

ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS ON LIZ GILBERT'S DIALOGUE IN *EAT PRAY LOVE* MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with the type of illocutionary acts on Liz Gilbert's dialogue in *Eat Pray Love* movie. The objectives of the study were to describe the types of illocutionary acts used by Liz Gilbert in *Eat Pray Love* movie, the dominant type of illocutionary acts used by Liz Gilbert in *Eat Pray Love* movie and the reason why the dominant type of illocutionary acts occur on Liz Gilbert's dialogue in *Eat Pray Love* movie. This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative design. Descriptive qualitative research is descriptive in that the researcher is interested in the process of meaning and understanding gained through words or picture (Hancock 2007:7). This research used descriptive qualitative research because the intention of this study was to describe how illocutionary used in the movie. The data were the transcript of Liz Gilbert's dialogue. The findings showed that there were 466 utterances which contained five types of illocutionary acts, namely: Representatives 198 utterances (42.49%), Directives 169 utterances (36.27%), Expressives 89 utterances (19.10%), Commisives 9 utterances (1.93%) and Declarations 1 utterance (0.21%). The most dominant type of illocutionary act was Representatives with total number 198 utterances (42.49%) because Liz Gilbert as the main character often described and informed about the situation of her journey and experience when she visited Italy, India and Indonesia where she finally found the balance of life, true love and happiness.

Keywords: Illocutionary Acts, Movie

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INTRODUCTION

Illocutionary act is one type of speech acts covered in Pragmatics. It is an act performed in saying something (Akmajian 2010:369). By learning illocutionary acts, the listener can interpret the speaker's meaning to avoid miscommunication.

In communicating language, miscommunication frequently occurs in daily conversation. The one of the most common reason for miscommunication would be because the hearer does not understand the speaker's utterances in conversation. For example: if someone said "It's too hot in this room". Actually the speaker didn't only want to inform the hearer that the room was hot, but the speaker also requested the hearer to do an action to switch on the fan or air conditioner or maybe open the window. Searle (1976:355) states that Illocutionary act makes the hearer to do something.

Illocutionary act can always be found in the human daily conversation. Language or communication cannot be separated from Illocutionary act. Because, the function of Illocutionary act is to make the conversation be interesting and more effective. Illocutionary acts also can be found in movie which become the reflection of the social life of human. In analyzing a movie, a dialogue cannot be separated from the topic illocutionary act.

Dialogue is the lines spoken by a character or characters in a play, movie, essay, story, or novel, especially a conversation between two characters (Wheeler 2014:4). Through dialogue people can understand what happened in the movie and the meaning of the speaker. In the movie also many utterances are performed by particular kinds of action such as stating, promising, and warning which is a part of illocutionary act.

The reason why the writer chooses illocutionary acts is because the writer's experience that found some problems which happened when he studied Pragmatics in the sixth semester. In that semester, Pragmatics has two semester credit systems and studied about illocutionary further but in the real life he did not understand yet. And also he got difficulties to interpret someone's meaning when

speaks and how to distinguish among warning, informing, suggesting, and requesting utterances. Those utterances have similar meaning and purpose which is difficult to be analyzed.

The other reason of choosing illocutionary acts is to explain the relationship between theory of language especially illocutionary acts theory and its practice in movie. For example when watching *Eat Pray Love* movie the writer found the utterances by main character Liz Gilbert to her hearer and uttered the locution “*Thanks for the day. And the leg room.*”. In this case the writer realized the existence of Illocutionary act in dialogue of the movie. By using illocutionary act theory, the writer can conclude that Liz Gilbert as the speaker is not only just speaking, but she also performed Illocutionary acts (Expressive) by thanking to the hearer for the day and the meaning of leg room is a free ride of the car.

The reason of choosing *Eat Pray Love* movie as the media is caused by some possible answers. First, the movie is very popular for many people especially Indonesian because most of scenes are taken in Bali, Indonesia. This movie is also adapted from the novel *Eat Pray Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. Second, there are a lot of illocutionary that the writer found in the movie. Third, this movie has many moral lessons like how to recover all of problems, close to the God and seeking harmony in life.

Therefore, based on the explanations above, the writer would like to analyze the illocutionary act on Liz Gilbert’s dialogue in *Eat Pray Love* movie. The writer interests to analyze illocutionary acts on this movie because it is important to get the meaning of illocutionary acts utterances found in the conversation and get a good understanding on the whole story.

Research Questions

As related to the background of the study, the problems of the study were formulated as the following:

1. What types of the illocutionary acts are used by Liz Gilbert in *Eat Pray Love* movie?
2. What is the most dominant type of illocutionary acts used by Liz Gilbert in *Eat Pray Love* movie?
3. Why does the dominant type of illocutionary acts occur on Liz Gilbert's dialogue in *Eat Pray Love* movie?

Pragmatics

Yule (2000:3) states that pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning. It is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader).

Wilson (2006:744) states that pragmatics is concerned with meaning in the context of language use. Basically, when people communicate through language people often mean more than say.

Speech Acts

Cruse (2000:331) says that speech act is the speaker performs particular kinds of action such as stating, promising, warning, and so on. The term speech act to describe actions such as promising, commanding, informing or requesting. A speech act can be defined as the action performed by a speaker with an utterance. If you say, *Close the door, please!*, you are not only just speaking, you seem to be performing speech acts of 'commanding'.

According to Fromkin, Robert and Nina (2011:175) speech acts describes how things are done by language. The speaker can use language to make promises, issue warnings, christen boats, place names in nomination, offer congratulations, or swear testimony.

The Elements of Speech Acts

Yule (2000:48) says that the action performed by producing an utterance will consist of three related acts, and they are:

a) Locutionary Act

Locutionary act is the basic act of utterance, or producing a meaningful linguistic expression.

b) Illocutionary Act

Illocutionary act is an utterance with some kind of function in mind. It is performed via the communicative force of an utterance.

c) Perlocutionary Act

Perlocutionary act is an utterance with a function intending it to have an effect. It is performed by saying something that produces effects to the hearer.

The Types of Illocutionary Acts

Searle (1979) states that there are five types of illocutionary acts, they are:

a) Representatives

Representatives are the type of illocutionary acts that describes or expresses something about true event in the world. Representatives can be uttered in a form of believing, claiming, denying, describing, informing, and predicting statement. Examples:

1. "I never said that I love you". This utterance becomes a denying because the speaker feels he never says he loves the girl.
2. "I think it's going to rain". This utterances becomes a predicting because the sky getting dark.

b) Directives

Directives are the type of illocutionary acts that makes the hearer to do something by advising, challenging, commanding, ordering, requesting, suggesting, and warning. They express what speaker wants. Examples:

1. "It's better to go now" It shows suggesting, the speaker suggest to the hearer that if it's better to go.

2. "Can you pass the salt, please?" It shows the request not asking the ability of someone to pass the salt.

c) Commisives

Commisives are the type of illocutionary acts that commits speakers to do something in the future action like offering, promising, swearing, and threatening. They express what the speakers intends. Examples:

1. "I'll be with you in five minutes". It is promise from the speaker to the hearer that he or she will be with the hearer in five minutes.
2. "I'll take you a cup of tea". This utterance shows offering, the speaker wants to make the hearer a cup of tea.

d) Expressives

Expressives are the type of illocutionary acts that express the psychological state of the speaker like apologizing, congratulating, joy, sorrow, pain, thanking, and welcoming. Examples:

1. "I don't know what to do with you". It expresses thanking for the hearer that has helped the speaker.
2. "Sorry, I'm late!" It expresses apologizing, the speaker need to be apologized by the hearer.

e) Declarations

Declarations are those kinds of speech acts that change the world via their utterances (Yule 2000:53). Examples:

1. "You're fired!". This utterance is declaring someone's job to be terminated.
2. Priest: I now pronounce you husband and wife. This utterance changes the world that a pair of lover becomes husband and wife.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted by applying descriptive qualitative design. Qualitative research is descriptive in that the researcher is interested in the process

of meaning and understanding gained through words or picture (Hancock, 2007:7).The source of data was the movie *Eat Pray Love* with running time 145 minutes. The data was the utterances produced by Liz Gilbert as the main character of the movie.

Techniques for collecting data are watching the movie and transcribing the dialogue of the main character. Techniques for analyzing data are identifying the utterances in the transcription of the movie, classifying the utterances which contains of Illocutionary acts by the main character, determining the most dominant type of illocutionary acts and making the conclusion of the study by explaining the result of the data.

RESULT AND DISSCUSSION

Result

After collecting the data, the data were analyzed based on Searle's theory. There were five types of Illocutionary acts found in the movie *Eat Pray Love*, they were Representatives, Directives, Commisive, Expressive and Declarations. It was found that there were 466 utterances by the main character, Liz Gilbert and those utterances contain of Illocutionary acts. The percentage of the data can be seen in the table 1 below as the explanation of the types of illocutionary acts found in the movie *Eat Pray Love*.

Table 1
The Percentage of the Data Analysis

No.	Types of Illocutionary Acts	Total Number	Percentage (%)
1	Representatives	198	42.49 %
2	Directives	169	36.27 %
3	Expressives	89	19.10 %
4	Commisives	9	1.93 %
5	Declarations	1	0.21 %
Total		466	100%

Table 1 shows that the total numbers of the types of Illocutionary acts such as Representatives are 198 utterances (42.49%), Directives are 169 utterances (36.27%), Expressives are 89 utterances (19.10%), Commisives are 9 utterances (1.93%), and Declarations 1 utterance (0.21%). The most dominant the type of Illocutionary acts is Representatives with the total number 198 utterances (42.49%). It caused by Liz Gilbert as the main character often described and informed about the situation of her journey and experience when she visited three countries (Italy, India and Indonesia) where she finally found the balance of life, true love and happiness

Discussion

As the writer observed the utterances by the main character in *Eat Pray Love* movie showed that there were five types of Illocutionary acts used by Liz Gilbert, such as Representatives, Directives, Expressives, Commisives, and Declarations. The most dominant type of Illocutionary acts used by Liz Gilbert in *Eat Pray Love* movie is Representatives. The result implies that representative has a great role in the movie. Liz Gilbert as the main character mainly uses the statement of describing, asserting and informing. In all of her dialogue with the other, she uses many terms of representatives such as describing, believing, claiming, denying, and informing.

Representatives as the dominant type of Illocutionary acts used by Liz Gilbert in *Eat Pray Love* movie has been predicted while the writer analyzing the data. Liz Gilbert as the main character in the movie more often used describing statement followed by informing and so on. It caused Liz Gilbert as the main character often described and informed about the situation of her journey and experience which visited three countries (Italy, India and Indonesia) where she finally found the balance of life, true love and happiness after she divorced from her husband. So that's why Liz Gilbert as the main character dominantly used asserting, describing, claiming, informing and denying which are categorizing as Representatives.

Beside of representatives, directives also occurred most in time. In Directives purpose, Liz Gilbert used commands and questions as the way to express her request (makes the hearer do something) by commanding, ordering, questioning, suggesting, and requesting. The fewest number type of Illocutionary acts found in the movie *Eat Pray Love* is Declarations. There is just 1 (one) utterance that contain this type of illocutionary acts because Liz Gilbert as the speaker rarely used declaring, marrying, firing from employment, bidding and blessing sentences which aimed to change the world via utterances.

Conclusion and Suggestions

Conclusions

After analyzing the data, conclusions could be drawn as the following:

1. The five types of Illocutionary acts were found in the movie *Eat Pray Love*. They were: Representatives, Directives, Commisives, Expressives and Declarations.
2. The most dominant type of Illocutionary acts used by Liz Gilbert in the movie *Eat Pray Love* was Representatives with 198 utterances (42.49%).
3. The most dominant type of Illocutionary acts used in the movie implies that Representatives plays a great role in the movie. It means that describing, and informing always seen in the movie. Liz Gilbert as the main character reflected her figure as the important person in a play, she often used representatives which were also as the highest percentage of Illocutionary acts, she described and informed about the situation of her journey and experience which visited Italy, India and Indonesia where she finally found the balance of life, true love and happiness.

Suggestions

In relation to the conclusions, the following suggestions are stage:

1. The speakers or hearers, it is better for them to understand not only the theory of Illocutionary acts but also the practice of that theory in daily conversation such found in the movie *Eat Pray Love*.

2. Applied Linguistic students, it is suggested to watch *Eat Pray Love* movie because it has a moral lesson from the journey of Liz Gilbert who tries to find the happiness and teach how to recover all of problems, close to the God and seeking harmony in life.
3. It is suggested for other researchers to make other research relate to Illocutionary acts in order to enlarge knowledge. They can do the analysis to the other subject such as song, news, speeches, and so on. This thesis would be place as the main references in order to make further research about Illocutionary acts.

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