



Illocutionary Act in Song lyrics of Taylor Swift's Single 'Love Story'

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to analyze illocutionary act and function of illocutionary act in song lyric of Taylor Swift single 'Love Story'. This study is conducted by using a descriptive qualitative method. The data is collected, after being collected, the data is analyzed based on the theory of illocutionary act by Searle (1996) and function of illocutionary act by Leech (1983). This study shows that there are four categories of illocutionary act found in the song lyric. They are Representative, Directive, Commissive, and Expressive. Representative was found as the most dominant categories of illocutionary act with 12 data (52,17 %), followed by Directive with 7 data (30,43 %), Commissive with 3 data (13,04 %), Expressive with 1 data (4,34%). Moreover, there are three types of function of illocutionary act found in the song lyric. There are Collaborative, Competitive, and Convivial. Collaborative function is found as the most dominant function with 11 data (47,82%), followed by Competitive function with 8 data (34,78%), and Convivial function with 5 data (17,39%). Collaborative function becomes the most dominant function because it is intended to tell the truth committed by Taylor Swift.

Keyword : speech act, illocutionary acts, song lyrics.

INTRODUCTION

Speech act theory attempts to explain how speakers use language to accomplish intended actions and how hearers infer intended meaning from what is said. Hutajulu and Herman (2019:30) stated that speech acts is an utterance to explain how speaker use language to accomplish intended actions and how the hearers infer intended meaning from what is said. When the speakers utter something, then the hearers afford to catch the meanings produced by the speakers. It can even cause misunderstanding when the hearers fail to process the intended meanings from the speakers. Furthermore, the speakers have something in their mind in which they expect the hearers to do so, but in some cases the speakers expectation is not the same as

what the hearers understand. Speech acts try to discuss how any lyrics are produced by speakers so that they have intended meanings which should be comprehended by hearers not only explicitly but also implicitly. Furthermore, those intended meanings affect the hearers to react, act, and do something. The domain of speech acts is then focused on the intended meanings or illocutionary acts.

The concept of an illocutionary act is central to the concept of a speech act. Illocutionary act is performed in saying something, and includes acts such as betting, promising, denying, stating, apologizing, threatening, predicting, ordering and requesting. Some of the verbs used to label illocutionary acts can be used performatively. Moreover, illocutionary act can be defined as what the speaker intends to do by uttering a sentence, Sari (1988:15). Coulthard (1977:18) states that “basically an illocutionary act is a linguistic act performed in uttering a certain words in a given context.”

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Pragmatics

Pragmatics as a branch of linguistic is the study of meaning which relates to the context or the external meaning of language unit. Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning (Yule, 1996: 3). Hence, Levinson (1997) as cited in Pardede, Herman and Pratiwi (2019:2) states that pragmatics is the study of ability of language users to pair sentences in the context which they would be appropriate. Within the theory of meaning, pragmatic is especially concerned with the implicit meaning, with the unsaid. It might be considered as the investigation of invisible meaning (Yule, 1996: 3).

Pragmatics also is a study of the meaning of lyrics in relation to their context which involves how speakers can produce the best utterance to deliver their intention and how listeners can interpret the true intention of the speaker’s utterance.

Speech Act

Speech act theory is a comprehensive theory of linguistic communication. It is a theory of what a speaker and the listener have to know and to do if the former is to communicate with the latter through spoken discourse. The fundamentals of this theory, as Stelmann (1982:279) puts them, are as follows: Linguistic communication is more than merely saying something; it is saying something in a certain context with certain intentions, and with the listener’s recognition of what is said and of these intentions.

As Clark and Carlson (1982:35) point out : Speech act cannot be fully understood without considering the hearers as well as the speakers. Speech act are directed at real people, whose abilities to recognize put limits on what speakers can do with their lyrics.

Illocutionary Act

Illocutionary act is an act performed in saying something. Pasaribu, Herman and Silalahi (2019:4) stated that Illocutionary acts is an utterance with some kind of function in mind. When analyzing an utterance, it does not only deal with what do the sentence means, but also what kind of act does a speaker performs in uttering a sentence. Illocutionary acts are the power or intention behind the words that is uttered by the speaker. It indicates the speaker's purpose in saying something. The speaker's expression can be in the form of recommends, offers, promises, etc. The interpretation of the illocutionary acts are concerned with force. for example: "I will go to campus at 8.am". In this utterance, the speaker has made an action of "promise" via language to go to the campus at 8 a.m.

Category of Illocutionary

Searle (1979), as an important of the classification of the speech acts proposed by Austin, divided illocutionary points into five main categories : representatives, directives, commissives, expressive, and declaration.

A. Representatives

The point of representatives is to get addressees to form or attend to the belief that the speaker is committed to a certain belief. When Paul tells Jean, "I'm tired," he is trying to get her to accept the belief that he is tired. Representatives range from simple assertions through predicting, confessing, denying, retorting, conjectures, suppositions, and includes stating, claiming, informing, concluding, representing, deducing, describing, reporting, telling, and many others.

B. Directives

The point of a directive is to get addressees to do things. When Paul asks Jean to sit down, he is trying to get her to do something, to sit down. Directives fall into two major classes: requests for nonlinguistic actions (as with most commands and suggestions), and requests for linguistic actions (as with most questions). In asking Jean, "What time is it?" Paul is requesting a linguistic action: she is to tell him what time it is. Directives range in force from mild hints to commands, and they vary on other dimensions, too. In this type of speech acts, the speaker wants to ask someone else to do something. Acts of asking, advising, encouraging, warning, begging, suggesting, commanding, ordering, requesting, inviting, are all the examples of how the speaker expresses his or her wants.

C. Commissives

The point of a commissive is to commit the speaker to some future action. The commonest commissive is the promise. When Paul says to Jean, "I'll be there in a minute," he is committing himself to being there in a minute. A promise can be absolute or conditional, and when it is conditional, it is called an offer. When Paul says to Jean, "Can I get you a beer?" he is committing himself to getting jean a beer, but only if she wants one. The acts are offering, threatening, recommending, refusing, vowing, wishing, guaranteeing, and refusals.

D. Expressives

The point of an expressive is to express certain psychological feelings toward the addressees. When Paul steps on Jean's foot by mistake, he says, "Sorry." In doing so, he presupposes that he has caused Jean some harm and tries to get her to recognize his regret in having done so. It is a kind of speech acts that states what the speaker feels. The form of expressive can be statements of pleasure, pain, like, dislike, joy, sorrow, etc. In this case, the speaker makes the words fit with the situation which his or her feeling also includes in it. The type includes thanking, apologizing, praising, regretting, greeting, congratulating, well-wishing, and many other types.

E. Declaration

The point of a declaration is to affect an institutional state of affairs. Declarations take place within institutions such as the law, the church, and organized games, and speakers do certain things by virtue of their institutional roles as judges, priests, or referees. In a company, a boss can appoint, promote, or fire people, and an employee can quit, simply by saying the right words at the right time: "You're fired" or "I quit." Likewise, with the right words at the right times, a judge can indict, pardon, and sentence people; a referee can start a game, call fouls, and call time-outs; a police officer can arrest people; and a priest can baptize, marry, and bless people. As Austin noted, all of these acts must be performed with the proper institutional authority or they are defective, null and void.

The Function of Illocutionary Act

In speech acts investigation, the illocutionary act is the main focus of the discussion because illocutionary act is the intended meaning of utterance. Therefore, the illocutionary act always has function of speech acts. Leech (1993:104) has proposed the illocutionary acts based on its functions. It is based on how illocutionary acts relate to the social goals or purposes of arranging and setting up in a polite ways.

Leech divided the function of illocutionary acts into four types : competitice, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive.

A. Competitive

Competitive was the function that the illocutionary goal competed with the social goal. In this function politeness had negative nature and aims to reduce the unpleasant way between what the speakers want to the politeness should say. Here, etiquette distinguished with manners.

B. Convivial

Convivial was the function that was the illocutionary goal coincides with the social goal. Convivial function was more positive politeness and aims to find opportunities for social time. In this context, the politeness is utilized positively to make a pleasure relationship to the society and aim to seek opportunities hospitable.

C. Collaborative

Collaborative was the function that the illocutionary goal was indifferent to the social goal. Collaborative illocutionary function did not contain politeness, for which politeness was irrelevant. It is commit the speaker to the truth of expressed proposition. It aims at ignoring the social purposes as like asserting, reporting, announcing, and instructing. Example: “I like this book”.

D. Conflictive

Conflictive was the function that the illocutionary goal conflicts with the social goal. In this function did not contain elements of politeness at all, because the function was basically aimed at caused anger. Such as threatening, accusing, and reprimanding. Example: “If you say again, I will say to your father”.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

In conducting research, we need research design. Research design refers to the strategy to integrate the different components of research projects in cohesive and coherence way. Some experts have different opinion about what is mean by research design. According to Creswell (2009:3) research design is plans and the procedures for research to detailed methods of data collection and analysis. Hence, Ary et. al. (2010:29) as cited in Herman, Sinurat and Sitio (2019:44) stated qualitative researchers seek to understand a phenomenon by focusing on the total picture rather than breaking it down into variables

In this research, the researcher used design of qualitative descriptive method which is a method of research that attempt to describe and interpret the objects in accordance with reality. The descriptive method is implemented because the data analysis is presented descriptively. The researcher used song lyric from Taylor Swift’s single ‘Love Story’ that is being analyzed.

Data Source of Research

The source of data in this research the song lyric of Taylor Swift’s single ‘Love Story’. The data was in the form of sentence and clause which contain of illocutionary act.

Table 1. The corpus of Taylor Swift single

No	Title of the song	Writer	Data of released
1	Love Story	Taylor Swift	September 12, 2008

Data Collection Method

To get the data, there are some steps conducted by the researchers, such as:

1. Selecting the songs’ lyrics to be taken as the data

2. Downloading the song
3. Browsing the lyrics of the song
4. Downloading the lyrics of the song

Data Analysis Method

In this study, the steps of the analysis as following:

- Listening to the song of Taylor Swift
- Reading and understanding the song lyrics of Taylor Swift single 'Love Story'.
- Reviewing the data which have been collected from the song lyrics of Taylor Swift single 'Love Story'.
- Identifying the data based on the theories of illocutionary act according to Searle and function of Illocutionary Act according to Leech.
- Classifying the data into their respective categories based on the Illocutionary Acts theory and Function of Illocutionary Acts theory.
- Describing and analyzing the categories and the functions of illocutionary acts found in the song lyrics.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDING

Data Analysis

As mentioned in the objectives of the research, this research is aimed at identifying and analyzing Illocutionary Acts and the function of illocutionary acts that exist in the song lyric of Taylor Swift's single 'Love Story'. This chapter provides the result of this research which are divided into two parts, i.e. Analysis and Finding. In the analysis, discussing and explaining each categories and function of Illocutionary Act found in the song lyrics. Meanwhile, the data finding show the appearance of the data which is divided into two parts : the categories of Illocutionary Acts and the Function of Illocutionary Acts.

Data in this study is all utterance which is uttered in written form by Taylor Swift in the song lyrics from her single 'Love Story'. Total numbers of the data is 23 data.

Illocutionary Acts and Function of Illocutionary Acts in Love Story Song

In this song lyric found four categories of illocutionary acts which is representative (12 data), directive (7 data), commissives (3 data), and expressive (1 data). The types of function of illocutionary acts found in this song lyric are competitive (8 data), convivial (4 data), and collaborative (11 data). In conclusion there are 23 data found in this song lyric.

RESEARCH FINDING

Based on the research, there are five categories of illocutionary act in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift’s single ‘Love Story’ analyzed in this research, namely representative, directive, commissives, and expressive. And then, there are three types of function of illocutionary act found in the song lyric : competitive, convivial, collaborative. Conflictive are not found in the lyrics in the song lyrics because there are no lyrics that belong to the conflictive function of illocutionary. The finding of illocutionary act and illocutionary function in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift’s single ‘Love Story’ are illustrated in the following table.

Table 2. Data Finding of Illocutionary Acts

No	Title of Song	Illocutionary Act Categories	Frequency	Number of Data
1	Love Story	Representative	12	23
		Directives	7	
		Commissive	3	
		Expressive	1	
	TOTAL			23

Table 2 shows that the total numbers of data are 23 data from the song containing Illocutionary Acts. In the table we can see that the most dominant categories of Illocutionary Acts found in the single is *representative* with 12 data (52,17 %), followed by *directive* with 7 data (30,43 %), *commissives* with 3 data (13,04%), and *expressive* with 1 data (4,34%). From the data finding that shows in the table, the researcher can conclude that Taylor Swift in her single “ ‘Love Story’ is mostly to get addressees to form to the belief that she is committed to a certain belief by telling, describing, reporting, predicting, etc.

Function of Illocutionary Acts

Table 3. Data Finding of Function of Illocutionary Acts

No	Title of Song	Function of Illocutionary Act	Frequency	Number of Data
1	Love Story	Competitive	8	23
		Convivial	4	
		Collaborative	11	
	TOTAL			23

Table 3 shows that the most dominant type of function of Illocutionary Acts found in the single is *Collaborative* function with 11 data (47,82 %), followed by competitive with 8 data

(34,78%), and convivial with 4 data (17,39 %). Collaborative function become the most dominant function in the single because the most dominant illocutionary acts is representative act. Representative act always followed by collaborative function as collaborative is a function that commits the speaker to the truth of expressed proposition aims at ignoring the social purposes such as telling, reporting, describing, and predicting, etc.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the illocutionary act in single 'Love Story', the researchers come to the following conclusion :

1. There are four categories of illocutionary acts in the song lyric of Taylor Swift single 'Love Story'. They are *representative*, *directives*, *commissives*, and *expressive*. Representative is the most frequent category of illocutionary acts found in the song lyrics. The use of representative is to represent the speaker's belief of something that can be evaluated to be true or false. It means that Taylor in this single wants to represent his belief or thought to the addressees (the man that she love)
2. There are three types of function of illocutionary acts found in the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's single 'Love Story'. They are *competitive*, *convivial*, and *collaborative*. The highest frequency of the function of illocutionary acts is collaborative function. Collaborative function becomes the most dominant in this study because representative act is also the most dominant category as collaborative is the function of representative act.

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