

FELICITY CONDITIONS IN SPEECH ACT FROM THE “KNIVES OUT” MOVIE: A PPRAGMATIC STUDY

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Abstract:

This study is entitled "Felicity Conditions in Speech Acts from the "KNIVES OUT" Movie: A Pragmatic Study". The research method used is descriptive qualitative because this research aims to classify, explain and summarize an utterance that appears in a film. The source of the data taken is the utterances that appear in the transcript of the film Knives Out in 2019. Based on the analysis that has been carried out, a total of 45 data types of speech acts have been obtained that consisting in directive action 24 data appear in the film consisting of ordering, commanding, questioning, and requesting forms of speech (53.4%); 8 assertive action data consisting of stating, affirming, asserting (20%); then in commissive action found 7 data consisting of suggest, promise, warn, confirm, offer, and intend (15.5%); and finally, 5 data were found with expressive actions (11.1%) consisting of greeting, condolence, apologies, and thanking; However, in this study, there were no declarations made during the film (0%). Apart from that, the data sources that have been analyzed based on speech acts have fulfilled the conditions of felicity, including the preparatory condition, which contains 19 data (42.3%), Essential Condition 15 data (33.3%), Sincerity Condition 10 (22.2%), and Propositional Content Condition as much as 1 data (2.2%). From these two discussions, the utterances in the directive action dominate more than the other actions, and the preparatory condition dominates the feeling condition.



Keyword: speech act, felicity condition, illocutionary act.

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INTRODUCTION

Language is an essential instrument in communication and can be used when someone wants to express something, such as an opinion, statement or question. Thus, a person's interaction with other people can be facilitated by the existence of language that can be used to communicate freely. Language can also be referred to as rules that result from all aspects of a situation, such as who the speaker and listener are, where the language is used or occurs, and the speaker's intentions and mood. Therefore, language is critical for humans to communicate and understand what is being said or the Meaning conveyed. Apart from that, the language used can be

interpreted as linguistics related to pragmatics. Pragmatics is the science of language that studies the Meaning of an utterance in which a speaker says something to a speech partner that contains a separate meaning.

According to Yule (1996), uttering an utterance does not only contain the words spoken by the speaker but also the actions carried out through the speaker's speech (Yule, 1996). A speech act is an utterance of a sentence to state that a speaker's intent is known to the listener. Speech acts are also a linguistic study that examines how speakers use language to achieve desired actions and how listeners infer the intended meaning of what is said. When pronouncing a sentence, speakers engage in three actions: locution, illocution, and perlocution. Meanwhile, there are five different forms of illocutionary acts: assertive, directive, commissive, declarative and expressive. These five types can be found in conversation, especially in film dialogue.

In this analysis, the researcher focuses on the types of speech acts that appear in the film dialogue and several Felicity Conditions that are found. In uttering an utterance, there are sentences related to speech acts. They can be seen from the way a speaker makes an utterance, for example, giving a statement (stating), which means a representative action; ordering (command), which is included in a directive action; advising (advice), which is a commissive action, and apologizing (sorry) which is included in expressive actions and many more forms of speech that will appear in specific actions. The four types of speech can be categorized into an illocutionary speech act. Other than that, of the four speech acts that appear, a condition conditions a speaker and the addressee called the election. The felicity condition is a requirement that must be fulfilled regarding the actions uttered by the speaker or what is usually called felicitous. If these four actions do not meet the requirements of the felicity condition, then the utterance is considered not to meet the requirements of the unfelicitous felicity condition.

The purposes and benefits of this research include explaining the types of illocutionary speech acts found in the characters' performances in the "KNIVES OUT" movie and explaining the Felicity Conditions contained in that movie. Besides that, it is hoped to increase the insight of the readers of this thesis regarding illocutionary speech acts and felicity conditions. It is also essential that this research was created so that it can be used as a reference in research that will be carried out in the future. The research questions of this study are formulated as below:

1. What are the types of illocutionary speech acts in the movie "KNIVES OUT"?
2. What are the felicity conditions in the movie "KNIVES OUT"?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pragmatics

According to Levinson (1983: 5), pragmatics is the study of language use (Levinson, 1983). A quote by Haq (2015) responded that Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the Meaning conveyed by speakers or writers and then interpreted by interlocutors or readers, both orally and in writing (Haq, 2015). Yule (1996) says that this study needs to involve interpretation of what a speaker means in a specific context and how that context influences what has been said (Yule, 1996).

Austin (1962) states that the study of pragmatics is related to the Meaning and definition of various roles with different communicative tasks given by speakers in a way interpreted by readers or listeners. This approach focuses on the Meaning of words in interaction and how the interactants communicate more information than the dictionary meaning of the words they use (Austin, 1962).

In addition, Mey (2001: 3) stated that Pragmatics is a science that relates to language and its users (Mey, 2001). It means that pragmatics does not just mean saying something to a speech partner, but rather, the utterances uttered by the speaker have Meaning in the language itself.

Speech Acts

In the book entitled "Concise Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Language" written by Michael (1997:454), there are quotes from two linguistic experts named Labov and Fanshel (1977:30); they state that speech acts are part of social interaction behaviour and must be interpreted as an aspect of social interaction (Michael, 1997). According to Yule (1996: 82), actions carried out through speech are generally called speech acts. They are generally given more specific labels in English, such as apologies, complaints, praise, invitations, promises, or requests (Yule, 1996).

According to Searle in the journal Ambroise 2010 entitled "From Speech Act Theory to Pragmatics", he explains that one can perform a speech act only if one manifests one's intention to do it by using such a sentence and if one manifests one's intention to undertake all the commitments of the speech act one intends to perform. It means that if someone wants to make their wish come true, they can carry it out through words (Ambroise, 2010).

Illocutionary Act

Based on the theory written by Yule (1996), he argues that an illocutionary act is an action produced by a speaker to make the hearer do something expected by the speaker and impact the hearer. In addition, he also argues that illocutionary acts are carried out through the communicative power of an utterance (Yule, 1996). In a book entitled "Mind Language and Society" written by Searle and John (1998) divides illocutionary speech acts into five parts, including:

Assertive

In this action, the speaker has the authority to respond to what has happened because the speaker can make a statement or affirmation to the speaker. In the theory cited by Searle (1998), he argues that to bring about a representative action, the speaker can bind the truth of a proposition to the speaker. Assertive actions can also be seen from the truth or falsity of the utterances made by the speaker (Searle, 1998). Another opinion Anne Barron (2003) put forward argues that in representative action, the speaker commits that the propositional content of an utterance is considered valid (Barron, 2003).

Directive

The following action described by linguist Searle (1998) is a directive action where the illocutionary point of the directive itself is that the speaker tries to make the speaker behave in such a way as to make his behaviour conform to the propositional content of the directive action. This action can be interpreted as a speaker expressing what they are asking for (Searle, 1998).

Commissive

In his explanation, Searle (1998) argues that every commissive action can be ascertained to commit the speaker to carry out the action represented in the propositional content, for example, making a promise, vows, pledge, contract, and guarantee. A threat can also be included in an example of commissive action, but it is

different from the examples previously mentioned, and even that is contrary to the interests and interests of a speaker (Searle, 1998). Cruse (2000) states that the Commissive makes the speaker perform some action in the future. It can be a promise, oath, offer, responsibility, contract, or threat (Cruse, 2000).

Expressive

In a book by Searle (1998) entitled "Mind, Language and Society," he reveals that this action can express a condition of sincerity from a speaker. The illocutionary intent of this action is to express a psychological state determined in terms of sincerity about a condition specified in the propositional content (Searle, 1998).

Declaration

The last action is the declaration; the action is a type of speech act that changes the world through speech (Yule, 1996). The performative and other declarations create states simply by representing them as the speaker has made them. Another example by one linguist, Cook (1992), on this act is swearing an oath, convicting a criminal, opening a building, arresting a criminal, and naming a ship. The utterance "I sentence you to death" carries out the function of punishing someone to death, which is only performed (in particular legal systems) by this utterance. However, speech can be successful if it has a specific function if certain external conditions are met. The condition that must be met is known as the felicity condition (Cook, 1992).

Felicity Conditions

Felicity Condition is a condition necessary for the success of a speech act. Austin (1962) states that the condition of felicity is the context and role of participants that all parties must acknowledge; the action must be carried out thoroughly, and the people must have the right intentions. That is, the condition of felicity in a speech act is related to the terms and criteria that must be met for an utterance to achieve the goal of the utterance itself (Austin, 1962). Searle (1996) has set some more detailed rules about the felicity condition in every illocutionary acts. He states that several conditions must be met for a speech to run well. These rules are mostly related to the psychological aspects and beliefs of the speakers and listeners, and each must be fulfilled to create an appropriate action. The rules are propositional content, preparatory conditions, sincerity conditions, and essential conditions, as explained below. According to Austin (In Muhammad & Simatupang 2022), A conventional procedure that is being invoked must exist and be accepted, and that procedure must include the utterance of certain words by certain people in certain circumstances. The particular persons and circumstances in a given case must also be appropriate for the invocation of the conventional procedure that is being invoked (Muhamad & Simatupang, 2022).

Propositional Content Condition

According to Searle (1998), propositional content conditions describe the illocutionary power that determines the acceptable conditions for propositional content. In other words, propositional content is the condition that the speaker or listener proposes. (Searle, 1998). Searle (1970) in Yunita & Simatupang (2022) also states propositional condition limitations that relate to the subject of the utterance; it must be about things that will influence what the speaker will do in the future. For example, in the case of a

warning, the propositional substance is unambiguous: "You should not be late." (Yunita & Simatupang, 2022)

Preparatory Condition

According to Searle (1998), To perform an adequate illocutionary act, the speaker must have particular beliefs about the speaker's actions and conditions, as well as authority over the speech partner (Searle, 1998). Searle (1969) (in Yuliarti 2021) states that the preparatory condition is the prerequisite for the speaker to speak the utterance (Yuliarti et al., 2021). It means that every time a speaker wants to say something to a speech partner, a belief arises from the speaker.

Sincerity Condition

Searle (1998) shows that the speaker must have a confident psychological attitude toward the propositional content of the speech in order to carry out suitable actions. When someone makes a promise, for example, they must intend to keep it. (Searle, 1998).

Essential Condition

According to Searle (1998), The essential condition of an utterance is related to its goal to compel the listener to perform the desired action. This condition also includes the understanding that making a promise is the same as establishing a legal obligation to follow through on a commitment. Likewise, with warnings, the utterance changes from non-informative about a dangerous future event to informative under necessary conditions (Searle, 1998).

Below are some of the felicity conditions based on the characteristics of a speech act as proposed by Searle (Searle, 1969: 66-67)

Felicity Conditions Requesting

In Propositional Content Conditions, there is a future action A of the speaker; in Preparatory Conditions, the speaker can do A; It is unclear to the speaker and the addressees that the speaker would do A in the ordinary course of events of his own free will; for Sincerity Condition, the speaker wants the speaker to do A; Critical Conditions: Counted as the speaker's attempt to get the speaker to do A.

Felicity Conditions Stating

Propositional Content Condition is any propositional; Preparatory Condition the speaker has evidence (reasons) for the truth of p; It is not clear to the speakers and the speakers that the speakers know p (no need to be reminded); Sincerity Condition the speaker trusts; Critical Condition considered an attempt to state that p represents the actual state of affairs.

Felicity Conditions Questioning

For the Propositional Content Condition is any proposition; Preparatory Condition is the speaker needs to know the answer. It must be clarified that the addressee will provide information without being asked; Sincerity Condition the speaker wants the information; Essential Condition counts as an attempt to obtain information.

Felicity Conditions Thanking

For the Propositional Content Condition is past actions carried out by the speaker; Preparatory Condition an action benefits the speaker, and the speaker also believes that action benefits the speaker; in Sincerity Condition, the speaker feels grateful/appreciative of A's actions; Essential Condition: Considered as an expression of thanks or appreciation.

Felicity Conditions Advising

Propositional Content Condition is Future action of the speaker; Preparatory Condition, the speaker has some reason to believe the speaker will benefit; It is not clear to the speaker and the speaker that the speaker would do A in the ordinary course of events; Sincerity Condition the speaker believes A will benefit the speaker; Essential Condition perceived as the speaker's attempt to the effect that A is in H's best interests

Felicity Conditions Warning

Propositional Content Condition is the Future event of a propositional; Preparatory Condition, the speaker thinks E will happen, which is outside the speaker's interest; The speaker thinks it is not apparent to the speaker that E will occur; Sincerity Condition the speaker believes E is not in the speaker's best interests; Essential Condition is considered an attempt that E is not in the speaker's best interests.

Felicity Conditions Greeting

There is no Propositional Content Condition in its Illocutionary act; and for the Preparatory Condition is the speaker has just met (or been introduced to) the speaker; But there is no Sincerity Condition in it; also, for the Essential Condition is considered as a polite acknowledgment of the hearer by the speaker.

Felicity Conditions Promising

Propositional Content Condition Future action by the speaker; Preparatory Condition the speaker believes speaker A wants to do it; Speakers can do A; A has yet to be done; The speaker will benefit from A; Sincerity Condition the speaker is willing to do A; Essential Condition speaker's attempt to make the speaker believe that the speaker will carry out action A.

Likewise, there are also other expressions of the felicity condition by other linguists. According to Cook (1992), Felicity conditions based on directive act in issuing orders include:

Felicity Conditions Ordering

Propositional Content Condition is Future action by the speaker; Preparatory Condition the speaker believes something needs to be done; The speaker can do A; The speaker must do A; The speaker has the right to tell the speaker to do A; Sincerity Condition the speaker wants the speaker to do A; Essential Condition: Calculated as an effort to get the speaker to do A (Cook, 1992).

The distinction between requesting and ordering is that the speaker must have the authority to do an action, while the listener must have the obligation to do so. There is another opinion of felicity condition made by Barron (2003). She concluded that a condition of felicity is divided into two types of commissive acts (offering to do x) and commissive-directive acts as follows:

Felicity Conditions Offering (commissive)

Propositional Content Condition is the speaker utters the future action of the propositional by the speaker; Preparatory Condition is the speaker can do x; The speaker wants the speaker to do x; Sincerity Condition the speaker has the intention to do x; Essential Condition is counts as the speaker's effort from the obligation to do x; the speaker should want the speaker to do it (Barron, 2003).

METHOD

This research was made using the qualitative descriptive research method of Wirartha and Hardjono (2006). The qualitative descriptive research method consists of analyzing, explaining and summarizing various circumstances and situations through interview results or observations from information collected about the problems being studied that arise in the field (Wirartha & Hardjono, 2006). This research aims to describe, explain, and answer in more detail of the problems to be studied by studying an utterance from an individual or an event.

This research data is a written document in the form of dialogue transcripts from scenes shown in the film *Knives Out*. This film was released in 2019 and was directed by Rian Johnson. The stages of collecting research data from this research are: First, download the *Knives Out* film transcript via the link <https://www.scriptslug.com/script/knives-out-2019>. Furthermore, the theory used in this research is theory (Barron, 2003; Cook, 1992; Searle, 1998) and is also used to analyze data. The data analysis stage reads the transcript thoroughly, divides the data into certain speech acts, and explains and classifies the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section includes information about all speech data that has been analyzed based on five speech acts performed by speakers and explains it with the theory written previously. Also, at this stage, some utterances meet the felicity conditions, including propositional content conditions, preparatory conditions, sincerity conditions, and essential conditions.

Felicity Conditions in Assertive

Context: The conversation begins with a question that Lieutenant Elliot poses to Linda, and then Linda makes a statement to Lieutenant Elliot during an interrogation session in the library.

LINDA: I built my business from the ground up.

LIEUTENANT ELLIOTT: Just like your dad.

LINDA: Just. Like my dad.

(KNIVES OUT transcript pg. 8)

The data above shows a situation where Lieutenant Elliot is conducting an interrogation session with Linda. The words delivered by Linda gave rise to a representative speech act in which she stated that her business was built from scratch, so Linda said, "I built my business from the ground up". The speech conveyed by Linda contains information about herself building her own business just like her father by creating the verb "built," where the verb refers to her business. This speech indicates the sentence structure of the past because her business has been running for a long time. In her statement, Linda believed that she was the one who built her business

from scratch so that she was able to bind a truth in the statement conveyed to Lieutenant Elliot. She also committed that the statement was by the actual situation, namely establishing her own business.

The statement made by Linda was what Lieutenant Elliot expected, namely explaining the truth because the context of the conversation involved the witness and the police. From the utterances Linda spoke, she believed in her statement, which was uttered openly, so these utterances indicated the Sincerity Condition because these conditions required Linda to perform representative speech acts appropriately to Lieutenant Elliot.

4.2 Felicity Conditions in Directive

Context: Several cars, including a police car with several officers in uniform, pass by. Martha withdrew. An officer looked at him and approached.

COP: Excuse me, ma'am. Are you with the help?

Meg: Hey! Her name is Marta; she was granddad's nurse and is with us. "The help?"
What the hell?

(KNIVES OUT transcript pg. 3)

From the speech above, it can be seen that the speaker is asking a yes/no question, which begins with the appearance of the conjunction "are" to the speaker so that the speaker says, "Are you with the help?". In his speech, a police officer certainly has authority over the questions he asks because this speech shows a directive action by asking a question to Marta, but Meg, who is not the person he is talking to, responds to this question. In this case, this action can be interpreted as a police officer asking Marta a question to find out the answer because previously, the police officer did not know that Marta was one of the witnesses.

Therefore, the speech delivered by the police met the requirements of the preparatory condition because he did not yet know the definite answer from Marta, so the police wanted the answer whether Marta knew the information the speaker wanted. In a preparatory condition, the speaker must have certain beliefs about the action he will take, namely a police officer who has confidence that the speaker is not one of the parties involved, so he says, "Are you with the help?". From the data above, it can be seen that the police are very confident in the questions they ask and, at the same time, have the power of authority over the questions they have asked.

4.3 Felicity Conditions in Directive

Context: The situation is continuing the conversation between Lieutenant Elliot and Linda.

LIEUTENANT ELLIOTT (V.O.): Anyone besides the family there that night?

LINDA (V.O.): Uh. The caterers. Fran, the housekeeper. Marta is Harlan's nurse caretaker, a hard worker and a good girl. Families from Ecuador. And Wanetta Greatnana, Dad's mom.

(KNIVES OUT transcript pg. 7)

The data above shows that the conversation between Lieutenant Elliott and Linda took the form of questions aimed at getting more information from Linda, so she said, "Anyone besides the family there that night?". From this question, there is the word "there", which is the place where Harlan's death occurred. This word is used to talk

about a specific location. Apart from that, Elliott's questions were aimed at getting information from Linda that her family was involved in the case and all those who worked at Harlan's house.

In asking a question, the speaker is trying to obtain specific information. If seen from the data, Elliott asked this with the aim and purpose of ensuring that the information from Linda was conveyed clearly, so Elliott's statement, "An one besides the family there that night?" fulfils the requirements for Essential Conditions in asking a question because the utterance is considered an attempt by the speaker to obtain additional information from the speaker. As a lieutenant, Elliot has the right to ask Linda something because he is committed to finding as much information as possible so that the investigation process runs well.

Felicity Conditions in Commissive

Context: In the office room, we can see a conversation between Richard and Harlan, which is quite an important issue.

RICHARD: I am warning you once, do not do this like hell -

HARLAN: She deserves to know; you are going to tell her!

(KNIVES OUT transcript pg. 22)

The data above shows Richard's words warning Harlan not to do things he does not want. The above utterance also shows a commissive speech act in which the speaker warns about something quite important by saying "I'm warning you" to the speaker marked with the verb "warning," and means that Harlan must do this utterance because Richard is trying to make Harlan is aware of the dangers or problems that may occur in the future.

The conversation has fulfilled one of the preparatory conditions where the speaker thinks that the problem he is facing will occur if Harlan does something unwanted, but this is not for Harlan's interest as a speaker but for Richard's interest as a hearer.

Felicity Conditions in Expressive

Context: Just before the interrogation began, a policeman expressed his grief to Linda, at which time, the day after his father's death, an interrogation session was held.

Trooper Wagner: We are very sorry for your loss.

Linda: Thank you, that means a lot.

(KNIVES OUT transcript p. 6)

After the police learned of Harlan's departure, one of the policemen named Wagner offered his condolences (condole) to Linda to honour the incident that happened to Linda's family previously, so Walt said, "We are very sorry for your loss". In taking expressive actions, Walt, as the representative of the parties involved, expressed his condolences because he felt the loss of someone even though he was not related by blood.

The felicity condition in that utterance is included in the Sincerity Condition because the speaker says it sincerely to the hearer. In the statement above, Wagner expressed his sorrow for the loss of Linda's family members, which affected Wagner's psychological condition. The psychological condition felt Wagner is expressing himself when someone loses a family member who is left behind.

CONCLUSION

In this conclusion section, the author will answer the two questions about this research's problem. The following is a summary of the answers to these two questions based on theory and research that has been conducted. In the film KNIVES OUT, four types of speech acts appear during the film, namely representative, directive, commissive and expressive. In the Directive action, twenty-four (53.4%) data were also found and analyzed in the form of ordering, commanding, questioning and requesting utterances. Then, nine representative action data were found (20%), including the form including ting, confirming, and confirming. For commissive actions, seven data have been analyzed (15.5%), which contain the forms of utterances suggest, promise, warn, confirm, offer, and intend. The last one is expressive; five data from the total data found (11.1%) consist of greeting, condolence, apology, and thanking forms of speech. The Felicity Conditions contained in the KNIVES OUT film have fulfilled the requirements (Felicitous) by acquiring data from the Preparatory Conditions, where eighteen data (45%) were found. Thirteen pieces of data were found to appear in the film (32.5%). For the Sincerity Condition, eight data were found (20%), and finally, one data was found for the propositional content condition (2.5%).

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