

SPEECH ACTS OF MAIN CHARACTER IN AVATAR MOVIE SCRIPT

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Abstract

This study is about the types of Speech acts used in Avatar movie script. The purpose of this study is to find out the types of speech acts base on George Yule's theory and to find out which types are dominant in the script. The object of this study is a Avatar. This study analyzed the main character's utterance. Jake Sully is the main character in Avatar movie. The study was conducted by using descriptive qualitative approach. They are five types of speech acts in Avatar movie script. They are declaratives acts are 3 items (0.85%), representatives acts are 176 items (50.28%), expressives acts are 48 items (13.71%), directives acts are 96 items (27.42%), and commissives acts are 27 items (7.71%). The data findings shown that representatives acts is dominantly used in this movie. There are 176 (50.28%) utterance that uttered by Jake Sully in Avatar movie script.

Keywords: *pragmatics, speech acts, avatar*

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INTRODUCTION

Background of Study

Language is one of media which cannot be separated from human life. Human uses language in their speech, either spoken or written. Language is used every day by everybody to communicate with others, by using language in our daily life, it can be define as communication as human being. Communication is one ways to express our mind, feelings, ideas, and emotions. We can also express it by using gesture or body movement, action, signal and sound.

The communicative act or verbal communication is usually represented by the utterances of the speakers. In attempting to express themselves, people do not only produce utterance containing grammatical structure and words, they perform action via those utterance. From this explanation, it shows that every word, phrase or sentence that is human uttered perform different implicit action or meaning in it and if the hearer cannot get the intention of every utterance, it will lead a misunderstanding.

This research takes pragmatic approach as the way of analysis, considering how the speakers use the language in the social interaction with others. According to Leech (1983) pragmatics can be stated as a study of a language used in certain time and condition. Pragmatics is the study of speakers meaning base on situation. Pragmatics generally is the study of the natural understanding and specifically the study of how people comprehend and produce a communicative or speech act.

Speech act is concern with the speaker's communicative intention in producing an utterance and it is defined by the purpose for which the speakers use the language, for example to make a request, to apologize, and to report (Yule, 1996). Speech act is the key concept in the field of pragmatics, the study of speaker's intentions and what the speakers mean when they use the particular linguistics in context (Hatch, 1992). People do not use language just to state things but to do things, and to perform actions (Thomas, 1995).

The writer realizes that in our daily life, we also always use the speech act function when we have communication with others. For example, we say the weather is

hot today; it means there is some implicit meaning to request to do an action that is to switch on the fan or maybe open the window.

The writer chooses main character in Avatar movie to analyze. A character is the representation of a person in a narrative work of art. The main character in Avatar movie is Jake Sully he is a former of US army. The writer uses Avatar movie script as media for this analysis. Movie script is commonly understood as the written text which is spoken by the actor or player in movie. Concerning to the problem above, the writer takes “Avatar” movie to represent the different use of speech act. Avatar tell about the earth have severely depleted Earth's natural resources and Pendora still have much mineral so The RDA Corporation mines try to take mineral from Pendora. The writer chooses this movie because Avatar movie is one of the most popular movies in the box offices in the world. Avatar movie has got many awards such as Saturn Awards, Golden Globe Awards and earn more than \$2 billion.

Research Questions

1. What are the classifications of speech act uttered by Jake Sully in Avatar's movie script?
2. What is the dominant classification of speech act uttered by Jake Sully in Avatar movie script?

Conceptual Framework

Linguistics is the scientific study of natural language, Halliday (2006). Linguistics encompasses a number of sub fields. An important division is between the study of the language structure (grammar) and the study of meaning (semantics and pragmatics). Grammar encompasses morphology (the formation and composition of word), syntax (the rule that determine how words combine into phrases and sentence) and phonology (the study of sound system and abstract sound unit).

Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics which studies the ways in which context contributes to meaning. Pragmatics encompass deixis, speech act theory, conversational implicature, talk in interaction and other approaches to language behavior in philosophy, sociology, and linguistics. Yule (1996:3) states that there are four areas that pragmatics are Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning, the study of contextual

meaning, the study of how more meaning gets communicated than it said, the study of the expression of relative distance.

Speech act is concerned with the communication intend of individual intention of individual speakers and is defined by the purpose for which the speakers use the language, for example to make a request, to apologize, and to report. Speech act are the key concept in the field of pragmatics, the study of speakers intents and what the speakers mean when they use the particular linguistics in context (Hatch, 1992).

According to Yule (1996: 53), there are five main classification of speech act:

1. Declarations are those kinds of speech acts that change the world via their utterance. Statement of bless, bet, approve, confirm, curse, declare, resign.
2. Representatives are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker believes to be the case or not, to the truth. Statements of fact, assertions, conclusions, descriptions, describes, informs, reports, insists, suggests, claims.
3. Expressive are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker feels. Statements of pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, or sorrow.
4. Directives are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something. They are commands, orders, requests, suggestions, invites, permits, asks, beg.
5. Commissives are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to commit themselves to some future action. They express what the speaker intends. They are promises, threats, refusals, pledges, accepts, offers.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This research is conducted by using qualitative method. According to Creswell (2001:145), qualitative research is descriptive in that the researcher is interested in process, meaning, and understanding gain through words or picture. To support this research as description, the writer also identified the dominant classification of speech act in Avatar movie script by counting the percentage. It means that this research intended to find out the new theory but to describe how the theory of speech act is used by Jake Sully in her utterance.

Data Collection

The data is collected from the dialogue in Avatar movie script. The script is written by James Cameron. All of the data in the research called population. Population means the total object in the research. The populations in this research is taken from the Jake Sully's utterances in each scene from Avatar movie script. The data is taken by downloading the competence script of Avatar movie from Internet Movie Script Data Base (IMSDb).

Technique for Analyzing Data

The data were analysed based on George Yule theory by the following techniques:

1. Identifying the speech acts that are uttered by Jake Sully in Avatar movie script.
The writer identified the utterance base on Jake Sully's utterance.
2. Classifying the types of speech acts that are uttered by Jake Sully in Avatar movie script. The writer classified the utterance by put them base on each type of speech acts in to the table of speech acts.
3. Continuing the most dominant types of speech acts that are uttered by Jake Sully in Avatar movie script by using this formula.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Findings

After collecting the data, the writer analyzed and classified based on the speech acts theory. Theoretically, there are five classifications of speech acts. Those are declarations, representatives, expressive, directives, commissives. This research focused on the speech acts that are uttered by Jake Sully in Avatar movie script. They are 350 utterances that uttered by Jake Sully. All those kind of speech acts are found in the Avatar movie script.

1. Declarations

Declarations is usually consist of bless, bet, approve, confirm, curse, declare and resign. The uses of declaration in this script are 3 items (0.85%) of in the movie as shown in the following:

- a. “ I told myself I could pass any test a man can pass.”

This utterance is used by Jake Sully to himself. He “curse” to himself that he can pass the test.

- b. “ She says the forest hasn’t given permission.”

This utterance is used by Jake Sully to Neytiri. The word she is refers to Grace. Jake “confirms” to Neytiri that Grace said The forest hasn’t given permission.

2. Representatives

Representative is usually statement of fact, assertion, conclusions, informs, report, insists, suggest, claims. The use of representatives in this script are 176 items (50.28%) of in the movie as shown in the following:

- a. “ I knew this guy could speak English.”

This utterance is used by Jake Sully to “inform” Neytiri that Tsu’tey can speak English like another man in the world.

- b. “ Then a core structure, it’s like a spiral, that’s how they move up and down.”

This utterance is “fact” that used by Jake Sully to Colonel Quaritch, engineers and officer. Jake told them about his plans to made hometree inner structure.

3. Expressives

Expressives are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker feels. It is usually stated by using statement of pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, or sorrow. The use of expressive acts in this script are 48 items (13.71%) of in the movie as shown in the following:

- a. “ You’re ruining my good mood.”

This utterance express Jake Sully’s feeling when two agent came to Jake and told about Tommy’s death. Tommy is Jake’s brother.

b. “Okay, I’m sorry. Whatever I did, I’m sorry.”

This utterance is forgiveness to Neytiri because Jake Sully killed the wolves.

The wolves attack Jake in the jungle and suddenly Neytiri came and helped Jake.

4. Directives

Directives are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something. They are commands, order, requests, suggestions and questions. The use of directives acts in this script are 96 items (27.42%) of in the movie as shown in the following:

a. “What’s gong on? What are they saying?

This utterance consist of a questions that Jake Sully asked to Neytiri. Jake asked because they speak Na’vi language and Jake didn’t understand what they said.

b. “You have to get out of Hometree! Run to the forest! Please, I’m begging you”

This statement is uttered by Jake Sully to Na’vi. Jake is request to na’vi to leave hometree because sky people will ruin the hometree.

5. Commissives

Commissives are those kind of speech acts that speakers use to comit themselves to some future action. They are promises, threats, refusal, pledges. The use of commissives acts in this script are 27 items (7.71%) of in the movie as shown in the following:

a. “Not now. Tomorrow we leave for Iknimaya”

This utterance is future action. Jake promise to Grace, they will leave Iknimaya tomorrow.

b. “They’re never going to leave Hometree.”

The statement is refusal in future action if sky people persuade Na’vi go from hometree.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

After analyzing all the data for types of speech acts that are used in Avatar movie script, the findings are all of five types of speech acts are uttered by Jake Sully in Avatar movie script. The total of utterance that are found in Jake Sully utterances are 350 utterances. There are declaratives acts are 3 items (0.85%), representatives acts are 176 items (50.28%), expressive acts are 48 items (13.71%), directives acts are 96 items (27.42%), commissives acts are 27 items (7.71%). The most dominant types of speech acts that is found in Jake Sully utterances is representatives acts there are 176 utterances (50.28%). Representatives acts is dominant in avatar movie script because avatar movie tell about science and military, so there are many sentence consist of fact, assertion, conclusions, informs, report, insists, suggest, claims.

Suggestion

In relation to the conclusion above, some suggestions are for readers, this research will give information and enrich their knowledge about speech act and how speech act used in the daily communication. For Student of English Department. It is expected that the student can obtain more information about communication, especially in choosing speech act of action based on appropriate situational context. For further researches, this research can be used as a reference for further research about analysis of speech act.

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