THE INTERJECTIONS EI!, IA!, IATA!, UITE! AND THEIR PRAGMATIC VALUES IN ROMANIAN

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Abstract: *The present paper concentrates mainly on certain interjections that express directive acts in Romanian. The complex analysis of interjections ei!,ia!, iata! and uite! constitutes an attempt to present their pragmatic values in different contexts. The multitude of examples taken from literary works emphasize as much as possible various nuances that the above interjections can express in our language.*

Keywords: *directive acts, interjection, pragmatic value.*

Introduction

As a result of a detailed classification of the speech acts that the interjections may express in Romanian, two types can be distinguished: expressive and directive acts.

The interjections *ei!*,*ia!*, *iata!* and *uite!* are included in the category of directive acts because they are based on the fundamental principle, which is that of expressing the speaker's will or desire to make the interlocutor perform a certain action.

I.Phatic interjectionsthat express directive acts

This type of interjections that represent a limited number of elements can act as pragmatic markers in order to render a series of directive acts. They are basically used for general purposes of social interaction rather than to convey information or ask questions.

For instance, the interjection *ei!* may be used to express a directive act, the intentionality of this act consisting in the speaker's will or desire to determine the interlocutor to continue the story. The following examples are relevant in this case:

Farfuridi: Ştii ce, venerabile neică Zaharia, ia să dăm noi mai bine cărţile pe faţă.

Trahanache: Dă-le neică, să vedem.

*Farfuridi: Ţi-am spus că mi-e frică de trădare….**Ei**?*

*Brânzovenescu: **Ei**?*

*Trahanache: **Ei**?*

*Farfuridi: **Ei**? Ni-e frică din partea amicului. (Caragiale, 2009: 97)*

L: Mai luăm câte una mica.

M: Da.

L: Băiete, două mici…

(Pauză. Chelnerul aduce paharele cu bere.)

*M: **EI?***

*L: **Ei!***

*M: **Ei!** Ce spunea amicul?* (Caragiale, 2010: 63)

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The interjection *ei!* may be used to express another directive act, that of getting in touch with someone else:

Ei, *moşule, ce mai zici?*

Ce să zic nepoate? (Creangă, 2009:155)

The interjection *ei!* may be followed by a question in order to elicit information:

Ei! *Ce cauţi tu prin mahalaua noastră aşa de dimineaţă?*

This interjection *ei!* may be used by the speaker in order to address a request to the interlocutor, in such a case, it is followed by a conditional clause. The interjection *ei!* does not present a semantic substitute expressed by a verb in the imperative:

Ei!...*dacă ai vrea d-ta!* (Caragiale, 2010: 117)

II. Presentative interjections that express directive acts

The presentative/ostensive interjections - *ia, iacă, iacătă, iată, uite*-besides the fact that they are used to introduce objects or persons, having a deictic role, they can also be used to express a directive act, having, in this case, an injunctive value.

The performers of directive acts generally have a fixed pattern. There are certain interjections that are characterized by an imperative content and are built with verbs in the imperative or conjunctive (hortative) moods. In such a case, the meaning of these interjections can be decoded from the context. They can accomplish the directive act, expressing an urge or a request.

*Ano, zise el încele din urmă alena****, ia vino****, şezi lângă mine!* (Slavici, 2009:153)

The interjection **ia!** for instance may be used to express an order or command addressed by the speaker in order to be accomplished by the interlocutor. In this case, the status of the interlocutors may be identical or different. When it is identical the interjection *ia!* may be used by both partners in the communicational act, and, when it is different (*e.g. manager-employee)*, this interjection, followed by a verb in the imperative, should not be used by the person whose status is inferior, in this case, manifesting a lack of respect towards the person whose status is superior. In such a situation, it refers rather to a request, and, other types of interjections also specialized to render directive acts can be used.

When it is about a hierarchical situation, for instance, that of manager-employee, the speaker is the one who has a superior status, being in the position of giving orders, thus, finding himself in an authoritative position; the employee is the one who has an inferior status and should obey the orders given by his superior.

The utterance, ***Ia****, vino aici!*, may be addressed by the speaker (the manager) to his interlocutor (the employee), but, if the status of the two interlocutors is reversed, this phrase is not adequate. When the status is ignored, the speaker's image can be damaged.

In case the interlocutor accepts to execute the order, he should analyse whether it is beneficial for him or not, but, in case of a refusal, he should analyse the consequences that resort from the unfulfilment of the respective action. In such a context, the directive act can be taken to an "attempt".

Ia*, lasă-mă-n colo, mătuşă, nu măsupăra, zise fiul craiului. (Creangă, 2009:143)*

Ia ad-o-*ncoace la moşul, s-o drămăluiască! (Creangă, 2009:36)*

The speaker uses the presentative interjection *ia!* in order to render a directive act, the intentionality of this act being that of drawing the interlocutor's attention:

*-****Ia*** *ascultaţi, măi! (Creangă, 2009:173)*

This interjection may emphasize as well the speaker's emotional involvement, expressing, besides the directive act, a touch of reproach, too.

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*-**Ia** ascultă, măi Stane, ce mă tot fierbi cu diplomaţie? Ce va să zică asta?* (Caragiale, 2010:117)

In case these presentative interjections are used to introduce objects, persons or events out of the situational context, a directive act is also expressed, thus, the intentionality of the respective act being that of making someone perform a certain action. The presentative interjections *uite!* and *iată!*, that function as performers of directive acts, are semantically substituted to the verb "a privi" in its imperative form.

Within the discourse, the interjections *iată!* şi *uite!* are considered equivalents of a sentence and have the role to boost the whole context.

***Iată** cum stă valea.În dreapta este un deal numit Râpoasa.* (Slavici, 2009:348)

*L-am trimis să-mi aducă plasa cu peşte şi **uite** cât e de sprinte.* (Slavici, 2009:110).

In the following utterances, the interjection *uite!* may be followed by a verb in the imperative in order to express an order or command. The verb in the imperative is not placed right after the interjection, but it is separated from it by other parts of speech. The intensity of the directive act is more emphasized when there are verbs in the imperative, instead, when the interjections are used, the degree of intensity is rather diminished.

***Uite,** până vin eu, citeşte!* (Caragiale, 2010:117)

Sometimes, this type of presentative interjections are also accompanied by certain emotional values, followed by verbs in the subjunctive in order to render a request:

*- **Uite,** frate Popescule, să lăsăm chestiile de principiu.*

The interjection *uite!* can also be used to express a directive act, the intentionality of the act being that of drawing the interlocutor's attention to an event that represent a trigger stimulus:

***Uite**, coniţă, Ionel nu s-astâmpără!* (Caragiale, 2010:110)

***Uite,** domnule, efectelenenorocite ale repausului duminical!* (Caragiale, 2010:245)

In order to draw the interlocutor's attention to a certain type of behavior, the interjection *uite!* is used, followed by a verb in the imperative:

***Uite**, vezi, ăsta e cusurul tău-eşti indiscret*. (Caragiale, 2010:64)

There are certain interjections that can be characterized by an imperative content and they are followed by a verb in the imperative or subjunctive (hortative). When it refers to this type of interjections, their meaning is decoded from the context.

In conclusion, it can be noticed that the interjections *ei!*,*ia!, iata!*and *uite!* are specialized to express various directive acts in Romanian and their role from the pragmatic point of view is extremely important.

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