

Epilogue

This thesis has demonstrated that dissertation acts are not illocutionary acts. Its main finding pertains to their natures: the former are epistemic and the latter deontic interventions. That is, the fundamental taxonomical separation of analytic units responds to the ontology of speech.

The argumentation has involved distinguishing acts from act relations and act sequences. It has also shown that illocution and dissertation have different forms of unity. These results solve the coding confusions found in applied linguistics studies of discourse. In fact, they provide solid bases for devising observation schemes that are adequate to capture simultaneous and complex phenomena without losing methodological rigour.

Perhaps the most important products of the discussion are the two general formulae that generate definitions of specific acts systematically. They allow researchers to properly control their description elements and to place them within comprehensive frameworks. They also provide teachers and course designers with a map to move up and down the levels of discourse.

For these reasons, it may be said that this thesis shows the value theory and deliberation can have in applied linguistics.