

AN ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ACT IN ELEMENTAL:FORCES OF NATURE (2023) MOVIE SCRIPT

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Abstract

Pragmatic is a branch of linguistics which concentrates on language use. Speech acts are one of the learning domains under pragmatics. In this research, the researcher will find out the speech acts contained in the movie of Elemental: Forces of Nature. This research focus on the types of illocutionary acts that found in the utterances spoken by the film actors, namely declarative act, expressive act, directive act, commissive act and assertive act. The descriptive qualitative method was employed in this research. Data sources were obtained through observation and documentation. Researchers obtained data through watching the movie, reading the script, taking note of the utterances, classifying and identifying the types of illocutionary acts based on the data display. Researchers found there were 213 utterances that were included in the illocutionary types. The results found by the researchers were declaration types with 3%, expressive acts with 29%, directive acts with 34%, commissive acts with 7% and assertive acts with 27%. The dominant speech act in this movie is the directive act with a percentage of 34% and the least is the declarative act with 3%.

Keywords: Speech Act; Elemental: Forces of Nature; Movie Script

INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool that has an important role. By using correct language other people can understand the speaker means and the communication will run well. Pragmatic is a branch of linguistics which concentrates on language use. According to Yule (1996), pragmatic is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between language context and the world, study of contextual meaning, study of meaning in situation, study of how we use language to achieve communicative goals. Pragmatics has a branch of learning, namely speech acts. Speech act is concerned with how words perform actions (Alghazo et al., 2021). A speech act is an utterance expressed by a speaker through the language used to achieve a certain purpose and how the listener can interpret the utterance conveyed by the speaker. Therefore, it is important for us to study speech acts in conveying messages to listeners so we know the meaning of the speaker's utterances (Hutajulu & Herman, 2019). Speech acts usually take the form of requests, orders, statements, praise, apologies and others that require action in their speech. Speech acts can be interpreted well and there is no miscommunication in conveying the message. According to Austin (1962), stated in his book *How to do Things with Words* said "to say something is to do something", from this statement we know that what the speaker says is not only a message, but there is an action that must be carried out or expressed by the listener.

The concept of speech acts also was proposed by (Austin, 1962) which mentioned there are three types of speech acts: Locutionary Act, Illocutionary Act, and Perlocutionary Act. Searle in (Septiawan et al., 2022) mentioned the locutionary act is a physical utterance by the speaker. There are three forms of locutionary acts including declarative, interrogative and imperative. Declarative is that contains a statement or explanation about something, so the listener pays attention to the utterance. Interrogative is an utterance in the form of a question, so listeners are

expected to answer these questions. Meanwhile, imperatives are utterances in the form of commands, invitations, desires or prohibitions uttered by the speaker to the listener and the listener acts on the command (Searle.J.R, 1969).

Illocutionary act is a speech act uttered by a speaker that has a hidden meaning, so the listener must understand and interpret the meaning intended by the speaker so the good communication goals can be achieved. There are five different types of speech acts are used in illocutionary acts including declarative, commissive, expressive, directives and assertive (Searle.J.R, 1976). The first is declaration is act that change the world via their utterances. Declaration is a statement made by someone who has privileges that allow him to announce it. For example, when a cafe owner states that his new cafe will open soon. The cafe owner has the privilege to announce it. On the other hand, if the speaker is not a cafe owner then he states it so the statement cannot change the world via words (Sihombing et al., 2021). Second, commissive is the speaker committing to take action in the future, such as a promise or offer. For example, the speaker said "I will come to your home tonight". In this case, the speaker commits that tonight he promises to come home. Third, expressive is the speaker show how he feel in the situation such as apologies, disappointing etc. (Carretero et al., 2015). Fourth, directives are the utterances that make listener to do something that the speaker desire, such as ordering, asking, requesting, inviting, begging etc. For example, can you give me a spoon of sugar?. (Diah Savitri & Widiastuti, 2021). Lastly, assertive is commit speaker to truth of expressed proposition, the speaker's intention is to confirm the speaker's beliefs such as affirm, forecast, informing, stating, etc. (Septthyana Suyono & Widiastuti, 2021).

Perlocutionary act is an utterances that have effect to the listener about the speakers desire (Rein & Junaedi, 2022). When a speaker says something, it can cause the listener to believe in what is said, it can make the listener agree with what the speaker stated, it can make the listener more confident in the speaker's words, so what the speaker says has an effect on the listener both directly and indirectly.

We often encounter speech acts in everyday life, but we are not aware of them. Speech acts are not only in everyday life, but can also be found in literary works such as movie. Many people like watching movies, but sometimes they feel confused by the words the movie actors say, so that the meaning they say is not conveyed properly. Movie has many conversations, each of which has a specific purpose.

(Tarigan et al., 2022) state that movie is story recorded by a camera and shown in television or theater. There are several genres of movie, namely romance, comedy, animation, horror, drama, action, adventure, tragedy, fantasy, etc. Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studios are the producers of the American animated romantic comedy drama in *Elemental: Forces of Nature*, which is distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Picture. This movie told the story of two elements who fall in love but they are compatible with each other. The meeting between Ember (fire element) and Wade (water element) began when Ember expressed her emotions in a basement full of plumbing pipes, but Ember's emotions accidentally caused the plumbing pipes to melt, causing a leak in the plumbing pipes in Ember's father's grocery store. Bernie. Wade, a city inspector who was previously trapped in a pipe, then came out through a leaking pipe. From this incident, Ember and Wade became close and often met. Unfortunately, at that first meeting, Wade wanted to report the Ember family and other fire elements to his air element employer, Gale Cumulus because of a plumbing leak in their shop.

There are several previous researchers who carried out speech act analysis in movie. (Fitriani et al., 2020) in the research title "*An analysis of Illocutionary Act in a Fantasy Movie*" have conducted an illocutionary act analysis on the main character of the fantasy film, namely *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret*. They analyzed the most dominant types in the main character, such as declaration, commissive, expressive, assertive and directive. Based on their findings, the most dominant illocutionary type was found in directives with a total of 91 words

(47.64%). So, it can be concluded that in this story the main character, Harry more often asks someone to do something according to his wishes such as ordering, requesting, and asking. In other research conducted by (Kohandani et al., 2014) in research title “*A Critical Analysis of Speech Acts and Language Function in Top Notch Series*” it was found that the most dominant type of illocutionary acts analyzed in the Top Notch Series showed expressive with percentage of 32% and the minimum dominant type was declarative with a percentage of 0%. Next research conducted by (Septiawan et al., 2022) in his research “*An Analysis of Speech act Used in Matilda Wormwood (1996) Movie*” carried out that there are 250 data found in the research and the most dominant type of illocutionary act that produced by all character in this movie is assertive type with 88 data and 36%, followed by directive, expressive, declarative and commissive type.

Research conducted by (Kharismaa & Mariana, 2018) in research title is “*The Use of Illocutionary Act in “Wonder” Movie by R.J. Palacio*” also analyzed about types of illocutionary act in movie. In this research, researcher not explained the total of data which their get but in discussion they only explained several data which is consist of every types of illocutionary acts n that movie.

The, research conducted by (Nur Qonita Aulia et al., 2021) in research title “*Illocutionary Acts on Mata Najwa Talk Show on the Theme “Mata Najwa Menanti Terawan”*”. Based on their research finding, there are 27 illocutionary acts used by the Talk Show. It included 17 (63%) assertive, 4 (14.8%) directives, 1 (3,7%) commissive, 5 (18,5%) expressive and 0 declaration. Based on the explanation above, researchers will carry out an analysis that only focuses on the illocutionary acts in a movie that is currently popular with most people, namely Elemental: Forces of Nature. June 2023 is the release of this movie, which was directed by Peter Sohn and produced by Walt Disney Picture and Pixar Animation Studios. It was distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures.

METHOD

This research focused on the illocutionary acts used by the movie of Elemental: Forces of Nature. This movie told the story of two different characters, a water element and fire element who fall in love and want to find similarities with each other. This research, used descriptive qualitative to describe and identify the illocutionary act in that movie. Since the researcher did not involve participants in the data collection process, non-participant observation was used to gather the data. The researcher employed the Miles and Huberman model, which consists of the following steps, to analyze the data:

1. Data Collection

In collected the data, the researcher used observation and documentation. The researches made observation by watching the movie which had previously been downloaded. While did the observation, the researcher wrote and toke notes the utterance which included in illocutionary acts as documentation step.

2. Data Reduction

According to (Sugiyono, 2019) state that reduction is the stage of selecting appropriate data. In this session, the researcher reduced the data by classifying and identifying the utterances into appropriate types of illocutionary acts.

3. Data Display

After reducing the data, the researcher displays data using tables, so the data obtained is organized and easy to understand.

4. Verification

After that, the researcher made the conclusion based of the data display.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

In this research, the researcher found out 213 utterances that were included in the types of illocutionary acts in *Elemental: Forces of Nature* movie script. These utterances are specified by the types in the table below:

Table 1. Types of Illocutionary Acts

Illocutionary Acts	Quantity	Percentage (%)
Declarative	6	3%
Expressive	61	29%
Directives	72	34%
Commissive	16	7%
Assertive	58	27%
Total	213	100%

According to the table above this research found out 213 utterances were included in the types of illocutionary acts, such as declarative, expressive, directive, commissive, and assertive. With a total of 72 data or (34%), Directive is the most utterances which deliver in this “*Elemental: Forces of Nature*” movie, and followed by Expressive with 61 data or (29%) and assertive act with 58 data or (27%) . Then declarative comes in last with 6 data or (3%), followed by commissive with 16 data or (7%).

Discussion

a. Declarative Act

The data that are included in the types of Declarative Act consisted of 6 or (3%) data in total. Some of them are explained as follow :

Data 1

The declarative act which is mention in this scene is when the man said ***“Welcome to Element City. Please have your documents ready for inspection”***. The man as the announcer want to give the information to the all-new resident that they must prepare their documents for inspection before entering Element City. The man as the announcer has privilege to give the information. So, this utterance can be classified as the declarative act because the speaker wants to inform something to the listener.

Data 2

The declarative act which is mention in this scene when Bernie said to her daughter, ***“This shop is dream of our family. Someday it’ll all be yours”***. In this utterance Bernie as the father of Ember wants to declare or inform his daughter that the fire shop, he currently owns is the shop he has dreamed of for a long time and that one day it will be his child's. So, this utterance can be classified as the declarative act because the speaker want to inform something to the listener.

Data 3

The declarative act which is mention in this scene when Wade said, ***“Yeah. I’m a city inspector”***. Wade told Ember that he was a city inspector and that he has the privilege of writing tickets of Ember because of her family’s fault. The utterance can be classified as the declarative acts because the function of the sentence is to inform the speaker to the listener.

Data 4

The declarative act which is mention in this scene when Bernie as the Ember's father and the owner of the fire shop said, ***“I am so proud to have you take over my life’s work”***. In this utterance he wanted to declare that Ember will take over the shop, and Bernie want to give information to the all element fire that he is proud of his daughter, Ember. This utterance can

be classified as Declaration act because the speaker wants to give information and declare something to listener.

Data 5

The declarative act which is mention in this scene when Bernie said to Wade, *“This is lantern I bring from old country. Today, I pass it on to you”*. This scene, Bernie want to give information to the all fire element that the lantern which he has is from his old country, and in this situation, he gave the lantern to her daughter because she will take over their fire shop. In this utterance Bernie has privilege to declare that statement because he's the father and the owner of fire place. So, this utterance can be classified as the declaration act because the speaker wants to declare something to the listener.

b. Expressive Act

The data that are included in the types of Expressive Act consisted of 61 or (29%) data in total. Some of them are explained as follows

Data 1

The expressive act which is mention in this scene when Ember said, *“Sorry about that. Sorry, sorry”*. In this scene, Ember shown her expression and apologizes to the customer because she couldn't control her emotions, causing chaos in her father's shop. This utterance can be categorized as an expressive act because it shows the speaker's feelings for the listener.

Data 2

The expressive act which is mention in this scene when Bernie said, *“Just tired”*. In this scene, Bernie expresses what he felt. He felt tired because he had to prepare a lot of goods to sell at the Red Sale tomorrow. This utterance can be categorized as expressive because the speaker shows his condition and feelings to the listener.

Data 3

The expressive act which is mention in this scene when Ember said, *“Sorry, that’s not how this works”*. This scene, Ember want to show her feeling. She felt sorry to the customer about the discount, because the customer did not understand the rules of it. If the customer buys one thing he will get one more. But in this situation, the customer think, he will get one for free without bought one thing. So, this utterance can be classified as expressive act because the speaking show her feeling to the listener.

Data 4

The expressive act which is mention in this scene when Ember said, *“Thanks for shopping”*. In this scene, Ember shown her feeling to the customer because she feels happy and grateful because of customer bought thing in her fireplace. She shown her felt to the listener. So, this utterance can be classified as expressive act because the speaker shows the feeling to the listener.

Data 5

The expressive act which is mention in this scene when Ember said, *“I’m a bad daughter”*. In this scene, Ember felt disappointed with herself because she couldn't look after and maintain the fireplace that her father, Bernie, had worked so hard to make. After the leaking plumbing incident, the fireplace was reported by Wade to Gale Cumulus and will be closed. Therefore, Ember felt like she was a bad daughter. This utterance can be classified as Expressive act because Ember as the speaker show her feeling to the listener, Wade.

c. Directives Act

The data that are included in the types of Directives Act consisted of 72 or (34%) data in total. Some of them are explained as follow :

Data 1

The directive act which is mention in this scene when Ember said to Bernie, ***“I just want you to rest”***. In this scene Ember asked her father, Bernie to rest, because Bernie look very tired and working too hard in preparing Red Dot Sale tomorrow. This utterance can be categorized as a Directive act because the speaker makes someone do what he wants, the speaker wants the listener to do something.

Data 2

The directive act which is mention in this scene when the customer said, ***“Two sugar pops, please”***. In this scene, the customer as the speaker asks Ember to do something what he wanted, that is to get him two sugar pops. This utterance can be categorized as a declarative act because the speaker wants the listener to do something.

Data 3

The directive act which is mention in this scene when Gale said to the volley’s players. ***“Blow the ball, not the game!”***. In this scene, Ember, Wade and Gale are watching an aerial volleyball match. At that time, one of the players made a mistake. Furthermore, Gale who was annoyed, said, ***“Blow the ball”*** to the players so he could play well. This utterance was request. So, this utterance can be classified as a directive because the speaker asked the listener to do something that the speaker desire.

Data 4

The directive act which is mention in this scene when Bernie said to Wade, ***“No, no, no, no, no. Inspect with you mouth”***. In this scene, Wade who claims as the food inspector is tripped by Bernie. It is because Bernie wanted to prove that Wade is really food inspector or not. Bernie deliberately gave food from the fire element and it made wade the water element in pain. Bernie asked Wade to inspect it with his mouth. So, this utterance can be classified as directive act because the speaker asked the listener to do something that the speaker desire.

Data 5

The directive act which is mention in this scene when Ember said to her parents. ***“Water’s coming! Watch out! Behind you! Climb! Climb! Flash flood! Hurry! Mom, water! Get to higher ground!”***. In this scene, Ember asked her parent to climb and get to higher ground because the river water was overflowing and enter the fire place, and its danger for fire element. Tis utterance can be classified as directive because the speaker asked and wanted that the listener to do something that the speaker desire.

d. Commissive Act

The data that are included in the types of Commissive Act consisted of 16 (7%) data in total. Some of them are explained as follow :

Data 1

The commissive act which is mention in this scene when Ember said to her father Bernie, ***“I won’t let you down, I swear. You’ll see”***. In this scene, Ember told Bernie that she promises to control her emotions and will not disappoint Bernie in the future. This utterance can be categorized as a commissive act because the speaker promises and says something for the future.

Data 2

The commissive act which is mention in this scene when Ember said, ***“Àshfá, nothing will happen to this shop or the flame again, I promise”***. In this scene, Ember assures Bernie and promise that in the future there is no mor accident in his shop and no more emotions that can make the flames again. This utterance can be categorized as the commissive act because the speaker promises to the listener for better future.

Data 3

The commissive act which is mention in this scene when Wade said to Ember, ***“I’ll make sure there’s a city crew here by Friday”***. In this scene, Wade swears to Ember that Friday there will

be a city crew here. Ember really wanted to meet with the city crew because she wanted to resolve and ask for the city crew's help to cancel the violation letter that Wade sent before. Wade, who felt guilty because of the letter, promised and swore to Ember to help her. This sentence can be classified as a commissive because there is an oath that says Wade as the speaker to Ember as the listener.

Data 4

The commissive act which is mention in this scene when Wade said, ***“We can meet in the city. I promise, nothing weird. Maybe a little pruning”***. In this scene, Wade wanted to meet Ember in the city to hang out together. However, Ember wasn't sure about that, because she was afraid that her father would find out. Therefore, Wade guaranteed and promised that when they walked around there would be nothing weird. This sentence can be classified as commissive because it contains the words promise or guarantee in it.

Data 5

The commissive act which is mention in this scene when Gale said to Ember, ***“I dare you, say “cloud puffs” one more time”***. In this scene, Gale and Ember are watching an airball game. However, at that time, Ember was emotional because her complaint about the violation letter was not listened to by Gale. so Ember said "cloud puffs" to the airball player. Gale, as a big fan, didn't accept that, so he threatened Ember to say that again. This sentence can be classified as commissive because the sentence Gale said to Ember is a threatening sentence which is one of the characteristics of a commissive act.

e. Assertive Act

The data that are included in the types of Assertive Act consisted of 58 (27%) data in total. Some of them are explained as follow :

Data 1

The assertive act which is mention in this scene when Ember said to her customer, ***“Oops, you splash it, you buy it”***. In this scene, Ember as the speaker gave the statement or informing to the listener about something because the listener has not know about the rules before that if the listener splash the thing mean he must buy it. So, this utterance can be categorized as the assertive act because the speaker is to make believe the hearer that if he splash it, he must buy it.

Data 2

The assertive act which is mention in this scene when Wade said, ***“You’ll be great. This way”***. In this scene, Ember and Wade went to the volleyball match to meet Gale Culumus with the aim of persuading Gale to cancel the violation letter her received. Wade convinces Ember that this is the right time to do her best persuade Gale. The words that Wade said could make Ember believe in him. Therefore, this utterance can be classified as assertive because the speaker an make the listener know that she can do it.

Data 3

The assertive act which is mention in this scene when Bernie said to Ember, ***“You are so good at everything else”***. In this scene, Ember was looking after the fire place. However, when serving customers, she cannot control her emotions, which causes customers to be afraid. Seeing that, Bernie assured Ember that she could serve customers like she did when she trained. Bernie assured her that she can do everything well. This sentence can be classified as assertive because the speaker wants to make the listener believe that she can do it well.

Data 4

The assertive act which is mention in this scene when Bernie to the customer, ***“Ah. She take over when she’s ready”***. In this scene, a customer of fire place shop asked to Bernie, when Ember will take over the shop but Bernie assured the customer that one day Ember wilt ae over

the shop when she is ready. The sentence uttered by Bernie as the speaker convince the listener, so he can trust Bernie's words. This utterance can be classified as assertive.

Data 5

The assertive act which is mention in this scene when Cinder said to her customer, *"It's true love"*. In this scene, Cinder made prediction for her customers because that is her job. At that time, her customers asked about their love status whether they are compatible or not, but Cinder can predict that they are a suitable couple. Cinder convinces them that it is true love and made the believe in it. So, this utterance can be classified as assertive because the speaker made the listener believe the words that she said.

CONCLUSION

In the context of speech acts, there are three types, those are locution, illocution, and perlocution. In this research, the researcher only focused on describe the illocutionary types whose data was taken from the new movie script, namely *Elemental: Forces of Nature*. In this research, researchers found a total of 213 data obtained from the movie. The data consists of Declaration 3%, Expressive 29%, Directive 34%, Commissive 7 %, Assertive 27 %. Data sources were obtained through observation and documentation. Researchers obtained data through watching films, reading scripts, recording utterances, classifying and identifying types of illocutionary acts based on film scripts. Based on the data obtained, there is the most dominant illocutionary type in this movie, namely Directive with a total of 72 data with a percentage of 33.80%. Directives are used a lot in this move because there are statements made by the speaker to the listener with a specific purpose.

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