

# THE EXISTENCE OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS AND ITS TYPES USED IN “SEARCHING” MOVIE

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## ABSTRACT

Communication is very important in human relations. Fluency and understanding of communication can launch things to be achieved for a speaker. This research aimed to analyze the existence of illocutionary acts and the types of illocutionary acts used in a movie (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). This research used a 2018 movie entitled Searching as a data source. This film told about the efforts of a father to find his missing daughter in various ways. The Searching movie taken as the data source because the movie is unique and different from the others. This research used qualitative descriptive method because the analysis carried out will be explained in a narrative text that contains words. The collecting data method in this research used non-participant technique. The approach used in this study is a pragmatic approach. The results found from this study indicate the existences of using illocutionary acts in the data source and the use of its types in the form of declarative, expressive, commissive, directive, and representative. The speech acts theory of illocutionary acts were implemented in every conversation found in the movie of “Searching”.

**Keywords:** illocutionary acts, pragmatics, searching, speech acts

## 1. Introduction

Daily conversation is something that is very often done by fellow humans in life. Even with conversation people can make a decision or agreement on a matter. Conversation cannot be separated from its relation to language. Whatever language is used, language is important in conversation. The more understandable the language used, the

closer the goal to be achieved in a conversation.

Linguistics is learning about language. Linguistics has many branches below which can be interpreted that a language has a very broad scope behind the words or sentences. Some examples of parts of linguistics are syntax, phonology, morphology, and pragmatics. In this article pragmatics is used as the foundation of the analysis

to be carried out. According to Levinson (2008), pragmatics is a study that specifically studies how a language is used. Meanwhile, according to Yule (1996), pragmatics is a study that discusses an implied meaning in an utterance conveyed by someone. In pragmatics the relationship between listener and speaker is so intertwined that both can understand an unstated purpose.

As for the study of pragmatics, speech acts are one of the scopes in the study. Speech act is a learning about the meaning of the words conveyed or written by a speaker to the recipient. What is to be achieved in speech acts is the understanding obtained from the words. In speech acts, the presence of an interlocutor is very important to convey a goal. The speech act is divided into three parts of action in it in the form of locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts.

Speech acts can be said to always be found in all situations in a conversation. A speech act can be defined as an utterance uttered by a speaker to his listener. Learning about speech acts is considered important because it can make an understanding of what is conveyed by a speaker. As Austin (1975) claimed that speech act is not only expressing the information but also performs an action as well. For example, the phrase "I would like the salad; could you please pass it to me?" is considered as a speech act as it expresses the speaker's attention to have the salad and also a request to pass the salad to the speaker.

Conversation is one way in which a speech act is found. As for a movie, conversations between characters cannot be separated to make the audience understand what they want to

convey or what the characters want to do. With the relation of the movie to the conversation, the researcher uses a movie in the analysis in this article. In this study, the researcher focused on analyzing the existence of illocutionary acts and the types of illocutionary acts used in a movie. The source of data taken by researchers in this article is a movie with the title "Searching". This is a 2018 movie directed by Aneesh Chaganty and is 102 minutes long. This movie is unique in conveying the storyline which tells of a father's efforts to find his missing daughter and there is no serious action from the police so that the father starts looking for his own daughter assuming the child has disappeared for some reason. In conveying the plot, this Movie depicts it through the child's laptop which will always appear in most of this movie.

There are several previous studies that also analyze speech acts. The first article was written by Marbun & Handayani (2020), their article aimed to find the types of speech act used in a movie. The data source of this article is a movie entitled Grown Ups. The results found in this study were that there were 30 data consisting of 6 locutionary acts, 15 illocutionary acts, and 9 perlocutionary acts. In this article it is also found that the most widely used speech act is the illocutionary act. The next article was written by Sari (2020) which aimed to analyze the types of speech act in a movie. The data source of this article is a Spongebob Squarepants movie. The results in this analysis found 118 data related to speech acts and the fact that directive speech is the highest speech act used in the data source.

The similarity between the two articles above and this article is the

theory. This article used Abraham Maslow's theory of the hierarchy of needs. The previous two articles also used Abraham Maslow's theory. The difference between the two articles above and this first article is the data source. This article used Searching movie as the data source. Marbun & Handayani (2020) article used Grown Ups movie as the data source, while Sari (2020) article used Spongebob Squarepants movie as the data source. The second difference is the purpose, two previous articles aimed to discover the types of speech acts in a movie. Meanwhile in this article aimed to analysis the existence of illocutionary acts and the types of illocutionary acts used in a Searching movie.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Speech acts**

Saying something either orally or in writing is an action that is usually done. Birner (2013) said that the speech act theory is a theory that links listeners and speakers in seeing what is said, not only from what is seen. Birner (2013) in her book also explained that speech acts in the surrounding situation in a conversation are important things that must also be considered to understand the intentions of the speaker to the listener.

As for the definition of speech acts from other experts, Yule (1996) said that a speech act is an action that is conveyed through language which can be in the form of speech or writing. Yule (1996) divided speech acts into two types, direct and indirect. Direct speech acts usually convey something that is not known with the pure aim of getting information. Indirect speech acts usually convey something that is already known with the aim of

confirming the information that is already known.

The theory of speech acts was further developed by Austin who divided speech acts into three types, namely locutions, illocutions, and perlocutions. Austin (1962) in his book concludes that an action can be used to do something. Austin (1962) also in his book develops a performative theory that produces the three types of speech acts mentioned above. Locutionary acts are general actions carried out in an utterance or in writing which can be seen from the meaning only from the utterances conveyed, it can be said that locutionary acts are actions that are in accordance with what is stated by the speaker. Illocutionary acts are actions that are performed verbally or in writing with a specific purpose. Finally, the perlocutionary act is the result of the action when the illocutionary act is successfully understood by the listener or recipient. Perlocutionary acts can be said as actions that arise because of an action or speech that existed before.

### **2.2 Illocutionary act**

This research focused on the types of the illocutionary act in a movie. As explained above, illocutionary acts are actions that are carried out verbally or in writing with a specific purpose. An illocutionary act can be said as an action that has an action in it, such as an utterance containing a command or warning. Searle & Vanderveken (1985) in their book explained that illocutionary acts are divided into five parts to make it easier to classify an utterance. The five utterances mentioned before are:

#### **A. Declarative**

This type of illocutionary act aims to provide the achievement of a goal, it

can also aim to clarify the situation by not speaking. Some examples related to declarative are speeches about resignation, promotion, declaration.

#### B. Representative

This type of illocutionary act aims to provide information to the receiver or listener about a statement that is believed by the speaker. Some examples related to representative are complaints, diagnoses, and conclusions.

#### C. Comissive

This type of illocutionary act aims to provide information to the receiver or listener about an action to be taken in the future. An example that is closely related to comissive is a promise.

#### D. Directives

This type of illocutionary act aims to provide a direction that can take the form of an action to the receiver or listener. Examples related to directives are orders, requests, and advice.

#### E. Expressive

This type of illocutionary act aims to provide a description in speech or other form of what the speaker feels or thinks. Examples related to expressiveness are apologies, thanks, and congratulations.

### 3. Research Method

Qualitative descriptive method is the method used in this article. This method is used because according to Sugiyono (2013) qualitative method is a method that analyzes by explaining it in a narrative or explanation developed from data sources in the form of words or sentences. In this article the data source used is a movie entitled Searching. The object of research in this article is the existence of illocutionary acts and the types of illocutionary acts used in a Searching movie.

Data collection techniques used non-participant techniques because there was no need for participation other than data sources and several previous studies in the analysis process. Researcher collected data by watching the Searching movie and reading the transcript of the Searching movie. The researcher also associated the data sources with the existing illocutionary types. Finally, the researcher collected the relevant searching movie transcripts as research data and reread the data sources to ensure the data obtained supported the analysis.

The data analysis technique in this article applies Searle's theory in illocutionary types. The researcher carried out a process in the form of rereading the classification results of the data that had been collected, connecting the classified data using Searle's theory, explaining the focus of the problem in the form of the existence of illocutionary acts and the types of illocutionary acts used in a Searching movie, and finally reporting the results of the research in the framework of article writing.

### 4. Result and Discussion

After collecting some data through the movie, then it is classified based on the main theory of illocutionary acts to find out their existence in the movie and also their types in the same time. The data below are some representation from all data that have been found in the movie. To see the illocutionary acts in the data, see the discussion below.

#### 4.1 Result

The first data to be discussed from the "Searching" movie to find out the types of illocutionary acts is the

data 1 taken from the conversation from two speakers.

**David Kim:** *"This is David Kim, Margot's father".*

**Mrs. Shahinian:** *"Yes. I'm in the middle of a lesson. May I call you back afterwards?"*

The conversation above is included in illocutionary acts of various types. The first is the sentence delivered by David Kim which can be categorized as declarative because he stated that he is the father of Margot. The second, in the sentence conveyed by Mrs. Shahinian can be categorized as commissive in the form of an offer or promise to David to get back in touch after she finished her job.

The second data that represent types of illocutionary acts could be seen from the conversation below between two characters in the movie.

**Mrs. Shahinian:** *"Margot Kim canceled her classes six months ago".*

**David Kim:** *"What?"*

**Mrs. Shahinian:** *"Is she looking to restart lessons?"*

**David Kim:** *"Hold on. That... doesn't make any sense. She loves piano".*

The conversation above is included in illocutionary acts of representative types. The first is the sentence delivered by Mrs. Shahinian about Margot cancelled the class can be categorized as representative because she reported an information to David Kim. The second, in the sentence conveyed by David Kim also can be categorized as representative as well in the form of fact that his daughter love piano.

Moreover, different types of illocutionary acts could be also found from the third data below.

**Mrs. Shahinian:** *"Mr. Kim, is everything okay?"*

**David Kim:** *"Yes. Um..."*

**David Kim:** *"Everything's fine".*

**David Kim:** *"Thank you".*

**David Kim:** *"Thank you, Mrs. Shahinian".*

The conversation above is included in illocutionary acts with declarative and expressive types. First, the sentence that was conveyed by David Kim about his good condition can be included in declarative because he stated his condition. Second, in the sentence delivered by David Kim, those who say thank you can be categorized as expressive.

Another example of illocutionary acts found in the movie could be seen from the fourth data displayed below.

**David Kim:** *"Hi, sweetheart. Sorry I missed your call. I was asleep".*

**David Kim:** *"Um, just checking in 'cause it looks like you already left for school this morning".*

The sentence above is included in illocutionary acts with expressive types. The sentence that was conveyed by David Kim about his apology to his daughter can be included into expressive because that was apologizing.

After that, another data also shows an interesting example of illocutionary acts in the movie. The data 5 below is the representation.

**Isaac's Mom:** *"I just haven't spoken to you since Pam's..."*

**David Kim:** "Oh. Oh. Thank you".

**David Kim:** "Everything is great. Margot and I are great".

The conversation above is included in illocutionary acts with declarative and expressive types. First, the words of gratitude conveyed by David Kim can be put into expressive because he expressed what he feels. Second, in the sentence that was also conveyed by David Kim about the relationship between him and his daughter, it was declarative because he stated that nothing had happened between him and his daughter.

Next data number 6 is the occurrence of another types of illocutionary acts that have been found in the movie. The data below is taken from two people in the movie having a conversation.

**David Kim:** "Just wanted to say I'm sorry, I couldn't be of more help".

**David Kim:** "Yeah. Can you put my daughter on the phone, please?"

**Isaac:** "Did my mom not tell you?"

The sentence above is included in the illocutionary act with the type of directive. The sentence conveyed by David Kim can be included in the request because in the conversation above David asked Isaac to give his daughter his phone. This is included in the directive because David asked for an action from his hearer, Isaac.

The Data number 7 is taken from a single conversation from one person in the movie. The data is shown below.

**Detective Vick:** "We'll handle the ground investigation, Mr. Kim. That's our job".

The sentence above is included in the illocutionary act with the type of commissive. The sentence conveyed by Detective Vick can be included in the guarantee of her act in the future to manage her investigation about Margot Kim.

The last data to be discussed in this study is also taken from two characters having a conversation. See the data 8 below.

**Detective Vick:** "Okay. Mr. Kim, I am going to find out what happened to your daughter".

**Detective Vick:** "But I'll need to know a lot more about her, okay?"

**David Kim:** "Yes, yes."

**David Kim:** "What do you want me to do?"

The sentence above is included in the illocutionary act with the commissive type. Detective Vick's words could be included in plan, promise, or even guarantee for her future actions to find out about Margot's disappearance.

## 4.2 Discussion

After analyzing the data source in the form of a movie with the title Searching, the researcher found several findings. First, the finding of illocutionary acts in the collected data. In the data collected, it was found that all types of illocutionary acts were fulfilled as a whole. It means that the conversation in the movie "Searching" has shown the speech acts existence. While for the types of speech acts that has been found are five types such as declarative,

expressive, commissive, directive, and representative.

## 5. Conclusion

Speech act is a part of pragmatics study that focuses on what the speaker wants to the listener, either purely from spoken words or even unspoken words. In this article, the researcher focused on the analysis of speech acts in the illocutionary act in a 2018 movie entitled *Searching*. In this analysis, researchers look for the existence and types of illocutionary acts used in *Searching* movie. The researcher found that in the *Searching* movie, there were illocutionary acts as evidenced by the data on finding and the researcher also found that all types of illocutionary acts in the form of declarative, expressive, commissive, directive, and representative were used as a whole in the *Searching* movie.

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