A STUDY OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN HEROES SERIES

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Abstrak

Sewaktu menyaksikan sebuah film atau serial televisi, orang-orang secara tak sadar mengamati sebuah aktivitas sosial berupa komunikasi antar para pemeran. Dengan meneliti sebuah serial televisi Amerika berjudul *Heroes*, peneliti berusaha mengadakan studi tentang tipe-tipe tindak tutur ilokusi beserta fungsi sosial dalam komunikasi melalui dialog di serial tersebut. Untuk mengidentifikasi tipe-tipe dan subtipe tindak tutur ilokusi dalam dialog, beberapa teori yang dicetuskan oleh Searle dalam Yule (1996) dan Bach & Harnish (1982) digunakan untuk penelitian ini, sementara teori fungsi sosial dalam tindak tutur ilokusi yang digagas oleh Leech (1983) digunakan sebagai landasan untuk mengidentifikasi fungsi sosial dari tipe-tipe tindak tutur ilokusi. Penelitian ini juga berusaha membuktikan bahwa tindak tutur representatif merupakan tipe ilokusi paling dominan dalam sebuah serial sebagaimana dalam sebuah film, serta mencermati pengaruhnya terhadap cerita di serial ini.

Hasil pertama dari penelitian ini mendapati bahwa kelima tipe tindak tutur ilokusi ditemukan dalam naskah serial *Heroes* dengan 6351 temuan yang teridentifikasi sebagai ungkapan tindak tutur ilokusi, dengan kelima tipe tersebut adalah komisif, deklarasi, direktif, ekspresif dan representatif. Kedua, peran tindak tutur ilokusi sebagai fungsi sosial dalam serial ini dipengaruhi oleh gaya bicara dan kesopanan para pemeran yang muncul dalam komunikasi antara mereka, dengan tipe-tipe fungsi sosial yang digunakan berupa kompetitif, konfifial, kolaboratif, dan konfliktif. Ketiga, penelitian ini juga membuktikan bahwa tindak tutur representatif sebagai tipe tindak tutur ilokusi paling dominan dalam serial ini disebabkan faktor latar belakang para pemeran dengan kemampuan luar biasa telah membuat karakter mereka lebih berpengaruh dibanding pemeran lain, demikian pula pengaruh kedudukan mereka yang mewakiliki pemikiran mereka dalam berkomunikasi semisal dalam ungkapan penekanan, pengklaiman, dan pemberitahuan yang menjadikan tipe ilokusi ini sering diucapkan dalam serial ini.

Kata kunci: *Tipe tindak tutur ilokusi, Fungsi sosial tindak tutur ilokusi, serial Heroe*s

Abstract

While watching a movie or television series, people unconsciously observe a social activity of communication between the characters. By analyzing an American film series titled *Heroes*, the researcher tries to conduct a study about the types of Illocutionary acts with their social functions in the communication through dialogue of the series. In order to identify of the types and subtypes of Illocutionary acts in the dialogue, the theories proposed by Searle in Yule (1996) and Bach & Harnish (1982) are used in this study, while the theory of social function of Illocutionary acts proposed by Leech (1983) is used to identify the social

functions of the types of Illocutionary acts. The study also tries to prove that representative act is the most dominant Illocutionary act type in the series with its influence to the story in the series.

The first result of the study proves that the five types of Illocutionary acts are found in the script of Heroes series with 6351 findings are identified as the Illocutionary act utterances, while the five types of Illocutionary act found in *Heroes* series are commissives, declaration, directives, expressives, and representatives. Second, the role of Illocutionary act as social functions in the series is influenced by the style and politeness of the characters that are expressed in the communication between them, while social functions of Illocutionary act that are used by the characters are competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive. Third, this study also proves that representative act is the most dominant Illocutionary act type in the series since the background of the characters as people with extraordinary abilities has made their characters become more powerful than the others, also the great influence of their belief which representing their ideas in communication such as in asserting, claiming, and informing makes this illocutionary type is frequently expressed in the series.

Keywords: *Types of Illocutionary act, Social functions of Illocutionary act, Heroes series*

INTRODUCTION

The words, phrases or sentences in utterances may not only appear as a structured symbols or voices with certain meanings, but they can also perform an action or effect with specific function that influence the addressee to get the context or even to do something as the outcome through conversation or other kind of communication. Conversation itself is a communication method to exchange and to share thoughts which contains some intentions to deliver from someone to the others. Conversation is one of the most used ways for humankind to communicate each other. It can be used to express feeling, to inform something, to ask for help, to make a promise, to convince, to make an apology etc. Sometimes the words in speech are not only as the media in communication, but also as the instrument of an action because we can perform an action through speaking some words. By saying "*You fired!*" we can perform an act of terminating someone's job or saying "*Open the door!*" we can show an act of ordering to someone to do

such thing, these kinds of expression have "power of words" of a pragmatic aspect which called as "speech act."

Through speech act, people can adjust world (human reality) by using some words. When the speakers show the effort to utter or to affirm themselves, they are not only constructing grammatical composition through the utterances but also they are developing "act" in the expression. (Yule 1996:47) Moreover, Since communication is an interaction that may relates with the background knowledge, experience, sense, and specific environment or context between the speaker and interlocutor, the utterances might contain both clear message (locutionary act) and invisible meaning to deliver (Illocutionary act). Therefore, to make a communication more effective and efficient, understanding Illocutionary act is helpful to know the message intended by a speaker when uttering an expression through conversation, (or another way of communication).Without proper and correct understanding in communication, addressee might be having different or

false interpretation in receiving the purpose through words or sentences that are given by the speaker.

It is principal to understand the speaker's meaning which is intended implicitly to avoid misunderstanding in receiving context of the utterances. In order to get the proportional meaning from some kinds of expression, understanding pragmatics is helpful to recognize the intended meaning or even contextual purpose of the utterances spoken by the point of view of speaker. (Stiles, 1981:1) In pragmatics, there are some methods to make an expression more effective to deliver, such as presupposition,

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This research aims to answer these questions:

1. What are the types of Illocutionary act found in *Heroes* series?

2. What is the social function of each type of Illocutionary act in *Heroes* series?

3. How does the most dominant type of Illocutionary act affect the story in the *Heroes* series?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. SPEECH ACT

Speech act is a concept of uttering of a sentence is (or is part of) a doing within the framework of context. Briefly, utterance is part of action. It is generally as one of the branches in field pragmatics, as Yule (1996:223) explains," because the force of speech acts depends on the context of the utterance, speech acts is a part of pragmatics." As this study concerning about the way of acquiring more communicated than the literal meaning, the correlation between context and communicative purpose of speaker's

implicature or even speech act. Speech act is a pragmatic technique to perform actions by using words or sentences. Speech act regarded as a topic in pragmatic that connects the process of how to express and how to recognize several types of sentence in transmitting specific purposes is helpful to understand the context and the function of an utterance. The context is the connection of words or sentences in relation to something else beyond the literal meaning, which the background or the situation is very influential to the written or spoken words result in the real interpretation. (Hinton, 2014: 26)

utterances is explained deeper through this theory. In speech act, speaker may express a certain assertion, feeling, promising, declaring, etc. that related to the functions of type of attitude in speech act.

A British philosopher John Langshaw Austin is well-known as the inventor of *speech act concept*, a theory that had been initiated through "*language game*" formulated by Ludwig Josef Johann Wittgenstein. In his book *Philosophical Investigations,* Wittgenstein (1958:11) stated that "the term *language game* is meant to bring into prominence the fact that the '*speaking of language is part of an activity*."

2. THREE FEATURES OF SPEECH ACT

Austin (in Huang, 2007:102) initiated a threefold feature among the speech acts someone simultaneously presents in saying an utterance. It is suitable with Yule (1996:48) that defines concept of three elements in some sentences of speech act which developed action:

(i) Locutionary act: the production of a meaningful linguistic expression.

(ii) Illocutionary act: the action intended to be performed by a speaker in uttering a linguistic expression, by virtue of the conventional force associated with it, either explicitly or implicitly.

(iii) Perlocutionary act: the bringing about of consequences or effects on the audience through the uttering of a linguistic expression, such consequences or effects being special to the circumstances of utterance.

2.1 LOCUTIONARY ACT

Locutionary act correlates to regular sense of an utterance or the literal meaning to the actual sentences. As a comparison, Locutionary act is the basic act of utterance, when the illocutionary and perlocutionary acts imply more complex consequence for the hearer. According to Leech (1983:199) locutionary act is the act of clearly saying a sentence from a language; that contains the obvious description of what the speaker says.

The kind of acts in locutionary acts generally can be identified based on the syntactic structure of the sentences.

2.2 ILLOCUTIONARY ACT

Since Austin concentrated more on illocutionary act in his speech act theory, Illocutionary act is considered as the central element of the theory. Yule (1996:53) said that illocutionary act is performed via the communicative force of an utterance that mean the speaker might express to make a statement, an explanation, a promise or for some other communicative purpose. In the illocutionary act which is constructed through communicative purpose, there is intended force found in every utterance that may include an expression, such as of inviting, promising, christening, ordering, apologizing, asserting, demanding, claiming, thanking, complaining, congratulating, refusing, giving

permission, greeting, suggesting, offering, praising, directing, denying, firing, stating, etc. According to Yule (1996:42) Illocutionary act is a very important part in speech act for the reason that illocutionary act itself becomes the core focus to linguistic elements of communication.

2.2.1 CLASSIFICATION OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACT

According to Searle (in Yule, 1996:53-55), there are five types of general function performed by illocutionary acts:

a. **Declaration** are those kinds of speech acts that change the world via utterance. It means that the speaker must have a specific institutional role, in specific contexts, to show declarations exactly. For example: "*I pronounce you husband and wife*". This kind utterance is usually spoken by a priest to declare in a marriage concerning a man and a woman who lawfully become a husband and wife (Yule, 1996:53).

b. **Representatives** are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker believes to be the case or not. In using a representatives, the speaker makes words fit in the world (of believe). *i.e. stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining, claiming, and reporting*. For example: "*it is a dark gloomy day for New Yorkers*" means that the speaker report the weather situation for people of New York.

c. **Expressives** are those kinds of speech acts that state what the speaker feels (express psychological states and can be statement of pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, or sorrow). The speaker uses an expressive to make fit the world (of feeling). i.e. *thanking, congratulating, pardoning, blaming, praising, condoling etc*. For example: "*I'm sorry*" an expression of apologizing shows that the speaker ask a forgiviness to hearer (Peccei, 1999:52).

d. **Directives** are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to get someone else to do something (express what the speakers want). The speakers attempts to make the world fit via the hearer. i.e. *commanding, requesting, advising, recommending, and ordering.* For example: "*Open the door!*" means that speaker is commanding the hearer to close the door.

e. **Commissives** are those kinds of speech acts that speakers use to commit themselves to some future action (express what the speaker intends). *i.e. vowing, offering, threating, promising.* For example: "*I promise to come to your party*" showing the intention of the speaker that will be fulfilled in the future.

2.2.2 SOCIAL FUNCTIONS OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACT

According to Leech (1983:35), there are four roles or functions of Illocutionary act related with the degree of politeness, namely:

a. Competitive: this Illocutionary act intends as competition to the social purpose. In this function, the negative politeness is used to reduce the unlikable way between what speakers want and the things should say in a good way.

b. Convivial: this Illocutionary act intends in accordance with the social purposes, which commonly used when someone offers to do something (offering), when someone meets one another (greeting), and when someone does something important to the speaker (thanking). In this circumstance, the politeness is used positively to show a delight relationship in the society.

c. Collaborative: this Illocutionary act intends at disregarding the social purposes. This function does not contain the politeness. This type is used when someone reports about something (reporting), when someone gives a guidance (instructing), and when someone publishes information (announcing)

d. Conflictive: this Illocutionary act intends at opposing to the social purposes. It is against politeness since it is often aimed to express the anger, excluding in the irony utterance. Some examples of this type are used when someone gives a threat (threatening) and someone blames to the other one (blaming).

RESEARCH METHOD

Regarding to the research questions, the approach used in the study is a combination of qualitative-quantitative research. By using this type of research, the researcher may give further explanation about the role of illocutionary acts and the types of the illocutionary act that uttered by the characters in the *Heroes* series through qualitative approach. The main function of qualitative approach itself is also to observe an object of study in more specific and more scientific, which usually using theoretical framework, or to expand the comprehension about something which is analyzed. There are also several considerations to use quantitative approach in this research; First, since the analysis is to identify some types of utterances in the script of drama episodes, it seems impossible that only a few types that can be found in a series. Therefore, a quantitative approach is useful to calculate the frequency of each type and to classify the identical kind of utterance in several groups. Second, the quantitative approach is needed to identify the connection between the most frequent type Illocutionary act (which is in form of numeral data) and the context of story; without this approach, the researcher may find a difficulty to identify the most frequent type of Illocutionary act in the series. These two research types can be connected each other to the data, as the qualitative findings are helpful when a researcher has to supplement, validate,

describe, and reinterpret quantitative findings collected from the object of study (Miles and Huberman. 2014:10).

Quantitative research intends to responds a particular research question; it is substantial and countable in nature and the outlines are arranged and structured, remaining constant throughout the study making them potentially reproducible for the further studies. (Bailey, 1997:17) The quantitative research itself depend on the analysis of number of the sample or population and including objective empirical data through observations and measures (Creswell, 2003:17) if the number of samples is larger, the conclusion inferred from the study is scientifically acceptable and more general. In qualitative research, there are several specific characteristics. First, the research phenomenon has to be researched in the entire contexts of the results. Second, the arrangement of method is in form of an observation, interview, or documentation. Then, an inductive data investigation is used in concluding the results through examining specific theory. Last, the substantial of the research is the process, not the findings.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Heroes Episode 22 (*Landslide*)
00:06:13,171 --> 00:06:35,556

Character		Dialogue
Linderman	:	Oh, I never listen to polls. **Be ready, Nathan. Today you will become a congressman. In time, you will lead the country.**
Nathan	:	As long as I let this city became a nuclear wasteland. And let my brother explode.

The context of this conversation is the hesitation of Nathan Petrelli in competing in congressman candidacy that he thought he would hardly win the election according to the polls, although Linderman tried to comfort him that he firmly believed that he will be the winner of the election as a congressman that would let him become the president in the future. Yet, Nathan was still unsure to ignore the possibility that New York City would be destroyed if the prophecy of his triumph on election became true.

In the example above, the speaker is telling to the addressee about his own opinion concerning a prediction to the addressee. Because the utterance includes the stance of the speaker in uttering the words, it is categorized into representative act. As the main purpose of the utterance "*Be ready, Nathan. Today you will become a congressman. In time, you will lead the country*" is predicting the fate of someone, this utterance is also classified into predicting act.

As the speaker wants to show positive atmosphere in the conversation by using the positive politeness in seeking the comity and the social goal, the social function that is used in this utterance is convivial type.

Heroes Episode 5 (*Hiros*)
00:06:48,340 --> 00:07:01,816

Character		Dialogue
Peter	:	He said something bad is going to happen, but we can stop it. First we have to...Save a cheerleader.
Mohinder	:	**A cheerleader?**
Peter	:	Look, it seems impossible, I know.
Mohinder	:	Impossible? It sounds mad.

The context of the conversation is the accident story which is shared by Peter Petrelli to Mohinder. When they were on the way in a subway, Peter was found by a time-traveler Hiro Nakamura who told him about the impending apocalypse that might be happen if it was not stopped. Hiro also informed Peter that he would be one who

can save the world in preventing the destruction by saving a cheerleader who had the crucial role in this future event. However, when he told Mohinder about saving a cheerleader to stop a great disaster, the latter became very shocked and unbelievably accepted that statement.

In the example above, the speaker expresses a doubt over a statement then he demands the addressee to clarify it which means the speaker get the hearer to do something. Thus, this utterance can be categorized into directive act. In saying *"A cheerleader?"* the speaker is not asking an information, instead he is questioning about the previous statement that he cannot understand. As the utterance contains an act of questioning, it is classified into questioning act.

Through the utterance, the speaker expresses the function of competitive type which lessening the discord between Illocutionary goal and the social purpose to the hearer during the conversation.

DISCUSSION

From the findings, the researcher has conducted the combination of qualitative and quantitative approach in order to make a better result and conclusion that helping to answer the research questions and the purpose of the study. In the previous section, the numerical findings about the topic of Illocutionary Acts were written in form of tables to show the occurrences of the Illocutionary Acts in the utterances of the series. Although this is a combinative approach used to examine the data of the study, the quantitative approach actually becomes the additional or complement method for the analysis, since the purpose of study is not using the numerical or statistical method as the focus of the research analysis. Instead, the qualitative approach is more prioritized rather than the quantitative because the researcher analyze the object using the ground theories which developing words and sentences through a process of descriptive

explanation then concluding the result without any mathematical formula or calculation.

Types of Illocutionary Acts in Heroes series
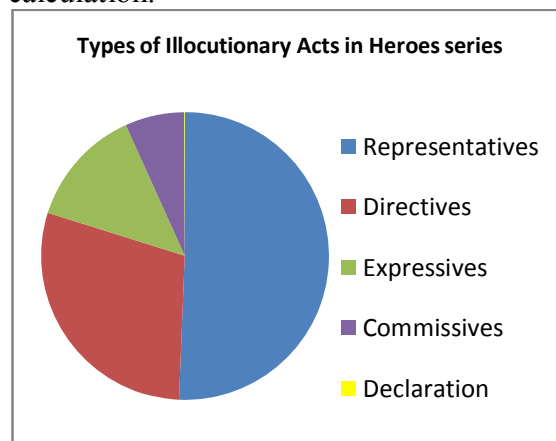
Type of Illocutionary Act	Number of Findings	Percentage
Declaration	5	0,07%
Expressives	849	13,30%
Commissives	424	6,70%
Representatives	3218	50, 70 %
Directives	1855	29,23%
Total	6351	100%

Type of Social Function	Number of Findings	Percentage
Competitive	2851	44,89%
Collaborative	2445	38,50%
Convivial	645	10,16%
Conflictive	410	6,46%
Total	6351	100%

To answer first research question, the table of findings can give comprehensive number of the occurrences of the types of Illocutionary which is studied by the researcher. The most dominant or the most frequent type of Illocutionary Act in this study is the representative act which occurs in all episodes of the series. The total number of

findings of representative act in the series is 3218 findings from the overall findings in the series which is 6351; in other word, the representative act represents more than a half of the whole findings in the series. From the 23 episodes of the series, the most findings of Representative act are occurred in Episode 17 titled *Company Man*. As this kind of Illocutionary act states what the speaker believes to be the case or not, (Yule, 1996:53) the subtypes of representative act itself, which found in the series, are Accepting (13 findings), Blaming (32 findings), Asserting (851 findings), Claiming (869 findings), Informing (704 findings), Insisting (360 findings), Predicting (74 findings) and Protesting act (315 findings).

The second most frequent type of Illocutionary Act that found in *Heroes* series is directives act appearing in each episode. From these episodes, the researcher can find 1855 utterances that are classified into directives act, which equals with 29 percent of the total findings. The seventeenth episode titled *Company Man* becomes the chapter when the characters used most directives act in a single episode with 133 findings. There are seven subtypes of Directive act found in the series; they are Requesting (256 findings), Advising (146 findings), Asking (601 findings), Commanding (305 findings), Convincing (22 findings), Prohibiting (80 findings), and Questioning act (445 findings).

The expressives act becomes the third most frequent type of Illocutionary Act which found in the 23 episodes or in every part of the series. There are 849 findings from the conversation of the characters that can be categorized into expressives act or 13 percent of all findings in the series. This kind of Illocutionary Act is found most frequently with 66 times of occurrence in the first episode titled *Genesis*. From the series, the researcher finds six subtypes of expressives act that are Greeting (23 findings), Apologizing (127 findings),

Mocking (295 findings), Praising (203 findings), Refusing (84 findings), and Thanking act (117 findings).

The commissives act is the second least type used in the series. There is 424 utterances of this kind of Illocutionary act in the script of 23 episode of *Heroes*. In other word, the number of the commissive act findings is 6,7 percent of total findings in the series. Form 23 episodes, the largest number of findings of commissive act is found in thirteenth episode titled *The Fix*. There are four subtypes of commissive act found by the researcher which are Promising (114 findings), Offering (111 findings), Planning (138 findings), and Threatening act (61 findings).

Among the five main types of Illocutionary Act, declaration act is the rarest type that can be found in the Heroes series. There is only five findings that the researcher can find from 23 episodes, which equals with 0,07 percent of overall findings. The Declaration act findings which found in the series are divided into four subtypes that are Punishing (one finding), Promoting (one finding), Suspending (one finding), and Hiring (two findings).

Since Heroes is a film series that shows the adventure of several people with their superpower abilities, there are some factors that make the representative became the most Illocutionary acts found in this series. From various backgrounds, the main characters hide their true powers from public that makes other characters often suspicious with their strange behaviors or several accidents happen in some occasions which make the main characters use assertion and claim utterance that everything is fine. There are often debates and intrigues between characters to confess their powers or keep them hidden through protests or insistences. Besides, the impending apocalypse of city destruction that is prophesied by some characters makes predicting utterances also appear during the series.

The classification of the role of Illocutionary act functioned in the relation with social goal is not always following the five major types of Illocutionary acts. For example, in commissive act category the three out of six findings shows that the social function of utterances are classified into convivial type, however the threatening act has conflictive type and planning act has collaborative type. While in the declaration act category, the half of the findings or two subtypes (hiring and promoting act) categorized into convivial type where the suspending and punishing act, which often use anger in the conversation, are classified into conflictive type. For the expressive act category, the four types of social function are used in the subtypes found in the series, such as mocking act is conflictive type; praising, thanking, and greeting act are convivial type; apologizing act is competitive type with refusing act is collaborative type. In the representative act category, the subtype findings are generally collaborative type, except predicting, protesting, and blaming act. Unlike in the previous types, in the social role of the directive act category which is used in the subtypes is same, competitive type.

The aim of this study is to find out whether there is a different between the previous studies of Illocutionary Act in films that showing the representative act as the most dominant type found and this study in the television series. The result shows the hypotheses that representative is the most dominant Illocutionary Act type in this series as in the films is accepted, while the hypotheses that the other type (not representative) is the most dominant Illocutionary Act type in this series as in the films is rejected.

CONCLUSION

There are several conclusions that the researcher found from this research based on the purposes of the study. First, there are five or all kinds of main Illocutionary act category of Searle's theory in Yule which are found in the script of *Heroes* series. The types are Commissives, Declaration, Directives, Expressives, and Representatives. While there are 25 sub-category of Illocutionary acts that are found in the script of the series according to Bach-Harnish's theory. For the most occurred type of main Illocutionary act in the series is Representative group. For the sub-category of Illocutionary acts, the asserting and claiming act became the most occurred type that found in this research.

Second, the social functions of Illocutionary acts in the series is mostly depending on the context of the subtype of conversation itself even though Leech theory proposed each main type of Illocutionary act has a significant role in classifying the category of social functions in each utterance, which means that the classification of the role of Illocutionary act in the relation with social goal is not always following the five major types of Illocutionary acts. Nevertheless, The classification of Illocutionary acts with its social roles in the dialogue through the theory of Leech showing that politeness of someone might reflect the intention of the speaker to maintain the social effect in positive manner or instead during conversation.

Third, the hypotheses that representative act is the most dominant Illocutionary act type in this series is verified and accepted. As the previous studies with the same topic of Illocutionary act for the comparison, the result shows the findings examined through check-listing and descriptive statistics to find the domination from each type has the same characteristic with the previous studies which reflected in the story of the series that the communication used in movie and film series emphasizes background of superpower people who hiding their ability and the belief of the characters which representing their ideas

such as in asserting, claiming, and informing.

SUGGESTION

In every work of study or research, everyone may find the weakness or the incompletion of the results or the analysis. Therefore, the researcher advises the readers who interest in this topic to make a further step in object of data and data analysis in order to get more comprehensive or more insight that enrich the knowledge of a subject or topic for the students of English Department.

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