

## A Pragmatic Study of Newspaper Headlines in Media Discourse: Iraq as a Case Study

Hayder Tuama Jasim Al-Saedi<sup>1\*</sup> & Khalid Wahaab Jabber<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> University of Misan, College of Basic Education, Department of English, Maysan, Iraq

**Corresponding Author:** Hayder Tuama Jasim Al-Saedi, E-mail: Hayder\_tuama@uomisan.edu.iq

---

### ARTICLE INFO

**Received:** March 17, 2019  
**Accepted:** March 27, 2020  
**Published:** March 31, 2020  
**Volume:** 3  
**Issue:** 3  
**DOI:** 10.32996/ijllt.2020.3.3.6

---

### KEYWORDS

media discourse, newspaper headlines, Searle's taxonomy, speech acts, explicit and implicit performatives

---

### ABSTRACT

This study investigates the pragmatic aspects that are used in media discourse especially newspaper headlines. It aims to analyze Searle's Taxonomy of speech acts (1979) that are employed to Iraqi newspaper headlines. Fifty headlines were collected from the Iraqi official newspaper (ALSABAH NEWSPAPER). They were translated and classified based on the classifications of Searle's speech acts Taxonomy. The sampled headlines focus on the events that happened in Iraq from March to December 2017 covering the Iraqi – ISIS conflict. The findings reveal that the writers of these headlines employed all the speech acts as means to perform the intended meanings and convey the message behind using these classifications. In addition, the findings reveal that the expressives and declaratives are the most prominent and common speech acts employed to the sampled headlines. Finally, the data analysis shows how all these categories of speech act were employed explicitly and implicitly. To sum up, the employment of these such speech acts to Alsabab Newspaper headlines addressed the feelings of the readers to express the achievement of victory and liberation.

---

### Introduction

Media discourse plays a crucial role in people's life. This role can be influenced by news and newspaper reports. In this case, when readers want to take a look on what happens in the world, they go over the headlines of news or newspapers since they have a role to get and grab their reader's attention and make him or her to read the reports of news or newspapers. The editors or writers address the reader's mind to make him or her focus on an issue which is happening and becoming an essential matter in the reports. Therefore, they manipulate the language of headlines using different linguistic and pragmatic aspects to convey the issues in news and newspapers. Reah (1998) states that the news can cover information about something. It can be an interest of a big group of people or it may be an effect on the lives of a big group of people. In short, readers cannot get interested without taking a look or scanning on news or newspapers headlines.

In more details, headlines can be explained and described to know their function within the text. A headline is a type of a unique text. This text contains some functions which may fill the text's shape, structure, and context (Reah, 2002). Headlines are important since the use of them can "initiate, sustain, and shape discourse on the viewpoints of readers" (Taiwo, 2007). In addition, they are essential because the editors and writers use a kind of language to formulate a headline in which it arouses the reader's attention. In other words, the language of headlines is written differently from the language of stories; headlines can be written in the present tense and stories can be written in the past tense (Tuchman, 1978).

Headlines provide a function to cover a story. Conboy (2007) states that there are three functions of a headline. It covers news briefly, arouses the attention, and it can be a chief indicator to value news. In describing the function of headlines, Crystal and Davy (1969) reveal that headlines consist of an obvious, brief message and possibly this

message can be intriguing where it arouses the reader's interest or desire to read the whole report and make him stop reading when an idea grabs his or her attention.

In the same vein, other scholars described the function of headlines. Ungerer (2000) states that the headlines are a few words can show the gist of a complex story in news. They give quick and precise information in which they make the reader curious about what is or was written. Van Dijk (1988) reveals that particularly they are important for readers in comprehending a news text. He (1991) adds that headlines summarize the most essential information by expressing the crucial subject which the notion of the news report. They activate the reader's knowledge to understand the news report. Develotte and Rechniewski (2001) clarify that the headlines can be a sign for news reports. They say that headlines are more important for the readers than news articles because they can show representations which may be social, national, and cultural.

### ***Aims of the Study***

The study aims to investigate the speech acts that are used in the Iraqi newspaper headlines (*Alsabab Newspaper*) and reveal the way in which headlines covered the Iraqi – ISIS conflict in the local newspapers using the pragmatic meaning to shape the reader's attention in conveying the message behind the use of newspaper headlines. The study, also, tries to show the explicit and implicit performative verbs of speech acts of headlines.

### ***Research Questions***

The researchers try to find answers to the following questions:

1. What are the speech acts that are used in Alsabab Newspaper headlines?
2. What are the prominent/ common speech acts that are used in the headlines?
3. How are the speech acts used explicitly or implicitly in the headlines?

## **Review of Literature**

### ***The Framework of the Study***

Speech acts theory was the focus of John Austin in his lectures which were published after his death as *HOW TO DO THINGS WITH WORDS* in 1962. After he passed away, his student John Searle adopted his ideas to develop them; Searle (1969) states that a speech act is an utterance shows how to do an action and it requires social institutions and conventions (Huang, 2007).

Austin noticed that uttering such sentences, which does not follow truth conditions, is not just a saying, but it is an utterance in which someone can do something to perform an act actively. They are called performatives. Performatives can be recognized by using a performative verb which is used to perform an action. On the other hand, utterances that show assertions or statements are called constatives. The following examples clarify performatives and constatives respectively:

- a) I promise to give you my book.
- b) My sister is called Susan.

Austin (1962) states that performatives can be either explicit or implicit. Explicit performatives include a performative verb which makes the meaning explicit to tell the kind of the speech act that performed in an utterance. In contrary, implicit performatives are the uttered sentences with no performative verb; the meaning can be performed implicitly. The following examples clarify the differences between the explicit and implicit performatives.

- a) I command you to talk nicely.
- b) Talk nicely or I will kick you out.

Explicit Performatives can show some syntactic and semantic properties. As mentioned above, they have a performative verb and this verb can force the adverb (hereby) to make the utterance understandable explicitly. The following examples clarify the role of the performative verbs in an utterance.

- a) Sit down.
- b) I hereby order you to sit down.
- c) I hereby request you to sit down.

Furthermore, explicit performatives can use the first – person subject, a simple present verb, indicative mood, and active voice. However, Austin adds some exceptions. He says that performatives can use a first – person subject in singular and plural form, and a singular or plural third – person subject. In other words, the verbs may be impersonal in explicit performatives. Implicitly, performative verbs are omitted from the utterances without changing the meaning (Ross, 1970; Lakoff, 1972; Sadock, 1974).

A performative has to be exposed to conditions, as Austin (1962) proposed. These conditions may tell that a performative can be recognized to perform an act. It can be successful “felicitous” or unsuccessful “infelicitous” where the addressor has an authority to perform an act. Austin (ibid) also reveals that the utterances can be special acts which are performed besides their meaning and they carry a force. He proposed three main terms; they are locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. The locutionary act is a produced meaning expression. The illocutionary act is the intended act that can be performed either explicitly or implicitly. The perlocutionary act shows an effect of the utterance on the addressee’s mind.

Besides the proposed felicity conditions, Searle (1969) has his own view of felicity conditions. He states that a speech act can be performed using constative rules; they are propositional content, preparatory condition, sincerity condition, and essential condition. These conditions can be used to show how an act can be achieved and how it is performed.

Austin (1962) classifies speech acts into five categories. They are verdictives, exercitives, commissives, behabitives, and expositives. There were different attempts to develop the taxonomy of speech acts which were proposed by Austin (Bach and Harnish, 1979; Allan, 2001; Bach, 2004). Searle (1975) considers the Austinian taxonomy is the most effective acts of speech. However, he refined these categories since he found out that the Austin’s taxonomy of speech acts is inconsistent and incomplete (Mey, 2001). For these reasons, he proposed five types of speech acts. He (1975, 1979) lists them as representatives (or assertives) (Leech, 1983), directives, expressives, and declarations or declaratives.

Representatives or asseratives are the speech acts that obligate the addressor to tell the truth when he or she expresses a proposition. Huang (2007) lists the verbs that can express this kind of speech act; they are “assert, claim, conclude, report, and state.” The addressor expresses his or her belief to make the words fit the world. For instance:

- a) The Iraqi forces assures that the Iraqi soil are under control.
- b) ISIS militants are surrounded in the old city of Mosul.

Directives focuses on the addressee to make him or her do something. Directives express the addressor’s desire to make the addressee performs an action where the addressor makes the world fits the word on behalf of the addressee. Huang (ibid) also lists the verbs that express the directive speech acts. They are advising, commanding, requesting, ordering and questioning. For instance:

- a) Don’t use this elevator.
- b) Start over, please!

Huang (ibid) states that commissives are those speech acts that make the addressor has an obligation to have intention to do something in future. The verbs that express this kind of speech acts are pledging, promising, refusing, or threatening. The world must fit the word in this type of speech acts. For instance:

- a) We will liberate our soil from the terrorists.
- b) Health representative: I will bring all the medical supplies for the surrounded injured.

Huang also mentions that expressives are the speech acts in which the addressor expresses his or her psychological attitude or state to show pleasure, sadness or (dis)likes. The verbs that used to express this kind of speech acts are “apologize, blame, congratulate, praise, and thank.” There is no direction of fit in expressives. For instance:

- a) Iraqi PM congratulates Iraqi people of their victories to defeat terrorism in Mosul.
- b) Iraqi forces warmed our hearts when they defeated the terrorists in Mosul

Finally, declarations or declaratives are the speech acts that make the addressor expresses the changes that happen in the world. The verbs that express this kind of speech acts are “bid in bridge, declare war, excommunicate, fire from an employment and nominate a candidate. The direction of fit of this type of speech acts can be both world to words and words to world. For instance:

- a) Iraqi forces: A new plan will be launched soon to liberate our soil from the terrorists.
- b) Iraqi PM: I declare Mosul free from ISIS.

Based on the taxonomy of Searle, these speech acts work along with four dimensions; they are illocutionary point, direction of fit, expressed psychological state, and propositional content. Mey (2001) states that the illocutionary point refers to the force of the speech acts. Direction of fit shows how the way of the speech acts fit the world or not. The expressed psychological state shows the belief in which it may be expressed as a statement, assertion and so on. Finally, propositional content shows what the speech act is about.

### **Previous Studies**

Headlines were the focus of different disciplines (Taiwo, 2007; Chilwa, 2007; Siposova, 2011; Rustam, 2013; Abba & Musa, 2015; Monsefi & Mahadi Adegbola, 2017; Ismail, 2016; Mohamed et al, 2019, Alrefae et al, 2019; Farrokhi et al, 2019; Ismajli, 2020). For example, Siposova (2011) investigates the use of headlines and subheadlines in the British Tabloid *The Sun*. She focuses on the use of tense, modality, and register in headlines and subheadlines. Furthermore, headlines were the focus of the critical discourse analysis to reveal the ideologies. Taiwo (2007) investigates the use of Nigerian newspaper headlines and how they play a role to shape the ideologies and realize the power relations. Also, headlines play a role in rhetoric. Monsefi and Mahadi (2017) use the rhetorical devices in the Persian news headlines. The Euronews headlines were analyzed using the textual rhetorical analysis to observe the wordplay types. The study found out that there are different wordplay types in the Euronews headlines.

In the same vein, pragmatics plays a role in analyzing the headlines. Some studies focused on studying the headlines of news channels such as CNN. Rustam (2013) investigated the pragmatic and linguistic devices in CNN headlines which focused on the political affairs in Pakistan. The researcher noticed that illocutionary acts are frequently used in CNN headlines besides the use of linguistic devices. The study revealed that the illocutionary acts encode the meaning pragmatically. Abba and Musa (2015) focus on the identification of the types of speech acts in the headlines of two newspaper headlines *The Daily Trust* and *The nation* which focused on Boko Haram attacks. The study investigates the predominant speech acts and the implied meanings behind these speech acts. The findings reveal that assertives are the dominant speech acts in the headlines of the selected newspapers. Consequently, it concludes that the use of such speech acts in these newspapers do not aim to be threatening, frightening, or advising. Besides the pragmatic analysis, Ismail (2016) investigates the pragmatic and semantic

interrelationship of headlines from BBC News about the Ukraine crisis of Crimea to avoid the misunderstanding and miscommunication between the speaker or writer and hearer or reader. The headlines of BBC were analyzed using presupposition and entailments. She found out that the selected headlines function to inform the reader about the text pragmatically and semantically. Understanding the context relates to the pragmatic knowledge of the reader. Also, its features can affect and control the reader's mind.

As independent texts, Chilwa (2007) states that speech acts theory explores the socio-political experiences in the headlines of Nigerian News magazines. He sees that headlines were analyzed to function as illocutionary performance because they are presented as social orientation and critical strategy which are used by the writers of the headlines to condemn the social disturbance.

The current study tries to fill the gap where the researchers purport to investigate the pragmatic aspects in investigating the language of headlines in the local newspapers that are published in Iraq. In other words, the study focuses on applying the classifications of Searle's taxonomy of the speech acts to the newspaper headlines.

## **Methodology**

### **Data Collection**

Data are collected from the headlines of the Iraqi official newspaper *Alsabab Newspaper* in 2017. In this year, headlines focused on the role of the Iraqi military forces in the Iraq – ISIS conflict. The headlines concentrated on the victories of the Iraqi military and how ISIS was defeated. Fifty headlines are collected from the *Alsabab Newspaper* from March to December 2017 (See Appendix A).

### **The Procedures of the study**

The data are translated from Arabic to English by Mr. Falah Hussein AlSarri, a translator and researcher in the *University of Misan/ College of Basic Education/ Department of English*.

The selected data investigates the types of the speech acts that are proposed by John Searle in 1979. They are analyzed quantitatively using percentages to classify headlines according to their categories of speech acts. Also, they are analyzed pragmatically to reveal the common types of the speech acts and how they are used explicitly or implicitly.

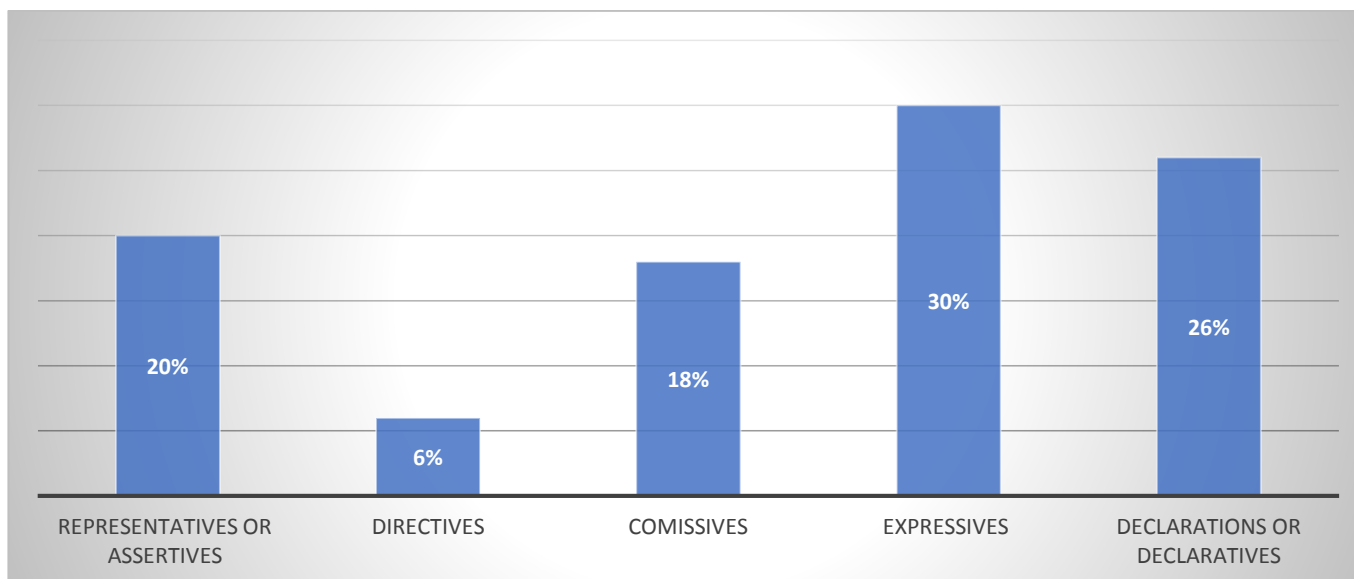
### **Data Analysis**

The quantitative analysis of the study shows that headlines can perform a speech act and they can be classified according to the categories of Searle's Taxonomy in 1979. In Table (1) and Figure (1), the findings show the frequencies and percentages of the use of headlines in *Alsabab Newspaper*. It appears that the frequency of using representatives (assertives) is 10 and a percentage of 20%. Directives show a frequency of 3 and a percentage of 6%. A higher than directives, commissives show that its appearance in headlines is a frequency of 9 headlines and a percentage of 18%.

As shown in Table (1) and Figure (1), the records show that expressives and declarations (declaratives) are the highest frequencies and percentages in this study. Expressives appear that the frequency of using headlines is 15 and a percentage of 30% which is considered the most used headlines in *Alsabab Newspaper* in 2017. The higher frequencies after expressives is the declarations (delcaratives) in which the frequency of using headlines is 13 and a percentage of 26%.

Searle's Taxonomy	Frequency	Percentage
Representatives or Assertives	10	20 %
Directives	3	6 %
Comissives	9	18 %
Expressives	15	30 %
Declarations or Declaratives	13	26 %
Total	50	100%

**Table (1)** Frequencies and Percentages of the Types of Speech Acts in The Headlines of AlSabah Newspaper



**Figure (1)** Percentages of Searle's Taxonomy of AlSabah Newspaper Headlines

The data analysis also shows the use of the explicit and implicit performative verbs in AlSabah newspaper headlines. Table (2) and Figure (2) illustrates the use of performative speech acts. It appears that the writers or editors of the headlines used a frequency of 19 headlines and a percentage of 38% of the speech acts are appeared explicitly. On the other hand, the writers or editors of the headlines used a higher frequency of 31 and a percentage of 62% to perform speech acts implicitly.

Searle's Taxonomy	Performative Acts			
	Explicit	Percentage	Implicit	Percentage
Representatives or Assertives	2	4%	8	16%
Directives	3	6%	0	0%
Comissives	0	0%	9	18%
Expressives	12	24%	3	6%
Declarations or Declaratives	2	4%	11	22%
Total	19	38%	31	62%

**Table (2).** The Frequencies and Percentages of Explicit and Implicit Speech Acts in the AlSabah Newspaper Headlines.

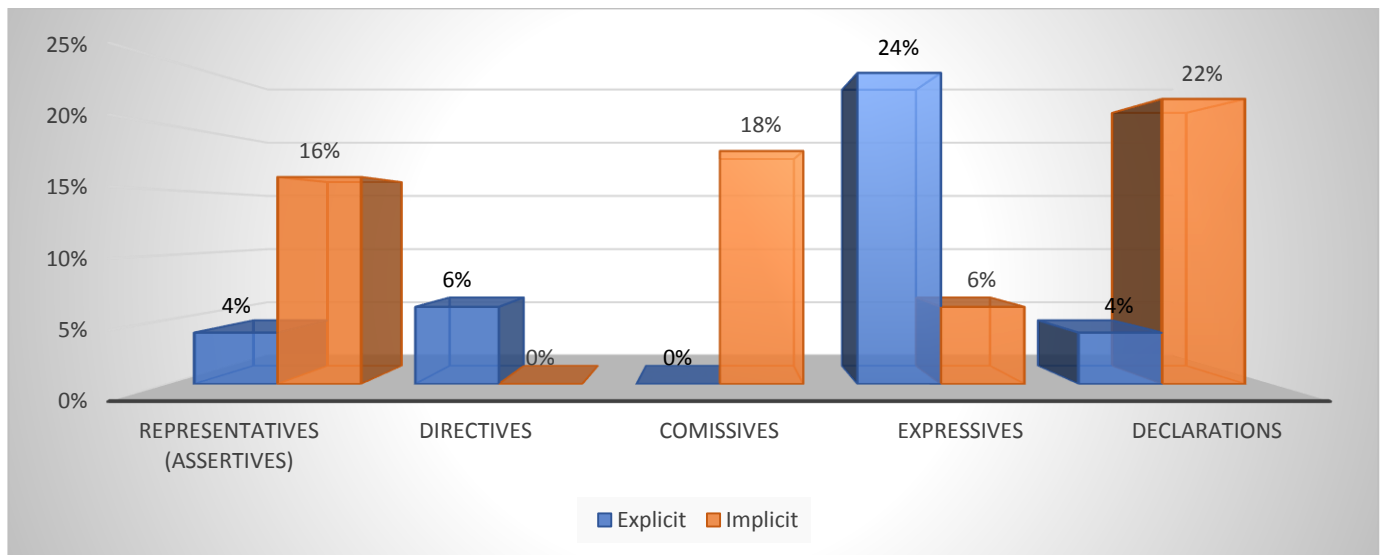


Figure (2). Percentages of Explicit and Implicit Speech Act Used in Alsbah Newspaper Headlines

In more details, the data analysis shows that Table (2) gives the most frequent speech acts that are used explicitly or implicitly. Representatives (assertives) are used implicitly more than explicitly. Table (2) show that 8 speech acts with a percentage of (16%) used implicitly. Whereas only a frequency of 2 with a percentage of (4%) used explicitly. Directives, which are used uncommonly in the headlines, appear that they are used only as explicit speech acts with a frequency of 3 and a percentage of (6%). However, comissives appear that the speech acts are used implicitly rather than explicitly. The data show that a frequency of 9 with a percentage of (18%) used implicit speech acts as comissives.

Since the expressives and declarations (declaratives) are the most common speech acts in this study, they are used differently to perform the speech acts of headlines explicitly and implicitly. Expressives show a higher use of the explicit speech acts rather than implicit speech acts. They appear a frequency of 12 and a percentage of (24%) to perform the headlines explicitly. Whereas few frequencies are used implicitly with amount of 3 and a percentage of (6%). Conversely, the headlines are used implicitly as declarations (declaratives) rather than they are used explicitly. They appear with a frequency of 11 and a percentage of (22%) of the use of headlines as implicit performative acts. However, they appear with a frequency of 2 and a percentage of (4%) of the use of headlines as explicit performative acts. Consequently, since the sampled data used fifty headlines, the findings show that 19 headlines with a percentage of (38%) used as explicit performative acts whereas 31 headlines with a percentage of (62%) are used as implicit performative acts.

## Findings and Discussion

In addition to the quantitative analysis, the sampled data were analyzed pragmatically. The pragmatic analysis investigated the Searle's Taxonomy of speech acts of the Alsbah Newspaper headlines. The findings reveal that the selected headlines (Headlines 1-10) show an illocutionary force which is asserting and reporting information to the reader (expressives or assertives). The purpose behind that is to inform the reader about the events which relate to the combat that is happening around. Moreover, they give a concluding idea about reporting or asserting the states of affairs in the region. The majority of these ten headlines are used implicitly. Headlines 1 and 2 report the facts that ISIS are surrounded to make the reader be persuaded of ISIS defeat in Mosul. (Headline 3 and 4) conclude the fact that ISIS are ended up in Mosul. Headline 5 shows that the Iraqi Prime Minister Alabadi was giving a claim to assert to the Iraqi people and the world that no negotiations and barter with ISIS. He tries to give a concluding report that ISIS will be ended in Iraq. (Headline 6, 7, and 8) used paradigmic assertive verbs to show that the facts are conveyed literally to the reader. They give the reader a realization that the fact of ISIS existence is done, and assertion being ready to the next phase of the battle against ISIS. Finally, headlines 9 and 10 gives a

concluding utterance of the end of ISIS in Iraq. They report the fact that the writers or editors assert to inform of the reality of ISIS in the battlefield. To sum up, the purpose of the headlines in this classification is to express the truth of the speaker of these headlines.

Only three headlines (Headlines 11-13) are used as directives since the period, in which the headlines are collected, shows that the editors or writers of the headlines did not focus on this classification. They focused on the other classifications because this year is a value of good news for Iraqis because the Iraqi forces achieved victories in the battlefield against ISIS. All the directive speech acts are used explicitly. The editors used paradigmatic directive verbs; they are permit, ask, and refuse to show that the speakers of these headlines express their desire to get the addressee to do something. For example, (Headline 13) shows that the speaker (Alabadi) intends to elicit some future action which is his refusal to move the (Aldawa'ash) ISIS militants near the Iraqi borders.

Conversely, all the commissives (Headline 14-22) are used with no paradigmatic performative verbs. The editors or writers of these headlines used a future tense to tell the readers in general and the Iraqi reader in particular that the speakers of these headlines are obligated to do a future action. This can be formulated by using the future tense to intend giving a promise to the addressees whom they are the Iraqi readers. In other words, (Headlines 14-22) show that the Iraqi Prime Minister Alabadi and the other Iraqi representatives are promising the Iraqi people of liberating the Iraqi soil and they will never give up till they get rid of ISIS from the Iraqi lands. In short, the illocutionary force of these headlines reveal that the speakers use promise to express their future actions.

The highest representation of speech acts in Alsbah Newspaper headlines is expressives (Headlines 23-37). They are rated with a percentage of 30%. The majority of these speech acts are used explicitly except (Headlines 27, 30, and 35) are used as implicit speech acts. In these three headlines, the speakers recommend the victories of liberating the Iraqi soil from ISIS domination. In other words, they praise the role of Iraqi forces in achieving the victory and liberation.

In general, since these speech acts express the psychological state and attitude of the speakers, all these headlines represent the congratulations of the victories. In other words, these headlines pay an attention to feelings of the speakers in which they express a pleasure of victory and make an attitude which is to congratulate Iraqis of liberating the Iraqi soil from ISIS. These expressive speech acts show that the addressor and addressee intend to express an illocutionary force which is the role of sympathy in the feelings of the Iraqis. In short, the illocutionary force of these headlines is the congratulations to express the joy and pleasure which can be obtained by the victory and liberation.

Finally, (Headlines 38-50) with a percentage of 26% are the second highest rate of speech acts which they are declarations (declaratives). Two of these headlines (Headline 38 and 39) are used as explicit speech acts. On other hand, the rest of the headlines (Headline 40-50) are used as implicit speech acts. Since the declarative speech acts show that the addressor tries to convey the changes that are happening in the world; these headlines express an illocutionary force which is declaring war or readiness to war. Headlines 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 50 show that the speakers of these headlines express their readiness for the next phase after liberating Mosul, the next phase is to liberate Tala'afir, a small town near Mosul. Moreover, they declare war to face ISIS and liberate the rest of Iraqi lands after the liberation of Mosul. However, headlines 39 and 49 which express the declaration of the end of ISIS in Iraq. They declare the end of war in the liberated lands and what still operates is the ISIS media. In conclusion, these headlines imply an announcement for war or preparing for war to express the illocutionary force of implicit speech acts of these headlines.

## Conclusions

Since the current study investigated Searle's Taxonomy of speech acts to Alsbah Newspaper headlines, the researchers made generalizations to build up the following conclusions for this study:



1. All the classifications of Searle's taxonomy of speech acts were employed to the sampled headlines of Alsabab Newspaper.
2. The quantitative analysis reveals that these speech acts were used differently. In this case, the researchers observed that the editors or writers focused on using specific speech acts to cover the Iraqi crisis in facing ISIS danger. For this reason, the expressive and declarative speech acts were the most prominent and common speech acts in the sampled headlines since 2017 is the year in which Iraqis celebrated the victories and liberation of their lands from ISIS domination. In other words, expressives and declarations were rated as the highest frequencies and percentages respectively in comparison with the rest categories that are employed to the targeted headlines. However, directives were rated as the lowest frequencies and percentages since this kind of speech acts can be used to express requesting, asking and so on. Even though they were applied to some headlines, they were used as asking for a support for the Iraqi case against ISIS in this phase of their lives.
3. The sampled headlines show that explicit and implicit speech acts were employed in these headlines. As mentioned in Table (2) and Figure (2), The researchers of the current study observed that the highest levels of employing the speech acts were rated as implicit speech acts. However, expressives were rated as the highest level being employed as explicit speech acts. In short, 2017 was the phase in which the editors played a role in formulating the headlines as means to address the feelings of the Iraqi readers by expressing assertions, making promises, congratulating and making announcements to convey the ways which express the sympathy towards achieving victories and liberating the lands.

Studying the newspaper headlines based on the speech acts theory makes the researchers think that the headlines play a role in shaping the reader's beliefs. For future research, the researchers suggest studying the headlines as means that affect the reader's beliefs. Consequently, they may play a role in shaping the writer's or reader's ideologies.

## References

- [1] Abba T. S. and Musa, N. (2015). Speech Act Analysis of Daily Trust and The Nation Newspapers Headline Reports on "Boko Haram" Attacks. *Journal of Communication and Culture*, 6 (1), 63-72.
- [2] Adegbola, O. F. (2019). Points of View and Modality in the Discourses of Homosexuality in Selected Nigerian Newspapers. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 2(4), 290-319.
- [3] Allan, K. (2001). *Natural Language Semantics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- [4] Alrefaee, Y., Khaleel Mohammed Abdul-Ghafour, A. Q., Alazany, M., & Alrefaee, S. (2019). A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Selected Opposition and State Printed Media on the Representation of Southern Mobility in Yemen. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 2(2), 116-124
- [5] Austin, J.L. (1962). *How to do things with words*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- [6] Bach, K and Harnish, R. M. (1979). *Linguistic Communication and Speech Acts*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- [7] Bach, K. (2004). *Pragmatic and the philosophy of language*. In Horn, L. R. and Ward, G. (eds) 463-87.
- [8] Chiluwaa, I. (2007). News Headlines as Pragmatic Strategy in Nigerian Press Discourse. *The International Journal of Language, Society and Culture*, 27, 63-71.
- [9] Conboy, M. (2007). *The Language of News*. New York: Routledge.
- [10] Crystal, D. & Davy, D. (1969). *Investigating English Style*. London: Longman
- [11] Develotte, C., & Rechniewski, E. (2001). Discourse Analysis of Newspaper Headlines: A methodological framework for research into national representations. *Journal of French Media Studies*, 1-16
- [12] Farrokhi, F., Ansarin, A. A., & Ashrafi, S. (2019). The Conceptual Metaphors of Building and Construction in Newspaper and Research Article. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 2(4), 290-328.
- [13] Huang, Y. (2007). *Pragmatics*. Beijing: Oxford University Press.
- [14] Ismajli, F. (2020). Transforming News Journalism from Newspapers into Online Media in Kosovo. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 3(1), 214-225
- [15] Ismail, H. M. (2016). Pragmatic and Semantic Potential of Newspaper Headlines. *US-China Foreign Language*. David Publishing. 14(11), 753-762.
- [16] Lakoff, G. (1972). Hedges: A Study in Meaning Criteria and the Logic of Fuzzi Concepts. *Papers from the Regional Meeting of Chicago Linguistics Society*, 1983-228.
- [17] Leech, G. N. (1983). *Principles of Pragmatics*. London: Longman.
- [18] Mey, J. (2001). *Pragmatics: an Introduction*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford: Blackwell.

- [19] Mohamed, E. A. A. A. (2020). Newspapers as Carriers of New Terms Namely (Neologism) and Their role in Enhancing Students' Vocabulary: Guardian Newspaper as a Model. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 3(2), 180-196.
- [20] Monsefi, R. and Mahadi, T. (2017). The Rhetoric of Persian News Headlines: A Case Study of Euronews. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature*, 6(2), 36-45.
- [21] Nendauni, L., & Sadiki, M. F. (2019). Persuasion in the Mirror Newspaper: A Linguistic Approach to Vuwani Demarcation Discourses. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 2(5), 290-364.
- [22] Reah, D. (2002). *The Language of Newspaper*. 2nd Edition London: Rutledge.
- [23] Reah, D. (1998). *The Language of Newspaper*. London: Rutledge.
- [24] Ross, J. R. (1970). On declarative sentences. In Jacobs. R. and Rosenbaum, P. S. (eds). *Readings in English Transformational Grammar*. Waltham Ginn, 222-72.
- [25] Rustam, R. (2013). Pragmatic Analysis of CNN Headlines Representing Pakistan. Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, Pakistan.
- [26] Sadock, J. M. (1974). *Toward a Linguistic Theory of Speech Acts*. New York: Academic Press.
- [27] Searle, J. R. (1969). *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [28] Searle, J. R. (1975). A Taxonomy of Speech Acts. In Gunderson, K. (ed). *Minnesota Studies in the Philosophy of Science 9: Language, Mind and Knowledge*, 344-69.
- [29] Searle, J. R. (1979). A Taxonomy of Illocutionary Acts, in Searle J. R. (ed.) *Expression and Meaning: Studies in the Theory of Speech Acts*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press pp. 1-29 (originally published in 1975).
- [30] Siposova, A. (2011). Headlines and Subheadlines: Tense, Modality and Register Based on Discourse Analysis of The British Tabloid The Sun. Unpublished Master's Thesis. Dissertation, Masaryk University, Berno, Czech Republic.
- [31] Taiwo, R. (2007). Language, Ideology and Power Relations in Nigerian Newspaper Headlines. *Nebula*, 4(1). 218- 245
- [32] Tuchman, G. (1978). *Making News a Study of the Construction of Reality*. NY: Free Press.
- [33] Ungerer, F. (Ed.). (2000). *English Media Texts-Past and Present Language and Textual Structure*. Philadelphia PA: John Benjamin's.
- [34] Van Dijk, T. A. (1988). *News as Discourse*. Hillsdale, NJ.: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- [35] Van Dijk, T. A. (1991). *Racism and the press*. London: Routledge.

## Acknowledgements

We would love to thank Mr. Falah Hussein Alsarri, *University of Misan*, for his efforts to translate the data for this study since he is an expert and researcher in translation field. Also, we would love to thank Prof. Ammar Alsaedi (Ph.D.), *a professor of teaching Mathematics and statistics in the University of Misan*, for his efforts to do the statistical values for this study.

## Appendix (A)

No	Headline	Classification	Type of Performative
1	The Coalition: "Da'ash" embattled in a small zone west Mosul	Representatives or Asseratives	Implicit
2	Alabadi: the rests of "Da'ash" besieged in the last spans of the hand	Representatives or Asseratives	Implicit
3	Celebrators of victory week: Iraqis defeated terrorism by their consolidation	Representatives or Asseratives	Implicit
4	Alabadi: the victory of Mosul opened the doors to finalize 'Da'ash"	Representatives or Asseratives	Implicit
5	Alabadi: no barter with AlDawa'ash.. we are working on finalizing their existence	Representatives or Asseratives	Implicit
6	"Da'ash" admits its defeatism in Iraq	Representatives or Asseratives	Explicit
7	Ministry of Defense assures the readiness of its forces for Tala'afir Battle	Representatives or Asseratives	Explicit
8	Alabadi: we are resolute to liberate all areas and bring stability back to all of them	Representatives or Asseratives	Implicit

9	Ala'araji: the fake media Machine of "Da'ash" became expired	Representatives or Asseratives	Implicit
10	Alhili to "Alsabab" our forces conquered on "Da'ashed" in "White Battles"	Representatives or Asseratives	Implicit
11	Alabadi permits for starting the liberation Battle of Tala'afir	Directives	Explicit
12	Iraq calls for international media support for the Historical Victory	Directives	Explicit
13	Alabadi we refuse moving "AlDawa'ash" near our borders	Directives	Explicit
14	Alghanimi: the Right Side of Mosul will be liberated soon	comissives	Implicit
15	Alabadi: Liberating Tala'afir and Alhawija will be soon	comissives	Implicit
16	The Popular Mobilization: we will destroy "Da'ash" and prevent it to turn into a new system	comissives	Implicit
17	Alabadi from Mosul: The victory is concluded	comissives	Implicit
18	Alabadi: Victory will stay an ally to Iraqis	comissives	Implicit
19	Nainawa Operations: our forces will overcome on 2000 Da'ashi in Tala'afir	comissives	Implicit
20	Defense: Liberating Tala'afir, Alhawija, and Alqa'am will be on the same time	comissives	Implicit
21	Alabadi: Iraqis have a promise with the victory in Tala'afir	comissives	Implicit
22	Alabadi: we will never leave a span under under the hand of AlDawa'ash	comissives	Implicit
23	Alhadhar habitants praise the humanistic treatment of the popular mobilization.	Expressives	Explicit
24	The parliament congratulates Iraqis for the victories	Expressives	Explicit
25	Women representatives in parliament congratulate for the victories of Mosul	Expressives	Explicit
26	Ma'asoom congratulates Iraqis of Mosul liberation	Expressives	Explicit
27	An extensive global recommendation of the Iraqi Victory	Expressives	Implicit
28	Leaders of Iraq congratulate the "Historical Victory"	Expressives	Explicit
29	World leaders congratulate the victories of Iraq	Expressives	Explicit
30	Congratulations of Iraqi community in America in the occasion of conclusive victory in Mosul	Expressives	Implicit
31	The Arab league congratulates Iraq in its victories	Expressives	Explicit
32	Ministers and politician leaders congratulate for the victories of our security forces	Expressives	Explicit
33	Islamic Cooperation organization congratulates for the liberation of Mosul	Expressives	Explicit
34	Arab ministers and ambassadors recommend the victory of Iraq on "Da'ash"	Expressives	Explicit
35	An official and political approval on starting the liberation operations	Expressives	Implicit
36	Almarja'aia: the victories of Tala'afir warmed the hearts of Iraqis	Expressives	Explicit
37	The news of liberating Tala'afir refresh the wishes of backing home and reconstructing the infrastructure	Expressives	Explicit
38	Alabadi declares the beginning of the battle and promising of a new victory	Declarations or Declaratives	Explicit
39	Alabadi announces tidings of Mosul Victory	Declarations or	Explicit

40	YarAllah: an operation of liberating Tala'afir will be soon	Declaratives Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit
41	Starting the operation of "Victory Hordes"	Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit
42	Starting the preparations for the battle of liberating Tala'afir	Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit
43	Starting the airstrikes before breaking into Tala'afir	Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit
44	Perfecting the military plans and naming the leader of liberation forces of Tala'afir	Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit
45	Alabadi: An Iraqi plan to pursuit "AlDaawa'ah" globally	Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit
46	Joint Operations: we are waging the last meters battle to announce Victory	Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit
47	Lieutenant Colonel AlAsadi: we are ready to hold down the sinks of "Da'ash"	Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit
48	Our falcons demolish the shelters of "Da'ash" in Tala'afir as a preparation for liberating it	Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit
49	We eliminated terrorism but its media still is still operative	Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit
50	Battle field commander: the security forces are on alert for liberating Tala'afir	Declarations or Declaratives	Implicit