

EXPRESSIVE ILLOCUTIONARY SPEECH ACTS THE MOVIE SALT (2010) BY PHILLIP NOYCE: A PRAGMATICS STUDY

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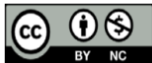
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Abstract:

This study aims to find various types and roles of expressive illocutionary acts in the dialogue of the film Salt (2010) based on a pragmatic perspective by referring to the speech act theory proposed Searle, J (1969) The objects analyzed in this study are the utterances of the main characters and supporting characters who interact directly in the film. The technique applied in this study is a qualitative descriptive method, which aims to describe and analyze the data in detail according to the context of the utterances. The findings of the study indicate that the film Salt contains various types of expressive illocutionary acts, such as expressions of happiness, sadness, anger, apology, surprise, regret, support, gratitude, and hope. The role of these expressive illocutionary acts includes conveying the speaker's feelings, developing interpersonal relationships, encouraging empathy, representing identity, creating a certain atmosphere, and encouraging actions or responses from the interlocutor. Thus, expressive illocutionary acts in the film Salt have an important function in expressing the characters' emotions, forming interactions between characters, and strengthening the meaning of the dialogue in the film's narrative.



Keyword: *Expressive Illocutionary Speech Acts; film; Pragmatics*

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INTRODUCTION

A field of study that can help in understanding language is pragmatics, which focuses on the study of illocutionary speech acts. Based on the speech act theory by Chaer (2010), he describes three types of speech acts in pragmatic analysis: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. The first, locutionary acts, are the basic form of speech that produces linguistic expressions with meaning. This research integrates perspectives from several key figures to build a comprehensive analytical framework. The foundation of speech act theory in this study refers to the thoughts of Austin J.L (1962), who first introduced the concept of speech acts and divided them into three types: locution, illocution, and perlocution. This theory serves as a basis for

understanding that dialogue in films consists not only of utterances but also of actions that possess specific meanings. Furthermore, Searle, J (1976) developed this theory by classifying illocutionary speech acts into five main categories, one of which is expressive. This classification helps researchers identify various expressions of feelings such as joy, regret, or apologies that appear in the research data. Additionally, Yule (1996) emphasized that the function of a speech act is highly influenced by the context of language use. This view supports the research analysis of the dialogues in the film *Salt*, where every character's expression must be understood based on the situation, conflict, and story dynamics occurring within the scene.

Research by (Reiland, 2024) states that all language/speech is an action based on the amount of meaning it contains. We say something to do something, or by saying something we do something, and even in saying something we perform an action. (Searle, 1979), an influential philosopher in language studies, argues that language is a system consisting of signs that have specific meanings. He emphasizes that language is not just a medium for conveying information but also a tool for performing various actions. Searle, J (1979) developed the speech act theory, which states that when someone speaks, they are not only delivering a statement but also performing a specific action through the words they utter. Austin (Olagunju, 2016), there are three categories: locutionary acts, which highlight direct or original meaning. Furthermore, there are illocutionary acts, as explained by Chaer (2010), which are types of speech acts related to what speakers do through their utterances. Illocutionary acts focus more on the purpose behind a statement rather than just the literal meaning of the words used. Perlocutionary acts, or speech acts aimed at influencing the listener (Wijana, 2009).

One focus in pragmatic studies is illocutionary utterances. Searle, J (1979) categorized illocutionary acts into five categories, one of which is expressive. Expressive acts are speech acts used by speakers to express emotional reactions to a situation, such as praising, congratulating, apologizing, or conveying complaints. As stated by Yule (1996), expressive acts reflect the speaker's psychological state related to the meaning of the utterance, An example of research that is relevant to this research is *Expressive Illocutionary Speech Acts in the Children's Story Book Tales for Creative Children* by Watiek Ideo, by (Rahma 2015).

The author is interested in researching this film because it has a tense plot but also contains deeper meanings related to identity, courage, and sacrifice. The complex main character, played by Angelina Jolie, presents an interesting moral dilemma to study, especially in the context of how gender roles are portrayed in this action film. Language plays an important role in women's communication. This film, of course, aligns with the topic of this research because it contains expressive illocutionary acts that display various emotional expressions and attitudes through dialogue. The film "*Salt*" presents various dialogues that not only convey information but also reveal the emotions, intentions, and commitments of the characters through their actions. Based on the background description above, the following problems are identified:

1. What types of expressive illocutionary acts are found in the film "*Salt*"?
2. What are the functions of the expressive illocutionary acts in the film "*Salt*"?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies how context influences meaning in interactions. In film analysis, pragmatics plays a crucial role in understanding how characters interact with each other and how their words convey meanings far deeper than just what is said. Based on the speech act theory introduced by Austin (1962), communication is not limited to conveying information but also encompasses social actions that occur through words.

Speech Acts

A speech act is a communicative act performed by a speaker through the use of language, where each utterance not only conveys information but also has a specific meaning and purpose within a social context. The pragmatic concept of speech acts is also a concept in pragmatic linguistics introduced by Austin (1962) and further developed by Searle, J (1969). Pragmatics studies aspects such as implicature, presupposition, and illocutionary speech acts. Regarding speech acts, according to research (Jafar. A, Simantupang. E 2019) A locutionary speech act is a speech act that states something in the sense of "saying" or a speech act in the form of a sentence that can be understood. Meanwhile, an illocutionary speech act is a speech act that carries out an action by giving something. On the other hand, a perlocutionary speech act is a speech act that has an effect on the listener.

Related to illocutionary speech acts, pragmatics helps us understand that the meaning of communication lies not only in the words spoken, but also in the context, intention, and reactions resulting from the interaction. In contrast to this statement, research conducted by Ariesta, Simantupang, 2019, entitled "Illocutionary Acts in the Film The Death Cure: A Pragmatic Study," found that the dialogue in The Death Cure contains various types of illocutionary speech acts, namely representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. The findings indicate that the film represents the entire classification of illocutionary speech acts as proposed by Yule (1996). This study, however, focuses more on the expressive illocutionary speech acts found in Phillip Noyce's film Salt. A locutionary speech act is a speech act that states something in the sense of "saying" or a speech act in the form of a sentence that can be understood. Meanwhile, an illocutionary speech act is a speech act that performs an action by giving something. On the other hand, a perlocutionary speech act is a speech act that has an effect on the listener.

Illocutionary Speech Acts

Illocutionary speech acts are actions carried out when speaking stating, ordering, requesting or suggesting and doing something with the meaning of illocutionary speech acts are usually carried out through actions or utterances, which are often identified by explicit performative verbs or actions carried out clearly in the sentence itself, The goal is to see that each role in the film has a different meaning starting from the intonation of words, sentences or the meaning of statements spoken by the actors, Films that are considered a source of entertainment can certainly be watched by various groups, from children to adults. Locutionary speech acts that only focus on

what is said literally, illocutionary speech acts emphasize the intention and purpose behind the utterance. Example:

Anna: Yes, and before we start, we'd like to ask you for a small favor.

Jake: Yeah, if you enjoyed this podcast, please like this episode, subscribe, and share it with a friend who is learning English.

Anna: Hmm, especially that friend who always says, "I have no time to study English," but then spends an hour scrolling on their phone.

(Don't Waste Your Time Podcast for Easy Conversation in Daily Life, Minute 1:35)

This conversation includes illocutionary speech acts because the utterances delivered by Anna and Jake not only serve to convey information but also have a specific purpose they wish to achieve through their utterances. In this dialogue, the speakers clearly ask and invite the listener to take action, namely liking, subscribing, and sharing the podcast with others.

Expressive Illocutionary Speech Acts

Illocutionary speech acts are speech acts that focus on expressing the speaker's feelings, emotions, or attitudes towards a situation or another person. As stated by (Gilbert Michael, 1999), expressive illocutionary speech acts can also clarify, expand, and emphasize the intended message. These speech acts include expressions that show feelings such as happiness, sadness, gratitude, surprise, regret, doubt, and apology. Expressive speech acts function to build an emotional connection between the speaker and the listener, as well as create a more intimate atmosphere in communication. In addition, Pérez Hernández (2021) emphasized that expressive speech acts are not merely channels for personal emotions, but strategic instruments for maintaining harmonious interactions and mitigating potential conflicts through facial expressions. This is in line with Huang's (2017) view that sees the psychopragmatic dimension in which expressiveness functions as a bridge of emotional validation that strengthens interpersonal trust. Thus, this speech act plays an important role in conveying emotions and strengthening social bonds between individuals.

METHODS

The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method as used by (Murtie et al., 2018). The qualitative descriptive method is a problem-solving process that is investigated by describing the condition of the subject or object. This method describes and understands phenomena in depth based on non-numerical data such as words, speech, text, documents, or behavior, which is adjusted to the research objectives, the type of data needed, and the research context. The same as the research conducted by (Dilanti, 2024) The data collection method in this study was carried out using the listening technique by watching the film and the note-taking technique. In the first discussion, the types of speech acts contained in this film will be detailed. Next, the researcher will analyze the illocutionary speech acts in more depth based on their functions in accordance with the theory.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Expression of Happiness

According to Chaer (2010:29), the illocutionary speech act of expressing happiness is a type of speech act used to convey feelings of joy or happiness from the speaker to the listener. In this context, the speaker expresses positive emotions through words that reflect joy, satisfaction, or gratitude. This speech act not only serves to convey information but also to build an emotional connection between the speaker and listener, creating a positive atmosphere in the interaction. Expressions of happiness are often accompanied by non-verbal elements, such as a smile or a cheerful tone of voice, which further strengthen the meaning of the utterance.

Data 1

Ted winter : Sir? Do I look like a, "Sir" to you?

Evelyn salt : From head to toe, I'm surprised he didn't call you "Your Majesty".

Ted Winter : I like the ring of that. I think I prefer "Your Majesty".

Evelyn salt : Was I ever that young?

Ted Winter : Younger.

(Film Salt : 2010 Minute 00:06:08)

The exchange between Evelyn Salt and Ted Winter in this conversation contains an expressive illocutionary act of support. By stating that Winter deserves to be called "Your Majesty," Evelyn Salt indirectly acknowledges Winter's authority and boosts Winter's self-confidence. The conversation above includes an expressive illocutionary act of support because the speaker expresses a positive attitude and happiness through humor and implicit praise. This form of support is presented through humor, but the meaning remains the same: showing appreciation for the interlocutor. This kind of emotional support demonstrates that their relationship is not merely formal but also based on intimacy, allowing for support to be conveyed in a lighthearted manner.

The function of this conversation is to strengthen the emotional bond and interpersonal relationship between the characters through verbal support packaged in humor. Furthermore, this utterance also adds meaning to the situation by creating a more relaxed atmosphere and strengthening the interpersonal relationship between speaker and interlocutor. By supporting Winter, Salt relaxes the atmosphere that could have been tense, while also demonstrating that beneath the pressures of their professions, there is still room for recognition and togetherness. This expressive function also emphasizes that support is not always delivered seriously, but can be in the form of humor/light jokes which are more touching and increase closeness between characters.

Expression of Sadness

According to Chaer (2010:29), the illocutionary act of expressing sadness is a type of speech act used to convey feelings of grief, loss, or dissatisfaction from the speaker to the listener. In this context, the speaker expresses negative emotions related to painful experiences, such as the loss of a loved one, disappointment, or deep

sadness. This speech act not only serves to inform about feelings but also to build empathy and understanding from the listener, creating space for emotional support.

Data 2

Ted winter : Matveyev was declared dead en route to the hospital.

Peabody : oh Jesus Christ.

Ted winter : Yeah. You were right about her.

Peabody : She had the drop on me, Ted....Why didn't she shoot?

(Film Salt : 2010 Minute 0:53:47)

The phrase "Oh Jesus Christ" is a form of expressive illocutionary act of grief, as it demonstrates the emotional outburst of Matveyev's death. This utterance is not simply a religious exclamation, but an emotional representation of grief and shock. Its function is to spontaneously express grief while also signaling the emotional burden the character experiences in facing a tragic situation. By uttering it, Peabody demonstrates that he is not merely a cold agent, but a human being capable of experiencing profound grief. Another function is to create an emotional pause in the conversation, emphasizing that the recent death has serious repercussions on both a personal and professional level.

Its function is to create a sense of emotional concern while emphasizing the gravity of the situation. By saying "Jesus Christ," Peabody communicates his grief and shock to Ted Winter. This utterance serves to convey that Matveyev's death is not simply a factual event, but a tragedy that creates an emotional atmosphere of sadness. Furthermore, it creates emotional solidarity between Peabody and Ted Winter, as the expression of grief demonstrates that he is not only professionally involved in the mission but also personally feels the emotional impact of the loss.

Expression of Thank you

Expressive illocutionary speech acts of the thank you type are utterances used by the speaker to express gratitude or appreciation to the interlocutor for kindness, help, attention, or something that has been received. According to Norrick (1978: 277) "Expressive acts, such as saying thank you and apologizing, are basically social acts that function to build and maintain social relationships."

Data 3

Evelyn salt : Okay.Thank you very much and what would you like in return for that information?

Mr Orlov : I simply wish to help you do what you need to do.

Evelyn salt : You're good. KA-program is brilliant bull-sh*t, but I'm officially off-duty, so you can tell the rest of your little story to one of my colleagues.

(Film Salt : 2010 Minute 0:14:51)

This conversation is a concrete example of an expressive illocutionary act of gratitude. This expression arises because Salt expresses gratitude and appreciation for the information she has just received from Mr. Orlov. Although the expression is not purely emotional, but rather mixed with a sarcastic tone, it still conveys acknowledgment and appreciation for the other person's contribution. Therefore, the

expressive illocutionary act that appears is gratitude, as it represents Salt's emotional response to the information she has received.

The function of the gratitude expression in this conversation is to create a tense yet intimidating atmosphere for Mr. Orlov, and also to encourage action by acknowledging and appreciating the other person, even though Salt implicitly does not fully believe her and wants to end the conversation immediately. By expressing gratitude, Salt strives to maintain communication ethics while demonstrating self-control in a serious situation.

Expression of Surprise

The illocutionary act of expressing surprise is a type of speech act used to convey feelings of surprise, disbelief, or amazement from the speaker to the listener. In this context, the speaker expresses an emotional reaction that arises as a result of unexpected information or events. As argued by Wierzbicka (1987: 347) The illocutionary force of 'surprise' involves the speaker's mental state 'I didn't expect this to happen' combined with an emotional reaction to this unexpected event.

Data 4

Mike : Hey.

Evelyn salt : Good Morning.

Mike : Happy Anniversary.

(Film Salt : 2010 Minute 0:04:39)

The sentence "Happy Anniversary" contains an expressive illocutionary act of surprise. This utterance represents Mike's spontaneity, surprising Salt with a reminder of a significant moment in their lives. This expressive act is characterized by elements of surprise and feelings of happiness arising from something unexpected. The surprise presented is not a negative shock, but rather a positive surprise that evokes feelings of joy and emotion.

The function of this expression is to strengthen interpersonal relationships and emotional feelings through reminders of precious personal moments. By saying "Happy Anniversary," Mike not only reminds Salt of a special date but also expresses affection, creating a romantic effect on Evelyn. Another function is to create intimacy and a sense of appreciation, as small surprises like these can strengthen personal relationships. Thus, the expressive illocutionary act of surprise here functions to strengthen interpersonal relationships, emphasizing the importance of personal relationships amidst the tensions of life.

Expression of Regret

The illocutionary act of expressing regret is a type of speech act used to convey feelings of regret or disappointment over an action, decision, or situation that has occurred. In this context, the speaker expresses guilt or dissatisfaction with the results of the action taken, which often serves to communicate awareness of the error and a desire to improve the relationship or situation affected.

Data 5

Peabody : Hey?..Why'd you kill him?

Evelyn salt : Because somebody had to.

Peabody: What?

Evelyn salt : By this I take it, you think everybodys who they say they are.

(Film Salt : 2010 Minute ke 1:29:40)

Evelyn salt's utterance, "Because somebody had to," is an expressive illocutionary act of regret, as it conveys feelings of discomfort and regret over her actions, even though she knows they were necessary. This type of expression emphasizes that Evelyn salt's utterance is not simply a statement of fact, but rather an emotional reflection on her actions. She does not convey pride or satisfaction, but rather a feeling of heaviness and an awareness that her actions have profound emotional consequences.

Its function is to convey her feelings of regret and sadness, to reveal her emotional burden, and to justify her actions. By uttering "Because somebody had to," Evelyn salt wants to emphasize that she is taking on a role no one should want, so her regret serves as an acknowledgment of the weight of responsibility. Furthermore, with this utterance, Evelyn salt also attempts to show Peabody that her actions stem not from personal desire, but rather from compulsion for the common good. This reinforces the idea that this speech act is Evelyn salt's way of expressing both her inner conflict and her emotional feelings.

Emotional Expression

Emotional expressive illocutionary acts are speech acts used by speakers to express feelings of anger, annoyance, or dissatisfaction with an action, situation, or another person. Their primary focus is not to provide information or give commands, but rather to express the negative emotions the speaker feels.

Data 6

Evelyn salt : Please, let me go home, please, I'm not what you think.....I'm really not what you think, I'm not a spy.....

Government soldier : You're a spy!

Evelyn salt : Please let me go home! I'm not a spy, I'm a businessman, I work in oil and gas sales.

Government soldier ; You're here to sabotage our nuclear.

(Film Salt : 2010 Minute 00:53:00)

Evelyn Salt's utterance is an expressive illocutionary act, with an emotional expression of denial mixed with despair. The word "Please" and repeated assertion that she is not a spy express strong emotions: fear, despair, and a longing for freedom. In contrast, the government soldiers' utterances of "You're a spy!" and "You're here to sabotage our nuclear weapons" are expressive illocutionary acts of the emotional type. Their utterances are not neutral, but are loaded with pressure, reflecting the emotional conviction that Evelyn Salt is the enemy. Both parties display extreme emotional expressions: Salt with her fear, and the soldiers with their suspicion and anger.

The function of Evelyn Salt's utterance is to express emotional feelings to exonerate herself and build a self-image as innocent. She hopes to refute the

accusation by asserting an alternative identity as a businesswoman. This function goes beyond simply providing information; Salt displays her emotional side to convey compassion or at least instill doubt in her opponents. Conversely, by expressing the accusation emotionally, they want to pressure Salt into admitting the accusation.

Expression of Doubt

An apology is an expression used to express regret or an apology for an action or situation that may have hurt or disappointed another person. The speaker attempts to show guilt and a desire to improve the situation.

Data 7

Peabody : You don't believe in moles?

Ted winter : I believe in moles, alright, just not the boogey man., specially if the plan is to kill their own president. This guy's selling smoke.

CIA officer : Wrap it up, Eve.

(Film Salt : 2010 Minute 0:14:31)

The sentence "I believe in moles, alright, just not the boogey man, especially if the plan is to assassinate their own president. This guy's selling smoke" indicates that Ted Winter is expressing doubt. He acknowledges that moles could exist, but he refuses to fully believe the grand narrative he considers exaggerated. This emotional expression of doubt reveals Ted Winter's psychological state of uncertainty regarding the information he has received.

The function of this expression of doubt is to convey feelings and attitudes of doubt and caution toward information deemed unreasonable. By openly expressing doubt, Ted Winter attempts to restrain the CIA team from immediately believing the circulating rumors. This doubt also serves as a form of critical evaluation, demonstrating that decisions must be based on solid evidence, not just stories. Therefore, its primary function is to build vigilance and encourage the team to think rationally, even in urgent situations.

CONCLUSION

The overall analysis of expressive illocutionary acts in the film Salt (2010) found 60 data divided into eight types of speech acts. This finding is in line with theory Searle (1976) which classifies illocutionary acts into five main categories, where expressive is one of them to identify feelings such as regret or joy. Of the 60 data, there are several data that contain two types of speech acts at once, for example in data (A10) which contains elements of hope and emotion. Overall, there are 64 types of findings with details: emotional expression as many as 22 data (34.4%), followed by hope 14 data (21.9%), and support 13 data (20.3%). In addition, also found were expressions of gratitude (7.8%), surprise (4.7%), doubt and regret (3.1% each), and sadness (1.6%). This proves Austin's (1962) opinion that dialogue in films is not just speech, but actions that have specific meanings. The dominance of emotional expressions and hopes indicates that the film's dialogue is used to display the character's psychological condition and emphasize conflict. This is supported by Yule (1996) who stated that the function of speech acts is greatly influenced by the context

of language use, including the situation and dynamics of the story. In addition to type, this study found 94 data points on the function of speech acts.

The most dominant function is conveying feelings with 39 data (41.5%). As explained by Chaer (2010), illocutionary speech acts focus more on the purpose or intention behind a statement rather than its literal meaning alone. Furthermore, the functions of creating atmosphere (21.3%), building interpersonal relationships (18.1%), and encouraging action (13.8%) were found. Gilbert Michael (1999) emphasized that expressive speech acts function to build emotional relationships and create a more intimate atmosphere in communication. Finally, the functions of showing self-identity (4.3%) and arousing empathy (1.0%) were the least found. These results confirm that expressive illocutionary speech acts in the film *Salt* play an important role in conveying the characters' feelings, building relationships, creating a dramatic atmosphere, and driving the film's narrative flow.

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