

ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN *ELLEN DEGENERES TALK SHOW*

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ABSTRACT

This study deals with the types of illocutionary acts in *Ellen Degeneres Talk show*. The objectives of this study were to describe the types of illocutionary Acts which were used in *Ellen Degeneres Talk show*, to discover the type of illocutionary act which was dominantly used in *Ellen Degeneres Talk show*, why it is dominant and to elaborate in what contexts the dominant type occurs. This research applied descriptive qualitative method. It took two episodes of *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show* which is taken randomly from internet. Based on the analysis, not all types of illocutionary acts were used in *Ellen Degeneres Talk* because Declarative is not found. There were 326 utterances in two episodes selected, and the percentages of data were 43.86% of assertives, 30.67% of directives, 18.40% of expressives, 6.13% of commissives and 0% of declaratives. The writer does not find declarations in the dialogue because there is no utterance that has a function that can change the world or the status of people through speaker's utterance. The most dominant type of illocutionary acts found was Assertives. It shows that in their conversation the host most gave information and statement because it happened in the context of talk show where Ellen as the host gave some information about her guess star, information about the theme of the show and also about guest's personal life and career.

Keywords: *Pragmatics, Speech Acts, Illocutionary Acts*

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INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Utterance could be said as the main point in speech acts. Utterance means an act of speech or writing, it is a specific event, at a particular time and place and involving at least one person, the one who produces the utterance, but usually more than one person (Charles W. Kreidler, 1998:26). It means that when people have a conversation, there occur utterances.

People perform action through that utterance. Austin (in Yule, 1996) called it speech acts. Utterances also occur in a show in which the conversation happens among the host and quest stars.

Searle (1969:16) assures that all linguistic communication involves linguistic acts. The unit of linguistic communication is not only symbol, word or sentence, or even the token of the symbol, word or sentence, but rather the production or issuance of the symbol or word or sentence in the performance the speech acts. It means that speech acts tend to use spoken language than written form.

Based on Austin (in Levinson 1969:12) speech acts are divided into three parts. They are locutionary acts, illocutionary acts and perlocutionary acts.

Illocutionary act means that performing an act of doing something. The illocutionary act is analyzed based on context; it is about what is going on behind the text. Context is the background knowledge assumed to be shared by speaker and hearer and which contributes to *hearer's* interpretation of what speaker means by given utterance (Leech, 1983:13). For example *It feels hot, isn't?* To find the illocutionary aspect in this sentence, it ought to relate to the context when this utterance occurs.

The reason why the writer chooses Illocutionary acts to be analyzed is because the previous researchers analyzed illocutionary in novel, news paper, and movie. It is known that communication is successful not when hearers recognize the linguistics meaning of utterance, but when they infer the speaker's "meaning" from it. The usage of illocutionary acts also occurs in a talk show because a talk show is actually a real conversation in natural society.

Television's station provides so many kinds of television program, such as: news program, standup comedy, singing competition, soap opera, and also talk show. But nowadays, talk show has become a popular television program in the world. Every country has television talk shows program include Indonesia. In this research, the writer would discuss about talk show which is an interesting kinds of television's program. The writer chooses talk show because talk show is interesting to be analyzed and the most popular in all ages. In this research, the writer chooses *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show* to be analyzed because the writer saw that this program is one of the best and popular talk show in the world nowadays.

The Ellen DeGeneres Show has consistently been one of the world's highest-rated shows and has been awarded many Daytime in several Awards. Hosted by star of *Ellen* and *The Ellen Talk Show*, *Ellen Degeneres* always brings her A-game in order to make you laugh. This show also provides the featuring of a unique mix of celebrity interviews, provides the chart topping of music, provides the audience participation games, provides segments spotlighting real life stories, and bring in amazing talent throughout all age-groups. *Ellen* encourages a "negative-free zone", and tries to make everybody feel as if they are in the studio, even if they are sitting at home. She regularly rings viewers and throughout regular segments within the show encourages people at home to send in videos, letters and even leave voicemail messages.

For this research, the writer takes two episodes from *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show* to be analyzed. They are: episodes *Special Guest star Taylor Swift* (February, 13th 2013) and *Special Guest star Justin Timberlake* (January, 5th 2009).

There are some relevance studies of Illocutionary Act which makes me get the inspiration to do this analysis. And also *Ellen Degeneres* as the host uses the utterances that mostly belong to illocutionary acts. That's why this show to be analyzed by using speech acts theory, especially illocutionary. Let see an example of illocutioanary acts that are taken from the dialogue of *Ellen Degeneres Show*.

Ellen Degeneres: Ring it on 3 different guys. We'll narrow it down. So ring it 3 different times. Then it's still out there. We still don't know. So let's show the picture. All right?

Taylor Swift : *We didn't date.*

The situation in the conversation above is in a night show where *Taylor Swift* as the guest star. In that moment *Ellen* asked *Taylor* to ring the bell in 3 different times if she had ever in a date with the guys in the screen. It is a kind of ordering in directive types of illocutionary acts.

In one of *Ellen Degeneres Talk show's* episodes entitle *Special Guest Star Taylor Swift* as the example above, the writer observes that there are so many utterances that are used by the host, the utterance relates to the speech action. These utterances relate to speech act include illocutionary acts. That is the reason why illocutionary acts are chosen to be analyzed. These are analyzed based on the context, through the tones, emotion, and feeling.

This study will be carried out based on pragmatics study which is generally concerned with the relationship between language, illocutionary act and utterance. This is becoming the motive to the writer to conduct the research because it is an interesting topic to get knowledge and benefit for many people.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This research was conducted by qualitative method. Qualitative method is the research which describe of observation is not ordinarily expressed in qualitative term. It is not suggested that numeral measures are never used, but other means of description are emphasized. Descriptive method is primarily concerned with finding out "what is". It is focused on each words and sentences in this conversation in this Talk show to analyze the type of illocutionary acts. It means that the writer would like to find out the types of illocutionary acts in this show, the reason why is it dominantly used in *Ellen DegeneresTalk Show* episodes and in what context is it dominant occurs.

Subject

In this research, the sources of data are the dialogs were used by Ellen as the host in *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show*. The data were taken from the language used in two interactive conversations in *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show* from internet.

Data Collection

The data were collected by browsing from the internet. The main source of the data in this study is the language used in two interactive conversations in *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show* episodes *Special Guest Taylor Swift and Special Guest Justin Timberlake*. The techniques of collecting the data are: 1). Downloading the video from the internet. 2). Watching the whole videos 3). Making into transcript 4). Finding out that data which belong to illocutionary types.

Technique for Analyzing Data

The data were analysed based on Searle's theory about Illocutionary used in *Ellen Degeneres talk Show* episodes selected by the following techniques:

- (1) Identifying the illocutionary types in *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show*.
- (2) Classifying the illocutionary act into their types.
- (3) Counting each illocutionary type in transcript *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show*
- (4) Finding out the dominant type. Finding out the reason why it is dominant occurred in *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show*.
- (5) Finding out in what contexts the dominant type

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Qualitative Method

After collecting the data, the utterances used in *Ellen Degeneres talk Show* are classified based on the types Illocutionary Acts. There are four types of illocutionary acts, namely: Assertives, Expressive, Directive, Commissive, while Declarative is not

found. It was found that there were 326 utterances of illocutionary acts. Here are some examples of illocutionary acts in the *Ellen Degeneres talk Show episodes* selected.

Assertives

You are on the television.”

This utterance is included into Assertive illocutionary because it commits a speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition. This utterance is classified as informing because here Ellen told Christin who was one of the audiences that Tina is on the television.

Expressive

“So you look nice.”

This utterance is included into expressive because it conveys about someone’s thought and feeling. It has convivial function because its aim incompliant with the social purposes. In this context, Ellen says you look so nice becauseChristine was wearing a nice outfit. This sentence is classified as praising.

Directive

“How is everybody doing here?”

This utterance is included into Directive illocutionary acts which cause the hearer to take a particular action. Ellen opened hisshowby askinghow all the audiences at the studio are. This utterance is classified as asking because the speaker is saying something in the form of question to get information. This illocutionary act has competitive function because the illocutionary goal competes with the social goal.

Commissive

“We are gonna giving a ticket to every show on the tour.”

This utterance is commissive illocutionary acts because it commits a speaker to some future action. Ellen made a promise to the audiences at studio that she will give the audiences a ticket to Justin’s concert. Therefore, this sentence is classified as promising.

After analyzing and determining the data of thetypes of illocutionary acts in *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show*, we may see as follows

Table 1. The Percentage of the types of Illocutionary Acts

NO	Types of illocutionary acts	Total Number	Percentage
1	Directives	100	30.67
2	Commisives	21	6.13
3	Expressive	60	18.40
4	Assertive	145	43.86
5	Declaratives	0	0
Total		326	100%

The data shows that the total percentage of the illocutionary acts types is 100%. The directives are 30.67%, commissives are 6.13%, expressives are 18.40%, assertives are 43.86%. It shows that the illocutionary act of assertive is the most dominant type which is used by the host as the speaker in *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show*. It shows that in their conversation the host most gave information and statement. It happened in the context of talk show where Ellen as the host gave some information about her guess star, information about the theme of the show and also about guest's personal life and career, while directive is not found.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

After analyzing the types of illocutionary acts in *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show*, the conclusions are drawn as follows:

1. directives are 30.67%, commissives are 6.13%, expressives are 18.40%, assertive are 43.86%. Directive is not found. (0%)
2. From the percentage above, the most dominant type of Illocutionary acts used in *Ellen Degeneres Talk show* selected episode was Assertive that it is intended for asserting, claiming, statement, hypothesis, conveys, concluding, affirming, reporting, believing, denying, and describing. The result implies that Assertive

plays a great role in the talk show. It means that asserting, claiming, statement, hypothesis, conveys, concluding, affirming, reporting, believing, denying, and describing are the character of the utterances where the speakers used almost always seen in this talk show.

3. Assertive as the dominant type occurred because in this talk show the host mostly giving the audience information about the guest stars and also gave them advice and suggestion. So that why the illocutionary that Ellen Degeneres's speaker mostly used is Assertive.
4. The dominant type occurred in the context a talk show called *Ellen Degeneres Talk Show* where Ellen is the host (speaker) that mostly giving information, report about what was the theme of the show and also about guest's personal life and career. The writer hopes this research would give some advantages for further researcher who studies the same field.

Suggestions

In relation to the conclusions, suggestions are given as the following

- (1) It is suggested to English teacher as the facilitator in the teaching learning process to understand not only the theory but also the application of illocutionary act.
- (2) The students of university are suggested to learn Speech Acts which contains kinds of ideas illocutionary acts; directives, commissives, expressive, assertive, and declarative in order to help them to get the information.
- (3) Other researchers suggested learning Speech acts.
- (4) For the readers, it is useful to understand illocutionary act, because it can help them to communicate effectively.

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Declaration

Except where appropriately acknowledged, this thesis is my own work, has been expressed in my own words and has not previously been submitted for assessment.

I understand that this thesis may be screened electronically or otherwise for plagiarism.

Author Biography

Girsang's research used catagorize and decriptivetechnique. She hold a S.S from State University of Medan. This Journal is partial fulfillment of the requirement for degree of Sarjana Sastra.