

**An Analysis of Speech Acts Used
in The Witches Novel by Roald**

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Abstract

This research was descriptive qualitative research. The present research studied the speech acts types produced by the characters in the witches novel. The research subject was the novel itself, and the objects were focused on the speech act types and the functions or points. The witches novel is a novel intended for children with the theme of loss and fantasy. There are 305 utterance produced by the characters from the novel which are analyzed by speech acts. The obtained data were analyzed descriptively and categorically based on Searle's theory of speech acts. The analysis concluded that from the 5 types of speech acts according to Searle's theory, there were four of them used in the witches novel. Namely, representative, directive, expressive and commissive act.

Keywords: *Speech Acts*

Introduction

Language is used to create communications between people. It has an important aspect in life. In other words, a language is a tool for communication. To understand each other, people need to communicate (Ruben, 2017). Sometimes miscommunication or error occur during the conversation. According to Dornyei (1997), The problem can occur from the target language or the performance of the speaker and the listener. So that the idea to be conveyed is actually not obtained or is not clearly understood by the listener.

This phenomenon is what we know as pragmatics. Pragmatics is a study of what is implied in someone's speech when associated with the context or conditions that surround it. Many pragmatic phenomena appear in the learning process. Where students do not understand how to classify the types of speech acts in written texts. According to Searle (1977: 16) "all linguistic communication involves linguistic actions including conversation in our

lives so it is very important to focus on this study." From that definition, it has been stated that pragmatics is related to several things, one of which is speech acts.

Searle (1981) and Levinson (1995) recognized Austin's notion after extensive research on the explanation if a person engages in activities in the future while he or she is speaking. Searle (1981) proposes 5 illocutionary acts: (1) Assertive is used to bind a speaker (in varying degrees) to something that happened, to a truth of a proposition expressed, for example, boasting, complaining, and concluding. (2) Directive i.e. where a speaker wants a listener to take any action in the future as directed, the verb for directive speech acts is to ask, command, command, request, plead, plead, pray, beg, invite, permit, and advise. (3) Commissive is where a speaker commits to act in the future (can be called a promise). (4) Expressiveness is about the expression of psychological states; The verbs are accepted, congratulations, apologize, condolences, regret, and welcome. (5)

Declarations are about changing states or conditions, including performative classes.

Novels are a very good part of the literature used as teaching materials. Where novels are rich in elements that can be a source of information in honing a student's various language skills. One of them is the written data of the communication between characters in a novel. Previous researchers have conducted many studies on speech acts on written data such as novels. Binthamie (2015) with his research entitled "Speech Act Of Directive Utterances In Sherlock Holmes "Scarlet". researched speech acts regarding direct sentence forms in the novel entitled Scarlet. Then Rachmawati (2017) with a research entitled "Illocutionary Acts Of Main Characters In Dead Poet Society And Freedom Writers". The research focuses on illocutionary utterances in every conversation of the main character in the novel. Susanti (2019) also examines the speech act entitled "An Analysis of The Speech Acts in Anthology of Short Stories". 9 from Nadira" by Leila S. Chudori". He proves that this novel is very rich in pragmatic elements. Then Setiawan (2021) conducted research entitled "Illocutionary And Perlocutionary Acts In The Novel "The Book Of Lost Things" By John Connolly". He found that the characters in the novel used a lot of speech acts.

The researcher chose to analyze the speech acts in one of the most popular novels, The Witches by Roald Dahl. The writer choose this novel as the main data source because this is a super famous novel, this novel was even adapted in 2 films in two decades with the same title The Witches. This novel is a fantasy novel about a witch. The researcher chooses to analyze the speech act in the novel because the researcher wants to know how the language is used in literary work. The researcher analyzed the witches novel using the theory of Speech act by Searle (1967). Besides novels being very useful for reading comprehension skills, the students of English can improve their knowledge about the ability in using language based on the context and situation.

Research Questions

The problem statement of this research was the need for describing the speech act in the dialogue of the characters in the novel The Witches by Roald Dahl Therefore, the questions of this research is:

- 1) What are the types of Ilocutionary acts produced by the characters of The Witches Novel by Roald Dahl?

Research Method

(1) Research Design

The design of this research was based on the descriptive qualitative research. This research analyzed and described the types of speech acts produced by the characters in the Witches Novel by Roald Dahl based on the interpretation gained during the process of data analysis.

(2) Research Instrument

The instrument used in this research included the researcher as the main instrument and tables for data tabulation and data classification as the supporting instruments. The data tabulation tables were also called an observation checklist which was used to collect the data. Meanwhile, the data classification tables displayed the data by considering the sequences which can support the data.

(3) Data Analysis

The data analysis was done simultaneously through 4 components of Qualitative Data Analysis from Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014), namely: data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. This process was called a cyclical process because all components were done simultaneously and it allowed the researcher to conduct the analysis back and forth in a certain process in order to get a satisfying conclusion.

Findings and Discussions

Table 1. Recapitulated data of Speech Acts Produced by The Characters in the Witches Novel by Roald Dahl

No	Types of Ilocutionary Acts	Number of Data	Percentage
1	Representative	167	54.7%
2	Directive	98	32%
3	Expressive	25	8.1%
4	Commissive	15	4.9%
5	Declarative	0	0
Total		305	100%

The table above shows about 305 utterance produced by the characters from The witches novel was classified based on Searle(1969) theory of speech acts. These data involves four types of ilocutionary acts such as : representative(167 utterances or 54,7%), directive (98 utterances or 32%), expressive (25 utterances or 8,1%) and commissive acts (15 utterances or 4.9%).

1. Representative

Representative is a speech act in which it binds the speaker to a truth. According to Levinson, 1983: 240 representative is said to be a truth that is believed by the speaker or expressed propositions such as inform, state, explain, assert, clarify ,ect. Below are the analysis of the utterance from the witches novel by roald dahl :

(1) Speech Act verb “State”

“The first child I knew who disappeared was called Ranghild Hansen”
(*The Witches, page 4*)

The utterance above was found in the witches novel by roald dahl in page 4. The italic utterance was stated by Grandmother in order to inform a story that she know about Ranghild Hansen. State is one of the representative act verb used to said something clearly. State has a purpose to tell a truth that the speaker believe (Searle,1969). According to Schiffirin (1994) in Petriandy and Marlina(2018), statement is part of the representative act to deliver a fact. From the analysis above The speaker in the witches novel by roald dahl state a fact about Ranghild to the hearer, so this utterance is a representative speech act .

(2) Speech Act Verb “ Assert”

“Just take it all in. The second thing to remember is that a REAL WITCH is always bald.”

(*The Witches, page 8*)

The italic utterance above was found in page 8 of The witches novel by roald dahl. Grandmother assert the heacher about the truth of a witch look. Assert is a verb which is used by the speaker with a confidence or state information strongly. According to Searle (1969) Assert is part of representative verb used to deliver something truly by the speaker. According to Schiffirin (1994) in Petriandy and Marlina(2018), assert is part of statement function that have a purpose to inform a truth that the speaker believe. So, the utterance above was categorized as representative act.

(3) Speech Act Verb “ Explain”

“Witches have slightly larger nose-holes than ordinary people. The rim of eachnose-hole is pink and curvy, like the rim of a certain kind of seashell”

(*The Witches, page 9*)

Above utterance was found in page 9 of The Witches Novel. The speaker in the story tried to explain more detail about the looks of a witch face. The speaker explained with additional information of the colour. Explain is part of representative act. Explain was used to give more detail information about what the speaker know (Searle,1969). Verb Explain has similar purpose with verb state to deliver information or knowledge to somebody (Schiffirin (1994) in Petriandy and

Marlina(2018)). So the utterance above was categorized as a representative act.

2. Directive

Directive act is a speech act types that used to direct the hearer take an action. According to Searle (1969), directive has an effect to the hearer to do or not do something after heard what the speaker said. Below was the utterance that categorized as directive act found in the witches novel by roald dahl.

(1) Speech act verb "Ask"

"What happened to the third one?"

(*The Witches, page 6*)

Above utterance was said by the speaker in the wicthes novel to gain any information about a wicthes story. The speaker want the hearer to tell a story of the third part. According to Schiffirin (1994) in Petriandy and Marlina(2018), ask is a verb that end with question mark which is part of the speech function of question. Asking a question is part of the directive act. Asking is used to make the hearer do something, so the utterance above was categorized as directive act .

(2) speech act verb "Request"

"Now wait a minute, Grandmamma..."

(*The Witches, page 9*)

Above utterance was said by the boy. He make a request to his grandmamma to stop the story for a second, because he want to interrupt and gave an opinion. According to Searle (1969) a request is a verb that can used to make the hearer take an action. So the utterance above categorized as directive act.

3. Expressive

Expressive act is a speech act that use to express the feeling of the speaker. According to Searle (1969) Expressive act occur when the speaker want to state their feeling to the hearer. Below are some utterance categorized as expressive act that is found in the witches novel by roald dahl:

(1) speech act verb "Like"

"I love you and I want you to stay with me"

(*The Witches, page 4*)

The utterance above was said by the speaker the grandmother to her grand son. She

said that to inform the grandson about what his feeling to him. She want her grandson to not leave her or want him to live with her. According to Schiffirin (1994) in Petriandy and Marlina(2018), an expressive act use a statement to deliver an expression feeling. So above utterance was categorized as an expressive statement.

(2) speech act verb "greet"

"Goodnight, Grandmamma"

(*The Witches, page 12*)

The utterance above was found in page 12 of the witches novel by roald dahl. The utterance was expressed by the grandson to end the conversation with his grandmother in the living room at that night. Greeting is an action to start or to end a conversation. The speaker will make an expression of greeting based on the event (Searle,1969). According to Schiffirin (1994) in Petriandy and Marlina(2018), by saying hello or goodbye to somebody the speaker will express their psychological state. So the utterance above was belong to expressive act.

(3) Speech act verb "Offer"

"Do you want to know why?"

(*The Witches, page 8*)

The utterance above was expressed by the grandmother in page 8 of the witches novel by roald dahl. The grandmother offering a story to her grandson. Offer is part of speech act verb in expressive act. Which is mean that the speaker is willing to do or give something to somebody (searle,1969). An offer usually end with a question mark, so it is part of speech function as a question. From the analysis it can be categorized that the utterance above is belong to expressive act.

4. Commisive

Commisive act is part of speech act that commit what the speaker said. The speaker will make a statement that will he do for the future action like promise and threatening (Searle, 1969). Below are some utterance that is belong to commisive act found in the witches novel by roald dahl:

(1) Speech act verb "Promise"

"I will look after you"

(*The Witches*, page 12)

Above utterance was said by the grandmother in page 12 of the witches novel by roald dahl. The grandmother promise about what she will do to her grandson. Promise is a verb that used to tell somebody that you will do something definitely or not. According to Searle(1969) by using a promise it will make the speaker commit of some future action. A promise is part of stating something so above utterance was categorized as commissive act .

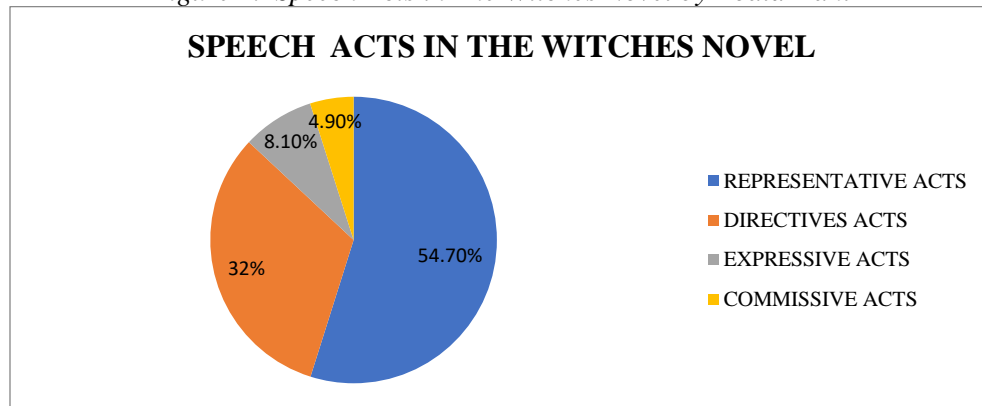
(2) Speech Act verb “Refuse”

“*I don't care what age you are*”

(*The Witches*, page 6)

The utterance above was expressed by the grandmother. She was state her opinion that she reject the reason of her grandson answer of his age. It is mean that the grandmother as the speaker commit to reject the answer of the hearer. Refuse is part of commissive act. Refuse is used to reject something or somebody.in the other word refuse is mean the speaker commit to reject the hearer (Searle,1969). According to Schiffirin (1994) in Petriandy and Marlina(2018), giving an answer to not commit of what the hearer said is part of the speech function as a statement. So the utterance above was categorized as commissive act .

Figure 1. Speech Acts in *The Witches* Novel by Roald Dahl



The result of the speech function into four types. Namely the first was a statement about 212 utterance or 69.5%. Utterances that are classified as statements are representative and expressive act. Where there are several subtypes such as stating, informing, explaining which conveys a fact known to the speaker to the listener. The process of delivering information by making a statement. Then the second was 78 utterances categorized as question (25,5). As we know the question is an interrogative form. Where an utterance will end with a question mark. The speech act that is classified as a question is a directive act, such as asking. Third was request about 13 utterance or 4.26%. well request is a request by the speaker to the listener. Utterance which is classified as request mostly from directive act. and the last was offer about 2 utterance or 0.6%. In the

illocutionary, which includes offer, there is a directive act type. From the explanation above, it can be seen that the most dominant speech function used was a statement and the less was an offer.

Based on the final finding, the writer tries to compare her finding with Suardana (2021), he studied the illocutionary act in The novel *Snowing in Bali*. The result of his research there was no representative and directive act in that novel, only commissive, expressive and declarative act. The second was a research from Setiawan and Soenarjati (2021). They studied about Illocutionary And Perlocutionary Acts In The Novel “*The Book Of Lost Things*” By John Connolly. The result of their study was found that directive act was the most dominant speech act used in that novel. Then the third study was found that directive act are the most dominant

illocutionary used by the female character in Jane Austin's novel (Suryanovika and Novita, 2018). According to the explanation above, the result of both findings are totally different from recent research. There are two reasons why the writer had different findings. First, writer chose different novel. Second, writer was choosing different genre. The writer found that the most dominant types of illocutionary act that used in novel "*The Witches by Roald Dahl*" was representative act. The author of the novel mostly used representative act as a part of illocutionary act to inform or deliver the story of the witches.

Conclusion

This study analyzes the speech acts classification in the novel *The Witches* by Roald Dahl. There were 305 utterance from the dialogue data analyzed with the illocutionary types according to Searle's theory, they are:

- 1) Representative acts (57,4%) with their respective Speech act verb namely state, explain, assert and clarify.
- 2) Directive acts (32%) with their respective Speech act verb namely ask, request, order, begg and advise.
- 3) Expressive acts (8,1%) with their Speech act verb namely agree, disagree, offer, greet, and express.
- 4) Commissive acts (4,9%) with their Speech act verb namely refuse, threat and promise.

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So it can be seen from the percentage results above that the author is more dominant in using representative acts about 167 utterances. In writing the story content in the novel. The writer conveys or mentions the story through the narrator and dialogue between the characters. The audience can get a detailed picture or clear information about the content of the story, the characters, the setting, and also the problems that exist in the story.

Suggestions

After recapitulating the results of the research, the writer would like to give some suggestions that will be useful for novel readers, students, or future researchers.

1. Readers or students

For students to deepen their knowledge of the English language, through novels is very helpful for your reading skills. You can get a deep understanding from understanding the speech act in every sentence in the novel, both the narration of the narrator and the dialogue between the characters in the story itself.

2. Other researchers

For future researchers, if they want to research in the same field, namely speech act, a broader and more in-depth research can be done. Namely by choosing novels with different genres. besides that, it can focus research on speech acts used by each character or figure in the novel.

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