

## AN ANALYSIS OF COMMISSIVE SPEECH ACT IN MOVIE ENTITLED *CINDERELLA*

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### *Abstract*

*The purposes of this study were to describe the types of commissive speech acts, and to describe how commissive speech acts used in the movie. This study was a descriptive-qualitative research. This research focused on commissive speech act expressed by the characters found in the movie. The step to get the data is collecting the data from the script of Cinderella movie which contain commissive speech act, reading the dialogue, and classifying the data based on the types of commissive speech act based on Searle and Vanderveken (1985) categories. The next step is classifying non verbal communication. Then, the use of commissive speech act was analyzed within the pragmatics framework. The types of commissive speech act found in Cinderella movie are refuse, threaten, promise, accept, offer, bet, commit, consent, and assure.*

**Keywords:** *Speech Acts; Commissive; Pragmatics*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

People can understand each other by exchanging messages. Orally or in writing, messages (feelings, experiences, and ideas) are expressed in communication. We use language to convey our thoughts, either through face-to-face conversation or through the use of indirect means of communication. The philosophy of language has aimed at any study of communication that must take into account the nature of the speech act that the subject is performing in the speech (his statement, nature, his acts of reference and preaching, his illocutionary and perlocutionary acts). In pragmatics, expressions are included in speech acts.

According to Yule (1996), speech acts are acts performed through utterances, such as apologizing, complaining, congratulating, pleading, or promising. When analyzing speech acts, the meaning of the sentences is taken into account, since the meaning of the sentences depends on the context. Based on Yule (1996), it is mentioned that “pragmatics deals with the interpretation of what people mean in a given context and how the context influences what is said”. Searle (1996) classified illocutionary acts into five levels: declarative, assertive, directive, commissive, and expressive.

Commissive is a kind of speech act that tells an act related to what will be done in the future. This speech act expresses the speaker’s intention. There will be an essential condition that implies the intention to make an obligation. Using commissive speech act, the speaker undertakes

to make the world fit the words (Yule, 1996, p. 54). Yule (1996) said that the speaker expresses promises, guarantees, refusals, pledges, and etc by using commissive speech act (p.5) Similarly, Searle (1979) reported the performative verbs that indicate commissive speech acts are promise, guarantee, refusals, volunteer, offer, threat and vow (p. 22).

We can conduct an analysis on commissive speech act in various media, for example: magazines, movie scripts, journals, newspapers, short stories, novels, etc.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

Research design is the framework of research methods and techniques chosen by a researcher. The design allows researchers to hone in on research methods that are suitable for the subject matter and set up their studies up for success. Descriptive qualitative is a research method that is based on the philosophy of post-positivism which is usually used to examine natural objective conditions in which the researchers act as a key instrument.

The data of this research are all utterances from that are produced by the characters in Cinderella. The script of the movie was downloaded from <https://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/>. The source of data of the research was Cinderella movie. Technique of collecting data is the data are collected through documentation analysis. Collected data to be classified in nine commissive speech acts based on Searle and Vanderveken (1985) categories, the researcher does the coding data. In technique of data analysis the researcher uses some stages as Miles and Hubberman (1984). It start with the data reduction, data display, and then conclusion drawing / verification.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter explains the research finding that the writer found, to describe the types of commissive speech acts found in the movie entitled Cinderella, and to describe commissive speech acts are used in the movie entitled Cinderella.

No	Types of Commissive Speech Act								
1	Commit	Promise	Threat	Accept	Consent	Refusal	Offer	Assure	Bet
2	5	12	8	11	-	15	1	1	3
3	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	-	-
4	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	-	1
5	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	2
Total	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

### A. Commit

Commit is the primitives name of commissive, which names the primitives commissive illocutionary forces. To commit oneself to a promise.

## 19 / Sta / Co

The party at the palace was began. The first rundown of events was the welcome and introduction of Kit as a prince to the people accompanied by the grand duke's entourage.

Kit : “Is it any business of yours, Grand Duke?”

Grand Duke : “**Your business is my business, Your Royal Highness.** It will not do to let the stag go free.”

This utterance is commissive speech act, namely, commit. Wherefore, the Grand Duke tried to rebuke him, but Prince Kit replied that the Grand Duke had no right to take care of him life. The Grand Duke clearly said “**Your business is my business, Your Royal Highness.**” This utterances mean that the Grand Duke committed to himself that the kingdom His Majesty's business is his business no matter what. He did it in Prince Kit no remorse in his life.

The non verbal communication in this utterance used gesture, especially posture of the body where Grand Duke showed his respect for Prince Kit by bowing his body and his left hand band back while his right hand moved by rotating his arm twice and ended by placing his hand on his chest.

### B. Promise

Promise has certain characteristics that distinguish it apart from many other verbs in the collection of commissive verbs. The unique characteristics that set it apart from other compulsive verbs are because promises always compel their hearer to act in their best interests and that they include a certain category of commitment known as obligation.

## 2/Sta/Pr

Ella and her mother were in the room. And his mother was in serious condition, because of the illness that befell her. Ella was asked by her mother to hear what her mother had to say.

Ella's mother : “Ella, my darling. I want to tell you a secret. A great secret that will see you through all the trials that life can offer. You must always remember this. Have courage and be kind. You have more kindness in your little finger than most people possess in their whole body. And it has power, more than you know. And magic.”

Ella : “Magic?”

Ella's mother : “Have courage and be kind, my darling. Will you promise me?” Ella :  
“**I promise.**”

The commissive speech act in utterances “**I promise**” by Ella, namely, promise, because Ella loves her mother extremely, then she will do whatever her mother said, moreover an advise her mother that had given to Ella, so Ella promised to do it in the future.

The non verbal communication in this utterance used eye contact, body movement, and space and distance. Ella and her mother talked with do eye contact deeply and take a time, with the mother’s hand gently caressed Ella's head. Ella also get closer, hugged her mother tightly and full of love, and looked back at her mother’s eye with a sad look, which Ella still hoped that even though her mother was not sick, Ella would follow the advice from her mother, and also said promised to have courage and be kind in the future.

### C. Threat

Threatening is less institutionally reliant than promising because, first, the reaction for the hearer is not to do something to his benefit but rather to his detriment and second, there is no responsibility for the hearer to do anything from the speaker.

### 35 / Sta / Thr

Lady T, Drisella, and Ella were at home. They prepared dresses to wear to at the ball in the palace.

Lady T : “I'm sorry to have to tell you but your mother's taste was questionable. This thing is so old-fashioned it's practically falling to pieces. The shoulder's frayed. It's falling to bits.”

Drisella : “And this! **It's a ridiculous, old fashioned joke!**”

“**It's a ridiculous, old-fashioned joke**”. This utterance is commissive speech act, namely, threatening that uttered by Drisella because if Ella persisted go with a dress that Drisella thought was better than hers. Drisella would continue to label Ella's dress as ugly and old-fashioned for a lifetime.

The non verbal communication in this utterance used eye contact and touch When Drisella said the statement, Drisella also did with eyes glaring with anger in a high tone and shouting, and grabbing Ella's hair which this action aims that Ella does not have the courage to go to the dance and feel unworthy of the kingdom.

### D. Acceptance

When one accepts a commissive the content of the acceptance is simply that the acceptor lets the original speaker do what he commits himself to do.

### 3 / Sta / Acc

Ella and her mother were in the bedroom. And her mother was in serious condition, because of the illness that befell her. And her mother wants to deep talk with Ella.

Ella's mother : "And... I must go very soon, my love. Please forgive me."  
Ella : "**Of course I forgive you.**"

Ella's utterances "**Of course I forgive you.**" is acceptance of commissive speech act. Acceptance is common agreement that something is satisfactory or correct can approve a request, plan or invitation. In this case, Ella agrees and forgives all the mistakes that Ella's mother may have committed during her life.

The non verbal communication in this utterance used touch and eye contact. Ella get closer to her mother and hugged her mother after that saying "**Of course I forgive you.**" by looking at Ella's mother eyes. Is is signified Ella's acceptance forgive her mother.

### E. Consent

To do something with consent is to accept a directive to do it with the additional preparatory condition that one has reasons for not doing it and therefore one would probably not do it if one had not been requested.

### 44 / Qu / Con

Ella and the fairy were on page from Ella's house, and the fairy wanted to help Ella to made a beautiful dress for the dance party in the kingdom.

Ella : "No, please don't. This was my mother's. And I'd like to wear it when I go to the palace. It's almost like taking her with me."  
Fairy : "I understand. But she wouldn't mind if I gee it up a bit? **Wouldn't mind a nice blue?**"

The commissive act of this utterance "**Wouldn't mind a nice blue?**" is consent. Consent in here is a permission did Ella accept the idea of the fairy.

The non verbal communication in this utterance used eye contact. The fairy expressed the utterances of consent in a gentle tone which mean speaking in a soft voice so that it is pleasant to hear, also more polite and one of her eyebrows raised showing an expression of Ella's curiosity and interest in the actions that the fairy will take.

## F. Refuse

Refuse comes with the additional prerequisite that one has been offered the choice between accepting or refusing. Only speech acts that offer the choice of acceptance or rejection can be rejected or accepted. It is incorrect to state that one rejects an order or command; rather, one should say that one refuses to obey it.

### 49 / Sta / Re

The conversation is located at the ballroom. This conversation involves Kit and King who saw the princess come into the dance party.

King : "It's that girl in the forest, isn't it? That's why you were so generous with the invitations."

Kit : "**Father, it was for the people.**"

This utterance is commissive speech act, namely, refuse because it happened when the princesses came to the palace and were mentioned one by one by the royal guards but the woman Kit had been waiting for did not come soon. The King immediately saw an agitated Kit and told to Kit if what he was waiting for was a girl from the forest. Hearing the king said, Kit did not like it when his father said that. Kit answered in a loud voice "**Father, it was for the people**". The meaning of that answer is that Kit indisposed the girl underestimate by the King.

The non verbal communication in this utterance used para-linguistic (tone) where the Prince said with a load voice, which is used as confirmation and explanation to the King regarding the nature of the woman Prince Kit meets in the forest.

## G. Offering

Offer is a promise made subject to acceptance by the hearer. A speaking act known as an offer commits a listener to take a certain action if it is accepted by the hearer.

### 40 / Qu / Off

Fairy and Ella were in the yard, and in the evening they would be made arrangements for Ella to went to the dance party at the kingdom. So the fairy helped and uses her magic.

Fairy : "Turn the pumpkin into a carriage. You're making me nervous, actually."

Ella : "**Shall I shut my eyes?**"

This utterance is commissive speech act, namely, offer because of the fairy's desire to help Ella prepare accommodations for Ella went to the kingdom. It takes some time to found objects or vegetables or fruit that the fairy could turn into a beautiful carriage. Finally, the fairy

decided to turn a pumpkin into a carriage. When she wanted to be conjured, Ella said "**Shall I shut my eyes?**". An offer here was to tell the fairy that Ella express her feeling because the magic that the fairy would do is an unfamiliar thing for a human.

The non verbal communication in this utterance used gestures where Ella said the utterance by hands shaking, panicking folded her arms, then moved her hands together like a Christian prayer position. In Ella's movement means anxious, or uncomfortable, Ella tends to use nonverbal cues to calm herself down, such as rubbing her hands, holding body parts, rubbing her feet or neck. This is her attempt to calm her panic by touching herself and wanting to do the movement of covering her eyes with both hands.

#### **H. Assure**

Committing to a future course of action with the perlocutionary goal of convincing the hearer that one will accomplish it while assuming that the hearer has reservations is known as assuring in the commissive meaning.

#### **47 / Sta / Ass**

Ella and Fairy are in the yard. Fairy was making beautiful shoes for Ella made of glass.

Ella : "But... They're made of glass?"

Fairy : "Yes. **And you'll find they're really comfortable.** Ella, you really must go now."

Ella saw the change that had happened to her. When the fairy changed Ella's appearance, the fairy made Ella a beautiful pair of glass shoes. Ella saw that she was surprised and a little doubtful whether it was safe if the shoes were made of glass. Responding to this, Fairy said "Yes. **And you'll find they're really comfortable.** Ella, you really must go now". The utterances is containing a commissive act, namely, assure. Assure here, the fairy wanted Ella to calm down because the shoes she will use will be safe and comfortable.

The non verbal communication in this utterance used para-linguistics (tone), gesture, and eye contact. Where the fairy said with a loud voice, and looked into Ella's eyes deeply. In looked eyes deeply means full of enthusiasm and confidence that what Ella is using is safe. In the conversation and analysis of these "assure" there is a match with data numbers 47.

#### **I. Bet**

In one instance of betting, one party places a wager with another party; the wager is mutual in nature. When placing a conditional and conditional bet on the result.

#### **29 / Sta / Be**

Drisella and Anastasia were in the bedroom and they were talking about handsome boys.

Drisella : “Certainly not. It might change my mind.”

Anastasia : “**I bet you** have never ever spoken to a man. Have you, moon-face?”

This conversation was utterance by Anastasia because Drisella when approached by a man, Drisella felt confused and did not know how to respond, therefore why Anastasia said “**I bet you** have never ever spoken to a man. Have you, moon-face?”. This utterances was indicating to commissive speech act, namely, bet. Where Anastasia wanted Drisella full fill the challenge to spoke with a man, because Anastasia knew that Drisella can not to do something because she never talked with a man, and a moon face refers to one of a medical condition that can have a negative impact on the sufferer's self-confidence.

The non verbal communication in this utterance used body language, where Anastasia said those words in a ridiculously mocking tone and stuck her tongue out at Drisella, and thumbing Anastasia' nose at Drisella such as put the tip of the right thumb to the tip of the nose, then the other four fingers stand up open. Then move the four fingers up and down as if playing a trumpet. This is a teasing gesture usually used by young children.

Nine types of commissive speech act such as commit, promise, threat, accept, consent, refusal, offer, assure, and bet. There are 77 data of commissive speech act containing.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

There are several types of commissive speech acts in the Cinderella movie script as follows; commit, promise, threat, accept, consent, refusal, offering, assure, con, and bet. The types of commissive speech acts used in Cinderella movie script were threat, commit, refusal, promise, offering, accept, assure, consent, and bet. From thirteen kinds of non verbal communication, the top five is eye contact, gesture, touch, paralinguistics, and facial expression. In *promise* they used some gesture, and eye contact like look at the hearer deeply, holding the listener's shoulder. In promise there is tone of voice where the speaker speak earnestly. *Threat* used touch, bulging eyes, harsh words. *Accept* used gesture by nodding head it means someone agree with an utterance. *Consent* used gesture by a nod and eyebrow flash mean the eyebrows rise rapidly for a split second and then drop again. The purpose of the ‘eyebrow flash’ is to draw attention to one’s face so that other facial expressions of communication can be exchanged. *Refusal* used high tone and gesture such as shake head which is express disagreement. *Offer* used gesture by someone posture body close to the hearer it means someone can refers giving for help. *Assure* used tone by low intonation and speak clearly, and *bet* used facial expression such as stick out the tongue and ask for a handshake it is express challenge someone.

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