

## ILLOCUTIONARY ACT IN *WILD CHILD*: A PRAGMATIC STUDY

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### Abstract

Analyzing the illocutionary act in *Wild Child*, this research was objected to find out the classifications and the most dominant illocutionary act in the main character of *Wild Child*. The theory that the researcher used is the classification of illocutionary act proposed by John Searle. Exploring illocutionary act, this research applied pragmatic approach. To complete this research, the researcher used qualitative method to describe the problem clearly by using words, phrases and sentences. This research leads the researcher to derive conclusion that there are four classifications of illocutionary act found, they are assertive, directive, expressive and commissive. In addition, the result showed that declarative cannot be found. From those four classifications of illocutionary acts, the researcher found the most dominant illocutionary act used by main character is directive which implicated that it shows the power of someone who makes an utterance.

**Key words:** Assertive, Commissive, Declarative.

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### INTRODUCTION

Interpreting a speaker's meaning is helpful in avoiding misunderstanding in communication (F. M. Sari & Wahyudin, 2019b). The study of speaker's meaning is called as pragmatic (Hutauruk & Puspita, 2020), (Chavez, 2000). Pragmatic plays its role to study about the meaning of language and its relation to the context (Rido et al., 2017), (Mulyasari & Putri, 2020), (F. M. Sari & Wahyudin, 2019a). Pragmatic is a study of a relation between language and context that are grammaticalized or encoded in structure of meaning (Widianingsih & Gulö, 2016), (Afrianto, 2017), (Oktavia & Suprayogi, 2021), (B. N. Sari & Gulö, 2019). It means studying pragmatic, it focuses on how to utter a speech, so the hearer can interpret its meaning which is affected by context (Ivana & Suprayogi, 2020). It means pragmatic states language relates with the context. Same utterances may have different meaning in the different context.

Illocutionary act becomes the basic of analysis in pragmatic comprehension (Kuswoyo, 2013). The most important study from those three kinds of speech act is illocutionary act. Based on the reason of both theories about illocutionary act, therefore the researcher wants to analyze the illocutionary act especially in *Wild Child* movie. The reason why the researcher feels interested in analyzing a movie rather than the others like

novel (Fitri & Qodriani, 2016), (Sasalia & Sari, 2020), (Afrianto & Ma'rifah, 2020), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020), (Kardiansyah, 2017), short story or even drama because the researcher thinks that doing analysis by using a movie can make the researcher easier to analyze (Pratiwi et al., 2020). Besides, the researcher can directly see the expressions that expressed by the characters (Amelia, 2021), (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), (Kardiansyah, n.d.). In addition, the researcher feel interested in analyzing this movie because the researcher wants to show how the changing behavior of wild student to be a good student, why a student whose the words never heard by anybody then became a student whose the words be trusted and considered by anybody. Thus the researcher try to investigate what is going on behind it by analyzing the illocutionary act which is used (Kurniawan et al., 2019). The last reason is the researcher found there is no other researchers that analyze this movie by analyzing the same topic as the researcher's research.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Speech Act

Speech act is the action or intent that a speaker accomplishes when using in context, the meaning of which is inferred by hearer. Speech acts defined as the actions performed in saying something. That study of how we do things with sentences is the study of speech act. *“speech acts reflect the fundamental values and social norms of target language and demonstrate the rules of language use in a speech community”*. Means speech acts reveals a great deal of information about language users and their societies (Ameraldo & Ghazali, 2021).

### Illocutionary Act

Illocutionary act becomes the basic of analysis in pragmatic comprehension. The most important study from those three kinds of speech act is illocutionary act *“Yang terpenting dari ketiga jenis tindak tutur itu adalah tindak illokusi. Inilah yang menjadi satuan analisis dasar didalam kajian pragmatic.”* It means illocutionary act becomes the basic analysis and the most important study from those three speech acts because it relies on both, speaker and hearer. Illocutionary as the intention the speaker has in uttering a statement. Here the speaker not only saying or informing something to the hearer but it is also intends to the hearer to do something. Searle stated that *“There are five and only five different types of illocutionary points”*. It consists of the following divisions such as assertive, directive, expressive, declarative, and commissive.

### **Assertive act**

The purpose of a speaker in performing assertive is to commit the speaker to the belief (Muliyah & Aminatun, 2020), (Mandasari, n.d.), (Mandasari, 2016), (Berlinda, 2015), (Series, 2020), that the propositional content of the utterance is true. In using assertive, the speaker makes the words fit the world. *“It is to present the proposition as representing a state of affairs in the world”* and thereby they have a ‘word to world’ fit.

### **Directive act**

*“The illocutionary point of directives is to try to get the hearer to behave in such a way as to make his behaviour match the propositional content of the directive”*. In directives, a speaker tries to get the hearer to commit him or herself to do something. Directives express what the speaker wants (Kuswoyo et al., 2021). It embodies speaker to the hearer to do something, to direct him or her towards some goal (of the speaker's mostly) or it can be defined as getting the addressee to do something.

### **Expressive act**

As the name says this speech act expresses an inner state of the speaker. The expression is essentially subjective tells us nothing about the world. Expressive is speech acts that state what the speaker feels. It can be caused by something the speaker does or the hearer does. In other words, expressive also can be defined as kind of speech act that express a psychological attitude or state in the speaker such as joy (Puspaningtyas & Ulfa, 2021), (Sinaga & Pustika, 2021), (F. M. Sari, n.d.), (WING, n.d.), sorrow and likes/dislikes. These are utterances whose point is to *“express the sincerity condition of the speech act”*.

### **Declarative acts**

In this type of speech acts, a speaker wants to change the world via his or her utterance. The illocutionary point of a declaration is *“to bring about a change in the world by representing it as having been changed”*. This means that in virtue of having successfully declared something, then one has created a state of affairs by simply declaring that one has created said state of affairs (Kuswoyo, n.d.).

### **Commissive act**

This kind of illocutionary act commits the speaker to some future course of action (Hidayati et al., 2020). Point of this is the speaker himself intends to do something. Any commissive utterance is essentially *“an expression of an intention to do something”*.

### **Context**

In determining illocutionary act, context is much needed because illocutionary act is analyzed based on the context. Context necessarily involves the interpretation of what people mean and how the context influence what is said (Ambarwati & Mandasari, 2020), (Saifuddin Dahlan, 2013), (Gulö, 2014). It requires a consideration of how speakers organize what they want to say in accordance with who they are talking to, where, when and under what circumstances. Context of situation can be specified through use of the three register variables, such as tenor, mood and field.

### **Tenor**

*“Tenor is the set of role relationships among the relevant participants; it includes levels of formality as one particular instance”*. *“Tenor refers to the social relationship between those taking parts. These are specifiable in terms of status of power, affect, and contact”*. *“Tenor is the relationship between the speaker and hearer (or, of course, researcher and reader)”*. Based on that definition, the researcher decided to used addresser and addressee as the term in analyzing this research.

### **Mode**

*“Mode refers to how language is being used, whether the channel of communication is spoken or written and whether language is being used as a model of action or reflection”*. Mode is the kind of text that is being made. Meanwhile, mode is always related to textual meaning. Textual meaning express the relation of language to its environment, including both the verbal environment – what has been said or written before (co-text) and the non-verbal – situational environment (context). These meaning are realized through patterns of theme and cohesion (Kuswoyo et al., 2020). For this term, the researcher substitute into context of situation in analyzing the data.

### **Field**

*“Field is what is going on including activity focus (nature of social activity) and object focus (subject matter), so field specifies what’s going on with reference to*

*what*". Field means what is going on and belongs to ideational meaning. Ideational meanings are meaning about phenomena – about things (living and non – living, abstract and concrete), about goings on (what the things are or do) and the circumstances surrounding these happenings and doings. For this term the researcher used setting in doing analysis.

## **METHOD**

Pragmatics is the study about speaker meaning. Pragmatic is a study of a relation between language and context that is grammaticalized or encoded in structure of meaning (Chavez, 2000). Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or researcher) interpreted by a listener (or reader). From those definitions, the researcher can conclude that pragmatic is a study about speaker's intention, what speaker aim to, and concerned with the study of meaning communicated by a speaker and interpreted by a listener. The advantage of studying language via pragmatics is that one can talk about people's intended meanings, their assumptions, their purpose or goals, and the kinds of action that they are performing when they speak. In studying pragmatic, speech act become the most interesting study. It seems relevant in language teaching and learning.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Assertive**

Duration: 00:04:28 – 00:04:33

POPPY: *In England, it rains 200 days out of the year.*

RUBY: You will definitely get SAD (Seasonal Affected Disorder).

MOLLY: She is sad.

### Context

These are aspects which supported an analysis of context as follow:

1. Addresser and Addressee : Poppy and Her friends
2. Setting : In Poppy's room
3. Context of situation : The conversation took place when Poppy was trying to look for the information about her new school in England.

From the dialogue, Poppy says, “*In England, it rains 200 days out of the year*” to her friends. From the utterance, Poppy informed the fact about England which is it rains 200 days out of year.

Based on the context, Poppy’s illocutionary act is assertive. Assertive is commit the speaker to something being the case. Here Poppy as the speaker gives the information of fact that happened in England to her friends, so it clearly shows that it is a kind of informing which include into Assertive act.

### **Directive**

Duration: 00:13:07 – 00:13:09

MATRON: I am Scottish, not remedial.

POPPY: Good, then you understand. *Line dry, press, no starch, and no creases.*

MATRON: How dare you? No mufti for a week

Context

These are aspects which supported an analysis of context as follow:

1. Addresser and Addressee : Poppy and Her housemother
2. Setting : In ladies room at Abbey mount school
3. Context of situation : The conversation took place when Poppy came to her room at her new school. She was debate with Matron as a housemother at Abbey Mount.

From the dialogue, Poppy says, “*Laundry, press, no starch, and no creases.*” to housemother. From the utterance, Poppy clearly shows she asked the housemother to take care of her clothes, started from laundry till it is ready to be wear.

Based on the context, Poppy’s illocutionary act is directive. Directive is commit the speaker to get the hearer to do something. Here Poppy as the speaker asked to the housemother to take care of her clothes, so it clearly shows that it is a kind of commanding which include into directive act.

### **Expressive**

Duration: 00:11:17 – 00:11:28

DRIPPY: What is that?

KIKI: It's an iPhone. Good luck getting a signal. We only have two hot spots that work round here.

POPPY: *Maybe you should try entering the 21st century, Buck Rogers.* This place is medieval. It's imperative that I make my phone calls.

#### Context

These are aspects which supported an analysis of context as follow:

1. Addresser and Addressee : Poppy and Her friend
2. Setting : In boarding school
3. Context of situation : The conversation took place when Poppy was trying to getting the signal.

From the dialogue, Poppy says, "*Maybe you should try entering the 21st century, Buck Rogers.*" From the utterance, Poppy clearly shows that she was insult her friends because they do not know about the new technology in this era. Even though it seems a suggestion, but the meaning of that utterance is insulting.

Based on the context, Poppy's illocutionary act is expressive. Expressive is describes the speaker's expression about the situation or psychological attitude (Puspaningtyas & Ulfa, 2021). Here Poppy as the speaker expresses her psychological attitude to insult her Malibu's friends, so it clearly shows that it is a kind of insulting which include into expressive act.

#### **Commissive**

Duration: 00:04:15 – 00:04:20

MOLLY: But who's going to cut the crusts off my sandwiches?

POPPY: *You're going to be fine, Moll. I promise.*

#### Context

These are aspects which supported an analysis of context as follow:

1. Addresser and Addressee : Poppy and Her young sister
2. Setting : In Poppy's room
3. Context of situation : The conversation took place when Poppy would leave Malibu to England.

"*You're going to be fine, Moll. I promise.*" From that utterance, Poppy clearly shows she was promising and convincing her young sister that without her, her sister would be fine.

Based on the context, Poppy's illocutionary act is commissive. Commissive is expresses what speaker intends. Poppy expresses her intention to make her young sister will be fine without her, so it clearly shows that it is a kind of promising which include into commissive act .

**Table 4.1. Types of Code Switching**

| No           | Types of Illocutionary Act | Number | Total  |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| 1.           | Assertive                  | 17     | 35,5 % |
| 2.           | Directive                  | 18     | 37,5%  |
| 3.           | Expressive                 | 10     | 21%    |
| 4.           | Commissive                 | 3      | 6 %    |
| <b>Total</b> |                            | 48     | 100%   |

The table shows clearly that the most dominant illocutionary act used by Poppy Moore is directive which reach 37,5%. From this finding, it can be implicated that directive shows the power of the speaker who makes an utterance because social stratification influences the way how people use language social stratification influences the way how people use language.

## CONCLUSION

After finishing the analysis, the researcher found from 48 data in the utterances of Poppy Moore as the main character in *Wild Child*, there are only four classifications of illocutionary act proposed by John Searle found, they are assertive, directive, expressive and commissive (Sulistiani et al., 2019). From those four classifications of illocutionary acts, the researcher found the most dominant illocutionary act used by Poppy Moore is directive which reach 37,5%. This finding implies that directive shows the power of speaker who uttered an utterance, it means social stratification influences the way people use language. Further, studying illocutionary act will help listeners to interpret someone's utterances more carefully so that the listeners will be able to avoid misunderstanding while doing communication.

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