ILLOCUTIONARY ACT OF MIRANDA PRIESTLY CHARACTER IN *THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA* FILM

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ABSTRACT

People are more likely to convey their intention implicitly than explicitly. A speaker tends to use implicit message with the expectation that his or her hearer could interpret the real intention within the message. Yet, the real intention itself is not always appear clearly due to the different form of interpretation by each person (both the speaker and hearer). A speaker may convey certain meaning of his utterance then achieved differently by the hearer. This is what so called as "ambiguity" when an utterance has more than one meaning. This research aimed to identify the illocutionary acts and its types used by Miranda Priestly character in *The Devil Wears Prada* Film. The design of this research was descriptive qualitative. The writer collected the data from the film dialogues then classified the utterances into the categories based on the theory of illocutionary by Searle. The findings showed there were five types of illocutionary act found in this research: representative (complain, assure, and inform), directive (command and ask), commissive (promise), expressive (deploring, thank and congratulate), and declarative (disapprove and appoint). The most dominant type of illocutionary acts found in this film was directive. In directive illocutionary acts itself, command acts were dominantly used by Miranda Priestly character.

Keywords: illocutionary acts, film, character

ABSTRAK

Pada umumnya maysyarakat cenderung menyampaikan suatu maksud dalam bentuk yang implisit daripada secara eksplisit. Seorang pembicara yang menyampaikan maksudnya secara implicit cenderung mengaharapkan bahwa pendengarnya dapat mengerti maksud implisitnya sesuai dengan apa yang ia maksudkan. Akan tetapi, arti sebenarnya dari ungkapan implisit tidak selalu nampak secara jelas bagi pendengarnya mengingat perbedaan interpretasi dari setiap orang (baik dari pembicara maupun pendengar). Pembicara mengutarakan maksudnya kepada pendengar yang kemudian dapat diartikan berbeda dari maksud asli si pembicara tersebut. Hal inilah yang sering disebut dengan "keambiguan"dimana suatu ungkapan dapat memiliki lebih dari satu arti. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi bentuk-bentuk ilokusi dan jenis-jenisnya dalam karakter Miranda Priestly difilm The Devil Wears Prada. Bentuk penelitian ini berupa deskripsi kualitatif. Penulis mengumpulkan data penelitian ini dari dialog-dialog film The Devil Wears Prada dan kemudian mengklasifikasi ungkapan-ungkapannya kedalam teori ilokusi dari Searle. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan terdapat lima jenis dari bentuk-bentuk ilokusi dalam karakter Miranda Priestly difilm The Devil Wears Prada: representative (dalam ungkapan keluhan, pemastian, dan menginformasi), directive (dalam umgkapan

perintah dan meminta), commissive (dalam ungkapan janji), expressive (dalam ungkapan menyayangkan sesuatu, berterima kasih, dan memberikan ucapan selamat), dan declarative (dalam ungkapan menolak dan memutuskan sesuatu). Jenis ilokusi yang paling mendominasi digunakan oleh karakter Miranda Priestly adalah jenis directive. Didalan ilokusi directive, karakter Miranda Priestly paling sering menggunakan ungkapan perintah.

Kata kunci: *bentuk-bentuk ilokusi, film, tokoh*

A. INTRODUCTION

In conveying messages, people convey it through two ways: directly and or indirectly. Conveying message directly is a way of sending messages clearly to the hearer, where the intention within the message itself is exposed obviously by the speaker. While conveying messages indirectly is clearly sending the message, but may contain lots of meaning within the message. The various intentions within the indirectly messages have pulled the interest of the writer to discuss it in this research. It is because when a speaker conveys a message (indirectly), the meaning exists within his message can be interpreted differently or may appear to have more than a single meaning to the hearer. Therefore, the writer decided to discuss about the issue of ambiguity meaning spoken by Miranda Priestly character in *The Devil Wears Prada* Film.

There were two research questions discussed in this research. The first question was about the illocutionary acts implied by Miranda Priestly character in *The Devil Wears Prada* Film, while for the second question was about the most dominant type of illocutionary acts used by Miranda Priestly character in this film. Hence, the title of this research was Illocutionary Act of Miranda Priestly Character in *The Devil Wears Prada* Film.

B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

"Illocutionary act is the minimal units of human communication in the form of statements, questions, commands, promises, and apologies and etc." (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985, p. 1). In illocutionary act, the speaker tends to have certain purpose in her or his utterances. The speaker informs something within his message then the information will be received by the hearer. The most important aspect in illocutionary act is the hearer's interpretation. An illocutionary act is considered successfully delivered when the hearer is able to reach the intention of the speaker. "The illocutionary act is rather difficult to be identified than locutionary act since we have to consider who the speaker and the hearer are, when and where the conversation happen, etc" (Nugroho, 2011, p. 13). For example:

"I've just made some coffee."

The utterance of "I've just made some coffee" may be considered as a statement, an offering, an explanation, or other communicative purposes (Yule, 1996, p. 48). Therefore, within illocutionary act, there may be more than one meaning or intention interpreted by the hearer.

Searle classifies illocutionary act into five types; representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declaration. These five types are divided by the purpose of the action and the

views of speakers and focus on the interpretation of the hearer. Searle's theory is appropriate with this research. In this research, the writer determined the type of illocutionary act by the hearers' interpretation that was in line with Searle's theory.

1. Representative

Representative is the kind of illocutionary act that states what the speaker believes to be case or not. "The point or purpose of the members of the representative class is to commit the speaker (in varying degrees) to something being the case, to the truth of expressed proposition" (Searle, p. 354). In performing this type of illocution, the speaker represents the world as the speaker's beliefs. "In using representative, the speaker makes words fit the world (or believe)" (Yule, 1996, p. 53). The acts including assertion, claim, affirmance, state, denial, disclaim, assured, argument, rebuttal, information, notification, reminder, object, prediction, report, suggestion, insistence, conjecture, hypothesize, guess, swear testify, admit, confess, accuse, blame, criticizing, praise, complain, boast, and lament. For example:

"The earth is flat" (Yule, 1996, p. 53).

The context of the utterance above is the speaker tries to insert information into the hearer about the shape of the earth. The speaker describes that the earth is flat. The speaker believes the world as he or she believes even though the world is actually not flat anymore.

2. Directives

Directives is the kind of illocutionary act that a speaker uses to get someone else do something. "The illocutionary point of these consist in the fact that they are attempts (or varying degrees, and hence more precisely, they are determinates of the determinable which includes attempting) by the speaker to get the hearer to do something" (Searle, p. 355). The acts are direct, request, ask, urge, tell, require, demand, command, order, forbid, prohibit, enjoin, permit, suggest, insist, warn, advise, recommend, beg, supplicate, entreat, beseech, implore, and pray. For example:

"Could you lend me a pen, please?" (Yule, 1996, p. 54).

The context above is the speaker wants the hearer to do something (to lend a pen). The speaker uses the word "could" which indicating the illocutionary acts of directive (requesting).

3. Commissives

Commissive is the kinds of illocutionary acts that a speaker uses to commit themselves into some future action. "Commissives are those illocutionary acts whose point is to commit the speaker (again in varying degrees) to some future course of action" (Searle, p. 356). The acts such as commit, promise, threaten, vow, pledge, swear, accept, consent, refuse, offer, bid, assure, guarantee, warrant, contract, covenant, and bet. In utterances with the commissive point, the speaker commits himself to carry out the course of action represented by the propositional content (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985, p. 37). For example:

"I'll be back" (Yule, 1996, p. 54).

The context above is the speaker promises to the hearer that he or she will be back to the place where the hearer is waiting. The speaker commits himself or herself to be back (future action). The speaker uses the word "will" which indicating the illocutionary acts of commissive (promising).

4.   Expressives

Expressives is the kinds of illocutionary acts that state what the speaker feels. "The illocutionary point of this class is to express the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a state of affairs specified in the propositional content" (Searle, p. 356). The acts including apologize, thank, condole, congratulate, complain, lament, protest, deplore, boast, compliment, praise, welcome, and greet. As an example:

"I'm really sorry!" (Yule, 1996, p. 53)

The context of that utterance is the speaker expresses her guilt by apologizing towards what the speaker has done to the hearer. The speaker uses the phrase "really sorry" to indicate the illocutionary act of expressive (apologize).

5.   Declaration

Declaration is the kinds of speech acts that change the world via utterance. "Declarations bring about some alternation in the status or condition of the referred to object or objects solely in virtue of the fact that the declaration has been successfully performed" (Searle, p. 358). In this act, the utterance is uttered by someone who is especially authorized to do; like judges, minister, boss, etc. The acts of declaration are declare, resign, adjourn, appoint, nominated, approve, confirm, disapprove, endorse, renounce, disclaim, denounce, repudiate, bless, curse, excommunicate, consecrate, christen, abbreviate, name, and call. In utterances with the declarative point, the speaker brings about the state of affairs represented by the propositional content solely in virtue of his successful performance of the speech act (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985, p. 37). For example:

"Priest: I now pronounce you husband and wife" (Yule, 1996, p. 53).

The context above is the speaker officially declares about the new status of a groom and a bride. This sentence is uttered by the priest as the speaker to the groom and the bride at matrimony wedding. The speaker uses the illocutionary acts of declarations (declaring).

C. RESEARCH METHOD

Qualitative method was appropriate for this research because this research did not need a number or formula to be analyzed. The main data of this research was in the form of text. Therefore, in answering the research question, the writer elaborated the finding descriptively. The data used of this research were the dialogues of *The Devil Wears Prada* film. The writer only took account on the dialogues that involved illocutionary act from Miranda Priestly character's

utterances. As a tool to analyze the data, illocutionary acts by Searle theory was used to help the writer conducted this research.

There were several steps done by the writer to collect the data: watched *The Devil Wears Prada* film, transcribed the utterances of Miranda Priestly character, and sorted out the dialogues that implied illocutionary act. In analyzing the data, the writer followed the analysis technique based on Miles and Huberman, 1994, that is divided into three parts: data reduction, data display, and conclusions drawing. In data reduction, the writer identified and classified the illocutionary acts from Miranda's utterances. The utterances were analyzed using the Searle's theories of illocutionary classification. Then, the writer classified the utterances of Miranda Priestly into the illocutionary acts classification. For the data display, the writer elaborated the utterances of Miranda Priestly within Searle's classification of illocutionary theory, descriptively. In conclusion, the writer found the result of the research questions through the analysis.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Classification of Illocutionary Act

The utterances of Miranda Priestly character were classified into five categories according to the criteria of each type.

a. Representative

Complaining		Assure		Inform	
Timeline	Dialogue	Timeline	Dialogue	Timeline	Dialogue
00:12:34 – 00:12:39	Is there some reason that my coffee isn't here? Has she died or something?	00:29:46 –00:30:06	Please. It's just- I don't know- drizzling. Someone must be getting out. Call Donatella. Get her jet. Call everybody else that we know that has a jet. Irv? Call every- This is your responsibi- This is your job. Get me home	00:22:57 – 00:24:26	This stuff? Oh okay I see. You think this has nothing to do with you..... But what you don't know is that that sweater is not just blue. It's not turquoise. It's not lapis. It's actually cerulean.

- Complaining: Miranda was complaining about her coffee. She used the words "*Has she died or something?*" as a satire indicated her complaining. Seeing from her first sentence "*Is there some reason that my coffee isn't here?*" was actually a normal question without any other intentions within it, but when it continued to the second sentence, it contained a satire meaning and classified as the representative.

- Assure: From the utterance "*It's just- I don't know- drizzling*" showed of what Miranda believed that the weather was only drizzling and the flight should be able

to fly. She described the weather as what she believed, even though the weather was not only drizzling, but there was a hurricane. Her utterance was classified into assure because she was capable to make Andréa certain of the weather condition as what she believed.

- Inform: Based on Miranda's utterance, she gave a clear explanation about fashion that was called as "stuff" by Andrea, because she didn't know its name. Therefore, Miranda asserted new information to Andrea.

b. Directive

Command		Ask	
Timeline	Dialogue	Timeline	Dialogue
00:06:45 – 00:06:50	I want the driver to drop me off at 9:30 and pick me up at 9:45 sharp.	00:17:10 – 00:17:14	Do you have *Demarchelier*?

- Command: In the utterance "*I want the driver to drop me off at 9:30 and pick me up at 9:45 sharp*", showed Miranda as the speaker with higher position than Emily giving her a command to arrange the transportation for her. Emily as her assistant could not refuse the order, because Miranda had the authority position over her hearer. She used "*I want*" indicating she wanted the transportation to be on time exactly as she ordered.

- Ask: In Miranda's utterance of "*Do you have Demarchelier?*" was found two types of ask. First, she asked Andrea about the *Demarchelier:* Miranda asked Andrea to call *Demarchelier*. Second, she asked Andrea to do something for her. She used the word "*do you*" indicated the illocutionary act of directive (ask).

c. Commissive

Promise	
Timeline	Dialogue
01:07:10 – 01:08:22	If you don't go, I'll assume you're not serious about your future at Runway or any other publication. The decision's yours. That's all.

- Promise: Miranda and Andrea were discussing about their trip to Paris. Andrea was rejecting Miranda's plan to go with her to Paris. So, Miranda coerced Andrea with any possibility that could happen to Andrea's future career by saying, "*I'll assume you're not serious about your future at Runway or any other publication*". It was obvious that she used illocutionary act of commissive from the word "will" that indicated her assumptions could affect Andrea's future career. Andrea would not be able to work in Runway or any other publication if she refused Miranda's plan. Miranda made Andrea to do something for Andrea's own benefit which was identified as promise.

d. Expressive

Deploring		Thank		Congratulate	
Timeline	Dialogue	Timeline	Dialogue	Timeline	Dialogue
00:31:15 – 00:31:33	I had hope. My God, I live on it. Anyway you ended up disappointing me more than, um- more than any of the other silly girls.	01:02:58 – 01:03:05	Oh, wonderful. We're so happy you were able to come to our little gathering.	01:18:58 – 01:19:00	I'm very happy for you.

- Deploring: Deploring explains about the strong expression of discontent with the existence of another people who is responsible for causing the deplored expression of the speaker (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985, p. 214). Miranda was disappointed with Andrea. She used the phrase *"disappointing me"* to express her discontent feeling towards Andrea's credibility as her assistant. As for this, the one who was responsible for causing Miranda to deplore her feeling was Andrea.

- Thank: This utterance of Miranda happened when she was greeting her guest in a Runway party. She greeted Jacqueline with "*Oh, wonderful. We're so happy you were able to come to our little gathering.*" Miranda as the speaker expressed her gratitude feeling about the presence of Jacqueline in Runway party by using the phrase "*Wonderful and Happy*". In Miranda's utterance, she expressed her gratitude for Jaqueline's action of taking a flight from France to attend the Runway gathering in New York.

- Congratulate: The utterance above happened when Miranda attended the Paris Fashion week. She congratulated a Maestro for his Fashion week event by saying "*I'm happy for you.*" In the word "*Happy*", Miranda expressed her happiness-shared feeling due to the successfully event held by the Maestro.

e. **Declaration**

Disapprove		Appoint	
Timeline	Dialogue	Timeline	Dialogue
00:07:35 – 00:07:45	Clearly I'm going to have to do that myself, because the last two you sent me were completely inadequate."	01:33:50 – 01:34:43	.......He chose from within the Runway family and it's my great happiness today to announce to you all that that person is my friend and longtime esteemed colleague Jacqueline Follet.

- Disapprove: Miranda disapproved Emily's assessment because Emily was not authorized to do the pre-interview for the new employee. The word "*that*" referred to the pre-interview itself that was done by Emily. Miranda believed that she was the only one who knew exactly what she needed when it came to the recruiting new employee. In the sentence "*Clearly I'm going to have to do that myself*" indicated that she did not accept Emily's assessment. Miranda thought that Emily had no capability in assessing the new employee.

- Appoint: Miranda used the word "*announce*" to refer to her position as the authorized one in choosing Jacqueline Follet as the new president of James Holt International. Her position as the chief editor in Runway gave her the privilege to take any decision that she felt appropriate with the Runway condition.

2. The Most Dominant Type of Illocutionary Act Used by Miranda Priestly Character

Of all the classifications within the illocutionary act, directive was the mostly found type in Miranda Priestly character's utterances. Miranda used 18% of representative illocutionary act, 57% of directive illocutionary act, 3% of commissive illocutionary act, 15% of expressive illocutionary act, and 6% of declarative illocutionary act. Illocutionary act of directive was commonly occurred between Miranda and her interlocutor, because in this film Miranda's position was higher than the other characters. The higher position gave her the privilege of getting her hearer to do things she ordered them to. Miranda's directive utterances were always done by the hearer, especially by her assistant.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, the conclusions were taken. Firstly, there were five types of illocutionary act classification found within Miranda Priestly character's utterances. From the representative type, the data were complaining, assures, and informing. In directive type, were command and ask. From the commissive type was promising. In expressive type, were found deploring, thanking, and congratulating. The last type was declarative showed two acts found: disapprove and appoint. Secondly, directive act was the most dominant illocutionary act with the command type used in Miranda Priestly character's utterances in *The Devil Wears Prada* film.

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