



THE TYPES OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS FOUND IN LEAN ON ME MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at identifying the types illocutionary acts found in a movie entitled Lean On Me. The problems of this study is What types of illocutionary acts are found in the movie entitled Lean On Me?. This study employed descriptive and qualitative method to provide a well-organized description regarding the problems being identified. The data of this study were obtained by observation method through five steps, namely watching the Lean On Me movie. Then, finding out the movie script of Lean On Me. Furthermore, the writer read the movie script and took note of the illocutionary acts spoken by the characters in the movie Lean On Me. Eventually, the writer classified the data collected. There were five types of illocutionary act encountered they are, assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. The result of the research indicates that there are 9 data of illocutionary act found in Lean On Me movie covering 2 assertive, 3 directive, 2 commissive, 1 expressive, and 1 declarative.

INTRODUCTION

Language is an important role for human to make an interaction each other. The use of the language is to communicate. Without language, a person is unable to convey their idea, opinion, mind, concept and feeling. Language can be used not only to describe the reality, but also to change the existing reality. In simple words it can be asserted "to speak is to action". Therefore, the communication is not only about language but also with action.

One of interesting study about language that we usually find in the daily life is speech act. Speech act is a part of pragmatics. It is a kind of a verbal communication. Speech act is firstly introduced by Austin (1962) which is currently used in the linguistic world. The speaker performs a certain kind of act, such as giving advice, asking a question, making promise, making an offer and many more. Austin distinguishes speech act analysis into three parts: Locutionary, Illocutionary and Perlocutionary. Illocutionary acts are the acts of saying something, according to Searle (1979:12), illocutionary act is used to accomplish some communicative purpose, such as asking, ordering, requesting, etc. By recognizing the speech act, it greatly helps us know and understand what the true meaning of people utterance. Searle said that are five categories of utterance found in illocutionary act. They are assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declaration.

Assertive illocutionary acts is an illocutionary act that states or expresses what the speaker believes to the case or not. It shows false and true condition of the meaning speaker's utterance (Searle, 1979:12). Next, directive illocutionary acts is speech act that speakers uses to get someone else to do something. It is the condition when the speaker request the hearer to carry out some actions. In addition, commissive type of illocutionary acts is that speaker uses to commit themselves to do some future action. This type of illocutionary act include offer, promise, swear, threat and volunteer (Searle, 1979). Furthermore, Expressive is an illocutionary act the states what speaker feels, it expresses the psychological states (Searle, 1979: 14). Eventually,

The most important study from three kinds of speech act is illocutionary act, it becomes the basic analysis in pragmatics comprehension. In other words, illocutionary act is the purpose or contextual meaning of utterance. It decides the listener is understanding or act (perlocution) as effect of the utterance. As for the example of illocutionary act that frequently occurs at school is whereby a student utters to their teacher "the bell has been rung". The intended meaning of the student saying the previous utterance is to inform the teacher to end the class since then the bell has been triggered. It is classified as

illocutionary act because the meaning of the utterance has a new purpose beyond its literal meaning. The urgency of illocutionary act above is to convey a certain message more politely.

This research has a thing in common with another research conducted by Dennis (2017) entitled *Representative Illocutionary Acts Performed by Governor's Candidates in Governor Debates DKI Jakarta 2017*. Both studies focused on similar problems of the study namely to discover the types of illocutionary act. Their research adopted qualitative method. Nevertheless, there can also be found a difference between both studies in which this study analyzed illocutionary act from a movie entitled *Lean On Me*. Meanwhile, their research analyzed illocutionary act from an utterance in *Governor Debates DKI Jakarta 2017*.

Another previous study belongs to Farid (2018) entitled "Illocutionary Acts Expressed on Gary Webb in *Kill The Messenger* movie". There can be found a difference between their study and this study in which differences can be seen from the problems of the study as well as the theory being used. And yet, there can also be found a thing in common between both studies which is they are alike to utilize the same research method namely descriptive qualitative. Their problems of the study are to analyze the types of illocutionary acts used by Gary Webb in "*Kill The Messenger*" movie. The result of their research demonstrates that there are 147 data of illocutionary act spoken by Gary Webb in a movie entitled *Kill the Messenger*.

The last work is an article retrieved from a journal by Petriandy and Marlina (2018) by the title of "Illocutionary Acts Found in a Novel *The Never Girls: Before the Bell* by Kiki Thorpe". Their article aimed at analyzing the types of illocutionary act found in the novel *The Never Girls Bell: Before the Bell* by Kiki Thorpe. In analyzing the illocutionary act, descriptive qualitative method was applied. The similarity between this study with another study is on the aims of the study whereby both research mutually revealed the types of illocutionary act. Meanwhile, there is a difference occurred between both research namely the theory being used. Petriandy and Marlina article utilized the theory proposed by Searle (1979) And yet, this study depended on Searle and also Thomas (1995). The result of their study found that representative illocutionary act occurred more dominantly in the novel *The Never Girls Bell: Before the Bell* by Kiki Thorpe.

METHODS

The data of this study was completely retrieved from *Lean On Me* movie directed by John G. Avildsen 1989. This movie is spoken in English by the length of 1:49:23 and the movie script written by Michael Schiffer in 8/5/2018. This movie is raised based upon the true event that tells a story about the chaos taking place at school in New Jersey named East Side High School in which the school is about to be taken over by the

government in case of not being able to achieve the 75 % graduation of the school. As for the writer's reasons in selecting this movie to be analyzed are because it is raised from a true story taking place in United States that is New Jersey. After all, this movie also provides a great number of illocutionary acts so that it is worth analyzing data source. And finally, this movie is awarded received multiple nominations as stated in advance.

This research employed observation method, which is by conducting direct research, as for the steps of collecting the data are as follow (1) Watch *Lean On Me* movie, the first step in collecting the data is the writer watched the movie entitled *Lean On Me*. (2) Find the movie script of *Lean On Me*, the next step is the writer find the data of illocutionary acts spoken by the characters in *Lean On Me* movie. (3) Read the movie script, the third step is the writer read the online movie script to ensure the data are valid. (4) Take note the data, the next step in collecting the data is by taking note the data of illocutionary acts. (5) Categorize the types of data, and finally the writer categorized the types of each data found based on the theory proposed by Searle (1979).

After the data have been thoroughly collected, the next step is analyzing the data. The analysis is conducted using descriptive qualitative method to create description systematically as well as the relationship with the object being investigated. The findings are discussed by identifying and categorizing the types of illocutionary acts by Searle (1979) who states that there are five types of illocutionary acts.

Furthermore, the data found are presented in either formal or informal method. As for formal method is a method in analyzing the findings by using a table, however formal method is most likely to require assistance from informal method using descriptive sentence to discuss each data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

The result of the research is answering the problem of the study proposed earlier. In conducting the research, the writer encountered multiple illocutionary acts whose type belongs to assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

Table 1. Frequency of Illocutionary Acts

No	Types of Illocutionary Acts	Frequency	Percentages
1	Assertive	2	22.20%
2	Directive	3	33.30%
3	Commissive	2	22.20%
4	Expressive	1	11.10%
5	Declarative	1	11.10%
	Total	9	100.00%

Table above demonstrates the types, frequency and percentage of Illocutionary acts found in the movie entitled Lean On Me. It is found as many as 9 data of illocutionary acts that can be distinguished into five types namely assertive, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative. Among the five types of illocutionary act, the most frequently occurred is directive illocutionary act that appeared by 3 times or 33,3% throughout the movie. Meanwhile, assertive and commissive illocutionary acts only occurred as many as twice or 22,2% along the movie. Furthermore, expressive and declarative illocutionary acts is only found by once or 11,1%.

DISCUSSION

The writer presented the illocutionary acts in a form of sentence as uttered by the character of the movie selected. The writer depended on the theory by Searle (1979).

Table 2. Illocutionary Acts Found in the Movie

No	Illocutionary Acts found in the movie	Type	Minute
1	Mr. Clark: "What the hell are you people doing"	Assertive	00:03:42
2	Mr. Clark: "They can go to hell."	Assertive	00:04:53
3	Khaneesa: "Somebody help"	Directive	00:04:53
4	Mr. Clark: "Take out your pencils and write."	Directive	00:15:06
5	Mr. Clark: "You may sit down Mr. O'Malley."	Directive	00:14:42
6	Mr. Clark: "bonus question for 20 points"	Commissive	00:01:03
7	Mr. Clark: "Aha, I'll spell it for you."	Commissive	00:02:04
8	Khaneesa: "Don't you remember me? Khaneesa."	Expressive	00:19:56
9	Mr. Clark: "I want you to be my ghost"	Declarative	00:23:59

The table above indicates the illocutionary act discovered in a movie entitled Lean On Me additionally their type and the time of the illocutionary act spoken consisting of hour, minute and second.



Mr. Clark: "What the hell are you people doing"
(Lean On Me, 00:03:42)

The statement spoken by Mr. Clark above is included in illocutionary act since there can be found another meaning rather than the literal meaning of the utterance. As stated by Searle (1979), the type of illocutionary act above can be classified into assertive namely blame, it is due to the utterance performed is a form of his anger. He was angry because the teachers council hold a meeting about sustainability of Eastside High School without getting him involved as the principal of the school. From Mr. Clark's statement earlier causes a reaction by the teachers council as the listeners. That is a shock reaction for Mr. Clark's sudden arrival into the teachers' room where the meeting is being held.



Mr. Clark: "They can go to hell."
(Lean On Me, 00:04:53)

This conversation takes place the school auditorium whereby Mr. Darniell attempts to call Mr. Clark to return to the teacher's room. However, Mr. Clark emotionally replied the call by saying the sentence above. The expression above indicates the furious from Mr. Clark as the

entire teacher's council take one-sided meeting without Mr. Clark's knowing. In accordance to Searle's theory, Mr. Clark's statement belongs to illocutionary act whose type is blame. The purpose of Mr. Clark performing the illocutionary act is intended to the teacher's council. It also represents anger from him.



Khaneesa: "Somebody help"
(Lean On Me, 00:04:53)

The utterance said by Khaneesa above when she is with her companion being in the school corridor who is in need of help to get her friend out of locked deposit box. If the sentence above is analyzed based on the theory by Searle, then the utterance is an illocutionary act by the type of request. Khaneesa appears to be panic, it is heard from the loud intonation produced by her when asking for a help. She shouts by the expectation of someone can help her in releasing her friend from being locked in a deposit box.



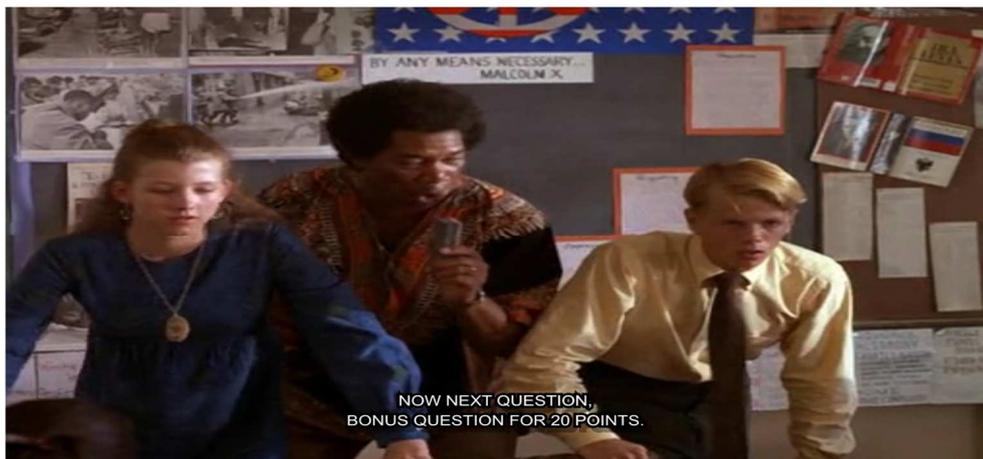
Mr. Clark: "Take out your pencils and write."
(Lean On Me, 00:15:06)

The utterance by Mr. Clark takes place Teacher's room of Eastside High School where they are gathering to greet a new principal namely Mr. Clark. He previously worked as a principal yet the teachers council took one-sided decision to kick him out of the school. Furthermore, he was invited by the teachers council to take the lead again. Based on the situation of the issue being confronted by the school. Hence, Mr. Clark acts firmly, it is obviously seemed from the statement being expressed. He desired the teachers to work even harder to bring back the reputation of Eastside High School. Theoretically, based on the Searle's theory, the expression by Mr. Clark above is an illocutionary act whose type is directive namely request. The intention of Mr. Clark performing the illocutionary act is to request the students the get a pencil out then take note what is said by him.



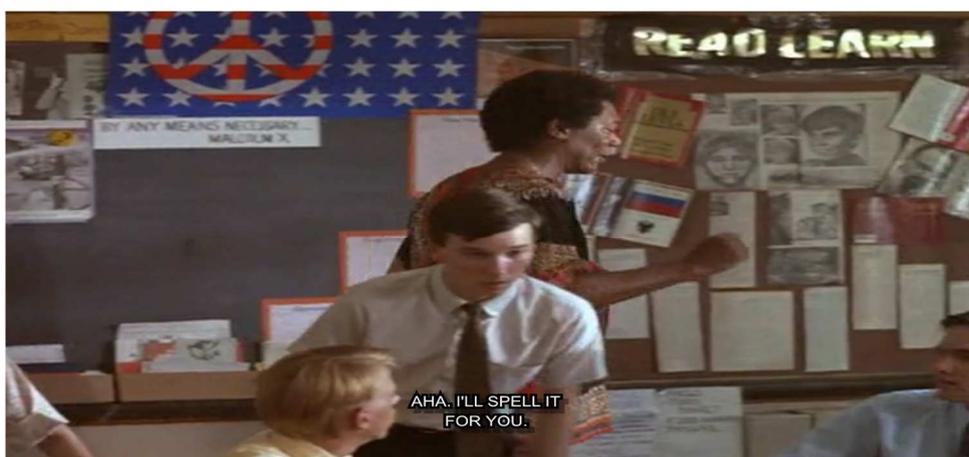
Mr. Clark: "You may sit down Mr. O'Malley."
(Lean On Me, 00:14:42)

According to Searle, the expression spoken by Mr. Clark above contains an illocutionary act which is ask. In this case, Mr. Clark asks Mr. O'Malley to do something. In the context of the movie, Mr' O'Malley is being asked by Mr. Clark to take a seat. Since the statement uttered is not far from the situation taking place in the teachers room at the moment. Mr. Clark is always serious with his words. The speech performed by Mr. Clark is a serious expression and looks annoyed by what Mr. O' Malley does to him. Under the circumstances, Mr. O'Malley seems fear dan directly do the exactly what Mr. Clark orders that is to return to seat.



Mr. Clark: "bonus question for 20 points"
(Lean On Me, 00:01:03)

From this scene of the movie, Mr. Clark seems to be briefing two students of Eastside High School. Based on the theory by Searle, the direction or speech being spoken contains an illocutionary act namely commissive or promise. Mr. Clark performs promise to his students 20 points for anyone who can answer the question proposed by him. This dialogue takes place in the classroom in which the learning teaching process is in progress. Mr. Clark looks fatigued grouping his students into two consisting of boys and girls. From those groups, there must be one student for each group to answer the question proposed by Mr. Clark. In the scene of the movie, it is shown that boy and girl students are carefully listening to Mr. Clark's question and expecting to be able to answer the question correctly.



Mr. Clark: "Aha, I'll spell it for you."
(Lean On Me, 00:02:04)

In the sentence above, there can be found an illocutionary acts namely commissive and promise. It can be seen since the word "will" that refers to a promise. Mr. Clark makes a promise by spelling the word in which it is an understandable word for the students. In this challenge, Mr.

Clark requires his students to concentrate on what will be said by Mr. Clark later on. Mr. Clark makes promise to spell his question since his students appear to be confused. Hence, Mr. Clark repeats his question again and over again by spelling it. The statement performed by Mr. Clark above absolutely causes the students to react. The students seems to start listening carefully to what Mr. Clark will say.



Khaneesa: "Don't you remember me? Khaneesa."
(Lean On Me, 00:19:56)

This conversation takes place in the school's auditorium whereby the entire students of Eastside High School gather up in the place. Furthermore, Khaneesa greets Mr. Clark with excitement and surprise for an unpredictable encounter due to Mr. Clark is formerly her teacher. As stated by Searle, Khaneesa's speech is an illocutionary act whose type is expressive namely greet. It is seen from the expression coming out when greeting Mr. Clark as the principal of Eastside High School.



Mr. Clark: "I want you to be my ghost"
(Lean On Me, 00:23:59)

In this scene of Lean On Me movie, Mr. Clark is making a speech on the stage of Eastside High School. He introduces his students that he is a new principal of the school. He directs and motivates the entire students

about the emergence of education. Through his speech, it is revealed a statement containing an illocutionary acts. Searle affirms that the illocutionary act belongs to declarative illocutionary act. He declares that he requires the students to be his ghost, The term of ghost here is intended for the students to leave anything that has gone and be prepared for the spirit to learn for a better future.

CONCLUSION

In accordance to the results of the data analysis of the illocutionary act used in the movie entitled *Lean On Me*, there are multiple illocutionary act whose type consist of assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative illocutionary act. The total amount of illocutionary act found in *Lean On Me* movie is 9 consisting of 2 assertive, 3 directive, 2 commissive, 1 expressive, and 1 declarative

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