

AN ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS USED IN AKEELAH AND THE BEE MOVIE

Analisis Tindak Tutur Ilokusi dalam Film Akeelah and The Bee

Alvia Merry Mariani, Endang Susilawati, and Urai Salam

Universitas Tanjungpura Kalimantan Barat

Jl. Prof. Dr. H Jl. Profesor Dokter H. Hadari Nawawi, Pontianak, Kalimantan Barat 78124,
Indonesia

alvia.merry@student.untan.ac.id; endang.susilawati@fkip.untan.ac.id;
urai.salam@untan.ac.id

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Abstract

This research was investigating one of speech acts skills in communication that is illocutionary acts. Therefore, the aim of this study was to achieve three objectives, the first is to identify the classifications of illocutionary acts performed in the conflict storyline of Akeelah and The Bee movie. The second is to find out the types of illocutionary acts which are dominantly expressed in Akeelah and The Bee movie. The last is to identify the types of sentences of indirect speech acts to represent the five types of illocutionary acts. To achieve these objectives, a pragmatic analysis was implemented. Therefore, the research used the theory of speech acts proposed by Yule (2014). The data collected through a purposive sampling, a corpus (transcript of the movie), and a movie. In the three conflict storylines process of data analysis was started by watching the movie and reading the whole script. The next is classifying the data based on the types of illocutionary acts proposed by Yule and the last step was interpreting the data based on the contextual meaning of the utterances from the characters. As a result, three points of conclusions are concluded. The first, the classifications of illocutionary acts found were directive, representative, commissive, and expressive. The second, the most dominant types of illocutionary acts were representative and expressive (37%), the middle was directive (27%), and the less was commissive (9%). The three main characters performed illocutionary acts both in direct speech or indirect speech. The indirect speeches were dominated by interrogative sentences.

Keywords: Illocutionary acts, Movie, Pragmatics, Speech acts

Abstrak

Penelitian ini menyelidiki salah satu keterampilan tindak tutur dalam komunikasi yaitu tindak ilokusi. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mencapai tiga tujuan, yang pertama adalah mengidentifikasi klasifikasi tindak ilokusi yang ditampilkan dalam alur cerita konflik film Akeelah dan The Bee. Kedua, untuk mendeskripsikan jenis-jenis tindak ilokusi yang dominan diekspresikan dalam film Akeelah and The Bee. Yang terakhir adalah mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis kalimat tindak tutur tidak langsung untuk mewakili lima jenis tindak ilokusi. Untuk mencapai tujuan tersebut, dilakukan analisis pragmatis. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini menggunakan teori tindak tutur yang dikemukakan oleh Yule (2014). Data dikumpulkan melalui purposive sampling, korpus (transkrip film), dan film. Dalam tiga alur cerita, proses analisis data dimulai dengan menonton film dan membaca naskah secara keseluruhan. Selanjutnya adalah mengklasifikasikan data berdasarkan jenis tindak ilokusi yang dikemukakan oleh Yule. Kemudian, langkah terakhir adalah menginterpretasikan data berdasarkan makna kontekstual ucapan dari para tokoh. Hasilnya, tiga poin kesimpulan disimpulkan. Pertama, klasifikasi tindak ilokusi yang ditemukan adalah direktif, representatif, komisif, dan ekspresif. Kedua, jenis tindak ilokusi yang paling dominan adalah representatif dan ekspresif (37%), yang tengah bersifat direktif (27%), dan yang kurang bersifat komisif

(9%). *Ketiga tokoh utama melakukan tindak ilokusi baik dalam tuturan langsung maupun tuturan tidak langsung. Pidato tidak langsung didominasi oleh kalimat tanya.*

Kata kunci: *Tindak ilokusi, Film, Pragmatik, Tindak tutur*

1. PRELIMINARY

Misunderstanding in communication can be avoided by understanding the study of language. It has relation to the concept of language and communication, as language as a system of communication. The language is used by people to express their emotion through thoughts, words, sounds, symbols, and gestures in society and it represent their identity in social group (Hastuti, E., Utami, H. A., & Oswari, T, 2021). Language is more than just substitution of thought to words or sounds; it also has a meaning. So, the message must be understood clearly. Unfortunately, in some communication cases, the speaker cannot make the message get across to the listener clearly. In delivering speech in communication, the speaker must have a purpose in their speech. A speech act can be defined to cover what acts that the speaker's intended in their speech (Yule, 2014). Speech acts divided into three level, namely locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts.

In minimizing misunderstanding, both of the speaker and the hearer need to understand the action intended in their speech. It is possible that illocutionary acts might be performed by the speaker or the listener in everyday life. It can be defined as an act performed and has some communicative purposes. According to Yule (2014, p.48), when the speaker has something in mind, they will express it through their utterance. It called illocutionary acts. The distinction of delivering the speech has two types, they are in direct or indirect speech (Yule, 2014). As the speaker and listener, it is important to understand the situation and context. It is because of the different cultural backgrounds of one language, lack of understanding about communication skills, and do not pay attention to the situation and context. These things can cause misunderstanding in communication, so the message is not always easy to deliver if it is not appropriately delivered.

The situation and context in communication can be found in certain aspects, for example, what things the speaker needs to say, who is the listener, and the time of conversation.

Many studies have done the research use a movie to find out the use of Illocutionary acts in daily life. As it is used as an example of how the speaker and the listener might performed their speech with the purposes and it might be causing a misunderstanding in communication. A movie can communicate somebody's thoughts, feelings, and significance sense. A movie as a human item writing terms can communicate somebody's inclination, thought, and significance sense (Della & Sembiring, 2018). It is also can be used to investigate the language used by the speaker, especially in pragmatic aspects like speech acts (Lin, 2014). The first research was "An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in a Fantasy Movie" by Fitriani, Achmad, & Rasmita (2020), they found that the result of analyzing illocutionary speech acts were representative, directive, expressive, and commissive. Therefore, the types of illocutionary acts most used was directive speech acts while the least used was commissive. The second research was "You are my home" by Hutajulu, F, S., & Herman, H (2019), the result was representative, expressive, directive, and commissive. They didn't find the declarative acts. Then, the dominant types of illocutionary acts that found in the movie is declarative act.

To fill the gaps, this research used *Akeelah and The Bee* movie by Dough Atchison to fulfill the investigation of the classifications of illocutionary acts in communication based on the purpose, situation, and context. There are five classifications of illocutionary acts according to Yule (2014, pp. 53-54). They are declarations, representatives, expressive, directives, and commissive. Next, the dominating types of speech acts in *Akeelah and The Bee* movie, and the

sentences of indirect speech acts being performed to represent the five classifications of illocutionary acts. Besides, the researcher only chooses the three main characters to be the subject of this research. It will focus on at least three main conflicts among the characters in the movie.

As this research to provide the classification of illocutionary acts, it can be used as the knowledge in having a communication with people, they need to understand the communicative purposes, situations, and context in a speech. It due to both of the speaker and the listener may have their own goal and different way in delivering messages in their speech.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research was investigating the use of illocutionary acts in a movie entitled *Akeelah and The Bee*. It was used a pragmatic study to discover the meaning of an utterance based on the situations. Meanwhile, a pragmatic study has adopted two designs, they are a cross-sectional design and a longitudinal design (Kesper & Roever, 2005). The cross-sectional design closely examined how people at different proficiency levels use a speech act. It also narrowly focusing on one or more speech acts and it investigated through elicited data. Thus, the cross-sectional design used in this research to identify the illocutionary speech acts.

Therefore, the researcher played as a tool (Creswell, 2014) which meant that the researcher played a crucial in collecting data, analyzing data, and interpreting data. The researcher as the primary instrument for data collection. Meanwhile, the source of data collection was a corpus linguistic approach. It can be defined as a ready resource or natural or authentic, text for language learning (Reppen, 2010). The researcher used a movie transcription and it's taken from the internet. The link is provided as followings (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akeelah_and_the_Bee).

Meanwhile, the technique used to collect the data was purposive sampling technique. The researcher was

purposefully select the participants or sites (documents or visual material) that will best help the researcher understand the problem and the research question (Creswell, 2014). The researcher took the data from the conflict in the storyline in *Akeelah and The Bee* movie. It due to in the conflict storyline consists of dialogue that might containing any types of illocutionary acts performed in the utterances of the main characters. Besides, the researcher applied a discourse analysis and contextual analysis to find out the types of illocutionary acts in *Akeelah and The Bee* movie.

The process of data analyzing was identifying the data, classifying the data, and interpreting the data. In identifying the data, the researcher was watching the movie several times and reading the whole script to find out the scenes that displayed the conflict among the main characters. While in classifying the data, the researcher made a different sign or code to classify the data. Last was interpreting the data, the researcher applied the theory of Illocutionary acts by Yule (2014), He classified the illocutionary acts into five types, namely representative, declarative, directive, commissive, and expressive. Then, the researcher also used the kinds of speech acts which concern to the ways of delivering the speech based on Yule (2014), namely indirect speech acts and direct speech acts. Last but not least, the researcher used the sentences of indirect speech acts to represent the types of illocutionary acts based on (Parker & Riley, 1994). They are imperative sentence, declarative sentence, and interrogative sentence.

3. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

This research adopted a pragmatics study that focused to identify the use of illocutionary acts, the types of speech acts, and the types of sentences used in *Akeelah and The Bee* movie based on Yule (2014).

3.1 Classifications of Illocutionary Acts: Representative

Representative acts can be defined as the speaker believes that something on her /

his mind can be the case or not, to make their audience believe on something. In this research, this type of illocutionary acts was performed by the three main characters in the three conflicts storyline. In the first conflict, it was only one utterance. The second conflict was four utterances. Last, the third conflict was two utterances. So, there were around 7 utterances of representative acts found in Akeelah and The Bee movie.

Minutes: **36:31 – 36:50**

Tanya: **That's 'cause I work.**

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the representative illocutionary act. It is representing an explanation of activity.

Minutes: **17:23 – 17:28**

Akeelah: **You didn't answer the door.**

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the representative illocutionary acts. It is representing an explanation of situation.

Minutes: **17:37 - 18:16**

Akeelah: **I know how to spell.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the representative illocutionary acts. It is **describing** her skills.

Minutes: **39:50 – 40:12**

Akeelah: **I don't know. The only thing I'm good at is spelling.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the representative illocutionary acts. It is **describing** her skills.

Minutes: **52:37 – 52:51**

Dr Joshua: **Come on, you know this word.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the representative illocutionary acts. It is **telling** that Akeelah knows the word.

Minutes: **01:05:57 – 01:07:06**

Akeelah: **I can't learn 5,000 new words all by myself.**

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the representative illocutionary acts. It is **asserting** that Akeelah can't learn the word by herself.

Minutes: **01:19:50 – 01:20:47**

Akeelah: **It's true. It doesn't matter how many words I learn. He'll always know more.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the representative illocutionary acts. It is **telling** that Akeelah can't beat Dylan.

3.2 Classifications of Illocutionary Acts: Expressive

Expressive acts can be defined as a mental state about the situation. It communicates what the speaker feels about something or such a situation. In this research, this type of illocutionary acts was performed by both of the three main characters in the three conflicts storyline. In the first conflict, it was only five utterance and in the third conflict was two utterances. So, there were around 7 utterances of expressive utterance found in Akeelah and The Bee movie.

Minutes: **35:55 – 36:30**

Akeelah : **I went by myself. I didn't think the bus ride would take so long. I'm sorry.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the expressive illocutionary act. It is expressing of **apologizing** (feeling sorry).

Minutes: **35:55 – 36:30**

Tanya: **Akeelah Anderson! You done lost your mind? you 11 years old. You don't be taking a bus to Woodland Hills by yourself.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Interrogative

This utterance is showing the expressive illocutionary act. It is expressing of **complaining** (feeling angry).

Minutes: **36:50 – 37:28**

Akeelah: **But, Mama, I hate Crenshaw! It is so boring here and nobody cares.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Declarative
This utterance is showing the expressive illocutionary act. It is expressing of **complaining** (feeling angry).

Minutes: **58:08 – 58:43**

Akeelah: **I'm sorry, Mama.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the expressive illocutionary act. It is expressing of **apologizing** (feeling sorry).

Minutes: **59:12 – 59:45**

Akeelah: **Mama, I hated going behind your back, but very time I brought up the bee, you didn't want to hear it. I didn't know what to do.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the expressive illocutionary act. It is expressing of **apologizing** (feeling sorry and regret).

Minutes: **01:09:01 – 01:09:26**

Akeelah: **Dr. Larabee don't want to coach me no more, Georgia don't want to hang out with me and all these people are expecting me to win. And it's just too hard, Mama. I want it all to stop.**

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the expressive illocutionary act. It is expressing of **complaining** (feeling sad).

Minutes: **01:09:35 – 01:10:42**

Dr Joshua: **I certainly didn't mean to upset her. I- well, I honestly thought I was doing the best thing for her.**

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the expressive illocutionary act. It is expressing of **apologizing** (feeling sorry).

3.3 Classifications of Illocutionary Acts: Directive

Directive acts used to explain what the speaker wants, wishes and desires. The examples of directives are asking, begging, commanding, ordering, requesting, and so on. In this research, this type of

illocutionary acts was performed by both of the three main characters in the three conflicts storyline. In the first conflict, it was only three utterance and in the second conflict was three utterances. So, there were around 6 utterances of expressive utterance found in Akeelah and The Bee movie.

Minutes: **18:18 – 18:36**

Dr Joshua: Hm, "ain't you got no job?" You use that language to fit in with your friends. **Here you will speak properly or you won't speak at all. Understood?**

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Interrogative

This utterance is showing the directive illocutionary act. It is directing **command** Akeelah to speak properly.

Minutes: **19:53 – 20:23**

Dr Joshua: Hm, "ain't you got no job?" You use that language to fit in with your friends. **Here you will speak properly or you won't speak at all. Understood?**

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Interrogative

This utterance is showing the directive illocutionary act. It is directing **command** Akeelah to stop playing game of spelling bee.

Minutes: **36:50 – 37:28**

Tanya: Good for them. **But until you finish summer school at Crenshaw ain't gonna be no more spelling bees.**

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the directive illocutionary act. It is directing **command** Akeelah to finish the summer school and to stop the spelling bee.

Minutes: **52:51 – 53:33**

Dr Joshua: **You ask a lot of questions, don't you?**

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the directive illocutionary act. It is directing **request** Akeelah to stop asking question.

Minutes: **59:12 – 59:45**

Tanya: Why you didn't tell me about this?

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the directive illocutionary act. It is directing **request** Akeelah to tell her what is going on.

Minutes: **01:05:37 – 01:06:04**

Dr Joshua: I told you, Denise, you can have fun after the bee.

Types of Speech: Indirect

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the directive illocutionary act. It is directing **command** Akeelah to stay focus studying the words and having fun after the competition of spelling bee.

3.4 Classifications of Illocutionary Acts: Commissive

Commissive acts utilized by the speakers is to commit themselves to some future action. The examples of commissive are offering, promising, swearing, threatening, vowing. In this research, this type of illocutionary acts was performed by Akeelah and Dr Joshua Larabee in the third conflicts storyline. From the conflict, the researcher found two utterances.

Minutes: **38:09 – 39:00**

Akeelah: **That's not gonna happen no more. Any... more. I promise.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the commissive illocutionary act. It is committing **a promise** to not doing the same thing.

Minutes: **01:07:06 – 01:07:43**

Akeelah: **Dr. Larabee, I swear, I promise- I won't miss any more sessions and I'll do whatever you say. You can't stop coaching me now.**

Types of Speech: Direct

Types of Sentences: Declarative

This utterance is showing the commissive illocutionary act. It is committing **a promise** to not missing any more sessions of studying words.

Among the four types of illocutionary acts performed in Akeelah and The Bee

movie, the data found is around 22 data that performed the four types of illocutionary acts. Therefore, there must be the most dominant types that is used by the characters. To find the most dominant of illocutionary acts can be calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{Score} = \frac{\text{the number of the right number}}{\text{total item}} \times 100\%$$

Here is the following data calculated using the formula to find the most dominant types of Illocutionary acts used in Akeelah and The Bee movie by the three main characters:

Table 1
Calculation Results

No	Types of IA	Score	Percent
1	Declaration	$\frac{0}{22} \times 100\%$	0%
2	Representative	$\frac{7}{22} \times 100\%$	32%
3	Expressive	$\frac{7}{22} \times 100\%$	32%
4	Directive	$\frac{6}{22} \times 100\%$	27%
5	Commissive	$\frac{2}{22} \times 100\%$	9%

From the data above, it was found that the types of illocutionary acts used by the main characters in Akeelah and The Bee movie were representative, expressive, directive, and commissive. Moreover, the types of sentences of indirect speech acts are performing only in the three types of illocutionary acts, they are representatives, expressive, and directives. Thus, the types of sentences are representing the three types of illocutionary acts occurred in the following:

1. Representatives: the types of sentences of indirect speech in representative utterances is declarative sentences.
2. Expressive: the types of sentences of indirect speech in representative

utterances is interrogative sentences and declarative sentences.

3. Directives: the types of sentences of indirect speech in representative utterances is interrogative sentences and declarative sentences.

In performing the Illocutionary acts, both of the characters in the movie (who play roles as the speaker and the listener) need to understand the situation and context in communication. It has connection to what has just been said, what has just been referred to, physical settings, salient personal knowledge, and relevant broader common knowledge. And the role-relationship among the characters in the movie, the body movements, eye contact, gestures, voice, and facial expression. These can affect how the message conveyed appropriately or not. And if it is not delivered appropriately it can cause misunderstanding in the communication among the characters.

Even though, the characters in the movie are knowing each other or have a prior knowledge, in an important role-relationship, if they cannot put themselves in the right situations or context in communication their messages will not easily understood to the target listener. So, it is important to understand the speech action that has purposes and when to deliver it in the right situation and context. By finding out types of Illocutionary acts in an *Akeelah and The Bee* movie, it showed that a simple utterance in some situation and context can has different meaning. It also depends on how the utterance uttered.

3.5 Research Discussion

As it is mentioned above, the classifications of Illocutionary acts found in *Akeelah and The Bee* movie. From the five classifications, it was found only four types of Illocutionary acts. They were representative, expressive, directive, and commissive. Representative was performed 7 times by the characters to represent the situation such as describing, asserting, telling, and explaining. Expressive was performed 7 times by the characters to

express their feeling such as thanking, explaining, complaining, and apologizing. Directive was performed 6 times by the characters to ask someone to do something such as command and request. Commissive was performed two times by the characters to commit themselves to do something later such as promise. Meanwhile, declaration was not performed by the characters in the story conflict. Declaration type also not found in "Five feet Apart" movie by Rismayanti, H (2021) since it needs a special circumstance.

These classifications were performed with the communication purposes. it also found by Gustari, D. T (2022) which mentioned that in delivering a speech acts, the main character (speaker and listener) have their respective purposes. From each classifications of illocutionary acts, the characters performed commissive acts to commit themselves to something to do later (promise), directive acts to ask someone to do something (command and request), expressive acts to express feeling such as thanking, apologizing, explaining, complaining), representative acts to explain a situation (telling, describing, asserting) depends on the situation and context. Another different illocutionary force found by Sukmawati, D.B (2022), in "Sing" movie, it is found there was some types of illocutionary force used by the characters such as informing, questioning, commanding, forgiving, offering, etc. The most dominant of illocutionary used was directive act.

The role-relationship among the characters showed that the superior is dominating to show their expression and feelings than the inferior. The superior tends to deliver their speech by showing their face expression, raising their voice, use their body movement, and making eye contact. Thus, the inferior is also showing their expression and feeling, but they want more attention from the superior. It also connected to the prior knowledge between the characters. As the characters already known each other, it will easy for them to communicate and to understand who are talking in his or her authority. Therefore, the body movement or gesture is also

affecting the process of communication between each character. It has connection toward the role-relationship of each character. They also use their body movement or gesture to convince their listener about their feeling or their opinion.

To summarize, the illocutionary acts performed in some situations based on the context and purposes. Whenever the speaker utters a sentence in an appropriate context with certain intentions, he/she performs one or more illocutionary acts. In understanding the use of illocutionary acts in real life whether it is success or not, it also depends on the role-relationship between the speaker and the listener.

4. CONCLUSION

The first point is the classifications of illocutionary acts used in *Akeelah and The Bee* movie. It is found that there are only four types out five types of illocutionary acts performed in the movie of *Akeelah and The Bee*. They are including representative utterances, expressive utterances, directive utterances, and commissive utterances. Meanwhile, the one is not performed is declaration utterances.

The second point is regarding to the types of speech acts used by the characters in *Akeelah and The Bee* movie. With regard to this point, among the four types of illocutionary acts performed in *Akeelah and The Bee* movie, the most dominant type is representative utterances and expressive utterances.

The third point is the types of sentences of indirect speech acts performed by the characters in *Akeelah and The Bee* movie. Based on this point, it is concluded the types of sentences of indirect speech acts are performing only in the three types of illocutionary acts, they are representatives, expressive, and directives. The types of sentences are representing the three types of illocutionary acts occurred in the following:

1. Representatives: the types of sentences of indirect speech in representative utterances is declarative sentences.

2. Expressive: the types of sentences of indirect speech in representative utterances is interrogative sentences and declarative sentences.

3. Directives: the types of sentences of indirect speech in representative utterances is interrogative sentences and declarative sentences.

Last point to be concluded is the illocutionary acts performed by the three main characters (*Akeelah*, *Tanya*, and *Dr Joshua Larabee*) in the movie of *Akeelah and The Bee*. It's found in the three conflicts storyline which have four types, they are representative, directive, expressive, and commissive. Therefore, there is two dominant types of illocutionary acts, namely representative and expressive that performed in indirect speech with interrogative sentences and declarative sentences.

In addition, the illocutionary acts can be performed in some situations based on the context and purposes. Whenever the speaker utters a sentence in an appropriate context with certain intentions, he/she performs one or more illocutionary acts. In understanding the use of illocutionary acts in real life whether it is success or not, it also depends on the non-verbal cues such as role-relationship between the speaker and the listener, the body movement, facial expression, eye contact, etc.

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