

FELICITY CONDITION OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN ENOLA HOLMES MOVIE BY HARRY BRADBEER: A PRAGMATIC STUDY

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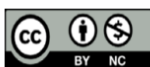
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Abstract

The research entitled “Felicity Condition of Illocutionary Acts in Enola Holmes Movie by Harry Bradbeer: Pragmatics Study” was conducted to identify the types of felicity conditions and the illocutionary acts influencing the characters’ utterances in the Enola Holmes movie. The method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative approach. The data was obtained from the dialogue of the characters in the movie Enola Holmes. The theories that became the main foundations of this research are Austin’s (1962), Levinson’s (1983), and Searle’s (1969). The results show that 45 data points were found in the movie; there are four types of felicity conditions, 21 data points of preparatory condition, 6 data points of propositional content condition, 9 data points of sincerity condition, and 9 data points of essential condition. In addition, there are nine felicity conditions in illocutionary speech acts influencing character speech in the film, 13 data of felicity conditions in questioning, 10 data of felicity conditions in asserting/stating, 5 data of felicity conditions in promising, 4 data of felicity conditions in requesting, 4 data of felicity conditions in advising, 4 data of felicity conditions in thanking, 2 data of felicity conditions in greeting, 2 data of felicity conditions in threatening, 1 data of felicity conditions in congratulating, and there are no data that qualify felicity conditions in warning. Based on the results, it can be concluded that the preparatory condition was the most frequently occurring type, and the felicity condition in questioning was the most influential illocutionary acts in the characters’ utterances.



Keyword: Pragmatics; felicity conditions; illocutionary acts

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INTRODUCTION

In daily life, one of the most common issues in communication is misunderstanding, which often arises from the mismatch between context and utterance. This phenomenon is closely related to one of the key concepts in pragmatics, namely Austin’s (1962) theory of felicity conditions, which discusses the conditions that must be fulfilled for a speech act to be successfully performed within a given context. However, not all speech acts necessarily fulfill the conditions required by felicity conditions. At times, an utterance may appear structurally appropriate but fails to function effectively due to certain factors that hinder the fulfillment of these conditions. For example, Hadiati (2019) explains that

the utterance “I would come to your house” cannot be categorized as a promise. This is because the utterance ‘would’ refers to the past, whereas the felicity condition of a promise requires a commitment to a future action. In addition, the success of an utterance is not only influenced by context, but also by the role and authority of the speaker, as Hadiati (2023) states that the utterances of public figures affect the trust of many people because public figures possess roles and authority, which makes their utterances considered credible.

Based on previous studies, Dianita and Rivalda (2023) discussed the types of illocutionary acts and felicity conditions in a movie. In addition, Yunita and Simatupang (2022) discussed the speech acts and felicity conditions that occur in the utterances of actresses on social media. Muhamad and Simatupang (2022) examined felicity conditions, focusing on the types of felicity conditions found in movie as well as the meanings contained in those utterances.

In this study, the researcher focuses on the types of felicity conditions and illocutionary acts within the framework of felicity conditions that influence the characters’ utterances, as well as examining the extent to which the characters in the movie fulfill the conditions of communication.

Based on the background description above, the writer identifies the problems as follows:

1. What types of felicity conditions occur in the conversations in the movie *Enola Holmes*?
2. What illocutionary acts influence the occurrence of felicity conditions in the movie *Enola Holmes*?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that explores the intended meaning conveyed through speech in specific context. According to Finnegan, the essential element in the interpretation of an utterance is the context in which it is uttered (Supri & Rahmatiany, 2021). According to Yule (1996), pragmatics is defined as the meaning of communication produced by the speaker or writer and interpreted by the hearer or reader. In addition, Yule (1996) describes pragmatics as the study of words, the understanding of contextual meaning, and how those words can be communicated. Birner (2013) states that the study of pragmatics examines general patterns of meaning and explains the implicit knowledge that serves as a guide in interpreting meaning. Mey (2006) also argues that pragmatics is the study of language use in communication, which is determined by social conditions. Furthermore, according to Leech’s (1989), pragmatics is the study of meaning as it relates to the speech situation, while Levinson (1983) defines pragmatics as the study of the relationship between language and context that is grammaticalized, or encoded in the structure of language. Thus, it can be concluded that pragmatics is a field of study concerned with language in society and meaning in communication, focusing on the context that must be understood between speaker and hearer.

Felicity Condition

According to Austin (1962), a felicity condition is a requirement that must be fulfilled for a speech act to be considered successful or “felicitous.” In other words, it refers to the condition in which a speech act has achieved a particular purpose within a given context. Austin (1962) explains conditions related to a defect caused by violations of felicity conditions, referred to as infelicities. These conditions are divided into two categories; the act for the performing of which, and in the performing of which, the verbal formula in question is designed, is not achieved, by the name *misfires*: and on the other hand, we may christen those infelicities where the act is achieved *abuses* (Austin, 1962). According to Horn and Ward (2006),

failed utterances are not described as false but rather as improper, unsuccessful, or, in general, infelicitous (Yuliarti et al., 2021).

For Example, "When I say 'I promise' and have no intention of keeping it, I have promised but.." (Austin, 1962). The utterance 'promise' as a speech act can be performed; however, if the situation is insincere, then the act of making the promise becomes defective. In other words, if someone utters a promise without the intention of fulfilling it, the speech act becomes infelicitous. Moreover, according to Levinson (1983), felicity conditions are classified into four types, there are:

Preparatory Condition

According to Levinson (1983), the preparatory condition concerns the real-world prerequisites for every illocutionary act. This condition ensures that the situation and the roles between the speaker and the hearer are appropriate for performing the speech act.

For example, "Look here, Smith, pay attention to what I am saying." (Searle, 1969). The utterance 'look here' shows the role of the speaker who is addressing the public and asking the audience to pay attention. In this utterance, there must be an assumption that Smith is indeed not paying attention, and the condition for making a successful request is that there is no clear indication that the hearer is already doing, or is about to do, what is being requested.

Propositional Content Condition

According to Levinson (1983), propositional content conditions relate to the restrictions on the content of an utterance. In other words, the content of an utterance in a speech act has certain constraints depending on the performative verb used and must be related to the action being performed. For example, "I promise to come." The utterance contains the performative verb 'promise' which restricts the phrase 'to come' to a future action performed by the speaker.

Sincerity Condition

According to Levinson (1983), sincerity condition is a condition related to the speaker's beliefs, feelings, and intentions in every type of action, while according to Searle (1969), sincerity condition indicates the speaker's psychological condition so that a speech act is considered an expression of that psychological state.

For example, "I want you to close the door." The utterance can be categorized as a sincerity condition since the phrase 'I want you' reflects the speaker's sincere desire for the hearer to close the door.

Essential Condition

According to Searle in Levinson (1983), the essential condition refers to the requirement that the illocutionary force X counts as doing Y. Furthermore, the essential condition expresses the relevant intention behind a speech act, meaning that the speaker genuinely intends to perform the act. In other words, when a speaker utters something, the utterance counts as the act itself and places the speaker under an obligation to carry out the action.

For example, "If I warn you not to touch the dog, that counts as an undertaking that it is not in your best interests to touch that animal." The utterance 'I warn you' indicates that the speaker is making an effort to warn the hearer. In other words, when the speaker issues a warning, it is regarded as an attempt to caution the hearer that the action in question is not in their best interest.

Felicity Condition in Illocutionary Acts

According to Edmonson, the act of speech illocution is an act through speech seen from the way the speaker communicates his feelings, attitudes, beliefs, and also intentions in relation to events or circumstances (Anastasya & Supri, 2024). This is also stated by Griffiths in Putri and Hendar (2022), who explain that speech acts constitute the fundamental part of linguistic interaction, such as giving warnings, greeting, making requests, and other forms of utterances. According to Searle's (1979), illocutionary speech acts are classified into five types: assertive, directive, commissives, expressives, and declarative.

Ambroise (2010) states that the illocutionary effect of a speech act can be considered invalid if it can be proven that the conventional procedure is inappropriate or the felicity conditions are not fulfilled. Allan (1997) also states that felicity conditions are the application of the cooperative principle, which needs to be explained in defining a particular illocutionary act. In other words, felicity conditions and illocutionary acts are interrelated. Therefore, Searle (1969) presents various requirements and characteristics of felicity conditions based on illocutionary acts as follows:

Felicity Condition in Requesting

Based on Searle's (1969, pp. 66–67), there are two qualifications in the preparatory condition, these are: hearer is able to do action. speaker believes hearer is able to do action, and it is not obvious to both speaker and hearer that hearer will do action in the normal course of events of his own accord. Propositional content condition: future action of hearer. Sincerity condition: speaker wants hearer to do action. Essential condition: counts as an attempt to get hearer to do action.

For example, "Would you close the door?" the phrase '*would you*' in this utterance can be categorized as the felicity condition in requesting, specifically the propositional content condition, because it contains an utterance related to a future action to be performed by the hearer.

Felicity Condition in Stating/Asserting

Based on Searle's (1969, pp. 66–67), there are two qualifications in the preparatory condition, these are: speaker has evidence (reasons, etc.) for the truth of proposition and it is not obvious to both speaker and hearer that hearer knows (does not need to be reminded of, etc.) proposition. Propositional content condition: any proposition. Sincerity condition: speaker believes proposition. Essential condition: counts as an undertaking to the effect that proposition represents an actual state of affairs.

For example, "John's at Sue's house because his car's outside." This utterance can be categorized as a felicity condition in asserting, specifically the preparatory condition, because the word '*because*' provides a reason supporting the statement being made.

Felicity Condition in Questioning

Based on Searle's (1969, pp. 66–67), there are two qualifications in the preparatory condition, these are: speaker does not know 'the answer' and it is not obvious to both speaker and hearer that hearer will provide the information at that time without being asked. Propositional content condition: any proposition or propositional function. Sincerity condition: speaker wants this information. Essential condition: Counts as an attempt to elicit this information from hearer.

For example, "Are you going to go home?" This utterance can be categorized as felicity condition in questioning, specifically in propositional content condition, because the phrase '*are you going to*' expresses a proposition about the hearer's future state, namely that the hearer will go home.

Felicity Condition in Thanking

Based on Searle's (1969, pp. 66–67), preparatory condition: action benefits speaker and speaker believes action benefits speaker. Propositional content condition: past act action done by hearer. Sincerity condition: speaker feels grateful or appreciative for action. Essential condition: counts as an expression of gratitude or appreciation.

For example, when I thank someone, I imply that the thing I am thanking him for has benefited me (or was at least intended to benefit me). This means that the felicity condition in thanking, under the preparatory condition, indicates that an action performed by the hearer has benefited the speaker, and the speaker believes that the action has indeed been beneficial.

Felicity condition in Advising

Based on Searle's (1969, pp. 66–67), there are two qualifications in the preparatory condition, these are: speaker has some reason to believe action will benefit hearer and it is not obvious to both speaker and hearer that hearer will do action in the normal course of events. Propositional content condition: future act action of hearer. Sincerity condition: speaker believes action will benefit hearer. Essential condition: counts as an undertaking to the effect that action is in hearer's best interest.

For example, "I advise you to leave." The phrase "*I advise you*" in this utterance shows the speaker's attempt to inform the hearer that a certain action may benefit the hearer. Therefore, the utterance fulfills the essential condition.

Felicity Condition in Warning

Based on Searle's (1969, pp. 66–67), there are two qualifications in the preparatory condition, these are: hearer has reason to believe event will occur and is not in hearer's interest and it is not obvious to both speaker and hearer that event will occur. Propositional content condition: future event or state, etc. Sincerity condition: speaker believes event is not in hearer's best interest. Essential condition: counts as an undertaking to the effect that event is not in hearer's best interest.

For example, at hand, the prepositional substance is unmistakable: "you should not be late." in the case of a warning (Yunita & Simatupang, 2022). Warning in the propositional content condition is related to future events that affect the hearer's action. Therefore, the utterance 'you should not' in the speech refers to a possible event that may occur in the future.

Felicity Condition in Greeting

Based on Searle's (1969, pp. 66–67), preparatory condition: speaker has just encountered (or been introduced to, etc.) hearer. There is no propositional content condition and sincerity condition in this illocutionary act. Essential condition: counts as courteous recognition of hearer by speaker.

When I say "Hello" and mean it, I do not necessarily intend to produce or elicit any state or action in my hearer other than the knowledge that he is being greeted (Searle, 1969).

Felicity Condition in Congratulating

Based on Searle's (1969, pp. 66–67), preparatory condition: event is in hearer's interest and speaker believes event is in hearer's interest. Propositional content condition: some event, act, etc., event related to hearer. Sincerity condition: speaker is pleased at event. Essential condition: counts as an expression of pleasure at event.

For example, "I am so glad you won" The utterance fulfills the felicity condition in congratulating, specifically sincerity condition because by saying 'I am so glad,' the speaker expresses genuine happiness about an event experienced by the hearer.

Felicity Condition in Promising

Based on Searle's (1969, p. 57-60), preparatory condition: the action has not yet been done, and the speaker believes that the hearer wants the action to be done. Propositional content condition: future act action of speaker. Sincerity condition: speaker intends to do action. Essential condition: speaker intends that the utterance will place him under an obligation to do action.

For example, "I'll do it for you" The utterance can be classified as felicity condition in promising essential condition because, although it does not explicitly state the word 'promise,' the utterance 'I'll do it' is considered a promise in that, by saying it in any context, the speaker accepts the obligation.

Felicity Condition in Threatening

Preparatory condition: speaker believes that the hearer does not want an action to be done, and the speaker is able to perform the action. Propositional content condition: future act action of speaker. Sincerity condition: speaker intends to do action. Essential condition: speaker intends that the utterance will place him under an obligation to do action.

For example, "If you don't hand in your paper on time I promise you I will give you a failing grade in the course". Although the word 'promise' appears in the utterance, the statement 'I will give you a failing grade' indicates that the utterance is categorized as the felicity conditions in threatening in the preparatory condition, as it contains an an action that is against the hearer's best interests.

METHOD

In this study, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative method since the research consists of explanations and descriptions of the problems to be examined, namely the types of felicity conditions and the illocutionary acts that influence felicity conditions according to Searle's theory in Harry Bradbeer's film *Enola Holmes*. The analysis is conducted by understanding and examining the research object based on the perspective of pragmatic studies. According to Sugiyono (2013), qualitative method is used to obtain in-depth data which contains meanings, meanwhile according to Sidiq and Choiri (2019) in Waruwu (2023), qualitative research is a strategy for exploring meaning, understanding, concepts, characteristics, symbols, or descriptions of a phenomenon.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Preparatory Condition Context

Mycroft and Sherlock were inspecting the entire house in search of clues about the disappearance of Eudoria (the mother of Mycroft, Sherlock, and Enola), while Sherlock managed to discover several facts from his investigation.

Data 1

Mycroft : "Enough with the bally flowers, Sherlock."
Sherlock : "***But it wasn't foul play.***"
Mycroft : "How? Are you certain?"
Sherlock : "Her regular supply of drawing pencils has dwindled to nothing. She clearly had decided not to replace them and you rarely find that kidnap victims

have planned for their own disappearance. She wasn't returning and yet she disguised her intentions perfectly."

(00:08:15 - 00:08:33)

The utterance "*but it wasn't foul play*" is classified as a preparatory condition. Sherlock's utterance conveys his belief that their mother's disappearance was not an abduction, but rather intentional. This utterance fulfills the preparatory condition since the situation and the roles of Sherlock as the speaker and Mycroft as the hearer are appropriate for performing such an illocutionary act. Sherlock is in the proper position to state that Eudoria's disappearance was not an abduction, as his status as a detective grants him the credibility to draw reliable conclusions. Moreover, he is engaged in a discussion with Mycroft, who is also attempting to uncover the truth about Eudoria's disappearance. Therefore, Sherlock's utterance is considered successful and fulfills the requirements of the preparatory condition.

The illocutionary act that influences the utterance "*but it wasn't foul play*" is stating, which is one of the functions of the assertive illocutionary act. The utterance by Sherlock "*but it wasn't foul play*" fulfills the felicity conditions in asserting/stating under the preparatory conditions because the speaker has evidence for the truth of his utterance. This is supported by Sherlock's second utterance after Mycroft asked "are you certain?" in which Sherlock had evidence and explained several of his findings from the items left by Eudoria, then Sherlock concluded that Eudoria's disappearance had been planned and that a kidnapping victim would not plan her own disappearance.

Propositional Content Condition

Context

After Enola saved Tewkesbury from the pursuit of an assassin, they decided to part ways in London. However, before they actually separated, Tewkesbury expressed his gratitude to Enola.

Data 2

Tewkesbury : "Oh, so this is where we part?"

Enola : "It is."

Tewkesbury : "***Then, thank you, Enola Holmes, for helping me here.***"

Enola : "You're supposed to have forgotten that name."

(00:34:50 - 00:34:55)

The utterance "Then, thank you, Enola Holmes, for helping me here" is categorized as a propositional content condition. This utterance fulfills the propositional content condition because it is related to the restriction of conditions within the content of the utterance. Tewkesbury's utterance specifies the appropriateness of the action underlying the speech act that Tewkesbury received help from Enola. In other words, the content of Tewkesbury's utterance corresponds to an action that actually occurred. Therefore, the utterance meets the requirement of the propositional content condition.

The illocutionary act that influences in the utterance "Then, thank you, Enola Holmes, for helping me here" is thanking, in which the phrase "thank you" belongs to one of the expressive illocutionary act functions because it reflects the speaker's psychological state. This utterance fulfills the propositional content condition of the felicity conditions in thanking since the speaker's statement relates to an action carried out by the hearer in the past.

Sincerity Condition

Context

When Enola and Edith were discussing the situation, Edith was uncooperative and refused to answer Enola's questions about her mother's disappearance, irritating Enola and causing her to attack Edith. After defeating Enola, Edith advised her to become stronger.

Data 3

Enola : "Hey!" (attacked Edith and fell)

Edith : "Ah, the corkscrew. You could never manage that one, could ya? ***If you wanna stay in London, be tough, be tough, live the life, but don't do it because you're looking for someone. Do it because you're looking for yourself.***"

(44:19-44:52)

Based on the context of the data, it can be concluded that the type of felicity condition that occurs in the utterance "*If you wanna stay in London, be tough, be tough, live the life, but don't do it because you're looking for someone. Do it because you're looking for yourself.*" is the sincerity condition. This fulfills the requirements of the sincerity condition because Edith's utterance contains her genuine belief and intention to make Enola a better person. Edith's words sincerely show her concern for Enola, and she truly believes that if Enola becomes stronger, she will be able to survive in London and discover her true self. Therefore, the utterance is successful and meets the felicity condition of the sincerity condition type.

The illocutionary act that influences the felicity conditions in the utterance "*If you wanna stay in London, be tough, be tough, live the life, but don't do it because you're looking for someone. Do it because you're looking for yourself.*" is advising, which is one of the functions of directive illocutionary act. This is related to the theory of felicity conditions in advising, specifically the sincerity condition, in which the speaker believes that the action will benefit the hearer. From the context, it can be seen that Edith sincerely tells Enola what is best for her. Therefore, the utterance is influenced by the felicity condition in advising of sincerity condition.

Essential Condition

Context

The scene took place in the courtyard of Ferndel Hall. When Enola and her two older brothers arrived home, Mrs. Lane immediately greeted Mycroft and Sherlock, whom she had not seen for a long time.

Data 4

Mycroft : "What the hell has she been playing at?"

Mrs. Lane : "***Gentleman, welcome home. It's been some time.***"

(00:07:04 – 00:07:07)

Based on the context, the utterance "*Gentleman, welcome home. It's been some time.*" is categorized as the essential condition. This is because the speaker's utterance contains an intention within the speech act, and the speaker intends to perform that act. The utterance shows that Mrs. Lane expresses her intention to welcome Mycroft and Sherlock through the act of greeting, and she indeed intends to greet them since they have just returned to Ferndell Hall after a long time. Therefore, the utterance is successful and fulfills the felicity conditions of the essential condition type.

The illocutionary act that influences the utterance "*Gentleman, welcome home. It's been some time.*" is greeting, which is one of the functions of the expressive illocutionary act. In addition, the utterance "*Gentleman, welcome home. It's been some time.*" fulfills the felicity conditions in greeting of essential condition that an

utterance is as courteous recognition from Mrs. Lane as the speaker toward Mycroft and Sherlock as the hearers, with the purpose of making them feel that they are being greeted upon their arrival. Therefore, the utterance is influenced by the felicity conditions in greeting.

Context

Sherlock met with Edith to discuss the truth behind Eudoria's disappearance, and he began to ask Edith about Eudoria's whereabouts.

Data 5

Sherlock : “Now, please put the teapot down. In your hand, it is a mighty weapon.”

Edith : [scoffs]

Sherlock : “***Do you have any sense as to where my mother is?***”

Edith : “How did you find me?”

(01:01:29 – 01:01:35)

The utterance “Do you have any sense as to where my mother is?” is classified as a felicity condition of the essential type. This utterance fulfills the essential condition because it contains an intention relevant to the speech act performed, meaning that the speaker intends to carry out the act expressed in the utterance. In this context, Sherlock intends to perform the speech act of asking about his mother to Edith, and the question reflects Sherlock’s intention to obtain an answer from Edith. However, the utterance results in an ‘infelicity’ because the required condition of the speech act is not achieved. Edith responds with another question, which means Sherlock does not receive the expected response to his speech act.

The illocutionary act that influences the utterance “*Do you have any sense as to where my mother is?*” is questioning, which belongs to directive illocutionary acts. The utterance is categorized under felicity conditions in questioning, specifically the essential condition, because it is related to the speaker’s attempt to obtain information from the hearer. In this context, by asking “*Do you have any sense as to where my mother is?*” Sherlock intends to make an effort to seek information about his mother’s whereabouts from Edith. Therefore, Sherlock’s utterance is influenced by the felicity conditions in questioning.

CONCLUSION

Four types of felicity conditions were found in the utterances of the characters in the film *Enola Holmes*, each with their respective totals: preparatory condition with 21 data, propositional content condition with 6 data, sincerity condition with 9 data, and essential condition with 9 data. The preparatory condition dominated the utterances in the film. Each data fulfilled the requirements within these categories, making the utterances considered successful. However, there were utterances that were unsuccessful, also referred to as infelicities, in several instances. These utterances occurred due to conditions in which the speech act was technically performed successfully but did not align with the required conditions, resulting in the failure to achieve the intended act. Infelicities were found in the propositional content condition and the essential condition.

Nine types of felicity conditions in illocutionary acts that influenced the characters’ utterances were found in the film, with the following totals: felicity conditions in questioning 13 data, felicity conditions in asserting/stating 10 data, felicity conditions in promising 5 data, felicity conditions in requesting 4 data, felicity conditions in advising 4 data, felicity conditions in thanking 4 data, felicity conditions in greeting 2 data, felicity conditions in threatening 2 data, and felicity conditions in congratulating 1 data. From the data, felicity conditions in questioning were the most frequently found, indicating that questioning most strongly influenced the characters’ utterances in the film.

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