

THE ILLOCUTIONARY AND PERLOCUTIONARY ACTS PRODUCED BY THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF “THE INTERNSHIP” MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This study is about the types of illocutionary and perlocutionary acts produced by the main characters of “The Internship” movie, especially in the interview scene when Billy and Nick as the main characters are having an online interview. The theory that the writer uses in this study is Searle & Vanderveken’s theory about speech act in order to analyze his data. This qualitative research revealed the writer’s method which he uses in doing the analysis of his data. The types of illocutionary act produced by Billy and Nick as the main characters are Assertive, Directive, Commissive, and Expressive. Furthermore, the study revealed that the perlocutionary act produced by the other main characters to decide Billy and Nick’s illocution is preferred and dispreferred social acts. To conclude, by reading this study, readers will be able to understand the use of speech acts by the main characters of “The internship” movie.

Keywords: Illocutionary act, Perlocutionary act, Preference structure

INTRODUCTION

People use language in order to communicate and achieve the goal with other people. Language has the most important role to receive and send the message or purpose to other people. Language is always influenced by a number of social factors, such as, participants, social setting, status of the relationship and purpose of the conversation, which define the relationship between the participants (Wardhaugh, 1995). Although people do not know about the function of language that they use when communicating with other people, every speech that people use when they are communicating with other people has its meaning in order to get the goal about what they want. A conversation occurs when people are communicating with one another.

In conversation, there will be always the speakers and listeners. The conversation usually covers a number of topics and involves shift from one topic to another topic, and sometimes also mixed topics (Wardhaugh, 1995). When we are talking about communication, people always produce utterances as the process of communicating. Furthermore, utterances have the function to indicate what speakers’ purposes are. Thus, utterances themselves are the part of the speech act which is locutionary act. Speech acts are action performed via utterances in English and commonly gives more specific labels, such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise, or request (Yule, 2008).

One thing that is interesting in analyzing speech acts is using the movie as the main source of the data. It is because movie is the suitable data based on principal of linguistics. The writer chose “The Internship” movie as his main data in analyzing the speech acts. It is because he wanted to know the types of illocutionary acts produced by the main characters, Billy and Nick, in this movie in order to succeed in answering the questions in the interview scene. Also, he would like to see the types of perlocutionary acts produced by the interviewers and the Google staffs in order to decide Billy and Nick’s acceptance in following the internship program after answering the question in the interview scene and the meeting scene.

There are five types of illocutionary acts based on Searle & Vanderveken’s theory. They are Assertive, Commissive, Directive, Declarative, and Expressive from Searle & Vanderveken (2009). Assertive is used to say how things are. In the utterance of assertive, the speaker presents a proposition as representing an actual state of affair in the world utterance. The psychological state expressed in all assertive illocutions is belief. Commissive is used to commit the speaker to do something. In the utterance with directive, the speaker attempts to get the hearer to carry out course of action represented by the propositional content. Directive expresses what the speaker wants. In all directives illocutions, there is a mode of achievement that the speaker invokes his power or authority

to perform the declaration and the speaker has the power or authority to change the world by the performance of the appropriate utterance act. Expressive is used to express feeling and attitudes.

Perlocutionary act is an utterance that has the function to have an effect (Yule, 2008, p. 48-49). To help understanding the perlocutionary act, the writer would like to review the preference structure theory from Yule. Preference here means as the effect of an adjacency pair in which more likely become acceptance rather than refusal for the result. Adjacency pair here is a unit of conversation that contains an exchange of one turn each by two speakers (Yule, 2008, p. 76-77). There are two types of preference structure which are preferred and dispreferred social acts. Preferred social act is the positive feedback while dispreferred social act is the negative feedback. Context is also used in this study to help the writer in analyzing the data of utterances. When the context occurs in the illocutionary act, it will be called as the context of utterance. We need this notion primarily because the same sentence can be uttered in different contexts to perform different illocutionary acts.

METHODS

In this research, the writer used qualitative approach. The reason that the writer used qualitative approach was in the part of analysis, the writer analyzed the utterances used by the main characters in the interview scene. Also, the writer analyzed the meeting scene between the Google staffs to decide for the acceptance of Nick and Billy. For the source of data, the writer used the soft copy file of “The Internship” film. The type of data that the writer uses is the utterances of the conversation in the interview and meeting scenes.

The subjects for this research were Nick and Billy as the main characters in the film “The Internship”. Nick and Billy previously were the salesmen at Atlanta-based-watch Company. The other subject who was important is Lyle. Lyle was one of the members of Google company who was involved in having the meeting between the other Google staffs. He also became the leader of Nick and Billy’s group as a coach. The instrument of this research was the writer himself. It is because he analyzed the data and was directly involved in analyzing the utterances in “The Internship” film in order to get the result of the analysis of the utterances in the interview and meeting scenes.

First of all, the writer played the soft copy file of “The Internship” film that the writer had already had. Then, the writer was watching the film and searched the online interview scene and meeting scene in which the interview that Nick and Billy have and the meeting between the Google staffs to decide whether Nick and Billy could be accepted or not to follow the internship. The writer chose those scenes to be observed. Then, the writer transcribed, checked, and completed the script of the two scenes. After that, the writer labeled each utterance produced by Billy and Nick used as the writer’s data and by doing the system of numbering.

The writer gave three digits number which helps the writer in doing the analysis in the table. The first digit of number refers to the character’s name from the main characters and so on. The second digit refers to the order of dialog from the each character that the writer analyzed. The third digit refers to the order of scenes. After deciding the utterances that the writer used, the writer wrote the interview and meeting script. Thus, the writer moved all the transcripts to the table of the analysis which the writer explained in the method of data analysis part.

Furthermore, he analyzed by looking at the contexts of the utterances, and then he determined the types of illocutionary act used by Billy and Nick. In doing the analysis, the writer used Searle & Vanderveken’s theory to determine the types of illocutionary act. Next, the writer analyzed the types of perlocutionary act produced by the other main characters. To analyze the types of perlocutionary act, the writer looked at also the contexts of the utterances.

In this research, the writer explains about the steps that the writer did with his analysis. First of all, the writer identified the context of the conversation. Then, the writer analyzed the function of utterance to find out the illocutionary act types and the perlocutionary acts based on the context. Last of all, the writer made the tables in order to analyze the type of illocutionary acts and perlocutionary acts.

3.1. Table of Analysis

Number/ Name	Utterance	Illocutionary Act	Perlocutionary Act on Billy and Nick’s Illocution	Note
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After that, the writer presented the result of findings to the next table.

3.2. Table of the Result of Analysis of Billy and Nick’s Illocution

Speaker	Illocutionary Act				
	Assertive	Commissive	Declarative	Directive	Expressive

3.3. Table of the Result of Analysis of the Other Main Character’s Perlocution

Speaker	Perlocutionary Effect	
	Preferred	Dispreferred

Those two tables are the tables to show the result of findings.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 4.1. Billy and Nick’s Illocutionary Acts

Speaker	Illocutionary Act				
	Assertive	Commissive	Directive	Declarative	Expressive
Billy	√	√	√	-	√
Nick	√	√	√	-	√

Table 4.1. shows Billy and Nick uses the same types of illocutionary act which are Assertive, Commissive, Directive, and Expressive.

The example of Billy’s assertive is provided to support the result of findings.

Benjamin: What’s that?

Billy: For the second plus reflects my attitude of how I felt about the C+. It was a typing class. Same principle, just no engine in the baby. But it’s more like “quick brown fox”. You know put your hands in the basin. But the helped me when I started my journey into computers, because I knew where to put my hands clearly.

Billy is trying to answer Benjamin’s question as the interviewer about coding ability. Furthermore, Benjamin asks Billy about the program that Billy uses in doing the coding. After that, Billy is a bit confused and Benjamin tells him about what program that he means by “C++” actually. However, Billy does not agree that the name is “C++” and that is why Billy then answers “C+” by explaining to Benjamin what “C+” is. When explaining what “C+” is, we can see that Billy uses one of the types of illocutionary act which is Assertive. Assertive here has the function to rebut what Billy has disagreed about Benjamin’s explanation. It is because Billy feels about what Benjamin says is incorrect and that is why he tries to rebut him by informing the reasons.

The example of Billy’s commissive is provided to support the result of findings.

Benjamin and Allison: What? What?

Billy: I’ll recap. We started in a blender, now we’re saving lives!

The data is the underlined utterance and the context of this conversation is still in the interview scene. The time is in the afternoon and the situation is when Billy answers the question from Benjamin about being stuck inside the blender. From those conversations above, it is when Benjamin and Allison is getting confused because of Billy and Nick’s explanation. Thus, Benjamin and Allison use the expression of getting confused by saying “What” at that time. Furthermore, when both of them are getting confused, Billy repeats his statement again to assure Benjamin and Allison. The expression of “I’ll recap” here shows Billy’s promise as Commissive type. It is because Billy

wants to commit himself to do the future action by recapping what Billy has explained to Benjamin and Allison.

The example of Billy's directive is provided to support the result of findings.

Benjamin: If you don't have a webcam on your computer, how do you do coding ability?

Billy: Coding ability?

The data are the whole underlined utterances, and this conversation occurs when Benjamin is asking the program that Billy used to do coding. Thus, Billy is asking Benjamin about what coding ability is. Here, Billy's utterance has the function to show the question to be questioned to Benjamin as the form of directive type. It is because as the writer has explained that the question form is usually directive type. So, in this utterance, Billy uses the question form that actually has the intention to give the order to Benjamin to answer this question and that is why the question form is always directive type based on Searle & Vanderveken's theory.

The example of Billy's expressive is provided to support the result of the findings.

Benjamin and Allison: What? What?

Billy: I'll recap. We started in a blender, now we're saving lives!

Here, Billy uses the expressive type because of his facial expression too. From his facial expression, it helps him to show the feeling of happiness by telling this utterance to Benjamin and Allison. This context is when Billy is trying to rebut the answer from Benjamin and Allison that Billy and Nick are stuck inside the blender then they cannot save people's lives in the submarine.

The example of Nick's assertive is provided to support the result of findings.

Billy: Stiff as a board, light as a feather.

Nick: Like it's a fan. Let the wind whip.

The data are the underlined utterances. This conversation occurs when Benjamin is asking about what Billy and Nick are going to do when they are being stuck inside the blender. Thus, Billy answer that he will be stiff and light inside the blender and then Nick is adding the information also. Here, Nick's illocution has the function to tell about the opinion to Benjamin as the form of Assertive type.

The example of Nick's commissive is provided to support the result of findings.

Billy: Even the Germans...

Nick: Yeah, even a Braun will only run non-stop for 10 or 11 hours. So we'll get out and when we do, we're better off, because what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

The findings are in the underlined utterances and the context is in the interview scene. The time is in the afternoon and the place is still at the public library. This conversation happens when Billy adds Nick's explanation about the best model blender in Germany. Thus, Nick agrees about what Billy says that Braun is the blender brand from Germany which has the best quality. Furthermore, Nick tells about the reason that blender should not have been on forever. From the utterance "So we'll get out and when we do...", it shows that Nick commits himself with Billy that they will get out from the blender after 10 to 11 hours.

The example of Nick's directive is provided to support the result of findings.

Nick: Is there rum?

Billy: Is it a smoothie?

The data are the underlined utterance and this conversation occurs when Billy and Nick are asking about the condition inside the blender. Furthermore, Billy's utterance here has the function as directive type because he is asking about something to Benjamin.

The example of Nick's expressive is provided to support the result of findings.

Benjamin: Okay, let's say it's empty.

Nick: Sure.

The data are the underlined utterances and this conversation occurs when Benjamin gives the clue about the condition inside the blender. Thus, Nick says with his utterance "Sure". The word "sure" here expresses Billy's happiness because it seems that the clue is helping him in answering the question from his facial expression too. Another example is showed below.

Nick: You guys led us to this. Thank you.

Benjamin: I think we've gotten a little far afield.

The data are the underlined utterance and this conversation happens when Nick thanks to Benjamin and Allison for giving the clue. Thus, Benjamin told him that his answer is out of the topic.

From Nick’s utterance which “Thank you”, it shows that Billy uses the expressive type about thanking someone.

Table 4.2. Benjamin, Allison, Mr. Chetty, Sid, Dana, Elenaor, and Lyle’s Perlocutionary Acts

Speaker	Perlocutionary Act	
	Preferred	Dispreferred
Benjamin	√	√
Allison	√	√
Mr. Chetty	-	√
Sid	√	-
Dana	-	√
Elenaor	-	√
<i>Lyle</i>	√	-

According to this table, we can see that Benjamin and Allison produce the preferred and dispreferred social acts, Mr. Chetty produces the dispreferred social acts, Sid produces the preferred social acts, Dana produces the dispreferred social acts, Elenaor produces the dispreferred social acts, and Lyle produces the preferred social acts. For each of examples, readers can see from the appendix part on the writer’s thesis. What the writer would like to explain about the result of perlocutionary acts here is from Lyle’s perlocutionary acts. For the others, the reader can read from the appendix in the writer’s thesis.

Below here is one of the example of Nick’s preferred social acts that make Billy and Nick are accepted in following the internship program.

Lyle: I’m sorry, but you read their resumes, right? They have more years... ..of sales and life experience than the age of most of our interns. Not mentioned, our final judgment is always based on the Layover Test, right? Who would you rather sit with at and airport bar for a 6-hour delay? The then millionth kid who knows if you shrink your strength-to-weight ratio you can jump higher? Duh, Or the out-of-the-box thinkers who turned being stuck in a blender into and advantage.

The data are the underlined utterances and the context is in the meeting scene. The time is between in the morning and afternoon also the place is in the meeting room of Google company. These utterances are produced by Lyle when he gives his explanation about his opinion that Billy and Nick should be accepted in following the internship program. Lyle expresses his opinion to all of the members of the meeting and the fact is all of the members do not agree to accept Billy and Nick. However, those of Lyle’s utterances here actually can be the response to Billy and Nick’s illocutionary that praises Billy and Nick’s illocutionary acts in answering the questions in the interview scene and he likes Billy and Nick very much because of Billy and Nick’s resumes and performance in working as watch salesmen previously.

The writer gives the italic form on the Lyle’s findings because he wants to highlight Lyle’s perlocutionary in discussing why Billy and Nick can be accepted in following the internship program. If we see from all the types of perlocutionary act produced by the other characters as the response on Billy and Nick’s illocutionary on the appendix part, we can see that Lyle’s perlocutionary is the preferred social act as the determining perlocutionary that makes Billy and Nick are accepted in following the internship program.

It is because Lyle’s perlocutionary acts here can change the mindset of the other members of the meeting and the interviewers in the interview scene to accept Billy and Nick although it is not showed in the film scene that Benjamin and Allison as the interviewers also agree with Lyle’s opinion. However, all of types of perlocutionary act by the other characters and Lyle also determine in making Billy and Nick are accepted if we see from the film that Billy and Nick are accepted in following the internship program, and they are accepted to work at Google company in the end of the film after following the internship program.

It is because Lyle’s perlocutionary which determines Billy and Nick in following the internship program cannot occur without the other main characters’ perlocutionary acts. The reason

is it has been the plot of the film in producing Billy, Nick, and the other main characters' utterance like that as the process in making Billy and Nick succeed to follow the internship program.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion, in the writer's research, he would like to find out from "The Internship" movie about the types of illocutionary acts produced by Billy and Nick as the main characters in order to answer the questions from the interviewers when they have an online interview. Also, the writer would like to find out about the types of perlocutionary acts produced by the other characters who are involved in determining whether Billy and Nick can be accepted in following the internship program.

The writer found out that Billy and Nick use the same types of illocutionary act in answering the questions. They are Assertive, Commissive, Directive, and Expressive. It is because when both of them are answering the questions, the answers are the continuous answers. It means that their answers are related to each other. When Nick is explaining the answers, Billy also adds what Nick says and otherwise. Thus, the writer also found out about the types of perlocutionary act produced by the other main characters instead of Billy and Nick in order to decide whether Billy and Nick can be accepted in following the internship program. From the result of the findings, Mr. Chetty as the head of the meeting in the meeting scene produces the dispreferred social act as the form of perlocutionary act. It is based on the scene after he watched the result of the interview about Billy and Nick. Next, Sid produces the preferred social act, Dana produces the dispreferred social act, Elenaor produces the dispreferred social act, and Lyle produces the preferred social act.

The writer found out that Lyle's perlocutionary act is the most determining perlocutionary act that makes Billy and Nick be accepted to follow the internship program. Lyle produces the preferred social act based on Billy and Nick's illocution. He gives the positive feedback about Billy and Nick's illocution indirectly. It is because Lyle likes the way Billy and Nick in answering the questions. He also sees from Billy and Nick's resumes which actually can be considered to accept them. This study provides some inputs for those who are interested in researching films through speech act theory. The writer hopes this study can help readers who want to research about speech act in the future.

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