

UTTERANCES IN *THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW* MOVIE: AN ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACT

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ABSTRAK

*This research aims to identify the illocutionary act performed by the main character in *The Woman in the Window* movie. This movie tells the story of Anna Fox, the main character with agoraphobia. The researchers are interested to find out the types of illocutionary act in the utterances of a person suffering from an anxiety disorder. Qualitative research and content analysis are used as the methodology. The data are collected from the movie and analyzed through some steps. The theory of Searle (1976) is applied to analyze the data. The findings reveal that four types of illocutionary act: 18 assertive, 6 directives, 1 commissive, and 5 expressive utterances are used by the main*

character in attempting to investigate a murder. The purposes of the illocutionary act are to conclude, to state as assertive utterances, to ask, to request, to order, to command, to beg as directives utterances, to make a duty to herself as commissive utterances, and to apologize, to dislike, to thank as expressive utterances. The dominant utterance used was assertive which carries the value of true or false. It indicates that the main character was trying hard to convince the police officer of what she said was true. Interestingly, only 1 commissive utterance was used to prove what she saw was true. It explains the condition of the main character with agoraphobia.

Keywords: *Illocutionary acts, Woman in the Window movie, speech act, utterances*

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INTRODUCTION

People in their social life always relate to others because they cannot live without others. They try to communicate with each other by using language. Communicating requires not only knowing the meaning of words in an utterance but also understanding what a speaker means. Language is used to deliver information, ideas, feelings, and desires. It indicates that the speaker intends to deliver a certain meaning to the listener, and the listener attempts to respond to what the speaker means by saying and doing something in a specific context. The subject which studies the meaning in communication is called pragmatics.

Pragmatics shows how language has been used within a context and in particular ways. This term examines how people affect the ways when language is used to make various functions and intended purposes. It can be in giving and asking for information or asking for help. It means that the speaker not only creates utterances in communication but also performs actions through the utterances. When people talk, they are doing things with their words since language is used not only to explain words but also to conduct an action that has a purpose and impact on the listener. In pragmatics, this term is called a speech act.

Speech act theory is a pragmatics branch that shows the way people act through their speech. A speech act is an utterance and action that occur at the same time (Hidayat, 2016). Knowing which speech act to perform is an important component of how people communicate through language. According to Austin (1962), there are three types of speech acts, those are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act.

The type of speech act that the speaker wants to accomplish in saying the utterance is called an illocutionary act. An Illocutionary act is an intended action carried out by the speaker through utterances. The benefits of an illocutionary act are to make the purpose of the utterances be understood and to know what the speaker means when he or she utters the utterances, for instance, in the utterance of 'You have to see me tomorrow'. The intended action in this utterance is that the speaker wants the interlocutor to meet the speaker, in a face-to-face meeting.

A speech act is usually found in every communication and even in a movie. The utterances of every character in a movie have intended meanings as the characters are conveying their ideas, thought, and belief in particular ways to interest the audience. Studies of the types of speech acts have been conducted by a few researchers. The first study was conducted to find the types of illocutionary acts, the context of the illocutionary act, and the perlocutionary act (Nadeak et al 2017). The researchers applied George Yule's (1996) and Dell Hymes's (1974) theories to analyze the data, the utterances of Judy Hoop as the main character in the Zootopia movie. Judy is a little rabbit having a dream to be a police officer in Zootopia city. The utterances containing the types and context of the illocutionary act were gathered to see if they affected the listeners performing the perlocutionary act in their dialogs. The findings showed that thirteen representative utterances categorized into a statement of fact to state, assert, conclude, inform, affirm and report appeared in the dialogs. Commissive utterances took place in the form of completing, promising, refusing, wishing, and threatening. Expressive utterances came out as complementing, deploring, greeting, mocking, thanking, praising, apologizing, and leave-taking. Declaration was the only illocutionary act that appeared in the form of approval. The main character used all of her utterances to influence the other characters to try something new for a better place to live in Zootopia city.

The next study was conducted by Rahayu et al. (2018) from Mulawarman University. Their analysis was based on the speech act theory by Searle (1979) and the speaking model theory by Hymes (1974). They collected the data by watching the movie, reading the dialogue of the main characters from the script, and selecting the dialogues containing illocutionary acts. The researchers applied Miles and Huberman's procedures namely data reduction and data display in term of utterances of the main character

containing an illocutionary act. The data were classified into five namely representative (4), directives (37), declarative (0), commissives (2), and expressives (12). Of the total 55 illocutionary acts, directives are the most frequent types of illocutionary acts because the main characters mostly expressed their utterances indirect way such as by ordering, requesting, asking, and commanding. Eight factors affecting the illocutionary act of the main characters using the context of Hymes' SPEAKING model are setting, participants, ends, act, sequences, key, instrumentalities, and gender.

The last study was carried out by Indrawati et al., in 2021 to find the type of assertive illocutionary act used by the local guide in Tirta Empul Temple. The theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken was applied to classify the types. The researchers employed a qualitative method to analyze the data in terms of sentences organized into the paragraph. The data findings were counted to see the frequency of the illocutionary act. The findings reveal that four types of assertive used by the local guide in Tirta Temple: informing (48,38%), stating (6,45%), expressing an opinion (29,03%), and reminding (16,12%). The fourth types show the purposes of the utterances applied during the guidance activity around the temple. They reflect what a tourist guide should do in carrying out his job.

Bearing in mind all speech act types applied and their purposes in various communication particularly in a movie, the researchers are interested to conduct similar research in one of the recent movies released, *The Woman in The Window*. This movie was first released in May 2021 on Netflix. It is a mystery movie played by Amy Adams as the main character and directed by Joe Wright. The movie is adapted from A. J. Finn's best-seller novel published in 2018.

The movie tells the story of Anna Fox, a child psychologist with agoraphobia. Agoraphobia is the human condition that causes the feeling of scared to go outside. It is an anxiety disorder in which a person is afraid of and avoids locations or situations that cause them to feel imprisoned, helpless, or embarrassed. As Asmundson et al., (2014) states that anxiety is a response to being away from a 'safe' area. Panic attacks with symptoms such as shortness, perspiration, dizziness, high heart rate, and choking feelings are all indicators of agoraphobia. People with agoraphobia may consider more and more public places as 'out of bounds' until they are eventually confined to their home (Polar & Henderson, 1987 in Stevens, 2016). In the movie, it is shown that because of her phobia, Anna feels scared to go out of her house. She only sees people and activities outside the house from the window. To reduce her phobia, Anna must take medicine that has side effects. One day, Anna saw a murder incident from the window. It happened in a house across her house. Unfortunately, nobody believed her witnesses because of her condition of having underside effect of medicine which caused hallucination.

It is interesting to find out the types of illocutionary acts and particularly to analyze the utterances used by the main character suffering from agoraphobia. The utterances produced by one with a mood disorder can be identified by speech act, particularly the illocutionary act which reveals the implicit meaning of the utterances (Lestari, 2020). The implicit meaning obtained will lead the readers to know the purposes of the utterances. In other words, there are benefits of conducting this research: first is to build knowledge of the types of illocutionary act in communication, secondly to rise the

readers' consciousness of how and why certain utterances are used by a certain speaker or character, and lastly is to develop awareness of the speaker used the language to appropriately choose the utterances in communication as they will affect the listener to understand the intended purposes. Hence, this study attempts to find out (1) the types and (2) the purposes of illocutionary acts used by the main character in *The Woman in the Window* movie.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is descriptive qualitative research that aims at investigating the illocutionary act. According to Creswell (2014) the qualitative method can be used to analyze the situation and to interpret the meaning from the data collected. The data of this study are in the form of utterances. More specifically, this study analyses the type and the purpose of the illocutionary act used by the main character.

The data of the present study are taken from the movie. This movie was released in May 2021 on Netflix. It is a mystery movie played by Amy Adams as the main character and directed by Joe Wright. The movie is adapted from A. J. Finn's best-seller novel which has the same title and was published in 2018. The data are collected through some steps: the researchers (1) watch the movie, (2) take notes of the dialogues focusing on the utterances of the main character, and (3) read the dialogues in the movie script to make sure what the researchers hear from the movie is correct, and (4) list Anna Fox's utterances that perform the illocutionary act.

The theory from Searle (1976) is applied to analyses the data through several steps: (1) identifying the type of illocutionary act uttered by Anna Fox, (2) examining the purpose of the illocutionary act, (3) drawing a conclusion relating to the results of the study. The results of the analysis are represented using a table, words, phrases, and sentences. It is hoped that the readers will understand them easily.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: The Types and the Purposes of the Illocutionary Act

No	Type of illocutionary act	Number of utterances	Purposes	Frequency
1.	Assertives	18	Concluding Stating Complaining	9 6 3
2.	Directives	16	Asking Requesting Ordering Commanding Begging	5 4 3 2 2
3.	Commissives	1	Making a duty to herself	1
4.	Expressives	5	Apologizing Disliking Thanking	3 1 1
TOTAL			40	40

Types of Illocutionary act used and the purposes

Data 2

00:38:28

Mr. Russell : You have never met my wife.

Anna : She helped one night. We spent the evening together.

Mr. Russell : No, no. No, I don't think so.

This utterance is classified as assertive. The detectives and Mr. Russell, Jane's husband said that she never met her. The main character then said that Jane helped her and talked to her to conclude that she had met her. The main character was strongly sure of what she said and done because she remembered that she spent the night together with Jane and talked about many things that night. The main character said about her belief that she met and talked to her neighbor who was just killed. She talked in a very convincing tone.

Data 4

00:38:53

Detective Little : The point is, Dr. Fox, that nothing happened

Anna : No.

Detective Little : Hmm?

Anna : No! I know what I saw!

This utterance of the main character is classified as assertive. The male detective said that there was nothing that happened around the main character's house but the main character was very sure about what she saw. She tried to convince everyone by stating the utterance. The main character got up from the sofa as she said this line. This shows how sure she was of what she saw earlier.

Data 5

00:38:56

Detective Norelli : Nothing up here.

Detective Little : You see, the coast is clear.

Anna : Can you track the email?

The main character sent an email with a photo of her while sleeping. She then called the detectives because he felt insecure. Then, the detectives came and checked that email. They also checked if there was someone who had broken into the house but everything was clear. She then asked detective Little if He could track it. The classification of the illocutionary act in this utterance is directives because the main character requested someone to do something.

Data 6

00:39:09

Detective Little : The important thing is, is that everybody's okay, yeah?

Anna : Then where is she? Where's Jane?

Jane is a name that the main character knows. She is the victim of the murder incident that the main character witnesses. The detective said that everybody was okay, no one got hurt and there was nobody who was found hurt. The main character then wanted to make sure about what the detectives and Mr. Russell said. She asked them where Jane was. This utterance is classified as directives, the main character wanted everyone in there to prove that nothing happened to Jane. She wanted to see if Jane was really okay and still alive.

Data 9

00:39:43

Anna : Get Ethan.

The classification of the illocutionary act in this utterance is directives. The purpose is ordering. After Jane Russell appeared, the main character was not satisfied because she still did not know about Jane who she saw stabbed. Then the main character wanted to meet Ethan, the son of Mr. Russell and Jane Russell who also never come to her house before. She wanted them to bring Ethan to her. After that, Ethan came by himself but just stood in front of the door. Everyone looked at him and waited for him to clarify the absurdity of the situation.

Data 11

00:41:08

Man : Why didn't you take a picture?

Anna : I was trying to help her. Not record it for prosperity.

Are you doubting me too?

Man : I'm on your side.

Anna : You don't sound like it.

The classification of the illocutionary act in this utterance is expressive. After everything seemed to be clear that everyone was okay, the discussion was finished and everyone went back to their home. The main character then called a man and told him about everything that happened before. She thought that man would be by her side and trust her. However, in this case, the man on the phone also doubted and blamed her because she did not take the picture and just looked at the incident with her camera. The main character seemed dislike to the man. The man on the phone usually supported her when she was in a problem or something that she could not handle. The main character was very disappointed because her tone was rising.

Data 14

00:51:25

Man : If I can't say what I think...

Anna : I'm not delusional.

Man : Break it down. First, it's the boy, then that murder across the street. Now there's another woman in Boston... An earring, and fucking David, who you always liked.

This main character's utterance is classified as assertive. The main character found Jane's earring in David's room. She then called a man and told him what she just found. The man on the phone thought that the situation became illogical because it was getting wilder, from Ethan, Mr. Russell, and now David. The main character complained

that she was not delusional because she remembered the shape of Jane's earring that Jane showed when they talked.

Data 20

00:56:48

Detective Little : Track it?

Anna : Or trace it? Whatever.

Detective Little : No, you can't track a Gmail account right?

The detective asked the main character to make sure what she said. The main character wanted or ordered him to do something because that could threaten her. She wanted him to find who the sender of the email was no matter how because the sender could do another thing that might be worse than it. However, the detective said that they could not track a Gmail account. The classification of the illocutionary act in this main character's utterance is directives because the main character wanted the detectives to do another thing that they could do.

Data 29:

01:07:21

Anna : Of course... You are. I'm sorry that I involved you
in... All of this.

Still, with the same feeling, the main character looked at Jane Russell and apologized to her. She felt very guilty because doubted her. The classification of the illocutionary act of this utterance is expressives. The main character once again apologized to someone.

Data 31

01:14:24

Anna : I want to go back. I want to do it over. I want to do it
differently. And I can't.

The main character made a video of her and it could be her testament video. In that video, she told everything that happened to her, about her family, and also about her condition that she could not stand to it anymore. She always ran from something that could make her in a trouble before. Because of that, she did not run at that time and wanted to do something that usually people did when they saw an accident, but in the end, she could not do that. The classification of the illocutionary act in this utterance is commissives because the main character created a duty that she made to herself.

Data 33

01:16:13

David : Uh, just for a moment. I'm soaking wet. I had a long day
and it's not about to end soon.

Anna : Please. It'll just take a minute.

David said that he wanted to change his clothes first because his clothes were wet. The main character then begged David to come to her room just for a while. This main character's utterance is classified into directives because the main character begged someone to do something that she wanted immediately.

Data 34:

01:16:30

Anna : Thank you.

David : For what?

The classification of the illocutionary act of this main character's utterance is expressive. David did what the main character wanted. He walked to her room with his wet clothes. The main character thanked David because this time he listened to her and was not doubted her wish for him to come to her room.

Data 39

01:18:40

Anna : David! You can't just run away from this!

David : Watch me

David did not want to accompany her because it would make him get into a serious situation. He then walked out of the main character's room. The main character who only had a chance from David as her witness said that David could not get away from this situation and left her. She wanted David to think again about what he was going to do. This utterance is classified into directives because the main character commanded not to run away.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

We perform an act to deliver the intention and meaning through our utterances when communicating. It's called a speech act. Speech act appears in every communication. Illocutionary act is one of the speech act categories conveying an intended meaning of the speaker. It can be determined by the speaker's utterance, behaviour, and action. There are four types of Illocutionary acts found in the utterances of the main character in *The Woman in the Window* movie: assertive, directives, commissive, and expressive. Each type has 18, 16, 1, and 5 in number respectively. However, some utterances of her illocutionary act were not delivered successfully to other characters due to her background. The purposes of the illocutionary act performed for each type are 9 concluding, 6 stating, 3 complaining as the assertive utterances, 5 asking, 4 requesting, 3 orders, 2 commanding, 2 begging as directives utterances, 1 making a duty to herself as commissive utterance, 3 apologizing, 1 disliking and 1 thanking as expressive utterances. Assertive are the most dominant type. Assertive utterance states what the speaker believes to be the case or not and it carries the values of true or false. This indicates that the main character was trying hard to convince other characters in the movie that what she said was true as she accidentally saw a murder case and wanted to find the truth. Only 1 commissive utterance which purposes to make a duty to herself was used. She could not do more efforts to prove what she saw was true. It explains the condition of the main character with agoraphobia. One thing that needs to take note from this research is that the value of an illocutionary act performed is not determined by the speaker, rather by the listener. The one who can determine the results of illocutionary act whether they are successful or not is the listener. There could be a case that the listener misinterpreted what the main character meant when uttering the utterances. Hence, further research is required to expand the findings.

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