

**Lingua Inglese 1 (LS 43/s) Dott.ssa Maria Ivana Lorenzetti**

**Lecture 3 – 09/10/2007**

**SPEECH ACT ANALYSIS: Text 1**

*Mrs Birling:* I think we've just about come to an end of this wretched business.

*Gerald:* I don't think so. Excuse me. [*he goes out*]

*Sheila [to Inspector]:* You know, you never showed him that photograph of her.

*Inspector:* No. It wasn't necessary. I thought it better not to.

*Mrs Birling:* You have a photograph of this girl?

*Inspector:* Yes. I think you'd better look at it.

*Mrs Birling:* I don't see any particular reason why I should.

*Inspector:* Probably not. But you'd better look at it.

*Mrs Birling:* Very well [*she looks at the photograph*]

*Inspector:* Do you recognize her?

*Mrs Birling:* No. Why should I?

*Inspector:* Of course she might have changed lately, but I can't believe she could have changed so much.

*Mrs Birling:* I don't understand you, Inspector.

*Inspector:* You mean, you don't choose to do, Mrs Birling.

*Mrs Birling:[angrily]* I meant what I said.

*Inspector:* You are not telling me the truth.

*Mrs Birling:* I beg you pardon!

*Birling: [angrily, to Inspector]* Look here, I am not going to have this, Inspector. You'll apologize at once.

*Inspector:* Apologize for what – doing my duty?

*Birling:* No, for being offensive about it. I'm a public man

*Inspector:* Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities as well as privileges.

*Birling:* Possibly. But you weren't asked to come here to talk to me about my responsibilities.

*Sheila:* Let's hope not. Though I'm beginning to wonder.

*Mrs Birling:* Does that mean anything, Sheila?

*Sheila:* It means that we have no excuse now for putting on airs and that if we've any sense we won't try.

**SPEECH ACT ANALYSIS: Text 2**

The following excerpt is taken from the BBC thriller series *Dalziel and Pascoe* (2001). Andrew Dalziel is a detective. In this scene, his boss asks about one of the female police officers, to whom Dalziel had given the job of working under cover as a horse-rider in the fox hunting world to discover who murdered one of the fox hunters. Dalziel is against fox hunting and his boss knows it.

1 Boss: Under cover? This isn't a private army. Is she OK?

2 Dalziel: She's good. In fact she spent half her childhood on a horse.

3 Boss: How do I know, you're not lying to me, Andy?

4 Dalziel: Look, we've even given her a full story; set up a liason point. Visitors often go on a ride  
5 with another hunt. They come for a few days, stay at a local club, borrow a horse. And since  
6 hunting is about drinking as much as it is riding, it shouldn't be long before someone becomes  
7 indiscreet.

8 Boss: Alright, but don't upset the locals. Hounsdon is a nice village.

9 Dalziel: Pity it's not a bunch of miners – then we could have done what we liked.

10 Boss: Watch it superintendent! I'm not asking you to kow-tow the gentry. I'm telling you to go  
11 by the book. You see I know how you work.