

**THE ANALYSIS OF PERLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN *THE  
THEORY OF EVERYTHING* MOVIE SCRIPT**

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# **THE ANALYSIS OF PERLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN *THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING* MOVIE SCRIPT**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research is entitled *The Analysis of Perlocutionary Acts in “The Theory of Everything” Movie Script*. The purpose of this research is to describe the functions of illocutionary act of the utterances of the characters in “The Theory of Everything” movie script related to perlocutionary act and to describe the effect (perlocutionary act) of the utterances in “The Theory of Everything” movie script.

This research is included in to qualitative research and uses Pragmatic Analysis. The data of this research are the utterances of the characters in “The Theory of Everything” movie script which contain illocutionary act which related to perlocutionary act. In collecting data, the researcher uses the observation method. After the data are collected, the writer uses Contextual analysis to analyze the data. The final step is to describe the function of illocutionary act from the characters’s utterance related to the perlocutionary act based on Searle’s classification of function and describe the effect (perlocutionary act) of the characters’s utterance based on Austin theory.

The results of this research shows that the utterances of illocutionary act are identified into three kinds of the function, as descriptive, commissive, and representative. From the 3 utterances, 24 utterances is identified as a directive, 6 utterances is identified as commissive, and 4 utterances is identified as representative. The utterances of illocutionary act then would be describe the effect (perlocutionary act).

**Key word:** *general function, perlocutionary act, The Theory of Everything movie script*

## INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role in the communication process. In the study of language, there is a theory called speech acts. Speech acts are the study how to do things with words. There are three processes of communication in speech act theory, those are the basic utterance what we say (locutionary), what we mean when we say (illocutionary), and what we perform by saying it (perlocutionary).

Related to the speech act theory, this research analyzes the general function of illocutionary act found in all the characters's utterance in "The Theory of Everything" movie script which related to the perlocutionary act. Perlocutionary act is the result from the speaker utterance. The utterances from the speaker could be known what are the intended purpose and the goals so it could be understood by the listener. As the result, the listener would give some respond to the speaker.

Perlocutionary act is a main object in this research because the perlocutionary act discuss the effect giving by the listener after hearing the speaker's utterance. What kind of effect could be given by the listener, is it related with the speaker's intention or not. When someone uttered an utterance, sometimes there is an implicit or explicit meaning. From those utterances that stated by the speaker, we could identify the kinds of functions from the illocutionary act, there are representatives, directives, commissives, expressive, and declaratives, then the writer identified the purpose and get the effect by uttering the utterance. The effect that given by the listener could be identify by the perlocutionary act.

In this research, the writer use "The Theory of Everything" movie script as the main data to analyze the general function of the utterances and the perlocutionary act. This movie is a biographical movie which released on 2014. The script of this movie was written by Anthony McCarten based on Jane Hawking's book entitled "Travelling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen" (PikiranRakyat, para. 7). This movie tells the story of Stephen Hawking, a Cambridge theoretical physicist who has a rare illness called Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) at the age of 21 years, how Stephen survived his illness while working to develop the theory of Black Holes and released one of the best-selling science books of all the time entitle "A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes" (PikiranRakyat, para. 3).

The writer chooses this movie because this movie is a biographical movie, which means that the movie shows based on the true story. The main character in this movie, Stephen Hawking, has inspired the writer with his life of journey. Stephen who suffered from his rare disease could bravely survive his life. With all the limitation he has as a result from his illness, he is able to make an extraordinary theory and books that has an effect in the world. Hawking's determination, patience, and intelligence has inspired the writer to struggle in life. His wife Jane also made an extraordinary impression as a patient and clever woman who struggled with Hawking. Besides of those subjective reasons, this movie has a good rating and review. Based on Rotten Tomatoes, this movie has a 78 percent rating based on 241 reviews with an average rating of 7.3 out of 10 and based on Metacritic, the movie gets a score of 72 out of 100 (PikiranRakyat, para. 8).

## **THEORETICAL APPROACH AND FRAMEWORK**

### **A. THEORETICAL APPROACH**

In this research the writer used pragmatics approach to analyze the characters's utterances in "The Theory of Everything" movie script. Pragmatics not only focus on the speaker's intention, but also the speaker's psychological mind or attitude. It refers to how people use language in social situation and what language is interpreted. Pragmatics focuses not on *what* people say but *how* they say it and how others interpret their utterances in social contexts. It seems beyond the literal substance of an utterance and considers how meaning is built as well as focusing on implied meanings.

### **B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **1. Concept in pragmatics**

Pragmatics is the study about speaker meaning. The study of what speakers mean, or speaker meaning, is called pragmatics (Yule, 2006, p. 112). Pragmatics studies the meaning of the context in the conversation between speakers and hearers. Communication process not only depends on the meaning of the words in the utterance, but also know the speaker's meaning behind their utterance.

#### **2. Uses and Aims of Pragmatics**

As stated in Jacob Mey (2001), the general answer of why we need pragmatics is to have a fuller, deeper, and generally more reasonable account of human language behavior. More specific answer would be:

outside pragmatics, no understanding; sometimes a pragmatics account is the only one that makes sense (p. 12).

### **3. Speech acts**

John L. Austin, give an extraordinary impact on linguistics philosophy, especially in pragmatics with his following work *How to do Things with Words* (1962). Austin's theory called speech acts then established and classified by the American philosopher John R. Searle, who was Austin's student. The speech act theory is a pragmatic concept since 1962 until now.

Speech acts are verbal actions happening in the world (Mey, 2001, p. 95). Speech acts theory describes what utterances are intended to do, such as promise, apologise, and threaten (Cutting, 2002, p. 2). Expressing a speech acts, means that we do something with the words in the utterances we used. In the other words, it could be performing activity that bring a change as the result from the utterances that we heard.

#### **a. Speech acts theory by Austin**

Speech acts theory said that the action performed when the utterance is produce can be analyzed on three different levels:

- 1) The first is the words themselves. This is the locution, what is said, the form of the words uttered; the act of saying something is called the locutionary act (Cuttung, 2002, p. 16). Locutionary act is the act of saying something. It is the action or activity involve by saying something. stated in Austin book, that we used locution in many ways. Some of them as quoted in lecture viii are when we asking or answering a question, giving some information or an assurance or a warning, announcing an intention, pronouncing sentence, making an appointment or an appeal or a criticism, making an identification or giving a description, and the numerous like. In a normal situation, by uttering the words, I am making a statement. For instance, "It's cold here". This statement is intended to inform the hearer that the weather is cold without any consideration to perform an act or influence someone.
- 2) The second is what the speakers are doing with their words. This is the illocutionary, what is done in uttering the words, the

performance of an act, the function of the words, the specific purpose that speaker have in mind (Cutting, 2002, p. 16). Austin explain in his book that an illocutionary act is performance of an act in saying something. Some certain words used in the utterances sometimes need to be explained based on the context. When we say an utterance, we normally produce certain effects based the feelings, thoughts, or actions of the audience or of the other persons. Through those feeling, thoughts or the action it may be done with the design, intention, or purpose of producing them.

- 3) The last is the result of the words, known as perlocutionary, what is done by uttering the words, it is the effect on the hearer, the hearer reaction (Cutting 2002, p. 16).

#### **b. Speech act theory by Searle**

Searle classified the speech act into following macro classes:

1. Declarations

It means that words and expression could change the world by the utterance. According to Yule (1996), declarations are the kinds of speech acts that change the world via words. By the utterance that speaker produce, it can change the situation or condition. Cutting (2002) stated there are some words and expression that change the world by their utterances, such as 'I bet', 'I declare', 'I resign'(p. 16). As Levinson (1983) stated that Declarations can immediate changes in the institutional state of affairs and which tend to rely on elaborate extra linguistic institutions. For example, when a man said, "I resign from this company", it means that he would never work again in his previous company. Austin used this dissimilarity to create what he saw as the main divider in speech acts theory, the difference between locutionary and illocutionary acts.

2. Representative

According to Joan Cutting, these are acts which the words state what the speaker believes to be the case, such as describing, claiming, hypothesizing, and predicting. Yule (1996: 53) stated that representative tells the truthfully of the utterance. Based on Leech, representatives are assertions about a state of matters in the world which carry the values true or false. Assertion

sometimes represent an individual state of mind, means that the speaker who asserts an intention as true does so in force of his or her belief. Searle used the term “assertive” in stating this category.

For example, “I only can do nine”. This utterance is representative because it tells the truth.

### 3. Commissive

Joan Cutting stated, this includes acts which the words commit the speaker the future action. Such as promising, offering, threatening, refusing, vowing, and volunteering. Commissive is the utterance that make someone do some action or plan in the future. It can perform by the speaker alone or as a group. For example, someone said, “I’ll be back in twenty minutes”. This utterance is commissive because someone make a promise which he would back in the future.

### 4. Directive

This category covers act which the words are aimed at making the hearer do something, such as commanding, requesting, inviting, and forbidding. According to Jacob Mey, directives express an effort on the part of the speaker to get the hearer to do something, or in other word, to direct someone toward some goal. Austin named them as either exercitives or behabitives.

### 5. Expressive

Is an act which the words state what the speaker feels, such as regretting, apologizing, etc. This speech acts express an inner state of the speaker, the expression is basically subjective. Expressive is a subjective character which would change according to the different social guilt behavior.

## 4. Movie Script

A script is a document that outlines every visual, aural, behavioral, and lingual part necessary to tell a story (“How to Write a Screenplay,” para. 1). In producing a movie the director, cast, editor, and production crew determination, based on the outline of the script, interpret the story their way when it is filmed. A script must follow to standards that all involved parties understand and has a specific format or layout, margins, notation, and other conventions. This document is planned to overview the typical elements used screenplay writing.

## DISCUSSION

### A. The function of illocutionary act of the utterances of the characters in “The Theory of Everything” movie script related to perlocutionary act.

There are 34 utterances which show the function of illocutionary act which have the effect of perlocutionary act found in the character’s utterances. From those data, the writer identified the utterances into three kinds of the function based on Searle’s classification. The majority of the data are identified as the directive function. There are 24 utterances which have directive function. Then commissive function takes the second place with 6 utterances. The last is representative function with 4 utterances.

#### 1. Directive

Based on Searle, directive means the words are aimed at making the hearer do something. This function makes the hearer do some act as the speaker said such as requesting, inviting, asserting, ordering, asking, and so on. The following is the classification of directive function of illocutionary act related to perlocutionary act found in “The Theory of Everything” movie script.

Sciama : ”Something to sort the men from the boys, the wheat from the chaff, the mesons from the pi-mesons, the quarks from the quacks, ten questions, each more impregnable than the last. Shall we say, Friday 3 o’clock?” (Datum 2)

In this datum, there is an utterance stated by the professor. By his utterance, the professor directly ordered the student to submit the task on Friday at 3 o'clock. This utterance is a sentence that orders the hearer to do something. In this case, the professor gives some task for his student. And he decides the date of submission.

#### 2. Commissive



In the book entitled *Pragmatics and Discourse*, Searle stated that commissive is the words that commit the speaker to do the future action. Commissive make the speakers do the action which they have said in their utterance to make an action in the future. This utterance usually contain a sentence like swearing, promising, threatening, or stating to do something in the future. The data that writer found in the movie script that has function as a commissive would explain below.

Diana : “This party is officially deceased! Come on. I’ve fixed you up a ride home.” (Dattum 1)

This utterance was uttered by Diana. Diana said that utterance because she felt annoyed in that party. That utterance has a function as a commissive because it promising an action. The utterance “i’ve fixed you up a ride home” has a meaning that Diana promise to Jane that she would drive Jane home. Diana commit the future action that she would drive Jane home.

### 3. Representative

Quoted from the book entitled *Pragmatics and Discourse*, Searle stated that representative is the words state what the speaker believe to be the case. It bind the speaker to the truth of his statement. Representative is also called an assertive. Suggesting, stating, putting forward, swearing, boasting, and concluding are some type that include in the representative. Below are the discussion of the data that the writer foind in the movie script.

Stephen : “Sorry. It’s on the back. Had a little accident.” (Datum 4)

This illocutionay act has a function as a representative which have an effect as perlocutionary act. In his utterance, Stephen stated that his work is on the back. The utterance is kind of statement. Stephen state an utterance that anyone could prove his statement. With his statement, he let the professor and also the other students know that he already finish his work and he writes it on the back of the train table paper. Stephen also state that because of a little accident he should write the work on those paper. That is the reasong why Stephen’s utterances has a function as a representative.

## **B. The effect (perlocutionary act) of the utterances of the characters in “The Theory of Everything” movie script.**

Based on the Searle and Austin opinion, in this research the writer identified the utterance of the characters in “The Theory of Everything” movie script based on the perlocutionary act. As stated by Austin in Joan Cutting book, Pragmatics and Discourse, that perlocutionary act is what is done by uttering the words. Or in the other words, perlocutionary act is the action or the effect on the hearer after hearing the speaker. The following are the discussion and the examples from the script of “The Theory of Everything” movie.

Datum 1

(Jane laugh. Stephen grins – it’s a great grin, as – Diana approaches)

Diana : “This party is officially deceased! Come on. I’ve fixed you up a ride home.”

(David and David’s handsome friend wait by the door. Jane barely has time to speak before she is dragged away by Diana).

This utterance is uttered by Diana. She is Jane best friend. One night in Cambridge, Diana and Jane were attending a student party. Stephen, the main character in this movie, attending the party with his best friend, Brian. Stephen and Brian then come to the main room of the party, observing the guest. Stephen suddenly pay attention to Jane, who just walk in the room. Stephen and Jane’s eyes meet, then Stephen decides to slowly approaching Jane. Shyly Stephen start to talk to Jane. They have a nice talk together at that night until Diana come and said that utterance. In that utterance Diana was asking Jane to come home with her. Diana felt unpleasant and bored in the party, so she said the dialogue and dragged Jane’s hand. Diana didn’t straightly ask Jane to come home at that moment. Instead of saying “let’s go home”, in that utterance she said “i’ve fixed you up right home” which has the same meaning, to ask Jane went home.

The perlocutionary effect happens when Jane follows Diana without any words coming from her mouth. There is an action as a result of hearing the utterance. Jane understands what Diana means by saying the utterance. Jane knows that Diana asks her to come home and Diana would take her back home. Although Jane still want to be with Stephen, she has no other choice except accepting Diana’s would. Jane then follows Diana. This act called perlocutionary act because there is an action from the hearer, Jane, after she heard the speaker, Diana, said an utterance. The act is Jane follows Diana back home.

## CONLUSSION

Based on the research written by the writer, this research has two objectives, first is to describe the functions of illocutionary act of the utterances of the characters in “The Theory of Everything” movie script related to perlocutionary act, and the last one is to describe the effect (perlocutionary act) of the utterances in “The Theory of Everything” movie script.

From this research it can be concluded that the data that found in this research shows that there are 34 illocutionary act which causing an effect (perlocutionary act) by uttering the dialogue by the characters. Those perlocutionary act is identified in the characters’s utterance in the movie script.

The writer identified the utterances into three kinds of the function based on Searle’s classification. The majority of the data are identified as the directive function with 24 utterances. The function of the utterances in the research are requesting, inviting, asserting, ordering, and asking. Then commissive function takes the second place as 6 utterances. The function of the utterances are swearing, promising, threatening, or stating to do something in the future. The last is representative function with 4 utterances. The function of the utterances found in the research are Suggesting, stating, putting forward, swearing, boasting, and concluding.

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