THE USE OF INTERACTIONAL STRATEGIES AS SEEN IN DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE THE MOVIE (2024)

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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the communication strategies used in the movie Deadpool & Wolverine, with a focus on how interactional strategies shape character relationships and support the storyline. The study looks at how characters handle misunderstandings, negotiate meaning, and keep conversations effective. Using a qualitative descriptive method, 50 data of dialogue were analyzed. The findings show four types of interactional strategies: Expressing non-understanding (1), Responses (25), Appeals for Help (17), and Meaning Negotiation Strategies (7). The study also identifies three main functions of communication strategies: Psycholinguistic Perspective (5), Interactional Perspective (40), and Maintenance Perspective (5). Results indicate that Deadpool often uses humor and self-awareness to reduce tension, while Wolverine prefers short and serious responses to keep communication clear. Overall, the strategies demonstrate that communication is a cooperative process, helping characters adapt to challenges, clarify meaning, and maintain interaction. By showing these strategies build relationships and move the story forward, this thesis adds to wider discussion in film studies and communication.

Keyword: Deadpool & Wolverine, Types of Interactional Strategies, Functions of Communication Strategies

INTRODUCTION

Interactional strategies are essential in human communication because they show how people manage meaning, solve misunderstandings, and maintain interaction. These strategies allow speakers to adapt when their language is limited or when messages are unclear. In films, interactional strategies are not only part of the dialogue but also highlight how characters negotiate relationships, power, and cooperation. The action comedy genre is especially rich in this aspect, since it combines serious conflicts with humor, making interactional strategies central to both tension and comedy.

According to Celce-Murcia, Dornyei, and Thurell (1995), communication strategies can be divided into several types, and interactional strategies are especially significant because they involve clarification, negotiation of meaning, responses, and appeals for help. These strategies show how speakers maintain mutual understanding in interaction. In action comedy films, interactional strategies often appear when character coordinate actions, resolve conflicts, or build solidarity through humorous exchanges.

This study examines *Deadpool & Wolverine* (2024) as an action comedy film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The film presents intense action together with humorous dialogue, making it a suitable source for analyzing interactional strategies. By analyzing how these strategies are used, the study aims to show language reflects character roles, social dynamics, and pragmatic choices in the film. The findings are expected to contribute to the understanding of how

interactional strategies function both as narrative tools and as reflections of real life communication patterns.

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is based on pragmatics, focusing on communication strategies. Tarone (1980) defines communication strategies as mutual attempts by speakers to overcome gaps in language knowledge and reach shared meaning. Among these, interactional strategies are important because they involve negotiation of meaning, clarification, and cooperative problem-solving during commmunication. To analyze these strategies, this study uses the classification of Celce-Murcia, Dornyei, and Thurrel (1995). They divide into several forms, such as expressing non-understanding, responses, appeals for help, and meaning negotiation strategies. This classification explains how characters manage communication breakdowns and maintain interaction. In addition, Celce-Murcia, Dornyei, and Thurrel (1995) also describe three main functions of communication strategies that is psycholinguistic perspective, interactional perspective, and maintenance perspective which help explain the purposes these strategies serve in context. These theories provide the foundation for analyzing interactional strategies in the movie Deadpool & Wolverine (2024) reflect character roles, support the story, and balance humor with serious moments typical of the action comedy genre.

Types of Interactional Strategies

Celce-Murcia, Dornyei, and Thurrell (1995) state that interactional strategies are techniques used to maintain communication and avoid misunderstanding. These include
expressing non-understanding through verbal or non-verbal, responses such as asking for repetition, asking for clarification, asking for confirmation, response repair, and making appeals for help either direct or indirect. Other strategies are meaning negotiation, such as requests and clarification, and comprehension checks, which ensure that the interlocutor can follow, hear, or understand the message.

Functions of Communication Strategies

Canale (1983, as cited in Celce-Murcia, Dornyei, and Thurrell 1995) explains that communication strategies serve three main functions. The psycholinguistic perspective helps speakers overcome language limitations, the interactional perspective supports cooperation and problem-solving, and the maintenance perspective ensures that communication continues smoothly. Together, these functions show how communication strategies improve effectiveness and sustain interaction.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method to analyze interactional strategies in the film Deadpool & Wolverine (2024). Bogdan & Biklen (2007) explain that the qualitative approach is descriptive, uses natural setting as the main source of data, and process data in the form of words or actions with the researcher as the key instrument. A qualitative approach is suitable because it focuses on meaning and interaction in context rather than on numerical data. The goal is to describe how interactional strategies are used in the film to shape character relationships, create humor, and support the narrative.

The data were taken from the film Deadpool & Wolverine, accessed through online viewing. The researcher watched the film several times to ensure accuracy and then transcribed the dialogue of the two main characters, Deadpool and Wolverine. These characters were chosen because they frequently employ interactional strategies in their conversations. From the

transcripts, utterances containing interactional strategies were identified, categorized, and analyzed.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This study identifies 50 interactional strategies in the movie Deadpool & Wolverine (2024), consisting of expressing non-understanding (1), responses (25), appeals for help (17), and meaning negotiation strategies (7). These findings show how the characters use language to manage misunderstandings, negotiate meaning, and maintain effective communication. The results show that responses are the most frequently used strategies, indicating that clarification, repetition, and confirmation are essential to sustaining the diaogue between the characters. Furthermore, analysis of the functions of communication strategies shows that the interactional perspective dominates (40), followed by psycholinguistic perspective (5) and maintenance perspective (5). These results suggest that interactional strategies in the film are shaped by contrasting communication styles of main characters. Deadpool frequently uses humor and exaggeration, while Wolverine communicates in a direct and serious manner. These differences show both cooperation and conflict, which are typical features of the action comedy genre.

Type of Interactional Strategies

1. Expressing non-understanding

Timestamp: 32:39>>32:51
Characters: Deadpool and Paradox

Deadpool: This Logan has the same he-can-do-anything-even-musicals look. And bonus, he's wearing a costume like he's not embarrassed to be in a superhero movie for once.
Paradox: I don't understand
Deadpool: You said my universe is dying because this sack of nuts got himself killed.

In the dialogue, Paradox shows expressing non-understanding of verbal. The line "I don't understand" directly indicates his difficulty in comprehending Deadpool's earlier comment about Logan and superhero movies. This clear statement reflects a failure in processing information, as he openly communicates his confusion instead of remaining silent.

2. Responses

Timestamp: 22:47>>22:57
Characters: Deadpool and Paradox

Paradox: Yeah. I don't think you quite understand. You will not be returning to your home because there will be no home to return to.
Deadpool: Come again? This time in my ears

   The dialogue shows the use of asking for repetition. The line "Come again? This time in my ears" indicates that Deadpool is requesting the speaker to repeat what was said more clearly. He did not fully hear or understand the message at first, so he asks for it to be repeated. This reflects a repetition strategy, where a person seeks restatement of information because of difficulties in hearing or understanding.

<div align="center">

Timestamp: 09:02>>09:12
Characters: Deadpool and Happy

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Deadpool: Mainly, I was team leader, founder, really, of X-Force. Sadly, they… they all perished in action though.
Happy: Oh. How exactly did that happen?
Deadpool: Well, the police say gravity, but if just between us, they didn't test well in the focus group.

   In this dialogue, interactional strategies are used in Deadpool and Happy's conversation to maintain the flow of interaction. One strategy shown is asking for clarification. When Happy says, "Oh how exactly did that happen,?" he is requesting Deadpool to give a clearer explanation. This indicates that Happy did not fully understand Deadpool's statement about the X-Force team and needed more details. By seeking

clarification, Happy improves mutual understanding and helps the conversation continue smoothly.

Timestamp: 08:17>>08:25
Characters: Deadpool and Happy

Is the man not gonna be joining us?

Deadpool: You know, I feel like I'm wasting the good stuff here. Is the man not gonna be joining us?
Happy: The man?
Deadpool: Yeah. I should save this if he's gonna…
Happy: Uh, as far as you're concerned right now, I'm the man. The man is me.

The dialogue uses the interactional strategy of asking for confirmation to support communication and understanding. Deadpool's question, "Is the man not gonna be joining us?" shows this strategy. He asks to confirm whether the bos sis present or not. This helps both speakers reach the same understanding and keeps the conversation clear and effective.

3. Appeals for Help

Timestamp: 08:54>>09:05
Characters: Deadpool and Happy

Could you maybe add
a little bit of perspective there?

Happy: You seem to have left out whether or not you had any experiences as the team. Could you maybe add a little bit of perspective there?

Deadpool: Oh. No, yes, of course. I was Special Forces but mainly, I was team leader. Sadly, they…they all perished in action though.

The dialogue shows an appeal for help used directly to gather information. Happy's line, "Could you maybe add a little bit of perspective there?" is a clear example of this strategy. He directly asks Deadpool for specific assistance about his military experience. This allows Happy to get the needed information and gives Deadpool clear direction on how to respond, helping their interaction continue effectively.

4. Meaning Negotiation Strategies

Timestamp: 14:49>>14:56
Characters: Deadpool and Blind Al

Kidpool: When I want your opinion, I'll take Wolverine's dick out of your mouth
Nicepool: That's Kidpool. She's the dirtiest.
Deadpool: Can we just be done?
Ladypool: Ooh, we're just getting started.

In Deadpool's interaction, the request "Can we just be done?" shows a negotiation strategy. When Deadpool asks for agreement from Deadpool Prime to end their activity. This functions as a direct request, but instead of deciding alone, he invites collaboration by saying "can we" rather than "I want to." In this way, he involves others in decision, turning it into a negotiated agreement that maintains group unity while expressing his wish to finish the situation.

Function of Communication Strategies

1. Psycholinguistic Perspective

Timestamp: 12:44>> 12:58
Characters: Deadpool and Peter

Peter: I'm just saying, once a month, we could go on little mission. We're human beings. We crave purpose. After all, we're Deadpool

Deadpool: Please stop saying that. We're not Deadpool. I'm not even Deadpool anymore

Peter: Well, if you're gonna have a midlife crisis, go big.

The dialogue above reflects a psycholinguistic perspective. When Peter says, "We are human" and "We crave purpose," he uses deliberate language to show his understanding of ideas about people. Peter's words highlight the knowledge of psychological principles can support effective communication about basic human needs.

2. Interactional Perspective

Timestamp: 38:36>> 38:55
Character s: Deadpool and Wolverine

Deadpool: Those pricks in the TVA. You heard him. They have the power to end my universe, but they also have the power to change yours. We get back there, and we can fix your world. Together. I promise. They can fix it.

The dialogue above reflects an interactional perspective. Deadpool's statement, "We get back there, and we can fix your world," shows cooperative problem-solving in communication. It illustrates how speakers use strategic communication to handle problems through joint action and shared understanding.

If you know where we are, start talking.

Johnny: Don't bother. They're very thorough
Wolverine: If you know where we are, start talking.
Johnny: You're in the void.

In the interaction between Wolverine and Johnny, the dialogue reflects the interactional perspective. The line "If you know where we are, start talking" shows this perspective because it involves cooperative problem solving in communication. Wolverine points out the problem that is not knowing their location, relies on Johnny's knowledge, and asks for cooperation to solve the issue and move the conversation forward.

3.Maintenance Perspective

Timestamp: 01:00>> 01:16
Characters: Deadpool

without dishonoring Logan's memory?

Deadpool : Look, we know the title of this thing. So, I know what you're wondering. How are we gonna do this without dishonoring Logan's memory? And I'll tell you how. We're not. I'm gonna let you in on a little secret. Wolverine is not dead.

In the dialogue, Deadpool shows a maintenance perspective. His line, "How are we gonna do this without dishonoring Logan's memory?" focuses on preserving relationships and managing responsibilities. He raises concern about maintaining respect and loyalty while

completing their mission. This shows how the maintenance perspective deals with responsibilities and relationship management when making decisions that affect group dynamics and commitments.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the communication strategies in the movie Deadpool & Wolverine (2024) provide new insights into the characters use interactional strategies to manage meaning and maintain communication. This research highlights the importance of communication strategies in handle misunderstandings, build cooperation, and keep communication clear. This study analyzed 50 data points from the film. The strategies found are: (1)expressing non-understanding, (2) responses, (3) appeals for help, and (4) meaning negotiation strategies. The functions of these strategies are: (1) psycholinguistic perspective, (2) interactional perspective, (3) maintenance perspective. These findings suggest that the strategies reflect the different styles of the two main characters, with Deadpool using humor and Wolverine relying on direct speech, which together create both conflict and cooperation typical of the action comedy genre.

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