CHAPTER 4
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4.2.1 Summary of the novel

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CHAPTER 4
Speech Act Analysis of : Burial at Sea, Sunset Club

4.1 Speech Act Analysis of : Burial at Sea

4.1.2 Summary of the novel : Burial at Sea

Jai Bhagwan, is the son of Krishan Lal Mattoo. He also had three sisters. Mr.Matto, a lawyer, has a big spacious house in Delhi, called ‘Shanti Bhavan’. Mattoo appointed a 35 yrs old British woman, Valerie Bottomley, as her nanny. She taught the children the use of fork, knife and spoon. Mr.Matto finds a companion in Valerie and develops relationship with her. Victor completes his college and return to India. Now Victor wanted to make India big globally. To achieve this, it was necessary to establish lots of industries in India. He set up Jai Bhagwan Textiles, a textile factory in a place near Yamuna River. He then started textile industry in many parts of India. He also started industries, which produced sugar, chemicals, cements, bicycles, ships etc. Due to all these industries, he became rich. To handle all this, he appoints his London friend Mr. Nair as general manager of his industries .Victor gets married to a simple girl chosen by her mother, Jayshree Raina.. Ten months after the marriage, Jaishree delivered a baby girl. But unfortunately, Jaishree died after giving the girl birth. Victor’s mother named the girl Bharati. Victor then bought a yacht from Europe and named it ‘Jal Bharati’ after her daughter. Victor liked to stay and relax in ‘Jal Bharati’.

Bharti grows up like princess ... and soon joins her father’s hand in day to day business. Mr. Nair is not very happy with Bharti’s interference. Victor
receives a mild chest pain one fine morning and he decides to take rest in countryside. He moves to his Rishikesh house for rest. There he meets Ma Durgeshwari and develops illicit relationships with her. He finds ultimate happiness in her company. Later on he invites Durgeshwari to his Delhi home and they continue with relationship. Mr. Nair object all this nonsense and Bharati’s behaviour. In return Victor asks him to leave the company. There is strike in one of his industry and while solving that problem ... Victor slaps its leader for his nonsense talk. After this incident Durgesh reveals that she is pregnant with Victors kid,, and she should leave the place and leave in isolation for everybody’s benefit. Bharti feels happy for her father and pardons Durgesh because she has given happiness to her father. Mr.Nair loses his social image and everything because his parliamentarian friends declare him as Namak Haram. At last Victor decides to leave Jai Bhagwan , tower and spend days on Jal Bharti. But someone in the crowd shoots him and kills him.

The primary source for the studying speech acts are selected utterances from the novel. The selected utterances and carefully examined and studied in a context. For better understanding speech situation of the utterances is discussed at the beginning as follows:

4.1.3 Analysis of selected speech acts

Speech Situation:

When Mahatma Gandhi visits to Delhi, Mr. Mattoo invites him to his house. Eagerly Mr. Mattoo expresses his thoughts about Anglicizing children. Here we have classic example of expressive act. In order to answer Mr. Mattoo, Gandhi says,
‘I agree. We have to have some Indians who can tell the English when to get out in a language they can understand. But don’t take them so far that they are ashamed of’

Here Mahatma Gandhi, is very clear about his thoughts and his teachings. He warns his concern in a very polite and humble manner to Mr. Mattoo. His expressions are nothing but an example of expressive act. Also in the same context one more speech act is observed that is Directive Speech Act....... ‘......But don’t take them so far that they are ashamed of’

Here Mr. Gandhi beautifully tells Mr. Mattoo about his future course of actions. He clears that feel pride of being an Indian and that is what matters a lot in recent times.

**Speech Situation:**

Mr. Mattoo decides his only son Jai Bhagwan to be enrolled in school. On a business trip to Allahabad, he shares his plan with Mr. Governor. And in response Governor replies in a very happy note. He promises Mr. Mattoo that, he himself will write a letter to school headmaster regarding Victor and his ability. So he says...

‘I shall send across a letter, attach it to the boys form of admission.’

In commissive speech act, speaker commits himself for the future course of actions. In the above utterance Mr. Governor himself commits himself by
writing the letter to the school principal regarding Victor’s admission. In
commissive speech act, speaker commits for something. He commits by
doing a promise or assurance of future course of actions on his part.

Speech situation:

When Mr. Mattoo, wrote to Gandhi about Victor’s admission, Mr. Gandhi
sent him a reply. This reply is nothing but Gandhis love towards Victor. His
words are so expressive that any one can sense his feelings towards Victor.
He says,

“ We must get the best we can out of the English to enable us to fight them
on equal terms. But as I said before, our roots must remain embedded in our
Indian soil”

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This is an absolute example of expressive speech act, where Gandhi
expressed himself full heartedly. His feelings towards Victor are clearly
expressed in this speech. When he says,

“I may be a Mahatma in the eyes of others, I am Bapu Gandhi to him”

Pg.No.14

In both the situations Expressive speech act is observed. Gandhi, for the
entire nation is a mahatma and he himself is aware about the fact. But for
Victor, he has different feelings. For Victor, he is fatherly figure and
Victor is like son. Therefore, he expresses his love towards Victor. In
expressive speech acts, speaker’s inner feelings are presented. Expressive
speech acts are characterized by inner feeling of speaker towards hearer.
At one more instance when Gandhi and Victor meet. During the conversation Gandhi asked him,

“Do you believe in God.”

Victor politely replies,

“I am not sure, I have never seen him.”

Here, assertive speech act is prominently observed. As Victor’s reply is nothing but his answer to Gandhi’s question. Victor confesses that he is not sure about God’s existence as he has not yet seen God. To this Mr. Gandhi replies beautifully. His reply is nothing but expressive speech act where he expresses his feelings,

“If you believe in truth, you believe in God. There is nothing more to be said on this subject.”

Expressive speech act is subjective in nature. It is concerned with the inner feelings of the speaker. Here speakers psychological attitude towards a state of affairs is important.

Speech situation:

At one point in the novel, Victor and Velerie are passing through a road, they were surrounded by peddlers, who are selling dates and chocolates. They were joined by postcard sellers. They start misbehaving with Victor and Velerie. Victor can’t tolerate this and decides to guard her nanny Velerie. But surprisingly Velerie took charge and shouts,
“We don’t want to buy anything, please leave us alone.” rudely she says,

“Buger off”,

“You bugger off.” said a postcard seller.

“One word more and I will smash your teeth in.” shouted victor angrily.

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This is clearly an example of directive speech act. Where Victor and Velerie both directs peddlers to leave them alone or they will meet consequences. Directive speech acts require hearer to do something, which the speaker asks him to do. Under directive speech acts, we can include requests, questions, commands, prohibitions, etc. Here Velerie and Victor prohibit peddlers not to bother them. As a result, peddlers go away from them and leaves them alone. The directive speech acts are characterized by the speakers belief that it is possible to carry out the certain action in the future.

Speech situation:

When victor decides to meet Mahatma Gandhi, then Gandhi calls him for meeting on any day except Tuesday, as it is his day of silence. Victor boards a train to Ahmedabad and meets Gandhi. Gandhi meets him and enquires about his life in Oxford. He says ....

“ I hope you have not taken to drinking. Everyone in the Europe drinks”

Victor replies, “A little now and then... on festive occasion”

“Don’t touch it. Its poison” says Gandhi.

“Yes ..Bapu I will do my best to avoid it...” Victor replies
“You eat meat...that’s also very bad. We must not kill innocent animals to fill our bellies...it is uncivilized” Bapu says.

This is an example of declarative speech act. In declarative speech act, speaker has the authority to perform it. In this context, Bapu who is a father of nation has that authority to guide and prohibit his son from all the sins that exist in this world. Here no one can challenge Mahatma Gandhi’s authority. Also, Victor feels very close to Gandhi, so he also accepts his fatherly guidance and do not object anything that Gandhi said.

Declarative speech acts are executed by the personnel’s in power. Declaratives are special kind of speech acts that entail the occurrence of an action in itself.

To this Victor replies...

“I will try.... but I cant promise”

It clearly states that Victor is ready to accept all guiding thoughts that Bapu has expressed and he decides to follow it at his best.

Speech situation

Victor after getting admitted to university, develops friendship with Nair. A Kerala student. Nair was unlikely like Victor but they hit it off from the very start. Victor liked his tit for tat attitude. Nair on other hand was pleased with Victor’s high opinion of him and saw himself as the intellectual mentor of
the rich young Indian. Nair was a poor eater, it was invariably tomato soup, toast and relays of cups of tea. At one evening Victor asks him…

‘How you manage to survive in this damp, cold climate… is beyond me…’

Nair grinned, ‘The body does not need all the junk you people dump into it morning…noon..and night. It all comes out as smelly shit’

The above utterances are assertive and expressive in nature. Victor’s question about Nair’s appetite is nothing but assertion of a statement. Assertive speech acts are many a times a simple question where speaker intends to know something by asking a simple statement. In assertive speech act speaker asserts a proposition to be true. Assertive speech acts can be expressed using the imperative and interrogative forms as well. It is observed that assertive speech acts not only present the real state of affairs but also they are reliable.

In reply Nair’s remarks are nothing but an expressive speech act. Expressive speech acts are nothing but expressions of a speaker about his attitude or about a state of affairs. In other words they are psychological state of speakers mind in developing such an attitude.

Victors question is very simple and straight forward but Nair’s answer is philosophical in nature and his strong psychology about particular act.

**Speech situation:**

At oxford victor meets a dark thin guy from Kerala, Mr. Nair, with whom he shared a lot of intelligent talk. When Nair encourages him to write, victor at first denies, but later on agrees to write. To convince victor, Nair says,
“You can always start. Write a long love letter of many chapters to India, as if it is your sweetheart.”

Nair says,

“Find it. Instead of yakking away evening after evening, write a page and get it out of your system.”

“Who will publish it?” Victor.

Leave that to me. You write the book. I will get it published, we have free India publications.” Nair says.

This is an example of commissive speech act. Nair is committed to publish it on his own, so he encourages Victor to write. Commissive speech act include variety of speech acts such as promising, refusing, vowing, offering, etc. Commissive speech acts are aimed at the obligation on the part of the speaker to perform a action as stated in the utterance itself. The speaker is committed to the future course of action.

Here Nair is committed himself to get the work published, which is written by Victor for that he assures Victor, to find time, write every day and when the work is done, he will get it published.
Speech Situation

After returning from his studies from foreign, his parents are very much eager to get him married. So, in one year all three Matoo Girls were married and Victor is still to find a girl. In this scenario, Victor’s mother asks,

‘What about you Beta….wont I have a grandson of my son …’

Victor replies , ‘Ma .. I have told you many times …I will marry any girl who you think will make a good daughter in law for you’

Ma … ‘ I have one in mind …she is the daughter of a distant cousin, a Raina. Avery humble gharelu girl. What I like most about her is her humility .if you approve her I will be happy …. If you don’t I will look for another Kashmiri girl…”

Victor replies , ‘ Ma.. if she is the one you like best … I will be happy to make you happy … What is her name ?’

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All above utterances are Assertive , expressive and commusive in nature . Victor’s mothers statements are assertive and expressive in nature. Through her utterances Ma proposes an idea which itself is an expressive in nature. Being a mother she is worried about Victors marriage. She is concerned with his family and rest life. In Indian context marriage is the ultimate happiness of any individual’s life. Ma’s statements are nothing but her motherly love towards his only son. To this Victor’s replies are nothing but commitment towards her mother’s happiness.
Commissives are the speech acts in which speaker commits himself /herself to future course of action by using verbs such as guarantee, pledge, swear, promise etc. They express the intention of the speaker. In using a commissive, the speaker undertakes to make the world fit the word. When Victor replies, his utterances are nothing but a commitment towards the future course of action. By doing Victor ensures that his mother will be happy. So he repeatedly assures his mother that he will marry a girl, if she is her choice. Through this we can clearly sense the commitment Victor has shown to make her mother happy.

**Speech situation:**

Victor buy a new yatch and name it as Jal Bharti. Victor shares that with Mr. Gandhi. Mr. Gandhi gives him prompt reply like,

“Always keep our poor countrymen in mind. Don’t let new acquisition become a rich mam’s ---”

Pg. No.73

Victor was provoked and defends himself. He writes back. In reply once again with a cryptic one ever, Bapu write,

“I look upon you as my own son, I don’t have to say more.”

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This is again an example of commissive speech act, Where Gandhi commits himself towards advising Victor about life. For that he mentions that he look upon Victor as his son. So it’s his duty to commit himself for Victor’s
wellbeing. Also, Bapu make him realize and commit himself towards the poor countrymen to which Victor accepts and defends himself by saying,

“I have given employment to 100000 men and women. I give them free housing and education.”

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Here, Bapu’s commitment is towards countrymen and he asks victor to realize his commitment towards his people. Commissive speech acts are aimed at the obligation on the point of the speaker to perform a certain action as stated in the utterance itself.

**Speech situation:**

Time is moving very fast. India’s freedom fighters won the battle and Britishers decides to make two nations India and Pakistan. This erupted a war on the subcontinent between Hindus and Sikhs on one side and Musalman’s on other side. Victor was very sensitive towards this type of situation. This was not the free India that he dreamt. He was in Delhi, when freedom was declared. Delhi was flooded with refugees who had fled from Pakistan. His father, Mr. Mattoo had employed extra guards and shift the gates of his house to prevent them occupying his garden. He was in a high state of tension and under that state of mind he was directing his guards,

“Keep the British here, we are not fit to rule this country. All this talk of freedom is buk buk ....we are born to be slaves.”

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This is a classic example of directive speech act, as he has the authority to direct his employees and guards.

Directive speech act require the nearer to do something, which the speaker asks him to do. The directive speech acts are characterized by the speaker belief that it is possible to carry out the action. On other words, under directive speech acts we can include request for an action or request for information. So his authority of being a master can fulfill his intentions to carry out a action is fulfilled.

**Speech Situation**

After the death of Victor’s father Mr. Matto, everybody is concerned. Mr. Matto’s personal assistance Ms. Velerie is also under terrible shock. Everybody is offering their condolences to Matto family. During that time period, one day Ms. Velerie spoke to Victor,

‘I expect I won’t be needed around here anymore… I think I should return to England. My parents are in their nineties and I am not getting any younger. But we will keep in touch, won’t we?’

‘Of course’ replied Victor. ‘You have been like a member of the family. You have the use of Albeian Mews flat whenever you are in London. You have a handsome provident fund. And I will always be there if you need anything.’

The atmosphere of Matoo family is very sad and sorrow. After Mr. Matoo’s death, Victor and his family is almost alone. Ms. Velerie who has been with the family from Victor’s childhood days. Ms. Velerie is very
mannered lady, she immediately realizes that her services are no more required to Mattoo family. So she proposes an idea of leaving to Mattoo family. Her utterances are nothing but a proposition of current state of affairs. She asserts the idea to Victor. In reply, Victor offer her thanks and commits himself for future course of action by offering her a flat, financial help and all other things needed for future life of Ms. Velerie. Here Victor’s utterances are commissive in nature. In commissive speech acts, speaker commits himself for future course of action. Victor is aware about Velerie’s services to Mattoo family. Ms. Velerie, is the lady who taught Victor all the etiquettes and mannerism required to live in European countries and above all she was the one who really made Mr. Matto happy throughout his remaining life by fulfilling all his needs starting from Emotional, intellectual as well as physical. So he is deeply concerned about her future life. So immediately he commits himself for Ms. Velerie’s wellbeing for the rest of life. Commissives are the speech acts in which speaker commits himself/herself to future course of action by using verbs such as guarantee, pledge, swear, promise etc. They express the intention of the speaker. In using a commissive, the speaker undertakes to make the world fit the word. When Victor replies, his utterances are nothing but a commitment towards the future course of action. By doing Victor ensures that Ms. Velerie will be happy for the rest of life.

**Speech Situation:**

When Bharati decides to visit Europe, Victor writes to his associates in Europe and make sure that she receives all assistance possible. At that point of time Mr. Nair proposes that he will accompany Bharati. Victor likes the
idea and agrees to let Mr.Nair accompany her. At that particular time, victor advises Bharati. In fact he warns her...

“Mind you, he has a very prickly personality. He picks quarrels with people. You will have to guard yourself against that.”

Bharati replies, “I have not noticed anything prickly about him. He is always charming and courteous towards me.”

Victor says, “Don’t say, I didn’t warn you. I have known him since my days in college. I have always been fond of him, but few others have’

This is classic example of expressive speech act. Here a father is expressing his thoughts towards safety of his only daughter. In expressive speech act subjective nature of the utterance is very important. It is concerned with the inner feelings of speaker. It has the function of expressing or making known the speakers psychological attitude towards a state of affairs. Here Victor being a father is concerned about her daughter’s safety. So he expresses his feelings towards her daughter.

**Speech Situation:**

Victor decides to visit Rishikesh in search of good health and peace of mind. So he decides to spend some time in his lovely home at Rishikesh. There he come to know about Ma Durgeshwari, a sadhvi, a saint. When he asks about her, his caretaker says,

“That is the ashram of Ma Durgeshwari. She is powerful tantric. She was born in cave in Himalayas. She own a tiger called Sheroo. People call her
Sherron wali Maa. For her darshan you have to approach her chief disciple who is an Englishman.”

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Care taker answers to Victor’s question in this fashion and he asserts something which is true in nature. This is an example of assertive speech act, as it states and describes Ma Durgeshwari’s lifestyle and background information that Victor intends to know. Assertive speech acts normally convey information which is true in nature.

Here caretaker conveys the information that Victor is looking for. He tells everything about Ma Durgeshwari through this speech act. Victor intends to know information about Durga by asking a question. Caretaker responds to his question and answers in detail. It is generally believed that assertive speech acts normally convey information.

One day when Victor watches Durgesh taking bath in river along with sheroo, he is amazed. The same day evening Durgesh visits his house. When caretaker informs him about her arrival.... he says,

“Has ...she brought her tiger with her” Victor

“No...Sir... she is alone” ...caretaker

Victor says , “Ok...Let her in”

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In these utterances directive speech acts are observed. Being a owner of the house and empire of Jai Bhagwan Industries , Victor has all the right to direct his employees to behave in a particular way. So he simply orders his
caretaker that if she is not with her tiger then only allows her. In directive speech acts speaker’s intentions any future action in very important. This act also demands that hearer should behave in a particular way as per the direction that he receives. So in this context both the acts are observed.

**Speech Situation**

One day Victor experiences the mild pain in his chest and this makes him realize that he needs some rest from his routine and hectic life. So he decides to go to Haridwar and take rest for few days. So he settles in his home at Haridwar and relaxes himself. One fine day, at the dawn, he watches a beautiful lady with a lion taking bath in the river. He becomes curious and asks about this to home caretaker. Caretaker tells him about the lady as she is a Sadhvi and saint, named as Ma Durgeshwari. Durgeshwari is known for her religious powers and a pet lion, who accompanies her wherever she goes. This makes Victor curious and decides to meet her. Within few days both Victor and Durgeshwari develop their relationship and starts enjoying their physical relationship.

Victor is very happy with his new adventure and he fall in love with Durgeshwari …

Victor, ‘Durgesh, I am in love with you… I can’t live without you anymore….’

Durgesh ignored his school boy confession and replied,

‘You must be half mad as well.. for one you are Brahmin.. I am Kshatriy. We can have sambandh but we cannot become man and woman. For another you must be twenty five years older than me.. And most of all I am
sadhi used to living in Ashram. I can’t change into memsahib doing git-pit in English at your parties. So put marriage out of your mind. It is not meant for me or nor you. I will come to you whenever and wherever you want me."

Here, both the utterances are expressive and commissive in nature. At first instance When Victor confesses his love towards Durgesh, is nothing but his feelings for Durgesh. In expressive speech act, speaker speaks out his true feelings and desires towards particular thing. In expressive speech act speakers intentions and his feelings are at most important. In expressive speech act speaker expresses an attitude about a state of affairs by appreciating, congratulating or confessing. The feelings of the speakers are expressed by these speech acts. Victor’s confession are nothing but his feelings towards Durgesh. In reply to this in the same way but she is not agree with the idea of getting married with Victor. She says it is not possible as both have a different lifestyle. She completely denies the Victor’s proposal but at the same time she commits herself for future course of action and here comes commissive speech acts. In commissive speech acts, speaker commits himself /herself for future course of action. Commissives are the speech acts in which speaker commits himself /herself to future course of action by using verbs such as guarantee, pledge, swear, promise etc. They express the intention of the speaker. In using a commissive, the speaker undertakes to make the world fit the word. When Durgesh replies, her utterances are nothing but a commitment towards the future course of action. By doing this Durgesh ensures that Victor will get her company whenever and wherever required rest of his life. Here Durgesh promises
Victor that whenever and wherever he needs her, she will come and company him but to be a man and woman is not a very good idea. So leave it and enjoy the moment.

**Speech Situation:**

On insistence of Victor, Durgesh decides to visit Victors home in Delhi. At home everybody is eager to meet her. But only Mr. Nair is not happy with her arrival. So he expresses his thought to Victor. He says...

“Victor.. who are these weirdoes, you have got in the family? I am told there is a naked lady who carries spear and rides a tiger. Are you going nuts?”

“May be I am; you meet them and you will also go nuts... You shouldn’t have a closed mind. You have become a black Englishman ..”

Pg. No.114

Here, both the assertions are nothing but feelings of two individuals, who know each other from a long time. These are nothing but expressions of their mindset and ideologies. At first instance Mr. Nair expresses his beliefs and feelings, and strongly object their arrival. Where as in second instance, Victor promptly refuses Nair’s allegations and expresses his feelings and advice Nair to have a open mind. Both these utterances are nothing but their expressions of their beliefs and thoughts. It is subjective in nature and it expresses speaker’s intentions towards particular actions.

In the same context, when Mr. Nair crosses his limits and abuses Bharti. In response Bharti reminds him about his position in the family. She says
“Watch your mouth Mr. Nair. You repeat these words and I will slap you across your beggar's face.... now get out”

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This is nothing but a directive speech act. Bharti, heir of Jai Bhagwan industries can direct and declare anything, she wants. She is the owner of Jai Bhagwan empire. This makes her to exercise her authority and power in any direction. In one sense Bharati is directing the path for Mr. Nair’s future actions. She is directly threatening to Mr. Nair that be in your limits and do not forget that you are an employee and not the owner. She has that authority to tell him to do so.

Speech Situation:

Mr. Nair in the parliament makes allegations against Victor. To which other parliamentary members opposes and declare Mr. Nair as namak haram. Nair stops his allegations and demands who called namak haram to him. Three members says you are a namkharam. To control the situation the speaker of the house stood up and says,

“Namak harram.... is unparliamentarily.. it will not be recorded”

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This is very relevant example of declarative speech acts. Here, speaker of the parliament has the authority to declare something. So he uses the authority and declares that this statement cannot be recorded. His power and position makes him to do so. It is his authority to decide what should be
recorded and what should not be, it is his authority to decide what is parliamentary and what is not parliamentary. So he declares and orders that it is not parliamentary and hence it cannot be recorded.

Declaratives are the speech acts in which the speaker aims to change the world via his utterance. Here, the speaker has special contextual role to perform. Using declarative speech act, the speaker brings a change in the state of affairs.

**Speech Situation:**

When Durgesh decides to leave Victor, Victor becomes emotional. To console him and encourage him for future course of action, Durgesh says,

“Hamhare tumhara beechn sambandh hogi ... bandhan nahi”

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This is nothing but Durgesh’s expression towards Victor. This expressive act is nothing but Durgesh and her inner feelings. Also in the same situation she uses, directive speech act too. She says

“You have been behaving as a husband to a wife. We will always be in the public eye. There can be no freedom for us now. There will be no pleasure. So I must leave ...”

Pg. No.140

So, here future course of action is stated. As in directive speech acts speaker wants hearer to do something. In other words, these speech acts expresses
what the speaker wants from hearer. The speaker’s intentions are almost important in directive speech acts.

4.2 Speech Act Analysis of the novel The Sunset club

4.2.1 Summary of the novel: The Sunset club

Khushwant Singh’s ‘The Sunset Club’ is the tale of three members of the Sunset Club. They know each other from a very long time almost forty years. Pandit Preetam Sharma, Nawab Barkatulla Baig and Sardar Boota Singh, all of they are in their eighties, who meet every day at the sunset hour and sit together on a bench in Lodhi Gardens. They discuss about everything from to entertain themselves and talk about all possible topics starting from personal experiences to politics, religion, love, lust and sex. The sunset club is the novel which talks about three friends and their vivid experiences of life. The book celebrates cyclical nature in all its hues, while chronicling the life of three old friends and a sharp portrayal of a fast changing India.

However, the moment it borders gloominess, Khushwant infuses lighter moments through the lustful details of Sardar Boota Singh, an aging man of easy virtue, who takes great pride in drinking, swearing, philandering and recounting his sexual conquests. Sardar Boota Singh is one big lusty fellow for who even the Bara Gumbad of Lodhi Gardens bears a striking resemblance to a virgin’s breast.

At times, one feels that Sardar Boota Singh is the dummy copy of Khushwant Singh.
However, at the end of the novel, one finds Sardar Boota Singh in the rarest of rare human emotions. One gets struck by pathos when Sardar Boota Singh opens his telephone book and crosses out the name of the now deceased Pandit Preetam Sharma and Nawab Barkatulla Baig with the date, month and year of their passing away and also adds his own date, month and year in the telephone book.

The beauty of this moment is captured in the faith and doubt of Sardar Boota Singh, who finally pulls himself out of despondency and goes to the Lodhi Gardens, occupying the bench all by himself and gazing at the Bara Gumbad, once again resembling to the fully rounded bosom of a young woman. It’s the celebration of beginning and end, where life comes to a full circle.

‘The Sunset Club’ is another frank and honest effort from Khushwant Singh, a tale of life - lived and loved at one’s own terms. ‘The Sunset Club’ may not be the greatest book written by Khushwant Singh, but it definitely celebrates the zest for life.

The primary source for the studying speech acts are selected utterances from the novel. The selected utterances are carefully examined and studied in a context. For better understanding speech situation of the utterances is discussed at the beginning as follows:

4.2.2 Analysis of selected speech acts

Speech Situation:

One fine day, three old friends, Butasingh, Mr. Sharma and Mr. Baig meet at Lodhi gardens and starts discussing about parade. It’s their regular routine
to discuss and entertain themselves. In this scenario, one day they meet and discuss..

Mr. Baig says,

“Did you watch the parade on T.V. I never miss it” Mr. Baig

“Nor do I”...says Sharma... “Grand display... makes you feel proud of being Indian”

“It is the same thing year after year...caroress of rupees down the Yamuna” snarls Butasingh...

Here we can have utterances of different kind. We can observe assertive speech acts as well as expressive speech acts in the same context.

At first Mr. Baig is asking about watching the parade. It is nothing but a simple assertion from Baig’s side. Here he is asking a simple question to his friends that, whether you have watched it or not. In assertive speech acts, something is asked and something is answered. Assertive speech acts are nothing but assertion of something in the form of question, request, command, etc. So, first utterance by Mr. Baig is nothing but assertive speech act. To this Mr. Sharma’s reply is also an example of assertive speech act. Mr. Sharma clearly states his mind and accepts the fact that parade is a grand display and it makes you feel proud of being an Indian. Mr. Sharma’s utterance is his answer to Mr. Baig.

But when Buta Singh replies to this, it becomes an expressive speech act as in expressive speech act something is expressed. Here, speaker expresses an
attitude towards something or about something or he comments about particular state of affairs using verbs such as appreciate, criticize, regret, detest etc.

In other words, it expresses psychological state of mind of the speaker. Here, as a speaker, Butasingh, is very clear about his state of mind. He expresses himself freely through this utterance. His utterances are nothing but his inner feelings about the current state of affairs. Butasingh is very clear about his mind-set. He doesn’t like the idea of parade. Therefore he strongly rejects the idea of parade and declares entire practice as wastage of money and power. So he indirectly objects Mr. Biag and Mr. Sharma for their support to do parade and spend so much money for this.

Speech Situation

One of the three members of Sunset Club is Nawab Barkullah Baig Dehlavi, he is a Sunni Musalman whose Pathan Ancestors settled in Delhi. He lives in a spacious mansion called Baig Manzil. It has many rooms, varndahs, a large garden and staff gardens at the back. One day when Baig is enjoying his daily dose of whiskey and Kabab’s, his wife disturbs her with a gentle question,

‘Khana’

‘Haan’ he replies

Whiskey, soda and tumbler are removed along with the side table. A larger table is brought with a couple of plates on it. Sakina Begum joins him

‘What was the gup-shup about this evening?’ she asks

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‘Not for your ears, Begaum. That Sardar uses language not proper in polite society. Most of it is about his exploits with women.’

‘Chheeh! Chheeh! Why do you talk to him?’

‘He can be quite entertaining. Knows lot of Urdu Poetry’ he replies.

All above utterances are nothing but expressive speech acts in itself. Begum Sakina and Mr. Baig both uses expressive speech acts to convey their inner feelings. When Sakina Begum asks about the discussion at Sunset Club, Mr. Baig says this is not meant for women. Sakina Begum senses what he has to say. So she asks then why do you meet him often. Mr. Baig says he is quite entertaining. Both the speakers are aware about the reality and they convey their concern for each other through their talk. Mr. Baig is fully aware about the fact that he cannot discuss the matter with Sakina as it is not meant for women. Vice-versa Sakina is also aware about the fact that his husband should not meet people who discusses all this things and she clearly expresses her disliking. In expressive speech act, speakers intentions plays a very important role. Speaker’s psychology and his attitude towards something are very important in expressive speech acts. In expressive speech act speakers intentions and his feelings are at most important. In expressive speech act speaker expresses an attitude about a state of affairs by appreciating, congratulating or confessing. The feelings of the speakers are expressed by these speech acts. Here both the speakers convey their inner feeling successfully through expressive speech act.
Speech Situation:

Members of sunset club meet in Lodhi Gardens every day. During those days, situation of the country is not very good. And one day there is news that Ex-President of India is no more. To commemorate his contribution, all public ceremonies were cancelled, during that time all three friends meet. Surprisingly, they observe that lot of visitors and picnickers are present in the Lodhi gardens.

After watching them, Mr. Baig says,

“There is a lot of Raunak in the garden today”

“He has to be...” says Boota, “Venkatraman died the day before yesterday.... So there have to be shok sabhas, condolence meetings. This is as nice a place as any to hold one. Let’s forget Venkatraman, what do you make of the Chandru Mohan-Anurdha affair in Chandigarh. The papers are full.”

Sharma is first to reply,

“Shameful!!! A Brahmin girl from a respectable family marrying a married fellow with two children.”

At first when we think of Mr. Baig comment we can sense that he is trying to say something else indirectly. He expresses his inner feelings in indirect way. When he says there is a lot of raunak today, is nothing but existence of lot of people today. specially beautiful girls and woman. Mr. Baig is smart enough to express himself in this way. While doing this he states his
psychological condition and expresses his sensitivity towards existence of beautiful people around.

To reply this, Mr. Butasingh utters and talks about the real reason behind this crowd. Here he beautifully answers to Mr. Baig. He proposes the idea and gives the reason behind it. In assertive speech act, speaker tries to propose something which is true to the fact. In assertive speech act truth value of utterances is very important. Speaker tries to present the world as he believes it. Here Butasingh tries to give the reason which he thinks is the real reason behind today’s crowd i.e. Raunaq at the garden.

In the same context when they talk about the affair of Mohan and Anuradha which is a headline of the newspaper. Mr. Butasingh states,

“ Ishq-wishq, Love -Shove, all Bullshit. Baig Sahib…. Lust is real love. Love is the gloss romantics put on it. Lust is natural ..”

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Here, Buta Singh is very strong and straightforward about his psychology. His state of mind is that… Lust is real…..Love is fake. And to express his mind, he speaks openly and answers in this fashion. Here, in expressive speech act, speakers intentions or hidden feelings about something are very important.

Speech Situation:

One day when all three friends meet as usual in Lodhi Gardens, they raise a topic, Hasya Yoga. In that relation Mr. Baig talks,
“I have no idea, but I feel uneasy with the company of such people. Don’t you agree with Sharmaji ...?”

“Fully ...” replies Sharmaji, “I have no such problem as I see Buta everyday.. so have plenty of laugh about...”

“Me too ...,,” Baig replies, “The evenings he is not there... I feel depressed. The almighty in his wisdom created Sardars, to keep us laughing....”

Butasingh senses this and replies,

“ You make fun of Sardars all the time . Let me tell you only people who have confidence in themselves can make fun of themselves.”

All three utterances are nothing but feelings of Mr.Baig , Mr.Sharma ,and Mr.Butasingh towards Sikh religion and Sardar community. While Mr. Sharma and Mr. Baig are of an opinion that Sardars are made to entertain others and they are meant to be laughed at. Their inner feelings or psychology towards this particular religion /race is expressed through their utterances. They have this opinion and belief about Sardar community. So they expresses themselves full heartedly through their dialogue. But Butasingh being Sardar , objects this and put forward his point of view in a objectionable manner. He speaks out his state of mind or his psychology. He indirectly criticises Mr. Sharama and Mr. Baig’s comments about Sikh people. Here he expresses his anger or the feelings towards Sharma and Baig’ comments. In expressive speech act, speaker’s intentions plays very important role. Here ,as a speaker, Butasingh tends to speak out his anger towards the comment made by Mr.Baig and Mr.Sharma.
Speech Situation:

Mr. Butasingh is missing from his daily visit to sunset club. Mr. Sharma and Mr. Baig is eager to know the reason behind Mr. Butasingh’s absentee. After enquiry they come to know that Mr. Butasingh’s brother is dead. So casually Mr. Baig asks to Sharma,

“How many days of mourning are slated for the sikhs..” asks Baig..

“They have the same as we have Hindus....It can be chutha, fourth day, Shraddha, ten days, when they have an antim ardas.... kast prayers. But Buta never believed in rituals .. or he says... you never know him”

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In this context, Mr. Sharma’s utterances are nothing but expressive speech acts, where he has expressed his feelings of Hindu and Sikh religion. His state of mind, mind-set, psychology, can be understood. Also, in the same utterance, we can observe commissive speech acts as Mr. Sharma tells that Mr. Butasingh, elder brother is died. And being a Sikh, he is committed towards certain rituals and customs that he has to perform as his elder brother is dead. Here it is also implied that Butasingh never liked the idea of this rituals and customs, but he is bound to perform certain things. He is committed to certain course of action in future because he is a Sikh and Sikh religion tells to all its followers that they have to follow these customs for the eternal peace of soul of the elder brother of Butasingh.
Speech Situation:

Mr. Baig is sharing his discussion at sunset club about Gandhi’s death with his wife. He talks about it and after that he talks about Bootasingh’s remarks about Diwali.

Boota singh says ,

“We Indians have a genius for making beautiful things as ugly as possible”

“What is bothering you ?”asks Baig

“Here ,we have Diwali , the most important and beautiful festival of India . And what have we done to it ?” asks Boota..

“ How can you forget it? asks Boota , “ They start reminding you of its advent a week before by bursting crackers. I have to use earplugs...to prevent explosions bursting my eardrums. Tonight ..it will sound like a full scale war with cannons booming, bombs exploding, till after midnight.”

These utterances are nothing but assertive speech act and expressive speech acts in itself. In assertive speech act and expressive speech act , proposition plays an important role. At first instance Butasingh expresses his opinion and declares that Indians have a genius for making beautiful things as ugly as possible. In the same context, Butasingh reveals his thoughts and psychology. He says in a very satirical manner that we have not realized the value of Hindu and Sikh festivals. The basic reason behind the celebrations of these festivals is yet to be understood by many Indians. He expresses his concern over manner of celebrating different festivals. His views regarding
celebration are nothing but his concern about degrading act of all Indians while celebrating holy festivals. In expressive speech act, speaker aims to convey his true intentions, his ideology. Speakers psychology or attitude towards something is very important in expressive speech acts. He expresses himself in following manner which clearly states his ideology and psychology about the manner in which these celebrations are carried out. This is an ideal example of expressive speech act.

**Speech Situation:**

One fine day all three friends are discussing as usual about happenings around them. They talk a lot about anything starting from politics to religion and so many other things. At that time Mr Baig was looking forward to bringing up the story of the shoe-thrower with his friends. He sensed it would rouse the hackles of both Sharma and Boota as the matter involved the conflict between Sikh and Hindu. And he being Muslim could be a neutral listener. So he turned out to be …

‘Brothers, tell me what provided the young Sardar journalist to hurl his shoe at the home minister, who had nothing to do with the massacre of Sikhs which took place so many years ago?’ says Baig.

Sharma replies with alacrity, ‘Sardars, are known to be slow-witted. It takes long time for them to react to any event. They are also known to be hot-heated: once they lose their cool, they go berserk and hit out at anything or person within easy reach. I was not a bit surprised when I read about it. I said to myself, all said and done, he is a Sardar’
And they start arguing. Baig has not had his fill of fun, so he provokes Boota again, ‘Bootaji, how long will you harbor this gussa against Hindus? Why not forgive and forget?’

Boota Singh replies, ‘It will be as long as the criminals are not punished? Do you know that of the thousands who went on the rampage against Sikhs, barely twenty have been convicted. We have every right to be angry at the miscarriage of justice. And Hindus go on telling the world that they are a peace loving people. Give them a chance and see how peaceful they are! You are a Muslim…you should know. How many Muslims have they killed since we gained Independence? Tell me.’

‘Many thousands .. We have got used to being killed. A few thousands after they pulled down the Babri Masjid ; another few thousands after a train compartment caught fire at Godhra railway station .As , We have got used to it .’

Here, all the utterances are nothing but expressive speech acts in itself. In expressive speech acts , speakers inner feelings plays very important role. Speakers true intentions , inner desires , his psychological state of mind , his attitude towards particular thing and situation , his mental state of mind ,and his perspective towards certain things are very at prime importance.

In Indian context Religion plays very important role. Every Indian and his mind set is controlled by Religion. Religion, Caste and ritual matters are everywhere in Indian society. All three members of the Sunset Club, belong
to different community and Religion and though they are old enough to control their temperament, but there are certain situations like this where they fail to control themselves and react violently. Today’s discussion is one of those situations where they lost themselves and come out with such strong arguments. All the utterances performed by different speakers are nothing but expressive speech acts where they talked about their inner feelings and their attitude towards right and wrong deeds. The characteristic feature of expressive speech act is hidden feelings of the speakers. Here all the three speakers, openly comes out with their mind set and talked profusely about how they are right, how their people are right, and at last how their religion is right.

Speech Situation

Bootasingh one day talks about his past. Besides working for newspapers, he occasionally conducted parties of foreign tourists to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. Since he has written a booklet on the historical monuments of Agra and could speak English, the Government of India’s tourist department occasionally asks him to accompany VIP’s to Agra. One fine day an Indian Sikh woman, who lives in England came for tourism. She asks to Bootasingh, ‘Are you tourist Guide?'

‘Yes Madam’ Boota replied

‘What do you charge?’ she asked

‘Rs1000 and all hotel expenses…’ Boota replied

‘Are you free tomorrow .. I want to see the Taj?’ she asked
‘We will have to stay overnight in Agra. There is lot more to see in the city.’ Boota replied

‘That’s all right with me. We can stay the night but all I want is see the Taj. I am not interested in the monuments. You want to be paid in advance?’ She asked

‘No Madam, after the visit will be okay.’ Boota replied

Here in this conversation, it is clearly stated that British Lady is strong minded. Despite of new to India, she is very much determined to do what she wants to do. She at the beginning only stated to Bootasingh, that she is not at all interested in seeing any monuments or any other things but only Taj Mahal. Her utterances are nothing but Directive Speech acts where she has directed Bootasingh to do what she desires. Here we observe the directive speech act. In directive speech act speakers aims that hearer should do something that he is supposed to do. British-Shikh lady already instructed Boota Singh about her desires. In Directive speech act the speaker tries to direct listener to behave in a particular way. Here speaker tries to make hearer to do something with such word like as ask, beg, challenge, command etc. In other words these speech acts express what the speaker wants from hearer. Using directive speech act, the speaker intends to get the hearer to do something.
Speech Situation:

On the 2nd July, Delhi high court pronounces verdict that hereafter sodomy by mutual consent will no longer be a punishable crime. This is a new hot topic for discussion at Sunset Club.

In this scenario,

Mr. Baig asks, “What do you make of the high court judgment permitting homosexuality.”

“I think it is a mistake, a big mistake. It is against the order of nature, all religions forbid it as sinful. We simply follow the west, so as to be counted amongst advanced nation’s... no doubt..Buta will be disagree with me..”

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In this context declarative speech act is observed at first. When Supreme Court declares that homosexuality with mutual consent cannot be a punishable crime. Here, Supreme Court orders are nothing but declarative speech acts. In declarative speech act, speaker tries to bring the change in the outer world with his utterances. Here Supreme Court as a speaker has that authority to do so. Here, speaker alters the external status or conditions of an object or situation by solely making the utterance. Here the speaker has the special role in special context. In the same context, reply by Mr. Sharma is nothing but his expression towards the given verdict. He expresses himself by declaring it as stupid mistake, big mistake. Here his reply is very honest and expressive as he dislikes the idea of Supreme Court. He expresses himself in a very honest way. In expressive speech act speaker’s intentions plays very important role. His intentions, his feelings, are nothing
but his attitude and psychology towards a particular speech situation. In this context he expresses his concern over supreme courts orders and says it is against nature. It is sinful. We simply follow the west.

**Speech situation:**

After the death of Mr. Sharma and Mr. Baig, Bootasingh is alone and one day he visits to Lodhi garden, sunset club, place. He sits down and gazes at the Bara Gumbad. A gardener distracts his attention and says,

“Sardar sahib... you have not been seen for some days. And where are your other friends ..?”

“Gone up”..replies Boota, raising his hands towards the sky.

The Gardner understands the gesture ,“Dono...both of them , I am sorry to hear that”

Boota singh again raises his hand says, “Bhai ..who knows the ways of God”

The gardner agrees , “Haan...no one knows ..what Bhagwan ..wills”

All above utterances are nothing but a kind of ways in which life moves on. It is highly philosophical in nature. Here, both the speakers expresses themselves in a candid manner and talks about life’s ultimate truth, death.

Here, both Butasingh and Gardner expresses themselves . They talk about life’s philosophy. They talk about their mind-set, their psychology, as nothing is in our hand. Everything is controlled and governed by God. Both express their mind-set and their psychology about human existence. In expressive speech act speaker’s psychology, his attitude towards something is very important.