

The Illocutionary and Perlocutionary Act in *Black Monday* TV Series

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ABSTRACT

This study was done to find out types of illocutionary acts produced by four main characters in episode 5 in season 1 of *Black Monday* the series, and to reveal the perlocutionary acts reacted by the interlocutors in responses to the illocutionary acts of four main characters in episode 5 in season 1 of *Black Monday* the series. In this study, the writer used the speech acts theory by Cutting (2002) and Paltridge (2012), the theory of locution, illocution and perlocutionary act by Paltridge (2012). Besides that, this study was done using a qualitative approach. The result of this study showed that the main characters mainly used representative, expressive, and directive when talking to their interlocutors and the perlocutionary acts followed the main characters' utterances. The conclusion is that status and ethnic superiority on *Black Monday* influenced the utterance when main characters said their utterances.

Keywords: illocutionary act; perlocutionary act; tv series

INTRODUCTION

Communication is one way used by human society to speak to others using certain languages when one who speaks wants to connect with others. Clearly, human language is described through sensible and meaningful units understood by both the speaker and the hearer. Knowing so, a language means a great deal, more than simply knowing how to produce sentences; it also means knowing how to use them. When people speak, they intend things to go as smooth as what they meant. By communicating, the message conveyed by the speaker might be interpreted well by the hearer.

This study analyzes *Black Monday* TV series because the movie itself covers real-life events which supposedly happened in 1987, which is the worst day for America's stock market. The series premiered on January 20, 2019, on a television channel program called Showtime. Although the series received mixed reviews from critics, the series is still trying to surprise the audiences with plot twists as the series goes on and provide an easier narrative of Wall Street finance just so the audience can follow the series without being left behind with any unfamiliar words on it.

Throughout this research, the writer wants to find out types of illocutionary acts produced by four main characters in episode 5 in season 1 of *Black Monday* the series. In addition, the writer also wants to reveal the perlocutionary acts reacted by the interlocutors in responses to the illocutionary acts of four main characters in episode 5 in season 1 of *Black Monday* the series.

The theory used for this study as a theoretical framework are speech act theory taken from Austin (1962, as cited by Cutting, 2002 and Paltridge, 2012), the theory of locution, illocution, and perlocutionary act taken from Austin (1962, as cited in Paltridge, 2012) and the classifications taken from Searle (1976, as cited in Cutting, 2002).

METHOD

For this study, the writer used a qualitative approach (Creswell, 2014). The data were taken from the whole scene of episode 5 in *Black Monday* series streamed via website. The English transcripts were downloaded online. The writer highlighted the transcript with different colors to differentiate between each main character. Maurice's utterances were in grey colored, Blair's utterances were in blue colored, Dawn's utterances were in yellow colored, and Keith's utterances were in green colored. After highlighting, the data were transferred into a table. The final step the writer did was analyzing the data based on the speech act classification by Searle (1976, as cited in Cutting, 2002)

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

In this section, the writer discusses her findings. This section will discuss types of illocutionary acts used by the main characters in *Black Monday* the series, and their perlocutionary acts.

4.1 Illocutionary Acts by Maurice Monroe and their Perlocutionary Acts

The illocutionary acts found from Maurice Monroe are representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives.

Representatives

Representatives are "acts in which the words state what the speaker believes to be the case". Below is the example:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Excerpt 1 | |
| Maurice | : "So let's just say that one of the tomcats in the office is, I don't know, Blair." |
| Blair | : "Well, I'm engaged, so that doesn't make a ton of sense." |

The utterance above occurred when Maurice invites Alvin Rudnick, a general counselor from Steinsteen and Associates, to come into Jammer Group's office to give a brief course in the do's and try-not-to-do's of sexual harassment. Excerpt 1 is 'representative'. Maurice's utterance is considered as assertion, because Maurice is stating what he believes that Blair is one of the tomcats in the office. Tomcat in this utterance meant 'a woman-chaser', further details of tomcat meant, "a man that chases after a woman especially if he knows that her man is cheating on her", and now the woman being chased in this context is Dawn (Urban Dictionary, 2011). The reason Maurice states his belief that Blair is a tomcat, and the woman being tomcatted is Dawn, because in the previous episode Maurice saw Blair meet Dawn at the Cedar Tavern where Maurice supposed to meet with Dawn, but instead he found Blair is out there kissing with Dawn. Blair's response to Maurice's utterance is following the conversation and Blair denies Maurice's statement by saying that he's engaged.

Expressives

Expressive "includes acts in which the words state what the speaker feels". Below is the example:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Excerpt 2 | |
| Maurice | : "Dawn, you're my partner. All right, and I'm sorry if I haven't always treated you that way. You... you deserve better." |
| Dawn | : "You feel alright?" |

The utterance above occurred when Maurice received a call from Dawn, and he picked up telling the truth about his regret that he had, so Excerpt 2 happened after Maurice picked up the phone. The utterance is categorized as 'expressive'. When Maurice said "All right, and I'm sorry if I haven't always treated you that way," showing that Maurice felt sorry because of how he treated Dawn before. Dawn's reaction follows the conversation, but her utterance shows the opposite instead, "You feel alright?" which means that she is not sure if Maurice is sober or not when he said his utterances.

Directives

"This category covers acts in which the words are aimed at making the hearer do something". Below is the example:

Excerpt 3
 Maurice : "You know what? Take this. Stick it in your tie. It's gonna drive him crazy."
 Keith : [LAUGHS] "All right!"

The utterance above occurred after Keith's self-offering to come with Maurice was rejected, instead of leaving with nothing, Maurice gave Blair's tie pin to Keith to make it worth the deal, where Maurice made Keith the boss because Maurice will be absent from the office to attend the Predator's Ball with Dawn. Excerpt 3 is 'directive'. Maurice said "Take this. Stick it in your tie. It's gonna drive him crazy" to Keith which meant for Keith to receive Blair's pin from Maurice and stick it in his tie, because if there's someone other than Maurice wearing the pin, Blair's angry. Keith's reaction to it is laughing and holding on to the pin while saying "All right!" at the same time he goes out of the room.

Commissives

"This includes acts in which the words commit the speaker to future action". Below is the example:

Excerpt 4
 Maurice : "No, I mean it. I trust you. And I hope someday you'll be able to trust me again. If you think this deal works, I want you to go ahead and do it."
 Dawn : "Thank you"

The utterance above occurred when Maurice received a call from Dawn, and he picked up telling the truth about his regret that he had, so Excerpt 4 happened after Maurice picked up the phone. This utterance is categorized as 'commissive'. The reason this utterance is commissive is that Maurice made a promise to Dawn, "And I hope someday you'll be able to trust me again," where he hoped Dawn will trust him again someday in the future. Dawn's reaction follows the conversation, which is "Thank you" because she was appraised by Maurice where he said "I trust you; If you think this deal works, I want you to go ahead and do it".

4.2 Illocutionary Act by Blair Pfaff and their Perlocutionary Acts

The illocutionary acts found from Blair Pfaff are representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives.

Representatives

Below is the example of representative used by Blair:

Excerpt 5
 Blair : "Your days of bullying me for no reason are over. All right?"

Keith : “You're the reason I got fired.”

The utterance above occurred when Blair met Keith while on his way to the elevator. Instead of a nice greeting and asked for the shredding report from Blair, Keith said “I'm your boss. I command you,” and so this utterance happened. This utterance is ‘representative’ and ‘directive’. The reason Blair said, “Your days of bullying me for no reason are over,” to Keith is to show that it is true Keith has no right to bully Blair again, and those days are over because Blair is already accustomed to Keith’s behavior. Keith’s reaction is angry. He said, “You're the reason I got fired,” showing that because Keith’s act of bullying to Blair came to an end, he could not say anything else besides that.

Expressives

The following is the example of Blair’s expressive:

Excerpt 6

Blair : “I'm sorry I ruined our weekend.”
Tiffany : “It's not about that.”

The utterance above occurred when Tiffany came to Blair’s office and brought a shredder machine along with the courier to place the machine. The utterance is ‘expressive’. Blair said his sorry, “I'm sorry I ruined our weekend”, because he spent the night shredding documents in the office, and Tiffany came to see if Blair’s doing okay. Tiffany’s reaction to Blair’s utterance was straightforward, she said, “It's not about that. Blair, I am obsessed with you. And when I see you getting pushed around, it makes me literally insane,” the context of ‘that’ in her utterance refers to ‘our weekend’ they are supposed to have, but because Blair works late in the office, Tiffany canceled their booking. She is okay with having the weekend ruined, but she is not okay having Blair working late at night again.

Directives

Blair’s directive is shown in the following example:

Excerpt 7

Blair : “Okay, fellas, I know this is a lot to shred tonight, but I feel like if we all work together, we can be done by midnight, so what do you say we, uh, we toss in for some din-din, huh? Huh? Pick a menu, any menu.”
Keith : “Oh, no, no, no. We're doing Thai.”

The utterance above occurred when Blair was in the office and he offered his officemates to pick a menu. The utterance is ‘directive’. Blair said to his coworkers, Keith, Wayne, and many more but none of them listened to Blair at all. What Blair said was a suggestion, “I feel like if we all work together, we can be done by midnight,” and he suggested that they could order a takeout, “so what do you say we, uh, we toss in for some din-din, huh? Huh? Pick a menu, any menu”. Keith’s perlocutionary effect was following Blair’s utterance, he rejected Blair’s suggestion to pick their dinner that night, which was supposedly a random takeout. Keith said, “Oh, no, no, no. We're doing Thai,” shows rejection in his utterance.

Commissives

Below is the example of Blair’s commissives:

Excerpt 8

Blair : “You're gay. I know you're gay. Ty told me. Ty told me everything. Yeah. I don't want to use that information against you, but if you don't

stop fucking with me, I will tell everyone, and I'll start with your family. Maybe your kids first. That seems right?"
 Keith : "I'm gay? That's fucking rich, coming from you."

The utterance above occurred when Blair met Keith while on his way to the elevator. Instead of a nice greeting and asked for the shredding report from Blair, Keith said "I'm your boss. I command you," and so this utterance happened. The utterance was categorized as 'commissives'. For the commissive part, Blair threatened Keith by saying, "but if you don't stop fucking with me, I will tell everyone, and I'll start with your family. Maybe your kids first. That seems right?". The perlocutionary act from Keith was a reaction, shocked, and Keith said, "I'm gay? That's fucking rich, coming from you."

4.3 Illocutionary Act by Dawn Darcy and their Perlocutionary Acts

The illocutionary acts found from Dawn Darcy are representatives, expressives, and directives.

Representatives

The following is the example of Dawn's representative:

Excerpt 9
 Dawn : "Well, I see a deal to be made. That's what I see. Isn't that why you brought me here?"
 Maurice : "No! I brought you here so that you wouldn't try to give it up to half the office. No, that's it, we're out."

The utterance above occurred when Maurice and Dawn met the twins, Larry and Lenny Leighman, to talk about the investment. However, Maurice did not want to continue the investment proposal with the twins because Maurice knew how tricky the twins' way of dealing with investment. Thus, Dawn's utterance, Excerpt 9, is 'representative'. Dawn is stating the fact that she saw a deal that is interestingly possible to be made, "Well, I see a deal to be made", but Maurice did not think so. Maurice replied "No! I brought you here so that you wouldn't try to give it up to half the office", which means that Maurice was listening to Dawn's utterance and answered Dawn's question, "Isn't that why you brought me here?".

Expressives

Dawn's expressive is shown in the following example:

Excerpt 10
 Dawn : "I just wanted to say thanks again. Partner."
 Maurice : "*Both laugh*"

The utterance above occurred when Maurice and Dawn were in Maurice's office. When Dawn wanted to say thank you to Maurice because of the Predator's Ball event, she could not say a word unless saying thank you to Maurice. The utterance is 'expressive'. Dawn expressed her feeling in this utterance, "I just wanted to say thanks again. Partner," which is a 'thank you' expression to say she is grateful for having Maurice as her partner. Maurice's reaction was laughing with Dawn, "*Both laugh*".

Directives

The following example is Dawn's directive:

Excerpt 11

- Dawn : “Dawn. Your partner. Mo, let's put emotions aside. Let's hear him out. We came all the way out here to make this deal.”
- Maurice : “All the way to sunny California, where I always get burned. Trust me, Dawn, they are going to fuck us, okay? Now, whether you can see it or not, I can.”

The utterance above occurred when Maurice is furious with meeting the twin brothers, Lanny and Lenny Leighman, so Not Milken #2 asks Dawn to cool Maurice down by helping him, and this utterance happened. The utterance is ‘directive’. Dawn said, “Mo, let’s put emotions aside,” is a suggestion for Maurice to put emotions away from the heated conversation and continue with, “Let’s hear him out. We came all the way out here to make this deal,” meaning that Dawn wants Maurice to follow her suggestion. Maurice’s reaction to Dawn’s utterance was not following the conversation. He said, “All the way to sunny California, where I always get burned.” There can be 2 meanings of ‘I always get burned’ in this utterance. First, it is a fact that in California people can be easily burned off the heat intensity, and second, Maurice refers it to Dawn’s utterance, “let’s put emotions aside”, which is supposedly not cooling his emotions down since he is already furious with meeting the twins, Larry and Lenny Leighman.

4.4 Illocutionary Act by Keith Shankar and their Perlocutionary Acts

The illocutionary acts found from Keith Shankar are representatives and directives.

Representatives

This is an example of Keith’s representative:

Excerpt 12

- Keith : “Is that what I think it is? I'm legitimately asking that question because I-I did not understand the invitation.”
- Maurice : “Y-yeah, it's a not-invitation, but yeah! That's what it is!”

The utterance above occurred when Maurice declared about the Predator's Ball invitation to Keith, Yassir, and Wayne. Keith seems interested in it, and asked where Excerpt 12 happened. The utterance is categorized as ‘representative’, because it is true. Keith was asking Maurice for ‘certainty’, because he asked “Is that what I think it is?”, which is a true statement that Keith does not know what kind of invitation it is, followed by the last sentence, “I-I did not understand the invitation”. Maurice’s reaction followed the conversation, “Y-yeah, it's a not-invitation, but yeah! That's what it is!,” showing that he answered Keith’s question, “Is that what I think it is?”.

Directives

Keith’s directive is shown in the following example:

Excerpt 13

- Keith : “No? I'm your boss. I command you.”
- Blair : “Your days of bullying me for no reason are over. All right?”

The utterance above occurred when Keith met Blair in the elevator hall. Instead of a nice answer from Blair, he insisted on rejecting Keith when Keith said “I'm your boss. I command you,” and so this utterance happened. This utterance is a ‘directive’. Keith was trying to know how Blair could possibly do all the shredding work overnight, “How'd you finish that? Show me, pantywaist,” instead of a good response, Keith was getting a straight ‘No’ from Blair. In this utterance, Keith commands Blair, “I'm your boss. I command you,” to speak the truth, because Keith still holds the position of a boss, which is higher than Blair. Blair’s response was

following Keith's utterance, which is "Your days of bullying me for no reason are over," and the utterance showed Blair's resentment towards Keith's act of bullying.

CONCLUSION

The findings of the study show the main characters mainly used representatives and directives to their interlocutors. Three characters, Maurice, Blair and Dawn, also used expressives in their utterances. Moreover, Maurice and Blair used commissives when they talked. Related to the perlocutionary act, following the main characters' utterances is the common perlocutionary act that is reacted by the interlocutors in responses to the illocutionary acts of the main characters.

In conclusion, status and ethnic superiority on *Black Monday* influenced the utterances when main characters said to their interlocutors. Since this study was a small case based on one episode on a scripted TV series, further research on a larger scale involving more episodes of TV series or other media-based data is recommended.

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