

## THE UTILIZATION PROCESS OF UTTERANCE

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### Abstract

*Psycholinguistics is concerned with discovering the psychological processes by which humans comprehend, use and acquire language. This article focuses on how humans comprehend and utilize the utterance they hear. This study is limited in analyzing the surface structure of utterances. Data is taken from a video of classroom interaction taken in 2009. Whether an utterance is representative, directive, commissive, or expressive, listeners go through three steps when they hear an utterance. Firstly, identifying the speech act, propositional content and thematic content. Secondly, searching memory for information that matches the given information. Finally, depending on the speech act, they deal with the new information.*

**Keywords:** *Psycholinguistics, psychological processes, comprehend, utilize, listener, surface structure, speech act, propositional content, thematic content.*

### INTRODUCTION

Language is an invaluable possession of the human race and the most effective method of communication. Language is so basic to our existence that life without words is difficult to envision (Gleason

and Ratner, 1998:2). Executed easily and effortlessly, language guides us through our communication. We know for example the difference between comb and brush. We know when to use the words hand, leg, thighs, calves and feet. When we find someone smoking and it bothers us, all we need to do is say: "Gosh, it's stuffy in here". Normally, the person will know that the function of the utterance is a request to put the cigarette out. The intriguing question is how do we understand the utterance that we hear or read and act or respond appropriately? How are we able to retrieve the correct words, phrase or sentences? One field that can answer those questions is psycholinguistics or the psychology of language. Psycholinguistics is concerned with discovering the psychological processes by which humans comprehend, use and acquire language. It is interdisciplinary in nature and is studied by people in a variety of fields, such as psychology, cognitive science, and linguistics. This article focuses on how humans comprehend and utilize the utterance they hear. In simple words, this article tries to describe and analyze the listener's mental processes when they hear an utterance.

The data is taken from a video of classroom interaction taken in 2009. The class consists of fifth grade elementary school students studying English. There are 10 students in the class. The topic of the lesson is protecting the environment. The interaction was transcribed and a certain context was taken for the purpose of analysis. This study is limited in analyzing only the surface structure of the utterance

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