

AN ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ACTS IN AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER NETFLIX SERIES

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ABSTRACT

This thesis entitled *An Analysis of Speech Act In the Avatar: The Last Airbender Netflix Series*. This research used Searle's theory (1969) to analysis the type of speech act and Leech's theory (1989) to analysis the functions of illocutionary act in *Avatar: The Last Airbender* Netflix Series. This research aims to classify what types of speech act and the functions of illocutionary act are found mostly in these movie. This study used qualitative descriptive methods to examine data in reliable information. The focus in this research is speech act types there are total of 146 data points from all types including: Representative, Directives, Commissive, Expressives and Declaratives. Directives type is the most common data with 67 utterances. The writer's findings regarding the function of illocutionary acts are 53 collaborative functions. The results of this research understand how speech is used not only to convey information, but also to carry out actions in accordance with the function of illocutionary acts.

Key Words : *Pragmatics, Speech Acts, Function, Avatar The Last Airbender*

BACKGROUND

Linguistic is an important part in English. Linguistic is a studies of language with all aspects that is structure, meaning, related the topic, usage of the language and so on. According to Saussure (1913) that linguistics scope is to describe and analyze the development of each language that has been observed, to ascertain the universally operating, perpetual forces behind all languages, to define and establish limitations. Basically, linguistics studies natural human language. Language must have the intention to convey a message.

Linguistics has several branches of language study and one branch of linguistics is Pragmatics. Pragmatics studies how context and communication objectives affect language meaning. According to Yule (1996) pragmatics focuses on investigating the meaning conveyed by a communicator (either a speaker or writer) and understood by a recipient (either a listener or reader). Pragmatics studied how the listener carries out an action when the speaker asks the listener to take action according to what is intended. Pragmatics plays a very important role in

life, through pragmatics a person can understand the meaning and intent of the context in communication.

To focus on the conceptual meaning and words of an utterance delivered by the speakers, the writer studied about speech acts. According to Searle (1976) that the speech act is defined as an action changing the universe of discourse when a speaker utters it, and a recipient grasps it. It may be oral as well as written, or even expressed via some other communication from such as sign language. then, Searle classifying speech acts into a macro-classes of speech acts that is declarations, representatives, commissives, directives, expressives.

The writer analyzes the speech acts in the *Avatar : The Last Airbender* Netflix Series because this action movie genre of course contains many speech acts conveyed by the characters in this series directly or indirectly. The writer is interested in how this movie convey a message to the audience with the actions carried out by the characters in the series. Therefore, the writer took research with a pragmatic approach with the aim of analyzing and describing the speech acts conveyed in communication and actions between

the characters in this series. The representation of communication in films is what became the author's attention in choosing research using a theoretical approach to the classification of speech acts and the function of illocutionary acts, how other people communicate, the messages conveyed, understood and responded to.

METHOD

The writer used used descriptive qualitative research methods to analyze types of speech act and the functions of illocutionary act in *Avatar : The Last Airbender* Netflix Series. The writer collected the data, analyze and made a conclusion. According Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009) qualitative research generates written or spoken accounts that describe the phenomena being investigated.

The writer taking the data and source of the data from movie entitled *Avatar: The Last Airbender* Netflix Series and the script of the series. The writer identified and classified context of the data from watched movie. Next, the writer captures the movie and match with transcript which included in classification of speech acts and the functions of illocutionary act. Then, the writer make explanations and classifications the utterances to support the analysis.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the *Avatar: The Last Airbender* Netflix Series that has been observed and analyzed, the data can be seen in the table below :

Speech Act	Amount/ All Episodes
Representatives (Assertive)	35/ 8
Directives	67/ 8
Commissives	21/ 8
Expressives	22/8
Declaratives	1/8

Table 1. Amount of Speech Act data.

1. Representative (Assertive)

Data 1

Aang : This is bad, isn't it?

Sokka : They mean business, but so do we. **I'd say it's 50-50. 60-40.** Where are you going?

The words in bold depicted representative speech act with predictive classification. Sokka predicted that the strategy he had created to win the war only had a 60:40 prediction which meant they would lose the war. As Searle (1976) said, representative is a disclosure whose words state what the speaker believes.

The functions of illocutionary act: the data included the collaborative function, where Sokka and Katara as participants have the same goals and work together. As Leech's (1989) theory, work together to achieve goals or to share information cooperatively.

Data 2

Man : Tell me, Fire Nation armor. Is it metal? The reference we have has spikes on the shoulders.

Sokka : **Uh, no metal. Leather. And, uh, they don't have shoulder spikes anymore.**

The words in bold included representative speech act with informing classification. Sokka informs him that Fire Nation soldiers now wear leather and no longer have shoulder spikes. sokka gives the correct information because he saw him fighting the Fire Nation soldiers in his village. As Searle (1976) said, representative is a disclosure whose words state what the speaker believes.

The functions of illocutionary act: the data included the collaborative function, the information was asked by the Water Nation soldiers so that they would have a strategy and information when meeting and fighting the Fire Nation soldiers. As Leech's (1989) theory, work together to achieve goals or to share information cooperatively.

2. Directive

Data 3

[Aang Attack]

Zuko : **Enough games. Burn the whole place to the ground.**

Aang : No!

The words in bold included directive speech act with commanding classification. Zuko asks for the avatar by force and threatens to burn down the Southern Water Nation if he doesn't hand over the avatar to him. As Searle (1976) said, directives are words intended to make the listener do something.

The functions of illocutionary act: the data included competitive functions because it influences and directs actions with speech which can be seen from the impolite intonation of the utterance. As Leech (1989) said, competitive functions often involve some degree of coercion on the listener.

3. Commissive

Data 4

Aang : **I don't want... the power.**
Gyatso : Which is why you will make a great Avatar.

The words in bold included commissive speech act with rejecting classification. Aang refuses to be an avatar and he doesn't want the power of the avatar even though he has been chosen by nature to be an avatar because he is very worthy of being an avatar in the future. As Searle (1976) said, words aimed at future action are commissives.

The functions of illocutionary act: the data is included in the conflictive function. As Leech (1989) said, the conflictive function is the act of expressing disagreement and rejection, thereby giving rise to conflict.

4. Expressive

Data 5

Sokka : **I'm sorry I couldn't protect her.**
King of Water Nation : My daughter always made her own choices.

The words in bold included expressive speech act with apologizing classification. Sokka apologizes to the king of the Water Kingdom because he was unable to protect and save his daughter. As Searle (1976) said, expressions whose words express what the speaker feels are in the category of speech act there are expressive.

The functions of illocutionary act: the data is included in the convival function. As Leech (1989) said, the convival function to establish or maintain social relations in a friendly and cooperative manner. This action is usually polite and is used to express goodwill or good intentions.

5. Declarative

Data 6

Aang : I don't know where this will all lead, and I don't know if I have what it takes, but the one thing I do know is. **I'm the Avatar,** and this is just the beginning.

The words in bold included declarative speech act. Aang stated that he was an avatar who would save the world from the cruel kingdom of fire which destroyed 3 kingdoms and destroyed all his family, friends and teachers from the kingdom of air where he lived one hundred years ago. As an avatar who is believed to be able to save the world with the 4 elements of controlling power he has. Aang changed the world by revealing it. As Searle (1976) said, declarative types is when the speaker's words change the status or state of affairs by uttering them

The functions of illocutionary act: the data is included in the collaborative function. As Leech (1989) said, work together to achieve goals or to share information cooperatively.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion in the previous chapter, the writer found that the total amount of data with Searle's (1969) theory of 5 types of speech act classification in *Avatar: The Last Airbender* Netflix Series, was 146 data. 67 data with the most classification of directive speech act type, this shows that the action film genre uses more directive speech acts, namely the words make the listener do something. Then, the second most data that the writer found was representative, 35 data found. Next, 21 commissive data and 22 expressive data. Meanwhile, the writer only found 1 data for declarative type of speech acts. Then, the writer found the illocutionary act function included in the analysis, the writer found 36 data competitive functions, 27 data convival, 53 data collaborative and 10 data conflictive.

B. Suggestion

for future researchers who use the same data as the study of speech acts, they can conduct research on the classification of types of speech acts and the function of illocutionary acts with the same research object but different theories but still related and in accordance with the data and the writer hopes that future research will further improve the quality of research.

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