

Exploring Types and Functions of Speech Acts in *Anyone But You* Movie (2023)

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Abstract

This study is aimed to analyze : (1) kinds of speech act are present in the dialogue film Anyone But You (2023), (2) what functions of speech act are present in the dialogue of the film Anyone But You (2023). This study examines the movie using a descriptive, qualitative approach entitled Anyone But You (2023) directed by Will Gluck as the objective research. The collecting data of the research method includes watching and reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting. The analyzing data of the research method by using displaying, explaining, and interpreting. The data is analyzed by the researcher using a pragmatic approach with Speech Act and Halliday's Language Function theory. The result of the research : (1) all kinds of illocutionary speech act are present in the film Anyone But You (2023) such as declarative, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive; (2) language functions are present in the dialogue of the movie Anyone But You (2023) are in the form of seven language functions, that are regulatory function, instrumental function, representational function, interactional function, heuristic function, personal function, and imaginative function.

Keywords: *illocutionary, speech act kinds, speech act functions*

Introduction

Learning a language is fundamentally about communication, which is crucial for understanding and creating language. People often use utterances with implied meanings, requiring the listener to consider context to grasp the speaker's intent. John Austin's speech act theory, introduced in 1955, emphasizes that when people speak, they perform actions with their words (Nadar, 2009: 256).

Humans, being inherently social creatures, rely heavily on interaction and communication. Language is vital for daily communication and serves as a system of vocal symbols agreed upon by a community for cooperation, communication, and self-identification. Communication extends beyond oral speech to written forms such as newspapers, books, and movie scripts. Movies, in particular, use

language to convey messages and entertain, often deviating from formal language rules but still effectively communicating meaning and moral values applicable to real life.

Literary Review

Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a science that believes that what is communicated is more important than what is said. Here, Yule (1970: 5) wants to emphasize that speakers mean more than just what they say. If we wish to comprehend what the speaker is saying, it is crucial that we take the context into account. Thus, pragmatics is linked to context. This is consistent with Leech's (1993: 8) opinion that "the study of meaning in connection to speaking settings is known as pragmatics". Levinson (1983:21) Beyond merely studying language, pragmatics also examines the outward meaning of statements or other utterances.

Speech Acts

British philosopher John L. Austin proposed the theory of speech acts at Harvard University in 1955. Austin (1962: 5) explained that, "speech acts are verbal actions that occur in the world". Speech acts are utterances that are spoken by the speaker and can influence the listener to do what is said by the speaker, and by saying the utterance means that the speaker also does it.

Types of Speech Acts

According to Austin (1962), speech act kind are divided into:

1. Locutionary Act

According to Austin (1962), locution is the act of physically creating an utterance. Simply creating a statement without any apparent context is the locutionary act. It is comparable to a specific utterance with a specific meaning and context. To emphasize, Yule (1996) defined locutionary action as the act of creating meaningful discourse.

2. Perlocutionary Act

Perlocutionary is defined by Austin (1962) as the production of an effect using both illocution and locution. It may merely allude to the addressee's execution.

The impacts that speakers have on the emotions, ideas, or behaviors of their audience are known as perlocutionary acts, and they are all completely "natural" (Friedrich: 2004).

3. Illocutionary Act

Austin (1962) defined an illocutionary act as one that is carried out by producing an utterance, such as a promise. The illocutionary act is essential to purpose in speech act theory. A speaker attempts to carry out a certain kind of function when producing an utterance, known as an illocutionary act. Illocutionary acts are divided into five categories by Searle (1979: 12–17), which are discussed in more detail below.

a) Representatives

Searle (in Herlinah, 2020: 28) says that representative or assertive is a statement about the situation on earth that contains the truth. According to Yule (in Herlinah, 2020: 28) assertive is an utterance that shows what is considered true by the speaker of a case or not. Statements are in the form of facts, affirmations, conclusions, and descriptions.

b) Directives

According to Searle (in Herlinah, 2020: 30) directive speech acts are utterances used by a speaker to ask others to do something. Speakers show their wishes in this way. This kind of speech aims to influence the actions of speech partners. According to Yule (in Herlinah, 2020: 30) Directive speech acts are utterances used by speakers to order their interlocutors to act in accordance with the speaker's orders. For example, ordering, requesting, prohibiting, and advising.

c) Commissives

According to Searle (1976), intention is the sincerity requirement of commissive. Propositional content, in Searle's opinion, always suggests that the speaker will act in the future. Common commissives at discourse include promises, threats, and refusals (Yasmin Aisyah, 2019). As a result, commissions are operated through the creation of obligations. This class's

utterances include promise, offer, threaten, swear, pledge, guarantee, and refuse.

d) Expressives

Searle (in Herlinah, 2020: 31) states that these utterances have the purpose of communicating, expressing, or informing the psychological nature of the speaker, which results in a statement of circumstances that are taken into account through illocution. According to Yule (in Herlinah, 2020: 31) expressive speech acts are utterances used to express feelings based on the state of psychological statements. Examples are congratulating, thanking, and apologizing.

e) Declarative

Declarative speech acts are those that tie the proposition's substance to the actual circumstance, such as banning, convicting, deciding, baptizing, and naming (Yule, 2014:84). The final kind is declarations that had the force to cause an immediate correspondence between the proclaimed content and actuality.

Language Functions

To make sure that the academic meaning of every utterance produced by the characters with cerebral palsy is understood, the researcher makes use of Halliday's theory. Halliday (1992:11) proposed that language functions fall into seven kinds, which are as follows:

1. Regulatory Function

The regulatory function is used to manipulate and regulate the behavior of others, this function is known as the 'do as I say' function. This is the language of instructions and rules (Halliday, 1992: 12). For example: a child steals something from his brother, then his mother gives an order to return it with say 'return the item to your brother'.

2. Instrumental Function

The instrumental function serves to control and manipulate the environment. The instrumental function is also known as the 'I want' function, and also as the 'I do not want' function (Halliday, 1992: 11). The use of language to

express the desires or needs of the wearer, such as 'I want some milk'. In this function, children can develop their language because they can ask for a number of items either in physical or other forms.

3. Interactional Function

Interactional function explain the use of language to establish contact and maintain social relationships, such as greetings, pleasantries, sympathy or consolation. For example ongoing interaction with someone (greeting or others), all utterances in this interactional function end in a fairly high tone and have two kinds of utterances, namely those that do not require a response and those that require a response. For example: 'Good morning, students!'.

4. Representational Function

Representational function is a language that aims to describe certain goals and objectives. These aims and objectives can be in the form of facts and knowledge, explaining an event, reporting something, etc. For example is when an adult says something to a small child 'yesterday I bought a new red car', therefore this function is also known as 'I have something to tell you' function.

5. Personal Function

The term "personal function" describes the language one uses to express their own ideas, sentiments, emotions, and personal goals. For instance, someone can express his feelings in writing or through other channels if he wants to talk about how beautiful an island is. Sayings like "I am sad," "I am very glad," "I am really angry," and so on are other examples.

6. Imaginative Function

The creative application of language to convey and channel aesthetic (beautiful) feelings is known as the imaginative function, and examples of this include singing and literary works. The 'let's pretend' function is another name for this function. The definition of language in the creative function is an adult's performance of children's songs and rhymes, which is usually extremely dramatic and has the right rhythm and intonation for the subject matter. For instance, "The king of the jungle has a loud and frightening voice".

7. Heuristic Function

The heuristic function refers to the use of words, such as queries or requests for clarifications, to acquire knowledge or information. The vocabulary employed in scientific research, technology development, and scientific communication. Thus, this feature is also referred to as the "tell me why" feature. For instance, "Why do we forbid eating excessive amounts of candy?".

Research Method

This study employs qualitative research as its research methodology. Based on Creswell in his books *Research Design* (2006), qualitative research is an approach that will pay attention to the quality aspects of nature, circumstances, historical roles (functions), and qualitative values are research that prioritizes not quantification based on numbers but the depth of appreciation of the interaction between concepts that are being studied empirically.

The object in this research is film under title *Anyone But You* (2023) directed by Will Gluck. The kinds of data that is used are main data which is collected from the dialogue's film, and supporting data which is collected from some sources, like books, internet, and journal that can support the research. The method procedures of collecting data are download the movie, watching and listening, data transcription, and the note-taking technique. Following data collection, the next stage is data analysis using the: Read and understand the context and the research data obtained, explain the data obtained, and conclude the results of the data that have been analyzed.

Finding and Discussion

The present study's results are examined in order to address the research inquiries. Consequently, this conclusion is predicated on the findings of the examination of dialogue in the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) through the application of Halliday's (1992:11) theory of the seven categories of language functions and the illocutionary speech act theory.

1. Speech Act Types

Declarations

Declarations speech act produces a direct change in reality through the statement made. This kind of illocutionary acts is found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) and it can be proven in the quotation of the scene below.

- Ben : Honey, I'm about to order. Do you want your usual?
Bea : Uh.
Ben : My wife would like a double espresso although you've had trouble sleeping lately, right babe? Maybe we should back it off to a single. You kept the light on until like midnight last night.
Bea : I did, didn't I? Yeah, so maybe I'll just have a peppermint tea with two sugars. Thanks, husband.
Ben : Oh, and the bread. It's grilled cheese night. And she is part of the purchasing class, so can we get the bathroom key? Thank you.
(*Anyone But You*, 2023: 00.02.13-00.02.30)

In the dialogue above we can see how Ben changes the situation that Bea is experiencing. Ben is someone who can change the situation Bea is facing by declaring something that is by calls Bea as his wife. Ben's speech act of making Bea his wife in this scene immediately changes the situation that Bea faces. Bea, who was previously not allowed to use the bathroom, was finally allowed to. With Ben saying that Bea is his wife, Bea no longer needs to join the long queue to become a customer. Ben as a husband has represented his wife's interests. The cafe couldn't stop it any longer and finally gave the bathroom key to Ben and then handed it over to Bea who needed it.

Representative

Speech acts that express the speaker's beliefs about what is true or false are considered representative (Yule, 1996: 53). Here, the speaker expresses an opinion that they think is accurate. This kind of illocutionary acts is found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) and it can be proven in the quotation of the scene below.

- Ben : Making her jealous is not gonna work. We're not in seventh grade.
Bea : Trust me, bro. We're all in seventh grade when it comes to this stuff. They've already gone through all of the bullshit trying to trick us into each other's arms. Let's just embrace it.

Ben : There's no way we can convince anyone we actually like each other.

(*Anyone But You*, 2023: 00.37.20-00.37.25)

In the scene above, we can see a clear example of representatives. What Bea says in the scene above is clearly what she believes regarding the plan she has made. This can be immediately seen in the first sentence that Bea says to Ben, namely to trust him. It is very clear that the situation in the scene above is something that Bea really believes in because Bea even told Ben to believe in it. Thus we can conclude that what he said in the example above is what he believes to be true and is categorized as representation.

Expressive

Expressive kind of illocutionary speech act is a language action that is used to state or express the speaker's feelings, emotions, attitudes or reactions to a situation or event. This kind of illocutionary acts is found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) and it can be proven in the quotation of the scene below.

Bea : Nice touch.

Ben : Nice dress.

Bea : You have a good heart.

Ben : I love this dress. You look fine.

Bea : Oh, thank you.

(*Anyone But You*, 2023: 00.55.21-00.55.27)

In the scene above, Bea and Ben can be seen expressing praise for each other. Bea praises Ben as a kind man and Ben praises Bea for her beauty. In this scene you can see how they express what they feel through the words they speak. Thus, this speech is an expressive illocutionary speech act. The praise expressed by Bea shows the language actions she uses to express or express her feelings about Ben's goodness. Then Ben praised Bea as a form of expression of Bea's beauty. It is easy to identify this kind of illocutionary speech act in the speaker's accurate and sincere emotional depiction of the current situation.

Directive

Speech acts classified as directive are those that presenters use to persuade listeners to take action (Yule, 1996: 54). This category of illocutionary activities can be used to commands, requests, suggestions, and other actions. This kind of illocutionary acts is found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) and it can be proven in the quotation of the scene below.

Ben : So what are we doing?
Bea : Closing the deal. Titanic me.
Ben : What?
Bea : Titanic me.
Ben : No, that is so lame.
Bea : Exactly, the only people who would do something this lame are the ones who know how lame it is, but are in the first stages of liking each other, so they're totally comfortable in their mutual lameness. Toast me.
Ben : Oh my God.
Bea : Come on.
(*Anyone But You*, 2023: 00.59.00-00.59.15)

In the above scene above, Bea asks Ben to do the Titanic scene with her. Through Bea's very convincing words, she succeeded in getting Ben to do something based on her orders. Thus, this utterance is categorized into directives. The scene above is a directive kind of illocutionary speech act because the speech expressed by Bea is a language action that aims to influence or direct the person she is speaking to, Ben, to do something. In this case, Bea is more inclined to give instructions and requests to Ben than commands, but still shows firmness so that Ben can follow what Bea says.

Commissive

Speech acts that can be utilized to commit to future plans are known as communicative speech acts. This kind of illocutionary acts is found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) and it can be proven in the quotation of the scene below.

Ben : We're really sorry.
Bea : I'm a terrible sister, and he's a terrible friend.
Ben : It's your guys' big day.
Bea : We're not gonna mess it up, we promise.
(*Anyone But You*, 2023: 01.21.57-01.22.05)

In the scene above, the commissive kind of illocutionary speech act is the promise made by Bea on behalf of Ben as well. This is a commissive kind of illocutionary speech act because the sentence we promise not to mess up what Bea has said is a language action in which the speaker commits to carrying out a certain action in the future. It can also be interpreted as the responsibility that Bea and Ben take for the mess they have made before. Commissive speech acts also aim to build trust and set expectations about what the speaker will do.

2. Speech Act Functions

Regulatory Function

Regulatory functions of language refer to the use of language to control or regulate the behavior of others. This includes giving commands, making requests, setting rules, giving instructions, or managing interactions. The dialogue in the film *Anyone But You* (2023) has regulatory functions and it can be proven in the quotation of the scene below.

Bea : No, that's too much. We need to do something that's more hidden so it feels more real, not some fuckboy wedding hookup.

Ben : You're calling me a fuckboy like it's an insult? I own that shit.

Bea : Let's just be affectionate. I know it's a foreign concept for you.

Ben : I can be affectionate. I'll affectionate the shit out of you.

(*Anyone But You*, 2023: 00.42.00-00.42.05)

This scene produces speech that is included in the regulatory function because it is clear that Bea seems to be controlling Ben so that he behaves according to the plan that Bea has made, namely behaving affectionately towards him. Apart from that, the sentences expressed by Bea also show an order as well as a request from Bea towards Ben. This was done so that Ben could help the success of his plan to act as a couple without being suspected by his parents.

Instrumental Function

The instrumental function of language is the use of language as a means of achieving objectives or meeting requirements. It includes expressions that help individuals obtain what they want, such as making requests, asking for help, or expressing desires. Instrumental function are found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) and it can be proven in the quotation of the scene below.

Innie : We're just torn up that he's not part of our family anymore.

Leo : I mean, he works at our house every night from like 11 years old. He was basically family. Was about to be actual family.
Bea : If I never ask you for anything ever again, can you please just lay off of me this weekend?
Leo : I just want both of our daughters to be happy.
Bea : I'm very happy, but not when you guys do this.
(*Anyone But You*, 2023: 00.24.40-00.24.50)

The scene above is the moment that Bea met her parents after a long time.

This dialogue has an instrumental function because Bea is seen using words as a tool to express her desires to her parents. Bea said that all this time she had never asked her parents for anything, but at that time Bea really didn't want to be disturbed by her parents and how her wish had to come true, it was with words that Bea finally conveyed her wish. This explains how the speech that Bea conveys to her parents includes the instrumental function of language. Because instrumental functions include expressions that help individuals get what they want, such as making requests, asking for help, or expressing desires.

Representational Function

Utilizing language to impart facts and knowledge, explain circumstances, or transmit information is known as the representational function of language. It focuses on the ability to use language to represent the world, communicate ideas, and provide explanations. For instance, it can be found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) in the following scene.

Ben : How crazy is it that we're on the same plane?
Bea : Don't think there's thousands of flights flying to Sydney every day.
Ben : Oh, there's quite a few, actually. Qantas, American, Qantas through Dubai, some co-chairs. Serendipity, I guess.
Bea : I don't think that word means what you think it means.
(*Anyone But You*, 2023: 00.14.50-00.14.55)

This dialogue is included in the representation function because with the words he speaks, Ben describes the situation he is feeling. Ben felt that the situation where he and Bea were on the same plane was a crazy moment and he openly said it to Bea. Furthermore, in this scene, Ben is also seen conveying about several flights to Sydney, which also includes a representational function. This is because what Ben said provided information in the form of facts. Bea told Ben not to think that there were many flights to Sydney that day, so it was possible for

them to get one plane. Then Ben responded by providing information to Bea that there were also several other flights heading to Sydney that day, but it was a coincidence that they met on the same plane.

Interactional Function

Language's interactional function is to form and maintain social relationships. It focuses on social interaction and includes expressions used to build rapport, create bonds, engage in small talk, or show solidarity. For instance, it can be found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) in the following scene.

Ben : Want some coffee?
Bea : Not the stuff from here. I'll be up all night.
Ben : Yeah.
Bea : Thanks for kind of saving me though.
(*Anyone But You*, 2023: 01.09.12-00.09.20)

In this scene, the speech act expressed by Ben is included in the interaction function. The utilization of language to establish and maintain social relationships is known as the interactional function of language. This can be seen in Ben's speech act, inviting Bea to drink coffee with him after a dramatic incident happened to them. Ben did this so he could have a deeper conversation with Bea to improve their relationship. Through the dialogue above, Ben also expresses how much he is to create a relationship with Bea.

Heuristic Function

The heuristic function of language involves using language to explore, learn, and discover. It is used for asking questions, hypothesizing, and investigating the world around us. This function supports learning and problem-solving by enabling individuals to seek information and clarify understanding. For instance, it can be found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) in the following scene.

Ben : The way I handled the first night. The way I handled last night.
Bea : Yeah, it wasn't really awesome. Why did you leave?
Ben : I thought you were going to regret it. And I couldn't face the idea of losing someone else that I... I really loved.
Bea : Last night was the first thing I haven't regretted in a long time.
(*Anyone But You*, 2023: 01.33.33-01.33.43)

In this scene, the speech act expressed by Bea is included in the heuristic function because Bea uses speech to explore, find and clarify information by asking questions. By asking Ben about the reason why Ben left her that night, Ben

finally came clean and the misunderstanding in their relationship was resolved. In this case, the heuristic function supports learning and problem solving by enabling individuals to search for information and clarify understanding.

Personal Function

Using language to convey one's unique identity, feelings, beliefs, and thoughts is known as the "personal function of language". It reflects personal reactions, emotions, and self-expression. Personal function are found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) and it can be proven in the quotation of the scene below.

Bea : Because You scared the crap out of me. It was the first time I felt fire in my life, and I had to put it out.

Ben : I know a little about it. I was very hurt when you departed. So I told Pete all of my negative feelings about you. That is not how I felt.

(Anyone But You, 2023: 01.04.58-01.05.05)

This scene explains how the speech delivered by Bea and Ben includes the personal function of language because the speaker can show his uniqueness through this function, including his personality, feelings, and sentiments. The personal role of language in this moment is demonstrated by Bea and Ben's use of words to express their sentiments.

Imaginative Function

The imaginative function of language involves using language to create, entertain, and explore possibilities beyond the immediate reality. It includes storytelling, creating fictional scenarios, playing, and expressing fantasies or hypothetical situations. Imaginative function are found in the dialog of the movie *Anyone But You* (2023) and it can be proven in the quotation of the scene below.

Bea : You know, maybe we should do it. Just tell everyone we're together.

Ben : What?

Bea : It would solve that problem for me and that problem for you.

Ben : I don't have a problem.

Bea : You clearly want Margaret.

Ben : No, I don't.

(Anyone But You, 2023: 00.36.40-00.36.45)

This scene explains how the speech act delivered by Bea includes the imaginative function of language because Bea uses language to explore

possibilities outside of immediate reality. Bea reveals things that are beyond reality, even things that Ben thinks are impossible. According to Ben, it was impossible for him and Bea to pretend to be a couple and it was also impossible for Bea's plan to succeed in getting him back with Margaret. But Bea was so confident in the plan she came up with it was as if she was creating a fictional scenario. Bea invites Ben to play the role of a happy couple in love.

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