
APPRAISING QUEEN ELIZABETH'S ADDRESS ON COVID 19 THROUGH THE LINGUISTIC APPROACHES OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS, MODALITY AND PRONOUNS

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Abstract

Communication, within the framework of linguistics, involves the use of language units such as words, phrases, sentences and discourse. It requires some techniques applied by the speaker to convey messages with reference to language structure and the context of utterances. This paper aims to highlight the communicative strategies used by Queen Elizabeth to deliver her coronavirus speech. It specifically adopts J. Searle's (1969) approach to analyse the illocutionary acts and S. Eggins's (2004) to explore modality features and pronouns in the speech. The results show that the three types of illocutionary acts used in this speech viz. representative, commissive and expressive emphasise the Monarch's beliefs, commitment and feelings related to the issue of this coronavirus pandemic. Regarding modality and pronouns, they are meant to disclose the sovereign's judgments and attitudes as well as the different measures to be adopted to fight the disease. It has been concluded that this address is a verbal communication which aims to bring hope in that period of crisis.

Keywords : Covid-19, communicative strategies, illocutionary acts, modality, pronouns,.

Résumé

La communication dans le contexte linguistique est basée sur l'utilisation des unités de langue telles que les mots, les propositions les phrases et le discours. Elle requiert des stratégies pouvant permettre au locuteur de véhiculer ses messages compte tenu de la structure de la langue et du contexte des énoncés. Cet article a pour but de mettre l'accent sur les stratégies de la communication utilisées par la Reine Elizabeth pour délivrer son message axé sur la pandémie du corona virus. La théorie de J. Searle (1969) est notamment exploitée pour analyser les actes illocutoires et celle de S. Eggins (2004) est utilisée pour explorer la modalité et les pronoms dans le discours. Les résultats ont révélé que les trois types d'actes illocutoires à savoir les représentatifs, les commissifs et les expressifs ont mis l'accent sur les positions, les engagements et les sentiments de la Reine en ce qui concerne le problème de la pandémie de Covid 19 d'une part, aussi bien que les différentes stratégies à adopter pour contrer la maladie, d'autre part. L'article conclut que cette allocution est une communication verbale qui a pour but de faire renaître de l'espoir au sein de la population britannique en cette période de crise.

Mots-clés : Covid-19, stratégies de communication, actes illocutoires, modalité, pronoms.

INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 is a disease which is manifested through a series of symptoms, including pneumonia. After having being diagnosed in China, rapid and quick measures of response were taken by the Chinese authorities to fight against it. They include medical facilities and supplies provision as well as restrictive measures such as total or partial lockdown and quarantine methods. In spite of all these actions, the disease was very quickly exported to various countries of the world, thus creating a regular atmosphere of fear and psychosis. The rapid propagation of this virus prompted the World Health Organisation to declare its outbreak as a public health emergency of

international concern on 30 January and as a pandemic on 11 March 2020. As of April 4th 2020, more than 1.1 million people were infected and more than 60000 patients worldwide were killed. The US has more than 300,000 cases and more than 8,100 deaths, according to revised figures (J. Yeung et al. 2020). In Great Britain, there were 48,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus and more than 4,000 deaths. Some leading figures including the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prince Charles contracted the disease. In this atmosphere of fear and unrest, Queen Elizabeth addressed the whole nation and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Given that language is a vital tool for communication, this paper investigates the monarch's speech on Covid-19. The draws on the linguistic approaches of illocutionary acts, modality and pronouns to inquire into the language of this speech. The rationale behind this study lies, first, on the fact that it is delivered by the Queen of England. Second, this is the fifth time she has spoken to the entire nation in answer to ongoing events since 68 years of her reign. In order to scrutinize the hidden message of the speech, the following research questions are addressed in this study:

-What are the linguistic strategies used by the Queen to persuade her audience?

-How have these linguistic elements highlighted her judgments and beliefs regarding the ongoing crisis?

The study provides a brief theoretical sketch of relevant concepts to be applied in the course of the analysis and discussion and reviews some previous studies related to linguistic analyses of speeches which are carried out by some scholars.

1. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this paper, the linguistic features used to carry out the analyses are speech acts, modality and pronouns. They are briefly explained and clarified in this section.

1.1 Speech acts

Speech act is one of the features of Pragmatics. It is viewed as the action carried out using words. In J. Flowerdew's (2010) opinion, pragmatics focuses on the contextual aspect of language and outlines the relationship between language and context. G. Leech and M. Short (2004) advocate that speech act is a concept which relates utterance meaning to context. It has to do with any action done with the use of language. According to J. Austin (1962), people perform three different acts whenever they are speaking. These acts include:

-Locutionary act: the literal meaning of the actual words. J. Austin (1962) quoted by Y. Huang (2007) contends that *"a locutionary act is the basic act of speaking, which itself, consists of three related subacts. They are (i) a **phonic** act of producing an utterance-inscription, (ii) a **phatic** act of composing a particular linguistic expression in a particular language, and (iii) a **rhetic** act of contextualizing the utterance inscription"* (p.102, emphasis in original).

-Illocutionary act: it has to do with the speaker's intention in uttering the words. Put another way, it is *"the action intended to be performed by a speaker in uttering a linguistic expression, by virtue of the conventional force associated with it, either explicitly or implicitly"* (Y. Huang, 2007, p.102). For that purpose, W. Osisanwo (2008) says:

The speaker might be asserting, denying, predicting, confirming, informing, the listener of something, requesting, prohibiting, advising, promising, greeting, apologising, congratulating, baptizing, sentencing, knighting, someone, judging something, commanding ... Hence in making an utterance, a speaker is seen to have performed an act. This is an ILLOCUTIONARY ACT. (p. 63, original emphasis)

-Perlocutionary act: it emphasizes the speaker's intention in uttering the words. In Akmajian et al.'s (2010) opinion, a perlocution is the act by which the illocution produces a certain effect in or exerts a certain influence on the addressee. It represents a consequence or by-product of speaking, whether intentional or not. It is therefore an act performed by speaking. W. Osisanwo (2008) observes that perlocutionary act results from a language user's utterance and a product of the hearer's interpretation. It could be intended or unintended consequence of a reaction to what is said. The illocutionary act is the realisation of speech act as it is expressed through the communicative force of utterances. Moreover, speech acts/illocutionary acts have been classified by J. Austin (1962) into five categories which have been elaborated on by J. Seale (1975). They include the following:

-Representatives / assertives: They relate to states or events in the word. Y. Huang (2007) opines that they commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition and they also express the speaker's belief. On his part, E. Finegan (2008) declares that they represent states of affairs and they include assertions, statements, claims, hypotheses, descriptions, suggestions.

-Commissives: they commit the speakers to some course of future actions. They display the speaker's intention to do something.

-Directives: they are meant to get the addressee to do something. They are realised through commands, questions, advice, request, etc;

-Expressives: these are speech acts that express a psychological attitude or state in the speaker such as joy, sorrow, likes or dislikes (Y. Huang, 2007).

-Declarations: They are speech acts that effect immediate changes in some current state of affairs.

Moreover, for speech acts to be effective, certain logical conditions known as felicity conditions must be met. These are the conventions that regulate the conditions under which an utterance serves as a particular speech act.

According to Y. Huang (2007), felicity conditions are the constitutive rules --rules that create the activity itself-- of speech acts. These conditions are listed as follows:

-The propositional content condition: It requires that the words of the sentence be conventionally associated with the intended speech act and convey the content of the act.

-Preparatory condition: it sets out the conditions which must hold prior to the performance of the speech act.

-Sincerity conditions: it requires the speaker to be sincere in uttering the declaration.

-Essential condition: it defines the act being performed in the sense that the speaker has the intention that his or her utterance will count as the identifiable act, and that his intention is recognised by the addressee.

The next section focuses on the clarification of modality and pronouns, which are part of the theories adopted in the analysis.

1.2 Modality and pronouns

Modality is an aspect of interpersonal meaning, that strand of meaning in which “*language is used to enable us to participate in communicative acts with other people, to take on roles and to express and understand feelings, attitudes and judgments*” (T. Bloor and M. Bloor, 2014, p.13). F. R. Palmer (1986) views modality as “*the subjective characteristics of an utterance, and it could be argued that subjectivity is an essential criterion for modality*. (p.16).

As for P. Simpson (2004), he contends that modality is that part of language which allows us to attach expressions of belief, attitude and obligation to what we say and write. M. Halliday & Ch. Matthiessen (2014, p.172) observe that it is the speaker’s judgement, or request of the judgement of the listener, on the status of what is being said. On their part, F. Menghe and B. Chenglian (2017) contend that “*modality is a kind of*

interpersonal performance, that is to say, modality system is an important part of interpersonal function, which is the speaker's judgment on the success and effectiveness of the proposition he speaks" (p. 219).

Modality is categorised into modalisation or epistemic modality and modulation or deontic modality. In F. R. Palmer (1986)'s opinion, epistemic modality is concerned with matters of knowledge, belief or opinion rather than facts and deontic modality is concerned with the necessity or possibility of acts performed by morally responsible agents. S. Eggins (2004) argues that modalization is the expression of the speaker's attitude towards what he/she is saying. It is the way the speaker gets into the text, expressing a judgment about certainty, likelihood or frequency of something happening or being. Citing S. Eggins (2004), I. S. Koutchadé (2015) observes that modality *"is expressed through the choice of a finite modal operator like can, could, may, might, or mood adjunct of probability or certainty like possibly, I think, I'm sure, and finally through both modal Finite and a mood Adjunct"* (p. 3). As for modulation, S. Eggins (2004) says that *"it is the way for speakers to express their judgments or attitudes about actions and events"* (p.181). This is shown through the expression of obligation and inclination, with the use of finite verbal operator like *must, should, shall, ought to*, etc. or expressed subjectively through the sequence, *I'm willing to, I am determined to*, etc.

Regarding pronouns, T. Bloor and M. Bloor (2014, p. 23) assert that they are classed as a type of noun because they realise the same grammatical functions as common and proper nouns. J. Addi and E. A. Ofori (2020), sharing the same view, say that *"a pronoun is a word that can function as a noun phrase used by itself and that refers either to the participant in the discourse, for example I, you or to someone or something mentioned elsewhere in the discourse, for instance, she, it, this"* (p. 1282). In the same vein, F. Menghe and B. Chenglian (2017, p. 221) say that in many languages, the choice of personal pronouns is often limited by the social status, power relationship, and degree of familiarity of the communicators.

As for Ali, et al. (2017), they maintain that pronouns are important in the socio-political representation of ideologies.

2. BRIEF LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH METHOD

This part reviews briefly a few studies carried out in speech acts, modality and pronouns, outlines the research methods and the rationale for the choice of the corpus.

2.1 Literature Review

A number of previous studies have focused on the analysis of speech acts, modality and pronouns. This brief section reviews some of them.

E. R. Alreza, M. Natsir and N. M. Valiantien (2019) have examined Barack Obama's speech through the lens of speech acts. They have studied the different types of illocutionary acts, with a specific reference to the dominant ones. Their analysis reveal that representatives, followed by commissives and expressives, in that order, are the dominant acts. Thus, illocutionary acts are predominantly used by Obama to convince the American regarding the way he would lead the country.

In the same vein, I. S. Koutchade (2017) has studied the language of President Muhammadu Buhari's address at the 71st session of the UN General Assembly. Using J. Searle (1969)'s taxonomy through a research approach of mixed method, he opines that there is a predominance of representative speech acts, which shows the president's beliefs regarding Nigeria's priority in line with the theme of the Assembly. Similarly, he argues that President Buhari has made suggestions through the use of directive acts whereas commissives are used to disclose the challenges to be taken up by Buhari and his audience and expressives reflect his psychological state while addressing the world leaders.

D. C. Loko (2018) has analysed speech acts in some excerpts from Donald Trump's address at the Republican National Convention on July 21st, 2016. Drawing from J. Austin and J. Searle' taxonomy, he has used the mixed

method approach to identify and analyse the different categories of illocutionary acts in the speech. The results of his inquiry show that assertive speech acts are mostly predominant, indicating that Trump has mainly expressed his personal beliefs and showed his commitment to lead his party to the White House, on the other. Solutions to the country's challenges are suggested through directive speech whereas his determination to take up challenges related to peace and security are disclosed through the commissive acts.

N. D. Waya and M. Ogechukwu (2013) have carried out a pragmatic analysis of victory and inaugural speeches of president Jonathan's speeches by using J. Austin (1962) and J. Searle (1969)'s speech acts framework through a descriptive mixed method. The result of their analyses reveal that both direct and indirect speech acts are used and both assertive and commissive acts are dominant, but the speeches have also displayed veridictives, declaratives and expressive speech acts even though they are in low frequencies. These linguistic elements are used to disclose the intention and the programme of his administration.

Moreover, many scholars have inquired into the language of speeches through the study of modality and pronouns. For example, M. Sharififar and E. Rahimi (2015) in their critical discourse analysis of Obama and Rouhani's speech have found out that through the use of modality, the two presidents are capable of ruling their country with difficulties in future. In addition, the analysis of pronouns reveals that they have predominantly used the pronoun "we" to outline their intimacy with their audience and to follow the common objectives.

In the same vein, F. Menghe and B. Chenglian's (2017) paper has analysed modality and pronouns in Trump's victory speech. Their findings reveal that the use of modal verbs and pronouns makes the whole speech fall into the heart of every listener in a loud way and achieve the effect of transmitting information efficiently.

Likewise, probing the political and ideological commitments in political discourse, A. L. Koussouhon and A. M. Dossoumou (2015) have disclosed the modality types and pronouns in Buhari's inaugural speech. Through analyses, they discover that there is a predominant use of high and median auxiliaries which denote the sense of moral obligation, accountability, and responsibility of the President and his administration. The analysis of pronouns shows that the pronoun "we" outnumbers the other categories and was followed by the pronoun "I". While the use of "I" is suggestive of the authority conferred on the new president, the important use of "we" implies that the president has called the collaboration of his government and the whole citizens to join hands in order to reach the expected target.

The above applications show that the linguistic approaches under scrutiny are relevant for the analysis of speech. Nevertheless, the peculiarity of this study lies in the fact that the Covid 19 issue proves to be the most recent one and the selected speech has not been delivered by a Head of States but the Queen of England.

2.2 Material and Methods

As said earlier, this paper focuses on the linguistic analysis of Queen Elizabeth's Covid 19 address.

This speech which was delivered on October 5th 2020, has been made available online. In fact, J. Austin (1969) serves as the approach used to analyse speech acts in the text. Regarding modality and pronouns, this paper draws upon S. Eggins's (2004) and M.A.K. Halliday & Ch. Matthiessen's (2014) Systemic Functional Linguistics. The descriptive research design based on content analysis is the strategic focus of the study. Qualitative research method is also found to be relevant for the work. For clarification's sake, the data used for analysis has been broken down into numbered utterances and each category of speech act has been identified according to the following keys: REP= Representative; EXP= Expressive; COM= Commissive; DIR= Directives; DEC= Declaration. Likewise, the

identified pronouns are bolded and underlined. As for modality-types, they are italicised in the text.

3. DATA ANALYSIS

3.1 *Speech acts, modality and pronouns identification*

Basing on the methods of the analysis suggested above, the identification of the linguistic features at stake in this paper is provided below:

1-**I** am speaking to you at what **I** know is an increasingly challenging time, a time of disruption in the life of our country: a disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all^{REP}. 2-**I** want to thank everyone on the NHS [National Health Service] front line, as well as care workers and those carrying out essential roles, who selflessly continue their day-to-day duties outside the home in support of **us** all.^{EXP} 3-**I** am sure the nation ***will*** join **me** in assuring **you** that what **you** do is appreciated and every hour of **your** hard work brings **us** closer to a return to more normal times.^{EXP} 4-**I** also want to thank those of **you** who are staying at home, thereby helping to protect the vulnerable and sparing many families the pain already felt by those who have lost loved ones.^{EXP} 5-Together **we** are tackling this disease, and **I** want to reassure **you** that if **we** remain united and resolute, then **we** ***will*** overcome it.^{REP} 6-**I** hope in the years to come everyone ***will*** be able to take pride in how **they** responded to this challenge; and those who come after **us** ***will*** say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any; that the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet good-humored resolve, and of fellow-feeling still characterize this country.^{COM} 7-The pride in who **we** are is not a part of our past -- it defines our present and our future.^{REP} 8-The moments when the United Kingdom has come together to applaud its care and essential workers ***will*** be remembered as an expression of our national spirit; and its symbol ***will*** be the rainbows drawn by children.^{REP} 9-Across the Commonwealth and around the world, **we** have seen heart-warming stories of people coming together to help others, be it through delivering

food parcels and medicines, checking on neighbors, or converting businesses to help the relief effort.^{REP} 10-And though self-isolating *may* at times be hard, many people of all faiths, and of none, are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause and reflect, in prayer or meditation.^{REP} 11-*It* reminds me of the very first broadcast *I* made, in 1940, helped by my sister.^{REP} 12-*We*, as children, spoke from here at Windsor to children who had been evacuated from their homes and sent away for their own safety.^{REP} 13-Today, once again, many *will* feel a painful sense of separation from their loved ones.^{REP} 14-But now, as then, *we* know, deep down, that it is the right thing to do.^{REP} 15-While *we* have faced challenges before, this one is different.^{REP} 16-This time *we* join with all nations across the globe in a common endeavor, using the great advances of science and *our* instinctive compassion to heal.^{REP} 17-*We will* succeed, and that success *will* belong to every one of us.^{COM} 18-*We should* take comfort that while *we may* have more still to endure, better days *will* return:^{DIR}19-*we will* be with our friends again;^{COM} 20-*we will* be with our families again;^{COM} 21-*we will* meet again.^{COM} 22-But for now, *I* send my thanks and warmest good wishes to *you* all.^{EXP}

Source: Queen Elizabeth Coronavirus address. Available at:

<https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/queenelizabethcoronavirusoutbreaktokingdom.htm>.

3.2 Speech acts analysis

Taking into the account the identification carried out previously and in order to study the different kinds of acts more clearly, the different types of speech acts and the related utterances in which they occur in this text have been summarised (see Koutchadé, 2017) in table 1 below:

Table 1: Illocutionary acts in the speech

Speech acts categories	Representative	Commissive	Expressive	Directive	Declaration
utterance number	1,5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	6, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22	2, 3, 4, 22	----	----

The above table shows how illocutionary acts are distributed in the speech. It is noticed that representative acts rank first. Commissive acts come in the second position whereas Expressive acts rank third. There is no case of directive and declaration acts in the speech. We now consider the different illocutionary acts in the speech.

3.2.1 Representative Illocutionary acts

Representative or assertive speech acts occur in sentences (1,5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16). They outnumber other types of illocutionary acts in this address. This indicates that the monarch is committed to the truth of her actions. In (1), she introduces her speech by highlighting the reason why she has decided to address the nation of England. She uses the illocutionary verb “am speaking” to retell the negative impacts of Covid 19 on the daily lives of the citizens of the whole country, a change that this virus has brought and the consequences of this pandemic in many regions of the country. She recognises the hard moments and financial troubles that people of Great Britain are going through and expresses her empathy and understanding. The illocutionary act in (5) expresses the monarch’s statement and belief about the coming together of the whole nation to fight the disease. This call for unity of action is confirmed by the illocutionary speech act in (7) in which she asserts that the people’s ability to face any kind of challenge determines their real identity. Likewise, the illocutionary act used in (8) is an acknowledgement of praise and appreciation that all the health workers deserve in all their endeavour to fight against the disease. In addition, the queen supports the collective effort and the coming together

of people to bring their contribution towards the eradication of the disease. This accounts for the use of illocutionary act in (9) and (10). The representative speech act in (11) and (12) carry a truth-value as the Queen reports that in 1940, when she was then a 14-year-old princess, she delivered a speech with her sister, princess Margaret, at Windsor over the radio to children who had been separated or were in the process of being separated from their parents in London to escape the German bombings. In the similar spirit, the assertive speech acts are used in (13, 14, 15, 16) to claim that although this pandemic results in the loss of family members and love ones, this period of hardship is different from the previous one since it is a worldwide challenge and to overcome the crisis, the British community must join the other nations of the world to play their part.

3.2.2 Commissive illocutionary acts

The acts which commit the Queen to a course of actions are used in (6, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22). Actually, the Monarch's expectations are that strength, determination and collective efforts in the face of adversity will lead to a real victory, thus bringing the future generation to be proud of all those who endeavour to fight for the common interest at all levels. This commissive speech act which confirms such a commitment is expressed in (6). As for the commissive speech act in (17) it denotes the Queen's determination towards the encouragement of the whole citizens of the country to take up the challenge. The one used in (18) implies that she is inviting everybody to remain optimistic. In addition, the Monarch is aware of the general disruption caused by the ongoing health crisis. The negative consequences of the corona virus outbreaks at all the aspects of life are tremendous. Nevertheless, she relies on the different measures and strategies put in place to counter this disease. All this accounts for the fact that, in an optimistic tone, she has uttered commissive acts in (19, 20, 21) to ensure the whole country that there is hope and the return to the normal state is a reality that each person is invited to welcome. This restoration promise and pledge in a steady and convincing tone has brought hope and relief to everyone in this period of fear and anxiety.

3.2.3 Expressive illocutionary act

Acts which display psychological state are used in (2, 3, 4, 22). In fact, knowing that health workers are in the frontline of action regarding the treatment of those who are infected by the virus, the Queen starts her address by using the illocutionary verb “to thank” in (2) to show appreciation to members of the National Health Service for their tireless works. In addition, the expressive illocutionary act implies that the Monarch has, through the indirect speech act in (3) invited the whole nation to be appreciative of the efforts of medical practitioners who have been struggling to tackle the pandemic. She also extends her gratitude to those who obey the government’s regulations by staying home to avoid the propagation of the disease, which she does through the expressive speech act in (4). The word of gratitude to the whole audience for listening to her is uttered at the end of the speech in utterance (22).

Having examined and scrutinised the three main illocutionary acts, it becomes necessary to further the analysis by focusing on modality-type and pronouns.

3.3 Analysis of Modality and Pronouns

The modality-types and pronouns used in the speech are summarized in table 2 below:

Table 2: Modality and pronouns in the speech

Modality-type	Modal operators or adjuncts	Utterance number
Modalisation	May	10, 18
	I am sure	3
Modulation	Will	3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20
	Should	18
Pronouns	Category	Utterance number
First person	I	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 22,
	We	5,7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20,21

	Category	Utterance number
	Us	2, 3, 6
Second person	You	1, 3, 4, 21
Third person	They	6

The above table shows the way modality and pronouns are distributed in the speech. In fact, both modalisation and modulation are used by the Queen; nevertheless it is noticeable that the number of modulation outnumbers that of modalisation, meaning that the speech has more to do with obligation and inclination as well as giving goods and services (Eggins, 2004). In fact, regarding the modulation-type, it can be noticed that the modal operator *will* is the most predominant in utterances (3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20). Eggins (2004) observes that “ the finite *will* or *shall* expresses a meaning of willingness, i.e. positive inclination viewed from the speaker’s perspective” (p. 178). In the context of the speech, the Queen’s strong desire is to make sure that everything returns to the normal state through the appreciation of health workers in (3), the necessity to get together to overcome the disease as uttered in (5), undertaking various actions to maintain the pride of the British in (8), finding ways and means to succeed in every endeavour (17) and struggling for normalcy in all areas as viewed by the Queen in (19, 20). The modal operator *should* is used with *will* in (19) to raise the audience’s awareness on the fact that everybody should remain optimistic. Regarding the use of modalisation, it appears that utterances (3, 10, 18) display some instances. The modal adjunct in (3) expresses the highly level of certainty with which the queen believes that the whole nation will join her to appreciate the health workers. In the same vein, the median modal operator *may* is used in to express the degree of discomfort felt by people who decide to adopt self-isolating in (10) and that of endurance due to the consequence of the disease in (18).

Regarding the pronouns, it can be noticed, from the table that the most predominant pronouns include *we* (5,7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20,21), *I* (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 22), *you* (1, 3, 4, 21), *us* (2, 3, 6). The use of the pronoun *I* which refers back to the Queen is meant to disclose the different

measures and suggestions provided by the monarch to alleviate the sufferings and discomfort caused by the disease. It also aims at showing her responsibility to provide the solution for the ongoing crisis. But she is aware of the fact that the challenge to be taken up cannot be achieved by one person or a group of people leading the nation. This the reason why, with a less authoritative tenor, realised through the abundant use of the pronoun *we* and *us* there is a call for common action, discipline and responsibility to fight against the disease.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The analyses carried out in the previous section show the different strategies used by the Queen to address her audience. Before revisiting the main findings of this study, it is important to highlight the circumstances that account for the validity of the illocutionary acts uttered in the speech. Actually, the royal majesty rarely speaks to the public. Since 68th year that she reigned, Covid 19 address happened to be the fifth speech. Therefore, the Queen spoke to the public in very special and serious circumstances. This speech is historic given that the pandemic has brought about fear and worry to many people. Thus, sincerity condition is met. Regarding the propositional content condition, we notice that the theme of the speech is really centred on Covid-19 pandemic. All over the world, everybody was disturbed by that invisible disease which created a disruption in many areas of life. That address was eagerly awaited by the Britons in particular and the whole world in general. The speech, which is in English, was followed by millions of people through various media proved, to be a hope message delivered by the Monarch who is concerned with the well-being of her people. As for the preparatory condition, there must be a conventionally recognised context in which the speech act is embedded. In the context of this study, it had been announced that the Queen would deliver a televised message on Sunday night regarding Covid-19 pandemic (M. Burke, 2020). So, everybody was informed that such a special program had been planned. Viewers were thus prepared to watch and listen to the message. The Queen is also aware that her message would be heard and viewers and listeners would change their behaviour in accordance with the pieces of advice and

measures of fight against this pandemic provided. So, the essential conditions of the speech have been observed. Thus, the different acts uttered by the monarch are felicitous as they meet the felicity conditions suggested by Austin (1969).

Moreover, through the different analyses, the results have shown that the linguistic strategies used by the Queen to persuade her audience include speech acts, modality and pronouns. The illocutionary acts identified are of three types: assertive, commissive and expressive. As the dominant illocutionary acts are assertives/ representatives and commissives, we notice that the Queen mainly reassured the public of the defeat of the pandemic which is the common enemy. Her judgment and opinion of the ongoing situation is reflected through the use of modality features whereas her social status, solidarity and power relation is reflected through her way of using pronouns. In this regard, illocutionary acts, modality and pronouns, as studied in this paper, prove to be the linguistic features that stress judgments, beliefs and tenor of this discourse. Therefore, the Queen's ideological points are disclosed as follows: first, she was concerned with showing appreciation to the health workers for protecting and treating patients since the discovery of the first case. Second, she advised the audience to abide by the government's measure by adopting self-isolation strategies and other important measures. Third, the Britons should know that this pandemic situation is not permanent.

All in all, the study has explored the coronavirus discourse of Queen Elizabeth. The analysis has generated some key linguistic points which have disclosed some aspects of the Monarch's beliefs and perspectives. The work provides some clarifications of the linguistic concepts of the linguistics features that are used to appraise the speech. Second, overviews of some previous linguistic analyses of speeches are provided to show the relevance of such a linguistic inquiry. Through a qualitative research method, the work has highlighted the main findings of the study as well as the key points of the Queen's message.

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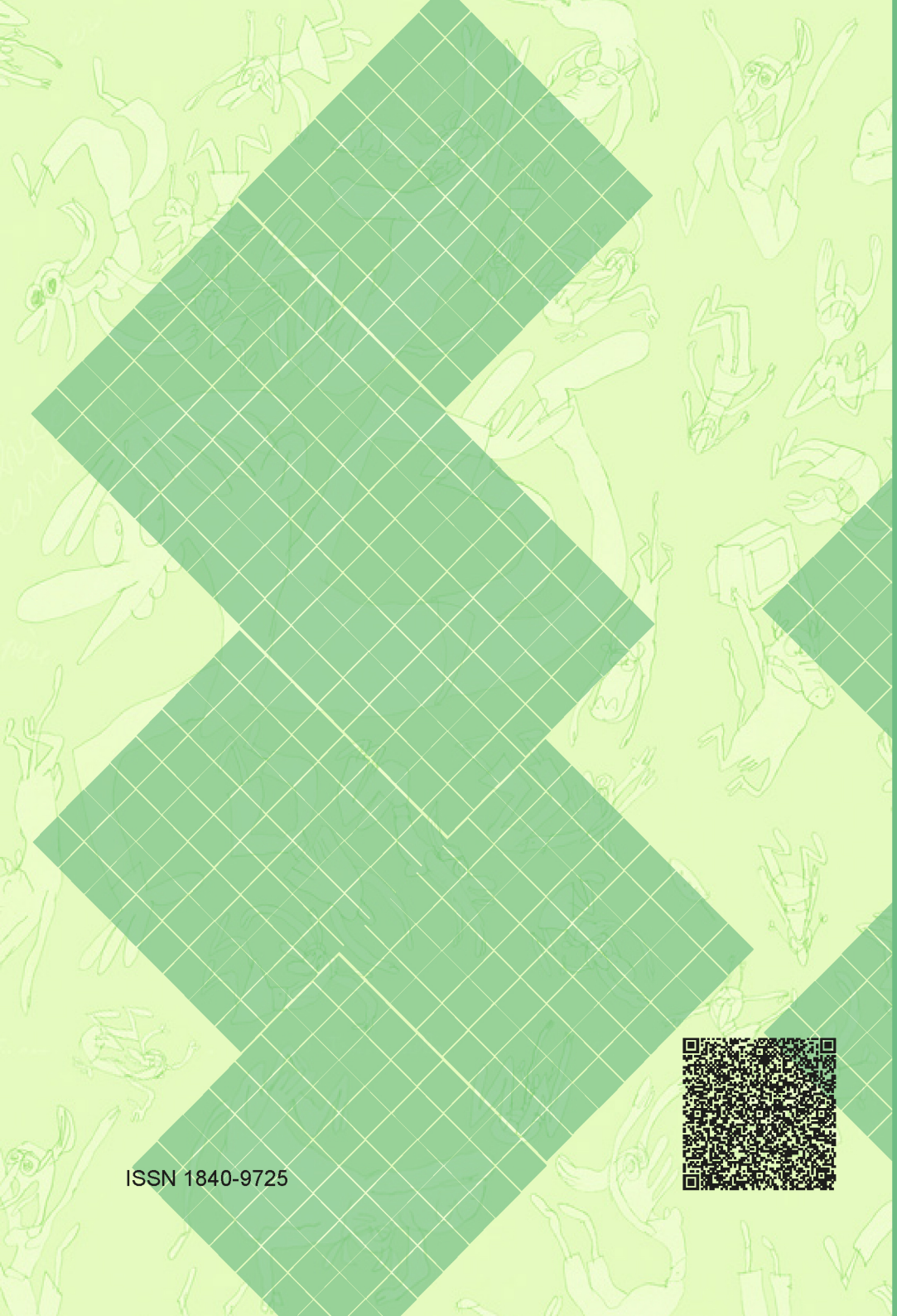
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