An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in a Fantasy Movie

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Abstract

This study aims to find out the types and the most dominant illocutionary acts used by the main character in a fantasy movie, 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret'. A descriptive qualitative study was done by observing the utterances spoken by the main character in the movie. The spoken utterances were then analysed based on the types of illocutionary acts, namely: representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative. The results of the study showed that out of the five, only four types of illocutionary acts were found in the movie, they are representative, directive, expressive, and commissive. The most frequently illocutionary act used is directive (47.64%), while the least frequently used is commissive (4.19%). The directive forces used by the main character are varied. Directives are used get the hearers to do something, where in the movie, he often used asking and ordering. Meanwhile, declarative is not employed by the main character since performing declarative act needs authorities and status; this act is used to change the world through utterances. But the main character in this movie do not have any certain status or authority in any position at the magic school he attended, he is a student, still new with the magic world and do not have much power. This is why declarative was not found in the utterances of the main character.

Keywords: Pragmatics, illocutionary acts, utterances, fantasy movie.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The interaction between one person with others becomes easier through language; they can freely communicate with each other. However, while doing communication people will not only use language but also action. So, people have to know how to use a language appropriately in order to understand well when they are communicating with each other; this is called speech acts.

Yule (1996) states that speech acts are performing an action when the speaker and the listener are communicating. Austin (1962) was the first philosopher that develops speech acts theory. Then, Searle (1969), an American philosopher, continued to develop this theory. According to Searle (1969), speech acts are the basic unit of language used to express meaning and intention. Actually, without realizing people/ speakers often perform speech acts in their life when they utter something to the hearers. In many times, they utter their utterances with indirect meaning. Speech acts happen on the process when speakers say something and how listeners perceive the intention. In other times, speakers are not only saying but also forcing the hearers to do something. If the listeners recognize the meaning of the speaker's utterances and do an act, this means they are doing illocutionary acts.

Illocutionary acts are the most important part of speech acts because illocutionary acts themselves become the main central to linguistics in element of communication. According to Searle (1979), illocutionary acts have five types; namely: representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative. Representative or assertive is used to state what a speaker believes to represent the world (Yule, 1996). Cutting (2002) adds that representative acts can perform some functions as describing, claiming, hypothesizing, insisting and predicting. Meanwhile, producing speech acts with directive force means that a speaker wants the hearer to do something by commanding, ordering, requesting, suggesting, inviting, forbidding, etc. (Cutting, 2002). The next one is commisive meaning a speaker promises the hearer that he/she will do something in the future; and this act is used to express promises, threats, pledges, refuses, offers and volunteers (Cutting, 2002). The fourth one, expressive, is an act where a speaker wants to show what he/she feels that can be performed by apologizing, condoling, praising, congratulating and thanking (Yule, 1996). Declarative, the last type, has a principle that words can change the world or situation and can be presented in many forms such as declaring, approving, endorsing, naming, resigning, blessing, etc. (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). Each of those types has different meaning and context in it. Illocutionary acts are also difficult to be identified because they have to consider who the speaker is, where and when the conversation occurs. These verbal indicators mentioned by Cutting (2002), Yule (1996) and Searle and Vanderveken (1985) are typically used to indicate the illocutionary acts in movies.

One of the important aspects mostly occurred in a movie is the dialogue (conversation) among the characters. The characters will interact with each other and there will be illocutionary acts in it. Movie contains a lot of conversations. So, it is possible for the writers to find the utterances that contain illocutionary acts in movies.

There are several previous studies that are related to the analysis of illocutionary acts. Chimayasari (2016) analysed illocutionary acts by the main character in Alan Poul's the *Back-Up Plan* movie. In her thesis, she analysed illocutionary acts used by the main character in this movie by analysing the most dominant types of illocutionary

acts used such as commissive, declarative, directive, representative, expressive and verdictive. Based on her findings, the most dominant illocutionary type used by the main characters in that movie is representative. The main character uses representative when she conveys something that needs feedback from the hearer.

In addition, Nugroho (2011) studied illocutionary acts in a movie entitled *Sherlock Holmes*. He analysed and described the most dominant types of illocutionary acts performed by the main character in this movie. He found that the main character of this movie uses all of the types of illocutionary acts: assertive (arguing, informing, telling, asserting), directive (advising, asking, commanding, entreating, insisting, inviting, ordering, requesting), commissive (promising, refusal), expressive (congratulating, praising, welcoming, thanking), and declaration (appointing). The results of his study showed that the most illocutionary acts used by the main character is directive.

Another study of illocutionary acts was conducted by Ainurrohmah (2011) who analysed the use of illocutionary acts in *Stephenie Meyer's New Moon*. She found that the most dominant type of illocutionary acts used in the conversations is representative. The most subtypes use of representative is state, deny, assert, agree, inform, assure, conclude, report, predict, tell, guess, describe, claim and remind. Meanwhile the least illocutionary used is declarative acts with subtypes curse, declare, announce and define.

Finally, Amalia (2017) analysed the use of implicit performative utterances at University of Padjajaran and at University of Pennsylvania, and Gusthini et al. (2018) studied speech acts used in presidential final debate video of Trump and Clinton made in 2016. These studies show that speech acts are common in everyday interactions and are essential for communication. They are also present in many different contexts such as in university announcements and political debates as discussed in those studies.

Although several studies on illocutionary acts in movies have been done by researchers before, the research of illocutionary acts in fantasy movies that performed a lot of magic in it is still limited. Therefore, the writers are interested to conduct a similar research on the fantasy movie, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret,* to find out the types of illocutionary acts and the most dominant illocutionary acts used by the main character in the movie.

2.   LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1   Pragmatics

Yule (1996) states that pragmatics is concerned with the study of interpreting the meaning of what is being produced by a speaker. It means that pragmatics is more related to people's meaning when they utter the utterances than what the meaning of words or phrases in those utterances mean. Levinson (1983) states that pragmatics is a study of the use of language. It is the study of the relation between language and context which are essential to an account of language understanding. In other words, pragmatics is the study of meaning uttered by the speaker and interpreted by the listener.

2.2 Speech Acts

The theory of speech acts was first developed by Austin (1962) and continued by Searle (1969). According to Austin (1962), speech act is performing various acts while speaking. This means when someone or a speaker produces an utterance, he or she is also performing an act. Searle (1969) defines speech acts as the basic unit of language which is used to express meaning, and an utterance to express intention. Meanwhile Yule (1996) states that by performing speech acts people do not just produce utterances or words but they also perform action by the utterances they utter. In other words, speech acts are performing action while uttering the utterances of making a statement, giving order, asking question, refusing, complimenting, thanking, etc. Speech acts can be classified into locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act (Austin, 1962). Since this study focuses on illocutionary act to analyse a movie, therefore the literature of this paper discusses this topic.

2.2.1 Illocutionary acts

According to Searle (1985), illocutionary act is the minimal units of human communication. It is performed by the communicative points of an utterance. An illocutionary act refers to the type of function the speaker intends to achieve, or the type of action the speaker intends to achieve in producing the utterances. It can be said that this act happens when the speaker utters something to the hearer. There are a lot of subtypes of illocutionary acts that can be identified. These are several examples of subtypes of illocutionary act such as accusing, apologizing, blaming, congratulating, giving permission, joking, nagging, naming, promising, ordering, refusing, swearing, thanking, etc. Moreover, Searle (1985, p. 1) states that in general, an illocutionary act consists of an illocutionary points or subtypes and a propositional content. For example, the two utterances 'you will eat the sandwich' and 'eat the sandwich!' have the same propositional content, which is that 'you' will eat the sandwich. The first utterance has the illocutionary subtypes of a prediction while the second one has the illocutionary subtypes of an order.

According to Searle (1985), the thing that distinguishes between illocutionary points and propositional content is supported by the fact that their identity conditions are also different. It can be concluded that the same propositional content can happen with different illocutionary points and the same illocutionary points can happen with different propositional content. By recognizing and identifying the points of an utterance, the illocutionary act of the utterance can be delivered successfully. Hence, the role of illocutionary points in determining the types and functions of illocutionary act is vital.

2.2.2 The classification of illocutionary acts

Searle (1979) establishes his own classification of speech acts which includes representatives, directives, commissives, expressive and declaration. Declarative force has a principle that words change the world. According to Yule (1996) declarative are those kinds of speech acts that change the world through utterance. It can be said the speech acts utter by the speaker can change the situation. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) indicate that declarative forces can be presented in many forms such as

declaring, approving, endorsing, excommunicating, naming, christening, resigning, firing, abbreviating, and blessing. The example of this acts are 'I now pronounce you husband and wife (priest)' and 'you're out! (Referee)' Yule (1996, p. 53). When a priest says this utterance to a couple who are getting married, the utterance changes the situation of the couple. This utterance changes two singles into a married couple. However, this utterance will not make any differences or change if the utterance is uttered by the police because the priest is the only person who has the right to utter that sentence and change the situation. The second sentence also can change the situation so that the sentence is declarative. The situation can change if the referee utters that sentence because referee is the one who has the right to utter those words. When the referee says those words means the player is out of the game. It will make any differences if the player utters that sentence.

Making words fit the world means that speech acts with assertive force is used to state what the speaker believes. Yule (1996) says that assertive force is used to represent the world as the speaker believes it is. Cutting (2002) adds that assertive act can perform some functions as describing, claiming, hypothesizing, insisting and predicting. Other forms of assertive act are informing, stating, arguing, clarifying, convincing, agreeing, describing, protesting, reminding, reporting, etc.

Expressive force means that the speaker wants to show what she feels. Leech (1983) states that the illocutionary subtypes of this speech acts can be in the forms of apologizing, condoling, praising, congratulating and thanking. While, according to Yule (1996), expressive act is a type of illocutionary act that expresses what the speaker feels. They express psychological states and can be a statement of pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy or sorrow. For example, the utterance 'I am really sorry' can be regarded as the act of apologizing. In this case, the speaker uses the apologizing to express his or her sorry to the hearer. The speaker also wants to show her or his sincere apology to the hearer.

Producing speech acts with directive force means the speaker wants the hearer to do something. Yule (1996) says that in directive act the speakers utter the utterances to make the hearers to do something based on speaker's intention. It contains the speaker's intention for the hearer to do something. According to Cutting (2002), the illocutionary forces of this illocutionary acts are commanding, ordering, requesting, suggesting, inviting, forbidding, etc.

Another type of illocutionary act is when the speaker promises the hearer that he or she will be doing something in the future. Yule (1996) states that commissive act is the type of illocutionary acts where the speakers will commit something they will do to the hearer in the future action. The speaker shows her or his intention by performing commissive acts. Cutting (2002) states that the speaker uses commissive forces to express promises, threats, pledges, refuses, offers and volunteers.

2.3 Movie

A movie is a demonstration of a real life. A movie or film is a series of moving pictures combined with sounds such as music, tone, and instrument that have a story's theme in it. Then, it is showed on television or at cinema and being watched by the people (Hornby, 2000). A movie is created by shooting actual scenes with a good quality camera. Then, the scene will be edited by the expert by adding some visual effects and using a few techniques to make the movie unique and interesting to watch.

Meanwhile, Harry Potter is a kind of British-American film series adapted from the Harry Potter novels written by J. K. Rowling. It consists of eight series of fantasy movies: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1*, and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2.*

3. METHODS

This research is in the form of content analysis. It is because this study focuses on analysing the phenomena that occurs inside the movie. The result of the data is delivered descriptively. The type of this study is descriptive qualitative. Kothari (2004) states that qualitative research is concerned with qualitative phenomena, i.e., phenomena relating to or involving quality or kind. Vanderstoep and Johnston (2008) define a qualitative research as a narrative description of the phenomena that occurs within the study. Therefore, qualitative research is applied in this study because it analysed the utterances of illocutionary acts and the most dominant types performed by Harry Potter, the main character in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret* movie. This movie is chosen for analysis; it was released in 2002.

The researchers downloaded the movie from a website named Movies Anywhere. Whereas, the kinds of data needed in this study were the utterances performed by the main character in the written form. The data of this research were collected using a note-taking technique from the utterances of the main characters in the movie. According to Sudaryanto (1993), this is a technique for providing data through reading carefully and note taking. The steps taken during data collection from movies include finding its transcript, making the data sheet, and categorizing the raw data into the sheet.

Hence, the first step taken in this research to watch *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret* movie to understand its plot and story. After the content of the movie was understood, it was re-watched to find the utterances containing illocutionary acts performed by the main character including representative, directive, declarative, commisive and expressive (Searle, 1979) by consulting the indicators from Cutting (2002), Yule (1996) and Searle and Vanderveken (1985), which are discussed earlier in the introduction part of this paper. Next, we took notes of the main character's utterances which were in accordance with the objectives of the study. Categorizing the raw data into the data sheet was the final step of the data collecting techniques. The data collection steps are concluded as follows: download the video from the website, watched the video, watched again to transcribe utterances, identified and coded the illocutionary acts in the transcription, and concluded the results.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data finding shows that they are only four kinds of illocutionary acts produced by the main character in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret movie*. They are representatives, expressives, directives and commissives. Declarative is not

found in the movie because there are no utterances containing message to change certain situation occurring to the characters of the movie. The finding of illocutionary acts and illocutionary subtypes produced by the main character in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret* movie is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. The data result of illocutionary acts and illocutionary subtypes.

No.	Classification of Searle's Illocutionary Act	Illocutionary Act Subtypes
1.	Representatives	1. Asserting 2. Arguing 3. Agreeing 4. Informing 5. Explaining 6. Predicting 7. Stating 8. Denying 9. Concluding 10. Convincing 11. Clarifying 12. Reminding
2.	Expressive	1. Blaming 2. Apologizing 3. Complimenting 4. Pleasure 5. Thanking 6. Criticizing 7. Disbelief 8. Dislike 9. Pain 10. Praising 11. Worrying 12. Annoyed 13. Afraid 14. Angry 15. Surprised
3.	Directives	1. Pleading 2. Asking 3. Forbidding 4. Suggesting 5. Ordering 6. Requesting 7. Commanding 8. Giving instruction 9. Insisting 10. Denying 11. Begging
4.	Commissives	1. Promising 2. Refusing 3. Threatening 4. Wishing

Meanwhile, the frequency of illocutionary acts found in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret* movie by the main character is illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2. The frequency of illocutionary acts and illocutionary subtypes.

No.	Classification of Searle's Illocutionary Act	Illocutionary Act Subtypes	Frequency	Total	Percentage
1.	Representatives	1. Asserting	5	64	33.51%
		2. Arguing	7		
		3. Agreeing	1		
		4. Informing	16		
		5. Explaining	5		
		6. Predicting	4		
		7. Stating	11		
		8. Denying	5		
		9. Concluding	1		
		10. Convincing	4		
		11. Clarifying	4		
		Reminding	1		
2.	Expressives	1. Blaming	2	27	14.66%
		2. Apologizing	2		
		3. Complimenting	1		
		4. Pleasure	2		
		5. Thanking	5		
		6. Criticizing	3		
		7. Disbelief	2		
		8. Dislike	1		
		9. Pain	1		
		10. Praising	3		
		11. Worrying	1		
		12. Annoyed	1		
		13. Afraid	1		
		14. Angry	1		
		15. Surprised	1		
3.	Directives	1. Pleading	1	91	47.64%
		2. Asking	45		
		3. Forbidding	2		
		4. Suggesting	5		
		5. Ordering	14		
		6. Requesting	12		
		7. Commanding	4		
		8. Giving instruction	3		
		9. Insisting	1		
		10. Calming	2		
		11. Begging	2		
4.	Commissives	1. Promising	3	8	4.19 %
		2. Refusing	1		
		3. Threatening	3		
		4. Wishing	1		
	Total of illocutionary acts occurrences			190	100%

Table 1 shows that they are four kinds of illocutionary acts found in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret* movie performed by the main character. They were

representatives, expressives, directives and commissives. Furthermore, from the table, it is seen that the most dominant used of illocutionary act is directive with 47.64%. The second is representative act with 64 utterances representing 33.51% out of the total utterances. Then, expressive act is in the third with 28 utterances representing 14.66%. Meanwhile, the least illocutionary act performed by the main character is commissive. They were revealed only with 8 utterances with 4.19% out of the total utterances. Throughout the analysis of the data, declarative act is not produced by the main character in the movie.

Table 2 shows that the illocutionary subtypes from representatives performed by the main character are asserting, arguing, agreeing, informing, explaining, predicting, stating, denying, concluding, convincing, clarifying, and reminding. Based on the finding, the most dominant used of representatives is informing, with 14 utterances. Meanwhile, the least used are agreeing, concluding and reminding, with just one utterance performed for each subtype.

Expressive illocutionary subtypes is also performed by the main character in the movie. They were blaming, apologizing, complimenting, pleasure, thanking, criticizing, disbelief, dislike, pain, praising, worrying, annoyed, afraid, angry and surprised. From Table 2, we can see that the most frequently used of expressive subtypes is thanking, with six utterances.

Various types of directive subtypes were also produced by the main character in the movie. They were pleading, asking, forbidding, suggesting, ordering, requesting, commanding, giving instruction, insisting, calming and begging. The frequency shows that asking is the most dominant subtypes of directive act performed by the main character with 45 utterances. Pleading and insisting are the least subtypes produced by the main character with one utterance of each subtypes.

For commissives act, the types of illocutionary subtypes performed by the main character were promising, refusing, threatening and wishing. Based on the result of the data, promising and threatening dominate the illocutionary subtypes of commissives with three utterances of each subtype. Refusing and wishing were the least used of illocutionary subtypes of commissive by the main character with only one utterance produced for each of them.

To conclude the results, directives are found as the most dominant type of illocutionary acts used by the main character, Harry Potter, in the movie; there are 91 utterances of directives (47.64%). Meanwhile, commissive appeared to be the least one performed by the character, which is only eight utterances (4.19%). Directives were used by Harry to get the hearer to do something (Yule, 1996). In this movie, Harry often uses asking and ordering. It was because he has a lot of things to ask about the incidents that happen in Hogwarts; he is a curious student. Furthermore, Harry uses ordering while he is with his friends. It is because Harry is the one who knows the thing his friends do not know. Then, the illocutionary act of declarative is not employed by the main character since performing declarative act needs authorities and status (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). This act used to change the world through the utterances (Yule, 1996). Harry, as the student, does not have a certain status or authority in any position at Hogwarts that can change the situation there. He is also still new with magic world and did not have much power.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The purpose of this study is to identify the types of illocutionary acts and the most dominant one used by Harry Potter as the main character in the movie. Based on the result, there are four types of illocutionary acts performed by Harry in his utterances. They are representatives, expressives, directives and commissives. This shows us that the different types of illocutionary acts performed by the main character help viewers understand better his situation and feelings while interacting with other characters in the movie. His utterances support the movie come to life to viewers who watch it.

Based on the research results of this study related to the use of illocutionary act by the main character in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret* movie, the researchers would like to put forward some suggestions for the readers. It is expected that this study can be useful for the readers or researchers to get a better understanding about illocutionary acts. Then, it is hoped that the future researchers can apply similar studies with different movies and analyse other aspects of speech acts such as locutionary act and perlocutionary act. Moreover, the result of this research is expected to be one of references in studying speech acts.

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