

Lesson 47: The Autoclitic Mand (OA)



This lesson defines and provides examples of the autoclitic mand.

☰ Review of the Autoclitic Tact

☰ Definition of the Autoclitic Mand

☰ Autoclitic Mand Example #1

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🔍 Knowledge Check

☰ Review

Review of the Autoclitic Tact



00:18

We have already defined an **autoclitic tact** as a type of tact in which the controlling variable is some non-verbal aspect of a speaker's ongoing verbal behavior. It is therefore just a special subset of the tact relationship. It is possible to describe a similar special subset of the mand relationship.

Autoclitic Tact

A verbal relationship with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

•	A non-verbal stimulus
•	The non-verbal stimulus is some aspect of a primary verbal relationship

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

●	The specific features of the controlling relationship (e.g., receptor being stimulated or the intensity or strength of the stimulation; stimulation may include an establishing response)
●	The form of the response

Definition of the Autoclitic Mand



00:28

If the establishing operation that controls a mand depends entirely upon or in part upon the speaker's ongoing verbal behavior in the sense that the listener is being enjoined to react to the primary verbal behavior in a specified way, then we have what may be called an **autoclitic mand**. Features irrelevant to the classification of autoclitic mands include the response topography, the listener's current reaction, and the specific type of reinforcement specified by the response.

Autoclitic Mand

A verbal relationship with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

- | | |
|---|--|
| • | The controlling variable is an establishing operation |
| • | It enjoins the listener to alter his or her reaction to the primary response |

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

●	Response topography
●	The listener's current reaction
●	The specific type of reinforcement specified by the response

Autoclitic Mand Example #1



If you say “John loves Mary and vice versa,” “vice versa” is an autoclitic mand if the form of the response is controlled by the fact that the listener reacting as though the reverse were also true would currently be reinforcing to the speaker, even if it is not at all true.



Autoclitic Mand

A verbal relationship with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

The controlling variable is an establishing operation



It enjoins the listener to alter his or her reaction to the primary response

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

- Response topography
- The listener's current reaction
- The specific type of reinforcement specified by the response

Autoclitic Mand Non-Example #1



If it is true and the listener's reaction is of no importance, then "vice versa" is an **autoclitic tact**. Of course, it may be controlled partially as a tact and partially as a mand, as a form of impure tact.

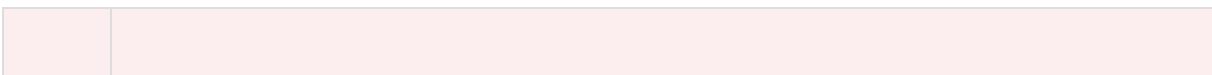


Autoclitic Mand

A verbal relationship with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES





The controlling variable is an establishing operation

- It enjoins the listener to alter his or her reaction to the primary response

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

- Response topography
- The listener's current reaction
- The specific type of reinforcement specified by the response

Autoclitic Mand Example #2



00:20

Another important type of autoclitic mand involves negation. To say “Carlos is not well” includes the autoclitic mand “not.” “Not” enjoins the listener not to react to the tact “well” as though it were occurring under normal circumstances, presumably because such an altered reaction would currently be reinforcing to the speaker.



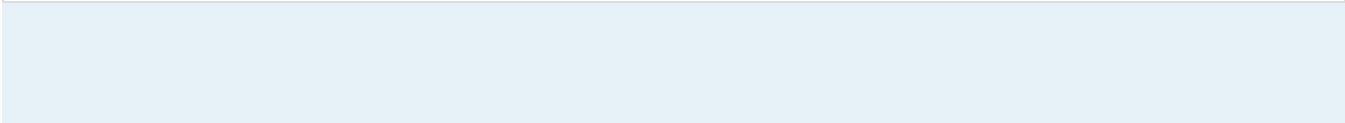
Autoclitic Mand

A verbal relationship with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

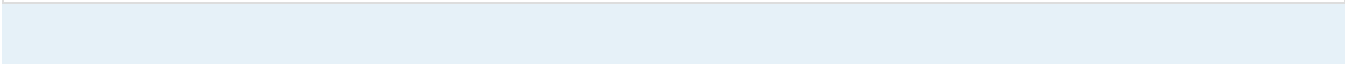
IRRELEVANT FEATURES

✓	The controlling variable is an establishing operation
✓	It enjoins the listener to alter his or her reaction to the primary response



DEFINING FEATURES	IRRELEVANT FEATURES
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•	Response topography
•	The listener's current reaction
•	The specific type of reinforcement specified by the response



Autoclitic Impure Tact



00:18

If “not” is primarily under the control of circumstances in which “well” would not usually be reinforced, then “not” is an autoclitic tact. If “not” is primarily meant to cancel “well” and enjoin the listener not to react in a typical manner to “well,” then it is an autoclitic mand. This example is often probably a little of both (i.e., an impure tact).



Autoclitic Mand

A verbal relationship with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

- The controlling variable is an establishing operation

- It enjoins the listener to alter his or her reaction to the primary response

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

- Response topography

- The listener's current reaction

- The specific type of reinforcement specified by the response

Form of Autoclitic Mand



00:21

Remember, the form of the response, the topography of the utterance, is irrelevant. It plays no role in trying to classify a verbal response as either an autoclitic mand or autoclitic tact. Remember also that an autoclitic cannot occur unless some primary verbal behavior is occurring or is about to occur.

Autoclitic Mand

A verbal relationship with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

- | | |
|---|--|
| • | The controlling variable is an establishing operation |
| • | It enjoins the listener to alter his or her reaction to the primary response |

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

•	Response topography
•	The listener's current reaction
•	The specific type of reinforcement specified by the response

Knowledge Check

You will be presented with a series of examples. Indicate whether each example is an autoclitic mand, and autoclitic tact, or neither. The response to be analyzed will be bold and in italics.

Question

01/04

“May I have *the* book?” “The” is controlled by the fact that the listener providing a specific book (one that has been talked about before, for example) would currently be reinforcing to the speaker.

- Autoclitic mand
- Autoclitic tact
- Neither

Question

02/04

“I see *the* book.” “The” is controlled by the fact that the controlling variable that is currently strengthening “book” has recently strengthened that response.

- Autoclitic mand
- Autoclitic tact
- Neither

Question

03/04

“He is carrying a *sort of* briefcase.” “Sort of” is controlled by the fact that it would be reinforcing if the listener reacted to “briefcase” as if it were a generically extended tact.

- Autoclitic mand
- Autoclitic tact
- Neither

Question

04/04

“It is **not** winter yet. “Not” is controlled by the fact that “winter” is being emitted under inappropriate circumstances.

- Autoclitic mand
- Autoclitic tact
- Neither

Review



The **autoclitic mand** is a verbal relationship in which the establishing operation that controls a mand depends entirely or partially upon the speaker's ongoing verbal behavior in the sense that the listener is being enjoined to react to the primary verbal behavior in a specified way.



Features **irrelevant** to the classification of autoclitic mands include the response topography, the listener's current reaction, and the specific type of reinforcement specified by the response.

End of Lesson