AN ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACT USED IN THE FATHER MOVIE SCRIPT BY FLORIAN ZELLER

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Abstrak
Tindak tutur adalah studi yang mempelajari bagaimana sebuah ujaran yang menujukkan sebuah aksi. Penelitian ini memiliki dua pokok pembahasan, yaitu pengkategorian tindak tutur ilokusi dan fungsi dari tindak tutur ilokusi yang disampaikan oleh pemeran utama dalam naskah film The Father. Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Hasil dari penelitian ini ditemukan 40 data ujaran yang teridentifikasi sebagai bagian dari tindak tutur ilokusi. Data tersebut terbagi atas 11 data Asertif, 19 data Direktif, 6 data Komisif, 5 data Expresif dan 0 data Deklaratif. Sedangkan hasil dari penelitian fungsi dari tindak tutur ilokusi ditemukan bahwa tindak tutur assertif memiliki tiga fungsi yaitu fungsi membuat pernyataan dengan 5 data, fungsi menjelaskan dengan 3 data dan fungsi mengomeli dengan 3 data. Dalam tindak tutur direktif, terdapat tiga fungsi yaitu fungsi memberikan pertanyaan dengan 14 data, fungsi meminta dengan 2 data, dan fungsi memerintah dengan 3 data. Tindak tutur komisif memliki satu fungsi yaitu fungsi bersumpah dengan 6 data dan yang terakhir adalah tindak tutur ekspresif dengan tiga fungsi yaitu fungsi berterimakasih dengan 2 data, fungsi menyambut dengan 1 data dan fungsi meminta maaf dengan 2 data.
Kata Kunci: *Tindak Tutur, Ilokusi, Kategori, Fungsi, Naskah Film*

Abstract

The study of speech acts examines how an utterance demonstrates an activity. The classification of illocutionary speech acts and the purpose of illocutionary speech acts given by the protagonist in Florian Zeller's film script, The Father, are the two primary subjects of this study. Descriptive qualitative research is therefore used in this study to examine every statement made by the main character. According to the study's findings, 40 utterances were found to be a part of the illocutionary speech act. Eleven of the data are assertive, nineteen are directive, six are commissive, five are expressive, and none are declarative. Meanwhile, assertive speech acts serve three distinct purposes, according to the findings of a study on the function of illocutionary speech acts: stating with five data, describing with three data, and complaining with three data. There are three functions in directive speech acts: asking with 14 data, requesting with 2 data, and commanding with 3 data. The last speech act is an expressive speech act with three functions: thanking with two data, welcoming with one data, and

apologizing with two data. Commissive speech acts have one function, which is swearing with six data.

INTRODUCTION

The study of language or commonly called linguistics is the study that completes with the features of language that are used by the speech community (Alshami, 2019:10). One branch of linguistics is pragmatics which deals with aspects of meaning that depend on or arise from the use of words and sentences (Kroeger, 2018: 4). Every language has its meaning and use in many aspects like speaking, listening, writing, and reading. All of these aspects become the main key in social life presently. One of the things that include these skills in daily life is communication.

Communication requires speaking and listening skills for a direct or face-to-face communication and then writing and reading skills for an indirect or verbal communication. Tangkas (2020: 264) states understanding a message (in communicating) is not always easy because there is some ambiguity in verbal messages intentionally or unintentionally. In face-to-face communication, there are content and relationship levels of meaning like facial expressions and gestures to find out whether a person is talking seriously or not, but it definitely does not work in online conversation or indirect communication by letters (Tangkas, 2020: 264). To know exactly about the intention of communication, we can analyze it using one of theory in pragmatics namely speech act.

The speech act is the basic or minimal unit in linguistics communication. Basic linguistics communication means the unit of linguistic communication is not only the symbol, word or sentence, the token of the symbol, word or sentence but also the production or issuance of the symbol or word or sentence in the performance of the speech act (Searle, 1969:16). Speech act is not only found in daily conversation but also can be found in the dialogue expressed by the character of the movie. Speech act also found in The Father movie script by Florian Zeller. The readers of this script are able to analyze the intention of each utterance through the sentences delivered by the main character of this movie which only contain an information or whether there is a certain purpose or it even have a certain effect or influence to other. This is summarized in Searle's Illocutionary speech act categorization. Searle on his book states that speech act is simply an activity of uttering a series of words. An illocutionary act typically consists of uttering words in a sentence in a certain context, under certain conditions and with a certain intention (Searle, 1969: 24-25). The illocutionary act is known as The Act of Doing Something.

In The Father movie script by Florian Zeller, Anthony is a father with dementia or a condition in which person experiences memory loss. Throughout the movie, many things

changed according to what Anthony feels and sees. This movie seems to make us feel what the father feels if we suffer a similar disease. Because of this illness, the communication between Anthony and the other characters did not go well and misunderstandings occurr between the character. Pragmatics and speech act: illocutionary act facilitates the understanding of Anthony's utterances through all his dialogue to reveals how his mental decline breaks the normal function of language. Thus, everything about the dialogue and character is more clear and more measurable because an illocutionary act is a theory that focuses on the purposes of the speech expressed by the character.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Type of research

This research uses qualitative and descriptive method to identify and describe the situation and the data obtained from the dialogue between the characters in *The Father* movie which was obtained through the final script of the movie. This method is appropriate for analyzing dialogues or utterances in a movie, as it is based on the textual content found on the movie's script, allowing for detailed examination of the linguistic elements used to convey meaning and intention.

Time and Place of Research

This research was conducted in 2025 through online platforms, using digital resources to access and analyze *The Father* movie script (*https://www.scriptslug.com/script/the-father-2020.*).

Target and Subjects of Research

This study focuses on The Father movie by Florian Zeller's script to analyze the main character's dialogue to find out the illocutionary speech act based on Searle's theory about speech act specifically the category of illocutionary speech acts: assertive, directives, commissives, expressive, and declaration. This study also provides an explanation about the function of illocutionary speech act to see how the illocutionary speech act works in the scripted dialogue of The Father movie by Florian Zeller.

Data, Intruments, and Data Collection Techniques

The primary data of this study is the script of The Father movie written by Florian Zeller to analyze the dialogue between characters to identify Illocutionary

Acts. The main instrument used in this study is classification of illocutionary acts based on Searle's (1979) speech act theory. The data were collected through document analysis which start by downloading the script, reading and classifying the illocutionary acts found in the movie script. Relevant utterences were selected and categorized based in their illocutionary function.

Data Analysis Techniques

The data were analyzed using Searle theory of Illocutionary Acts, which

N o	Datum	Categories of Illocution Acts					Function of Illocutionary Acts									Desc
							A			D			C	E		
		A	D	C	E	D C	S T	D E	C P	A S	R E	C M	P R	T Q	W E	A P	
1.																	

classifies speech acts into five categories: assertives, directives, comissives, expressives and declaratives. The analysis followed these steps: first, describing the data that has been found previously into a more specific group to suit the illocutionary speech act classification then provides an in-depth explanation of each data that has been grouped to show the evidence or reasons why the data falls into the group using the theory exists. Second, explaining the function of each main character's utterance in The Father movie script which is part of the category of each illocutionary act. Last, concluding the result of five categories illocutionary act by Searle in the dialogue of the main character in The Father movie script and its function as the final result of the study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Analysis of Types and Function of Illocutionary Acts

A. Assertives

1. Stating

Datum 2:

ANNE: She's here to help you.

ANTHONY: To help me do what? I don't need her. I don't need anyone.

In this conversation, we can apply assertive speech act theory, which involves statements or claims that convey information, express beliefs, or assert facts. These statements are typically intended to convey something the speaker believes to be true, without directly seeking action from the hearer.

The context of this conversation is Anne as the daughter of Anthony try to find a carer to take care of her father because her father is sick. The carer was coming to their house but Anthony refused the carer that his daughter prepared for him. In this conversation, there are found that he used the type of illocutionary acts of stating (Assertive). Anthony tries to make a statement that he does not need a help from the other person especially a carer to take care of him by saying "I don't need her" "I don't need anyone" to her daughter who always tries to find a new carer for his father and say that the carer can help him. He is clearly showing how stating of assertive takes place in a dialogue. This is show an emphatic declarative by repeating his words to convince his hearer. He asserts his opinion and speak loudly to make his hearer understand what he is trying to convey, especially his rejection about her daughter action to him.

2. Complaining

Datum 12:

MAN: I think she tries to do the best she can for you, Anthony.

ANTHONY: The best she can, the best she can... I never asked her for anything. I don't know what she's cooking up against me. But she's cooking something up. She's cooking something up, that I do know. I suspect she wants to put me in a home for... Yes, I've seen the signs. But let me make something absolutely clear: I'm not leaving my flat! I'm not leaving it!

Based on Anthony's statement above, he is using assertive speech act with the aim of complaining to the other's statement. The context of this conversation is the man who known as Bill, someone who works in a care home having a conversation with Anthony. Bill tries to calm Anthony anger who keeps complaining about his daughter's plan to find a carer for him. Anthony always thinks that he is fine and he don't need a help from the carer even though his daughter always thinks the other way.

Most of the sentences above show how upset and frustrate he is. "The best she can, the best she can…" by repeating the same utterance, Anthony tries to get the man to see how serious he is. He is asserting that whatever "she" or Anne is doing for him, it is not something he wanted for and he think that it was unnecessary. Anthony shows the man that he underestimate every help and decisions which Anne made for him. He makes it clear by saying "I never asked her for anything. I don't know what she's cooking up against me.

She's cooking something up, that I do know." Cooking up doesn't mean that Anne cook some food for him, but it is an idiomatic phrase which mean "planning" or "preparing". Anthony suspect his daughter is planning something that he doesn't like behind his back. He continues with "Yes, I've seen the signs." the sign is referring to the things that he suspect about Anne maybe will move him to a care home. He ends his complain with a strong statement "But let me make something absolutely clear: I'm not leaving my flat! I'm not leaving it!" He show people that he will stay with what he is belief in and no one can bother him even though she is his own child. That is the purpose of assertive speech act where the speaker expresses a belief about something they believe to be true.

3. Describing

Datum 19:

ANTHONY: That's it, I know. I know who you remind me of.

ANNE: Who?

ANTHONY: Lucy. Lucy, when she was her age.

LAURA: Lucy?

ANTHONY: My other daughter. Don't you agree?

ANNE: I don't know.

ANTHONY: Yes. There's a resemblance.

ANNE: Maybe

ANTHONY: Her unbearable habit of laughing inanely.

Anthony, Laura and Anne is talking each other when assertive speech act with describing function take place. It was all started when Anthony was showing his tap dancing skill in front of Laura and Anne. Because his skill does not seems good for Laura, she found that Anthony was funny and shaking with laughter. Anthony who watched it, remember about something about Laura's laugh.

"That's it, I know. I know who you remind me of." he shout. He starts to describe enthusiastically to Anne and Lucy about what he is belief in. He continues by assert "Lucy. Lucy, when she was her age." He tells them that Laura laugh reminds him of his daughter, Lucy when she was the same age as Laura. "There's a resemblance. Her unbearable habit of laughing inanely." Here is another description from Anthony about how similar Laura and Lucy laugh in his eyes. It is all about his perspective that they have the same habit with laughing inanely as he was used to experience how her daughter laugh.

By asserting something he believes to be true, Anthony speech is including as assertive speech act because in speech act theory, Assertive means the speaker tells people

how things are, it can be a statements, claims, or things the speaker believes to be true. Assertive speech act uses to deliver some information, describing things, and explaining how things work. While describing function works when Anthony starts to giving a detail about its characteristics, visual or anything which makes others understand about Lucy.

B. Directives

1. Asking

Datum 1:

ANNE: I've just had her on the phone.

ANTHONY: So? What does that prove?

ANNE: You can't go on behaving like this.

In this conversation, we can analyze the using of directive speech act theory with asking function. A directive speech act is used by the speaker to get the hearer to do something, or to suggest, request, or command action while asking refers to an act of looking for some information or clarification. In this case, this conversation appears when Anne tries to argue his father. Anne was calling his carer to confirm about Anthony's attitude towards his carer because Anthony doesn't seem like he is saying the truth for Anne. Because of that Anthony is questioning the importance of Anne's statement. He is asking for explanation or attempting to understand why the fact that Anne spoke with the carer on the phone is important. Anthony also tried to argue his daughter by saying "What does that prove?" and trying to make Anne as the hearer have to make a prove for what she said which make this conversation as part of directives speech act with asking function.

2. Requesting

Datum 3:

ANNE: She was in tears.

ANTHONY: What, just because I called her a …

ANNE: No. She told me you threatened her. Physically.

ANTHONY: Physically? Me? Obviously, she has no idea what she's talking about. This woman is raving mad, Anne. Best if she does leave, believe me.

This conversation contains directive speech act with requesting function. Directive speech act works when the speaker tries to get the hearer to do something or an action after their speech. It comes with request, question, and command. From this conversation, we can conclude Anthony as the speaker tries to make Anne, the hearer to believe him and making a request for it.

It all starts when Anthony is having an argument with his daughter. Her daughter states that Anthony's carer (Anjela) said Anthony was talking bad about her and threatened her physically but Anthony denied it. With believe me word, Anthony try to persuade Anne to accept what he is saying as true or trustworthy. Anthony also try to make a request to her daughter to trust regarding his intention. In directive speech act, the speaker always try to get the hearer to do something after they hear the speaker word.

3. Commanding

Datum 16:

ANTHONY: What would you like?

LAURA: What are you going to have?

ANTHONY: A small whisky.

LAURA: Then I'll have the same.

ANTHONY : Excellent.

(He speaks to Anne as if she's a waitress.)

ANTHONY: So, two whiskies. Two! I'm not offering you one, Anne.

Commanding function of directive speech act in this conversation happen when Anthony says "So, two whiskies. Two!" by saying that, Anthony is giving a command to his daughter to bring only two whiskies for him and Laura. In directive speech act, the speaker always tries to make the hearer to do something after the speaker talk. Anne as the hearer in this conversation, has to do an action after her father give a command to her. Anne goes to look for two glasses of whisky that asked by her father even thought he seems like he treat his daughter like a waitress.

"I'm not offering you one, Anne." is also part of his command to Anne which also include directive speech act. He is firmly deciding Anna is not having a drink with them. He tries to make Anne not bringing more than two drink as he commanded. So with that, Anne as the hearer need to follow his rules and bring only two whiskies, no more.

C. Commissives

1. Swearing

Datum 5:

ANTHONY: I said, I don't need her! I don't need her or anyone else! I can manage very well on my own!

From the conversation above, Anthony's statement can be analyze as a commissive speech act because the main point of commissive speech act is to commit ourself (as a

speaker) to do something after we make a statement. The speaker needs to prove themselves about what they were talking about. By saying "I don't need her! I don't need her or anyone else!". Anthony commit himself that he is able to handle things without an assistance or help from others. Those statement is nor only an expression of how the speaker feels at that time but he just made a commitment for his own to a future (after the speech) action. He also emphasized it by saying "I can manage very well on my own". It is a clear indication of his commitment to manage on his own in every situation and condition without lean on others specially a carer (because this conversation happened during an argument between Anthony and his daughter about the carer who would take care of him) which is the essence of commissive speech act with swearing function because swearing itself refers to an act when the speaker is making a commitment in front of the hearer.

D. Expressives

1. Apologizing

Datum 7:

ANTHONY: Only because I hid it. Luckily. Just in time! Otherwise. I'd be sitting here talking to you with no means of knowing what time it was. It's five o'clock, if you're interested. Myself, I am interested. Pardon me for breathing.

From Anthony's statement, we can identify the aspects of an expressive speech act with apologizing function. In expressive speech act, the speaker uses their utterance to convey their feeling, emotional state, mood or responds to a condition. While apologizing function describes how the speaker expressing regret or guilty about something. This sentence appears while Anthony and his daughter had an argument. In the end of argument, Anthony expresses his frustration to his daughter by saying "pardon me for breathing". It is also an idiom which mean he got annoyed and disturbed. It doesn't stop there, the phrase "pardon me for breathing" often use as a sarcastic and dramatic expression when the speaker feels uncomfortable and judged unfairly for thinking and doing something normal for them. The speaker (Anthony) indirectly draws attention of the hearer to convey what he interested for even others think that is unnecessary thing. With that, he wanted the hearer to know about how was his feeling and also responding the condition where he and his daughter always disagree with each other which is the part of expressive speech act with apologizing function.

2. Thanking

Datum 11:

WOMAN: Paul said you weren't feeling very well.

ANTHONY: I feel fine. Thank you

In speech act theory, expressive speech acts are the type that use to convey the speaker's feeling, emotion and attitude. While thanking function is a form of respect to show our gratitude or appreciation about something good. It might be not affect too much to the hearer because the aim of expressive speech act is to convey how the speaker feels at that moment. By the conversation above, we can notice that "I feel fine." is one of an expressive speech act because Anthony is telling the hearer about his feeling especially mentioning about his health to the woman. He is trying to make the woman stops worrying about him.

"Thank you" also a part of expressive speech act with thanking function which means he is expressing gratitude because the woman have asked him about his health. The woman sounds like she is worry about him because Paul just told him that Anthony was not feeling well. Anthony basically understand that the woman need to check on his condition to see if he is okay or if he need any help. To appreciate that, Anthony end his word by saying thank you because "Thank you" in expressive speech act intend politeness, respect, and manners.

3. Welcoming

Datum 13:

ANTHONY: Hello.

LAURA : Hello.

ANTHONY : You're…georgeous.

LAURA : Thank You

This conversation takes a place when Anthony meet Laura for the first time. Laura actually is a new carer for Anthony that Anne prepared to take care of Anthony. When Anthony see her, he show his feelings and welcome her with a good mood. This is containing welcoming function where Anthony is showing approval and happiness for someone's arrival or an expected meeting. He starts with say "Hello" which is the simple and basic word to welcome someone in the beginning of the interaction while Laura responds the same. After that, Anthony continue with the other expressive speech act while expressing his praise and feeling toward Laura's look by calling her "You're…georgeous." he is conveying that he admit about her beautiful and attractive appearance.

E. Declaration

There is no sentence that classify as the function of declaration illocutionary acts in The Father movie dialogue.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

There are five categories of illocutionary speech act by Searle's theory Assertives, Directives, Commissives, Expressives and Declaratives. However, during the analysis process, only four out of the five categories were found. The categories are Assertives, Directives Commissives and Expressives. Meanwhile, for the last category, which is declaratives, was not found in the main character's dialogue in The Father Movie Script by Florian Zeller". The collected data amounts is 40 data which devided into 11 data of Assertives speech act, 19 data of Directives speech act, 6 data of Commissive speech act, 5 data of Expressive speech act and 0 data of Declarative speech act.

In Assertives speech act where the speaker tells people about how things are, what they are belief in, and also their opinion or statement found three function, namely Stating with five data, Describing with three data and Complaining three data. In directive speech act, the speakers is trying to get the hearer to do something found three functions, namely Asking with eleven data, Requesting with five data, and Commanding with three data. Meanwhile, commissive speech act shows how the speaker commit themselves to do something after the speech found one function named Swearing with six data. The last one is expressive where the speaker expresses their feeling and attitude found three function, namely Thanking with two data, welcoming with one data and apologizing with two data.

The most dominant illocutionary acts in The Father movie script by Florian Zeller is Directive speech act with 19 data in total of three function. In this categories of illocutionary speech act, the hearer (H) does an action (A) after the speakers speech because the speakers (S) attempt, suggest, insist the hearer. It shows that Anthony is always tries to make his hearers doing something for him, he makes them answering his question, proving the hearer statement in front of him, getting something for him, showing him something he asked, repeating hearer's utterances, suggesting, requesting a specific action, providing some information and making the hearer follows his word.

The dominant function of illocutionary acts in The Father movie script by Florian Zeller is Asking with fourteen data. Anthony, as the speaker and the main character of this movie uses to ask a lots of question to the other characters like Anne

as his daughter, Laura as his carer, and Paul. He seems questioning much thing and needs a complete confirmation from his hearer, seeking some information, and checking hearer's agreement.

Suggestions

This study talks about the uses of illocutionary speech act in The Father movie script. To be able to get the result of this study, Searle's theory of illocutionary acts become the theory used. So that, this study talks about five categories namely, Assertives, Directives, Commissives, Expressives and Declaratives which have their own definition and function. Based on the result of this study, there are several suggestion for another studies.

First, for future researchers who interested in studying a movie script especially The Father by Florian Zeller with the same topic (speech act) will be able to analyze this movie with different types of speech act theory which are Locutionary acts and Perlocutionary Acts. For Illocutionary Act, suggested to use another person's theory which has a significant different in categorizing the act. Second, the other researchers can continoue this study with another movie script by Florian Zeller or the others writter or producer which have interesting story line.

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