ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN GREENFIELD*'S LET'S BE COPS*: TYPES, FORCES AND FUNCTIONS

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Abstract

This pragmatic study has two objectives: 1) to identify the types of illocutionary acts so as to reveal their forces, and 2) to describe the directness and indirectness of expressing the illocutionary acts. To achieve the objectives, the principles of pragmatics on illocutionary acts as the theoretical foundation was adopted. Furthermore, qualitative method was employed to scrutinize the data which were taken from the main characters' utterances of *Let's Be Cops*. The data were in the form of words, phrases, and sentences while the context of the data was in the form of utterances in dialogues. Then, to achieve trustworthiness of the research, peer review triangulation was utilized. The research reveals that 1) there are four types of illocutionary act employed by the main characters, namely representative, directive, commissive, and expressive. Each type is expressed through various kinds of force. The data shows that there are new forces that emerge from each type. Forces emerging from representative are asserting, stating, informing, and clarifying. Forces of directive are commanding, warning, and inviting. Forces of commissive are promising, refusing, and threatening. Forces of expressive are greeting, thanking, and apologizing. Furthermore regarding the second objective, it can be inferred that direct acts convey a literal meaning and is articulated through various types, i.e., representative, directive, commissive, and expressive. Meanwhile, indirect acts convey an implied meaning and is expressed through representative and directive.

Keywords: illocutionary act, types, forces, functions, Greenfield's *Let's Be Cop*

INTRODUCTION

Language and humans are inextricably connected. Humans need language to communicate with others. When communicating, they produce utterances to perform actions. The idea of doing something via utterances is called speech act (Yule, 1996: 47). Speech act is one of the aspects of language in use in the study of Pragmatics. It consists of three main related acts. They are locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary act. Illocutionary act is regarded as the most important study (Cutting, 2002: 16) and the most discussed act compared to the other two acts of speech act. According to Searle (in Leech, 1983: 105-106) there are five types of illocutionary acts. They are representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations.

This research particularly focuses on the illocutionary act which deals with the specific functions of the utterances that a speaker forms. Asking questions, giving orders, making promises, expressing emotions are the examples of illocutionary functions or illocutionary forces. In the expression "Dad, the ceiling light in my room is burned out." it has the illocutionary act of informing and making a request. Speaker's utterance can be assumed as

informing since it is a statement that contains explanatory information about the actual condition of the light which has burned out. In addition, with regard to another purpose, the speaker may be in the belief that the hearer has recognized what the utterance really means, that the utterance is a request in which the speaker intends the hearer to replace the light with a new one. In this situation, the speaker does not communicate their intended meaning directly. He or she makes it implicit by using indirect speech act.

Direct and indirect speech acts are an approach used to identify types of speech acts based on the relationship between the structural forms and the communicative functions. In addition the use of direct and indirect speech acts depends on the need of the speaker. The speaker determines which act is more effective to be employed in a certain context. For instance someone is trapped in a burning building and a fireman comes to rescue. He enters the building and commands the victim to leave by uttering a direct command "Hurry! Get out of here!". The fireman does not want to express it using indirect speech act since it is a pressing or emergency situation.

From the broken light example, it can be seen that one single utterance can imply various functions. In this way direct and indirect speech acts can be utilized to recognize the certain function of an utterance through examining the linguistic form. To recognize the certain function of an utterance, the listener needs to consider the context in which the utterance takes place. Context is perceived to be the most significant aspect to consider when interpreting an utterance. Lack of knowledge or awareness of the context leads to misinterpretation. In this way the listener's understanding regarding the context is important in order to achieve successful communication.

This research focuses on the main characters' utterances in a movie. Movies are counted as a manifestation of humans' life. The movie maker attempts to display humans' life with its complexity. Through watching movies, not only do people enjoy the story in the movie, but they can also study the language. As many language phenomena can be found in a movie, a lot of researchers are interested in using movies as the object of their research. They can analyze how language is used by the characters in the movie they select.

Let's Be Cops movie is selected to be the object of research since the researcher is fond of the movie. The movie directed by Luke Greenfield is an action comedy movie starred by Jake Johnson as Ryan O'Malley and Damon Wayans as Justin Miller. They are best friends having so much trouble with their life after dressing up in a police's uniform. In the whole scenes, Ryan and Justin go out in disguise as officers. Their action brings them to a dangerous situation as they have to encounter the most

notorious mobsters in Los Angeles. To deal with the problems, the main characters, Ryan and Justin, employ various types of illocutionary act in the movie. Therefore, the researcher selects *Let's Be Cops* as the object of the research. In addition, the researcher conducts the research under pragmatic study especially illocutionary acts since the phenomenon of people using their words to perform action is very common in everyday life.

The objectives of this research are: to identify the types and forces of illocutionary acts, and to describe the directness and indirectness of the illocutionary acts. To answer the research objectives, Searle's and Yule's theories of illocutionary acts are applied in this research. Searle (1969) proposes that illocutionary act is divided into five types: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declaration. Searle's theory is employed in identifying the types and forces of illocutionary acts while to describe the directness and indirectness of illocutionary acts the researcher considers Yule's theory of direct and indirect speech acts.

The results of this research are expected to give contributions. For English department students especially majoring in linguistics, the study is expected to provide more comprehension of speech acts. In addition, as linguistics students, they are expected to be more mindful in using language and be more conscious of what other people say to them. For general readers, the research is expected to give a new insight into pragmatic study. Finally, for future researchers who are interested in analyzing speech acts can make use of this research as an additional reference.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research applied a qualitative method. According to Bogdan and Taylor (1975:4), a qualitative method includes humans' written or spoken words and their observable behaviors. A qualitative method provides research with explanation instead of numbers. The data in this study were the main characters' utterances in their dialogues in *Let's Be Cops*. The data were in the forms of words, phrases, and sentences that contain illocutionary acts. The primary source of the data was the movie of *Let's Be Cops*. The researcher adopted note taking as the technique of collecting data. The context of the data was dialogues. The research involved data sheet as the instrument. It was used to identify and analyze the data. To achieve trustworthiness, peer review triangulation was applied.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis, the researcher found some data related to the types and forces of illocutionary acts articulated in the main characters' utterances.

In *Let's Be Cops* there are four types performed. They are representative, directive,

commissive, and expressive. Each type has different kinds of illocutionary forces. Apart from the forces proposed by Searle, there are new forces that emerge from the data. Forces emerging from representative are asserting, stating opinion, informing, and clarifying. Forces emerging from directive are commanding, warning, and inviting. Forces emerging from commissive are promising, refusing, and threatening. Forces emerging from expressive are greeting, thanking, and apologizing. The detailed explanation of each force is presented below.

Representatives are speech acts that represent the speaker's belief or the truth of the speaker's proposition. Asserting, stating opinion, informing, and clarifying that emerge from the data are identified as the new illocutionary forces of representative since they match the idea. They refer to the accuracy of what is said and the evaluation of true and untrue.

[1] Ryan : (yelling at the people in the large SUV) I don't need the lights in my face. I hear you! (to Justin) Should I reverse into him?
Justin : Absolutely not. (the two vehicles collide)
Ryan : (inspecting his car) **Oh dude it's bad. That's real damage.**
(Datum 19)

Extract [1], with regard to the context, takes place in a car queue outside a dance club building. Ryan's utterance **"Oh dude it's bad. That's real damage."** shows his belief or his true proposition. He believes that the crash causes serious damage to his car.

The illocutionary force of asserting can be seen through the indicative mood. The indicative mood expresses assertions, facts and beliefs. The verb used in the bold sentences is a linking verb. The adjective *bad* and the noun phrase *real damage* appear to describe the car.

The following describes an utterance that has the illocutionary act of stating opinion

[3] Justin : What do you think they're doing in there?
Ryan : **I don't know, man. Something shady, that's for sure.**
(Datum 122)

Ryan's utterance in extract [3] is a response of Justin's question. Justin asks Ryan for an opinion. *What do you think....?* is a common expression used for asking opinions. Thus the utterance **"I don't know, man. Something shady, that's for sure."** is an act of stating opinion. *For sure* is a phrase of sure. Here, Ryan expresses his belief without doubt that something shady or illegal happens in Mossi's place. In regard to the context, extract [3] takes place when Ryan and Justin are staking out the place where the gangsters are doing criminal activity.

Informing is identified as one of the illocutionary forces of representative since it expresses facts or information about something.

[5] Justin : Why would you want them to run that?
Ryan : What do you mean? It's great exposure. **Dude I got**

$11,000 from that commercial. I've been living off that for 2 years.

(Datum 10)

In extract [5], Ryan utters **"Dude I got $11,000 from that commercial. I've been living off that for 2 years."** to inform Justin about certain facts about his life. The utterance is expressed in the indicative that uses past tense to present the fact about the amount of money he got from the commercial and uses present perfect continuous tense to explain that he has been depending on the commercial as a source of income for 2 years. With regard to the context, the utterance is uttered when Ryan and Justin are in a pizza restaurant. Ryan finds out that Justin is worried about their unsuccessful life. He then convinces Justin that there are still things they can do, namely selling the game and asking the advertising council to run the commercial.

Finally, the illocutionary act of clarifying is explained.

[7] Justin : Calm down, sir!
Precious : Excuse me?
Ryan : **That's a ma'am.**

(Datum 94)

In extract [7], Ryan utters **"That's a ma'am."** to clarify a misconception that Justin has about Precious. Justin calls her 'sir' as he thinks she is a man. Knowing that it will offend Precious, Ryan appears to make it clear. He expresses his belief in his utterance. *That's* in **"That's a ma'am."** is a shortened version of *that is*. It is for subject and verb.

The auxiliary verb *is* indicates a state of factuality, or in this situation, what Ryan believes to be true. In regard to the context, the dialogue happens when Ryan and Justin are trying to seperate two girls who are fighting.

Directives are speech acts that a speaker uses to get someone else to do something. Directive expresses what the speaker wants. Commanding, warning, and inviting are the new forces that describe the attempt of the speaker getting the hearer doing a particular action.

[9] Justin : **Get their plates, man!**
Ryan : They don't have plates.

(Datum 24)

It is a direct command uttered by Justin in extract [9]. He asks Ryan to do something by saying **"Get their plates, man!"**. The command is written using the imperative form. Such imperative implies the second person subject *you* as the address. The subject can either be omitted or generally included for emphasis. In addition it is expressed using the present simple verb *get* to indicate the action that the hearer is taking. Justin wants Ryan to run after the SUV and get the plate number.

The following describes warning as the illocutionary force of directive.

[11] Justin : **Ma'am, for the last time, what is your name?**
Precious : It's Precious.

(Datum 97)

In extract [11], Justin issues a warning through his utterance. The cautionary phrase *for the last time* in

"Ma'am, for the last time, what is your name?" indicates that Justin is warning Precious. He warns her since he supposes that she is not being cooperative when asked about her name. He assumes that Precious is telling him a lie about her name. The phrase is to show exasperation, meaning it is the last time Justin asks the question before punitive action is taken.

Inviting is identified as directive since it is used by a speaker to ask or request someone to do what he or she wants. It is also a way of encouraging something to happen or encouraging someone to experience or believe something.

[12] Justin : Yep, they think we're real.
       Ryan   : **So, let's be cops.**
                                    (Datum 55)

In extract [12], Ryan forms a cohortative sentence to urge Justin on. He desires for a future state of affairs to happen, namely, being a cop. The verbal auxiliary *let* and the first person plural *us* are the properties of the cohortative. The form *let's* in **"So, let's be cops."** is a contraction of let us. In this situation, Ryan includes himself in the future conduct. He finds out that impersonating cops is advantageous and fun and therefore he encourages Justin to experience it.

Commissives are speech acts that commit a speaker to some future action. The speaker is willing to do the action. The new forces of commissive that appear in the data are promising, refusing, and threatening.

They represent the speaker's intention.

[14] Ryan : I'm so proud of you, Chang.
       Justin : We just kissed, dude. **But the next time I see her, I'm telling her the truth.**
                                    (Datum 106)

Extract [14] takes place in a car. Justin tells Ryan that he and Josie have just kissed. Justin's utterance is identified as promising since it is expressed in the indicative mood. The adverb of time and the present progressive tense shown in "**But the next time I see her, I'm telling her the truth."** are devices for indicating the illocutionary force of promising. Justin commits himself to future action, that is, coming clean with Josie about his impersonation of a cop Refusing is a force of commissive that shows unwillingness of a speaker to future action.

[16] Justin : I'm gonna go home.
       Ryan : Stop it, we're cops. Act like it. I will be reading the part of D'Andre, the man in question. You read JaQuanda.
       Justin : **I'm not gonna do that.**
                                    (Datum 103)

Extract [16] takes place in a sorority house. Justin seems not willing to control the situation. His negative response shown in **"I'm not gonna do that."** is taken as a direct refusal expressed in the declarative. The explicit devices for indicating refusing are the negation 'not' and the modal verb 'gonna'. They respresent a fact that Justin does not commit himself to doing as he is told.

The following is an utterance that describes threatening as the illocutionary force of commissive.

[19]   Ryan   : We're getting in the shit!
      Justin : No!
      Ryan   : I'm a sergeant! **Oh, I'm gonna kill you, Justin.**

(Datum 90)

Extract [19] happens when Ryan and Justin are in their patrol car and get a report for a disturbance in progress. Ryan utters **"Oh, I'm gonna kill you, Justin."** to threaten Justin. His utterance is identified as threatening as it shows a strong emotion of anger. He is so annoyed with Justin since Justin does not want to commit himself to getting into the mess. The auxiliary verb 'gonna' and the main verb 'kill' indicates that Ryan is performing commissive act. He promises to harm Justin if he does not comply with his wish.

Expressive represents the speaker's psychological states or feelings towards situations. Greeting, thanking, and apologizing are identified as the forces of expressive since they express the feelings of the speaker about the surroundings.

[21]   Ryan   : Police business, open up now.
      Woman : Hi.
      Ryan   : **Hi.**

(Datum 126)

Extract [21] takes place at an apartment where Ryan and Justin are doing surveillance. Ryan greets the owner of the apartment with a **'Hi.'**. The 'Hi.' is the most common conversational greeting in any casual setting. It is also the most obvious device for indicating the act of greeting.

Thanking is identified as the force of expressive since it expresses the speaker's gratitude to somebody.

[23]   Ryan   : **Serge, thank you for saving us**.
      Segars : Just shut up!

(Datum 150)

Extract [23] happens in an underground tunnel beneath Tirana. Segars manages to rescue Ryan and Justin from Mossi. Ryan expresses his gratitude to Segars through his utterence. He performs the illocutionary act so explicitly. The performative verb 'thank you' in **"Serge, thank you for saving us."** simultaneously describes the action being performed, namely thanking.

Finally, apologizing as the new force of expressive is explained.

[25]   Justin : Are you okay?
      Ryan   : Beside the fact that you shot me, I'm great, Chang.
      Justin : **I'm sorry.**

(Datum 156)

Extract [25] takes place in an underground tunnel beneath Tirana. Instead of shooting Mossi, Justin accidentally shoots Ryan. Justin's utterence clearly defines that he is performing apologizing. It can be identified through the explicit adjective 'sorry' as the device for indicating the force. **"I'm sorry."** is the expression that Justin employs to say that he wishes he had not done what he has done.

Regarding the second objective, there are two ways of expressing the illocutionary

acts: direct and indirect ways. Directness conveys a literal meaning while indirectness conveys an implied meaning. In *Let's Be Cops*, directness is performed more frequently than indirectness since the main characters are cops. They need to deliver their messages immediately when handling a problem.

Directness is a way of expressing intention clearly and concisely. A certain function of an utterance is explicitly shown in the words. The utterance shows that there is a direct relation between the structure and the function. Directness is articulated through various types, i.e., representative, directive, commissive, and expressive.

[27] Segars : What underground tunnels are you talking about?
       Justin : **It's their safehouse and there are cops involved.**
                                          (Datum 145)

Extract [27] takes place on the phone. Justin tells Segars in a panic about underground tunnels where Mossi keeps Ryan. Justin utterance is recognised as informing which is the illocutionary force of representative. With using a declarative structure, he informs Segars about a particular fact of underground tunnels. Justin's utterance indicates a direct response to Segars's question. Segars wants to know what underground tunnels are and therefore Justin tells him that the tunnels are Mossi's safehouse. It is necessary for Justin to be direct when giving the information since the situation is urgent. He needs to

save Ryan from Mossi as soon as possible.

Indirectness is recognised by an utterance where the form and the function are not directly related. There is an underlying pragmatic meaning behind the utterance. Based on the analysis, indirectness is articulated through representative, directive, and expressive.

[32] Justin : What are you doing?
       Ryan   : **I can't do this. He's outmanned, he's outgunned, and it's my fault.**
       Justin : You were right.
                                          (Datum 151)

Extract [32] happens after Segars finds out that Ryan and Justin are not real cops. Segars tells them off and asks them to leave the underground tunnel. As they are about to leave, Ryan changes his mind. He describes Segars' condition that Segars is away from people and out of gun and therefore he needs to cover him against Mossi. In this case, Ryan is performing an indirect commissive promising through representative describing. He commits himself to coming to Segars' assistance. Justin manages to capture the implied meaning of what is uttered by Ryan. He then goes along with Ryan.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS
Conclusions

This research investigates the use of speech acts particularly illocutionary act in *Let's Be Cops*. The objectives are to identify the types and the forces of illocutionary act

and to describe the directness and indirectness of expressing the illocutionary acts. In regard to the analysis, this research reveals that there are four types of illocutionary act employed by the main characters and two ways of expressing the illocutionary acts.

With reference to the types, the main characters employ four out of five types of illocutionary act. They are representative, directive, commissive and expressive. Declaration is not performed since there is no special circumstances for the main characters to perform the act. *Each type is expressed through various kinds of force. The data shows that there are new forces that emerge from each type.* New forces emerging from representative are asserting, stating opinion, informing, and clarifying. Ryan and Justin employ representative to convey beliefs or ideas about a state of affairs. New forces emerging from directive are commanding, warning, and inviting. It is through directive the main characters exercise their authority as cops. New forces emerging from commissive are refusing and threatening. Ryan and Justin commit themselves to a future course of action. Since they are cops, they are responsible for controlling the situations. Finally, expressive has greeting, apologizing, and thanking. Ryan and Justin experience difficulty while being cops. They use expressive to convey what they feel towards something.

Directness and indirectness are the ways of expressing the illocutionary acts. They are identified through matching the grammatical structure and the communicative function. The main characters perform directness more often than indirectness since most of the time they are in situations where they need to be direct and clear when expressing their intentions. They need to solve the problems immediately. In additon, their higher rank in society and their closeness allow them to perform directness.

Furthermore, directness conveys a literal or basic meaning that the locutions conventionally express and is articulated through various types, i.e., representative, directive, commissive, and expressive. Meanwhile, indirectness conveys an implied meaning and is expressed through representative and directive. Commissive is not found in indirectness since in commissive a certain function or force of the speaker has explicitly shown in the words.

Suggestions

After conducting this research, the researcher proposes some suggestions. It is suggested to the future researchers who are interested in conducting research under Pragmatics especially illocutionary act to focus only on a specific analysis of illocutionary force, for example, scrutinizing a request or complaint in other literary works such as novel.

Furthermore, the researcher suggests linguistics students to study more pragmatics

as it will help them improve on how they speak or use language in different situations and prevents them from misunderstandings at the time of communication. Linguistics students will also be more conscious of utterances whose literal meanings are hidden. Having pragmatic competence will help them interpret the implied meanings and tackle the problem in communication.

In addition, the researcher suggests linguistics students who is conducting research to really think of the topic and the object of the research. They need to narrow the topic and need to be careful in selecting the object. The object must have something to do with the topic. It is done in order to get a more detailed analysis.

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