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## Illocutionary Act Analisis Of The Main Character In Emancipation Movie And Its Contribution In Teaching Speaking

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**Abstract** In this research, the main focus is on illocutionary acts in the movie "Emancipation," analyzing the utterances of the main character, played by Will Smith as Peter. Description of interview contains five types of illocutionary acts, namely representatives, directives, commissive, expressive, and declarative, are examined and their frequencies are determined. The results based on contain analisis that representatives dominate the illocutionary acts, with 36% of the total utterances, followed by directives (23%), expressive (18%), commissive (14%), and declarative (9%). The research highlights the value of teaching illocutionary acts in speaking classes and suggests that using movies as teaching materials can be an engaging and effective approach. However, it is essential to choose appropriate instructional methods to ensure students' engagement and effective learning in the speaking skill. Ultimately, the study provides insights into how analyzing illocutionary acts in movies like "Emancipation" can contribute to enhancing students' speaking abilities.

**Keywords** Illocutionary Acts, Emancipation Movie, Speaking Skill, Teaching Material, Communication, Speech Act Theory.

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## INTRODUCTION

Communication is important parts in order to create and understand the language. The ability to communicate effectively using language is important in life skills, because humans, as social beings, need to communicate in order to meet their needs.<sup>1</sup> Yule as cited in Sari states that communication is not only about recognizing the meaning of words in speech, but recognizes what the speaker means by his utterance. This means that the speaker intends to convey a certain meaning to the listener, and the listener is trying to understand what the speaker means in a

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<sup>1</sup> Alawiyah, N., & Santoso, I. (2020). Speech Act Analysis of Dr. Zakir Naik'S Speech on Youtube Channel Entitled: Does God Exist. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, 3(6), 757. <https://doi.org/10.22460/project.v3i6.p757-7>

particular context. Therefore, both the speaker and the listener must deep understand of how language is used in the communication.<sup>2</sup>

Speech act is one of language study. Speech act is an action carried out as a result of what has been said. There are three types of speech act, they are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Yule, Locutionary act is literal meaning of the utterances, illocutionary act is the action behind the utterances and perlocutionary act is the effect of utterances to hearer.<sup>3</sup>

Illocutionary act is the most studied speech act than two others because it has more division and very elaborate. It is important to have enough knowledge in order to determine the utterance of illocutionary act. Searle as cited in Violeta<sup>4</sup>, stated that there are five basic types of illocutionary can perform in speaking. They are representatives, directives, commissive, expressive and declarative. Representative focuses to what the speaker believe to be the case or not, directive concerns to the speaker want to hearer or someone else to do something, commissive concerns on speaker commitment to the future action, expressive deals with expression or speaker feels, declaratives are related with act having immediately changes.

Language skills has important role in attracting the students in attention. Movies can be one that attracts students' attention because it is contextual as material in learning speaking. Surely can be alternative as a media for teaching speaking because movies are interesting, communicative and informative. Movie also medium of education that can demonstrate to the human audio visual so people with such a device would be easier to accept education. Movie is similarly one of the tools used to deliver the events.<sup>5</sup> The teacher must choose a good way to create an interesting activity in the classroom that will encourage students to speak up and enjoy the learning process.

Students have a variety of difficulties when speaking English. First, it is related to students' lack of vocabulary, which makes it difficult for them to say words in class and also makes them nervous. Second, some of those students are afraid of making a mistake and afraid because of their pronunciation is not as good as native speaker when speaking English. Third, the students speak more with their first language or their mother tongue.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford University Press.

<sup>3</sup> Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford University Press.

<sup>4</sup> Az-zahraa, A. C., Sumardiyani, L., & Maria, Y. W. L. (2022). *Illocutionary Acts in Commercial Advertisements and Its Contribution to Teaching Speaking*. 35–43.

<sup>5</sup> Thesis, A., Prastiwi, F. I. A. N., & Languages, F. O. F. (2014). *Improving the Speaking Skills of the Eighth Grade Students of Smp N 1 Pakem in the Academic Year of 2013 / 2014 By Using Films*. 1–184.

<sup>6</sup> Violeta, R. (2015). *Speech Acts Analysis of the Main Character In Maleficent Movie Script by Jane MeTee*. In *Publika Budaya Uneversitas Negeri Jember* (Vol. 1, Issue 3).

Finally, this research is expected to help overcome difficulties in learning speaking. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting research with the title “Illocutionary Act Analysis of The Main Character in Emancipation Movie and Its Contribution in Teaching Speaking”.

## **METHOD**

The researcher outlines the methodology adopted for this study, encompassing research design, the object of the study, research instruments, data collection, and data analysis. The research design employed is descriptive qualitative, focused on interpreting the meaning behind utterances by the main character in the movie "Emancipation," played by Will Smith as Peter. The instruments used in data collection include the researcher's role as a subject, a laptop to view the movie, the movie script as a reference document for analysis, and notes to record critical points from the movie. The data were primarily collected through documentation, involving the researcher watching the movie multiple times, referencing the online script, and identifying dialogue containing various types of illocutionary acts.<sup>7</sup> To analyze the data, content analysis was applied, involving the categorization of utterances into illocutionary act types and subsequently interpreting the data to address the research questions and determine the moral values portrayed in the movie. This process served as the foundation for deriving the study's findings and conclusions.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

In this section, the researcher is going to analyze the types of illocutionary act found in Emancipation Movie. Searle (in Sihombing et al., 2021) proposed that speech act could be grouped into general categories based on the relation of word and world. There are five basic kinds of actions that one can perform on speaking or utterance, by means of the following types: Assertive, Directives, Commissive, Expressive, Declarations

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<sup>7</sup> Sihombing, P. S. R., Silalahi, D. E., Saragih, D. I., & Herman, H. (2021). An Analysis of Illocutionary Act in Incredible 2 Movie. *Budapest International Research and Critics Institute (BIRCI-Journal): Humanities and Social Sciences*, 4(2), 1772–1783. <https://doi.org/10.33258/birci.v4i2.1850>

Table 4.1 Types of illocutionary acts found in Emancipation Movie

No	Types of illocutionary act	Amount of Utterances	Percentage
1.	Assertive	2	9%
2.	Directives	5	23%
3.	Commissive	4	18%
4.	Expressive	8	36%
5.	Declarations	3	14%
Total Number		22	100%

Based on the tables, the researcher finds five types of illocutionary acts that used by the main character in Emancipation Movie namely Assertive, Directives, Commissive, Expressive, Declarations. There are 22 utterances containing illocutionary acts. They are 2 utterances (9%) containing Assertive, 5 utterances (23%) containing Directives, 4 utterances (18%) containing Commissive, 8 utterances (36%) containing Expressive and 3 utterances (14%) containing Declarations. The detail explanations of the Emancipation Movie will be presented in the next subchapter.

**Types of illocutionary acts are produced by the main character in Emancipation movie**

**Assertives**

Assertives are utterances intended to tell you how things are in the world. They are representations of reality. An assertive is a speech act that commits the speaker to the truth of a proposition. Assertives are either true or false and have the world-to-word direction of fit. Assertives refer to statements, descriptions, classifications, explanations, and clarifications.

Table 4.2.1 Assertive

No	Types of Illocutionary Acts	Utterances	The functions Delivered by The Main Character
1.	Assertives	-God shows himself to some people and not to others	The condition give back up to the negro
2.	Assertives	-God love you	The man make the

			condition that they protected God
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from the table above, researcher found that there are some illocutionary respresentation of reality. An assertive is speech act that commits the speaker to the truth of a preposition. Also there are categoric the truth because God shows to the negro that condition negro all is well. Then God love you is the condition the man give thruth to his friend God always protected him.

**Directives**

These are attempts by the speaker to try to get the hearer to do something. Correct uses of directives must always refer to future voluntary acts. It would be nonsense to tell someone to do something in the past or to do something that is impossible. Directives are not true or false like assertives, but they are obeyed or disobeyed. Directives include orders, commands, requests and refer to pleading, begging, praying, insisting, and suggesting. Directives have the word-to-world direction of fit.

Table 4.2.2 Directives

No	Types of Illocutionary Acts	Utterances	The functions Delivered by The Main Character
1.	Directives	-Come, come pray, pray pray with me	The man give affection to their family with pray
2.	Directives	-look at you	In condition the man asked him to look at him
3.	Directives	- get up! get up!	In condition the man asked him to have a glory
4.	Directives	-never break me	The man told colonialist that he never break glory the negro
5.	Directives	- do not touch me	The man asked to do not touch him

From the table above we are know that directives is include orders, commands, request, and refer pleading, begging, praying, insiating, and suggesting.

First directives is categorized praying because the negro said "Come, come, pray, pray with me. The negro asked to their family to pray together. Part second directives is look at you, categorized suggesting because the negro suggested their friend to make sure the condition is well. Third directives categorized get up get up

Fourth directives categorized begging because the negro have to much glory and the colonialist break his glory. Part five categorized pleading the man asked the colonials that do not touch him.

**Commissives**

Commissives commit a speaker to some future voluntary action. Commissives reveal the intention of the speaker. It would be nonsense to say I promise to come and see you but I don't intend to see you. Commissives refer to vows, threats, pledges, guarantees, contracts, promises, covenants, and oaths. An offer is also a commissive but it only commits the speaker to some action upon the condition of the offer being accepted. Like directives, commissives also have the word-to-world direction of fit.

Table 4.2.3 Commissive

No	Types of Illocutionary Acts	Utterances	The functions Delivered by The Main Character
1.	Commissives	- I will not be afraid	The man always have condition that never affraid
2.	Commissives	- I will pray for you	The man away from family and he always pray for family
3.	Commissives	- We must go our own way	The negro have commited that they have own way
4.	Commissives	- I will come to see u	The man told their family that spmeday will see their family

From the table above is illocutionary categorized commissives. Commissives have a type is promise, guarantee, threat, volunteer, offer. This researcher found that first table "i will not be afraid". this categorized promise because there is an intention which gives benefit to the hearer. The second table is "i will pray for you". This categorized threat because there is an intention from the speaker to gives no benefit to the hearer.

The third table is "we must go our own way". This categorized guarantee because the speaker affirms constative the quality of something. The fourth table is "i will come to see u" this categorized volunteer because the speaker offers his service to come him.

**Expressives**

Expressives reveal the speaker's attitudes and emotions towards a particular proposition. Expressives include thanking, apologizing, congratulating, and welcoming. The direction of fit doesn't apply to expressives because the direction is presupposed.

Table 4.2.4 Expressive

No	Types of Illocutionary Acts	Utterances	The functions Delivered by The Main Character
1.	Expressives	-Give thanks to God	It happens when the man give some advice to wife be witnessed their

			children
2.	Expressives	-stay together	Father told their family to stay together when he is gone
3.	Expressives	- look, look	The man direct the negro to look something
4.	Expressives	-Good to see you, how are you?	The man met the negro and asked to him
5.	Expressives	-You're good, you.re good	The man always told each negro that the negro is good
6.	Expressives	- God is good, God is good	The man have commited that God is good
7.	Expressives	-Thankyou god	The man grateful met their family
8.	Expressives	- I love you I love you	The condition their family hugs after not seeing each other

From the table above is speech acts that state what speaker. Psychological expression like pleasure, pain, likes, dislike, joy, or sorrow. The first table the explanation is "give thanks to God" This categorized thanking because speaker feel thanking to God for his life. From all the table told that the speaker feel likes and pleasure his life. The second table the explanation is "Stay together" This categorized joy and pleasure because speaker told their family to stay together when he was gone. The third table the explanation is "look, look" This categorized joy and pleasure because The man directs the negro to look at something. The fourth table the explanation is "good to see you, how are you?" This categorized joy and pleasure because The man met the negro and asked him what had happened. The fifth table the explanation is "you're good, you.re good" This categorized joy and pleasure because The man always told each negro that the negro is good. The sixth table the explanation is "god is good, god is good" This categorized joy and pleasure because the speaker have committed that god is good. The seventh table the explanation is "thankyou god" This categorized joy and pleasure because the speaker grateful met their family. The eighth table the explanation is "i love you i love you" This categorized joy and pleasure because the speaker expressed his happiness because their family was hugging after not seeing each other.

**Declaration**

Declarations are the most interesting type of speech act, because they are the foundation for human society. Declarations are utterances that change the world by representing it as being so changed. A rough test to see if something is a declaration is if you can add the word "hereby" in front of it as in "I hereby declare war on your country." Declarations have a double direction of fit.

Table 4.2.5 Declaration

No	Types of	Utterances	The functions Delivered
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	Illocutionary Acts		by The Main Character
1.	Declarations	-The Lord is with me	The man have faith that God always with him
2.	Declarations	-He has become my salvation	The colonialist declarations that God is his salvation
	Declarations	- slaves is free	The negro declarations to people that they free

From the table above is declarative is a speech act that changes the reality in accord with the preposition of the declaration. The first table is the speaker declaration “The Lord is with me”. This is mean the speaker have a faith to his soul that God always with him. The second declaration is he has become my salvation, this is mean that speaker save the negro. Last declarations is slaves is free, this is mean no slaves in this world.

*The function of the massage delivered in the movie*

Emancipation tells the story of Peter (Smith), a slave who is separated from his family in Louisiana on the cusp of the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Lincoln stating that slaved men and women were to be freed. Still within the last gasps of the Civil War, the South, especially Louisiana, did not abide by this declaration. Upon hearing this news, Peter takes it upon himself to embark on a journey for not only his freedom but also to be reunited with his family once again. Fuqua immediately captures the bleakness of slavery in the face of their oppressors through the chosen cinematography, a washed-out palette mixed with a greyish hue. In addition, the camera undergoes several large sweeping shots from a wider perspective throughout the film to emphasize the gruesome nature of what was transpiring on the plantations and battlefields. Whether intentional or not, it appeared to callback to the similar camerawork in *Gone With the Wind*, specifically the sweeping shot at the railyard, albeit from a much different and more authentic perspective, of the South during the Civil War.

Peter’s escape takes him deep into the swamps of Louisiana as the movie shifts to becoming more of an elongated chase scene that lasts well into the film’s running time. Throughout this, he is forced to confront not only man as his captors close in on him and any other escapees but also nature as he ends up having to fight a gator for survival. For much of the duration, Peter is on the run and is constantly under duress of some kind with the only thing keeping him going being the memory and hope of reaching his family once again.

It is when Emancipation begins to reach its third act that the film changes its tone and becomes something almost completely different than when Peter’s journey started. In the span of ten minutes, viewers see Peter reach the end of his journey only to be whisked away by his



rescuers to a new adventure without his consent. From there, he is thrust into a war, not of his choosing, and partakes in a battle he never thought imaginable only to survive and then by circumstance be directed to the plantation where his family resides. It all felt plucked and tacked onto the end of a different film because Peter's life story, and more importantly his ending, needed to be told but they were running out of time to do so properly.

Ultimately, *Emancipation* will leave viewers with a disjointed experience where Fuqua and Smith merely created something with an abundance of style but little substance. With a story as intense and compelling as Peter's, which is also based on a real-life figure, the film should have demanded more of an emotional investment from its audience but instead, it chose to focus on the appearance and energy of its end product rather than implanting a stronger message in its viewer's minds by the credits.

### *The moral value of the movie*

*Emancipation* is not another slave movie but a movie about freedom. The film navigates the idea of freedom in that a person is freed when he considers himself free. In one of the scenes, the film showcases utter disbelief on the faces of enslaved individuals upon hearing about their freedom. It is indicative of the same notion, where the acceptance of freedom by external factors is yet to be registered until their minds accept it.

As a film, *Emancipation* works with this very notion at times throughout its duration, where Peter's willingness to act free makes him determined to take his every step with determination. Will Smith's theatrical style of acting works wonders in this movie to make us empathize with Peter's harrowing journey. His performance is not just shallow, outwardly emotive but comes from a place of deep understanding. Even Ben Foster builds a deeply disgusting persona of his white slaveowner character with a grounded approach.

As a result, it pains to see the movie derail due to its unimpressive direction. *Emancipation* aims to be both a historical film about slavery and a riveting action thriller. Sadly, the execution of neither of these aspects does justice to the harrowing tale to the real-life haunting tale. Only a few moments make your heart ache due to the power of its narration. The ideas of freedom, survival, and self-acceptance are only mentioned but not explored to their full potential.

Even as an action film, *Emancipation* fails, largely due to its director Antoine Fuqua, implementing techniques from his earlier projects that translate badly to the screen. While it was Peter's attempt to attain freedom from brutality, the film loses its grand ideas to the occasional

usage of action sequences that appear tonally jarring.

### *Discussion*

After analyzing the data, the next part is discussion. In this part, the researcher tried to explain the result of the research findings. In this research, there are five types illocutionary in Emancipation movie act based on Searle's theory, they are, representative/assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

### *Representative/Assertive*

Representative/Assertive is kind of illocutionary that binds the speaker to something that occurred in the case whether something is true or false. Actions that perform in this type are: stating, affirming, describing, concluding, boasting, claiming, etc. One of the utterances that represent assertive is "God shows himself to some people and not to others". This utterance uses action verb as like truthfully.

### *Directive*

Directives mean speaker direct the hearer to perform some future act that will make the action fit with what speaker's words. Directives attempt the hearer to perform an action based the utterance. Directive are not true or false, but they are obeyed and disobeyed. Directives perform ordering, commanding, warning, requesting, inviting, suggesting, etc. Utterance that represents directive is "come, come pray, pray, pray with me". Its categorized praying because the speaker asked to his family to pray together.

### *Commissive*

Commissive means speakers commit themselves to perform an act in the future based the utterance that stated. The utterance intended by the speaker is the utterance intended to perform an action in the future. Commissive includes vowing, promising, threatening, planning, offering, refusing etc. One of the utterances that represents commissive form the movie is "I will not be afraid". Its categorized promise because there is intention which gives benefit to the hearer.

### *Expressive*

Expressive is the representation of speaker's felling. This means that what the speaker says is based on his feelings. Expressing psychological statement. The direction of fit doesn't apply to expressive because the direction is presupposed. Expressive includes: apologizing, thanking, condoling, welcoming, like, dislike, pleasuring, joying, etc.

Utterance "Give thanks to God", this utterance expresses when the speaker gives some advice to his wife to be witnessed to their children. This utterance categorized thanking.

### ***Declaration***

Declaration means that the speaker utters words or statement that can change the world by the words. Declarations which effect immediate changes in the institutional state of affairs and which tend to rely on elaborate extra linguistic institutions. The paradigm cases are: excommunicating, declaration war, firing, christening, etc. utterance that include in declaration is “Slaves is free” the speaker declares to people that they are free.

This movie consist of five main forms of illocutionary acts they are representative/assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. The kinds of speech acts are the aspects to be develop in speaking and becomes interesting because the movie is about the history of America. So this recommends as alternative material of teaching speaking. Teaching speaking is about how to use language for communication such as sharing an ideas thought and feeling to other people. The goal of teaching speaking is to improve students’ communicative skills so that the students can express themselves and learn communicative circumstances.

Teaching speaking using illocutionary act from the movie can be alternative teaching material for speaking. The movie in this research can be alternative for teaching speaking material, in the movie there are illocutionary act that contain five forms of illocutionary they are representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative, this can help the teacher to teach speaking because the movie is contextual and also the movie is about the history so that will be interesting.

The teacher using media to play the movie in front of class and ask the student to pay attention and listen carefully. By using imitative speaking, the teacher ask student to repeat the words or sentence from the movie after they watch the movie, it can be a material to teach speaking. Using MOT (Modeling of text) the student listens and pay attention to the movie that played by the teacher. This is one of good method for students to learning English especially speaking. Illocutionary act in Emancipation movie has a contribution in teaching speaking especially in macro skills speaking. The macro skills imply the teacher categorized in styles and fluency.

Teacher must choose a good way to create an interesting activity, by the way of it, the teacher can play movie as material of teaching speaking so that the learning process would not be boring. The categorized styles of speaking that is appropriate are the roles and status of participants in interaction. The role that fits the needs in learning speaking between teacher and

student. The categorized fluency is to educate student to practice how to pronounce and know the vocabulary from the movie it is one of good method for teacher to teach speaking. Students can understand how to pronounce well in front of class. Its fun to learn speaking through movie.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis and previous research findings, the researcher draws two significant conclusions in response to the problems formulated in Chapter One. Firstly, there are five distinct types of illocutionary acts found in the utterances of the main character in the movie "Emancipation." These include representatives, which consist of 22 utterances containing illocutionary acts, with 9% being Assertive, 23% Directives, 18% Commissive, 36% Expressive, and 14% Declarations. Secondly, the most dominant illocutionary act type observed is the representative category, accounting for 8 out of the 22 total utterances, or 36% in percentage. This predominance can be attributed to the multifaceted nature of the main character, who embodies various roles such as a tough rebel, a family man, and an action hero. The character's complexity is reflected in the abundance of representative illocutionary acts. These findings emphasize the potential for teaching illocutionary acts in speaking classes, enabling teachers to engage students in dialogues that involve expressing, making, and canceling appointments for practical practice. Additionally, by watching the movie, students can enhance their speaking skills and learn effective communication techniques.

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