim poverty, idea of capitalism, socialism, civil war, modern problems for Muslims, and the function of Muslim League.

Purposes of Using Directive Act

- For the proper implementation of Islamic law
- Finding out a way of solving the problem of Muslim poverty
- Looking for various means to secure a peaceful India
- Preparing plans and making struggles for establishing a Muslim state with absolute majorities
- Opposing the atheist socialism
- Addressing the issues of Muslims on different forums
- Working for the better future

Purposes of Using Expressive Act

- Expressing attitude regarding changes in the constitution and programme of the Muslim League
- Projecting the feelings or emotions attached with subjects and their problems
- Showing positive attitude towards enforcing the law of Islam and its further development in the light of modern ideas

- Expressing the political relationship with the addressee

Purposes of Using Commissive Act

- Deciding the future of Muslim League
- Things happening bad for the Muslims in future
- Atheist socialism causing much bloodshed among Hindus in future

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that language of politicians is not a mere of statements rather they perform actions with the help of language. The speech analysis of the letter concludes that Allama Muhammad Iqbal uses various speech acts after being analyzed in the light of Searle's (1969) taxonomy of illocutionary acts. The qualitative analysis brings into focus that these acts are used for various purposes while quantitative analysis reveals the pattern of these acts. Based on the quantitative analysis, it is found that representative act dominates the letter, follows by directive, commissive, and expressive act. It is also noted that no declarative act is found in the letter.

This study is significant in a sense as it brings into consideration that politicians make use of different speech acts while conveying their political thoughts or narratives. This study is unique in a sense as it analyzes the language of the politicians in their letters in the light of speech acts.

Although Iqbal wrote many letter to Jinnah but this study selects the one which is posted on May 28, 1937. Future studies can select others. The selected letter is analyzed in the light of Searle's (1969) taxonomy of illocutionary but future studies can analyze these letters from various other pragmatic tools of inquiry such as explicature and implicature, deixis, presupposition, etc. It encourages the future researchers to analyzes these letters in the light of several other perspectives such as discourse analysis, systemic functional linguistics, semantics, etc.

REFERENCES

- Allan, K. (2013). *The Oxford handbook of the history of linguistics*. Oxford Univeristy Press.
- Austin, J.L. (1962). *How to do things with words*. Harvard University Press.
- Alston, W.P. (2015). *Illocutionary acts and sentence meaning*. Cornell University Press.
- Altikriti, S. (2016). Persuasive speech acts in Barack Obama's inaugural speeches (2009, 2013) and the last state of the Union address (2016). *International Journal of Linguistics*, 8 (2), 47-66.
- Barron, A., Gu, Y., & Steen, G. (Eds.). (2017). *The Routledge handbook of Pragmatics*. Routledge: Taylor and Francis Group.
- Bossan, R. (2017). History and scope of Pragmatics. In Iblieye, G. (Ed.), *Discourse analysis and Pragmatics: Issues in theory and practice* (pp. 45-78). Malthouse Press Limited.
- Cutting, J. (2008). *Pragmatics and Discourse: A resource book for students*. Routledge: Taylor and Francis Group.

- Hussain, T., Shahwar, D., & Basit, A. (2020). A Speech Act Analysis of the First Speech of Imran Khan as Prime. *Global Political Review*, 5 (2), 1-10.
- Hussain, S., Ali, A., & David, M. K. (2021). Investigating speech Acts of insult in the speeches of members of provincial assembly of Sindh, Pakistan. *Amity Journal of Professional Practices*, 1(1).
- Jucker, A.H., & Taavitsainen, I. (2013). *English historical Pragmatics*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Kroeger, P.R. (2019). *Analyzing meaning: An introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics* (2nd ed.). Language Science Press.
- Kissine, M. (2013). *From utterance to speech acts*. Cambridge University Press.
- Mufiah, N.S., & Rahman, M.Y.N. (2018). Speech acts analysis of Donald Trump's speech. *Professional Journal of English Education (PROJECT)*, 1 (2), 125-132.
- Rohid, S., & Mahdi, S. (2018). Reception to assertive speech acts in Barack Obama's speech on the visit to Cuba March 22, 2016: Pragmatic studies. *Okara: Journal Bahasa Dan Sastral Journal of Language and Literature*, 12 (1), 101-114.
- Raza, M. R., Qayyoom, H., & Sadiq, T. (2021). A Speech Act Analysis of the Speech of Nawaz Sharif Ex-Prime Minister of Pakistan. *Multicultural Education*, 7(3) 259-266.
- Searle, J.R. (1969). *A taxonomy of illocutionary acts*. Linguistics Agency.