**COMPARISON OF PERFORMATIVE AND NON-PERFORMATIVE SPEECH ACTS**

Any speech act may be expressed either performatively or in a non-performative way. **The research question** of this paper consists in clarifying whether the performative (PSA) and non-performative speech acts (NPSA) differ solely in the way of naming the illocutionary force, or there are other distinctions between the two. The qualitative **approach** serves for revealing these peculiarities and involves the analysis of the collected language material with the help of pragmatic and contextual **methods**. A corpus of contemporary protestant sermons in English has been chosen as the material for the undertaken research.

The results of our analysis show the distinction of PSA and NPSA in the following parameters:

a) **The syntactic structure**. Being expressed by utterances composed of two or more sentences is more characteristic for NPSA than for PSA: 40% of the former and 17% of the latter. Monocomponential speech acts prevail over bicomponential in PSA, which are more aptly expressed by a single sentence (83%).

b) **Indicating the subject of discourse**. In NPSA the discourse producer (preacher,  preaching minister, reverend) is mostly not mentioned at all, or, alternatively, is named by the indefinite pronouns ‘it’ and ‘one’. The proportion of such speech acts without a subject is reaching 52% of all NPSA. Fewer tokens are expressed with the inclusive pronoun ‘we’ – 29% and only in 19% of NPSA the preacher refers to himself as ‘I’. The indexes with PSA differ greatly: in 78% of PSA the preacher reveals his own person through the pronoun ‘I’, in 19% he uses the inclusive pronoun ‘we’ and hiding the person behind the missing pronoun is observed only in a very small number of cases – in 6,8%.

c) **The illocutionary goals sought**. In theological discourse the NPSA prevailingly express the declarative-expressive type of illocutions. By contrast, the PSA`s illocutions show the opposite trend. The illocutions which dominated in NPSA are not observed in the same number, instead giving place to the directive type of illocutions.

Thus, in addition to the well-known distinction of illocutionary force indicating, the NPSA and PSA differ in three other aspects. These findings lead to a conclusion that the speaker`s choice as for using a performative or non-performative way for producing a speech act depends on his willingness to be open to the addressee, on his need for the most unambiguous perception of the message and on his readiness to maintain the addressee`s positive ‘face’.