

ILLOCUTIONARY AND PERLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN THE NOVEL “THE BOOK OF LOST THINGS” BY JOHN CONNOLLY

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Abstract: Illocutionary act is an important part in order to understand the speech acts. It is related to the speaker's intention in the conversation, and it can be seen from the utterances. In contrast, Perlocutionary act is the effect of the utterance which the speaker said to the hearer. This act does not consist of certain things in certain ways, but it is having certain effects. The literary works of concern for this study is *The Book of Lost Things* novel. The purpose of this paper is to describe the Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts employed by the characters in the novel. The finding of this study indicates that the characters in *The Book of Lost Things* employed all types of Illocutionary acts and responding to that using Perlocutionary acts. It can be concluded that the used of Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts can be found in this novel.

Keywords: illocutionary; perlocutionary; speech act; content analysis; novel

Introduction

Language is used to create communications between people. It has an important aspect in life. In other words, language is a tool for communication. Communication is a tool of interacting from one person to another. In order to understand each other, people need to communicate (Ruben, 2017). There are many ways of communicating, it can be in the form of spoken or written. Ruben (1984) defines communication is any information related behavior. From this definition, it can be said that communication is the process of giving and receiving information between the speakers and the hearers. While Dale (1969) stated that communication is the sharing of ideas and feelings in a mood of mutuality. Berelson and Steiner (1964) say that communication is the transmission of information, ideas, emotions and skills by the use of symbols. People can be easier to understand a communication in the spoken form rather than the written form.

In order to create a good communication, the speaker of the language has to be careful about the quality and the quantity they shared in the conversation (Croft, 2004). In terms of quality, the speaker has to make or share the information in the conversation as true as it required. While in terms of quantity, the speaker must be able to create a statement or information in the conversation as informative as it is required.

To achieve a good communication, the speaker must be able to focus on how to relate the language with its context. The context will be related to the utterances that the speaker is showing. In this case, an utterance can be delivered and received differently between the speaker and the hearer. It is not only required understanding the meaning of the words and the sentence's structures, but also needs to understand the whole meaning of the utterances itself. The utterance which contains illocutionary acts can be conveyed through direct speech act and indirect speech act.

However, the writer is interested in studying the use of speech acts through its context. There have been numerous studies of speech acts in modern literature covering indirect speech acts (Juanda, 2018), maxims (Robihim, 2017; Tmasia & Serly, 2018; Wijana, 2017). Austin (1968) has introduced speech act into linguistics. He stated that speech act is an action performed in saying something. On the other hand, Searle (1969) pointed out that speech act as a part of theory in the study of pragmatics. Referring to the experts, speech acts can be divided into three types, they are Locutionary act, Illocutionary act, and

Perlocutionary act. Therefore, in this research, the writer will be focused on Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts. The use of Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts can be found not only in social life, but it can be found in literary works such as dramas, novels, short stories, or films. I will be focused on analyzing the Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts, related to the context found in the dialogues of *The Book of Lost Things* (Connolly, 2007).

Method

In this research, the data were collected from *The Book of Lost Things* novel. This 2007 novel is a work of fiction, written by John Connolly. The main character in this novel is David, a boy who is having experience in different world that he never knows before. In this strange world, he met some different characters which makes him interact more with others. In making this research, the writer read the book to get a better understanding through the whole story and its context. Based on the conversation which can be found in the novel, the writer took the utterances from the characters in the novel, analyzing the utterances and put them into table, so that the writer could classify the data. From the novel, the writer had chosen 50 dialogues which then typed the utterances found in the novel into Microsoft Word and put them into a table consisting of classifications of acts (Searle, 1969; Searle et al., 1980). After that, the data found is classified based on the types of Illocutionary acts and Perlocutionary acts. The data contains 131 Illocutionary acts and 87 Perlocutionary acts.

Results and Discussion

Based on Figure 1, the writer found that the first dominant Illocutionary act found in *The Book of Lost Things* is Directive Illocutionary act. It is preferred since it is believed as the easiest way in conducting the Illocutionary act which utters directly between the speaker and the hearer.

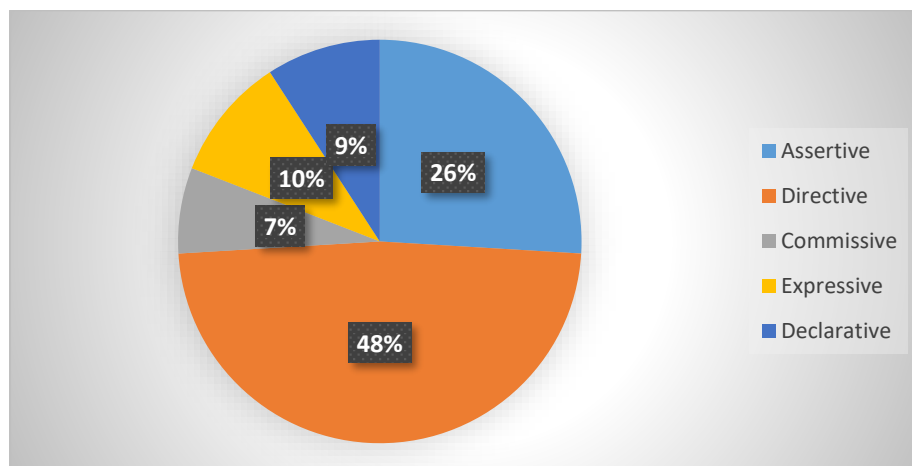


Figure 1. Summary of Illocutionary Acts

Second type of Illocutionary act which is employed by the characters in the novel is Assertive Illocutionary act. This type of Illocutionary act is employed to share the information that the speaker believes is true to the hearer. Third type of Illocutionary act which applied by the characters in the novel is Expressive Illocutionary act. The use of this type of Illocutionary act is to express the speaker's feeling towards something between the speaker and hearer in the conversation. Fourth type of Illocutionary act which is found in the novel is Declarative Illocutionary act. By employing this type of Illocutionary act, the characters in the novel is to change the speaker or the hearer status. The last type of Illocutionary act which is employed by the characters in the novel is Commissive Illocutionary act. The use of this type of Illocutionary act is to show the speaker's intention to commit something to the hearer.

From the findings above, it can be seen that the most dominant type of Illocutionary acts which used by the characters in *The Book of Lost Things* is Directive Illocutionary act and the least dominant Illocutionary act is Commissive Illocutionary act.

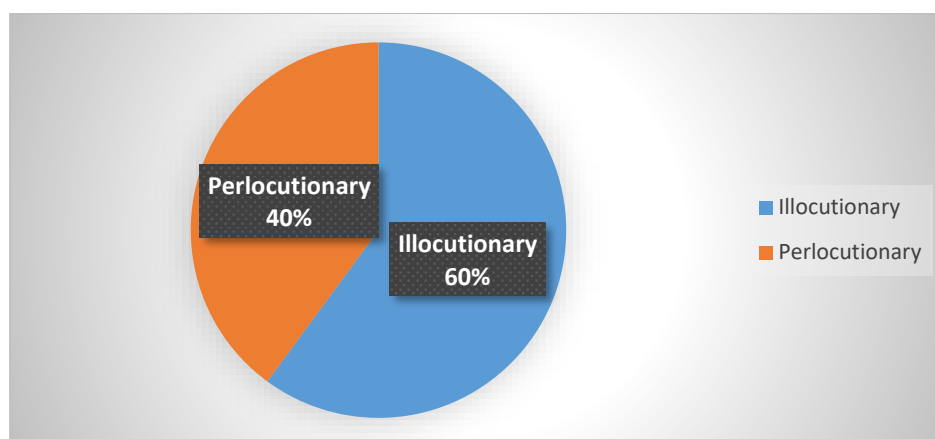


Figure 2. Summary of the use of Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts

Based on Figure 2 above, it can be seen that the use of Illocutionary act is more dominant compared to the use of Perlocutionary act. It can be found from the novel since there are several conditions which makes the hearer of the conversation could not show or use Perlocutionary acts in order to give response to the speaker. Based on the final findings from the novel utterances, it can be related to Austin's theory of Speech Act which focuses on Illocutionary act and Perlocutionary act.

However, the Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts are not only used by the participants or the characters who have known each other fairly well, but also used to share or say something between strangers. In other words, the use of Speech act, especially in Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts can be applied by people as a kind of social interaction so that they have good communication with others. As the result, Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts are most commonly used by people in their daily life to interact with other people or community.

Conclusions

From these 50 dialogues, I found Illocutionary acts which employed by the characters, namely Assertive Illocutionary acts, Directive Illocutionary acts, Commissive Illocutionary acts, Expressive Illocutionary acts, Declarative Illocutionary acts and Perlocutionary acts. From the 50 dialogues that have been analyzed, I found 34 utterances which employs Assertive Illocutionary acts, 63 utterances which employs Directive Illocutionary acts, 9 utterances which are using Commissive Illocutionary acts, 13 utterances that are employs Expressive Illocutionary acts, and 12 utterances that are using Declarative Illocutionary acts. Therefore, the researcher found 87 utterances that are in the form of Perlocutionary acts. However, some of these utterances are using two or more Illocutionary or Perlocutionary acts. Each of these utterances emerges the implied meaning in their conversation. The Illocutionary acts based on Austin's Speech acts theory has appeared in the conversation in the novel. The Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts that are found in *The Books of Lost Things* novel written by John Connolly has proved about how the characters are employing the Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts to create a good communication between the speaker and the hearer. However, all of the conversation in this novel are relevant since it has a correlation to the context of conversation.

There are many cases on the study of Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts. As for those who want to use similar topics for their research, especially in the Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts, which analyzing the types and interpreting the data obtained in the novel or other sources such as interviews, drama or movies, they might obtain various results. Moreover, the researcher who is interested in the study of Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts may also explore the different genre of novel. In addition, the researcher might look at the Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts from different perspectives such as focusing from the view of the main character in a novel with the hearer to be more focus on understanding the main character's speech acts. Meanwhile, to get the varying result in analyzing Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts, Austin's theory of Speech acts may be used for the framework on analyzing the Illocutionary and Perlocutionary acts.

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