

A Comparative Study of Illocutionary Acts Used by Man and Woman: Gender Differences in the Movie *Persuasion (2022)*

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ABSTRACT

The important thing of human communication is language. It also a factor in human actions and to express their feelings. According to Tannen (1990), men and women have different communication styles. Men are always focused on their ability to achieve a goal, such as an achievement in work, relationships, or other matters and women focus on relationships because they tend to use feelings and qualities in the relationships they have, such as harmony in the family, closeness in friendships, or mutually supportive relationships. This research used a movie titled *Persuasion (2022)* as data of analysis. This research was conducted using the theory of speech act found by J.L. Austin and developed by John Searle and is divided into three types: Locutionary act, Illocutionary act, and Perlocutionary act. Illocutionary act is one of the most appropriate types to understand the speaker's intention. In this research aims to describe the realization of illocutionary acts used by male and female main characters in movie *Persuasion (2022)* and to explain their relationship in realizing illocutionary acts in terms of social relationship and power. To understand the data, this research applied a qualitative descriptive method through direct analysis of movie and transcript to find more accurate differences. From the data collection, it was found that female collected 72 types of utterances, while male collected 52 of utterances.

Keyword: illocutionary act, language, gender differences, communication

INTRODUCTION

Language is an important tool for human communication (Samad et al., 2019). It is the way for humans to convey and express their feelings. Speakers use language to convey information so that listeners can receive it. According to Maharani et al. (2020), language is an ability for every individual to communicate with each person in a different style. Some people use language for daily communication, while others rely on actions to convey their intended message and purpose. Different communication styles are clearly demonstrated through dialogue between two parties, where the words, speech acts, and responses that appear determine the relationships, characteristics, and emotional states of each party.

Speech act is an action that comes from speech and it can have different meaning/more than one in each utterance. The Theory of Speech act was found by J.L. Austin and developed by John Searle (1979) and is divided into three types: Locutionary act, Illocutionary act, and Perlocutionary act (Fitriani et al., 2020). Among those types, the Illocutionary act is one of the most appropriate types to understand the speaker's intention. A comprehensive understanding of illocutionary act theory can facilitate the analysis of a speaker's intended meaning, whether said directly or indirectly. This research used Movie *Persuasion* (2022) and Frederick (male character) and Anne (female character) as the data research because there are many utterance that have indirect meanings and many things that not express directly.

The previous studies have explored how men and women speak and apply illocutionary speech acts in the talk show (Maharani et al., 2020), it says that males and females use the same type of the illocutionary acts which is assertive, where males dominantly use affirm and inform to show dominance and achieve goals. This data comes from talk show, so the context is not diverse. However, females are more often employed state and affirm to maintain relationship. The other research has same focus of study, but it is on the classroom situation (Samad et al., 2019). This previous study used male lectures and female lectures on the classroom as a data, so the setting is forma. The results of the study showed that Males lecturers tend to utilize representatives for maintaining or building higher status in a community, but females lecturers prefer to use both representatives and directives for maintaining their good relationships or connections with others.

Even though there are previous research that study about used of illocutionary act between male and female, but there is no data used from movie that have different setting or context. This research wants to see the differences between male and female while produce illocutionary acts in the movie of *Persuasion* (2022). It also wants to see whether a literary work such as a movie will show the same final result as the previous study mentioned in the classroom and talk show.

Synopsis: The movie *Persuasion* (2022), adapted from a novel by Jane Austen, indicates such interactions. This movie tells the story of a noblewoman named Anne Elliot who was born into a wealthy family. Eight years ago, Anne Elliot was to break off her engagement to Frederick Wentworth, a poor but beloved naval officer. A few years later, Anne meets Frederick again, but now he is a wealthy and highly respected officer. This reunion sparks confusion, regret, and unresolved feelings between the two. This is what makes it difficult for them to express their feelings directly, so it is necessary to investigate to reveal the true meaning of their utterance.

Purpose: The purpose of this research is to identify and explain the types of illocutionary acts used by Anne and Frederick. The researcher also wants to explain the functions of illocutionary acts used by Anne and Frederick characters. This research was conducted to prove whether Frederick produced illocutionary acts to show dominancy (goal-oriented), while Anne produced illocutionary acts to maintaining social relationship (relationship-oriented).

METHOD

This research used qualitative descriptive method. Describing the meaning and purpose of the data are the main focus of this research. Characteristics of this method are describing, explaining, and analysing the detail of the data source, which is written work or document (Fitriani et al., 2020). To get accurate data, this research uses two data sources. The first one is primary data, it is the main data of this study, which is the movie of *Persuasion* (2022). Next is secondary data. It is the data that comes from other sources and used to support primary data. The data usually comes from articles, book, and journal.

The data collection was required the utterance from main characters, Anne Elliot and Frederick Wentworth, in the movie *Persuasion* (2022) that contains the types and function of illocutionary acts. The steps of the data collection are: watch the movie to understand storyline while read transcript text from the movie,

screenshot the scene that contains the types and function of illocutionary acts while seeing the preliminary, textual, and sincerity condition. After that, taking notes and classifying the data into a table of data collection, reviewing the data that collected before analysis the data.

Technique of the data analysis is the next step after data collection. In this moment, the analysis will reveal how gender differences influence man and women in the use of illocutionary acts. Each data will be analysis by explaining the context, describing the preliminary condition, textual condition, and sincerity condition to support data accuracy. Next is drawing conclusion from the data that founded.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researchers explain the result of the research. It shows what type and function that Anne and Frederick used dominantly. It also to shows the use of illocutionary acts in gender differences on movie *Persuasion* (2022) in terms of social relationship and to show dominancy and power. The data collection that was found are 72 utterances from Anne, and 52 utterances of from Frederick. In the type of assertive, Frederick and Anne show the same dominance in the function of stating and informing. While in the type of commissive, Frederick produces more offering than Anne. Anne dominantly uses promising and refusal. At the directive type, Anne use directing utterance, while Frederick does not produce directing sentences. In the expressive types, Anne said more thanking sentences than Frederick, but He use more apologizing sentences than Anne.

The data above shows Anne's dominance in several types of illocutionary acts. She dominant in assertive, directing, and refusal. On the other hand. This demonstrates her courage in expressing her feeling. Frederick tends to use assertive, offering, suggesting, and requesting. That function leaves the final decision to the listener, while directing is a function of utterance that the listener have no option to refuse.

The analysis of Anne's data

1. Informing

Henrietta	: "What happened between them?"
Anne	: "My father and Mr. Elliot do not speak."
Henrietta	: "I love a little bit of family gossip."
Louisa	: <i>"Tell us."</i>

Anne : **"Mr. Elliot will inherit the baronetcy and the estate no matter what."**

Persuasion (2022) (01.01.25 – 01.01.35)

Context: This situation was happened when Anne, Louisa, Mary, and Henrietta were hanging out together. At that time, they saw Mr. Elliot at the same place as they are. After that, they started gossiping when Mr. Elliot left the place. Mery wants to tell her father about Mr. Elliot, but Anne said that news would not welcome by her father because they have little bit of conflict. Henrietta and Louisa were curious and wanted to know what happen to them. After that Anne who. Anne has strong control because she has knowledge about the topic of conversation. This finding explain that Anne was use informing to keep the topic of conversation.

Informing refers to providing information that is previously unknown to the listener (Hizkia & Handayani, 2023). In this function, the speaker is the one who has control on the conversation, because they know something that the listener does not know. This different knowledge, allows the speaker to guide over the conversation.

2. Directing

Anne : "Uh, we need a doctor."

Frederick : "I'll go."

Anne : "No, someone who knows the town.

Benwick, get a doctor."

Persuasion (2022) (01.03.50 – 01.03.57)

Context: Louisa fell down the stairs and become unconscious, Anne was worried and panicked. She immediately provides first aid and said that they needed medical help. Frederick offered to call doctor, but because Anne knows that Frederick does not familiar with that area, Anne instructed Benwick to get a doctor. Anne's utterance (the bold words) is directing function. Directing is an utterance that influences listeners to do something (Maulani et al., 2024). Directing sentences are utters by someone who has more authority. In this context, Anne has more authority because, she knows how to handle people in accidents. This is why Anne is able to give instruction to Benwick.

The analysis of Frederick's data

1. Promising

Henrietta : "I can't bear to leave until she's awake."
Frederick : **"I'll deliver news to the Musgroves."**
Henrietta : "thank you"
Persuasion (2022) (01.04.45 – 01.04.47)

Context: After the accident that happened to Louisa, Frederick felt it was his fault because he failed to catch her when she jumped. Frederick felt responsible for Louisa's accident. While everyone was worried about Louisa, Frederick said to his friends that he promises, he would inform Louisa's parents about that news.

Promising refers to an expression or commitment to do something in the future (Setyawan et al., 2023). Frederick used words "I'll" (I will) as form of commitment to inform Louisa's parents about her condition. Frederick intention was sincere and honest, and that intention came because he felt guilty and wanted to solve the problem.

2. Praising

Louisa : "Anne Elliot is pure kindness. You don't know her like I do"
Frederick : **"You are the one who is pure kindness, Louisa,** and for this reasons you always assume the best of others."
Persuasion (2022) (01.42.28 – 01.42.32)

Context: when Louisa and Frederick are walking together, they talk about Anne. Louisa is Anne's best friend and the one who falling in love with Frederick. One moment, Frederick talked about Anne, and Louisa praising about Anne's personality. Hearing that compliment, Frederick turns the compliment back to Louisa.

Praising refers to a positive expression directed to the listener. This utterance is usually shown when the speaker likes something that the listener has, so they express their admiration by giving a compliment. Using this sentence can also use for taking care of other people's feeling. In this context, Louisa praises Anne in front of Frederick, which made him said compliment back to Louisa.

CONCLUSION

According to the data collection, both Anne or Frederick frequently use assertive acts, especially stating and informing.

however, the significant differences are in the type of commissive, expressive, and directive. Anne produces more directive than Frederick, which indicate that Anne tends to take control of conversation. While, Frederick relies more offering, suggesting, and praising. The type of Frederick's utterances is generally aimed at maintaining social relationships. It can be seen that Anne produced illocutionary acts to show dominancy (goal-oriented), while Frederick produced illocutionary acts to maintaining social relationship (relationship-oriented).

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