

## **SPEECH ACTS OF OBJECTION IN THE PLAY LOOK BACK IN ANGER BY JOHN OSBORNE**

### **Summary**

*This paper studies speech acts of objection within local pragmatic acts extracted from the play *Look Back in Anger* by John Osborne. In this analysis the theoretical postulates in J.L. Austin, J. Searle and speech act theory, Politeness Principle by P. Brown and S. Levinson and Cooperative Principle by H.P. Grice were drawn upon. In Ivanetić (1995) the listener can accept the speech act of objection, reject it or avoid speaking their mind by changing the subject or evading explicit comment. This paper, however, shows that in most cases the speech acts of objection are not provoked by immediate verbal or nonverbal action of the interlocutor, that very often the listener's verbal reaction as the second part of the adjacency pair is missing and that silence is a very powerful and aggressive nonverbal answer to the speaker's verbal action. It is also shown that rich and noisy verbal expression on the one hand and silence on the other are, though opposed, two discourse strategies that hide real reasons for interlocutors' dissatisfaction and contribute to the indirectness of their discourse.*

**Key words:** *speech acts, pragmatic acts, objection, silence as a nonverbal act*