

Speech Acts in Emma Watson's Interview with *People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN)*

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ABSTRACT

Speech acts are very important in daily conversation. In this study, the writer analyzes Emma Watson's speech acts in the interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN). The analysis used speech acts theory by Searle (1969, as cited in Yule, 1996). The writer found that the speaker only used three types of speech acts, which are representatives, expressives, and commissives. The writer found that the most frequently used type of speech acts were representatives. The writer did not find the declarations and directives types in Emma's speech since Emma did not have the authority or some kind of institutional role to be able to affect and change a certain condition through her utterances. In the interview, she also did not need help that required her to order someone to do something for her. Therefore, the writer found that the most frequently used type of speech acts were representatives.

Keywords: Emma Watson, interview, speech acts

INTRODUCTION

Communication is an important aspect in humans' lives. According to Kendre (2021), communication plays an important role in relationships with others. Communication helps someone to have a good relationship with others by understanding others and also being understood by others (Kendre, 2021). People use words and sentences to communicate with other people in order to convey opinion, give information, express feelings, ask questions, ask for help, order someone to do something, and many more. This topic about communication inspires the writer to do an analysis regarding the way people communicate with others. The writer wants to comprehend how people can use different types of speech acts based on Yule (1996), namely declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives, which leads to the study of speech acts in this research.

Speech acts were first stated by Austin (1962) which was then systematized by Searle (1969). Austin (1962) introduces three acts, namely locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Levinson (1983) writes that Searle in fact is not satisfied with this classification method and proposes several kinds of action that a person can perform in communicating. Instead of stating as illocutionary acts, Searle (1969) later used the terms speech acts to refer to them and classified them into five types as follows: declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives (Searle, 1969, as cited in Yule, 1996).

The aim of this study is to analyze speech acts. The writer wants to analyze speech acts used by Emma Watson in the interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN). The writer thinks that the interview is an example of a good film promotion. Film promotion can be done in various ways such as press conferences, advertisements, social media, interviews, and trailers. These strategies can be used to raise public awareness and attract people to watch the movie (Tiffany, 2024). The writer is interested in analyzing the speech acts as found in the interview of Emma Watson with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN). This is because the interview is considered as one of the ways to promote the live-action

adaptation of *Beauty and The Beast*. In this study, the writer seeks to identify the types of speech acts used by Emma Watson in the interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN). The writer also seeks to identify the most frequently used type of speech act by Emma Watson in the interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN).

METHODS

The writer used a qualitative approach to analyze the data. The source of data was Emma Watson's interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN), focusing on Emma Watson, and the data were Emma Watson's utterances containing speech acts in the video. The interview, *New Interview of Emma Watson with People/EW Network!* (Emma W. Thailand, 2017), was taken from a platform called YouTube. The writer analyzed the utterances of Emma Watson in the interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN) video as the unit of analysis. The writer used a two-digit numbering system to number the data. The first digit represented the number of utterances said by the speaker. The second digit represented which speech acts classification was being discussed. The writer analyzed the data based on speech acts theory by Searle (1969, as cited in Yule, 1996).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter presents the result of the data analysis. The writer analyzed the data using speech acts theory by Searle (1969, as cited in Yule, 1996). The writer divided the fourth chapter into two sections. The first section explains the types of speech acts used by Emma Watson in the interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN), and the second section explains the most frequently used type of speech acts by Emma Watson in the interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN).

Types of Speech Acts Used by Emma Watson in the Interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN)

The writer found that the speaker used three types of speech acts namely representatives, expressives, and commissives. The detailed explanation and examples are provided below.

Representatives

The writer includes the interviewer's utterances in order to make it easier for the reader to understand the context of the conversation between the speaker and the interviewer.

Example:

Interviewer: I mean it's a very old story goes back there have been versions of Beauty and the Beast going back to the second century, and it's, you know, there's been some criticism of it that it's like a woman in an abusive relationship, I can save him, I don't really see it that way I presume you don't either but, why, what do you say to that type of concern that it suggests to girls stay stick with that abusive boyfriend, maybe you can fix him, why do you think that's not the case?

Emma: It's such a good question,

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(37.2) Emma: **and it was something I really grappled with at the beginning, the kind of Stockholm Syndrome question about this story, so I did some reading about Stockholm Syndrome.**

(38.2) Emma: **Stockholm Syndrome is where a prisoner will take on, will kind of like take on the characteristics of and fall in love with in this sort of really strange way they're capped on.**

(39.2) Emma: **Belle actively argues and disagrees with him constantly. She has none of the characteristics of someone with Stockholm Syndrome, because she keeps her independence, she keeps her independence of mind, and I also think that there is a very intentional switch where in my mind Belle decides to stay.**

(40.2) Emma: **She gives as good as she gets, you know, he bangs on the door, she bangs back, and she, you know, and she, there's this defiance that, you know, you think I'm going to come and eat dinner with you and I'm your prisoner, absolutely not, and, you know, it's only when they, and I think that's the other beautiful thing about the love story is that they form a friendship first,**

(41.2) Emma: **and it's and that gap in the middle where there is this genuine sharing in this real friendship, the love builds out of that, which in many ways I actually think is more meaningful than a lot of love stories where it was love at first sight and you're dealing with all of these kind of projections,**

(42.2) Emma: **Beast and Belle begin their love story really irritating each other and really not liking each other very much, slowly builds to friendship, slowly slowly slowly very slowly build to them falling in love,**

(43.2) Emma: **that is a big problem with a lot of traditionally written fairy tales is that you're like, so the girl's just going to give up her entire existence and everything that's important to her for this guy, that's, you know, and that seems to be like, this recurring theme which is like whoa, this is, you know...**

The utterances number 37.2, 38.2, 39.2, 40.2, 41.2, 42.2, and 43.2 above are classified as representatives. Through her statements above, Emma explained that Belle does not have the characteristics of someone with Stockholm syndrome. She also explained that one of the beauties of the love story between Beast and Belle lies in their friendship which then develops into a beautiful love story. Emma also expressed her opinion where she sees the love story of Beast and Belle as a more meaningful story compared to love stories about love at first sight. Emma's utterances above are in accordance with the characteristics of representative acts that focus on what the speaker believes to be true in a form of assertion and statement of fact. Utterance 37.2 is classified as a representative with the characteristic of a statement of fact. Using keywords like "it was something I really grappled with" and "I did some reading" shows that the utterances were based on her personal experience that happened in the past. Utterance 38.2 is classified as a representative with the characteristic of a statement of fact. In this utterance, she explained the definition of Stockholm Syndrome based on her reading which makes the definition considered as a fact. Utterances 39.2, 40.2, 41.2, 42.2, and 43.2 are classified as representatives with the characteristic of assertions. Even without some keywords, utterances 39.2, 40.2, 41.2, 42.2, and 43.2 still contain her personal opinions and views about the character and the love story that match the characteristic of assertion. Another example of representative acts can be seen below.

Expressives

Example:

Interviewer: You've been through this yourself on the other side of it though handing off Hermione Granger to Noma Dumezweni on Harry Potter and the cursed child, you've met her and talked, what are your conversations like about Hermione now this is a character you both share?

(51.3) Emma: Ah, it was so strange, it was so emotional, seeing Noma's performance in a way that I had not anticipated at all,

(52.3) Emma: I went to the play like really just like, oh no this will be great, I'll be interested to see, and didn't even realize until she walked in the room and just spontaneous just burst into tears.

(53.3) Emma: It was such an emotional moment for me, I can't tell you, but it made me, it was such a relief, because I think I'd played that character so intensely up until that point to know that Hermione was going to be okay, I know it sounds crazy, but like to know that everything turned out alright, and the world everything the world was okay, and that there was someone else carrying her on and carrying her forward, and it was just such a relief, it made me so happy,

(54.3) Emma: because otherwise, I don't know, playing someone that, I mean we get that little flash forward at the end of the last film, but playing someone that kind of just gets stuck in time at 20 years old 19 years old was like, no, like I wanted her to have a future.

Interviewer: Well you see so many years of her life back to back to back and then nothing, so it was sort of a relief, you obviously care a lot about the character...

(55.3) Emma: Yeah, it was a relief, and again I just feel so so lucky to play someone I sort of care about as much as I care about Hermione, and that kind in a way feels like does feel like an extension of the some of the essence of Hermione too.

Interviewer: When you talk to her do you feel like you have a mutual friend in Hermione, like you both know her so well?

(56.3) Emma: Yeah, oh definitely, and that was the other weird thing is that Noma was a complete stranger but then I felt like I'd known forever. It was really, I can't tell you, like there was just an instant like intimacy, connection, oh we're totally on the same, you know, yeah, it's crazy.

The utterances number 51.3, 52.3, 53.3, 54.3, 55.3 and 56.3 above are classified as expressives. Through her statements above, Emma shared how she felt very emotional when she saw Noma's performance as Hermione Granger in Harry Potter and The Cursed Child. She felt very relieved to know that Hermione Granger and the wizarding world were in good condition. Emma also said that she really wanted Hermione to have a bright future because Hermione was a very important character to her. Emma also explained how she felt a close connection with Noma even though she had only just met her. Emma's utterances above are in accordance with the characteristics of expressive act which includes the speaker's feelings.

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Commissives

Example:

Interviewer: Did you read the book before you read the script?

Emma: No I hadn't, so I read the book and it just gave me this weird compulsion,

(90.5) Emma: I was like, I have to tell this story,

Emma: you know, I, oh my God, if I don't do this nothing else makes sense,

(92.5) Emma: like I don't want to spend my time doing anything other than making sure that this movie gets made.

Interviewer: I must go to Pittsburgh.

(93.5) Emma: I must go to Pittsburgh, I must get funding for this movie,

The utterances number 90.5, 92.5, and 93.5 above are classified as commissives. Through her statements above, Emma talked about one of the films she starred in, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. She also stated her commitment several times, showing that this project is a very important and meaningful project for her. Emma's utterances above are in accordance with the characteristics of commissive act which focus on the speaker's commitment to fulfil particular future action.

The Most Frequently Used Type of Speech Act in the Interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN)

In this section, the writer shows the result of the analysis, specifically the most frequently used type of speech acts by Emma Watson in the interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN). The writer found that the most frequently used type of speech acts were representatives. A summary table of the use of speech acts can be seen below.

Table 4.1
Totality of Emma Watson's Speech Acts

Speech Acts	Token (utterance)	Frequency
Representatives	82	73,87%
Expressives	25	22,52%
Commissives	4	3,60%
Declarations	0	0
Directives	0	0

The writer found that the most used type of speech acts was representatives with a frequency of 73,87%, followed by expressives with a frequency of 22,52% and commissives with a frequency of 3,60%. The writer did not find the declarations and directives type in Emma's speech.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the writer found that in the interview with People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN), Emma Watson only used three types of speech acts, namely representatives, expressives, and commissives, and the most frequently used type of speech acts by Emma Watson is representatives. This is mainly because in the interview, Emma Watson most of the time shared her experiences as an actress and how she has memorable stories in every role she plays. She also explained a lot of her views and opinions about character development and feminism which ultimately made Emma tend to use the representative type in her speech. However, Emma also often used the expressives type when she said something related to her feelings, such as her emotional experience with Noma Dumezweni as her fellow Hermione Granger actor. Emma also used the commissives type several times when she said sentences that contained her personal commitment, especially when she talked about *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.

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