

Speech Acts Analysis In The Fantasy Movie “Godmothered”

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Abstrak

Film Fantasi Seringkali Menyajikan Alur Cerita Imajinatif Dengan Elemen Ilmu Sihir Yang Diinterpretasikan Dalam Kehidupan Nyata. Namun, Penonton Seringkali Kesulitan Dalam Memahami Makna Tuturan Yang Disampaikan Oleh Karakter Dalam Film tersebut. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pemanfaatan tindak tutur dalam film fantasi Godmothered, khususnya bagaimana dialog-dialog dalam film ini merepresentasikan pilihan bahasa yang mengarah pada tindakan tertentu. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori tindak tutur, yang membagi tindak tutur menjadi lima jenis. Metode yang digunakan adalah penelitian deskriptif kualitatif, dengan subjek penelitian dua tokoh utama dalam film dan objeknya adalah transkrip percakapan para tokoh. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat tiga jenis tindak tutur yang dominan dalam film ini: tuturan representatif, tuturan ekspresif, dan tuturan direktif. Implikasi dari penelitian ini adalah bahwa pemahaman terhadap tindak tutur dalam film fantasi dapat memberikan wawasan lebih dalam mengenai hubungan antara bahasa, tindakan, dan pengembangan karakter dalam film tersebut.

Kata Kunci: *Tindak Tutur, Analisis, Film*

Abstract

Fantasy films often present imaginative storylines that explore the interpretation of magic in the real world. However, viewers frequently struggle to understand the meaning behind the characters' utterances and the actions resulting from these dialogues. This study analyzed the fantasy film Godmothered to explore how the use of magic in the real world generates actions through speech acts in the characters' dialogues. The aim of this study was to identify and analyze the different types of speech acts in the film, as well as their role in character development and thematic expression. Using (Yule, 2022) theory of speech acts, which categorizes speech acts into five types, this qualitative descriptive research focused on two main characters and analyzed their dialogues through the transcript of their conversations. The results revealed that three types of speech acts were most prominent in the film: representative acts (informing, stating, expressing opinions, rejecting, and confessing), expressive acts (requests, expressions of happiness, greetings, anger, offers, warnings, and apologies), and directive acts (requests, expressions of happiness, greetings, anger, offers, warnings, and apologies). This study highlights the significance of speech acts in understanding character dynamics and the thematic structure of fantasy films.

Keywords: *Speech Acts, Analysis, Movie*

Introduction

Language serves as the primary tool for communication, allowing individuals to convey feelings, ideas, opinions, and information (Budiyono et al., 2021). According to (Apriyanto, 2020), language enables communication, providing a means for people to interact with one another. Without language, individuals, as social beings, would struggle to understand each other. Communication occurs not only through words but also via gestures, facial expressions, and body language, all of which play a crucial role in transmitting meaning (Patterson et al., 2023). Furthermore, language can function as a spiritual tool, facilitating deeper, non-verbal connections (Žeňuch & Šašerina, 2021).

Communication can be divided into verbal and non-verbal forms (Safitri & Weda, 2022). Verbal communication involves direct interaction between individuals through spoken or written words (Thseen, 2020). It is the most common form of communication, allowing people to express emotions, share ideas, convey facts, and exchange information (Kurniadi & M. Ridho Mahaputra, 2021). On the other hand, non-verbal communication includes gestures, eye contact, and other body signals that supplement verbal interactions (Ibrahim et al., 2022); (Wanko Keutchafu et al., 2022). Both forms aim to transmit meaningful information, and when used together, they enhance the clarity of communication (Ramadhani & Mustikawati, 2023).

In effective communication, understanding the context is crucial for grasping the full meaning of a message. Pragmatics, the study of language in context, is essential for analyzing the meaning behind utterances (Yule, 2022). As (Noviyenti & Anwar, 2023) note, pragmatics emphasizes that meaning goes beyond what is explicitly said. To understand verbal communication fully, one must consider the context in which the interaction occurs (Khayrullayevna, 2023). For instance, the phrase "Rumah Makan Padang" could refer to either a restaurant located in Padang or a restaurant serving Padang food, depending on the context.

Pragmatics includes several important aspects, such as deixis, presupposition, implicature, and speech acts. Among these, speech acts play a vital role in conveying meaning. According to (Idris et al., 2023). (Hutauruk et al., 2022), speech acts involve the form, content, and sequence of utterances. Misunderstandings can arise if the context of a conversation is ignored, highlighting the importance of analyzing speech acts within their specific contexts (Idris et al., 2023); (Tutuarima et al., 2018). Speech acts are key in language studies because they help us understand the intended meaning of sentences and the actions they provoke (Salsabila & Suprijadi, 2021).

Movies, particularly in genres like fantasy, provide a rich source for analyzing speech acts. In films, speech acts contribute to the development of characters, themes, and relationships between characters (Dezas Perdani, 2023). Fantasy films, in particular, often employ unique language choices that serve to convey magical elements and create an engaging narrative (Oktaviani, 2019). These films typically feature imaginative storylines that blend the real world with magical or fantastical elements, requiring specific linguistic choices to effectively convey the plot (Emelfa & Ramadhan, 2024).

Speech acts in fantasy films play a critical role in engaging viewers, conveying information, and evoking emotions tied to the characters and their actions (Kabaker & Casasoprana, 1979). However, the imaginative nature of these films can sometimes make it difficult for audiences to fully understand the meaning of certain utterances (As’adi & Effendi, 2022). For example, the language used to describe magic in the real world can be both symbolic and complex, requiring careful analysis to interpret its true meaning.

Previous studies have explored speech acts in films. (Sakti, 2022), analyzed the classification of (I.A.P.A.D.P. et al., 2019), examined speech acts in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, highlighting how speech affects the audience. Another study by (Ilma Sinta, 2019), focused on the speech acts found in *Aladdin*, showing how sentences in the film contain not just literal meanings but also deeper, intended messages.

Despite these studies, there has been limited research on the use of speech acts in fantasy films and how they contribute to the development of themes, characters, and relationships. This study aims to fill this gap by analyzing the speech acts in the 2020 fantasy-comedy film *Godmothered*. This film captures how the use of magic in the real world is translated into actions through language, making it an ideal subject for exploring speech acts in fantasy cinema. By applying (Yule, 2022), theory of speech acts, which categorizes them into declarative, expressive, commissive, representative, and directive acts, this study seeks to provide new insights into the role of speech acts in fantasy films. Based on the phenomenon that occurred above, the researcher conducted this study with the title “Speech Acts Analysis In The Fantasy Movie “Godmothered”.

Method

The research method was crucial in designing and analyzing research steps to present results systematically and structured, allowing the study's objectives to be answered effectively. In this study, the researcher employed a qualitative research design, which focused on processing descriptive data. The researcher described the data in-depth using systematic and structured sentences. Qualitative research, as defined by Bogdan and Taylor (Meleong, 2021), is a procedure that generates descriptive data in the form of written words or observed behavior. This approach produced non-quantitative data, and the researcher focused on providing detailed explanations and descriptions.

For this study, the descriptive qualitative method was used to analyze the types of speech act classifications found in the main character's dialogue transcript in the fantasy movie *Godmothered*. The object of this research consisted of the dialogue produced by the two main characters, Eleanor, the young fairy godmother, and Mackenzie, the little girl who sought Eleanor's help. The researcher selected this movie due to its engaging combination of fantasy and comedy, making it a suitable candidate for analyzing speech acts in a lighthearted yet imaginative narrative.

The sampling technique involved purposively selecting key dialogues from the movie, focusing on exchanges that represented significant speech acts relevant to the research objectives. A total of [insert number] dialogue exchanges were selected to ensure a diverse and representative sample. These dialogues were then analyzed using a systematic process that involved identifying speech acts, classifying them according to (Yule, 2022), speech act theory (declarative, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive), and interpreting their meaning within the context of character development, themes, and narrative structure.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the findings, triangulation was employed. This involved data source triangulation, where multiple scenes and interactions between the characters were used to confirm the consistency of the findings. Additionally, peer debriefing was conducted, involving discussions with experts in the field of pragmatics and film analysis to validate the classification and interpretation of the speech acts. By applying these techniques, the researcher ensured that the data analysis was robust and the conclusions drawn were accurate and reliable.

Data Analysis

The data is analyzed based on the types of speech acts identified in the movie *Godmothered*. Each type is discussed with brief and in-depth explanations based on (Yule, 2022), classification of speech acts: representative, expressive, directive, commissive, and declarative. The analysis aims to uncover the deeper contextual meanings behind each dialogue exchange, shedding light on how these speech acts contribute to the development of characters, plot, and conflict within the narrative.

1. Representative

The first type of speech acts is the representative, that the utterance made to tell the truth or the fact by the speaker in the movie. The representative can be assert, claiming, reject, stating, and so on.

Data

Eleanor: I'm looking for Mackenzie Walsh.

Mackenzie : *Yep, that is me.*

Data Analysis

This conversation, is classified as the representative speech acts. The utterance comes or said by Mackenzie is tell the information that informing conveyed to Eleanor that the person she is looking for is herself. Information is to tell someone about the fact or truth about something.

2. Expressive

In the second type of expressive speech acts, there are nine data obtained from the characters in the movie. In this type the speaker conveys his sentence by expressing a feeling, situation and conditions felt by the characters in the movie. The expressive can be happy, angry, apology, greeting, and so on.

Data

Agnes : I know what you're doing, Eleanor. I just don't know why

Eleanor : *Can you keep a secret ?*

Data Analysis

This conversation, is classified as the expressive speech acts. Expressive speech acts show the feeling through the physical states. In this sentence, the character character expresses his feelings for a lump that is up by giving a request to the listener. This is an action given to get an answer from the utterance he conveyed.

3. Directive

The third type of speech acts classification is the directive. This type is conduct directly by saying what are the speaker want the directive acts can performed by the interrogative, orders, opinion or the suggestion, and so on.

Data

Eleanor : **I really am her Fairy Godmother. Do you wanna see my magic wand?**

Data Analysis

This conversation is type pf the directive speech acts. This utterance comes from Eleanor for the security that doesn't believe about her. The speech produced by the character's speech in this sentence is an offer as well as a the utterance that states the identity and an offer of proof of his statement.

4. Commissive

The fourth in the type of speech acts is the commissive. Commissive means that someone will do the action in the future. In the commissive consist of the commite, promise.

Data

Security : She oughta be commied

Eleanor : *oh I am. Totally committed*

Data Analysis

This conversation is type of the commissive speech acts. This utterance comes from security to Eleanor. This actsproduced by the utterance of the characters is as the commitment from the character, that they will come back again to prove it.

5. Declarative

The last type of speech acts type is the declarative. This means that speaker utters their word or statement that can change the world via word. In this declaration only consist of the status, that declare the position of themselves. But in the declarative can consist of the delaration of the cursing, fate and so on.

Data

Eleanor: **I am a fairy Godmothered.** And what fairy Godmothereds are supposed to do is help. I did. I helped mackenzie

Data analysis

This conversation is type of the declarative speech acts. The utterance comes or said from

Eleanor is as the declarate the status where she explicitly stating that she is a fairy godmother that who will help her to realize her dream comes true. Stating is to tell the someone about.

Data Interpretation

The interpretation of the data aims to clarify the roles and functions of the identified speech acts in relation to the movie's themes, character development, and plot. The analysis indicates that the expressive speech acts dominate, which aligns with the genre's focus on emotional depth and character transformation. In the context of *Godmothered*, the use of expressive speech acts is not only a reflection of the characters' feelings but also a tool to deepen the audience's emotional connection to the story.

Given the genre's emphasis on magical realism, expressive speech acts serve as an essential device to connect fantasy elements with the characters' personal struggles. This approach is common in fantasy films, where the characters often need to navigate complex emotions while dealing with extraordinary circumstances.

No	Type of Classification of Speech Acts	Kinds or the Function
1	Representative	a. Information b. Stating c. State d. Opinion e. Rejecting f. Confession
2	Expressives	g. Request h. Expression of happy i. Greeting j. Expression of anger k. Offering l. Warning m. Apology
3	Directive	n. Assertive o. Complaining p. Interrogative q. Order r. Suggestion s. Offering t. request
4	Commissive	u. Commitment v. Promise
5	Declarative	w. Status

The dominance of expressive speech acts in the film *Godmothered* can be understood in the context of the fantasy genre, which often seeks to evoke strong emotional responses from the audience. Expressive speech acts help to convey the internal conflicts of characters, making their magical journeys more relatable. Moreover, the use of expressive speech acts plays a critical role in developing the relationship between Eleanor and Mackenzie, as their evolving emotional connection drives the plot forward.

In comparison to previous studies on speech acts in fantasy films, such as (Sakti, 2022), in *Onward*, the emphasis on expressive speech acts in *Godmothered* highlights the genre's characteristic use of emotions to deepen character development. Unlike action-oriented fantasy films, *Godmothered* uses dialogue to explore emotional growth and the complexities of human relationships, making it an

excellent case for studying the role of speech acts in storytelling.

Based on the amount of interpretation data that has been presented in the table above, the amount of data generated from the five types of speech acts according to the (Yule, 2022), theory can be seen from the chart below.



Figure 1 Type of Speech Acts in Fantasy Movie “Godmothered”

Research Findings

After going through a series of techniques, therefore the findings found in this research regarding the types of speech acts that based on the theory (Yule, 2022), in the fantasy movie "Godmothered" that there are five types of speech acts produced in the fantasy movie. These five types present various kinds or functions of delivery in conveying action speech to the listener. Representative is the truth of words that are in accordance with the world. In representative found there are six data of utterances from the main characters, and all of the utterances has the function based on the meaning in the context of the situation that occur produced by the action divide into as information, stating, state opinion, rejecting and confensionion.

Directive means that the speaker directly speak to the listener to take an action. In there found there are nine data of utterances from the main characters, and has the function based on the meaning in the context of the situation that occur produced by the action as assertive, complining, interrogative, order, suggestion, offering, and request. In commissive, the speaker is committed to taking action in the future by giving a promise or commitment. In this type found that there are five data of utterances from the main characters and has the function based on the meaning in the context of the situation that occur produced by the action as commite and promise. Expressive represents the speaker's feelings through psychological states or those felt by the speaker. In this type of speech acts found eleven data of utterances from the main characters. All of the sentences has the function based on the meaning in the context of the situation that occur produced by the action such as request, expression of happy, gretting, expression of anger, offering, warning and apology. And the last one in the type of classification of speech acts , declarative is a speech act that changes the world through words carried out by certain role. In this type found that one data of utterance from the main characters, and has the function based on the meaning in the context of the situation that occur produced by the action as declaration of status. Based on the findings of the speech acts classification type along with the number of utterances produced by the characters above, the researcher found that there is one type that often appears, namely expressive, followed by directive and representative types. Meanwhile in the type of commissive and declarative does not appear much. These three types often appear in the utterances delivered by the characters in the fantasy movie "Godmothered". Therefore, the findings of the speech acts type if poured into a percentage to measure its accuracy are as follows.

Table 1. Findings the percentage of Speech Acts

No	Type of Classification Speech Acts	Amount of utterance	Percentage
1	Expressive	11	34,38%
2	Directive	9	28,13%
3	Representative	6	18,75%
4	Commissive	5	15,63%
5	Declarative	1	3,13%
	Total	32	100%

Discussion

In this discussion section, researchers will discuss this research based on research questions contained in this study. There are two research questions that are the discussion in this section. Namely the type of classification of Speech Acts and the meaning contained by the Speech Acts from the utterance of the play character contained in the "Godmothered" Fantasy Movie. Speech Acts in the movie is very important because in every utterance or conversation produced issued actions produced by the listener who received it. Especially in Fantasy Movie, this movie is known to have many enthusiasts in it because this movie presents an imaginative and unique storyline played by the character in the movie. So that in this type of movie acts can be used as a bridge in building a film theme, knowing the character of the actors, and can create dynamics between players.

To answer and discuss the research questions contained in this study, researchers selected two main characters contained in the movie Fantasy "Godmothered". Namely Mackenzie and Eleanor. To present the findings and discussions in this study the researcher uses a descriptive qualitative research design which will present a structured explanation and based on available data. In its presentation researchers used the theory put forward by a famous philosophy named Yule. Initially, this theory was formed in 1996, but over time he issued his latest theory in the book "The Study of Language" which contains that in Speech acts is divided into 2 delivery, namely Direct and Indirectly, but in that case there are functions or types of classification in it to understand further the purpose of the utterance. This classification type is representative, expressive, direct, commission and declarative.

In this movie found that there is a type of classification in each utterance produced by the main character in the movie. The type that often appears is expressive as many as 11 utterances, followed by 9 utterances, and representatives of 6 utterances. On the other hand two other types appear but unlike other types that have a large amount of utterance, including commissive as many as 5 utterances and declarative as much as 1 utterance. In each type of classification, for the meaning of speech acts produced in each type of classification varies based on the functions and contexts experienced by the characters in the movie. Through the speech acts analysis can be seen how speech acts can find out the characters contained in the movie through the meaning of utterances produced, as in this Expressive expression of the expression indicating that Eleanor has a very sensitive and protective nature of Mackenzie, but is in the way to be more powerful and emotional burning emotions to Eleanor. Therefore, in the findings and explanations in these speech acts, it can be a bridge that can provide an understanding of an action produced by an utterance or word towards the recipient or listener based on the context or situation that occurs in it, especially in a fantasy movie.

Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussions presented above, the conclusion that can be drawn from this research is the identification of five types of speech act classifications in the 2020 fantasy movie *Godmothered*. These five types—Representative, Expressive, Directive, Commissive, and Declarative—are based on Yule's (2022) speech act theory. Each type serves a distinct function in conveying meaning through speech, allowing listeners to understand the intent behind the dialogue. Among these, three speech act types—Representative, Expressive, and Directive—are most frequently

used by the characters, demonstrating their prominence in the narrative structure of the film.

This finding confirms the initial hypothesis of the researcher, highlighting the significance of these speech acts in shaping character interactions and advancing the plot. Furthermore, the types of speech acts used not only contribute to the unfolding of the narrative but also play a pivotal role in character development. Through the dialogue, the audience gains insight into the characters’ personalities, motivations, and emotional states. This study offers several contributions to the field of pragmatics. First, it enhances the understanding of how speech acts operate within a fantasy film context, where dialogue is key to blending imaginative elements with character-driven storytelling. Second, the findings provide valuable insights for language learning, as the application of speech act theory can be useful in understanding how to convey meaning through speech in real-life communication. Additionally, this research may serve as a reference for future studies in media linguistics, film analysis, and English Language Teaching (ELT), particularly in exploring how language shapes interactions in narrative media.

While this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the pragmatic features in film discourse, the researcher acknowledges that there are areas for further improvement and exploration. These findings can be expanded upon by analyzing other genres of film or applying a more detailed comparative approach to speech acts across different cultural contexts. Ultimately, the research offers a foundation for future studies that aim to explore the intricate relationships between language, character development, and narrative structure in film.

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