

AN ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN THE “SING” MOVIE

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Abstract

Illocutionary act is one of the sub-fields studied in speech acts. Illocutionary acts can be studied in movies, one of which can be through the "Sing" movie. The movie has an interesting storyline and presents many of Buster Moon's dialogues containing illocutionary acts. The movie "Sing", which came out in 2016, was made by Illumination Entertainment. The purpose of this study was to determine the types of illocutionary acts, the most dominant type of illocutionary acts, and to explain the contribution of illocutionary acts used by Buster Moon in learning English. The data collection method was the documentation research method while the data collection technique used descriptive analysis. Researchers used descriptive qualitative research. The object of this study was the utterances of Buster Moon in the "Sing" movie. Based on Searle's theory (1979), there were five illocutionary acts used by Buster Moon, namely assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. From these results, the writers can conclude that the directive was the most dominant illocutionary act used by Buster Moon in the "Sing" movie. Teachers can use this study as a teaching media to help their students learn more about illocutionary acts in English.

Keywords: *Pragmatic, Speech Act, Illocutionary Act, Sing Movie.*

Abstrak

Tindak ilokusi merupakan sub bidang yang dipelajari dalam tindak tutur. Tindak ilokusi dapat dipelajari dalam film, salah satunya dapat melalui film "Sing". Film ini memiliki jalan cerita yang menarik dan menghadirkan banyak dialog dari Buster Moon yang mengandung tindak ilokusi. Film "Sing" yang keluar pada tahun 2016 dibuat oleh Illumination Entertainment. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis tindak ilokusi, jenis tindak ilokusi yang paling dominan, dan untuk menjelaskan kontribusi tindak ilokusi yang digunakan oleh Buster Moon dalam pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris. Metode pengumpulan data adalah metode penelitian dokumentasi sedangkan teknik pengumpulan datanya menggunakan analisis deskriptif. Peneliti menggunakan penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Objek penelitian ini adalah ucapan Buster Moon dalam film "Sing". Berdasarkan teori Searle (1979), ada lima tindak ilokusi yang digunakan oleh Buster Moon, yaitu asertif, direktif, komisif, ekspresif, dan deklaratif. Dari hasil tersebut, penulis dapat menyimpulkan bahwa direktif merupakan tindak ilokusi yang paling dominan digunakan oleh Buster Moon dalam film "Sing". Guru dapat menggunakan penelitian ini sebagai media pengajaran untuk membantu siswa mereka belajar mengenai tindak ilokusi dalam Bahasa Inggris.

Kata Kunci: *Pragmatik, Tindak Tutur, Tindak Ilokusi, Film Sing.*

Introduction

We frequently employ speech acts in our daily lives without recognizing it. One of the sub-fields studied in pragmatics is speech act. Yule (2006) said that speech acts are actions carried out by the speaker while speaking. In communication, we not only create utterances but also carry out actions as a result of those utterances. According to Yule & Widdowson (1996), a speech act is an action that the speaker makes by using words like "sorry", "complain", "compliment", "invite", "promise", and "request". There are three types of actions in the speech act according to Austin in Riemer (2010), they are locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. A speaker's words said with a specific intention are called an illocutionary act. Illocutionary acts are the actions that a speaker intends to conduct after pronouncing a sentence. These actions can be promises, assertions, apologies, requests, and so on. In universities, illocutionary acts are explored in more depth, particularly in pragmatics courses offered by the English department. No subject matter called illocutionary acts is taught in English classes at the elementary, junior high, or high school levels. Actually, illocutionary acts exist in English material, but they are not named illocutionary acts; instead, they are separated into numerous sub-materials such as giving opinions, giving compliment, offering help, apologizing, expressing pleasure, and so on. Illocutionary acts in English lessons can be found in writing, reading, listening, and speaking materials.

In order to prepare for the learning process, a teacher must not only find effective ways to learn but also find interesting and effective ways to teach so that students do not get bored while learning. The illocutionary acts can be studied in a movie besides textbooks. The movie is not just a way of entertainment but can also be a way of learning. Movies are often used in the learning process to overcome the boredom of learning from textbooks. Through movies, we can observe directly the utterances used by the characters, the context, and the situation. That actually makes it easier to know which illocutionary acts they have used. The movie entitled “*Sing*” can be an interesting and effective learning media to use in learning English. In addition to having moral values in it, the “*Sing*” movie has an interesting storyline. Therefore, the “*Sing*” movie is suitable for use by teachers as a media for teaching illocutionary acts. Buster Moon used various types of illocutionary acts in all of his utterances. Buster Moon demonstrated illocutionary actions clearly with gestures and tone of voice, making it easy for pupils to accurately identify and determine illocutionary acts.

Based on the explanation above, the writers decided to choose a movie entitled “*Sing*” as the object of analysis because it has an interesting storyline and has many Buster Moon dialogues which contain illocutionary acts. The writers focus on Buster Moon's illocutionary acts, which were analyzed using Searle's theory (1979). In addition to analyzing the types of illocutionary acts used by Buster Moon, the author will also find the most dominant illocutionary acts used by him and its contribution to learning English.

Method

This study's methodology was analyzed using a documentation research method and a descriptive qualitative approach. Based on Bogdan and Taylor as cited in Margono (2010), defined qualitative research is a research method that generates descriptive data consisting of the spoken or written utterances of individuals and particular behavior observed. Researchers employ this method because the information and data obtained will be in the form of words or text. Words or texts will be analyzed based on the information gathered in this study. The analysis findings may take the form of a depiction or description. The researchers interpret the data to have a better understanding. This research aims to identify illocutionary acts used by Buster Moon in the “*Sing*” movie and its contribution to English learning. The object of this study was Buster Moon's utterances which contain illocutionary acts. The writers used data sources from the “*Sing*” movie and its script downloaded via the internet. The writers used descriptive analysis to find the meaning behind the illocutionary acts of the Buster Moon in the “*Sing*” movie. According to Seran (2020) that descriptive analysis is an activity or process of concluding large amounts of raw data so that the results can be interpreted and usually use

graphs/diagrams or tables to describe the observed object. The writers follows steps while analyzing data. First, the researchers identified the utterances of Buster Moon, which contained illocutionary acts. Second, the researchers grouped Buster Moon's illocutionary acts based on Searle's classification of illocutionary acts, namely assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Third, the researchers described the intended meaning of the illocutionary act uttered by Buster Moon. Fourth, the researchers was to describe the contribution of Buster Moon's illocutionary acts to English learning. Last, the researchers gets the result and conclusion.

Findings and Discussions

In this section, the writers explains the finding and discussions of the study based on the analysis data using descriptive qualitative methods. The result is the answer to all of the statements of the problem.

Findings

In the findings section, the writers explains the answer from the statement of the problems. There are three statements of the problems will be explained below:

1. The illocutionary acts types used by Buster Moon in the “Sing” movie

The writers has found five types of illocutionary acts used by Buster Moon based on Searle's theory (1979). Based on the results of the study, the five illocutionary acts have several illocutionary forces that show up in the movie.

Table 1 The Types of Illocutionary Act

No.	Types of Illocutionary Act	Illocutionary Force
1	Assertive	Informing, describing, stating, claiming, boasting, admitting, agreeing, disagreeing, convincing, assuring, concluding, predicting, denying, asserting, complaining, guessing, introducing, and reminding
2	Directive	Questioning, commanding, requesting, ordering, permitting, begging, advising, suggesting, insisting, warning, inviting, and forbidding
3	Commissive	Promising, planning, guaranteeing, and offering
4	Expressive	Gratitude, greeting, welcoming, hoping, relief, startled, doubt, wishes, shock, surprise, excitement, pleasure, impressed, annoyance, disappointment, forgiving, pride, terrified, confusion, sympathy, sorrow, sadness, worrying, praising, leave-taking, pain, apologizing, and congratulating
5	Declarative	Hiring, dismissing, announcing, and declaring

2. The dominant type of illocutionary act used by Buster Moon in the “Sing” movie

Table 2 Dominant Illocutionary Act

No.	Types of Illocutionary Act	Frequency	Percentage
1	Assertive	118	28,23%
2	Directive	166	39,71%
3	Commissive	18	4,31%
4	Expressive	108	25,84%
5	Declarative	8	1,9%
Total		418	100%

Based on table 2, the writers discovered that Buster Moon employed directive utterances the most frequently in the "Sing" movie. The number of utterances utilized by Buster Moon in the movie was 418 utterances. The writers might infer that out of 418 utterances, Buster Moon utilized directive utterances the most often 166 times.

Discussions

In this discussion section, the writers also compare some studies of illocutionary act from some experts that had been done before. There are five studies that the writer reference. First, (Sembiring & Ambalegin, 2019) entitled “Illocutionary Acts on Aladdin Movie 2019”. Second, (Isnawati et al., 2015) entitled “Speech Acts Analysis of The Main Character in Shrek Movie Script”. Third, (Charisun, 2019) entitled “Pragmatic Analysis of Directive Speech Acts in The Interview Movie”. Fourth, (Pertwi, 2019) entitled “The Directive Illocutionary Act Analysis of The Character Utterances in 13 Reasons Why”. And fifth, (Hutajulu & Herman, 2019) entitled “An Analysis of Illocutionary Act in The Movie “You’re My Home” English Subtitle”.

Buster Moon utilized five different forms of illocutionary acts in the "Sing" movie, which contains 418 total utterances, according to the data that has been analyzed. The sample chosen from the data's findings was described as follows:

A. Assertive

Utterances that depict reality in accordance with one's convictions are known as assertives. It conveys what the speaker believes or disbelieves about something. The writers have found that there were 118 assertive utterances used by Buster Moon in the “Sing” movie. Here, the writers provide more in-depth explanations of a few instances of assertive illocutionary act in the "Sing" movie. The following are some instances of assertives:

1) Informing

An example of informing act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 02:18 - 02.26)

Buster Moon : **“This was it. The moment it all began. The moment an ordinary little guy fell in love with the theater”**

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out an assertive illocutionary act (informing). He informed listeners that the moment he began to like theater was the first time his father took him to see operas at the city theater. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of informing.

2) Describing

An example of describing act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 02:27 - 02:31)

Buster Moon : **“Everything about it. The light, the way the scenery moved. Even the smell”**

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out an assertive illocutionary act (describing). He described to the listener what things made him like the theater at that time. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of describing.

3) Convincing

An example of convincing act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 09:46 - 09:59)

Eddie : *“A singing competition? Who wants to see another one of those?”*
Buster Moon : **“Everyone! Just...Just think. Your neighbor, the grocery store manager, that chicken! Right there! Everyone in this city get a shot at being star live on my stage”**

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out an assertive illocutionary act (convincing). Eddie doubted if anyone would ever want to see another Buster Moon show. Buster Moon's argument convinced Eddie that everyone would watch his singing contest, even everyone in town got a chance to sing on his stage. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of convincing.

4) Disagreeing

An example of disagreeing act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 23:15 - 23:28)

Eddie : *“Look, maybe it’s time to stop thinking, and it’s time to just move on. I mean, this theater of yours, you could get some decent money for it and... I don’t know, maybe we could do something together”*
Buster Moon : **“What? What, sit around playing video games? Dah!”**

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out an assertive illocutionary act (disagreeing). Buster Moon disagrees with Eddie. He knew Eddie was a rich kid and his only job was playing video games all day. He did not want to be like Eddie, who was always playing games and had nothing else to do. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of disagreeing.

B. Directive

The illocutionary act known as a directive, is one in which the speaker uses an utterance to order or instruct the listener to do an action. The writers have found that there were 166 directive utterances used by Buster Moon in the “Sing” movie. Here, the writers provide more in-depth explanations of a few instances of directive illocutionary act in the "Sing" movie. The following are some instances of directives:

1) Commanding

An example of commanding act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 03:20 - 03:27)

- Miss Crawly : “*Yeah, it’s the stage crew from your last show. They say their paychecks bounced*”
Buster Moon : “***Tell them I’ll call up the bank and make sure they are paid, tout de suite***”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a directive illocutionary act (commanding). Buster Moon commands his secretary Miss Crawly to inform them that they will be paid soon. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of commanding.

2) Requesting

An example of requesting act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 01:14:12 - 01:14:19)

- Eddie : “*Hey, Buster*”
Buster Moon : “*Hey, Eddie*”
Eddie : “*Man, where’d you go? Are you okay?*”
Buster Moon : “***Listen, could you meet me at the corner of Dinsdale and Lemington?***”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a directive illocutionary act (requesting). Eddie received a call from Buster Moon requesting him to meet him at the intersection of Dinsdale and Lemington. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of requesting.

3) Begging

An example of begging act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 23:05 - 23:11)

- Buster Moon : “***Eddie. Please. Look, if your folks could just loan me the money until...***”
Eddie : “*\$100.000? Buster, come on!*”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a directive illocutionary act (begging). Buster Moon begged Eddie to lend him money because he was confused that he didn't have enough money to give the prize to the winner of the singing competition. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of begging.

4) Forbidding

An example of forbidding act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 01:05:37 - 01:05:40)

- Boss Bear : “*Which one of you is Moon?*”
Buster Moon : “***Hey, hey, you can’t just barge in here!***”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a directive illocutionary act (forbidding). The bear gangs are forbidden by Buster Moon from just

entering and disrupting the performance. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of forbidding.

C. Commissive

Commissive is a kind of illocutionary act that states the speaker commits themselves to the future course of action. The writers have found that there were 18 commissive utterances used by Buster Moon in the “Sing” movie. Here, the writers provide more in-depth explanations of a few instances of commissive illocutionary act in the “Sing” movie. The following are some instances of commissives:

1) Promising

An example of promising act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 32:19 - 32:26)

Miss Crawly : “*When did we last pay the power company, Mr Moon?*”

Buster Moon : “*Oh, for Pete’s sake. Okay, don’t worry, everybody.
I will take care of this*”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a commissive illocutionary act (promising). The lights went out at the Buster Moon theater all of a sudden because he had not paid the power company. The contestants worried since they were unable to rehearse when the lights went out. Buster Moon promised them that he would resolve the situation as quickly as possible. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of promising.

2) Guaranteeing

An example of guaranteeing act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 39:33 - 39:45)

Judith : “*I work for a bank, not a charity. And if your accounts
are not settled by the end of the month...*”

Buster Moon : “*Okay. Judith... I personally guarantee by the end of this
month this show is going to be the biggest hit this city has
ever seen!*”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a commissive illocutionary act (guaranteeing). Buster Moon told Judith that he guaranteed his show would be a big hit by the end of the month so he could pay off his debts to the bank. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of guaranteeing.

3) Offering

An example of offering act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 43:09 - 43:10)

Buster Moon : “*Meena, how would you like to re-audition for the show?*”

Meena : “*Really? Well, yeah*”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a commissive illocutionary act (offering). Buster Moon offered to Meena whether she is willing to audition again or not. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of offering.

4) Planning

An example of planning used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 09:39 - 09:48)

Buster Moon : “**Now, my next show is gonna be... A singing competition!**”

Eddie : “A singing competition? Who wants to see another one of those?”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a commissive illocutionary act (planning). Buster Moon told Eddie that he was going to hold a singing contest. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of planning.

D. Expressive

An illocutionary act known as an expressive act indicates the speaker's emotional condition. It refers to the speaker's emotions. The writers have found that there were 108 expressive utterances used by Buster Moon in the “Sing” movie. Here, the writers provide more in-depth explanations of a few instances of expressive illocutionary act in the “Sing” movie. The following are some instances of expressives:

1) Expressing Gratitude

An example of the act of expressing gratitude used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 18:44 - 18:56)

Buster Moon : “**Alright, call everyone back to the stage, Miss Crawly**”

Miss Crawly : “Hello! Can I have everybody back to stage, please?”

Everyone come back to stage for selection”

Buster Moon : “**Okay. Thank you, Miss Crawly**”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out an expressive illocutionary act (expressing gratitude). Buster Moon thanked his secretary Miss Crawly for carrying out her commands well. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of expressing gratitude.

2) Greeting

An example of the act of greeting used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 47:52 - 47:54)

Eddie : “Good morning, Buster”

Buster Moon : “**Hey, Eddie? How are you?**”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out an expressive illocutionary act (greeting). Buster Moon called Eddie and asked how he was doing. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of greeting.

3) Expressing Relief

An example of the act of expressing relief used by Buster Moon can be seen in the bolded utterance in the following dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 18:41 - 18:43)

Miss Crawly : “**Okay, that’s everyone, Mr Moon**”

Buster Moon : **“Phew!”**

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out an expressive illocutionary act (expressing relief). Buster Moon said **“Phew!”** because he was relieved that the audition session was over. Buster Moon was exhausted and relieved after a day of evaluating all of the singing competition contestants. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of expressing relief.

4) Hoping

An example of the act of hoping used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 50:35 - 50:46)

Mike : *“Nana Noodleman? She’s still alive?”*

Buster Moon : ***“Oh, yes, and believe me, she’s got some pretty high standards, all right. So, today we’re gonna have a full dress rehearsal. And I want to see you light up the stage, folks!”***

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out an expressive illocutionary act (hoping). Nana Noodleman is coming to see the contestants from the singing competition at Buster Moon's theatre. Buster Moon told his contestants that he hoped the contestants could put on a good show for Nana Noodleman. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of hoping.

E. Declarative

Declarative produces a change in a person's or a situation's status through utterances. It means that through speaker's utterance can change the status of something or another person. The writers have found that there were 8 declarative utterances used by Buster Moon in the “Sing” movie. Here, the writers provide more in-depth explanations of a few instances of declarative illocutionary act in the “Sing” movie. The following are some instances of declaratives:

1) Hiring

An example of hiring act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 20:07 - 20:08)

Buster Moon : **“And I’ll take Pete”**

Pete : *“Oh, yeah.”*

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a declarative illocutionary act (hiring). Buster Moon told Pete that he was going to be an official contestant in his singing contest. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of hiring.

2) Dismissing

An example of dismissing act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 19:34 - 19:35)

Buster Moon : **“Alright, the rest of the group acts”**

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a declarative illocutionary act (dismissing). Buster Moon said that he dismissed other group acts.

The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of dismissing.

3) Announcing

An example of announcing act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 42:58 - 42:59)

Buster Moon : “**All right. We’re two acts down**”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a declarative illocutionary act (announcing). Pete is injured during singing practice, and a group of frogs fights during rehearsal. It forced Buster Moon to remove them from the singing competition. Buster Moon has announced to Meena and Miss Crawly that Pete and the Frog Group have been eliminated. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of announcing.

4) Declaring

An example of declaring act used by Buster Moon can be seen in the following bolded utterance in the dialogue:

Conversation (Minute 01:11:56 – 01:12:03)

Buster Moon : “**The show? Guys, I am done**”

Ash : “*Are you serious? What do you mean “done”? Come on!*”

The utterance used by Buster Moon in the dialogue above shows that he is carrying out a declarative illocutionary act (declaring). Buster Moon was depressed since his theater building had been destroyed by the flood and had also been taken by the bank as collateral for his debts. Buster Moon was upset about both of these events. Buster Moon declared firmly to all contestants that he was done with the singing competition. He was done with his dream. The writers could see that Buster Moon’s intention in uttering his utterance is to perform an act of declaring.

Conclusions

The writers discovered five different types of illocutionary acts in the "Sing" movie after analyzing Buster Moon's utterances. There were assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. There were 418 utterances in all that included illocutionary acts. A total of 418 utterances were said, of which 118 were assertive illocutionary acts, 166 were directive illocutionary acts, 18 were commissive illocutionary acts, 108 were expressive illocutionary acts, and 8 were declarative illocutionary acts. The most dominant illocutionary act used by Buster Moon was directive. Directive occupied the highest position at 39.71% from 100%. The contribution of this study to learning English, especially in illocutionary acts. This study could be used by English teachers as media for teaching illocutionary acts.

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