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An Analysis of Directive Illocutionary Acts

found in Doctor Strange Movie

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Abstract

Communication is a vital point in our daily lives as human beings, and as humans, we often use voice and sound to communicate. Therefore, we use speech acts every time we communicate. The type of speech act that we often use is Directive Illocutionary Act which occurs when we speak to get the listener to do something. We were not only able to spot directive illocutionary acts in daily life, but also a movie and this study aims to identify and analyze the directive illocutionary acts from a dialogue in the movie. The results of the findings show that the Doctor Strange movie contains several types of directive speech acts, such as; Asking, Telling, Urging, Commanding, Requesting, Begging, Advising, Order, Permitting, Requiring and Demanding, Recommending, Forbidding, Prohibiting, and Warning. The writer used the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985) to conduct the analysis and used a descriptive qualitative method to collect and analyze the data that were found.

Keywords: Communication, Illocutionary Act, Directive Illocutionary act

Abstrak

Komunikasi merupakan hal yang vital dalam kehidupan kita sehari-hari sebagai manusia, dan sebagai manusia kita sering menggunakan suara untuk berkomunikasi. Oleh karena itu, kita menggunakan tindak tutur setiap kali kita berkomunikasi. Jenis tindak tutur yang sering kita gunakan adalah Tindak Ilokusi Direktif yang terjadi pada saat kita berbicara untuk mengajak pendengarnya melakukan sesuatu. Kami tidak hanya mampu mengenali tindak ilokusi direktif dalam kehidupan sehari-hari, tetapi juga sebuah film dan penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis tindak ilokusi direktif dari sebuah dialog dalam film. Hasil temuan menunjukkan bahwa film Doctor Strange mengandung beberapa jenis tindak tutur direktif, seperti; Meminta, Menceritakan, Mendesak, Memerintahkan, Meminta, Memohon, Menasehati, Memerintahkan, Mengizinkan, Mengharuskan dan Menuntut, Merekomendasikan, Melarang, Melarang, dan Memperingati. Penulis menggunakan teori Searle dan Vanderveken (1985) untuk melakukan analisis dan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk mengumpulkan dan menganalisis data yang ditemukan.

Kata kunci: komunikasi, tindak ilokusi, tindak ilokusi direktif





Introduction

Communication is the most important element in society as the first interaction between a person and others. According to Davis (2011) communication is a process of passing information and understanding from one person to another. The elements of communication are verbal and non-verbal communication. Verbal communication is the way to communicate between individuals using speech and on the other hand, and non-verbal communication is the process of communication between individuals through visual signs. It also needs language communication with each other or in the environment. People can learn about language in pragmatics. According to George Yule (1996), Pragmatics is the study of the relationship between linguistic forms and the users of those forms. In pragmatics, there is a theory about speech act. A speech act plays an important role in effective communication. Acts can be used not only to talk but also to do things. Yule (1996) states that there are acts performed by language that are called speech acts. There are three types of speech acts, such as; (1) locutionary act which is the basic act of utterance or producing a meaningful locutionary act is the act of uttering something to the addressee or it can be said that the meaning of sentence is equal with what the speaker utterance without considering to the context, (2) illocutionary act performed via the communicative force of an utterance with some kind of function in mind. Someone might utter to make a statement, an offer, an explanation, or for other communicative purposes. This is also generally known as the illocutionary force of the utterance, and (3) perlocutionary act is the act which is done by a speaker to produce an effect on the hearer's interpretation by a given utterance. From those definitions, it can be concluded that this act is caused by some utterances that are uttered by the speaker to the hearer Yule (1996: 48).

The characters in the film engage in a wide variety of speech acts. Additionally, the researcher is eager to examine various speaking acts, particularly illocutionary ones, in the film. Furthermore, based on the daily conversation, people tend to misunderstand other people's speech and this study will help the readers to be able to identify the Illocutionary Acts in someone's speech in order to give a proper reaction and avoid misunderstanding. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985:2), there are 5 types of illocutionary acts, such as; (1) Assertive is simply saving something or stating facts. (2) Directive is an utterance used to get the hearer to do something. (3) Commissive is an act that requires the speaker to do something in the future. (4) Expressive is the expression of feelings about something or reaction to other people's actions. (5) Declarative is illocutionary that creates a major and continuous change in reality. In this article, the researcher will only be focused on analyzing the directive speech act. In conversation, the directive is often used by the speaker to make the hearer do something. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985:198), there are 14 types of directive illocutionary acts, such as; requesting, asking, urging, telling, requiring, commanding, permitting, warning, ordering, forbidding, advising, recommending, begging, and praying. A directive illocutionary act is used in every conversation, basically, one that requires the hearer to do something for example; order. It is not only in daily life but also in entertainment aspects like novels and movies, advertisements, and so on.

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Nowadays, one of the most entertaining forms of entertainment is movies. According to Merriam-Webster (1828), a recording of moving images that tells a story and that people watch on a screen or television. Doctor Strange is a 2016 American superhero film directed by Scott Derrickson based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name. Produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, it is the 14th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). In the film, Doctor Strange learns the mystical arts after a career-ending car crash, he ends up fighting against his former senior, Kaecilius, who has taken power from Dormammu, the ruler of the dark dimension. This movie was one of the best movies in 2016 and won an awards of Costume Designers Guild Award for Excellent in Fantasy Film and Empire Award for Best Visual Effects, therefore this movie got the attention and it also contains a lot of data to be analyzed which make this movie is a strong candidate to be chosen as the source of the data. The data can be an example of daily conversation which occurred in daily life and the data will help the reader to understand this article better. Based on the conversation in the movie and the script, the researcher found directive illocutionary acts which have the potential to be analyzed as the data.

Since Speech Act, especially the illocutionary act, is a well-known topic, therefore there are many thesis that chose illocutionary acts as a discussion topic, for example, a thesis by Wardani (2016). In her thesis entitled An Analysis Of Directive Speech Acts Found In Carrie White Movie, she states that the relationship between the speaker and the hearer could be an indicator that makes the speaker use a different way to ask the hearer to do something for them. She also states that in daily conversation, the command is properly used for a friend or younger heater, meanwhile, suggestions can be used for any age of hearer, Suggestion is simply suggest some to take an appropriate action which are not only good for the hearer but also for everyone in general, a requests is a directive illocutionary act that allows the option of refusal, and order is somebody to do something simply in virtue of one's position of power whether or not that power is institutionally sanctioned.

The second research is an article by Sisca Okta Widya (2016) entitled A Pragmatic Analysis of Speech Act Used by English Lecturer in Language Teaching at STKIP YBD Lubuk Alung. The article focused on the pragmatic analysis of speech acts which were used by the English lecturer in the teaching-learning process at STKIP YDB Lubuk Alung to identify speech acts used by the English lecturer in classroom conversation. The analysis found that there are four types of speech acts used by the English lecturer, which were; representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives. The declaratives were not found while the directives are the most used speech acts, and the commissives are the least used speech act. Directives were used by the lecturer to get the students to take some actions and became the most dominant. Directives produced by the lecturer were realized in 111 instances (53%). The frequent use of directives indicates that the lecturer seemed to be aware of her status as a lecturer which was believed to be more powerful than her students. In such a restricted context like classroom setting, it is common that the lecturer status is higher than her students since the relation between them is inherently asymmetrical. It was through directives the lecturers exerted her power over the students.

The last review is an article by Desi Novita Sari, Asep Purwo Yudi Utomo (2016) entitled Directive speech act in President Joko Widodo's speech related to handling coronavirus (Covid-19) in Indonesia (Pragmatic review). According to the article, Jokowi's presidential states when delivering the handling of the Covid-19 case in Indonesia used a type of directive speech act that demanded responsibility from his opponent (officials and also the public) to understand the situation being faced by the Indonesian people. From this analysis, they found that in delivering his presidential states, Jokowi used directive speech acts with a classification as follows; asking for 3 times, asking for 3 times, asking for 1 time, ordering for 4 times, and prohibiting for 1 time. Based on the result, it can be concluded that most of Jokowi's directive speech acts are commanding. The form of directive speech acts according to Prayitno (2010:51) states that the directive commands are words that intend to instruct the interlocutors to do something. Thus, the government ordered all Indonesian people to obey the appeal made.

In using directives, the speaker attempts to make the word fit the world via the hearer. It means the speaker intends to make the hearer take an action. The second reason is that the directive shows a strong relationship between the speaker and the speech act. It explains that both sides of the relationship between the speaker and the hearer are strong. It means that the speaker could tell the hearer. The last reason is that the directive speech act is used to get the greatest attention from the listener to communicate. The purpose of this article is to find out how the directive illocutionary acts are not only able to be found in daily conversation, regarding the introduction, there were some reasons why the directive speech act was chosen as a topic. First, the directive illocutionary act is a kind of act that is often used by speakers in daily conversation, therefore it is interesting to analyze directive illocutionary act as people often ignore the using of directive illocutionary act during the communication, sometimes it is because people do not know that they have been using it and they do not know how to identify it from other's speech, this article is expected to give more understanding about directive illocutionary act this article chose a movie as the data source to give examples from many perspectives through many scenes in the movie.

Method

The method that was used to analyze the data was a descriptive qualitative method, the collected data will be classified into several types of illocutionary act and the find out the types and meaning of the data that were found in the movie. This article was taken from the Doctor Strange movie. The form of the data focused on the utterance which consists of a directive speech act that is expressed by all the characters in the movie. This movie talked about a doctor called Stephen Strange who is also the doctor in his hospital, but he is also arrogant and tends to underestimate others. One day he had a career-ending crash which caused a tremor in his hands. He tried many treatments, but none of them worked. Then he went to a sorcerer to learn inner power to heal his hands, but instead of getting his hands back, he ended up fighting a rogue senior, Kaecillius who stole power from a monster

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living in the dark dimension called Dormammu. The data collection was done through documentation and observation methods. The documentation method was done by downloading the movie from the Internet. The observation method was done through several steps; (1) watching the movie, (2) classifying which directive illocutionary act can be analyzed (3) taking note of every conversation that can be potentially chosen as the data. The collected data were analyzed by using a descriptive qualitative method. The data were classified into several types of the directive illocutionary act based on the theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The analysis was continued by the purpose analysis of the directive illocutionary act which was used by the characters in the movie. The analysis only focused on the body language used by every character in every dialogue in the movie by using the theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The methods used in presenting the result are formal methods. The formal method was applied by using a table to show the percentage of which types of directive illocutionary act elements were found the most in the conversation in this movie. The informal method was used in presenting the data descriptively captured in order to present the research clearly.

Result and Discussion

The results of the data in this article used the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985:215). After analyzing the data in the Doctor Strange movie, the writer found 60 data of directive illocutionary acts. The most found data of directive illocutionary acts were Asking (16,9%) followed by Telling (15,2%), Urging (10,2%), Commanding (8,5%), Requesting (8,5%), Begging (6,8%), Advising (6,8%), Order (6,8%), Permitting (6,8%), Requiring and Demanding (5%), Recommending (3,4%), Forbidding and Prohibiting (3,4%), and the least is Warning (1,6%). But, there is one type of directive illocutionary act which is not used in the movie, such as; Praying. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985: 205), praying is to entreat God (or some other sacred person or entity). There is also an obsolete use of "pray" familiar from Shakespeare and still used in the law which just means "request", usually from a superior. The following are more details about the result and discussion:

1. Asking

"Ask" has two distinct directive uses. One can ask someone to do something or ask him a question (e.g, "ask whether" "ask why" or "ask whom"). To ask a question is to request the hearer to perform a future speech act that would give the original speaker a correct answer to his question (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 199).

Example

Time : 00:46:03

Doctor Strange: So just, how ancient is she?

In the conversation, Doctor Strange is practicing and he asks Mordo, "How ancient is she?" Because he is wondering about how old is The Ancient One and Mordo replied by saying "No one knows the age of the ancient one". We can see that the conversation contains the directive speech act type of asking because Doctor Strange clearly asked a question that requires an answer.

2. Telling

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1998: 200), "Telling a hearer to do something is to direct him in a manner which does not give him the option of refusal. Tell (to) is different from "request" and "ask" in that it is more peremptory and less polite, and this difference derives from the fact that "request" and "ask" allow the possibility of refusal while "tell (to) " does not allow such a possibility". **Example**

Time: 01:01:55

Doctor Strange: I said, stop it!

After the fight, Kaecilius was trapped by the armor that could not make him move and he kept talking so that Doctor Strange told him to stop because Doctor Strange felt tired after the fight and he did not know about the situation. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1998:200), his utterance can be categorized as "telling" of the directive illocutionary act because we can hear clearly that he was told to Kaecilius to stop by saying "stop it".

3. Urging

"Urge" has an assertive use, but it is primarily a directive and as such to urge is simply to advocate a course of action. It carries a greater degree of strength than "request", though it has neither the authority nor the power of "command" and "order", nor does it have the humility of "beg", "plead", and "pray" (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 200).

Example

Time: 00:48:19

Mordo: Fight! Fight like your life depended on it!

Mordo invited Doctor Strange to practice and make weapons, and when they started to practice, Mordo urged Doctor Strange to keep fighting like his life is in danger. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:200), his utterance can be categorized as an "urge" of the directive speech act. He supported Doctor Strange to keep fighting because he would like to defeat their enemy.

4. Commanding

"A command requires authority or at least pretended institutionalized power. To give an order is to demand of the hearer that he does something while invoking a position of authority of power over him, while a command is just to give an order from a position of authority." (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 201).

Example

Time: 01:15:11

The ancient one: Measure your next words very carefully, doctor!

The Ancient One told Doctor Strange to measure his next words very carefully because she thought Doctor Strange may not know the impact of his misunderstanding and his reckless speaking. In the conversation, The Ancient One warns Doctor Strange to be careful of what he is about to say. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1998:201), a command requires authority at least pretending to be institutionalized power. This data above "commanding" as a directive speech act.

5. Requesting

A request is a directive illocutionary act that allows the option of refusal. It differs from "direct" only in the rather polite mode of achievement which is expressed in English by the modifier (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 199).

Example

Time: 01:22:47

Christine: I need a crash cart.

In the conversation, the ancient one got kicked by Kaecilius, she fell down from the high. After the fight, Doctor Strange carries her to the hospital and Christine helps her then she says she needs a crash cart because The Ancient One got her blood pressure dropping. The utterance of Christine can be categorized as "requesting". According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:199), this data tells above "requesting" of directive speech act.

6. Begging

"To beg is to request humbly while expressing a strong desire, usually because of a strong need. To beg as a directive also has another sense, which is to request very politely as in "I beg your pardon." (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 204).

Example

Time: 00:31:40

Doctor Strange: No... No! No, no, no, no no no no! No! Open the door! Please!

The ancient one threw him out because he was arrogant and haughty. After he was expelled by The Ancient One he begged her. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:204), this data shows that the speaker is begging from one of the directive speech acts.

7. Advising

"In the directive sense, the aim of issuing the advice would normally be to get you to take some appropriate action." (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 203).

Example

Time: 00:14:08

Doctor: Give your body time to heal.

Doctor Strange had a car accident and finally healed but he got a tremor on his hand. And his friend who is also a doctor said "Give your body time to heal" to Doctor Strange. Because his friend would like Doctor Strange to take a rest. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:203) we can hear the speaker "advising" as a directive speech act.

8. Ordering

"Order does not require an institutional structure of authority. One can order somebody to do something simple in virtue of one's position of power whether or not that power is institutionally sanctioned." (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985 201).

Example

Time: 01:35:32

Mordo: Get up, Strange! Get up and fight! We can finish this!

In the conversation, time is frozen, Doctor Strange is falling on the road and Mordo orders him to get up and fight because he would like to defeat their enemy. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:202) the utterance of Mordo we can hear the "ordering" as a directive speech act.

9. **Permitting**

"To grant permission to someone to do something is to perform the act of illocutionary denegation of forbidding him to do it." (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 202)

Example

Time: 01:09:41

Doctor Strange: Hit me again!

Doctor Strange fell into a coma for the moment because he got stabbed in the heart. His soul flies out of his body and fights the soul of his enemy and Christine takes care of Doctor Strange's body, when Doctor Strange's soul is knocked out by the enemy, his heart stops beating, so Christine grab the pacemaker and hit Doctor Strange to make his heart beating, and suddenly his soul feels a massive power as Christine hit him with the pacemaker. The soul of Doctor Strange suddenly came to Christine and said "Hit me again!" because he needs an electric blast from the pacemaker to beat his enemy. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1998:257), this example is categorized as "permitting" as a directive speech act.

10. Requiring and demanding

"Requiring or demanding someone to do something is telling him to do it with a greater degree of strength than simply telling or requesting. Requiring, but not demanding, also has an additional preparatory condition of need that it be done. Normally there must be a specific reason for requiring the act." (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 201).

Example

Time: 00:40:33

The ancient one: I'd like a moment alone with Mr. Strange.

The Ancient One is coming when Mordo teaches Doctor Strange to make a fire gate. And the ancient one would like to be alone with Doctor Strange because she will teach him by herself. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:201) we can hear the utterance of the ancient one we can hear "requiring & demanding as a directive speech act.

11. Forbidding and Prohibiting

"Forbid just means "order not". Forbidding is the prepositional negation of ordering. Forbid and prohibit differ only in that prohibition are more likely to be standing order." (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 202).

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Example

Time: 00:17:14 *Doctor Strange: No! Don't pity me!*

Christine tries to convince Doctor Strange to stop him from forcing himself to recover from his illness. Doctor Strange was angry and said to her "don't pity me" because he wanted to keep fighting and recovering from his illness until he got stressed. This data above the forbidding & prohibiting as a directive speech act.

12. Recommending

"To recommend is to advise with the additional preparatory condition that the states of affairs represented by the proposition are good in general and not merely good for the hearer." (Searle and Vanderveken, 1985: 203).

Example

Time: 00:33:45 Mordo: Bathe, rest, meditate if you can. The Ancient One will send for you.

After the ancient one threw Doctor Strange out, she allowed him back. Mordo invited him inside and recommended he take a bath, rest, and meditation because The Ancient One alone will approach him herself. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:203), this data tells about "recommending" from the directive speech act.

13. Warning

"In the directive sense, the aim of issuing a warning would normally be to get you to take some evasive action. According to the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:203).

Example

Time: 01:02:09

Doctor Strange: Look, if you're not going to start making sense, I'm just going to have to put this thing back on.

In the conversation, Doctor Strange asked Kaecilius if he was not going to start making sense. He is just going to have to put the mouth-cover thing back on. Based on the theory by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:203), this data above is categorized as "warning" as the directive speech act.

Conclusion

Based on the result of data analysis about the main character's conflicts in the movie The Protégé by Martin Campbell, it can be concluded that: There are two type of conflict that was find out in this movie, the external and internal conflict. The internal conflict that happened to Anna Is Sadness. Anna's sadness occurred when she recounted Moody's story to her best friend, Billy. Anna recalled how Moody had treated her so well, training her to become a skilled assassin. The external conflicts that happened to Anna between the other characters such as Monsieur and Don Prade shown as quarrels, and disagreements. Every conflict faced by Annna always ends in murder. The author hopes that this study will be helpful to literature students and the next researcher will choose The Protege Movie as the subject of additional research that relates to other aspects, such as analyzing the source of conflict, the moral values, the language used, the resolution to the conflict, and so on. As a result, there is still plenty of untapped potential for academics to learn more about doing a study on this movie. The author also hopes that further researchers can use indonesian films or novels as research subjects considering that there are still many works by Indonesian artists that deserve attention, especially those that raise everyday issues related to the realities of life.

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