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*Corresponding author
Gala Qasim Hasan
Gala.hasan@su.edu.krd

RECEIVED :11 /06/2025
ACCEPTED :10/08/ 2025
PUBLISHED :15/10/ 2025

Implicature and Speech Act Analysis in Erbil City Courtroom Discourse

Gala Qasim Hasan/Department of English, College of Education, Salahaddin University-Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

Dilovan Sayfuddin Saady/Department of English, College of Education, Salahaddin University-Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

Abstract

This study investigates the use of implicature and speech acts in Erbil City courtroom. Implicature is the implied meaning in addition to literal meaning of expressions, while speech acts are communicative actions such as asserting, commanding, or promising. This study aims at investigating how both the judicial and non-judicial participants in the courtroom are able to manipulate these pragmatic tools, thereby influencing legal communication. The study employs a mixed method design. Based on verbal casual observation of real litigation in courtrooms involving judges, lawyers, plaintiffs, defendants and witnesses. The paper builds upon Grice (1975)'s implicature theory and Searle 's typology of speech acts. Data were obtained from eight court observations in Erbil. The significance lies in enhancing forensic linguistics by revealing how pragmatic awareness can improve fairness, clarity, and effectiveness in legal settings. The study concludes that there is a significant dominance of conversational implicature over conventional implicature and expressive speech acts were the most prevalent. Defendants and witnesses rely heavily on implicatures to hedge their bets or to prevaricate, and apportion responsibility by the back door; and that the judges and lawyers make extensive use of directive and assertive speech acts to take charge and assert authority.

Keywords:
Implicature,
Speech Act,
Legal Discourse.



About the Journal

Zanco Journal of Humanity Sciences (ZJHS) is an international, multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed, double-blind and open-access journal that enhances research in all fields of basic and applied sciences through the publication of high-quality articles that describe significant and novel works; and advance knowledge in a diversity of scientific fields. <https://zancojournal.su.edu.krd/index.php/JAHS/about>

1. Introduction

The language of law is not simply a vehicle for information. It also encompasses authority, narrative and rhetoric. In the courtroom, judges, lawyers, defendants, plaintiffs, witnesses' words are specially chosen. They are attempting to assert serious claims, to verify, and to elaborate what happened with an opulent and accurate language. There are two broad types of this hidden meaning: implicatures and speech acts. The concept of implicature gave rise to an earwig of designedness that is particular to a genre of modern linguistics: Grice's doctrine of implicature (1975), according to which words occasionally convey hidden messages. Implicatures in court might operate as deflection of guilt, raising suspicion or inferences as disbelieving, or even insinuating a topic. On the other hand, Searle was one of the first who in 1976 wrote the Speech Act Theory, a theory that focuses on how can a claim do, in the sense of complaining, directing, committing, express emotions, saying how things are, instead of just claim them.

This article investigates in what ways indirect talk and speech acts affect legal behavior and results. This is necessary knowledge to build more and better legal talk, and the practical elements of legal discussion that is often obscured and ignored, or precise knowledge to build bridges between the legal folk and the rest of humanity in order to share how we understand, perceive and grasp testimonies through indirect talk and speech acts.

1.1 The Aim of the Study

This article investigates how indirect language—specifically implicatures and speech acts—functions in legal documents and courtroom interactions in Erbil city. The study aims to assess how these pragmatic elements influence legal behavior and outcomes, and how increased awareness of these features might enhance the efficacy, fairness, and clarity of legal communication. By examining real case files, this study seeks to offer practical insights into the hidden mechanisms of legal talk—insights that can bridge the gap between legal professionals and laypeople, and support better understanding of how testimony and evidence are interpreted through indirect communication.

1.2 Research Questions

The study addresses the following questions:

- 1-How do pragmatic elements like implicatures and speech acts function in legal papers and courtroom interactions in Erbil city?
- 2-What effects do these pragmatic features have on how court cases are interpreted and resolved?
- 3-What role does awareness of these features play in improving the efficacy, impartiality, and clarity of legal communication?
- 4-What types of speech acts are most frequently or least frequently used in courtroom discourse?
- 5-Which types of implicatures are commonly employed among courtroom participants?

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Pragmatics

Pragmatics is an essential area of linguistics that explains how the context of word use can influence the meaning of what we say. Not just a vocabulary list, but which stresses how people use the language in terms of concept expressing. The intention of the speaker, the relationship between the participants, and the context of the conversation are some of the major elements involved. The pragmatic concepts are implicature, speech acts, presuppositions, and deixis. These pieces are important for understanding how language aids in the expression of certain thoughts (Yule, 1996). In forensic linguistics, pragmatics is applied toward the substance of legal statements. To understand concealed implications, resolve ambiguities, and disambiguate context-sensitive meanings, experts examine implicatures, speech acts and context sensitivity, so that the parties understand what is meant by the legalese. Such comprehensive endeavor contributes to ensuring equitable results in legal proceedings (Coulthard & Johnson, 2007).

3.2 Implicature

Grice introduced the notion of implicature in 1967, and the definition of implicature has been extremely important in how we understand and interpret language. He explained how when we speak, we give encrypted messages that are carried by unwritten sociological guidelines. Such little clues add depth and variety to our conversations. Nailing on these cues allow us to relate to others, maintain smooth interactions, prevent confusion and demonstrate etiquette. In order to converse well; we need to be trained in identifying such subtle clues. Consider this example:

A: "Where can we get the gas?"

B: "There's a station right next to here."

A: I need gas B: There should be a gas station near here. That is an excellent case of implicature in action.

3.3 Types of Implicature

3.3.1 Conversational Implicature

Conversational implicature deals with how we communicate our ideas without actually communicating them. Speakers don't elaborate, but say just enough to allow a hint of meaning to be seen through the cracks, leaving the listener to fill in the rest. This idea was originally from H.P. Grice, relating to the implicit rules we usually abide by in conversation, such as staying on topic, being honest. Though in some cases stretching those rules just a tad helps that listener determine what's more being said. Take this example:

A: "Do you like my new dress and bag?"

B: "I like the bag."

In this exchange, B indirectly expresses their lack of enthusiasm for the dress without making any direct assertion. The manner of speaking where meanings are hinted rather than plainly stated is called conversational implicature.

3.3.2 Conventional Implicature

Conventional implicature is like a non-variable meaning independent of the conversation or context. This is a word that disguises its deeper hidden meanings. Words like "even," "but" "therefore," and "yet" contribute more contextual nuances. In the following sentence, "Mary was pregnant, but Sam was happy," the word "but" indicates that there's an unexpected relationship between Mary being pregnant and Sam being happy. This kind of implication is stable compared to conversational implicature which is based on how people talk or the particular context involved.

3.4 Implicature in Courtroom Discourse

Lawyers make use of implicature in courtrooms to influence the way jurors perceive the facts. Then during cross-examination, an attorney would say: "Isn't it a fact that you were spotted in close proximity to the area of the alleged crime?" This question insinuates that the defendant committed the crime but snouts and out accuses them, which is a way to plant a seed of doubt in the juror's mind about the story of the defendant. Interest in these techniques among forensic linguists is primarily a concern in terms of how implicature affects jurors and judges (Gibbons, 2003).

3.5 Speech Act Theory

Speech act theory contributes to the understanding of why particular words are chosen in courtrooms. This theory (built by J.L. Austin and improved by John Searle) provides us with useful tools for understanding how language functions as evidence in the courtroom. Speech acts are grouped into different kinds because talking is a kind of doing. According to Yule (1996), a speech act is an action performed via utterances; Yule (2006) defines it as the intent of a speaker when using a particular expression. According to Fromkin et al. (2003) a speech act is a speech being performed in a given context with a certain effect as described by Davies et al. (2003). For instance, "There is a bear behind you" could be statement about something happening in the physical world or a potential warning of something that could happen.

3.6 Searle's Categories of Speech Acts

John Searle (1975) built on Austin's work and outlined a detailed list of speech acts based on their purpose. He identified five main categories:

1. **Assertives**

Assertives make claims about reality and indicate the speaker believes them to be true.

Examples include:

- Claims: "The sky is blue."
- Reports: "She arrived at 3 PM."

In court, assertives are common in witness testimonies where individuals describe what they witnessed.

2. **Directives**

Directives aim to get someone to do something, including commands, requests, or suggestions. Examples include:

- Commands: "Close the window."
- Requests: "Can you pass the salt?"

In court, judges and lawyers use directives to request or order actions (such as a lawyer asking a witness to repeat their statement).

3. **Commissives**

Commissives involve the speaker committing to a future action, like promises, offers, or vows. Examples include:

- Promises: "I will send you the documents tomorrow."
- Offers: "I can help you with that."

In legal contracts, commissives are essential as they outline future obligations.

4. **Expressives**

Expressives convey the speaker's feelings towards something, such as apologies, thanks, or congratulations. Examples include:

- Apologies: "I'm sorry for being late."
- Gratitude: "Thank you for your help."

During court cases, expressives appear in apologies or expressions of regret.

5. **Declaratives**

Declaratives change the state of affairs simply by being spoken. Saying something creates a change. Examples include:

- Judicial Rulings: "I hereby pronounce you guilty."
- Weddings: "I now pronounce you husband and wife."

In legal settings, declaratives are crucial in judgments or rulings where declarations alter legal statuses.

Speech acts are smartly used in court exams, legal docs, and witness statements to influence outcomes and specify duties. Knowing how assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives work helps us understand the intent behind legal language.

3.7 The Importance of Speech Acts in Legal Discourse

Legal utterances are not purely informational but transactional and speech act theory is central to the study of legal discourse. Think about judges who impose sentences, lawyers telling witnesses what to say, and all the promises people make in contracts. These words, just by being uttered, create legal binding obligations (Bhatia, 1993; Trosborg, 1995). These performative speech acts, changing legal status, issuing commands, creating obligations, are at the heart of legal transactions and their effects.

4. Methodology and Data Collection

This study combines quantitative and qualitative ways to investigate implicature and speech acts in courtroom conversations in Erbil. Ongoing observations of legal processes reveal how users of indirect meaning (implicature) and performative speech have been working to meet standards of legal proof. This encompasses everything spoken between judges, attorneys, litigants and witnesses, but it focuses primarily on how implicatures and speech acts such as directive, assertive, commissive, expressive, or declarative affect legal outcomes. This makes possible to accentuate the tension between direct, performative language and indirect, pragmatic manoeuvres in the courtroom.

5. Data Analysis and Discussion

5.1 Analyzing Implicature from Courtroom Observations

The present study examines the implicit messages with special focus on indirect speech in the 8 trials conducted in the court of Erbil. It examines the way in which judges, lawyers, defendants, and witnesses speak with one another. What we observe is that they often speak more than the words they say. For example, witnesses don't always answer directly. Instead, they sidestep queries. The hidden meanings and inferences help lawyers and judges steer the conversations. Sometimes, defendants will make an accusation, as a way to shift some of the blame off of themselves. They signify power dynamics as well as courtroom speaking strategies. Each case is labelled based on who is talking, what type of subtext they are using, what they really mean and the bearing it has on the case.

Observation 1

"پیشتر دەر فەتت پێدرا بۆ قسەکردن."

Judge: *"You were given an opportunity to speak before."*

The judge is deliberately using an implicature — conversational implicature in this case — that perhaps the defendant failed to utter a key point earlier. Without saying it, this suggests the defendant may not be completely truthful.

"وردەکار بیه ناپیوانەکر او هەکان وە لاوەنی."

Lawyer: *"Leave out the non-scaled particulars."*

The lawyer wishes to dismiss the other side, by way of a conventional implicature they are unimportant, or merely reiterating already stated positions. This maintains focus on the key items of their side, while counter-factual arguments seem as a frivolous sidetrack.

"دان بە هەلەکمەم دادەنئیم، بەلام زۆر خێرا رێنماییم دا بە تیمەکەم بۆ چارەسەرکردنی ئەم کێشەیه."

Defendant: *"I admit that errors were made, but I promptly instructed my team to make this right."*

Here, the defendant uses a conversational implicature, admits to the mistakes, but immediately follows with the corrective actions taken to address the problems. It disperses the onus a little while demonstrating he did as he should.

"تەوقەکردنم لەبیرە دوای ئەوەی گەفتوگۆیان لەسەر رێککەوتنی یەکلاکەر موه کرد."

Witness: *"I recall the shaking of hands after they spoke about the settlement agreement."*

The witness remembers a handshake, which was understood agreement between both sides. This conversational implicature based on their actions suggests an understanding between them without going into legal specifics.

"پێم راگەینرا کە هەموو شتێک باشە، بۆیە هیچ هۆکارێکم نەبوو بۆ پرسیارکردن لەو کاتەدا"

Plaintiff: *"I was told everything was fine, so I had no reason at the time to doubt it."*

The plaintiff reasoned that someone else assured him that there was nothing to question. By a conversational implicature the plaintiff shirks some blame, indicating he trusted others to not go back on their promises.

Table 1 (Observation One)

Speaker	Statement	Type of Implicature	Implied Meaning	Impact on the Case
Judge	<i>"You were given an opportunity to speak before."</i>	Conversational	Defendant kept back information	Pressures the defendant to explain his silence and trustworthiness
Lawyer	<i>"Leave out the non-scaled particulars."</i>	Conventional	Opposing points are irrelevant	Focuses on points for their side and dismisses the opposition
Defendant	<i>"I admit that errors were made, but I promptly instructed my team to make this right."</i>	Conversational	Admits fault but shifts some blame	Shows responsibility while passing some blame to the team
Witness	<i>"I recall the shaking of hands after they spoke about the settlement agreement."</i>	Conversational	Handshake suggests agreement	Supports plaintiff's view without being biased
Plaintiff	<i>"I was told everything was fine, so I had no reason at the time to doubt it."</i>	Conversational	Plaintiff trusted others' words	Shifts blame by showing he relied on other' promises

Table 1 shows that participants exercise conversational implicature to manage their own credibility and responsibility. The defendant passes the blame, the witness objectively supports the position of the plaintiff without leading the jury too far off a cliff, and the plaintiff backlinks himself just a bit from the blame by explaining faith in humans. It is about circumventing confession and changing the narrative without ever having to admit anything directly.

Observation 2

"با دودل نه بین."

Judge: *"Let's not dither."*

This is an ideal case in which the judge is signaling (via conversational implicature) that they want to cut the bullshit. The judge encourages more relevant conversation by suggesting that the current talk isn't really doing anybody any good without pointing any fingers.

"چیژ به خشه که ببینیت چیرۆ که که چون گه شه ده کات."

Lawyer: *"Fun to watch the narrative evolve."*

This implicature leads to a suspicion of the witness's statements. While implying discrepancies, it does not take anyone to task, thereby, keeping the tone of the document respectful and professional.

"نه مزانیوه که نهوه رویدابینت"

Defendant: *"I didn't know about it if it did."*

This conversational implicature has a slight hint of ambiguity. It neither flatly denies that the incident occurred, nor does it take any responsibility.

"من له گه ل هه ندیک له زانیاریانه ناشنا نیم..."

Witness: *"I don't know some of this stuff..."*

Now, this response by conversational implicature indicates he cannot remember some of the particulars. This way the dodges contradictions but at the same time provides a bit of useful information.

"کاتیک پنیان گوتم شتییک نهجام بدهم، منیش نهجام ددها — وا بیرم دهکردوهه که گویرایهلی فرمان دهکهم، ههستم نهدهکرد " که مافی نهوه ههینت پرسیار له فرمانهکان بکهه"

Plaintiff: *"When they told me to do something, I did it — I thought I was following orders, did not feel empowered to question orders."*

This conversational implicature hints at he was merely following orders. He tries to make excuses by saying he could not question the instructions.

Table 2 (Observation Two)

Speaker	Statement	Type of Implicature	Implied Meaning	Impact on the Case
Judge	<i>"Let's not dither."</i>	Conventional	Current talk isn't helpful	Redirects focus on important matters without criticizing previous talk
Lawyer	<i>"Fun to watch the narrative evolve."</i>	Conversational	Witness's story has inconsistencies	Casts doubt on opposing case while remaining professional
Defendant	<i>"I didn't know about it if it did."</i>	Conversational	Leaves space for doubt without fully denying	Avoids blame and leaves for uncertainty
Witness	<i>"I don't know some of this stuff."</i>	Conversational	Can't give full testimony due to not being aware	Provides details but protects himself from future conflicts
Plaintiff	<i>"When they told me to do something, I did it — I thought I was following orders, did not feel empowered to question orders."</i>	Conversational	Didn't have power to make independent choices	Shifts blame by showing he followed orders, not making decisions

In table 2, conversational implicatures are employed to discredit the witness and the defendant. The lawyer implicates discrepancies, the defendant denies it all but leaves room for uncertainty. One opens up about how little empowerment she was given and so, places blame on the plaintiff. Here, conversational implicature tells us there are subtler strategies to deal with ambiguity and disagreement).

Observation 3

"تو هه رگیز راستهوخو وه لامي پرسیار هه کت نه دایهوه."

Judge: "You never directly answered the question."

The judge seems to be implying that the witness is evading the question and figuratively uses a conversational implicature. This can create an impression the witness is avoiding areas and cause the jury to doubt his veracity as a witness.

"ئەو ئەو نەبوو که تو پیشتر وتت."

Lawyer: "That's not what you said before."

The lawyer notes that the witness' current testimony is inconsistent with something said earlier, as a conversational implicature. Giving voice to doubts about the witness's reliability without sounding overly harsh.

"وا بیردەگەمەو که پرسیارەگەم بە هەڵە لێکداو متەو."

Defendant: "I think I misinterpreted the question."

Before going any further, notice that the defendant did use a common conversational implicature to say and admit that he may not have fully understood the question he was asked. This enables them to clarify mistakes he made in prior responses without seeming dishonest.

"باوەرم وایە پێم گوترا بوو"

Witness: "I believe I was told that."

An implicature used by the witness suggests uncertainty in the information given. And it makes him less look like a liar because he does not include 100% certainty → because he is not 100% sure of what he remembers.

"ئەوئەندەى بیرم دیت، من ئەوئەى پێم گوترا بوو لەو کاتەدا جێبەجێ کرد."

Plaintiff: "As near as I can remember I did follow what I was told back then."

The plaintiff insists he did what he thought was right in the moment. By saying, as far as I remember, he casts a hint of doubt. This conversational implicature suggests that if there were mistakes, it is not his fault for misunderstanding the order, but rather the fault of ambiguous orders.

Table 3 (Observation Three)

Speaker	Statement	Type of implicature	Implied meaning	Impact on Case
Judge	"You never directly answered the question."	Conversational	defendant is side-stepping or trying to avoid sharing key details.	makes defendant suspicious and less credible, while the judge appears fair.
Lawyer	"That's not what you said before."	Conversational	the witness's statements are not matching up.	undermines witness's reliability without direct accusation
Defendant	"I think I misinterpreted the question."	Conversational	using confusion as an excuse for errors, rather than admitting dishonesty.	provides defendant a way to explain mistakes and avoid looking dishonest.
Witness	"I believe I was told that."	Conversational	witness seems uncertain, relying on others information.	makes witness appear less sure and less credible.
Plaintiff	"As near as I can remember I did follow what I was told back then."	Conversational	suggesting he has a good memory following rules	Strengthens plaintiff's credibility

Table 3 highlights the use of conversational implicature to expose contradiction and evasion. The Judge accuses the defendant of lying, the Lawyer questions the credibility of the Witness. The defendant tries to shift the blame by using confusion. The Plaintiff increases the potential for jurors to give credibility to them, by showcasing the rules they follow. This post is all about managing perceptions of honesty and credibility through subtle signals.

Observation 4

"با جهخت لەسەر ئەو بەگەینمەو که بەر راستی گرنگە."

Judge: "Let's stick with what really matters"

Here, the judge uses a conventional implicature to remind everyone to keep their eye on the ball. In so doing, the judge politely suggests that the recent discussions have strayed just a bit from the intended course, without assigning blame to any party or its representatives.

"پێویست ناکات جارێکی تر وردەکارییە ناخۆشەکان بخوینیتەو."

Lawyer: "No need to rehash the sordid details"

Even the lawyer here employs a conventional implicature note that the other side is retreading just to waste time. It gives the impression that discussing these intricacies is more of a strategy than an actual attack.

"من تهنهئا نهوم كرد كه فهرمانم پيكر ابوو."

Defendant: "I only did what I was told to do."

Through a conversational implicature, the defendant is trying to show that he was just following orders. It makes them appear as someone who wasn't making his own decisions.

"من دلنيا نيم كه بهر استى نهوه روويداوه."

Witness: "I'm not sure if that's what actually happened."

The witness's cautious words using a conversational implicature suggest that he might not remember everything correctly. It's a way of being helpful while avoiding blame if his memory is off.

"كاره كم تهواو كرد وهك نهوهى پيم و تراوه، بهي هيج گوزر انكار بيهك."

Plaintiff's Statement: "I completed my part exactly as I was instructed, without making any changes."

Employing a conversational implicature, the plaintiff wants to make it clear that he followed directions exactly. Implying that if something went wrong, it wasn't his fault since he only did what he was told.

Table 4 (Observation Four)

Speaker	Statement	Type of Implicature	Implied Meaning	Impact on the Case
Judge	"Let us stay focused on what actually matters"	Conventional	Prior discussion lacked relevance	Redirects attention to key issues, pointing out past irrelevance
Lawyer	"Let's not repeat the unnecessary details"	Conventional	Opposing counsel is being repetitive	Frames the other side as wasting time, narrows focus
Defendant	"I only did what I was told to do"	Conversational	Actions were under orders	Shifts responsibility by subordinate role
Witness	"I'm not sure if that's what actually happened"	Conversational	Testimony might not be accurate	Cooperates while limiting liability for inaccuracies
Plaintiff	"I completed my part exactly as I was instructed, without making any changes."	Conversational	Plaintiff followed instructions	Reinforces following of orders, shifting blame to others

In table 4, conversational implicature is utilized to shift the conversation and control attention. Shift in focus by the judge to some relevant matters, conventional implicature by the lawyer to restrict time spent with repeated statements. Conversational implicature is used by the defendant and plaintiff to avoid responsibility.

Observation 5

"نيمه پيشتر نههمان ببستوه؛ تكايه وردهكارى نويمان پييده."

Judge: "We've heard this already; please share new details."

The judge's remark uses a conversational implicature which points out that the testimony repeats what's been said before. It gently suggests that new information is needed without blaming anyone, keeping things neutral and respectful in the courtroom.

"تو له يهكمم ليدوانندا باسى نههمت نهكردوه، وايه؟"

Lawyer: "You didn't bring this up in your first statement, right?"

The lawyer softly nudges the witness through the use of a conversational implicature, hinting that there might be differences in what was said earlier and now.

"پيم وانه بوو نهو كاته گرنه بيهت"

Defendant: "I didn't think it mattered at the time."

The defendant employs a conversational implicature to explain the missing details, saying he didn't think those points were important back then, trying to show he wasn't hiding anything.

"فهرمانم پيذرا كه بيدهنگ به مهگهر داوام لنيكرت قسه بكمم."

Witness: "I was told not to speak unless asked."

The witness uses a conversational implicature and replies carefully, indicating that he was told by others to limit the details he shared.

"باوهرم و ابوو همموو نهو شتانهى كه له سهره تادا بلاوم كردوه بهسه مهگهر كهسيك داواى زانيارى زياتر بكات."

Plaintiff: "I thought everything I shared at the start was enough unless asked for more."

This response uses a conversational implicature which explains why the plaintiff didn't add more details earlier. He felt he had given enough information and was waiting for further questions if needed.

Table 5 (Observation Five)

Speaker	Statement	Type of Implicature	Implied Meaning	Impact on the Case
Judge	"We've heard this already; please share new details."	Conversational	Repetitive testimony	Respectfully encourages witness to present new, relevant information.
Lawyer	"You didn't bring this up in your first statement, right?"	Conversational	Possible inconsistency	Raises doubts about witness's reliability through contradictions
Defendant	"I didn't think it mattered at the time."	Conversational	Omission wasn't intentional	Suggests missing details were an honest oversight.
Witness	"I was told not to speak unless asked."	Conversational	Information is being controlled	Implies the instructions limited what was revealed.
Plaintiff	"I thought everything I shared at the start was enough unless asked for more."	Conversational	Belief in the sufficiency of initial info	Indicates no malice in withholding, shifts responsibility

Table 5 illustrates statements from participants in a case but, each bearing a hidden meaning (conversational implicature) affecting the outcome of the case. As the judge welcomes fresh, pertinent details, the attorney questions the witness's credibility. The defendant excuses its omission as a mistake, the witness claims they were limited in what they could say, and the plaintiff deflects, saying his initial statement was enough.

Observation 6

"بەلگەنامەکان ئەرە نیشان نادن."

Judge: "That's not what the documents suggest."

Here, the judge used a conversational implicature and spoke casually to highlight the differences between the documents and what was said. Without directly calling the defendant a liar, the judge pointed to the official records. This helped the judge stay neutral while still casting doubt on the defendant's story.

"بۆچی ئەرە تەنها دوای پێشکەشکردنی بەلگەکان خرایەر وو؟"

Lawyer: "Why was that only mentioned after the evidence was submitted?"

The lawyer's pointed question through a conversational implicature suggested that the defendant brought up the point only after the evidence was already in, hinting that the statement might have been planned.

"من تا ئەرە ساتە لە گەرنگێهەکی تێنەگەیشتم."

Defendant: "I didn't realize it was important until now."

The defendant claimed they didn't think the detail mattered before. Using a conversational implicature which implies it was just a simple oversight, not a deceptive move.

"من تەنها دەزانم ئەرە کاتە چیم پێ راگەینراوه."

Witness: "I only know what I was told at the time."

The witness uses a conversational implicature and explained that his knowledge was based on what he was told at the time, making it clear he wasn't responsible for verifying the information's accuracy.

"هەر کە شتێکی گەرنگم دۆزیهوه ههموو وردهکار یههکانم بلاو کردهوه."

Plaintiff: "I provided all the information as soon as I found out anything relevant."

The plaintiff said he shared all important details as soon as he found out. Through the use of a conversational implicature the plaintiff tries to show he was being diligent and straightforward.

Table 6 (Observation Six)

Speaker	Statement	Implicature	Implied Meaning	Impact on the Case
Judge	"That's not what the documents suggest."	Conversational	Official papers do not match the defendant's story	Makes defendant seem less truthful
Lawyer	"Why was that only mentioned after the evidence was submitted.?"	Conversational	Timing of the statement seems planned	Implies the defendant changed the story to fit the evidence
Defendant	"I didn't realize it was important until now."	Conversational	Mistake was not intentional	Suggests reason for late mention, albeit not a strong one
Witness	"I only know what I was told at the time."	Conversational	Information is secondhand	Reduces witness's responsibility for accuracy
Plaintiff	"I provided all the information as soon as I found out anything relevant."	Conversational	Shared info immediately	Indicates plaintiff was thorough and honest

Table 6 shows that the judge is saying the defendant is not credible because he told a different story than what records indicate. Extorting and promoting a false story that the defendant modified it to match the evidence. The defendant refers to late mention as unintentional. The witness takes responsibility off the accuracy; he heard it secondhand. The plaintiff is effectively saying, he never actually lied — he began sharing information as soon as they found out.

Observation 7

"ئەمە بەكەم جار نىبە كە بابەتتىكى لەو شىئوھىە بەرز دەكرتتەوہ"

Judge: "This is not the first time something like this has been brought up."

Using a conversational implicature, the judge suggests that the defendant has had similar problems before without directly stating it. This makes us question if the defendant is trustworthy.

"ئىستنا ئەم وردەكارىت بىر كەوتتەوہ؟"

Lawyer: "So you only remembered this detail now?"

The lawyer's question through a conversational implicature seems skeptical, challenging the timing of the defendant's memory.

"پىم وانە بوو گرنىگ بىت تا ئەو كاتەى پرسىارت لىكردم."

Defendant: "It didn't seem important until you asked about it."

The defendant uses a conversational implicature and tries to explain that he didn't think the detail mattered until someone else pointed it out, making it look like an innocent mistake rather than something done on purpose.

"من ھەمىشە راستگووانە رەفتارم كردووہ و ھەرشىتتىكى گرنىگ بووبى كىشەكانم خستوتتەرووہ."

Plaintiff: "I have always acted in good faith and brought up issues as soon as they seemed relevant."

The plaintiff insists he has always been honest and quick to mention problems when he noticed them. The use of conversational implicature implies that any delays were not intentional but occurred because the issues didn't seem important right away.

"من ھىچ زانىار بىھەم لەو بار ھىوہ نىہ."

Witness: "I wouldn't know anything about that."

Through a conversational implicature, the witness shows he has no knowledge about the matter in question, clearly marking the limits of what he knows.

Table 7 (Observation Seven)

Speaker	Statement	Type of Implicature	Implied Meaning	Impact on the Case
Judge	"This is not the first time something like this has been brought up."	Conversational	Defendant has a history of similar issues	Suggests a pattern of bad behavior without saying it outright
Lawyer	"So, you only remembered this detail now?"	Conversational	Testimony is suspiciously timed	Implies witness might be lying or changing the story
Defendant	"It didn't seem important until you asked about it."	Conversational	Omission was a reasonable judgment call	Offers innocent reason for the late disclosure
Plaintiff	"I have always acted in good faith and brought up issues as soon as they seemed relevant."	Conversational	Plaintiff is honest and diligent in raising concerns	Shows plaintiff as trustworthy, countering claims of negligence
Witness	"I wouldn't know anything about that."	Conversational	Complete lack of relevant knowledge	Defines what they do not know about

In table 7, all participants used conversational implicature. The judge for instance, implies that the defendant has dealt with such second problems before and a pattern of bad behavior. The lawyer

questions the timing of the witness's testimony, hinting at dishonesty. Defendant gives reasonable story why the information was disclosed so late, claiming it is purely an innocent judgment call. The plaintiff states that he was honest -- creating a narrative that he is the one to trust. The witness explains that they do not know enough to be responsible for the matter.

Observation 8

"ئىمه لىره نىن بو پىشبينىكردن. تكايه پابهند بن به راستيهكان."

Judge: *"We are not here to speculate; please stick to the facts."*

The judge wanted everyone to focus on real evidence instead of guessing. Using a conventional implicature, the judge kept control without pointing fingers at anyone directly.

"ئەر بهشه پىشتر باس نهكرابوو، وايه؟"

Lawyer: *"That part wasn't mentioned before, was it?"*

This quick question suggested that the witness might have been inconsistent. The lawyer used a conversational implicature to indicate that something might not add up without saying it outright.

"دهبى زووتر لهبيرم كردبوويت."

Defendant: *"It must have slipped my mind earlier."*

This defendant's conversational implicature made it sound like he simply forgot to mention something. It was framed as just a harmless mistake.

"چاوه رى دنياى بهشهكانى تر بووم پىش نهوهى راپورت بدهم."

Plaintiff: *"I was waiting for confirmation from other departments before reporting."*

The plaintiff used a conversational implicature explaining that any delay by saying he was waiting for approvals. This made it seem like there was no bad intent or neglect.

"ناتوانم بهتهواى دنياى بم، بهلام وازانم نهوه روويداوه."

Witness: *"I can't be 100% sure, but I believe that's what happened."*

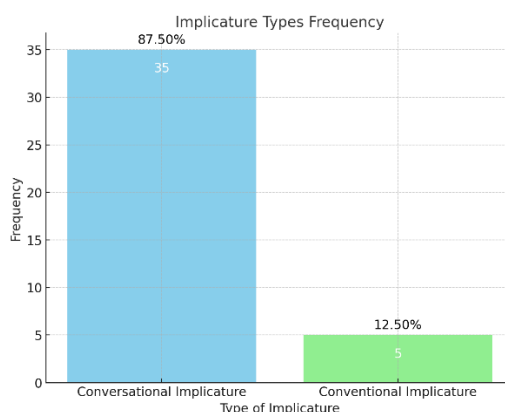
The witness's careful response through a conversational implicature showed he wanted to help but was also honest about not being completely sure.

Table 8 (Observation Eight)

Speaker	Statement	Type of Implicature	Implied Meaning	Impact on the Case
Judge	<i>"We are not here to speculate; please stick to the facts"</i>	Conventional	Previous testimony had unsupported claims	Redirects focus to verifiable details while upholding courtroom decorum
Lawyer	<i>"That part wasn't mentioned before, was it?"</i>	Conversational	Witness testimony lacks consistency	Casts doubt on witness's reliability through implied contradiction
Defendant	<i>"It must have slipped my mind earlier."</i>	Conversational	A memory lapse accounts for the omission	Offers an innocent rationale for gaps in statements
Plaintiff	<i>"I was waiting for confirmation from other departments before reporting."</i>	Conversational	Delay in reporting was due to needing approvals	Defends delay and lessens perceptions of negligence
Witness	<i>"I can't be 100% sure, but I believe that's what happened."</i>	Conversational	Testimony acknowledges reasonable doubt	Facilitates participation while reducing personal accountability

Table 8 shows that the judge through a conventional implicature steps away from speculation and uses facts. The lawyer used a conversational implicature to put the witness to the test with his inconsistencies of the testimony, creating clouds of doubt. When it comes to failing to mention something, the defendant cites a lapse of memory — a white lie, really. When approvals are the cause of this delay in reporting, it aids in reducing the perception of negligence by the plaintiff. It lessens personal responsibility, in the case of the witness, prevents an airtight case.

Figure 1: Implicature Types Frequency



The bar chart highlights how often various types of implicatures crop up in court conversations. Conversational implicature is the most frequent type of implicature used in the courtrooms of Erbil, appearing 35 times and 87.50% of the overall uses. In contrast, conventional implicature is used only 5 times accounting for 12.50% of the whole. This enormous contrast points to how frequently conversational implicature is deployed in the courtroom. It does require that people rely heavily on playing things out in the environment. They're forced to pick up clues and read between the lines instead of just saying stuff out loud. Which brings us back to our earlier inquiry about how mild hints function within legal negotiations. In the relatively high-stakes arena of courtrooms, tone and context employed to send messages also reining in discussions and perceptions of cases. It allows people to just slip in important context that is otherwise required to have in legal matters by keeping things a little more indirect than super on the nose. This is proof of how essential it is to catch these subtexts as they come during trial because these subtle cues can massively sway the outcome of a case. So not only could this make legal conversations more nuanced and complex. But that can also be a double-edged sword because it is often misunderstood. Accordingly, noticing these small cues becomes essential to maximize courtroom discussions for the sake of efficiency, equity and brevity, particularly in the pluralistic courts, here, in Erbil.

5.2 Analyzing Speech Acts from Courtroom Observations

In this section, we focus on eight court trails in Erbil. It is to interpret court premises where people communicate intentionally as Searle had in mind. It examines the ways judges, lawyers, defendants, plaintiffs, and witnesses communicate to influence decisions. We analyze these talks by examining who is speaking, the type of talk, and their objective. This illustrates how a person states facts (e.g., Something true), commands (e.g., To do something), promises (e.g., Something in the future), expresses feelings (e.g., Their states), and legal (e.g., legal) options (A formal statement that affects the law) under the guidelines of the court.

Observation 1

"پڻويسته وه لامي پرسيار هكه بدهيته وه."

Judge: "You are going to answer the question."

The judge's directive act directed the witness to answer directly. A direct approach clears up the confusion and avoids the witness to beat around the bush.

"گريهسته هكه له 15 ي مانگ پڻشيل كرا."

Plaintiff: "The contract was breached on the 15th."

In the case at hand, the plaintiff by way of a speech act makes a statement and conveys that the contract was breached on March 15. It is a crystal-clear statement and a face-saving device that demonstrates the facts without any sentiment.

"سهرنج بدهن چون شايبه تحاله كه خوي له پهيو مندي چاو دور دمخاته وه."

Lawyer: "Note how the witness avoids eye contact."

The lawyer uses an expressive speech act to mention that the witness is not looking anyone in the eye. By saying this, the lawyer suggests the witness might not be telling the truth and makes people doubt the witness's honesty.

"سویند ده خۆم هەرگیز بهو مەرجانە رازی نەببووم."

Defendant: "I swear I never approved those terms."

The defendant uses a commissive speech act and insists that he never agreed to the contract terms. By swearing, he stresses his honesty and firmly denies any blame.

Table 9 (Observation One)

Speaker	Statement	Speech Act Type	Strategic Function
Judge	"You are going to answer the question."	Directive	Controls testimony; shows authority
Plaintiff	"The contract was breached on the 15 th ."	Assertive	Points to a specific fact
Lawyer	"Note the eye contact."	Expressive	Casts doubt on witness credibility
Defendant	"I swear I never approved."	Commissive	Denies responsibility firmly

In terms of speech acts, table 9 shows that directive speech act is used to control and guidance of the participants within the conversations. Directives play an important role in keeping things on track to focus on the relevant information during a trial. There are also assertives, and commissives that back up statements and promises, and expressives to implicitly handle emotional rumblings. The first set, which is made up almost entirely of directives, helps ensure order and authority in the courtroom.

Observation 2

"ئەم جۆرە پرسیارکردنە پەيوەندی بەو بابەتەوه نایە."

Judge: "This line of questioning is irrelevant."

Through a declarative speech act, the judge quickly stops certain topics, using his power to keep the conversation focused.

"ئێمە داواى قەرەبوو دەکەین."

Plaintiff: "We demand restitution."

Using a directive speech act, the plaintiff speaks up strongly, clearly stating he wants to be compensated for his issues.

"پەيامەكەى تۆمەتبارەكە ئەوه پشتراست دەكاتەوه."

Lawyer: "The defendant's message confirms this."

The lawyer uses an assertive speech act to highlight how the defendant's words support his argument, making it hard for the other side to disagree.

"من پەشیمانم لە تێوهگەلانم."

Witness: "I regret my involvement."

The witness shows regret through an expressive speech act for being part of the issue, hoping for some sympathy without fully admitting guilt.

Table 10 (Observation Two)

Speaker	Statement	Speech Act Type	Strategic Function
Judge	"Irrelevant questioning."	Declarative	Stops off-topic talk
Plaintiff	"We demand restitution."	Directive	Claims a right for compensation
Lawyer	"The message confirms this."	Assertive	Uses defendant's statement as evidence
Witness	"I regret my involvement."	Expressive	Shows sorrow without taking

Table 10 shows that the judge produces a declarative to halt the irrelevant question, as well as the plaintiff producing a directive claim request. The lawyer believes there is evidence based on what the defendant said, and the witness feels bad, without taking any responsibility for what they did.

Observation 3

"دادگا پڼوېستی به زانیاری زیاتر همیه سهارهت بهم بابته."

Judge: *"The court needs more details on this issue."*

This directive speech act by the judge is really pushing for an explanation by asking for more information. It shows he is in charge and hints there might be consequences if no one speaks up. It keeps the control but still feels fair.

"نهم کاره ساخته زیانی دارایی ناشکرای لیکهوتوه."

Plaintiff: *"This false action caused clear financial harm."*

Through an expressive speech act, the plaintiff explains the situation while accusing the defendant of doing something wrong. It implies the defendant knew what he was doing, shaping how the jury sees the case.

"نایا شایهتالکه وازوی کرد چونکه هستیان به زورملی کرد؟"

Lawyer: *"Did the witness sign because they felt pressured?"*

This directive question suggests that the witness was forced into signing. The witness now has to either agree with this idea or risk looking untruthful.

"ههستم کرد هیچ چارهیهکی ترم نییه جگه له رازیوون."

Witness: *"I felt I had no choice but to agree."*

The witness uses an expressive speech act to share her feelings here, supporting the claim that she was pressured. Using "felt" helps soften the statement without making a direct accusation.

Table 11 (Observation Three)

Speaker	Statement	Speech Act Type	Strategic Function
Judge	<i>"The court needs more details on this issue."</i>	Directive	Strongly asks for an explanation
Plaintiff	<i>"This false action caused clear financial harm."</i>	Expressive	Explains facts, gives judgment
Lawyer	<i>"Did the witness sign because they felt pressured?"</i>	Directive	Guides the witness's story
Witness	<i>"I felt I had no choice but to agree."</i>	Expressive	Shares feelings, supports pressure claim

Even in this table, the judge is using a directive to ask for more information. The plaintiff articulates the facts and judgment of monetary damage from a fraudulent act. The lawyer leads the witness on their journey: did they feel pressured to sign? The witness expresses their feelings, corroborating the argument of coercion.

Observation 4

"ههلو مشاندنوه قبول کرا. نهدامانی دادگهری لیدوانی کوتای پشنگوی دمخن."

Judge: *"Objection sustained. The jury will disregard the last statement."*

The judge used a declarative speech act to make a decision give a direct order. By throwing out some evidence and instructing the jury to ignore it, the judge is making sure everything stays fair and stops anything that might sway the verdict.

"نهم لیسته بنوسه وهک بهلگه - مههستی ساختهکاری نیشان ددهت."

Plaintiff: *"Enter this invoice into evidence - it proves fraudulent intent."*

Through a directive speech act, the plaintiff wants the invoice added to the evidence. He believes, this document is important because it shows someone was trying to commit fraud, and this can influence what the jury thinks about the case.

"بهرواری بهلگه نامهکه ناگونجیت لهگمل نهوهی که تومهتیارکه وتوویهتی."

Lawyer: *"The document's date contradicts the defendant's testimony."*

The lawyer employs an assertive speech act to point out that the date on the document doesn't match what the defendant said. This suggests that the defendant might not be truthful.

"جیاوازیهکه روون دهکه مهوه نهگه همدنیک کاتم پبیدن."

Defendant: *"I'll explain the discrepancy if given time."*

The defendant uses a commissive speech act to ask for more time, promising to clear up the

confusion later. This gives him extra time and shows he is willing to address the issues, setting up for a better defense.

Table 12 (Observation Four)

Speaker	Statement	Speech Act Type	Strategic Function
Judge	"Objection sustained. Jury will disregard."	Declarative	Removes evidence; instructs the jury
Plaintiff	"Enter this invoice - it proves fraud."	Directive	Requests evidence; shows intention
Lawyer	"The date contradicts testimony."	Assertive	Questions the defendant's truthfulness
Defendant	"I'll explain the discrepancy later."	Commissive	Delays response; promises future clarification

As table 12 shows, the judge excludes evidence and tells the jury to ignore it. The plaintiff here asks for documentation to show that there is fraud going on. The lawyer contrasts the defendant's statement with the actual facts to show that he's lying. The accused promises to elaborate on the discrepancy at a later date, promising explanation soon.

Observation 5

"ئەم دواخستنه كاتى دادگا بەفېرۆ دەدات."

Judge: "This delay is wasting the court's time."

The judge uses an expressive speech act, urging everyone to speed things up without making it official.

"ئەگەر ئەم بەلگەگە رېگە پېنەدریت داواى پېداچوونەوه دەكەین."

Plaintiff: "We'll appeal if this evidence is excluded."

Through a commissive speech act, the plaintiff issues a mix of a threat and a promise, pushing the court to understand he will appeal if the evidence is thrown out.

"ئەم بەلگەدانە پېچەوانەى ياساىە."

Lawyer: "This testimony violates the rule."

The lawyer used a declarative speech act and firmly points out the legal rules to argue that the testimony should not be allowed.

"راستگۆبم، وشەكانم بەتەواوى لەبیرنەماوه."

Witness: "Honestly, I don't recall the exact words."

The witness uses an expressive speech act to sound truthful by admitting he can't remember the exact words.

Table 13 (Observation Five)

Speaker	Statement	Speech Act Type	Strategic Function
Judge	"This delay is wasting the court's time."	Expressive	Shows impatience - urges things to move faster
Plaintiff	"We'll appeal if this is excluded."	Commissive	Warns of further action - stresses the importance of the evidence
Lawyer	"This violates the rule."	Declarative	Points to legal rules - argues for excluding testimony
Witness	"Honestly, I don't recall."	Expressive	Tries to seem truthful - admits forgetting

In table 13, the judge is impatient and pushes for a faster case. Plaintiff pledges to appeal if evidence is thrown out, says it's crucial. The attorney sites a statute and requests for testimony to be excluded. The witness literally says, no, I forgot.

Observation 6

"ئەم بەلگەدانە پەيوەندیداره (بە بابەتەكە)، بەردەوامبە."

Judge: "This testimony is relevant - go ahead."

The judge's declarative speech act shows the evidence matters. It shuts down any arguments against it and shows who's in charge in the courtroom.

"داواى قهرهيووى دهستهجي بو ئهم زيانانه بکه."

Plaintiff: "Order immediate compensation for these damages."

This directive speech act is both firm and clear. Saying "Order" pushes the judge to act quickly.

"بيدهنگى تۆمهتبار که مانايهكى زۆر دهگهيهنيت."

Lawyer: "The defendant's silence speaks volumes."

Here, the expressive speech act hints that the defendant's quietness suggests guilt. The lawyer is accusing without pointing it out directly.

"تا رۆژى يهکشه ممه بهلگه نامه کان دهگهيهنم."

Defendant: "I'll provide the paperwork by Sunday."

Through a commissive speech act, the defendant promises to submit other documents by Sunday. This sets a clear deadline, trying to build trust while gaining some time to prepare.

Table 14 (Observation Six)

Speaker	Statement	Speech Act Type	Strategic Function
Judge	"This testimony is relevant - go ahead."	Declarative	Approves evidence, dismisses arguments
Plaintiff	"Order immediate compensation."	Directive	Requests quick remedy for damages
Lawyer	"The silence speaks volumes."	Expressive	Hints at guilt from silence
Defendant	"I'll provide the paperwork by Sunday."	Commissive	Solid promise, buys preparation time

Table 14 shows that the judge approves the evidence and dismiss arguments using a declarative sentence. Because the plaintiff is filing a request for immediate damages, they use a remit. The lawyer uses a phrase that implies guilt through a failure to speak. Defendant agrees to bring us paperwork by Sunday, which buys time for preparation, is a commissive promise.

Observation 7

"شايهت حاله که له هۆلى دادگا دهچيته دهر مه."

Judge: "The witness will leave the courtroom."

The judge used a directive speech act and asked the witness to step out, showing who's in charge while sticking to the rules. This helps keep everything on track and stops any influence on the case.

"ئهم تۆماره دار اياته ساختهن - نهمه بهلگه ي دادوهر بيه."

Plaintiff: "These financial records are falsified - here's the forensic proof."

Through the use of a directive speech act, the plaintiff said there was fraud and showed evidence to back it up, asking the court to check out this vital information.

"تۆمهته بي بنهماکان ناوبانگى بریکاره کهم له که دار دهکن."

Lawyer: "My client's reputation is being destroyed by these baseless claims."

The lawyer employed an expressive speech act to point out how the charges are hurting his client, questioning if the accusations are even true.

"سویند دهخۆم، من بي تاوانم."

Defendant: "I swear I'm innocent."

The defendant used a commissive speech act and made a firm statement declaring their innocence, mixing a promise with a heartfelt plea for honesty.

Table 15 (Observation Seven)

Speaker	Statement	Speech Act Type	Strategic Function
Judge	"The witness will leave the courtroom."	Directive	Manages testimony flow according to rules
Plaintiff	"These records are falsified - here's the forensic proof."	Directive	Claims there's fraud and shows the proof
Lawyer	"My client's reputation is being destroyed."	Expressive	Uses emotions to challenge the claims
Defendant	"I swear I'm innocent."	Commissive	Vows innocence with a heartfelt promise

From table 15, we see that the judge used a directive speech act to control the flow of testimony according to the rules. Next, the plaintiff will assert fraud through a mandate and provide forensic evidence. This lawyer makes use of an expressive statement that is a direct challenge to the accusations. The accused has made a vow of innocence (commissive), pledging fidelity to the truth.

Observation 8

"نەم جۆرە پرسیارکردنە نزیک دەبیتەوه له رهفتاری نائەخلاقى."

Judge: "This line of questioning is bordering on unethical."

Through the use of an expressive speech act, the judge is giving a heads-up and showing disapproval. He points out the lawyer's questionable approach and hints at possible consequences if it continues without making it official.

"نەگەر ههفتهى داهااتوو قەرهبووى ئەواو دايبين بکړیت، کەیسەکه رەت دەکەینەوه."

Plaintiff: "We will drop the case if full damages are paid by next week."

The plaintiff uses a commissive speech act, saying he'll end the case if he gets the full payment by next week. This is a clear settlement offer with a deadline that pressures the other party to decide fast.

"نەمه پینشیلکردنى یاساکانه."

Lawyer: "This violates the rules."

Using a declarative speech act the lawyer points out that something isn't following the rules, challenging the other side's actions.

"پێویستم بە هەندیک پروونکردنەوه هەیه پینش ئەوهى وهلامى ئەوه بدەمەوه."

Witness: "I need some clarification before I answer that."

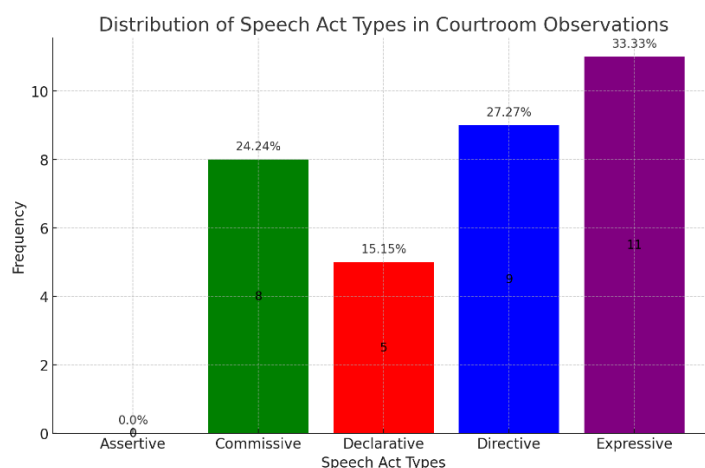
The witness uses a directive speech act to ask for more details before responding. This tactic buys him some time to think about his answer.

Table 16 (Observation Eight)

Speaker	Statement	Speech Act Type	Strategic Function
Judge	"Borderline unethical questioning."	Expressive	Shows disapproval and gives a warning.
Plaintiff	"We'll withdraw if paid by Friday."	Commissive	Offers a settlement under time pressure.
Lawyer	"This violates the rules."	Declarative	Demands adherence to procedure.
Witness	"I need some clarification first."	Directive	Delays the response and signals uncertainty.

In this table the judge disapproves and warns with an expressive speech act. Under time pressure, the plaintiff makes a commissive settlement offer. The lawyer uses a declarative speech act to remind his audience to follow the law. The witness uses a command (directive) to stall their answer, suggesting indecision.

Figure 2: Distribution of Speech Act Types in Courtroom Observations



The bar chart depicts the frequency of each type of speech acts that occurred in the courtroom talks. The frequency of speech acts is 33.33% expressive speech acts and is predominant among lawyers and defendants. It indicates that a court superior where emotions are often displayed informs the perception of events. Expressive speech acts do more than convey feelings they help create arguments, inserting personal or evaluative responses to the case This insight answers the first research question by highlighting the role of emotions in court discussions in Erbil. The frequency of directive speech acts is 27.27% which are primarily used by judges and plaintiffs to issue orders, seek clarification, or guide the conversation. That's just an illustration of the extent to which one person speaking in court can wield some power. These steering conversations help keep all on track, roles are assigned, and an explanation of what you can learn being aware of these actions to leverage law conversations around. Directives help to keep things above board and straightforward for all involved. Commissive accounts for 24.24%. Defendants and plaintiffs usually make pledges, warnings, or future conversations through commissive speech acts. They serve to build trust and sway decisions, demonstrate commitment to some behaviors or outcome, etc. Such commitments illustrate the extent to which court outcomes are influenced by language, and the importance language plays in case determinations. Declarative speech acts take up 15.15%. This category of announcements is a tool for judges and lawyers to announce a change in procedure or to establish a fact in court. They maintain power hierarchies, maintain authority, and keep decisions. Assertive statements, however, are extremely rare, 0.00%. That means bold assertions are rarely if ever heard at the negotiating table in Erbil, where a more tactical tone tends to reign. To summarize, this pattern demonstrates that the nature of courtroom conversation in Erbil is highly purposeful, with participants framing speech acts to persuade, challenge, and guide conversation rather than simply exchange information. The careful choice of words results in better communication in legal environments.

6. Conclusion

From the study carried out, it can be concluded that Indirect communication is a very important component in Erbil's courtrooms. Legal chats don't give blatant statements but rather subtle clues. These are picked up by participants through context and knowledge of the circumstances, which delimit the interpretation of cases and the nature of proceedings in the courtroom. Lawyers and defendants employ colorful diction to express feelings and viewpoints to bolster their arguments. Similarly, judges and plaintiffs use explicit commands to maintain order and understanding, ensuring fairness. Commissive speech acts (promising and reassuring), create trust and can change the outcome of judicial processes. A declaration indicates alterations and also a declaration, indicating the muscle mass of the courtroom. Courtroom exchanges are so unimaginative — more about strategy than the facts — that straightforward talk is actually rare. Only through understanding these complex linguistic practices can legal discourse be made more transparent, equitable and efficacious.

7. Recommendations

The following avenues for future research are suggested:

1. Future studies could involve a larger number of courtrooms across different regions of Iraq.
2. Investigate the interplay between verbal pragmatic strategies and non-verbal cues.
3. Conduct empirical studies focused specifically on how the pragmatic features identified.
4. Research the effectiveness of pragmatic awareness training programs for legal professionals to assess whether such interventions improve courtroom communication and fairness.

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