COMMISSIVE UTTERANCES IN KUNG FU PANDA 2 MOVIE AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

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Abstract
The research aimed to find out and classify the types of commissive speech acts used by the characters in Kung Fu Panda 2 Movie. The study explained the functions of each type of commissive speech act based on the contexts as well. The method applied was the descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research were in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that contain commissive speech acts. Hereafter, the technique of data analysis was based on Kreidler's (1998) classification of commissive speech acts. The next step was explaining the functions of each type of commissive speech acts based on the pragmatic contexts. The research found seven types of commissive speech acts used by the characters in the movie of Kung Fu Panda 2, such as promises, pledges, agrees, refuses, volunteers, offers, and threats. The most dominant type of commissive speech act used by the characters was the act of agreeing. The least type of commissive speech act used by the characters was the act of pledging.

Keywords: *Pragmatics, speech acts, commissive utterances*

1. INTRODUCTION

In everyday life, speech acts are very influential. The speech act conveys messages to the recipient. In the language field, the study of the relationship between linguistic forms (words) and the users of those forms (the meaning of the words intended to convey) is called pragmatics. (Yule, 1996) & (Stalnaker, 1996) stated that pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). Therefore, there will be an analysis of the speaker, the listener, the words, the context, the background of words, and utterances. One of the topics of pragmatics study is a speech act. Speech act relates to a certain sentence or utterance and a certain act within it. In other words, a speaker sends utterances to perform certain things he/she intends. An utterance that is produced by a speech act because of a performed action consists of three aspects or levels of the act (Yule, 1996). They are locutionary act (the act of saying something), illocutionary act (an act the speakers intend to do something by producing an utterance), and perlocutionary act (the act done by the hearers affected by what the speakers have said). Furthermore, according to (Kreidler, 1998), the illocutionary act, as the core of speech act, is classified into five categories as follows: assertive, performative, verdictive, expressive, directive, commissive, and phatic.

This study discusses the commissive speech act in one of the popular animation movies entitled *KungFu Panda 2*. The research aimed to find out and classify the types of commissive speech acts used by the characters in Kung Fu Panda 2 Movie. The study explained the functions of each type of commissive speech act based on the contexts as well.

Furthermore, this study is relevant to the previous study. However, the writer finds a difference between the findings in this study with the findings of the previous study. Nurkhasana (2017) mainly focused on the types of speech acts of the utterances in a movie.

There are only three types of commissive speech acts found in the previous research. In this study, the writer found seven types of commissive speech acts.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

People use language that can convey various meanings and purposes through speech acts. According to Levinson (2009), pragmatics is the study of language use. To this extent, pragmatics is the study of the relation between language and context which is basic to an account of language understanding which involves the making of inferences that will connect what is said to what is mutually assumed or what has been said before. Another definition of pragmatics is stated by (Finch, 2000). According to Finch, pragmatics deals with the meaning of utterances and it focuses on what is not explicitly stated and on how people interpret utterances in a situational context. Therefore, pragmatics deals with the utterances which are delivered by considering semantic meaning, context, situation, and condition of not only the addressers but also the addressees. The study of meaning from a pragmatic perspective involves all factors around the speech situation.

A speech act succeeds if the listener associates closely with the speaker's intention. Austin (1962) said that when people state or speak something, they also do something or make an act, which is called a speech act. Then, Aitchison (2003) defined speech act as a number of utterances that behave somewhat like actions. In conclusion, a speech act is an utterance that occurs and an act refers to an action. Producing speech acts are communicating acts performed through the spoken or written language. A speech act is not only words but also real-life interactions and the knowledge of the language. Kreidler (1998) stated utterances can be classified according to the general purpose of the speaker whether they deal with potential or real facts, prospective or retrospective, and in the role of speaker or addressee. Seven functions of speech act have been recognized are phatic, assertive, performative, verdictive, expressive, directive, and commissive.

The commissive speech act becomes the main discussion in this study. Commissive utterances are speech acts that commit a speaker to a course of action (Kreidler, 1998). The utterances are prospective because they are possibilities that are committed by the speakers in the future. The types of commissive utterances are promises, pledges, agrees, refuses, volunteers, offers, and threats.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

Research design is an important element in conducting research. According to Amato et al. (2006), the research design is a plan, structure, and strategy of investigation conceived in order to obtain answers to research problems and also to control variance. Besides, Ary et al. (2019) stated that research design is the researcher's plan of how to proceed to gain an understanding of some group or some phenomenon in its context. In other words, a plan or strategy which is applied by the researcher for answering research questions is called research design. A well-planned research design drives the researcher to match the research aims.

In this study, the descriptive qualitative method is applied. According to Lambert & Lambert (2012), qualitative descriptive studies focus on discovering the nature of the specific events under study. According to Mead & Gay (1995), descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test hypotheses or to answer questions concerning the current status of the subject of the study. Particularly, this method is constructed by gathering, analyzing, and presenting collected data. Furthermore, Johnston and Christensen argued that the primary purpose of descriptive research is to provide an accurate description or picture of the status or

a characteristic of a situation or phenomenon (Christensen & Johnston, 2012). It means this kind of method offers several insights from the data which had been analyzed.

The goal of descriptive research is to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics. This study aims to describe commissive utterances which are obtained in *Kung Fu Panda 2* Movie. The data were acquired from the movie script. The data of this study are in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that contain commissive utterances. They are obtainable in the movie script entitled *Kung Fu Panda 2*. The script of the movie was downloaded from https://kungfupanda.fandom.com/wiki/Kung_Fu_Panda_2/Transcript. As one of the important elements in a study, data must be collected using a specific technique. As stated above, the data are acquired in the movie script, which indicates this research uses library research which conducting a review study on books, literature, and records reports related to the problem.

The data of this study are collected by using the observational method followed by reading the script and notetaking technique. The steps to collecting data in this research such as watching and understanding the *Kung Fu Panda 2* movie, reading the movie script of *Kung Fu Panda 2,* transcribing the dialogue for textual analysis, classifying types of commissive speech act, identifying the utterances of the speakers in the dialogue, taking note of the utterances that contain types of speech act based on required data, then coding the collected data based on the types of commissive speech acts. The Arabic numerals indicate the number of data. The types of commissive speech acts are shown by the alphabetic code as follows: PRO is Promise, PLE is Pledge, AGR is Agree, REF is Refuse, VOL is Volunteer, OFE is Offer, and TRE is Threat. Here is an example of the application of the codes: (33/TRE) This code means data number thirty-three, the type of commissive speech act is a threat.

The descriptive technique is applied in this study to investigate the data. The collected data were analyzed related to the type of commissive speech act based on Kreidler (1998). The commissive speech act in movies entitled *Kung Fu Panda 2* is analyzed by the following steps: identifying the data is to find utterances in the movie of *Kung Fu Panda 2* which belongs to the commissive speech act, classifying the data collected into the types of commissive speech acts, describing the purpose and functions of the commissive speech acts, and conclusion based on the

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A comissive is a speech act that makes the speaker commit to carrying out an action in the future. The speech act is prospective and involves the speaker (Kreidler 1998). The following comissive speech acts are divided into the promise, pledge, agree, refuse, volunteer, offer, and threat. Each type of comissive speech act was presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Types and Functions of Comissive Speech Act

No.	Type	Function	Total
1	Promise	To make the speaker commit to hearer-on future action.	4
2	Pledge	To make the speaker commit to future action in public.	2
3	Agree	To respond to directive.	20
4	Refuse	To refuse to commit oneself to some future action.	16
5	Volunteer	To self-motivated.	9
6	Offer	To offer something / goods.	3

7	Threaten	To intimidate the listener in the situation.	6
		TOTAL	**60**

TABLE 1 described the seven types of commissive speech act based on Kreidler's (1998) theory. The first type of commissive speech act is a promise. The function of promise is to make the speaker commit to the hearer on future action. The next type is a pledge. It is to make the speaker commit to future action in public. Another type is agreeing, which is to respond to the directive. Then, refuse is to decline to commit oneself to some future action. The next type of commisive speech act is volunteer which is a self-motivated will. The other type is to offer which functions to offer something/goods. The last type of commisive speech act is a threat that is used to intimidate or threaten the listener.

3.1 Promise

A promise is one of the commissive speech acts to make the speaker commit to future action (Kreidler 1998). It means to commit something to the listener based on the situation. It can be recognized in utterances such as "I promise to be on time". A promise is prospective and concerned with the speaker's commitment to future action. The following conversation contains a promise:

(4/PRO) SHIFU : "I have ever experienced. But once I realized the problem was not you, but within me, I found inner peace, and was able to harness the flow of the universe."

PO : "So that's it? Do I just need inner peace? My innards are already super, super peaceful. So all I need to do is just get this thing going! Inner peace, you're going down! Now show me what you were doing with your feet. I saw you do sort of a fancy foot thing..."

TIGRESS: "Po! Bandits, approaching the Musicians' Village!"

PO : "Danger. Tell those musicians to start playing some action music because it is on. Don't worry, Master Shifu, **I'll master inner peace as soon as I get back.**"

Master Shifu wants Po to be the best Dragon Warrior by training the Inner Peace of *Kung Fu*. But Master Shifu was not sure about Po's skill in *Kung Fu*. So, Po promised him to master inner peace as soon as he gets back. The promise was expressed in "…I'll master inner peace as soon as I get back.". There are three characters in the dialog. They are Master Shifu, Po, and Tigress. Shifu is the master of *Kung Fu* so all members of Dragon Warrior called him Master Shifu. Po and Tigress are the Dragon Warrior and also the students of Master Shifu. Inner Peace is one of *Kung Fu*'s that was difficult to learn. Therefore, learning Inner Peace needs a long time. The setting of the dialog is some of the caves near a waterfall. Master Shifu taught Po about Inner Peace. When Shifu and Po were discussing inner peace, Tigress came and informed Po that people in the Musicians' Village need his help. Then, Po directly went to the village. Before going there, he said not to worry about Shifu because he would master the inner peace soon as he got back.

The commissive utterance in the conversation functions as a promise. In this case, Po promised Shifu that he would master the inner peace after he finished his duty in the

Musicians' Village. The promising function could be seen in the sentence "…I'll master inner peace as soon as I get back" which means that Po ensured Master Shifu that he would not fail to fulfill Master Shifu's expectations about having or mastering inner peace. The other data that presented promise to promise in numbers 22, 29, and 41.

3.2 Pledge

Pledge is part of a commissive speech act. It is to make the speaker commit to future action in public (Kreidler 1998). So, the pledge is a solemn promise made in public. The pledge is also prospective and concerned with the speaker's commitment to future action. The example of a pledge is presented in the following conversation:

    (34/PLE)   OX   : "It's time to surrender, panda… Kung Fu is *dead*."

        PO   : "Y-you… w-woo… Kung Fu is… de-eaah… fine! You stay in your prison of fear, with bars made of hopelessness… and all you get are three square meals a day of… shame!"

        CROC : "…With despair for dessert."

        PO   : **"We'll take on Shen, and prove to all those who are hungry for justice…** and honor… that Kung Fu still lives!"

The characters of the conversation are Master Ox, Po, and Master Croc. The setting is the prison of Gongmen City. When all Dragon Warrior members had arrived in Gongmen City to free Master Ox and Master Croc from prison so, that they can help each other to defeat Shen because he has killed many Masters around the world and destroyed *Kung Fu*. Master Croc and Master Ox did not believe Po. Therefore, Po gave a pledge to them that he could fight White Peacock for *Kung Fu*. The pledge is expressed as "We'll take on Shen, and prove to all those who are hungry for justice and honor that *Kung Fu* still lives!". Another data found in the pledge is in datum 16.

3.3 Agree

The agreement is to respond to a directive. Agreeing on something refers to a positive response to a directive that could be expressed by "I agree..", "I approve..", "I like.." "of course..", and so forth. The example is found in the following conversation:

    (39/AGR)   SHEN   : "Run, run, little panda!"

        TIGRESS : "Po, come on! We need you to focus!"

        PO   : **"I go it, I got it!"**

        SHEN   : "Bring it down!"

In this conversation, Tigress reminded Po that he must focus and protect himself to avoid the collapse of the palace. Then Po says "I got it, I got it!" that means Po agrees with Tigress to save himself. The characters are Shen, Po, and Tigress. Shen is a white male peacock who will take the Gongmen City. Po and Tigress are the Dragon Warrior members.

The conversation happens when all Dragon Warrior members fought Shen and the wolves in the palace. Shen gave the big cannon to all members and the palace tower is crumbling. Inside the crumbling tower, Po lost his grip. Then Tigress reminded Po to stay focused on the condition. So, Po said "I go it, I got it!", that means he agrees to focus and try to solve the condition. Similar data could be found in numbers 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 36, 39, 43, 44, 52, 54, 55, and 56.

3.4 Refuse

Refuse is also one of the comissive speech acts to refuse to commit oneself to some future action (Kreidler 1998). It means refuse is to respond to a negative directive towards something to the listener based on the situation. Refuse is usually a stronger decline and more formal, more polite responses. The refuse can be expressed by "I disagree..", "I decline..", "I do not like.." "we reject.." and so on. Datum 32 contains the example of refusing:

> **(32/REF)** PO : "Listen to yourself! You're protecting Gongmen City by not protecting Gongmen City? If we all fight together…"
> OX : "Then the weapon would kill… everyone!"
> PO : "Oh, would it? then we'll use… a sneak attack! We'll get inside, and then…"
> CROC: "And then you'll be stopped… by the unstoppable weapon!"
> PO : "**Nothing's unstoppable except for me when I'm stopping you from telling me something's unstoppable!**"

From the dialogue, Po refuses Master Croc's argument. By saying "Nothing's unstoppable except for me when I'm stopping you from telling me something's unstoppable!". It means Po does not agree and believes in what Master Croc said. The characters in the dialogue are Po, Master Ox, and Master Croc. Po is one of the Dragon Warrior members, Master Ox and Master Croc are the legend of *Kung Fu* Master.

The setting is at the prison in Gongmen City where all Dragon Warriors found them and invited all Masters to fight Shen. Master Ox and Master Croc were trying to convince Po and all members not to fight Shen because Shen has an unstoppable weapon that could destroy the city. Po refused their argument because he believed that he can stop the weapon. So, Po said, "Nothing's unstoppable except for me when I'm stopping you from telling me something's unstoppable!". A similar analysis could be found in the data number 12, 13, 19, 25, 33, 35, 40, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 59, and 60.

3.5 Volunteer

To volunteer is to be self-motivated to some future action (Kreidler 1998). It is prospective and concerned with the speaker's commitment to future action. To volunteer is indicated by saying "I got this", "I'm ready", and so on. The writer finds nine conversations containing the act of volunteering. One of them is as follows:

> **(6/VOL)** PO : "Is everybody okay? **Don't worry, I got this!**"
> TIGRESS : "Po!"
> BOSS WOLF : "Chew on that, tubby!"

The characters are Po, Tigress, and Boss Wolf. Po and Tigress are the Dragon Warrior members. Then, Boss Wolf is the leader of Shen's soldiers. The setting is the village in the morning. Po and all the Dragon Warriors fought against some wolves who stole some metals from the residents.

Thereupon, the Dragon Warrior members could stop the theft. When Po wanted a volunteer, he repulsed a punch from the Boss Wolf. Po said, "Don't worry, I got this!". However, Po could not handle it because he saw the symbol on Boss Wolf's shoulder. In the conversation, Po said "Don't worry, I got this!" because Po wanted to volunteer to handle the

last punch of the Boss Wolf who stole some metals. The other data that contain the volunteering act are in numbers 2, 12, 23, 25, 40, 58, and 59.

3.6 Offer

Offer is to offer something/goods (Kreidler 1998). This is prospective and concerned with the speaker's commitment to future action. It can be expressed by the utterance such as "May I help you?", "Shall I make a cup of tea for you?", "What can I do for you?", and others. There were four conversations containing the act of offering. One of them is as follows:

(53/OFE)	MOTHER PIG :	"What do you mean he's not here? It's my son's birthday! All he wanted was to meet the Dragon Warrior!"
	MR. PING :	"**How about some tofu birthday cake, instead?**"
	MOTHER PIG :	"You know what… we'll try again some other time. When do you think he'll be back?"
	MR. PING :	"I don't know, okay, I DON'T KNOW! Maybe *never*! I mean, I worry, okay, I'm his dad… or at least I was his dad… Why did he have to go and save China… I know why, but why? My little panda…"

In the conversation, the mother pig wanted to fulfill his son's wish to meet the Dragon Warrior on his birthday. The characters in the conversation are Mother Pig who is a customer ordering noodles. Mr. Ping is a seller of noodles who is Po's father. The setting is at Mr. Ping's restaurant. At that time, the situation of the restaurant was crowded.

There were so many customers ordering noodles. Mother Pig wanted to celebrate his son's birthday at the restaurant because she hoped that her son could meet Po, the Dragon Warrior. Unfortunately, Mr. Ping did not know when Po would come back so he offered a tofu birthday cake to the boy by saying "How about some tofu birthday cake, instead?". The offer was made to make the boy happy since he could not meet his idol. The other data on offer is found in numbers 7 and 42.

3.7 Threat

Threatening is to intimidate the listener in such a situation (Kreidler 1998). The threat makes a speaker commit to a course of action. In this case, the speaker is capable to do the act and intends to perform it.

(28/TRE)	WOLF :	"This rice is raw!"
	SHEEP :	"But you stole all my metal pots for Lord Shen!"
	WOLF :	"**Either you cook my rice, or I cook you!**"
	SHEEP :	"My apologies…"

The characters are Wolf and Sheep. The wolf is a soldier and the Sheep is a woman of a village merchant. The conversation took place at the crowded market of Gongmen City in the morning. When the wolf ate the rice, he took the rice out of his mouth since the rice was raw. The wolf wanted the Sheep to recook the rice but Sheep declined Wolf's order because he

knew that the wolf is a soldier of Shen. Shen was an enemy of the Gongmen City. He usually steals all metals of the villagers. Therefore, Wolf threatened Sheep by saying "Either you cook my rice, or I cook you!". Afterward, Sheep recooked the rice for the wolf. Some other data that conveyed the threat are in data 26, 30, 31, 37, and 46.

The research found and classified the comissive speech acts into the promise, pledge, agree, refuse, volunteer, offer, and threat. Furthermore, the functions of each type of comissive speech act were also discussed in this research. The writer finds 60 data containing commisive utterances used by the characters in *Kung Fu Panda 2* movie. The data is divided into some cases and classified according to the theory. The most dominant type is agreed, there are 20 data (33,3%) of agreeing found. Next, the least one type is the pledge, there are 2 data (3,3%) of pledging found. The table below shows the calculation of the findings.

TABLE 2. The Percentage of Research Finding

No.	Type	Frequency	Percentage
1	Promise	4	6,7%
2	Pledge	2	3,3%
3	Agree	20	33,3%
4	Refuse	16	26,7%
5	Volunteer	9	15%
6	Offer	3	5%
7	Threat	6	10%
	TOTAL	**60**	**100%**

The most dominant type of commissive speech act used by the characters is agreed because the characters have different social statuses. Agree is a speech act to respond to the direction (Kreidler 1998). The data shows that there are differences in social status. The differences in social status such as between leaders and employees, elder and younger, or parent and their children. The difference in social status that occurs in agree utterance is between father and son. When the father gave direction or opinion, his son agreed with what his father said. The data refers to Po and Mr. Ping. Mr. Ping gives the direction and Po gives agreement. It proved that agreement was possible to perform on the difference in social status between the speakers and the hearers. The speakers have a higher position than the hearer.

The least type of commisive speech act used by the characters is a pledge. The pledge is uttered when the participants have a similar social status. A similar social status is seen between leader and leader, elder and elder, employee and employee, and friends of the same age. In the data, a pledge occurred in the conversation between the warriors.

Furthermore, this study is relevant to the previous study. However, the writer finds a difference between the findings in this study with the findings of the previous study. (Kumalasari, 2019) mainly focused on the types of speech acts of the utterances in a movie. There are only eleven types of commissive speech acts found in the previous research. In this study, the writer found seven types of commissive speech acts.

5. CONCLUSION

The study focused on finding the types and functions of the commissive speech acts. The types of commissive speech act found in the movie of *Kung Fu Panda 2* were classified into a promise, pledge, agree, refuse, volunteer, offer, and threat. The promise functioned to make the speaker commit to hearer-on future action. The pledge functioned to make the speaker

commit to future action in public. The agreement functioned to respond to the directive. The refuse functioned to refuse to commit oneself to some future action. The volunteer functioned as a self-motivated act. The offer functioned to offer something/goods. The threat functioned to intimidate the listener in the situation.

The study identified the agree as a dominant type of commissive speech act used in the movie. The type occurred between the characters of the movie that had different social statuses. The characters who performed the agreement have a lower social status or authority than the characters who give the direction. The differences in social status occurred in the conversations between father and son, teacher and students, master and servant, and also the elder to younger. The findings and discussion presented in this study are expected to be useful not only for students who learn pragmatics and linguistics but also for other researchers. This study could be a reference for other researchers conducting further research on speech acts, especially those related to commissive utterances. Hopefully, this study could encourage other researchers to conduct further research on other types of speech acts used in the movie.

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