

**RELATION BETWEEN INTONATION  
AND SPEECH ACTS**  
(WITH REFERENCE TO ENGLISH AND URDU LANGUAGES  
FROM THE HEARER'S PERSPECTIVE)

BY

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To

*The Holy Prophet*

*Hazrat Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him)*

*The Holy Prophet said, 'None amongst you can be a true believer until his love for me is greater than the love he holds for his parents, his children and everyone else.'*

(Bukhari and Muslim related by Hazrat Anas)

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ETS	English Testing Service
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
IELTS	International English Language Testing System
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language
UMT	University of Management and Technology

## **ABSTRACT**

Languages occupy the most important place in our life. A lot of linguists, philosophers, and psychologists have studied and analyzed speech acts; in languages words do not just stand as words but perform various actions. Most of the researchers have analyzed speech acts, but with reference to the speakers' intention. The present study intends to analyze the factors which are instrumental in the successful realization of speech acts. The research highlights the inevitability of intonation and syntax in the proper realization of speech acts. The researcher has observed that a lot of emphasis is laid by the teachers on the learning of syntax of a language as most of them think that it is the proper syntax that is instrumental in the successful realization of a direct speech act. Some linguists have discussed speech acts with reference to intonation, and some of them have discussed with reference to syntax, still most of them opine that the phonetic factor is responsible for illocutionary force that determines the speech act. The present study has discussed various factors which are responsible for the successful realization of speech acts both in English and Urdu languages. Furthermore, the study has taken into account the aspects of indirect speech and the reasons which are helpful for an indirect speech act to be realized accurately.

## **Chapter One**

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the present study is to highlight the importance of intonation in every day speech with special reference to speech acts in English and Urdu languages. The researcher intends to compare the indispensability of syntax and intonation in every day speech with reference to speech acts. Different grammars of English and Urdu languages, which are taught in schools and even at university level, divide sentences into four different categories, and in these categories the arrangement of words and punctuation are given importance while determining their meaning. It is generally believed that syntax is supreme element in learning language and if a speaker can form sentences following a set pattern; he is able to convey what he intends to convey in the best possible manner. This is true at those places where old fashioned grammars and techniques are in vogue and where speech is akin to the correct usage of tenses. The division is primarily based on the syntax of the sentences. The four main categories traditionally were declarative, interrogative, imperative and subjunctive (Finch 2007). These categories often imply that exclamatory sentences would definitely have exclamatory words such as hurrah, alas, bravo, etc. along with an exclamation mark. In such exclamatory sentences, the exclamatory mark is either placed right after the exclamatory word or at the end of the sentence. It has often been observed that once the intonation pattern is changed, the meaning of a phrase or a sentence changes as well. English and Urdu are not tone languages so the meaning of a sentence takes new

dimensions once the intonation is changed. As discussed earlier, for a long time, the syntax was considered supreme, and it was thought that the arrangement of words in a sentence actually determines the meaning of an utterance, where in reality it is the spoken content that is in far greater amount than the written content. Most of the high school and even college grammars describe sentences structurally; a question should always start with a helping verb or double interrogative in order to be a sentence. All these notions which have been just described favored written sentences. Most of the grammarians and even linguists were interested in Noam Chomsky's grammar. Here it is pertinent to mention that Chomsky was interested in language and he opined that infinite number of sentences can be generated with fewer number of sentences. The people were enamored with Chomsky's ideas of Universal grammar, so this could be the reason of great importance to syntax in a speech act, when performatives and constatives were discussed. With the passage of time, the shift was from Chomsky's innateness to Dell Hymes' Communicative competence. With the advancement in the fields of phonetics and phonology, it has been seen that intonation is a prime factor in shaping the meaning of an utterance even in speech acts. Speech acts, have not been discussed with reference to the hearer's perspective. The earlier researchers have focused themselves on the understanding and development of syntax and intonation of speech acts. Most of the linguists have discussed the syntactic features of speech act, and only Searle had discussed it but very briefly.

## **1.2 PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH**

This research aims to investigate the defining role of intonation in creating a difference between direct and indirect speech acts. The researcher would also probe the effects of