

## The Illocutionary and Perlocutionary Acts Produced by The Main Characters of *Moxie* Movie

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### ABSTRACT

Speech acts are crucial in establishing and achieving a conversation's goal. The purpose of this research is to examine speech acts in the *Moxie* movie. This study examines types of illocutionary acts and perlocutionary acts produced by the main characters of the *Moxie* movie, Vivian and Claudia. The writer used two different theories to conduct this research: the theory of speech act by Austin (1962, as cited in Cutting, 2002) and the classification of illocutionary act by Searle (1975, as cited in Cutting, 2002) and Leech (1983, as cited in Peccei, 1999). This study was done using a qualitative approach. The data that the writer used to analyze were Vivian and Claudia's conversations in the *Moxie* movie. The results of the data analysis revealed that there were four types of illocutionary acts produced by Vivian: Representative, Expressive, Directive, and Rogative. Meanwhile, Claudia produced five types of illocutionary acts: Representative, Expressive, Directive, Commissive, and Rogative. Also, there were two effects of the perlocutionary acts, whether it is in accordance or not in accordance with the illocutionary act. In conclusion, this study has examined how the main characters of *Moxie* deliver their messages through speech acts.

**Keywords:** speech acts; illocutionary acts; perlocutionary acts

### INTRODUCTION

People use language to express their feelings in their daily lives. It is natural for people to communicate with others as humans. Its purpose is to share information about what they want and establish a social relationship with them through conversations or dialogues. Every utterance made by a person has meaning when it comes to communication. In everyday life, people always use language to communicate. Language can be used to express feelings, senses, opinions, and emotions. That is why language plays a critical role in communication. There are numerous ways to communicate, and each one necessitates utterance. Every form of communication requires the use of words.

Speech act is "actions that are carried out through language" (Finegan, 2014, p.305). Speech act is also the act of uttering a sentence is, or is part of, an action within the framework of social institutions and conventions (Huang, 2007). Austin (1962, as cited in O'Keeffe et al., 2011) also states that most utterances, whether or not they contain a performative verb, are used to perform speech acts and, as a result, to convey the speaker's intention.

Speech acts focus on how meaning and action are related to language (Finegan, 2014). Austin's theory (1962, as cited in O'Keeffe et al., 2019, p.127) describes the three different types of acts: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. Locutionary act is "the actual utterance itself, the physical act of producing an utterance and its apparent meaning." (p.127). The next stage is illocutionary acts, which means what the speaker means by their utterance (p.127). Finally, the last

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stage is perlocutionary acts. Perlocutionary acts is the effect on the addressee achieved through the locution and illocution (p.127). There were six types of illocutionary acts according to Searle (1975, as cited in Cutting, 2002) and Leech (1983, as cited in Peccei, 1999): declarative, representative, expressive, directive, commissive, and rogative.

For this study, the writer chose to analyze speech acts in the movie, *Moxie*, a comedy-drama directed by Amy Poehler in the United States. In this study, the writer analyzed Vivian and Claudia's conversations in the *Moxie* movie, especially the illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. The writer chose to analyze illocutionary and perlocutionary acts because from illocutionary acts, the function of the words and the specific purpose that the speakers have in mind can be known. From perlocutionary acts, the effect on the hearer of the speaker's purpose can be known as well (Paltridge, 2012).

## METHODS

To work on this study, the writer used a descriptive qualitative approach. The data were taken from Vivian and Claudia's conversations in the *Moxie* movie. The first step of data collection is the writer watches a *Moxie* movie on *Netflix*. Then, the writer found the transcript of the movie on the internet. The writer wrote the number of scenes in the transcript. In collecting the data, the writer used a numbering system. The numbering system represented three parts: the number of scenes, the speaker, and also the number of an utterance. For the speaker, the writer used number one for Vivian and number two for Claudia. For example, if the writer put 1.2.4, it means that the data was on scene one, the speaker was Claudia, and that was her fourth utterance in scene one.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section discusses the findings of the study. It is divided into: (1) types of illocutionary acts produced by Vivian, (2) types of illocutionary acts produced by Claudia, (3) perlocutionary acts produced by Vivian and Claudia.

**Table 4.1**

Types of Illocutionary Act Produced by Vivian and Claudia

Types of Illocution Speakers	Dc	Rp	Ex	Dr	Cm	Rg
Vivian		✓	✓	✓		✓
Claudia		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes:

Dc: Declaration Rp: Representative Ex: Expressive Dr: Directive Cm: Commissive Rg: Rogative

### Types of Illocutionary Acts Produced by Vivian

Table 4.1 shows the types of illocutionary acts produced by Vivian and Claudia in the *Moxie* movie. From the table, it can be seen that Vivian produces representative, expressive,

directive, and rogative illocutionary acts. Below, the writer provides some examples of Vivian's illocutionary act. First of all, representative illocutionary acts.

- **Data 2.1.2**

Vivian: What? This is the first day. I mean, they haven't even had time to, like, look at us yet. Are they basing their decisions on summer? Because nobody even saw us this summer. Unless someone was spying on us playing Mario Kart in your mom's basement.

The utterance above was in data 2.1.2. In this data, Vivian and Claudia were talking about the voting of the rankings while entering the school. In this representative illocutionary act, the speaker, Vivian, described her opinion about the rankings. It can be seen from her words 'I mean, they haven't even had time to, like, look at us yet'. The reason why Vivian said like this is because it was their first day of school, and they have not even done anything yet. It is unreasonable that the rankings were already starting.

Second, expressive illocutionary acts. For example:

- **Data 49.1.6**

Vivian: Claudia, I'm sorry.

The utterance above was in data 49.1.6. In this data, Vivian met Claudia in Claudia's house, they were talking about why Claudia got suspended from the school. In this expressive illocutionary act, the speaker, Vivian, felt bad about what happened to Claudia and Vivian also felt sorry about what she had done to Claudia.

Third, directive illocutionary act. For example:

- **Data 49.1.8**

Vivian: If you knew it was me, why didn't you tell her?

The utterance above was in data 49.1.8. In this data, Vivian met Claudia in Claudia's house, they were talking about why Claudia got suspended from the school. In this directive illocutionary act, Vivian had the intention to get Claudia to do something, to give an answer why Claudia did not tell the principal that the one behind *Moxie* was Vivian.

Fourth, rogative illocutionary act. For example:

- **Data 20.1.5**

Vivian: Did you bring a corkscrew?

The utterance above was in data 20.1.5. In this data, Vivian and Claudia were talking in front of Bradley's house, about the wine that Vivian brought to Bradley's house. In this rogative illocutionary act, Vivian asked Claudia the information whether she brought a corkscrew to open the wine that Vivian brought to Bradley's house or not.

### **Types of Illocutionary Acts Produced by Claudia**

From table 4.1, it can be seen that Claudia produced five types of illocutionary act in the *Moxie* movie: representative, expressive, directive, commissive, and rogative. In this section, the

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writer provides some examples of Claudia's illocutionary act in the *Moxie* movie. First of all, representative illocutionary acts. For example:

- **Data 7.2.7**

Claudia: You love him. You want to have 15 of his babies. Whoa. You're right. Seth the Shrimp's gonna need a new nickname.

The utterance above was in data 7.2.7. In this data, Vivian and Claudia talked about Seth Acosta while sitting together in the park and eating their lunch. In this representative illocutionary act, the speaker, Claudia, described her opinion of Vivian's utterance before, that Vivian might love Seth Acosta and have his babies. Besides that, Claudia also described her opinion that Seth Acosta needs a new nickname, not Seth the Shrimp anymore.

Second, expressive illocutionary acts. For example:

- **Data 12.2.3**

Claudia: Boring.

The utterance above was in data 12.2.3. In this data, Vivian and Claudia talked about the list of rankings that were already posted, in the middle of the crowd in their school. In this expressive illocutionary act, the speaker, Claudia, expressed her feelings about the list of rankings. The list of rankings was very boring, according to Claudia.

Third, directive illocutionary act. For example:

- **Data 21.2.1**

Claudia: Who do you think did it, Vivian?

The utterance above was in data 21.2.1. In this data, Vivian and Claudia were in the room inside Bradley's house together with Amaya, Kiera, Lucy, CJ, and Kaitlynn and they were discussing who was behind *Moxie*. In this directive illocutionary act, Claudia had the intention to get Vivian to do something, to give her opinion about who could be the one behind *Moxie*.

Fourth, commissive illocutionary act. For example:

- **Data 3.2.15**

Claudia: I guess we'll never find out.

The utterance above was in data 3.2.15. In this data, Vivian and Claudia talked about the gossip that Emma Cunningham and Mitchell Wilson had already broken up in the class corridor before entering the class. In this commissive illocutionary act, the speaker, Claudia, predicted that Vivian and Claudia would not know what would happen without each other.

Last, rogative illocutionary acts. For example:

- **Data 12.2.5**

Claudia: Did we bet on that?

The utterance above was in data 12.2.5. In this data, Vivian and Claudia talked about the list of rankings that were already posted, in the middle of the crowd in their school. In this rogative illocutionary act, the speaker, Claudia asked Vivian whether they bet on Kiera's rankings or not, because she could not remember it.

### **Perlocutionary Acts Produced by Vivian and Claudia**

This section presents the writer's findings and discussion of the perlocutionary acts produced by Vivian and Claudia in the *Moxie* movie. The writer presents some examples of the perlocutionary acts produced by Vivian and Claudia in the *Moxie* movie below.

### **Perlocutionary Acts Produced by Vivian**

Vivian's perlocutionary act is a response to Claudia's illocutionary act. There could be two responses of perlocutionary acts, whether it is in accordance or not in accordance with the illocutionary acts. It can be said in accordance or not in accordance when the hearer responds with something expected or not expected by the speaker. The writer provides some examples of Vivian's perlocutionary act as follows:

- Data 2.2.1

Claudia: Did you hear, rankings already starting?

- Data 2.1.2

**Vivian: What? This is the first day. I mean, they haven't even had time to, like, look at us yet. Are they basing their decisions on summer? Because nobody even saw us this summer. Unless someone was spying on us playing Mario Kart in your mom's basement.**

Data 2.2.1 and data 2.1.2 are Vivian and Claudia's conversations in scene 2, where Vivian and Claudia were talking about the voting of the rankings while entering the school. Data 2.1.2 is Vivian's perlocutionary act or her response to Claudia's illocutionary act. The perlocutionary act was in accordance with Claudia's illocutionary act. Claudia asked if Vivian knew that the rankings were already started, and she expected Vivian to answer her question. Vivian responded with another question, implying that she was unaware that the rankings had already begun, and she expressed her opinion on Claudia's question. However, the response was in accordance to Claudia's illocutionary act because it is still about the same topic, the ranking. It can be seen from her first interrogative sentence, "What? This is the first day".

- Data 2.2.3

Claudia: I might get ranked "Best Power Slide on Rainbow Road"

- Data 2.1.4

**Vivian: Should we have gone to a pool?**

Data 2.2.3 and data 2.1.4 are Vivian and Claudia's conversation in scene 2, where Vivian and Claudia talked about the voting of the rankings while entering the school. Data 2.1.4 is Vivian's perlocutionary act or her response to Claudia's illocutionary act. The perlocutionary act was not in accordance with Claudia's illocutionary act. Claudia stated that if there was a category of ranking for her, she might get ranked "Best Power Slide on Rainbow Road" because the only thing Claudia did last summer was playing Mario Kart game in her mom's basement. In these conversations, Claudia was talking about the list of rankings. Claudia expected Vivian to give her opinion about

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the ranking. However, Vivian responded with a question that is not related to Claudia's intention, asking whether they should go to a pool or not.

**Perlocutionary Acts Produced by Claudia**

Claudia's perlocutionary act is a response to Vivian's illocutionary act. There could be two responses of perlocutionary act, whether it is in accordance or not in accordance with the illocutionary acts. It can be said in accordance or not in accordance when the hearer responds to it with something expected or not expected by the speaker. The writer provides some examples of Vivian's perlocutionary act as follows:

- Data 12.1.10  
Vivian: Wow, that's a lot. Think we should say something to her?
- Data 12.2.11  
**Claudia: I don't want to have to say the c-word out loud.**

Data 12.1.10 and data 12.2.11 are Vivian and Claudia's conversations in scene 12 where Vivian and Claudia talked about the list of rankings that were already posted, in the middle of the crowd in their school. Data 12.2.11 is Claudia's perlocutionary act or her response to Vivian's illocutionary act. The perlocutionary act was in accordance with Vivian's illocutionary act. In these conversations, Vivian was talking about Kiera's ranking to Claudia. Vivian expected Claudia to answer her question. Then, Claudia responded accordingly by giving a refusal; it can be seen from the words 'I don't want' that she did not want to say something to Kiera.

- Data 3.1.6  
Vivian: Not fair. She's the captain of the soccer team. Do they know how much running and jumping she's doing?
- Data 3.2.7  
**Claudia: Kaitlynn Price has mastered the art of the hot selfie and will probably take "Best Rack" from Olivia Day-Young.**

Data 3.1.6 and data 3.2.7 are Vivian and Claudia's conversations in scene 3, where Vivian and Claudia talked about the gossip that Emma Cunningham and Mitchell Wilson had already broken up in the class corridor before entering the class. Data 3.2.7 is Claudia's perlocutionary act or her response to Vivian's illocutionary act. The perlocutionary act was not in accordance with Vivian's illocutionary act. In this context, Vivian was talking about Kiera's ranking and her struggle in their school, and she expected Claudia to respond to her question. However, instead of answering her question, Claudia responded to it by stating about Kaitlynn Price's ranking.

**CONCLUSIONS**

In conclusion, the writer found out the types of illocutionary acts produced by Vivian in the *Moxie* movie. When communicating with Claudia, Vivian used four out of six types of illocutionary acts: representative, directive, expressive, and rogative. When communicating with Claudia, Vivian did not use commissive and declarative types of illocutionary acts. The writer also found out the types of illocutionary acts produced by Claudia in the *Moxie* movie. When communicating with Vivian, Claudia used four out of five types of illocutionary acts: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and rogative. When talking to each other, they did not use declarative

speech acts, because declarative is the kind of speech acts that change the world via their utterances. The speaker has to have a special institutional role and in a special role to change the world with their utterance. However, Vivian and Claudia are just ordinary students. They could not declare something such as firings, baptisms, declaring mistrials, marryings, blessings, arrests, and hirings. Thus, there were no declarative speech acts in their conversations. Meanwhile, for the perlocutionary acts produced by Vivian and Claudia, the writer found out that there were two types of responses: in accordance and not in accordance to the illocutionary acts. In this study, there were more in accordance to the perlocutionary acts than not in accordance to the illocutionary act. It indicates that Vivian and Claudia were successful in delivering their messages to each other.

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