

## THE ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ACT IN A COMIC CONVERSATION

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this research was to analyze speech act of comic conversation. An utterance has two kinds of meaning, they are, Proportional meaning (locutionary meaning): is a speech act that a speaker performs when referring or predicting an utterance or the literal meaning of what is said. This is basic literal meaning of the utterance which is conveyed by the particular words and structures that the utterance contain, and Illocutionary meaning (illocutionary force): the social function of what is said. This is the real meaning the speaker intends to express. There are five speech acts classification; they are, First, Representative: statements may be judged true or false because they aim to describe a state of affairs in the world. Second, Directive: statements attempt to make the other person's actions fit the propositional content. Third, Comissive: A statements that commits the speaker to doing something in the future. Then, Expressive: A statement in which the speaker expresses feeling and attitudes about something. And the last, Declarative: statements that attempt to change the world by "representing it as having been changed". Maxims conversation is one of the instrument to develop the conversation to be good. The theory can be identified four unit, they are: Quality: make your contribution truthful and sincere, Quantity: provide sufficient information, Relation: make your contribution a relevant one, and Manner: make your contribution brief, present it in an orderly fashion and avoid ambiguities. The focuses of this study are to describe the locutionary and illocutionary meaning of used in the comic and to describe the speech act classification used in the comic. In this research, researcher used qualitative and the tool of data collection was used documentation. the researcher tried to analyze the data using Ethnography of communication Dell Hymes's SPEAKING mnemonic.

**Keyword:** Speech Act, Comic, Conversation

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### INTRODUCTION

Languages, understood as the particular set of speech norms of a particular community, are also a part of the large culture of the community that speaks them. Humans use language as a way of signaling identity with one cultural group and difference from others. Even among speakers of one language several different ways of using the language exist, and each is used to signal affiliation with particular subgroups within a larger culture. Linguists and anthropologists, particularly sociolinguists, ethnolinguists and linguistic anthropologists have specialized in studying how ways of speaking vary between communities. Language has many definitions, some of which are the equipment used to convey them to real concept in the mind of another person, a whole system of meaning, a code used by linguists to distinguish between form and meaning, an utterance that is true to the grammar defined (e.g. words, sentences, etc.), a speech system that will be understood by the linguistic community. Therefore, language has much significance for human being.

In general, speech act is acts of communication. The communication is way to express a certain attitude, and the type of speech act being performed corresponds to the type of attitude being expressed. For example, when your friend said "I am tired" that sentence also has both proportional meaning and illocutionary force; we can see from grammatically meaning if he was explained his condition "he was tired" but in accordance with the speaker's intention in the

attitude he being expressed, actually he wanted to say if he really need some help to do his work. An utterance has two kinds of meaning Austin (1962), they are, Proportional meaning (locutionary meaning): is a speech act that a speaker performs when referring or predicting an utterance or the literal meaning of what is said. This is basic literal meaning of the utterance which is conveyed by the particular words and structures that the utterance contain, and Illocutionary meaning (illocutionary force): the social function of what is said. This is the real meaning the speaker intends to express. Performance of an act in saying something. E.g. informing, ordering, warning, undertaking.

There are five speech acts classification; they are as follows Searle (1969) First, Representative: statements may be judged true or false because they aim to describe a state of affairs in the world, such as an assertion, claim and report. Second, Directive: statements attempt to make the other person's actions fit the propositional content, such as suggesting, a request, or a command. Third, Comissive: A statements that commits the speaker to doing something in the future, such as a promise or a threat. Then, Expressive: A statement in which the speaker expresses feeling and attitudes about something, such as apology, complaints, to thanks someone, to congratulate someone, etc. And the last, Declarative: statements that attempt to change the world by “representing it as having been changed”.

The theory by Grice (1975) postulates the theory of the cooperative principle and its attendant who together regulates the change of information between individuals involved the interaction. Maxims conversation is one of the instrument to develop the conversation to be good. The theory can be identified four unit, they are: Quality: make your contribution truthful and sincere, Quantity: provide sufficient information, Relation: make your contribution a relevant one, and Manner: make your contribution brief, present it in an orderly fashion and avoid ambiguities

Hymes (1974) developed a valuable model to assist the identification and labeling of component of linguistic interaction that was driven by his view that, in order to speak a language correctly, one need not only to learn its vocabulary and grammar, but also the context in which words are used. The model was comprised of sixteen components that can be applied to many sorts of discourse; message form, message content, setting, scene, speaker, addressor, hearer/audience/receiver, addressee, purposes, key, channels, form of speech, norm of interaction, norm of interpretation, and genres.

To facilitate the application of his representation, Hymes constructed the mnemonic, S.P.E.A.K.I.N.G, under which he grouped the sixteen components within eight divisions. They are Situation, Participant, Ends, Act Sequence, Key, Instrumentalities, Norm, and Genre.

The following is the explanation of Hymes S.P.E.A.K.I.N.G Mnemonic model:

- S= situation Setting:* concrete physical circumstance of a communicate event, including time and place.  
*Scene:* it is defined as abstract psychological setting including characteristics such as range of formality and sense of play or seriousness.
- P=Participant Speaker:* Person who conveys message.  
*Addressee:* Person to whom message is sent.  
*Addresser:* Person who originates message or the source.  
*Audience:* Person who present when message is communicated, but who are not directly addressed.
- E=Ends Outcome:* The purpose of the event from cultural or societal point of view.  
*Purpose:* The purpose of individual participants.
- A=Act Sequence Content:* Topic or subject  
*Form:* Description of the sequence or the communicative acts, from the rigid in ritual events such as leave taking condoling and less so in conversation.
- K=Key:* Tune, manner, spirit in which a speech act is carried out, includes certain kinds of behavior, gesture, posture, department
- I=Instrumentalities Channel:* The way a message travels.  
*Code:* Language, dialects, varieties, registers.
- N=Norm Interaction:* Properties, speech rules.  
*Interpretation:* Belief system that underlines what is in the actual words use.
- G=Genre:* Recognizing communicative event with a share public purpose and with aims mutually understood by participants within that event.

The researcher was choose comic as source of the data because is easily found and practical, beside that the conversation is usual in our daily conversation. This idea is coming once when the writer read the comic and then imagined the character of the comic. The conversation is easy and funny, that make the writer interesting to applying theories of speech act. Then, the writer take the data from the comic to be analyze. The focuses of this study are to describe the locutionary and ilocutionary meaning of used in the comic and to describe the speech act classification used in the comic.

## **METHOD**

In this research, the researcher follows principles of descriptive-qualitative research to analyze the data. According to This is supported by Alwasilah (2000: 111) who says that in qualitative paradigm, we can use document analysis method to analyze certain documents such as letter, autobiography, journal, textbook, government publication, and so on. Therefore, it is considered appropriate enough then to conduct this research under qualitative design through document analysis. The data used in this study are words form sentences in the interaction between two characters in the comic conversation. In this research, the data was taken from Comic conversation. The researcher only took two conversations done by *the characters* in the comic. As stated in the research method that the important instrument of a research is the researcher itself. Thus, the researcher becomes the most significant instrument of this study. The other instruments used in this study were paper, pen, dictionary, and document or file accompanying with a computer. Hornby (1995: 342) states that documentation is the act of documenting or the state of being documented. It can be said that document is used to prove

something with evidence. The document can be in form of visual, audio, or printed document such as novel, articles, etc. In this research, the researcher was tries to use audio-visual instrument such as movie to do the analysis. A computer was used to play the movie, to show the pictures and sounds of the movie, so that the researcher could start analyzing it. Paper and pen were needed to write down the conversation. Dictionary was also used to find difficult words. The definition of population is the unit where the subject of a study is obtained Sudjana and Ibrahim (1989). The population and sample used in this study was taken from a comic. The comic tells about a man with his friend talking about a car. The researcher was used the conversation between him and his friend to be the sample.

Data collecting technique is a technique of getting the data to analyze. In this study, the researcher started collecting the data from analyzing comic conversation. While analyzing comic, the researcher tried to write down the conversation needed in the analysis. At last, the researcher also tried to find the appropriate theories supporting the analysis. In analyzing the data, the researcher follows some techniques or procedures as below: the researcher was tries to show the conversation, the researcher tries to analyze the data using Ethnography of communication Dell Hymes's SPEAKING mnemonic, and at last, the researcher draws the conclusion.

**FINDING AND DISCUSSION**



**Figure I. Comic Conversation**

As both of the speakers have ability to communicate one another, thus they may be the same members belong to the same speech community. Since they are not used Standard English

in the whole speech, it is possible that they are not Englishmen, they used slang language like American.

The place they built their conversation might be in the parking area as the beginning the speaker said hello to his friend. The social and educational identities of the both speakers are undefined. It is assumed that the both were university students or school boys. The time of the conversation is unspecified whether it was in the morning, afternoon, or evening.

From the dialogue, the speakers use a less formal language and slang language. From this situation, their facial expression should be relaxed and not strained. It allows the two to do interruption while another one is speaking. Knowing the tune and manner of the situation, their conversation doesn't contain any secret, thus it allows other people to hear or even know about what topic being talked. The other participants such as audiences are unidentified in this situation. From the conversation, it can be known that the character of *the bald head* was talkative and less polite, his friend *the straight hair* more aggressive than *the bald head*. Both of them are freindly and easy to interact with the other.

This conversation involves two speakers and they tend to use language that is casual for they are equals. This interpretation is based on the fact that they are hang out friend. Therefore, it is possible that their ages are not really difference. In order to know whether the conversation was running well, the researcher tries to analyze the maxims of conversation reflected in the conversation done by *the bald head* and *the straight hair*. It is shown as below:

**Table I. Maxim of Conversation**

Data/Utterance	Maxim				Brief Explanation
	Qlt	Qnt	Rel	Man	
<i>What's up bro?</i>	-	√	√	√	Qlt : his question intended to make sure his friend condition and his friend activity. Qnt : By saying " <i>What's up bro !</i> " it makes the interlocutor know what is the intention of that word. Rel : Statement of the bald head is relevant according the topic which is " <i>asking condition</i> ". Man : the meaning is the bald head want to know his friend condition/ activity ( asking)
<i>Hey bro!! I'm fine!!</i>	-	√	√	√	Qlt : this statement is intended to answer his freind's question. Qnt : mention that her condition is good and well. Rel : the way he spoke Hey bro !! I'm fine !! is quite relevant to the topic. Man : As he spoke clearly and briefly, in this way he followed the maxim of manner.
<i>It's your new car??</i>	-	√	√	√	Qlt : his question is intended to make sure that car is friend's stuff. Qnt : By saying " <i>It's your new car??</i> "it makes the interlocutor know what is the intention of that word.



					Rel : as the topic is about the new car, so the use of this question is quiet relevant. Man : The meaning is obviously known although he only said that word. he wants to now the friends stuff.
<i>Yes, I buy it today.</i>	√	√	√	√	Qlt : this statement is intended to answer the question and that car is truly his car. Qnt : by saying “ <i>Yes, I buy it today.</i> ” It make the interlocutor know what the intention of that word. Rel : mention about the new car and when he bought it. Man : he spoke clearly and briefly.
<i>But, I don't know this machine can't turn on.</i>	√	–	√	–	Qlt : the straight hair is try to tell his friend about his new car and he speaks honestly. Qnt : by saying that statement, he want some information about his new car. Rel : mention about his car's condition. Man : He didn't spoke clearly, why/when his car suddenly can't turn on.
<i>Hmmm, may I see your machine?</i>	–	–	√	√	Qlt : his question is permission to checked his friend car. Qnt : he didn't give any answer but he want to checked it. Rel : the question is quiet relevant to the topic. Man : he spoke clearly and briefly.
<i>Be careful that's new!</i>	√	√	√	√	Qlt : his statement is intended to make sure that his friend be careful with his car. Qnt : he gave permission to his friend by saying “ <i>Be careful that's new</i> ”. Rel : this statement is relevant and to tell that he gave permission. Man : he spoke clearly and briefly, about his new car and he want be carefully.
<i>I know.</i>	–	–	√	–	Qlt : his statement is to make sure that he knew. Qnt : his statement is doubted. He knew but he didn't sure to be careful. Rel : the statement is relevant to the topic. Man : he didn't spoke briefly and clearly because he didn't said yes or no.
<i>Are you crazy?? This is washing machine!!</i>	√	√	√	√	Qlt : this statement is to showed about his mind and his feeling. Qnt : he talked honestly and he shocked. Rel : this statement is quiet relevant to the topic. Man : he spoke clearly and briefly.

The explanation above shows that the speakers in the second conversation are more cooperative as well as communicative. It may be because the speakers already knew each other and they speak in the different occasion.

The speech acts reflected in the second conversation can be analyzed as follows:

**Table II. Speech Act Classification**

NO	Speech Act	Type
1	<i>What's up bro?</i>	Expressive
2	<i>Hey bro!! I'm fine!!</i>	Expressive
3	<i>It's your new car ??</i>	Directive
4	<i>Yes, I buy it today.</i>	Representative
5	<i>But, I don't know this machine can't turn on.</i>	Expressive
6	<i>Hmmm, may I see your machine?</i>	Directive
7	<i>Be careful that's new!</i>	Expressive
8	<i>I know</i>	Expressive
9	<i>Are you crazy?? This is washing machine!!</i>	Expressive

**Table III. Speech Act Meaning**

No	Speech Act	Locutionary	Illocutinary
1	<i>What's up bro?</i>	Question	Asking to know the activity or condition
2	<i>Hey bro!! I'm fine!!</i>	Statement	Informing
3	<i>It's your new car ??</i>	Question	Asking information
4	<i>Yes, I buy it today.</i>	Statement	Informing
5	<i>But, I don't know this machine can't turn on.</i>	Description	Requesting to check his car
6	<i>Hmmm, may I see your machine?</i>	Question	Offering help
7	<i>Be careful that's new!</i>	Statement	Suggestion
8	<i>I know</i>	Statement	Agreement
9	<i>Are you crazy?? This is washing machine!!</i>	Description	Informing

Having known the speech act analysis used by the characters, the researcher tries to use Dell Hymes's SPEAKING mnemonic to find out the context of the speech act. The explanation will be as follows:

*S= Setting:* The comic was situated in the street or parking area.

*Scene:* In the parking area.

*P= Speaker:* The sraight hair.

*Addressee* : The bald head.

*Addressee* :The straight hair.

*Audience* :

*E= Outcome:*stuff explanation ( saying about his car )

*Purpose:*the straight hair ( explaining about his car )

: the bald head ( receiving explanation)

*A= Content:*New car.

*Form:* Consultative (two-way participants)

*K= Key:* In low tone. Both of them used gestures while speaking

*I= Channel:* Oral

*Code:*Informal, Slang, English.

*N=Interaction:* Allowing Interruption.

*G=Genre:* Conversation (Interpersonal)

Based on the analysis above, it can be informed that units of Ethnography of conversation analysis using Hymes's SPEAKING mnemonic are various. As people speak

differently in the different occasion, it is important for people to know the units of analysis so that they can interpret such phenomena as conversation easily.

1. The maxim of conversations

The straight hair is cooperative and talkative, he spoke much about his car and his car's condition and the bald haed is more talkative and cooperative, he interrupt and he spoke much than the straight hair.

2. The speech act mostly used in the conversation

Based on the speech acts analysis, the most speech acts frequently used in the dialogue is expressive.

3. Way of the speakers talking

The conversation is running well because it was not their first meeting. But they didn't say name. Therefore they try to discussing about the new car. They look friendly and know each other.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the finding and discussion, the researcher tries to draw conclusions as follows: The maxim obeyed by the speakers in the conversation are 4 maxim of quality, 6 maxim of quantity, 9 maxim of relevance, and 7 maxim of manner. The type of act mostly used in conversation is Expressive, it is found 6 expressive form, 2 directive form, and 1 representative form. There are several reasons why people talk differently in the different occasion. Firstly, they haven't known each other or may derive from the different the speech community. Second, the situation was influencing. Thirdly, the event was occurred. But there are the reason when people talk friendly. First, they are friend or old friend. Second, both of them are nice, polite and kind. Last, when they need help or back up.

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