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## ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN “BRAVE” MOVIE

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### ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the illocutionary acts used by Merida as the main character in Brave movie published by Walt Disney Pictures. In this paper, the problem to be solved: (1) What types of illocutionary acts are used by the main character in the Brave movie? (2) What types of illocutionary acts are dominantly used by the main character in the Brave Movie? This paper uses the qualitative descriptive approach to describe and analyze the illocutionary utterances uttered by the main character in that movie. This paper focused on the illocutionary acts proposed by Searle (1979). There are five types of illocutionary acts found in this paper: representative, directive, expressive, commissive, and declarative. This paper found 58 utterances produced by Merida, which consisted of illocutionary acts. There are thirty-two (32 times or 55.2%) representative acts, five (5 times or 8.6%) expressive, sixteen (16 times or 27.6%) directive, four (4 times or 6.9%) commissive, and the least frequently used is the declarative illocution which appears in only one (1 time or 1.7%) utterance. This paper concludes that the most dominant representative acts appear in Merida's utterances that a total of 55.2% frequently used. The researcher recommends this research be used as a reference for learning in the context of a language and determining the purpose of speech or language in linguistics, especially pragmatics.

**Keywords:** Speech Acts, Illocutionary Acts, Brave Movie

### INTRODUCTION

People deliver information that could be minds, brainchildren, purposes, sentiments, and direct emotions in each communication. In this case, language

becomes an essential part of human thoughts (Dewi, 2020). Mey (2001, p.4) affirms that using language in various unconventional ways that are all people's rights, throughout savvy what they are acting achieve their goals, is pragmatics. By their utterances, those spoken statements might indicate what they intend to. Levinson (1983, p.9) states that "Pragmatics is the study of just those aspects of the relationship between language and context that are relevant to the writing of grammars." According to that explanation, it could be observed that to know the utterance meaning of it. To understand speakers' meaning, we need to notice the context. Based on the real events, the language will constantly emerge in speech acts or individual actions, a form. Wardani (2011) argues, "The point of uttering such sentences is not just to saying things, but also actively to do things." It means that in saying a sentence, we must also do something that is said. Austin (1962) states his biggest contribution to speech act theory that it differentiated into acts of locution, illocution, and perlocution.

When the speaker intends to express something directly, specific power makes people act following what they said, and the intention was called illocutionary speech acts (Sartika et al., 2019). The illocutionary speech act is also known as The Acts of Doing Something. In her book, Cutting (2002, p.16) states that "Illocutionary force, what is done in uttering the words, the function of the words, the specific the purpose that the speakers have in mind." The illocution's power depends on what is said by looking at the word's function and its purpose in the speaker's mind. Illocutionary speech acts need to be included in the speech's context in the speech situation. In the illocutionary act, the speaker intends to express something directly. Because by way of the utterance, everybody may intend to ask, order, tell, warn, and promise; thus, each speaker has the motive by way of their utterance. Searle (1979, p.8) further divides illocutionary speech into five types: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declaration. This paper aims to study the illocutionary acts used

by Merida as the main character in Brave movie. Studying illocutionary acts will help us better understand the speaker's utterance in a specific situation, such as a movie. Hutajulu & Herman (2019) argue that we can see a motion picture primarily intended as a source of entertainment in the movie. The characters in the movie engage in a variety of speech acts. This paper investigates the types of illocutionary acts used by Merida as the main character in Brave movie using Searle's theory and the dominant type used.

Brave is an animation, adventure, and comedy movie released in 2012 published by Walt Disney Pictures. The brave movie tells of a red-haired daughter named Merida who must save her mother. Merida is a red-haired princess who lives in a Scottish castle. Her mother is a queen called Elinor and teaches Merida to be a true princess, even if she does not want it. Merida was so annoyed that she ran to a witch's house and made an enchanted cake given to Elinor. After eating it, Elinor became a beast, and Merida had to change her mother back. Merida wants her to be free, and her mother stops managing her life. Then, the movie ends with Merida's successful attempt to find a way to return her mother, who turned into a bear, to return to a human with a spell from a witch. Finally, his mother returned to human in time.

Many other researchers have conducted research using illocutionary speech acts. In this case, research in illocutionary speech acts is in great demand by most researchers. Rahayu, Arifin, & Ariani (2018) conducted a study entitled "Illocutionary Act in The Main Characters' Utterances in Mirror Mirror Movie." The findings indicate that there are 55 key character utterances involving illocutionary acts. In that research, the researchers investigate only the primary character utterances in Mirror Mirror Movie.

Furthermore, Ramayanti & Marlina (2018) also have researched illocutionary acts in Tangled movie. This study's result is that 44 percent of the percentage are the dominant directive speech acts used. The researcher focused on all

characters' speech. Sembiring & Ambalegin (2019) studied illocutionary acts on Aladdin's 2019 movie. They focused on all characters in the Aladdin movie. It has the same subject as the previous study above but the difference in the movie object. The most common forms of non-talk were the outcomes, as main characters communicated their utterances mostly explicitly, for example, by ordering, demanding, questioning, and commanding. Then, Sari (2020) examined the illocutionary act in Spongebob Squarepants movie. She found the type of illocutionary act that is commonly used in that movie is directive. Her study aims to know how the speech act directives appear and expose the types of illocutionary acts used by the main character.

The next research is from Fitriani, Achmad, & Rasmita (2020), entitled "An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in a Fantasy Movie." The purpose of their research is to discover out the most prominent and dominant illocutionary speech acts used in fantasy movies by the central character, 'the Chamber of Secret and Harry Potter.' This research noticed that out of the five, only four forms, representative, direct, expressive, and commissive illocutionary actions, were described in the film. The directive is the widest illocution act that shows 47.64 percent, whereas the most limited used is commissive, which shows 4.19 percent. Even though the researchers used two movies, the object only focused on the main characters' utterances in both movies.

Besides previous studies, although using the same theory, there are still differences between those studies and current research. Current research focuses on Disney films. Also, there is no research on the movie "Brave" on the illocutionary act and the main character's utterances.

Theoretically, the researcher hopes that the discussion or the final result of the research can make a real contribution to linguistics and readers, especially in speech acts. The researcher also hopes this research can improve Disney movie

readers and connoisseurs in linguistic studies, especially speech act theory in the pragmatic linguistics branch.

Practically, the researcher hopes that this research provided the readers with an understanding that they get consolation and knowledge from watching a movie. The researcher also hopes that this study's results can be used to find out the context of an utterance and determine the purpose when the reader is communicating with others to facilitate understanding of the interlocutor.

## **METHOD**

This study uses a descriptive approach to qualitative methods. This qualitative descriptive study describes illocutionary utterances uttered by the main character in the Brave 2012 movie named Merida. The researcher also examined Merida's illocutionary speech as the Brave film's main character by categorizing each speech act into five types of illocutionary speech acts. The data collection of this study is in utterances in the configuration of Merida's phrases or sentences in the subtitles or animated film scripts as a central figure in the film Brave 2012. Besides that, the research data used is also data from utterances that contain types in illocutionary speech acts used by the main character. In the process of the data collection, the researcher firstly watched the film and understood the main character's speech acts based on the utterances and the script or subtitle in the Brave 2012 movie. Then, the researcher collected the speech acts that contain types of illocution speech acts into tabular form. Furthermore, the collected speech acts are classified based on the kinds of illocution speech acts spoken by the main character to be analyzed.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Based on the data analysis, the researcher found the types of illocutionary speech acts using Searle's theory in the utterances uttered by Merida as the main

character in the film Brave (2012), including representative, expressive, directive, declarative, and commissive. The researcher identifies these types using the following table:

**Table 1. The Types of Illocutionary Acts**

No.	Types of Illocutionary Act	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Representative	32	55.2%
2.	Directive	16	27.6%
3.	Expressive	5	8.6%
4.	Commissive	4	6.9%
5.	Declarative	1	1.7%
Total		58	100%

The researcher found 58 utterances produced by Merida's main character, which consisted of illocutionary speech acts using Searle's theory. There are thirty-two (32 times or 55.2%) representative acts, five (5 times or 8.6%) expressive illocutionary acts, sixteen (16 times or 27.6%) directive acts, four (4 times or 6.9%) utterances of commissive illocutionary acts, and the least frequently used is the act of declarative illocution which appears in only one (1 time or 1.7%) utterance.

### **The types of Illocutionary Acts presented by Merida as the main character**

This section addressed the first research question the researcher introduced in the first chapter: What types of illocutionary acts are used by the main character in the Brave movie?. The response to the first study question was related to the types of Illocutionary acts are used by the main character in the Brave movie.

#### **1. Representative Acts**

A representative is a speech act that encourages the speaker towards the truth of the proportion shown, thus bringing it to a truth value (Yule, 1996, p.53).

Milal & Kusumajanti (2020) describe that assertive or representative acts are statements or sayings that convey information about a particular state of conditions. This type of speech act expresses the speaker's confidence. These speech acts include states, demands, recognizes, shows, reports, mentions, speculates.

a. EXCERPT 1 (Datum 19)

00:03:37,676 --> 00:03:45,183

**“I saw a wisp.” (States)**

The context of Merida's utterance occurs when she learns archery with her father and Merida's arrows miss their target and head towards the forest. Then, Merida's mother, Queen Elinor, told Merida to take the arrows into the forest, and she saw something. Then, she told her parents.

In the bold quotation, Merida said to her parents that she stated to her parents the truth of what she said. In this case, Merida stated that she had seen a light of hope when she had finished looking for an arrow that had entered the forest. Merida expresses her belief that what is said is the truth. It is speech included in a paradigmatic case of representative.

## 2. Directive Acts

This act shows the speaker's hope or desire for the speech partner to do something. In its use, the speaker intends to acquire several action objectives regarding the future, to make the world fit his words through his speech partners. For example, they are asking, inviting, forcing, suggesting, urging, ordering.

b. EXCERPT 2 (Datum 4)

00:39:01,297 --> 00:39:12,599

**“Just take all the time you need to getting yourself right, Mum.” (Suggesting)**

This speech's context occurred after Merida's mother consumed the cake Merida had given from the witch. Merida took her mother, who was weak and slightly nauseous, from the kitchen to the bedroom.

In Merida's speech in bold above, Merida suggests her mother take a break so that her situation would be much better. From these remarks, Merida described her representation so that her mother would immediately obey what Merida said, namely taking a short break so that she would recover quickly. Based on this, it is clear that Merida's illocutionary act suggests being included in the directive's paradigmatic case.

### 3. Expressive Acts

Expressive is a form of speech act that expresses a speaker's psychological action or statement in the form of joy, likes or dislikes, and sadness (Yule, 1996, p.54). Another definitive statement includes saying; thanks, congratulating, complaining, praising, pardoning, criticizing, blaming.

c. EXCERPT 3 (Datum 52)

00:41:14,973 --> 00:41:20,602

“There's no point in having a go at me. **The witch is to blame.**” (Blaming)

The context situation occurs when Merida's mother is angry after knowing why she changed. Besides, Merida's mother scolded Merida with her bear “Language.”

Based on Merida's utterance in bold print, Merida felt no point in scolding her because Merida felt she did not do that; she just asked the witch for help. Then, since the witch did it, who made the potion, the witch was to blame. In this case, Merida had committed an act of illocution by blaming the old witch. That is Merida's utterance, blaming it included in the paradigmatic of expressive.

### 4. Commissive Acts



A commissive illocutionary act is a form of speech act that encourages speakers to act in the future (Yule, 1996, p.54). This type of speech act reveals the speaker's intention to do something. In this speech, acts include swearing, promising, threatening, expressing ability, rejecting.

d. EXCERPT 4 (Datum 54)

00:12:33,253 --> 00:12:42,594

**“I won’t go through with it. You can’t make me.” (Rejecting)**

The context of the situation in Merida's utterance below occurs because Merida is forced to determine her future by getting married. However, Merida and her mother's will was different.

According to the quote in bold above, with a focus on Merida's utterances, Merida rejects the plans her parents made for her life. She does not desire to get married and does not want her whole life arranged by her parents. Merida does not want herself forced to do things she does not want to. The commissive here states what the speaker wants and his commitment to future actions. Thus, the word rejection is included in the commissive paradigmatic of the illocutionary act.

## 5. Declarative Acts

Yule (1996) affirms that a declaration is a form of speech act that affects and changes the circumstances of certain events that occur at that time. This type of speech act is usually expressed by a particular party, such as a party representing an institution. It is because when performing these speech acts, the speakers themselves produce a change in the world. In this type of speech, the act includes impressing, deciding, prohibiting, granting, classifying, appointing, forgiving, naming.

e. EXCERPT 5 (Datum 58)

01:07:11,236 --> 01:07:24,790

**“I’ve decided to do what’s right, and...,  
...and..., ...break tradition.” (Deciding)**

The context of Merida’s speech below occurs when she and her mother return to the castle to retrieve a rug that is thought to be a tool so that her mother can change her form. However, at the same time, the clans who were waiting for Queen Elinor’s decision were furious because they had not received confirmation and met Queen Elinor. Merida tried to calm them down and tell them something.

In Merida’s utterance in bold, knowing the situation is getting worse and the clans who are aggressively waiting for the Queen’s decision, Merida dares to reveal a decision that will change history and circumstances. Merida revealed that she had decided to end the tradition that had been happening all this time, namely a tradition where every princess must marry a prince to record or carry on a history. Thus, Merida has changed something in the world that previously existed into nothing. From these utterances, it is clear that Merida’s illocutionary act is deciding something by changing circumstances or traditions included in the declarative paradigm of illocutionary speech acts.

**The dominant type of Illocutionary Acts used by Merida as the main character**

This section addressed the second research question, which the researcher introduced in the first chapter: What types of illocutionary acts are dominantly used by the main character in Brave Movie?. The response to the second study question was related to the types of Illocutionary acts most frequently uttered in the Brave movie.

The researcher explained the available data analysis using Searle’s theory of illocutionary speech acts, five types. These types include representative, expressive, directive, declarative, and commissive. The researcher found 58

utterances produced by Merida's main character, which consisted of illocutionary speech acts using Searle's theory. There are thirty-two (32 times or 55.2%) representative acts of which this is the most dominant, five (5 times or 8.6%) expressive illocutionary acts, sixteen (16 times or 27.6%) directive acts, four (4 times or 6.9%) utterances of commissive illocutionary acts, and the least frequently used is the act of declarative illocution which appears in only one (1 time or 1.7%) utterance.

The most dominant representative acts appear in the utterances of the main character in the Brave movie (2012) that a total of 32 times or 55.2% frequently used. Because most of the roles of the main character who want to try to uphold justice as a princess with her statements, take responsibility for her actions, save her mother, try to ward off her father's misunderstanding of her mother who is a bear instead of Mor'du, and her life full of adventures.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Referring to the findings found and discussions, the researcher concludes based on the current study results. For the answer to the first research question, the five types of illocutionary acts are found. There are thirty-two times of representative, five times of expressive, sixteen times of directive, four times of commissive, and the least frequently used is the act of declarative, which appears only one time. Concerning the second question's answer, representative acts became the most dominant act that was frequently used a total of thirty-two times. While the least frequently used is the declarative act that a total only one time used.

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