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AN ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN THE MOVIE “JOHN WICK CHAPTER 4”

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Abstract

The action or intention of a speaker when they use language in context is called speech act, and listeners infer what it means. Illocutionary act is the demonstration of saying, which is committed with the planned of speaker by expressing a sentence like asking, stating, questioning, ordering, promising, apologizing, requesting and threatening. Basically, many people did mis-understanding in their daily communication because of misconception to the meaning or context. Each of them has different case of the problem, and the movie close to us to give many cases and examples of illocutionary acts context to observe and learn. This descriptive qualitative research is provided in the form of utterances of John Wick as the main character in the movie “*John Wick Chapter 4*” (2023), which contain the type of illocutionary acts and its function. The data were classified based on Searle’s theory (1969) to find the type of illocutionary acts, namely representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative, and Leech’s theory (1983) to find its function in the conversation, namely competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive by descriptive qualitative method. The findings showed that there were all the five types of illocutionary acts found in this research. And the type of illocutionary acts found most in this movie was directive. And the researcher also found all the four functions of illocutionary acts. The function of illocutionary acts found most in this category was competitive. The researcher anticipates that the future researchers should examine the idea of illocutionary acts in more various subject, for example, video digital broadcast, Program, paper and numerous others. The researcher also anticipates that the future researchers should investigate illocutionary acts with various hypotheses or viewpoints.

Keywords: illocutionary acts, movie john wick, pragmatics, speech act

1. Introduction

Through spoken or written texts, language can be used as a tool for communication to assist people in expressing their ideas, emotions, and feelings to others. There could never be any communication between two or more people without language. When conversing verbally with another person, we use our words to convey to the other person the ideas we have on our minds. Our words will not only communicate our thoughts, but also set the behavior of the other person. It refers to pragmatics. It is essential to comprehend pragmatics in daily life in order to facilitate comprehension of the speaker's and the interlocutor's intentions. Speech acts as one of pragmatics study, where a speaker's intentions go beyond just using words or phrases.

Speech act, as defined by Searle (2005), is a type of verbal communication. Two words, speech and act, are the source of the expressions of speech acts. Speech is what is said, and action is what is done. There are three kinds of speech act, they are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Locutionary act is an act of saying something which merely delivers the literal meaning of utterances. Illocutionary act is an act in saying something which sets a function to perform the intended meaning in utterances. Perlocutionary act is a certain effect of utterances may have on the interlocutor as the effect of illocutionary act. Illocutionary act is an important part in order to understand the speech acts. It turns into the essential of examination in pragmatics appreciation. Furthermore, Searle divided the illocutionary act into five categories: declarative, representation, directive, expressive, and commissive.

The meaning and context of each type of illocutionary act vary. According to Searle (1969), the five categories of illocutionary acts are representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

1. Representative

Representative is a speech act that the utterances commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. The utterances are created in light of the speaker's perception of specific things that followed by expressing the reality or assessment in view of the perception. When someone says "he is handsome", the speaker has the ability to state the value based on facts or, conversely, by independently providing information on a subject's physical condition. It also states whether or not the speaker believes the situation to be true. Examples of the speaker who perceives the world as they perceive it included facts, assertions, conclusions, and descriptions. In case, when someone says "The sky is blue", it indicates that they are expressing their opinion about the sky. They have an opinion or belief that the sky is blue. Representative speech act can be noted by some speech acts verb, as remind, inform, describe, insist, assure, agree, affirm, deny, correct, state, guess, anticipate, report, and come to a conclusion.

2. Directive

When a speaker utilizes verbal act to persuade someone else to take an action it's called directive. Requesting, interrogating, commanding, and proposing are some examples for these. In case, when someone says "Could you sing a romantic song for me now?" the statement expresses the speaker's urge for the listener to sing a romantic song for the speaker.

3. Commissive

Commissive speech acts include promising, threatening, offering, refusing, and pledges, all of which commit the speaker to a future course of action. For example, when someone says “I’ll be back”, represents the speaker’s promise that he/she will be back.

4. Expressive

Expressions that convey a mental state are referred to as expressive. It includes thanking, apologizing, welcoming, and congratulating. For instance, when someone says “I’m happy for you’re coming to my place.” The statement conveys the speaker’s intention to extend a warm welcome to someone.

5. Declarative

Declarative speech acts tend to rely on elaborate extra-linguistic institutions and cause immediate changes in the institutional state of affairs. It includes excommunicating, declaring war, christening, firing from employment. Let’s say, when someone says “I’ll kill all of the terrorist.” It’s kind of war declaration by the speaker against the terrorist.

Illocutionary act is fascinating to be broken down to figure out the capability of expression and the expected importance of expression. It includes context or situation that can provide additional details to help comprehend the utterance’s intended meaning.

The functions of illocutionary acts are divided into four types based on Leech’s theory (1983), they are competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive. The followings are descriptions of the four purposes of illocutionary acts.

1. The goal of **competitive** is to outperform social goals including begging, ordering, requesting and demanding. It is meant to elicit some sort of response from the listener. For instance, “I want two cups of coffee”. It is an example of ordering.
2. **Convivial** goals that align with social objectives, like extending an offer, greeting, inviting, thanking, and congratulating. Such as, “Could you have a dinner in my house tonight?”. This utterance performed an offer.
3. The goal of **collaborative** is to overlook social function such as informing, declaring, reporting, and asserting. The speaker is obligated to uphold the veracity of the statement made. One example of reporting is, “I knew that he was a professional football player”.
4. **Conflictive** tactics such threatening, blaming, and reprimanding, are meant to go against the social goals. “I will tell your Dad, if you want to disturb me again”. It is kind of threatening.

There are some researchers who have been examined illocutionary acts with their own unique interests. Asyikin (2021) analyzed the types of illocutionary acts uttered in Ratatouille movie and classified them into five types based on Searle’s theory in Yule (representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative). Tampubolon (2023) conducted a research aimed to examine the utilization of speech acts and language styles in the context of the movie John Wick. Marcellino (2023) conducted a research which focused on determining the types of directive speech and describing how the movie’s directive speech act is carried out in the movie John Wick Chapter 3 (2019).

14 The movie as an object of this research, entitled *John Wick Chapter 4*, an action thriller movie directed and co-produced by Chad Stahelski and written by Shay Hatten and Michael Finch. The illocutionary acts from its movie based on its classification by using Searle's theory and its function by using Leech's theory, which those some similar researches use the same theory but with other objects or different perspectives. Therefore, this research was significant in contributing to our understanding of language use (illocutionary acts) in the movie and its potential impact on language learning (pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and others).

2. Method

This research used descriptive qualitative research. A qualitative method refers to research procedures, which produce descriptive data, people's own written or spoken words and observable behavior (Bodgan and Taylor, 2015). The data of qualitative method can be written or spoken words, pictures, films, or behaviors. The researcher used qualitative research because it elaborated the utterances performed by the main character of the movie, John Wick in the movie *John Wick Chapter 4*, which focused on the illocutionary acts. Gay (2003) stated that descriptive research is a method where things are determined and reported as the way they are. The researcher used Spradley's theory as a technique of data analysis. There were four steps in analyzing the obtained data of this research, namely domain analysis, taxonomic analysis, componential analysis, and theme analysis (Spradley, 1980).

3. Results and Discussion

This section presents the findings and discussion of the illocutionary acts performed in the movie *John Wick Chapter 4*. This research focused on the data based on Searle's theory to find the types of illocutionary acts uttered and Leech's theory to find these functions. The examples of collected data are below.

Results

A. Representative

1. John : *My ring, my freedom.*

The utterance of John is happened in the middle of the dessert, one of the High Table headquarters. John believed that the Elder who managed the headquarter will help him to get his freedom. It is included in the **representative** type because John told the Elder an information by his statement. It has **competitive** function because he clearly insisted the Elder to give him his ring back so that he could be free from the High Table. It is kind of asking.

2. John : *You and I left a good life behind a long time ago, my friend.*

The utterance of John is happened during his conversation with his old friend, Shimazu while drinking a cup of tea. Shimazu believed that the way John solved his problem by killing as many as he could would not give him a freedom. It is included in **representative** type because he told Shimazu the truth of their life before. It has **collaborative** function because he believed that he, himself and Shimazu no longer had a good life after a long time, and he was giving it as an assertion.

3. John : *I don't sit at The Table, Winston.*

John told Winston that he didn't sit at the High Table, because only the part of High Table could do the duel. The utterance of John in the conversation is included in **representative** type because John reminded Winston back that he was no longer has a family who sit at The High Table. It has **collaborative** function because he is kind of asserting.

B. Directive

1. ⁵ *The elder* : *Then why are you here?*

John : *For you to help me change their minds.*

The utterance of John in the conversation is included in **directive** type because he requested the elder to help him confront the other elders in the High Table as his coming. It has **competitive** function because John demanded on The Elder to give some help.

2. *John* : *I need to speak to Uncle.*

John asked the Priest to bring him to the Uncle. The utterance of John in the conversation is included in **directive** type because it is represented as John's request to be able to meet the Uncle, who is here to be believed as the owner of Ruska Roma family. It has **competitive** function because the way John uttered it is kind of ordering.

3. *John* : *They gave you my name.*

Caine : *Yeah.*

The utterance of John in the conversation is included in **directive** type because it represented as John's question towards Caine and it was intended to be answered by Caine. It has **conflictive** function because it is a form of accusing.

C. Commissive

1. *John* : *You can still walk away.*

The utterance of John in the conversation is included in **commissive** type with because John needed Arno to go away and did not hunt him, then John won't kill him as his reply. It has **convivial** function because John made an offer to Arno.

2. *John* : *your pain is my pain.*

The utterance of John in the conversation is included in **commissive** type because it represented as John's pledge to the Ruska Roma family. It has **collaborative** function because the way John uttered is kind of assertion that he was ready for joining back the family.

D. Expressive

1. *John* : *For troubling you like this, I'm sorry.*

The utterance of John in the conversation is included in **expressive** type because the utterance represented John's apology towards Shimazu that he would be involved Shimazu directly in the war with the elders of High Table. It has **convivial** function because the utterance showed the politeness.

2. *John* : *Thank you. Winston.*

John thanked to Winston of all his help and support. The utterance of John in the conversation is included in expressive type with because it represented as John's thank to Winston for all the things including the way out of High Table. It has convivial function that contains thanking.

3. ⁵ *John* : *My condolences. He was a good man.*

Winston : *Yes. He was taken for our sins.*

The utterance of John in the conversation is included in **expressive** type because John was condoled with Winston over the loss of his aide (friend) and he was clearly saw him (Winston's aide) as a good man. The way John uttered the last sentence is kind of reporting and it include **collaborative** function.

E. Declarative

1. *John* : *I'm going to kill you.*

The utterance of John in the conversation is included in **declarative** type because it represented as John's declaration to kill Killa as a revenge for the death of Petr. It has **conflictive** function because the way John uttered it is kind of threatening that would happen soon.

The findings of this research classified the components from types of illocutionary acts and its functions, and it analyzed based on its categories, that is shown in the table below. The amount of each category taken and customized from the amount of data in research findings.

Table 1. The Findings

Types of Illocutionary Acts	Functions				Total
	Competitive	Convivial	Collaborative	Conflictive	
Representative	2	-	13	-	15
Directive	18	-	-	1	19
Commissive	-	2	1	-	3
Expressive	-	2	1	-	3
Declarative	-	-	-	2	2
Total	21	4	14	3	42

Based on the data analysis, the researcher found 42 utterances containing types and functions of illocutionary acts used in the movie “*John Wick Chapter 4*”. The most dominant type was directive with competitive function which consists of 18 data out of 42 data or 42.85% of all data. And it follows with representative type with collaborative function which consists of 13 data out of 42 data or 30.95% of all data. The least type found in the movie are directive type with conflictive function, commissive type with collaborative function, and expressive type with collaborative function which consist of 1 data out of 42 data or 2.38% of all data.

Discussion

After analyzing the data, it showed that there are 5 types of illocutionary acts with 4 functions found in the utterance of the main character of the movie *John Wick Chapter 4*. The **first** type, representative, has two functions that found in the utterance of John Wick, namely competitive and collaborative. There are 2 utterances that contain the competitive function and 13 utterances that contain the collaborative function. The **second** type, directive, has only one function that is competitive. The directives type of illocutionary acts with competitive function are the dominant data, it was 18 data that contain competitive function and 1 utterance that contains conflictive function. The **third** type, commissive, has two functions that found in the utterance of John Wick, namely convivial and collaborative. There are 2 utterances consist of convivial function and 1 utterance consists of collaborative function. The **fourth** type, expressive, has two functions that found in the utterance of John Wick, namely convivial and collaborative. There are 2 utterances consist of convivial function and 1 utterance consists of collaborative function. The **fifth** type, declarative, has only one function that is conflictive. There are 2 utterances consist of conflictive function found in the movie.

The results of this research were compared to the previous research conducted by Asyikin (2021) analyzed the types of illocutionary acts uttered in *Ratatouille* movie and classified it into 5 types based on Searle’s theory. She found that there were 48 utterances which consist of only 4 types of illocutionary acts in the movie, they are directives with 20 utterances, expressive with 11 utterances, representatives with 10 utterances, and commissive with 6 utterances. And the most dominant type was directives. The directives type was frequently used in the movie by the speaker because the speaker wanted to get the interlocutors to do something.

The results of the previous research were quite similar to the present research which conducted by the researcher. The directive type was found as the dominant data of all data, it was 19 utterances of 42 utterances. However, this present research' result found more that the directive type used by the main character which consisted of requesting and questioning had two functions in the conversation according to Leech's theory, namely competitive function and conflictive function. These functions of the directive type would help more in comprehending the situation when the main character conveying his meaning during the conversation with the interlocutors.

This research also compared to the second previous research conducted by Tampubolon (2023), she focused on the language style and sentence structure in the movie John Wick. The result of the research was the illocutionary acts became the most dominant type of speech acts in the movie with 42.85%. This present research which was conducted by the researcher with a similar movie, *John Wick*, provided more results that focused on illocutionary acts. The illocutionary acts used more in the movie because it carried a certain action and appealed to the meaning and direction of the speaker. John Wick as the main character of the movie uttered speech acts which consisted of more illocutionary acts in conveying his meaning because he needed helps from his friends to be able to confront the Elders of the High Table. And indeed, he was able to fight the Elders well in the movie.

The next previous study is by Marcellino (2023), it showed that there were 6 types of directives acts in the movie. The most dominant type was asking and accounting for 47 utterances of 72 utterances or 65.27 percent. The second most frequent was commanding for 13 utterances or 18.05 percent. Following that, the third was requesting which appeared 6 times or 8.33 percent. The fourth was appearing which appeared 3 times or 4.16 percent. And the last two types were advising and inviting which each of them appeared 2 times or 2.77 percent. Asking and accounting were found as the dominant data because it was often used by the main character, John Wick, in conveying his meaning of words to the interlocutors during the conversations in the movie. This present research which conducted by the researcher found that the most dominant type was directive type with 19 of 42 utterances. However, requesting and questioning appeared many times instead of asking and accounting. These types of directives found as the dominant data because John used it frequently during the conversation to convey his meaning in achieving his goal, to be free from the High Table.

Based on those previous researches, the researcher can analyze deeply about illocutionary acts, each type and its functions. Therefore, this research was conduct to fill the gap from the previous researches. The researcher collected the previous research to know more the knowledge, and added the new analysis as the objectives of the present research. The present research's result was taken the utterances of the main character of the movie, John Wick and provided 42 data which contain 15 representative type, 19 directive type, 3 commissive type, 3 expressive type and 2 declarative type.

4. Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussions in the previous chapter, there are four conclusions that can be drawn in this research.

1. The researcher found all types of illocutionary acts in this movie, those are; representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative. Which is the most dominant type of illocutionary act that used was directive.
2. The researcher found the four kind of illocutionary acts functions in this movie, those are; competitive, convivial, collaborative and conflictive. Which is the most dominant function that found was competitive.
3. The most dominant type of illocutionary acts used by the main character of the movie *John Wick Chapter 4* consist of directive indicating that the character as professional assassin gave the strong personality when he has a target on his life, he will do anything to get that. And it shown the professional don't like to waste their time for disappointed things. As known that John Wick try all the best of him against the high table in this chapter of the movie.
4. The most dominant function of illocutionary acts used by the main character in the movie *John Wick Chapter 4* consist of competitive function, it means the illocutionary goal was to outperform social goals including begging, ordering, requesting and demanding. It is meant to elicit some sort of response from the listener.

For cinephiles, this research is expected to provide additional guidance in understanding the movie in order to avoid misunderstanding or misinterpretation the utterance of the main character, *John Wick*. For readers, the result of the research is expected to help as a reference to study illocutionary acts in study pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and others. Hope to the future researchers, due to the limitation of knowledge about the use of illocutionary acts in the movie, it is suggested to be more encourage in exploring the topic deeper and broader.

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