The Composition of Communication Acts

Professor **Ionel NARIȚA**, PhD

Department of Philosophy and Communication Sciences
Faculty of Political Sciences, Philosophy and Communication Sciences
West University of Timisoara
E-mail: ionel.narita@e-uvt.ro

Abstract. *An act of communication, A, may be represented as a system of classes (or sets) with the structure A = (T, X, D), where T, X, and D are parts of a population P, so that T is not void, X cannot be equal to P, T and X are disjoint classes, and if T is an empty class then D is also empty. T is understood as the class of all addressees of the message, M, sent by E through the act A, X contains those members of the population P which should not receive the message M, while D represents the members of P which has access to the channel used by E during the communication act A and are able to decipher the code or the language used by the sender. The message can be received by any member of D no matter if he is an addressee or not. Any receiver has the possibility to send the message further, becoming a sender of a new act of communication; in this way, two acts of communication are composed. This paper is focused on the properties of the composition of communication acts and on the fashion the composition affects the intention of the sender. For instance, even if the sender wishes to keep the message hide for certain members of P, he has no means to accomplish such a goal since, through successive composites communication acts, the message might reach every element of the population P.*

Keywords: Act of communication; Communication modelling; Rating; effective communication.

A communication act (Narula 2006, 2) is the act of a sender, E, who sends a message, M, towards one or more addressees (Huang, Wu 2012, 116), T, using a channel, C, and a code or a language, L (Baecker 2013, 87). While E is unique, (for every sender we have to distinguish a separate act of communication), T represents a set or a class, also called „target", inside of a population P, which cannot be empty. At their turn, C and L define the domain, D, of the communication act relatively to the population P. The elements of D are those members of P which have access to the message M; only they can receive the message.

By a communication act (Noth 2011, 203), the sender intents (Bach 1992, 389) that the message be received by the addressees but, in the same time, there could be some members of the population P which, according to the intention of the sender, should not receive the message. For instance, when somebody sends a letter to one or more addressees, there is the possibility that letter should not be received by other people. We will call such members of P, excluded people, X, namely, X contains all members of P which should not receive the message sent by E. Obviously, X has to be strictly included into P, because, if X were identical to P, then T would be void against the mentioned condition to have a communication act.

Keeping into sight the previous considerations, we reach the following definition of a communication act:

We will call „communication act" a system of classes (or sets) (T, X, D), so that: (1)
1) T, X, and D are parts of a population P;
2) $T \neq \varnothing$;
3) $X \neq P$;
4) $T \cap X = \varnothing$;
5) If T is empty, then D is empty too.

The communication act (Narula 2006, 16) is defined relatively to a random population P. Such an act circumscribes inside P the class of addressees, T, the class of excluded people, X, and the domain, D, containing all members of P able to receive the message (Narula 2006, 12). The class T cannot be empty because the intention of the sender is the message be received by somebody. Moreover, T and X has to be disjoint classes; it would be a contradiction to admit that a member of P must, after the same act of communication, receive and not receive the message. It is not possible that all members of P belong to X while T, as a part of P, is outside of X and T is not void. On the other hand, if T is void, then D must be also void. The emptiness of T means that the sender has no intention to transmit the message so it would be senseless to use a channel or a code to communicate it. A communication act can be represented using diagrams like the following one, where the conditions that should be accomplished by its components are displayed as rela-