

ILLOCUTIONARY ACT IN STEVE HARVEY'S INTERVIEW "WHY DO MEN CHEAT?"

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ABSTRACT

This study deals with the types of illocutionary acts in Steve Harvey's interview video "Why do men cheat?". This research aims to find out the illocutionary acts produced in the utterances used by Steve Harvey and the interviewer. A descriptive qualitative study was done by observing the utterances spoken by Steve Harvey and the interviewer. The spoken utterances were then analyzed based on the types of illocutionary acts, namely: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Illocutionary act analysis improved our knowledge of the speaker's intentions and communication objectives. s. The results found in this research: 14 utterances of illocutionary acts, including representative 5 utterances, expressive 2 utterances, declarative 2 utterances, directive 3 utterances, and commissive 2 utterances. Without understanding the illocutionary acts, misunderstanding, and false impressions can disrupt communication.

Keywords: Illocutionary, Qualitative, Interview, Communication.

INTRODUCTION

Language facilitates unrestricted communication between individuals, making interpersonal interactions easier. In addition, humans also utilize actions when they communicate. To understand each other well when they are speaking, people need to know how to utilize a language appropriately. Pragmatics is "the study of meaning in context," according to Geoffrey Leech (Leech, 1983). He claims that understanding a statement in its whole requires understanding the context in which it is employed, which includes the speaker's intention, the situation's social norms and expectations. To comprehend and capture what someone accomplishes through utterances and how language is utilized in context to communicate meaning beyond the literal sense of the words, it is interesting to investigate the analysis of illocutionary acts in a speech (Bowers, 2020). Illocutionary acts are important to linguistics as a

component of communication, they make up the most significant portion of speech acts. Illocutionary acts are important to linguistics as a component of communication, they make up the most significant portion of speech acts. Searle (1979) defined five categories of illocutionary acts: declaratory, expressive, directive, representational, and commissive.

There have been a variety of relevant studies on the theory of illocutionary speech acts published previously, [Siti Sarah Fitriani, Diana Achmad, and Fitria Rasmita \(2020\)](#) which analyzed the use of illocutionary acts in a *Fantasy Movie*. The research shows us the varied illocutionary acts carried out by the protagonist aid viewers in gaining deeper insights into his circumstances and emotions during interactions with other characters in the film. Through his speech, the movie becomes more vivid and engaging for audiences observing it.

[Oktavia Surya Nur Alam \(2023\)](#), with the title of the research “Illocutionary Speech Acts in The Presidential Speech Regarding the Relocation of The National Capital City”. The types of illocutionary speech acts discussed in this study include directive, declarative, commissive, and assertive. The most often seen of them are assertive actions. The study highlights the President's use of tough language when he assertively makes case after argument for moving the nation's capital. With firm clarity, the President explains the rationale for the decision, the financial resources committed, and its legal implications.

[Elisabeth Waruwu, Rebecca Evelyn Laiya, and Mohammad Yunus Laia \(2020\)](#) analyzed Illocutionary Acts in *Wonder Woman Movie (2017)*. The researcher identified these as the most common illocutionary conduct types: assertive. However, there is another characteristic of this research, which is that the researcher didn't find any declarative acts in any of the acts in the film since every character in the film is unwilling to hurt their colleagues.

Earlier studies and this current research share common ground in their examination of the utilization of illocutionary speech acts as their primary focus. The goal of this study is to recognize, classify, and analyze each of the illocutionary speech acts that are present in the speech under investigation. This study focused on analyzing speech in that interview to find out the types of illocutionary acts and why they produced the kinds of illocutionary acts. This study focuses on illocutionary acts since it's interesting to investigate the purposeful meaning behind someone's speech. Illocutionary acts also help to reduce ambiguity and clarify communication by highlighting the speaker's goals.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Speech Act

According to Putri and Skolastika (2022), speech actions can be applied to complete an activity in addition to being used for speech. Speech acts are characterized as utterances that can produce an action. For example, when someone says, "I promise to attend the gathering," they are promising to carry out a future action as well as expressing their intention. In the same way, when someone says, "Please pass the salt," they are not only expressing a desire but also indirectly instructing the recipient to carry out a particular action. According to Austin (1962), speech acts are categorized into locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. As this research centers on illocutionary acts for analyzing a video, the literature review of this paper concentrates on this specific aspect. Analyzing speech acts provides important insights into how language works in many different kinds of linguistic and cultural contexts to negotiate meaning, form interactions with others, and achieve communicative objectives.

Illocutionary Act

Understanding illocutionary acts is important, especially in pragmatics. They go beyond simply speaking words to discuss the intentions or outcomes of statements. The use of illocutionary speech acts is crucial for daily communication. According to Austin in Nadar (2013:11), a speech act consists of both the performance of an activity and verbal communication. A speech act, in the words of Saifullah (2018), is the act of verbalizing something. Daily encounters often involve these illocutionary speech acts, many of which take the form of spoken language. Recognizing illocutionary acts helps our understanding of how language produces meaning in various settings and impacts social interactions. To gain a deeper understanding of how humans use language to navigate social circumstances and communicate effectively, scholars investigate illocutionary activities.

METHODOLOGY

To analyze the data, this study used a qualitative research design. The design of qualitative research, according to McMillian and Schumacher (2001:395), is an investigation in which the researcher collects data by interacting with selected people in the environment and collaboratively analyzing their social and individual perceptions, beliefs, actions, and thoughts. The descriptive research approach is used in this study since the data analysis is presented in a descriptive form. The methods for collecting data include watching a video of Steve Harvey's interview, "Why do men cheat?"; writing up the speech; recognizing the illocutionary acts (directive, commissive, expressive, declarative, and representative) based on the (Searle, 1979) theory that is performed in the video; and pointing out each utterance along with its type and meaning.

DISCUSSION

The author classified the data into five categories of illocutionary acts—representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative—after analyzing the illocutionary acts in Steve Harvey's interview “Why do men cheat?”.

1. Representative

These types of actions such as stating, informing, describing, complaining, claiming, boasting, asserting, etc.

No	Utterance	Meaning
1.	“It's a relationship issue that has been all over the headlines men and infidelity.”	The speaker represents the act of stating a fact or describing a situation. The statement brings attention to a subject that is frequently discussed by the media: males and infidelity. It implies that news headlines about this subject have been quite attention-grabbing.
2.	“They're lonely they're pigs.”	The speaker offers a representative judgmental view of men who cheat, labeling them as either lonely or derogatorily as "pigs". Because the use of the word "pigs" often means negative to people who have bad behavior.
3.	“If his cell phone rings and he's in the shower, and he runs through the glass door to ask and if he sleeps with his cell phone duct tape to his thigh.”	The utterance uttered by the speaker lists specific behaviors that indicate potential infidelity, serving as warning signs for partners to watch out for the cheater.
4.	“You know if there's an attitude change.”	The utterance uttered by the speaker means that behavioral or attitude changes may be a symptom of relationship issues, including the possibility of cheating.
5.	“You know you got to be careful because flirting pushes the primal instinct button in men because by nature you know we're predators.”	The utterance uttered by the speaker explains why flirting can cause problems in relationships by relating it to men's biological dispositions.

2. Commissive

This type is performed in the form of a promise, vow, threat, refusal, guarantee, etc.

No	Utterance	Meaning
1.	“Here's a deal if your guy is cheating you're going to find out. You don't have to go looking for it. You always find out.”	The utterance uttered by the speaker that represents claims to give honest guidance, indicating that “cheating” eventually comes out without actively searching for proof. Categorized as commissive because it involves the speaker committing to a certain action or making a promise. In this case, the speaker is offering guidance or reassurance to the listener regarding the issue of infidelity in relationships.
2.	“I know a lot of relationships that are shot now. I mean, gone because someone suspected and went looking and found something innocent and to turn into something that it wasn't.”	The utterance uttered by the speaker expresses a commitment to preventing misunderstandings from damaging relationships by warning against inappropriate searches for evidence of infidelity. The speaker also warns against the implications of suspicion leading to invasive habits.

3. Directive

Commanding, asking, ordering, requesting, inviting, proposing, forbidding, and so on are examples of directive behavior.

No	Utterance	Meaning
1.	"The best way to do it is just you know laugh it off and say, 'Girl, you crazy'."	This speaker offers suggestions on how to react if someone makes moves toward the listener's partner. It offers advice on how to handle such situations and advises redirecting the flirtation in a lighthearted manner to avoid the situation from getting out of hand.
2.	"I don't really like them personally, I don't think it's good, I think you should respect the person's privacy."	By offering guidance on whether it's appropriate to look through a partner's phone and email data if you suspect cheating, this statement acts as a directive. Invading a partner's privacy is advised by the speaker, who emphasizes the value of trust and respect in relationships.
3.	"What can I do to prevent my wife from cheating?"	This question expresses a willingness to be proactive in preserving the fidelity of the relationship by explicitly asking for advice on how to stop a partner from being unfaithful. It expresses a lack of commitment and trust and asks for suggestions on how to build a lasting and strong relationship.

4. Expressive

Speech acts that communicate a speaker's feelings or emotions toward a particular situation or item fall under the category of expressive speech acts. These behaviors enable people to communicate their emotions.

No	Utterance	Meaning
1.	"How would I know if my boyfriend or husband is cheating?"	The speaker's fear and worry over discovering cheating in their relationship are conveyed in this question. It conveys the speaker's emotional state and asks Steve Harvey for advice.
2.	"People groan, people get better. people learn from their mistakes, people move on, people discover what we're wrong before and learn how not to make those mistakes again."	The speaker conveys the expression of optimism and confidence in a person's capacity to develop and repent, implying that people can change their ways by taking lessons from their past mistakes.

5. Declarative

Conversations have the power to change global circumstances. Words like "resign," "divorce," "sentence," "pronounce," "declare," "baptize," and so on have the power to change the world.

No	Utterance	Meaning
1.	"Well if his cell phone rings, and he's in the shower and he runs through the glass door to ask."	This utterance serves as a declarative statement by outlining a situation that could point to infidelity and concentrating on strange cell phone usage in particular that announces a circumstance that could be seen as cheating.
2.	"Cheating is not reserved to me and a power it happens to the truck driver the cab driver the janitor it can happen to anybody it happens to women."	This declarative utterance claims that cheating happens to people of all demographics, including women, and is not just an issue for dominant males.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, by examining illocutionary acts in Steve Harvey's interview titled "Why do men cheat?" this study explored the field of pragmatics. Through the use of a qualitative research design, the study shed light on several illocutionary act kinds, such as declarative, directive, expressive, and representative, each of which revealed subtle facets of communication dynamics. By carefully examining statements and their surrounding meanings, the research clarified how speakers use language to express intentions, feelings, promises, and social norms. The results highlight how important it is to comprehend illocutionary activities to perceive implicit cues, avoid misunderstandings, and promote efficient communication. In the end, this research advances our knowledge of pragmatics by highlighting the critical function of illocutionary acts in enabling meaningful interpersonal encounters and negotiating the intricacies of human communication.

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