An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts In New Moon Movie

Simbolon, Ribka
bolon_ribka@yahoo.com

Abstract

This thesis deals with illocutionary act in New Moon movie. The objectives of this study are to find out the types and the dominant types of illocutionary acts in New Moon movie. This research is conducted by descriptive quantitative design, which makes a description of the situation or event/occurrence. The data of this study is derived from the movie script of New Moon movie by downloading from internet that focuses on the major character’s utterances. The results shows that there are 379 utterances. The findings indicated that New Moon movie applied five types of illocutionary acts, re: declarations presentatives, expressives, directives, and commissives. The total calculations and percentages of illocutionary acts in each type are declaration 57 (15.04%), representatives 114 (30.08%), expressives 43 (11.35%), directives 127 (33.50%), commissives 38 (10.03%). The dominant type of illocutionary acts is directives 127 (33.50%).

Keywords: illocutionary act, declarations presentatives, expressives, directives, and commissives

1. Introduction

Semantic is that aspect of linguistics which deals with the relations between referents (names), and referends (things) that is, linguistic levels (words, expressions, phrases) and the objects or concepts or ideas to which they refer- and with the history and changes in the meaning of words. (Varshney 2003:49).

Speech act has three distinctions, there are locutionary act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act. Peccei observed that utterances simultaneously involve three elements. “The locutionary is the actual form of words used by the speaker and their semantic meaning. The locutionary is what the speaker is doing by uttering those words: commending, offering, promising, threatening, thanking, etc. Perlocution is the actual result of the locution. It may or may not be what the speaker wants to happen but it is nevertheless caused by the locution” (Peccei, 1999:44).

For example, Danger! This statement can mean that there is something of high risk or people should be careful of something. The actions performed via utterances are generally called speech acts and, in the English language, the speech acts are commonly given more specific labels, such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise or request. In reality, many people are still not aware of the existence of speech acts in their life and how it can create a proper action or replay with an appropriate action.

Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning. Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). It has more to do with the analysis of what people mean by their utterances or what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves. Pragmatics is generally the study of the natural understanding and specifically the study of how people comprehend and produce a communicative or speech act.

Concerning the phenomenon above, the writer chooses the New Moon movie to represent the different use of speech acts. New Moon is a young adult vampire-romance movie produced by Summit Entertainment. The writer chooses this movie because it is one of the more popular movie in the box offices in the world and many teenagers love this movie. The writer chooses Isabella “Bella” Swan character because she is the one of the main characters in the New Moon movie and it tells about her life.

Related to the background above, the objectives of the study are formulated as follows: to find out the types of illocutionary acts that is used by Bella in the New Moon’s movie script, to find out the type of illocutionary act that is dominantly “Bella” used in New Moon’s movie script. The study is focused on
**New Moon** movie script and the major character is the utterances of Isabella “Bella” Swan. The writer analyzes the type of illocutionary act, they are declarations, representatives, expressive, directives, commissives, and the writer uses John I. Saeed theory to identify types of Speech Acts that are found in **New Moon’s** movie script.

The findings are expected useful for: students of the English Department particularly to improve their awareness about illocutionary acts, the readers who want to know about illocutionary act and how they are used in their life, researches who want to deepen their knowledge and to conduct further studies about illocutionary acts.

**Pragmatics**

“Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics which studies the ways in which context contributes to meaning. Pragmatics encompasses speech act theory, conversational implicature, talk in interaction and other approaches to language behavior in philosophy, sociology, and linguistics” (Mey, 1993:77). It studies how the transmission of meaning depends not only on the linguistic knowledge (e.g grammar, lexicon etc.) of the speaker and listener, but also on the context of the utterance, knowledge about the status of those involved, the inferred intent of the speaker, and so on. In this respect, pragmatics explains how language users are able to overcome apparent ambiguity, since meaning relies on the manner, place, time etc. The ability to understand another speaker’s intended meaning is called pragmatic competence. An utterance describing pragmatic function is described as metapragmatic. Pragmatic awareness is regarded as one of the most challenging aspects of language learning, and comes only through experience.

**Speech Acts**

“Speech acts are the role of language in communicating social acts like requesting, questioning, promising, thanking, stating, as well as more institutional verbal acts like pronouncing sentence in court, or performing ceremonies of baptizing, marrying, etc” (Saeed, 2000:223).

Speech act can be defined as acts which the speaker intends to his or her hearer by express their selves in producing utterances. When hearer listens to the speaker, he/she may be act as what the speaker intents to him or her. The act that performed by the hearer depend on the utterances were spoken to the hearer.

Naturally, an utterance may have a conventional meaning, but the interpretation of the actual meaning of the utterance as it is used in discourse depends on evaluating the utterance in the context of the set of intonations which represent the illocutionary mode of its presentation. The speakers intention is to produce understanding, consisting of the knowledge of conditions on the speech act being performed.

**Locutionary Act**

According to Peccei (1999: 44), “locutionary act is the actual form of words used by the speaker and their semantic meaning”. according to J. L. Austin’s posthumous "How To Do Things With Words", a speech act should be analysed as a locutionary act (i.e. the actual utterance and its ostensible meaning, comprising phonetic, phatic and rhetoric acts corresponding to the verbal, syntactic and semantic aspects of any meaningful utterance), as well as an illocutionary act (the semantic ‘illocutionary force’ of the utterance, thus its real, intended meaning), and in certain cases a further perlocutionary act (i.e. its actual effect, whether intended or not). For example, I say to you "Don't go into the water" (a locutionary act with distinct phonetic, syntactic and semantic features) counts as warning you not to go into the water (an illocutionary act), and if you heed my warning I have thereby succeeded in persuading you not to go into the water (a perlocutionary act).

The propositional content of a locutionary act can be either expressed directly or implied via implicature. For example, a warning such as I warn you to stop smoking constitutes an expressed locutionary act because its propositional content predicates a future act (to stop smoking) of the hearer (you). On the other hand, consider the warning I warn you that cigarette smoking is dangerous. This utterance constitutes an implied locutionary act because its propositional content does not predicate a future act of the hearer; instead, it predicates a property of cigarettes.”
**Perspectives of Locutionary Act**

According to Voltaire (1993:3), a speech act is, first of all, a locutionary act, that is, an act of saying something. Saying something can also be viewed from three different perspectives:

1. **Phonic**
   Phonic is (uttering noises, phones).

2. **Phatic**
   Phatic is uttering noises as belonging to a certain vocabulary and conforming to a certain grammar; that is as being part of certain language. The noises seen from this perspective are called phemes. Phatic can be said as “small talk”:

3. **Rhetic**
   Rhetic act using these noises with a certain sense and reference. The noises seen from this perspective are called rhemes.

It is an act of uttering something, syllable, word, and phrase or sentence forms of a language.

Perspectives of locutionary acts produce a meaningful linguistic expression. It is to produce an utterance with a particular form and more or less determined meaning.

**Performing of Locutionary Act**

Locutionary act often happens in our daily lives. Sometimes without us knowing we have do locutionary act. In performing a locutionary act we shall also be performing such an act as:

1. asking or answering a question;
2. giving some information or an assurance or a warning;
3. announcing a verdict or an intention;
4. pronouncing sentence;
5. making an appointment or an appeal or a criticism;
6. making an identification or giving a description

So, from the explanation above, it can be concluded that the performing of locutionary act can not be separated from our daily conversations in social life.

**Illocutionary Act**

Austin states in his preliminary informal description, the idea of an “illocutionary act” can be captured by emphasizing that “by saying something, we do something”, as when someone orders someone else to go by saying go!, or when a minister joins two people in marriage saying, “I now pronounce you husband and wife.”

According to Cruse (2000:332), “illocutionary acts are acts which are internal to the locutionary act, in the sense that, if the contextual condition are appropriate, once the locutionary act has been performed, so has the illocutionary act”. For example:

- *He urged me to shoot her.*
  In saying that utterance, the speaker performs an illocutionary act of advice or order

- *I am very grateful for taking me to the movie*
In saying that utterance, the speaker performs an illocutionary act of thanking.

- Would you like a cup of coffee?
  In saying that utterance, the speaker performs illocutionary act of offering.

Speech act classifications in detail into a number of illocutionary act such as commanding, offering, promising, threatening, thanking, etc. Below is an example of how locution and illocution can work for Mike’s utterance to Annie. “Give me some cash”

- Locution : Mike uttered the words “Give me some cash” which can be semantically paraphrased as : “hand some money over to me”, with me referring to Mike.
- Illocutionary : mike performed the act of requesting Annie to give him some cash.

We need to distinguish between the illocution and the locution because, as we saw in above, different locutionary can have the same illocutionary. Similarly, the same locutionary can have different illocutionary depending on the context. For example, it’s could in here could either be request to close the window or an offer to close the window.

We do not, of course, simply create utterances with a function without intending it to have an effect. This is called perlocutionary act. Depending on the circumstances, people may utter “I’ve just made some coffee” on assumption that the hearer will recognize the effect they intended.

Types of Illocutionary Acts

Speech act maybe conveniently classified by their illocutionary type, such as asserting, requesting, promising, and apologizing, for which we have familiar verbs. These different types may in turn be distinguished by the type of attitude the speaker expresses. Saeed’s (2000:212), all acts fall into five main types:

1. Declarations.

Declarations, which effect immediate changes in the institutional state of affairs and which tend to rely on elaborate extralinguistic institutions (paradigm cases: excommunicating, declaring war, christening, marrying, firing from employment). For example, during the wedding ceremony the act of marriage is performed when the phrase I now pronounce You husband and wife is uttered.

2. Representatives

Representatives, which commit the speaker to the truth of the epressed proposition (paradigm cases: asserting, concluding). For example:

- This is a German car (assertion).
- The earth is flat
- The human is breath

3. Expressives

Expressives, which express a psychological state (paradigm cases: thanking, apologizing, welcoming, congratulating). For example:

- I’m really sorry
- Congratulations!
- Oh yes, great, mmmh, shahh
- The meal was delicious

In using expressive, the speaker makes the words fit the world (of feeling).

4. Directives

   Directives, which are attempts by the speaker to get the addressee to do something (paradigm cases: requesting, questioning). For example:

   - Please sit down!
   - Could you lend me a pen, please!
   - Don’t touch that!

   In using directive, the speaker attempt to make the world fit the words (via the speaker). For example:

   - Why don’t you close the window?

5. Commissives.

   Commisives, which commit the speaker to some future course of action (paradigm cases: promising, threatening, offering). For example:

   - If you don’t stop fighting I’ll call the police (threat).
   - He takes you to the movies tomorrow (promise).

   The five classification of speech act that written by Saeed will be used in this study. The writer will identifies the classification of function of speech act by using theory of Saeed. The writer chooses the theory as it commonly precise classification among the reviews.

   According to Searle (1985:52) he also make illocutionary acts into five types, they are:

   a. Representative or assertive.
      The speaker becomes committed to the truth of the propositional content; for example, asserting: "It's raining."
   b. Directive.
      The speaker tries to get the hearer to act in such a way as to fulfill what is represented by the propositional content; for example, commanding: "Close the door!"
   c. Commissive.
      The speaker becomes committed to act in the way represented by the propositional content; for example, promising: "I'll finish the paper by tomorrow."
   d. Expressive.
      The speaker simply expresses the sincerity condition of the illocutionary act: "I'm glad it's raining!"
   e. Declarative.
      The speaker performs an action just representing herself as performing that action: "I name this ship the Queen Elizabeth."

Perlocutionary Act

Perlocutionary is hearer’s behavioral response to the meaning of utterances, not necessarily a physical or verbal response, perhaps merely a mental or emotional response of some kind. Other perlocutionary
are such things as alerting hearer by warning hearer of danger, persuading hearer onto an opinion by stating supporting fact, intimidating hearer by threatening; getting hearer to do something by means of a suggestion, a hint, a request, or a command, and so forth. An effect of utterances which does not result from hearer recognizing the locution and illocutionary point of utterances is not are extremely significant within a theory of communication because the normal reason for speaking is to cause an effect beyond the boundary of linguistics because they are not part of language but behavior.

Perlocutionary act is the third part of speech act which is distinctive from two other kinds of the speech act. It is an actual result or an effect of the illocution. It may or may not be what the speaker wants to happen but it is nevertheless caused by the illocution. It is defined by the listener’s reaction to the speaker utterance. When someone creates the utterances with a purpose or an intention, it means that he or she wants his or her locution/utterances to have an effort to the listener. The speaker will want the listener to recognize his or her intention so the listener will act exactly as the speaker want. Like the illocutionary act, the perlocutionary act also have some characteristics, they are:

- Perlocutionary acts which are not performed by uttering explicit performative sentences.
- Perlocutionary acts which seem to involve the effects of utterance acts and illocutionary acts on the thoughts, feelings, and actions of the listener, whereas the illocutionary act does not. Thus, the perlocutionary acts can be represented as an illocutionary act of speaker (S) plus its effects on the listener (L). It can be illustrated as below:
  1. S tells + L believes…= S persuades L that…
  2. S tells + L intends…= S persuades L that…

Furthermore, considering the importance of getting understanding between locution, illocution, and perlocution, below is the example of these three acts:

For example: “Could you please pass me the milk?”
- Locution: The speaker uttered the words which semantically mean requesting the listener to give her the milk.
- Illocution: The speaker performed an act of requesting the listener to give her the milk.
- Perlocution: The speaker persuaded the hearer to give her the milk, and as the response, the listener gave her the milk as what she wishes.

Movie Script

According to http:/wiki/wikipedia/movie script, script mean as 1) text instructing somebody what to say: a real or imagined piece of text setting out what somebody is to say or do on a specific occasion 2) text of play or broadcast: the printed version of a stage play, movie screenplay, or radio or television broadcast, including the words to be spoken and often also technical directions.

The writer uses the New Moon’s Movie Script because he realizes that to write the whole data from real movie is not efficient. It may waste much time by rehearing the conversation among the actors and after that rewriting their utterances. Movie script is more efficient to be use as the data of analysis in this study, since it could be easy to find.

2. Research Design

This research conducted by using quantitative method. According to Arikunto (2006:14), quantitative research is descriptive in that the researcher is interested in process, meaning, and understanding gained through words or pictures.

by downloading the complete script of New Moon’s movie from Internet Movie Script Database (IMDb) the writer got the data. The data are the utterances of Isabella “Bella” in all the scenes.
The technique of collecting data will be conducted to get information in which is needed to achieve the purpose of this research. The data was collected by doing documentary technique. Documentary technique means reading, studying, and analyzing all the references to collect required information.

The data analyzed by: Identifying the type of illocutionary acts that were uttered by Isabella “Bella” Swan in New Moon's movie script. The writer identified the utterances based on the utterances, by technique of analyzing the data. Classifying the types of illocutionary acts that are uttered by Isabella “Bella” Swan in New Moon’s movie script. The writer classified the utterances by put them based on each type of illocutionary act in to the table of illocutionary acts. Counting the most dominant types of illocutionary acts that will be uttered by Isabella “Bella” Swan in New Moon’s movie script by using this formula:

$$X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

Where:
- $X$ = the percentage of the obtained items
- $F$ = the total illocution functions of each type
- $N$ = the total illocution functions from all types

3. Data Analysis

Theoretically, there are five type of illocutionary acts. They are: declarations, representatives, expressive, directives, and commissives acts. The results of the analysis were obtained are shown in the following:

1. Declarations

   Declarations are those kinds of illocutionary acts that change the world via their utterances. It is usually consist of excommunicating, declaring war, christening, marrying, firing from employment. The author was analyzed there are 57 declaration sentences, they are:

   a. *And soon, I'd be like him. We'd face our fate together. Forever.* (Bella declare that “she’ll be like Edward forever”).
   b. *Edward. I love you.* (Bella declare that “Bella love Edward”).
   c. *I bought something.* (Bella declare that “Bella bought something”).
   d. *My dad's been getting reports at the sheriff's station. A couple hikers went missing. People are scared.* (Bella declare that Bella’s father been getting reports at the sheriff's station).
   e. *I won't let that happen.* (Bella declare that “she won't let that happen”).

2. Representatives

   Representatives are kinds of illocutionary acts type that states what the speaker believe to be case. To emphasize the utterances the statements usually consist of asserting and concluding. From the analyzed the author find 114 representatives sentences, they are:

   a. *Not that old.* (Bella asserting that “Bella is not old yet”).
   b. *It's one year older than you.* (Bella asserting that “she is not worrying about her age”).
   c. *Stop - she'll see!* (Bella asserting to “STOP”).
   d. *Bye, Jake, and thank you.* (“Bye” is the utterance to end their meeting).
   e. *Right class.* (Bella asserting that “Right class”)

3. Expressives

   Expressive are kinds of illocutionary acts that state the speaker’s feeling of something. It is usually express the psychological feeling such as thanking, apologizing, welcoming, congratulating. From the analyzed the author find 43 expressives sentences, they are:
a. **Oh my God.** (expresses Bella’s dreaming as she realizes that it's not Gran; it's Bella, sixty-five years older.)
b. **I hate being... celebrated.** (expresses Bella’s feeling dislikes when Charlie want to celebrate her birthday)
c. **Ssh!** (Bella expresses to silent).
d. **Um... thanks?** (Bella expresses to thanking).
e. **Ouch - paper cut** (Bella expresses that Bella’s finger was cut).

### 4. Directives

Directives are kinds of illocutionary acts that speaker uses to get someone else to do something for the speaker. It shows what the speaker wants. Directives usually consist of requesting and questioning. From the analyzed the author find 127 directives sentences, they are including:

a) **Stop - she'll see!** (Bella states a commands to Edward to stop walking)
b) **Did you ever think of... living differently?** (This utterance consist of a question that Bella asked to Edward.)
c) **Is that... Carlisle?** (Bella make a question to know she is Carlisle or not).
d) **Stop. I don't want normal, I want you.** (Bella request Edward that she wants to be vampire).
e) **No, this is - don't do this. Please.** (Bella’s requesting).

### 5. Commissives

Commissives are kinds of illocutionary acts that speaker uses to commit himself/herself to some future actions. They express of promising, threatening, offering. From the analyzed the author find 38 commissives sentences, they are including:

a) **I'll leave my window open for you. I'll pull into a motel in a few hours.** (Bella promising that her window will open).
b) **I'll have to think of something to tell Charlie, but I can be ready.** (All of these examples show something that Bella wants to do in the future).
c) **Dad, we agreed, no gifts.** (Bella threatening that “no gifts”)
d) **I... guess I can deal.** (Bella promising that she get the deal).
e) **I sure can kill a party.** (Bella threatening that she was “kill a party”).

In table 4.1 the analysis of the data based on Bella’s utterances were analyzed using Saeed’s theory as follow **The Research Findings**

After analyzing all the data for the illocutionary acts types, the findings are presented as the follow:

1. All of five types of illocutionary acts are uttered by Isabella “Bella” Swan in *New Moon* movie script. The total of utterances that are found in Isabella “Bella” Swan’s utterances are 379 utterances. There are 57 (15.04%) of declarations acts, 114 (30.08%) of representatives acts, 43 (11.35%) of expressive acts, 127 (33.5%) directives acts and 38 (10.03%) of commissives acts.
2. The most dominant types of illocutionary acts that is founded in Isabella “Bella” Swan’s utterances is directives acts 127 (33.5%).
3. Directives is generally used by Isabella “Bella” Swan in *New Moon* movie because lot of requesting and questioning in her utterances. Directives acts are uttered when the actor wants to represent the word as he or she believe in it.

**The Total Number and Percentage of Ilocutionary Acts Types**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Types Of Ilocutionary Act</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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### Conclusions

Based on the findings of this research, it can be concluded that:

1. There are five types of illocutionary acts namely; declarations: 57 (57.04%), representatives: 114 (30.08%), expressive: 43 (11.35%), directives: 127 (33.50%) and commissives: 38 (10.03%) are applied in *New Moon* movie.
2. The directives type is most the most dominant uttered by the main character in *New Moon* movie. It is 127 (33.50%).
3. From the previous analysis, it can be seen that directives is generally used in the movie by Bella. Directives acts are uttered when the actor wants to represent her filling.

### References


