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# SPEECH ACT IN ROBERT ZEMECKIS MOVIE SCREENPLAY "FORREST GUMP"

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## Abstract

In this thesis entitled Speech Act in Robert Zemeckis Movie Screenplay "Forrest Gump", the researcher will examine the use of speech acts used in the movie. This research used a descriptive qualitative method. This movie screenplay was chosen because there are many speech acts that occur in the dialogue. The theory used in data analysis uses pragmatic theory. The aim of this research is to analyze dialogues that contain speech acts, then classify them based on the type of speech act, namely locutionary acts and illocutionary acts. After analyzing the data, there are three types of locutionary acts, namely declarative, imperative and interrogative. Then there are five types of illocutionary acts, namely representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative which are found in the movie screenplay of this movie.

Keywords: Speech act, Pragmatic, Screen play, Forrest

## Abstrak

Dalam skripsi yang berjudul Speech Act in Robert Zemeckis Movie Screenplay "Forrest Gump" ini, peneliti akan meneliti mengenai penggunaan tindak tutur yang digunakan di dalam film tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Movie screenplay ini dipilih karena terdapat banyak tindakan tindak tutur yang terjadi dalam dialog. Teori yang digunakan dalam analisis data menggunakan teori pragmatik. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah menganalisa dialog yang mengandung tindak tutur, kemudian mengklasifikasikannya berdasarkan jenis tindak tutur.nya, yaitu tindak tutur lokusi dan tindak tutur ilokusi. Setelah dilakukan analisis data, terdapat tiga jenis pada tindak tutur lokusi yaitu deklaratif, imperatif, dan interogatif. Lalu terdapat lima jenis pada tindak tutur ilokusi yaitu representatif, direktif, komisif, ekspresif, dan deklaratif yang terdapat dalam movie screenplay pada film tersebut.

Kata kunci: Speech act, Pragmatic, Screen play, Forrest

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is an important part of human life, because it is used as a medium of communication with other humans. Finocchiaro (1964) states that language is an arbitrary system of vocal symbols, which allows all people in a particular culture, or other people who have learned the cultural system to communicate or interact. Apart from being a means of communication, language also plays an important role in several ways, such as, indicating the identity of an individual or group, as a cultural link and cross-cultural understanding. In language studies, there are several aspects studied such as phonology (sound), morphology (word structure), syntax (sentence structure), semantics (meaning), and pragmatics. Pragmatics focuses on the communicative aspects of language use, such as implied intent, implicature, politeness, and speech acts.

Pragmatics is the study of the relationship between language and the context that underlies the explanation of understanding or understanding of language. This point shows that there are three important aspects in the study of pragmatics, that is, language, context, and understanding. According to Yule (1996) Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). Pragmatics includes the study of how context and speakers influence the meaning produced by language. Pragmatics focuses on the communicative aspects of language use, such as implied intent, implicature, politeness, and speech acts.

Speech act refers to the various activities that one performs when speaking. It implies that a speech act is a speaker's utterance used to convey information or carry out an action. In this instance, Austin (1975) divides speech acts into locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary utterances as three categories of utterances. A locutionary act is the act of uttering anything fully, whereas an illocutionary act is the act of uttering something while performing another act. The action taken as a result of speaking is referred to as the final, perlocutionary act.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

Research methods are scientific procedures used in the data collection process to find new and better information about a topic to fulfill research objectives. The type of research used in this research is descriptive qualitative research. Qualitative descriptive is data or facts that have been put together by researchers in the form of words or images. Researchers try to find the use of speech acts in dialogue. The

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speech acts that are to be found in the dialogue are locutionary and illocutionary speech acts. The research will focus on the types of locutionary and illocutionary speech acts spoken by the characters in the film screenplay, then explain the meaning contained in these utterances. The data obtained in this research came from the film screenplay of Forrest Gump. The data used in this research is in the form of dialogue containing locutionary and illocutionary utterances. The data obtained in this research was collected in several ways, namely by observing, understanding and recording. Then data analysis is carried out in the process.

# 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

These findings include several dialogues from five chapters of the movie "Forrest Gump" chosen by the researcher, which contain locution and illocutionary speech acts.

researcher will analyze the dialogue in the movie screenplay using the locutionary and illocutionary speech act theory established in the second chapter. According to Langacker's theory (1972), locutionary speech acts can be classified as declarative, imperative, or interrogative. Meanwhile, illocutionary acts are classified into five categories based on Austin's (1975) theory: representational, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

Table 1. Total number and percentages of locutionary act

No.	Types of Locutionary Act	Frequency	Percentages
1	Declarative	49	42,2%
2	Imperative	32	27,6%
3	Interrogative	35	30.2%
Total		116	100%



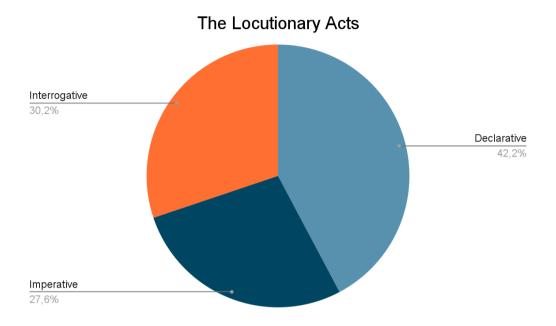


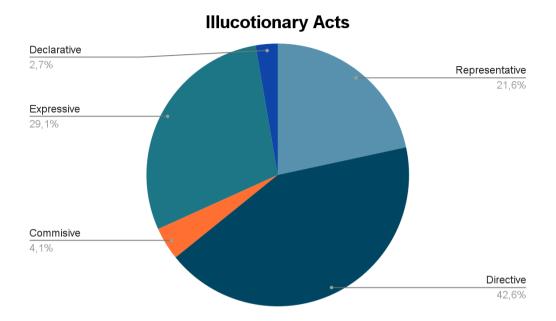
Table 2. Total number and percentages of Illocutionary act

No.	Illocutionary Act	Frequency	Percentages
1	Representative	32	21,6%
2	Directive	63	42,6%
3	Commissive	6	4,1%
4	Expressive	43	29,1%
5	Declarative	5	2,7%
Total		149	100%

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After classifying the data, it can be seen that the dialogue in the film screenplay of Forrest Gump is mostly in the form of declarative sentences in locutionary acts and directive sentences in illocutionary acts. Furthermore, researcher presents all the results of the description of the locutionary and illocutionary acts of dialogue in the dialogue in the film screenplay of Forrest Gump based on the classification in the table shown previously. The findings of the analysis of the locutionary and illocutionary acts used can be summarized in the explanation below.

## **Declarative**

# At first, it seemed like i made a mistake

The declarative meaning of this utterance is a statement of Forrest's initial perception or belief about an action taken. These statements provide information about the speaker's thoughts or feelings at a particular point in time, highlighting their initial interpretation of a situation.

## **Imperative**

# Ho! Put your hands down. Don't salute me

The meaning is conveyed through commands, the speaker is giving an order to someone, instructing them on how to behave. In this case, the speaker commands the listener to lower their hands and not salute.

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# **Interrogative**

Does this mean I can't play ping-pong anymore?

The speaker seeks information about whether it's permissible for him to continue playing ping-pong. This question served to engage the listener and encourage a response that clarified the situation and he got the answer "For the army it does". Which means he won't play ping-pong for the US Army anymore.

# Representative

Now, me, I was scared. But Lieutenant Dan, he was mad.

The speaker provides a representation or description of the emotions he and Lieutenant Dan experienced during a particular situation. The speaker is conveying information about their emotional states during the referenced event.

## **Directive**

Shut that blind, man. And get your white ass away from that window

These directives are given with a sense of urgency and authority, as indicated by the context of being in a war situation. The speaker is expressing a need for caution and protection, hence the imperative tone in the directives.

## Commissive

Therefore, I will resign from the position of President effective tomorrow afternoon.

Commissive action involves committing oneself to future action, the speaker committed to resigning from office. The use of the word "shall" emphasizes the speaker's intention and determination to carry out the stated action, indicating a commitment to resign from the presidency.

## **Expressive**

Lt. Dan sure knew his stuff. I felt real lucky he was my lieutenant

The speaker expresses gratitude and admiration for Lieutenant Dan expertise and leadership skills, as well as a sense of luck or fortune for having him as his leader.

## **Declarative**

If God intended everybody to be the same, he'd have given us all braces on our legs.

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This statement serves as a declaration of a belief or opinion. It's a reflection on the idea of diversity and individual differences, suggesting that if it were intended for everyone to be identical or conform to a certain standard, then physical differences, such as leg braces, would be universal.

# 4. CONCLUSIONS

Based on findings, researchers found 116 dialogues containing locutionary and illocutionary speech acts in the movie screenplay of Forrest Gump. Researchers found all types of locutionary acts (declarative, imperative, and interrogative). The type of locutionary act most often used in dialogue is declarative sentences, it was used 42.2% (49 sentences). Then, the interrogative sentence is used 20,2% (35 sentences). Finally, imperative sentences are used 27.6% (32 sentences).

The type of illocutionary act most frequently used in dialogue is the directive sentence, used 42,6% (63 sentences). Then, expressive sentences were used 29,1% (43 sentences). Then use representative sentences 21,6% (32 sentences). Then the type of illocutionary that is used the least or rarely in dialogue is the commissive type which is only used 4,1% (6 sentences) and the declarative type which is used 2,7% (5 sentences). In this illocutionary speech act, it is also known that one dialogue can contain 2 or more meanings.

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