

An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts through the Character of Edmund Pevensie in “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe” Novel

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to identify the types and the most dominant type of illocutionary acts used by the character of Edmund Pevensie in the novel *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. This study employed John Searle's theory of illocutionary acts. According to this theory, illocutionary speech acts are categorized into five types: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. A qualitative descriptive method was utilized in this research, with observation as the instrument and data tables for analysis. The data collected consisted of utterances made by the character Edmund Pevensie to examine the types of illocutionary acts. Based on the research findings, the researcher found 64 assertive utterances, 38 directive utterances, 8 commissive utterances, and 5 expressive utterances. Subsequently, a percentage calculation was conducted for the identified types. The results showed that 56% were assertive, 33% were directive, 7% were commissive, and 4% were expressive. Then, based on the analysis the most dominant type used by Edmund is the assertive type.

Keywords: *speech acts, illocutionary acts, Narnia novel, Edmund Pevensie*

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mencari jenis tindak ilokusi dan jenis yang paling dominan digunakan oleh karakter Edmund Pevensie dalam novel The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori John Searle tentang jenis tindak ilokusi. Berdasarkan teori tersebut, jenis tindak tutur ilokusi dibagi menjadi 5 jenis, yaitu asertif, direktif, komisif, ekspresif, dan deklaratif. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan menggunakan observasi sebagai instrumen dan tabel data untuk menganalisis. Data yang diambil adalah ujaran dari tokoh Edmund Pevensie untuk meneliti jenis tindak ilokusi. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian yang telah dilakukan, peneliti menemukan 64 kalimat asertif, 38 kalimat direktif, 8 kalimat komisif, dan 5 kalimat ekspresif. Kemudian, dilanjutkan dengan perhitungan persentase

jenis yang ditemukan. Hasilnya adalah 56% untuk jenis asertif, 33% untuk jenis direktif, 7% untuk jenis komisif, dan 4% untuk jenis ekspresif. Kemudian dari hasil analisis tipe yang dominan digunakan oleh Edmund adalah jenis assertives.

Keywords: *tindak ilokusi, novel narnia, Edmund Pevensie*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a complicated system that influences communication in daily life. As a communication tool for humans, language can be delivered in spoken and written form (Setiawan & Djajanegara, 2020). Understanding the meaning of language is important in society, good communication occurs when the audience understands what the speaker's intentions are (Haucsa, 2020). If the audience is unable to interpret the speaker's intentions, there will be a misunderstanding. To avoid misunderstanding and misconceptions, concepts like pragmatics are needed to help to understand the meaning of language. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that describes how to understand meaning based on language context and situations or recurring events in language communication (Griffith, 2006). For instance, when a person said, "I want **that** chocolate." This sentence describes a situation in which someone desires the chocolate he or she is exactly pointing to. Without the word "**that**," there is a potential for a loss of meaning, resulting in an incomplete sentence. Consequently, the listener may be confused as to which specific chocolate is being requested. The study of pragmatics examines the meaning of language expressed by speakers and writers, taking into account their aim, context, and circumstances (Sada & Suhartono, 2019).

Illocutionary acts, the intended meaning behind a speaker's utterance, can often be misunderstood due to the multifaceted nature of language (Sada & Suhartono, 2019). In the realm of literature fiction, the meanings of an author's message can be significantly influenced by readers' assumptions and it could lead to misinterpretation. This research aims to explore the types of illocutionary acts and the most dominant type used since Edmund Pevensie is a main character renowned for his betrayal and redemption in "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe," which provides a rich context for this investigation. By analyzing his utterances, the researcher seeks to uncover the subtle ways in which illocutionary acts contribute to characterization and storytelling. Edmund's utterances through the lens of illocutionary acts offer valuable insights into the author's skillful use of language to convey meaning and intention, aligning with Searle's theoretical framework.

Furthermore, this study hopes to offer insightful analysis to the teachers and students in learning illocutionary acts that describe how language is capable of doing more than just conveying information. The teachers can create engaging and effective activities and exercises in the form of group discussion that help students learn illocutionary acts in various language contexts from the findings. By closely examining Edmund's utterance, students can develop how context, speaker intention, and linguistic decisions interact to

produce meaning. In addition, this study adds knowledge in academic literature analysis and pragmatics that can be used as a starting point for other research, encouraging more investigation of illocutionary acts about narrative structure and character development.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Austin (1962) in his book, "How to Do Things with Words," argues that language is not just a tool for expressing ideas but it's also a powerful instrument for performing actions. Speech acts are the way to use language in everyday situations to communicate and share information or ideas with others. As Haucsa (2020) points out, language can be used to accomplish a wide range of goals beyond mere communication. To understand speech act theory, Austin claimed that language frequently performs actions using words. In line with this, Austin (1962) in Huang (2014) stated that every piece of information in both spoken and written not only conveys meanings but also carries out particular actions. Austin (1962) in Huang (2014) divided speech acts into three distinct categories: **Locutionary**, a speech act dealing with what utterance by the speaker refers to the basic act of communicating. In addition, locutionary acts mean the creation of a language statement with significance based on the actual event (Huang, 2014). **Illocutionary**, a speech act dealing with what it is the aim or purpose of the speaker to communicate. In line with the previous statement, Huang (2014) claimed that illocutionary act is the intended action that the receiver should do when the speaker utters an expression. **Perlocutionary**, a speech act dealing with what brings the impact of the speech on the listener or the audience. Huang (2014) added that perlocutionary act is the act of bringing about consequences or effects on the receiver by the use of language, in which the statement is made.

Searle (1976) in Huang (2014) proposed five types of illocutionary acts needed to develop in Austin's speech act theory. **Assertives** in illocutionary acts is classified as a condition in speech by someone in spoken or written means to convey information based on reality without trying to persuade the audience to take action. According to the theory, assertives are indicated by asserting, claiming, concluding, reporting, and stating in the sentence. **Directives** in illocutionary acts are classified as how the speaker attempts to persuade the addressee to take action. According to the theory, directives could perform some advice, commands, orders, questions, and requests. **Commissives** in illocutionary acts are classified as types committed to the speaker to establish further action as what it is said. According to the theory, commissives could take the form of offers, pledges, promises, refusals, and threats. **Expressives** in illocutionary acts are classified as conveying the speaker's psychological mood or condition. According to the theory, expressive could be performed as apologizing, blaming, congratulating, praising, and thanking. **Declarations** in illocutionary acts are classified as a condition that brings changes in several status situations. According to the theory, declarations could be performed as bidding in the bridge, declaring war, excommunicating, firing from employment, and nominating a candidate.

Aligns with the goals of research in this field, several researchers have conducted previous related studies such as the work by (Nindyasari, 2013) in research entitled An Analysis of Directive Illocutionary Act of Luther Character in the Novel "Skipping Christmas" translated into "Absen Natal." The purpose of the study is to examine how the main character's illocutionary act is translated and what kind of illocutionary act that might contain directive types from the main character exhibits. The result from this research is that 6 different kinds of directive illocutionary acts have been identified: asking, commanding, ordering, suggesting, requesting and forbidding. The other researcher that conducted the similar field (Rahayu & Parmawati, 2020) in their journal entitled The Analysis of Language Style and The Illocutionary Act Found in Teen Lit Novel "The Perfect Husband" Written by Indah Riyana, this study examined the Language Style and Illocutionary Act found in a teen-lit novel "The Perfect Husband" written by Indah Riyana. The purpose is to examine the Language Style and the types of illocutionary act. The types of language styles used in the novel are frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. The types of illocutionary acts used in this novel are representatives, commissive, directives, declarations and expressive. The most dominant uses are directive and expressive. (Setiawan & Djajanegara, 2020) examined illocutionary and perlocutionary acts in the literary work entitled Illocutionary and Perlocutionary Acts in The Novel "The Book of Lost Things" by John Connolly. It examines characters in the book who employed a variety of illocutionary acts and the directive types were dominant. Their research analysis found that 50 dialogues revealed the presence of various illocutionary acts and 87 utterances contain perlocutionary activities. These three previous studies are relevant to this research since it contributes in the theoretical framework, the methods used to conduct the research that provide examples of different research designs or data collection techniques, and additional information in the similar field. Drawing upon previous related studies, the researcher conducted an research into the illocutionary acts and the most dominant use by the main character, Edmund Pevensie, within the novel series *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.*"

METHODOLOGY

This research looked into the types of illocutionary acts and the most dominant one uttered by Edmund Pevensie. Therefore, in this research study, the researcher utilized herself as the primary observer to discover the forms of illocutionary acts and used the table of analysis which helped in classifying Edmund Pevensie's utterances and determining the most dominant used type seen in "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, Witch, and Wardrobe" novel. In this study, the researcher used the descriptive qualitative method since this method helped in gaining a comprehensive understanding of illocutionary acts in novels by providing a better contextual understanding of a research focus. Furthermore, the major source for determining the types of illocutionary acts included sentences uttered by Edmund Pevensie character in "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" a novel by C. S. Lewis.

In collecting data, there were three steps used in this research. First, the researcher read and understood the content inside the novel. Second, the researcher highlighted Edmund Pevensie's utterances as the object to look at types of illocutionary acts. Third,

the researcher put the highlighted utterances into table analysis. To collect the data, the researcher used a table as the tool to analyze Edmund's utterances.

In data analysis, the researcher observed and analyzed the uttered sentences by Edmund Pevensie. There were three steps taken in data analysis. First, the researcher divided the grouping of types based on Searle theory. After grouping the types of illocutionary, the researcher explained the context from the novel and the reasons for identifying the type. Second, in the other sheet the researcher categorized Edmund Pevensie's utterances into types of illocutionary. The last step the researcher elaborate the explanation from the data based on Searle's theory.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

According to the findings that have been taken and analyzed by the researcher there are only four types of illocutionary acts used by Edmund Pevensie. There 64 sentences contain assertives type, 39 sentences contain directives type, 8 sentences contain commissives type, and 5 sentences contain expressives type. Continuing with the percentage from the findings there are 56% assertives, 34% directives, 7% commissives, and 4% expressives. In order to look at the sentences that contain illocutionary acts based on Searle's theory can be seen in the representative utterance sentences below:

Assertives

Based on the theory (Searle, 1976) in Huang (2014) the assertive type in illocutionary plays a role in explaining an utterance based on facts or realities that coincide. Based on the research results, there were 45 stating, 5 concluding, 11 asserting, and 5 reporting. The following representative sentences are the explanation of the findings can be seen below:

a. Stating:

Lucy: "What's that noise?"

Edmund: "It's only a bird, silly,"

Based on analysis the utterance falls under the category of asserting in the "stating" function because Edmund attributed the mysterious noise to the commonplace activity of a bird. Stating in assertive form is used to convey information clearly, concisely, and directly. Edmund is effectively communicating his belief or observation about the source of the noise. This type of statement is characterized by its straightforwardness as it aims to provide a clear and concise piece of information.

b. Concluding:

But when next morning came there was a steady rain falling, so thick that when you looked out of the window you could see neither the mountains nor the woods nor even

the stream in the garden.
Edmund: "Of course it would be raining!"

In this utterance, falls under the category of assertives in the "concluding" function. Edmund's utterance is categorized as concluding that there will be rain because the fact at that moment the clouds were dark. The use of concluding in assertive is to conclude an event is an important step in effective communication. Assertive, not only states an opinion, but also presents a conclusion based on strong and relevant evidence. In other words, assertive serves as a solid foundation for an argument. Edmund is effectively presenting a reasoned argument or prediction. This type of statement is typically based on strong and relevant evidence for further discussion or action.

c. Asserting:

Lucy: "you do look awful, Edmund. Don't you feel well?"
Edmund: "I'm all right,"

Based on analysis, the utterance falls under the category of assertive in the "asserting" function. In this utterance, Edmund is asserting that he is well, demonstrating a confident and clear statement. The use of asserting in a sentence is used to assert something is to state it forcefully or confidently, often in a way that is intended to be persuasive or emphatic. Edmund is effectively conveying his message in a direct and forceful manner. This type of statement is often used to express strong opinions, beliefs, or intentions, and can be a powerful tool for persuasion or emphasis.

d. Reporting:

White Queen: "And how, pray, did you come to enter my dominions?"
Edmund: "Please, your Majesty, I came in through a wardrobe."

In this utterance, falls under the category of assertives in the "reporting" function where Edmund asserts that he is providing a report of an object which he believes to be how he can reach Narnia. Reporting in assertive form is used to report information or facts with factual evidence. Edmund is effectively communicating information or facts about a particular subject.

Directive

Based on the theory (Searle, 1976) in Huang (2014) the directive type in illocutionary plays a role in explaining an utterance attempts to persuade the addressee to take action. Based on the research results, there were 6 requests, 1 order, 22 questions, 6 commands, and 3 advice. The following representative sentences are the explanation of the findings can be seen below:

a. Request:

White Queen: “What would you like best to eat?”

Edmund: “Turkish Delight, please, your Majesty,”

Edmund asked politely to the queen for some Turkish Delight, when she offered food or drink to him. Requests are a type of directive used to ask for something politely. Based on the analysis Edmund is expressing his desire for something in a polite and respectful manner. The request function often employs softening devices to make them more courteous. Understanding the nuances of requests can help to communicate effectively in various social and professional contexts.

b. Order:

Edmund: “Don’t go on talking like that.”

Susan: “Like what?”

This utterance falls under the category of directives in the "order" function. Edmund instructed his siblings to not talk like that. The use of order in directive is often direct, explicit, and assumes a position of authority. By using a directive in the order function, Edmund is asserting his authority and attempting to control the behavior of his siblings. The effectiveness of this order may depend on various factors, such as the relationship between Edmund and his siblings, the context of the situation, and the authority Edmund holds over them.

c. Question:

White Queen: “Because, if you did come again—bringing them with you of course—I’d be able to give you some more Turkish Delight. I can’t do it now, the magic will only work once. In my own house it would be another matter.”

Edmund: “Why can’t we go to your house now?”

The use of a question in directive is to seek information from the speaker to the listener. Based on analysis the utterance falls under the category of directives in the "questions" function. Edmund currently has a strong desire for the Turkish Delight the queen offers and wishes to go to her house immediately. However, the queen has refused to give him right now.

d. Command:

Edmund: “Let’s go home.”

Lucy: “Yes, let’s,”

In this utterance falls under the category of directive in the "commanding" function. In this plot, Edmund commands Lucy to go back home. The word "lets" indicates that Edmund is trying to invite Lucy to go home together. The use of commands in directives is often used in situations where the speaker has authority.

e. Advice:

Lucy: "Who said so?" asked Lucy.

Edmund: "Everyone knows it, ask anybody you like"

Edmund's utterance can be classified as advice, as he explicitly counsels Lucy against trusting the Faun and suggests that she consult others for a second opinion. The use of advice in directive is often given more subtly or suggestively than commands or requests.

Commissives

Based on the theory (Searle, 1976) in Huang (2014) the commissive type in illocutionary plays a role in explaining utterance attempts to commit the speaker to some future course of action. Based on the research results, there are 3 offers, 2 refusal, and 3 promising. The following representative sentences are the explanation of the findings can be seen below:

a. offers:

Edmund: "If you're not still too high and mighty to talk to me, I've something to say which you'd better listen to."

Peter: "What is it?"

In this utterance, based on analysis the utterance falls under the category of commissive in the "offer" function. Edmund's utterance serves as an offer, aimed at inducing Peter to consider a particular course of action.

b. Refusal:

***Lucy: "But I've been away for hours and hours,"
The others all stared at one another.***

Edmund: "Batty!"

In this utterance, based on analysis the utterance falls under the category of commissive in the "refusal" function. Doubting the veracity of Lucy's account of her experiences in the magical land, Edmund uttered a phrase that seemed to convey his

skepticism. The use of refusal in commissive is occurs when the speaker refuse or rejects a statement or promise.

c. Promising:

White Queen: "Son of Adam, I should so much like to see your brother and your two sisters. Will you bring them to see me?"

Edmund: "I'll try,"

This utterance falls under the category of commissives, specifically promising, as Edmund promises to the White Queen to bring his siblings. This type of utterance is marked by the modal verb "will" which means if Edmund was promising to the White Queen.

Expressive

Based on the theory (Searle, 1976) in Huang (2014) the commissive type in illocutionary plays a role in explaining utterance attempts to express a psychological attitude. Based on the research results, there are 4 apologizing, and a praising. The following representative sentences are the explanation of the findings can be seen below:

a. Apologizing:

Aslan: "Here is your brother, and—there is no need to talk to him about what is past."

Edmund shook hands with each of the others and said to each of them in turn, "I'm sorry,"

Apologizing in expressive speech acts is a broader mechanism for conveying a range of emotions, attitude, and often related to social interactions and interpersonal relationships. This utterance falls under the category of expressive in the "apologizing" function. Edmund felt sorry because he was betrayed from his sibling to commit with the White Queen.

b. Praising:

He also noticed that he was unexpectedly cold; and then he saw a light.

Edmund: "Thank goodness,"

Based on analysis the utterance falls under the category of expressive in the "praising" function. While not overtly praising a good work, Edmund is expressing his sarcasm towards the current situation. The use of praising in expressive form serves as a positive reinforcement that can enhance relationships, boost confidence, and create a supportive environment.

CONCLUSION

In summary, this research has investigated the types of illocutionary acts employed by Edmund Pevensie in C.S. Lewis' novel, 'The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,' utilizing John Searle's theory of illocutionary acts. A qualitative approach was employed to analyze the data, with tables used to organize and analyze the utterances of the main character. Based on the findings there are four types of illocutionary acts used by Edmund Pevensie's character the researcher found 64 assertive utterances, 38 directive utterances, 8 commissive utterances, and 5 expressive utterances with percentage in each types 56% were assertive, 33% were directive, 7% were commissive, and 4% were expressive and the researcher concluded that the most dominant types used by Edmund Pevensie's character is assertives.

Throughout this analysis, the illocutionary act found in Edmund has impacted on the story. For example, his assertives are frequently simple assertions based on the information in the narrative. His directive, whether it can be a kind request or strong commands, has the power to forward the plot or create conflict. Edmund uses his commissives, like offers and promises, to forge bonds and make commitments with other characters. He forges relationships with those around him, for instance, when he offers to take his brothers to Narnia to meet the White Witch. Lastly, he can express his emotional condition and responses to things through his expressives. Edmund's admission of guilt towards his siblings provides insight into his personal life and broadens our comprehension of his character.

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