

Illocutionary Acts Produced by the Main Characters in Khaled Hosseini's "A Thousand Splendid Suns"

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Abstract

This study is aimed at finding illocutionary acts and the speech function of the main characters in Khaled Hosseini's novel "A Thousand Splendid Suns", particularly the part one of the novel. This research is designed in descriptive qualitative. The procedure of analyzing the utterances is based on the criteria proposed by Searle (1997) and Schiffrin (1994). The results show that the utterances produced by the main characters in part one of the novel are mostly using directive, followed by commissives and representative, but rarely with expressives. There is no declarative at all in the part one of the novel.

Key words: *Novel, utterance, illocutionary act, speech function*

A. BACKGROUND

It is commonly known that a novel is a bound of book containing a long fictional narrative. Novels tell stories with many characters in a sequence of events, starting from orientation, rising actions, climax and ending. One of the famous novels that the writer wants to deal with is "A Thousand Splendid Suns", written by Khaled Hosseini. Novel is one of the examples of the representation of language interaction. Every character in the novel communicates with language, and they do something through the language as well.

This study utilizes linguistic approach, which takes the pragmatic aspect as one of the branches of Linguistics study. Pragmatics is the branch of linguistics which studies how utterances communicate meaning in context (Karthik, 2013). Speech act, the basic unit of human communication, or in other words, is an utterance that serves a function in communication, is studied in pragmatics. This linguistic theory is suitable for analyzing the illocutionary acts in a novel.

Theoretically, there are three kinds of meaning in Speech act. They are called Locutionary, Illocutionary, and Perlocutionary. Locutionary act is the utterance produced by a speaker with a purpose and a reference. Illocutionary act is carried out by a speaker to make the actual words uttered. Perlocutionary act is produced by a speaker making an utterance. For example, one of the dialogues from "A Thousand Splendid Suns" says "*Are you coming?*". In this dialogue the reader can catch it as the means of asking someone if she will come. In fact, the real meaning of that dialog is commanding someone to come quickly. That is the basic concept of illocutionary acts as an indirect command.

One more rationale for this research undertaking is that a novel as the object inasmuch as novel is one of the language uses created by the author application in, such as characterization, theme, and effect. It is very much hoped that this research will help the readers to understand the meaning within the dialogue, particularly the acts employed in Khaled Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns.

B. PROBLEM OF THE STUDY

Based on the description in the background above, the statement of the problem can be descriptively formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of illocutionary acts produced by the main characters of Khaled Hosseini's novel "A Thousand Splendid Suns"?
2. What are the speech function uttered by the main characters of Khaled Hosseini's "A Thousand Splendid Suns"?

C. AIM OF THE STUDY

Based on the problems above, the aims of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the types of illocutionary acts produced by the main characters of Khaled Hosseini's novel "A Thousand Splendid Suns."
2. To find out the speech function uttered by the main characters of Khaled Hosseini's "A Thousand Splendid Suns"?

D. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Novel is one of kinds of literary works. As a social mirror, novel contains of story that based on a social life or probably a real life. Like what Hosseini (2007) wrote in his novel A Thousand Splendid Suns, the setting of the story is really based on what happened at that time in Afghanistan. So, there are absolutely social communication between one character to another.

In a novel, there are definitely many narration and dialogues uttered by all the characters in it. In the process of uttering dialog, there are certain actions which are used for certain purposes. It has something to do with how people convey a message through a language. The study of what speakers mean to convey when they use a particular structure in context is called the study of pragmatics (Hatch, 1992: 260). Speech act, the basic unit of human communication, is studied in pragmatics. As the writer has mentioned earlier, one of kinds of speech acts is illocutionary act.

In this study, the writer uses Searle's theory (1997) which made a popular classification of illocutionary act. They were as follow:

1. Representative

The speaker is committed, in varying degrees, to the truth of a proposition, e.g. *Affirm, believe, conclude, deny, and report*. Here is the example: "*I inform you that our government makes a wrong policy for rising up the cost of oil.*" (*report*)

2. Directives

The speaker tries to get the hearer to do something, e.g. *Ask, challenge, command, insist, and request*. Here is the example: "*Can you pass me the salt?*" (*request*). Many directive sentences are posed as questions, so they are easy to identify by the presence of a question mark. However, many directive speech acts are sometimes not stated as a question but as a request for assistance. For example, a doctor may write "*I need your opinion on what drug to give this patient.*"

3. Commissive

The speaker is committed in varying degrees to certain course of action, e.g. *Guarantee, pledge, promise, swear, refusal, and flow*. The following is the example of commissive utterance: "*I promise not to fall in love with you.*" (*promise*)

4. Expressive

The speaker expresses an attitude about a state of affairs, e.g. *Apologize, deplore, congratulate, thanking, and welcoming*. Here is the sample sentence of Expressive:

"That's very kind of you for helping me finding my lost cat, thank you so much."
(Thanking)

5. Declarative

It is a kind of speech acts changing the word via utterances (Yule: 1996). The speaker changes the external status or condition of an object or situation solely by making the utterance, e.g. *I resign, I baptize, you're fired, and War s hereby declared.* The example of this illocutionary act of utterance sometimes can be found in a wedding ceremony, for example: *"I hereby declare you husband and wife."*

Meanwhile, Schiffrin (1994) classifies the four kinds of speech functions in order to identify utterances. They are as follows:

1. Question

Question is something to ask for an answer that is often expected to include an element of explanation.

2. Request

Request is a directive illocutionary act, which is indirect command said by the speaker to the listener. Generally, it is expressed by the modifier "please".

3. Offer

To offer is to give choice to the hearer about what the hearer wants.

4. Statement

Statement is one of the illocutionary acts of representative, which is said by the speaker in order to give information, declare something, or answer a question.

In addition, Searle has concentrated his work on speech acts on how a hearer believes a particular utterance to have the force it has, which he calls 'uptake' of an utterance (Wardhaugh, 2006, p.288). It can be classified into four categories. The first, *the propositional content rule*, requires merely the words that must predicate a future action of the speaker. The second, *the preparatory rules*, require that both the speaker and the hearer must want the act done and that it would not otherwise be done. Moreover, the speaker believes he or she can do what is said. The third, *sincerity rule*, requires the speaker to be sincere in uttering his or her words, and the fourth, the *essential rule*, says that the uttering of the words counts as undertaking an obligation to perform the action.

E. METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

This study was conducted in descriptive qualitative based on the library research to define the functional meaning of utterances produced by the main characters in Khaled Hosseini's novel "A Thousand Splendid Suns". The writer uses this novel as the data source because it is one of the best-seller novel in the world created by a famous novelist and the story is so interesting, touching, and containing many kinds of illocutionary acts. The data were in the form of words or sentences taken from several utterances and expressions in the novel.

The writer collected the data and analyzed it by using instruments, namely the taxonomy speech acts proposed by Searle (1997) and Schiffrin's (1994) speech function theory.

Since the novel is divided into four part, the data must be collected per part. However, in this study, the writer only collected the data from the first part of the novel. The procedure of data collection were as follow: 1) Reading the whole part 1 of the novel; (2) examining all the utterances contained taxonomy speech act and speech function.

Furthermore, the step of data analysis of this study can be formulated as follows: (1) Classifying the utterances of the main characters of the novel found based on the types of taxonomy speech act and speech function proposed by Searle (1997) and Schiffrin (1994), (2) Analyzing the data descriptively to explain the illocutionary act of each data.

F. DISCUSSION

Based on the Searle's (1997) theory, there are 5 parts to classify the acts. They are representative, commissive, directive, and expressive. The data of this study consist of 40 utterances. It is taken from the part one of the novel entitled *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The following table summarizes the speech acts types.

Table 6.1: Taxonomy of acts in selected dialog in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* part one

Types of Speech Act	Nana		Jalil		Mariam		Rasheed	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Representative	2	5	0	0	2	5	1	2,5
Directive	7	17,5	3	7,5	5	12,5	11	27,5
Commissive	1	2,5	2	5	1	2,5	2	5
Expressive	0	0	0	0	3	7,5	0	0
Declarative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notation: f: total of utterances ; %: percentage

The table above shows each type of speech acts spoken by each participant. The first participant, Nana, is dominated by directive utterance (17,5%). It means that questions, requests are mostly used by her. For example: *Are you listening?* and *Look at me, Mariam*. Nana is Mariam's mother. She loves Mariam. She is a kind woman but quiet stubborn because of being divorced by his husband.

Jalil is the second participant in this part of the novel. He dominated the dialogue using directive (7,5%) but not as many as Nana's. For example: *Is there anything you want?*. Jalil is Nana's ex-husband. He is a kind man and he loves his daughter, Mariam. Unfortunately, he does not behave good enough to Nana because he left her and marry three other women.

The third participant is Mariam. She also dominated the dialogue using directive utterance (12,5%). It mostly uses question utterances. For example: *are you angry with me?*. In the novel, Mariam is a kind-hearted girl. But after her mother passed away, she is forced to marry an old rich man. Her life becomes miserable and suffer.

The last participant is Rasheed. He is dominated by directive utterance (27,5%), mostly in commands (e.g. *Put this in your mouth!*). He is Mariam's husband. He is cruel, arrogant, selfish, and he likes doing a violence against his wife. That's why his dialogues are mostly in the form of commands since he often spat on his wife.

Table 6.2: Illocutionary Acts Classification

Speech act classification	Illocutionary acts classification	f	%
Representative	Information	1	2,5 %

	Statement	3	7,5%
	Conclusion	1	2,5%
Directive	Question	6	15%
	Command	14	35%
	Request	3	7,5%
	Offer	1	2,5%
	Warning	2	5%
Commissive	Promise	4	10%
	Refusal	1	2,5%
	Threat	1	2,5%
Expressive	Regret	1	2,5%
	Apologize	2	5%
Declarative		0	0%

Notation: f:total of utterances ; %:percentage

From those 40 utterances, there are 5 representative utterances: 1 information (e.g. *And there he is, your father. In all his glory*), 3 statements (e.g. *It ends here for you and me.*), and 1 conclusion (e.g. *And so, your father built us this rathole*). 26 directive utterances: 6 questions (e.g. *What is there to learn?*), 14 commands (e.g. *Get up. Come here. Get up.*), 3 requests (e.g. *Don't leave like this.*), 1 offer (e.g. *Is there anything you want?*), and 2 warnings (e.g. *Careful. It's hot.*). 6 commissive utterances: 4 promises (e.g. *I'll visit you. I'll come to Kabul and see you.*), 1 refusal (e.g. *I don't want to. I don't want this. Don't make me.*), and 1 threat (e.g. *I'll die if you go. You'll see. I'll swallow my tongue and die.*). 3 expressive utterances: 1 regret (e.g. *I shouldn't have left her..*) and 2 apologizes (e.g. *I'm sorry, Nana.*).

Based on the table 6.2, the participants deliver information mostly using statements. It can be seen in representative of statement (7,5%). Then, for delivering desire directly, the participants use the directive of command as we can see in the percentage (35%). Furthermore, the participants commit for their future action by using the commissive of promise (10%). Finally, the participant states her feeling using expressive of apologize (5%).

Table 6.3: Speech Function Types

Characters	Types of Speech Function							
	Question		Request		Offer		Statement	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Nana	3	7,5	4	10	0	0	3	7,5
Jalil	0	0	2	5	1	2,5	2	5
Mariam	1	2,5	4	10	0	0	6	15
Rasheed	2	5	9	22,5	0	0	3	7,5

Notation: f:total of utterances ; %:percentage

Based on the table above the writer classified those 40 utterances of four main characters of the novel according to the theory of speech function proposed by Schiffrin (1994). Nana performed 10 utterances, consists of 3 questions, 4 requests, and 3 statements. It means that requests (10%) dominate the dialogues (e.g. *Look at me,*

Mariam). The speaker commands someone by requesting something. She wants the listener to do what she requests.

Jalil performed 5 utterances, consists of 2 requests, 1 offer, and 2 statements. It means that his dialog is dominated by requests (5%) (e.g. *Don't leave like this*) and statements (5%) (e.g. *I'll visit you. I'll come to Kabul and see you*). The speaker commands someone by requesting something. He also gives information by stating something.

Mariam performed 11 utterances, consist of 1 question, 4 requests, and 6 statements, it means that statements dominate her dialogues (15%). For example: *It ends me, for you and me*. The speaker gives information by stating something.

Rasheed performed 14 utterances, consist of 2 questions, 9 requests, and 3 statements. It means that requests dominate his dialogues (22,5%). For example: *I expect you to start behaving like a wife. Is that understood?*. The speaker wants the listener to do what the speaker says.

1. Question

Question is something to ask to get an answer or to find out information.

(35) *Are you angry with me?*

The form of the utterance (35) is question. Thus, the meaning of the utterance is:

a. Propositional content

Propositional content of the utterance represents a future course of action of the hearer to tell something which has been asked by the speaker.

b. Preparatory

The preparatory condition is that the speaker believes that the hearer is able to answer the question.

c. Sincerity

The speaker is sincere in asking the question to the hearer and she hopes the hearer answers the question.

d. Essential

The utterance indicates the speaker's seriousness in getting the answer.

2. Request

Request is an indirect command said by the speaker to the hearer.

(22) *Don't leave like this.*

The form of the utterance (22) is request. Thus, the meaning of the utterance is:

a. Propositional content

Propositional content of the utterance represents a future course of action of the hearer to do something for the speaker.

b. Preparatory

The preparatory condition is the speaker believes that the hearer is able to do the thing requested by the speaker.

c. Sincerity

The speaker is sincere in delivering her request to the hearer.

d. Essential

The utterance indicates the speaker's seriousness in requesting something. It is seen that the speaker does not give the option of refusal to the listener.

3. Offer

Offer is when someone asks you if you would like to have something or if you would like them to do something.

(15) *Is there anything you want?*

The form of the utterance (15) is offer. The meaning of the utterance is:

- a. Propositional content
Propositional content of the utterance represents a future course of action of the hearer to choose something that has been offered.
- b. Preparatory
The preparatory condition is the speaker believes that the hearer will choose an option.
- c. Sincerity
The speaker is sincere in offering something to the hearer.
- d. Essential
The utterance indicates the speaker's seriousness in offering something to the hearer.

4. Statement

Statement is something that someone says to express an opinion.

(34) *I think it's a boy. Yes. A boy.*

The utterance above is a statement. Thus, the meaning of the utterance is:

- a. Propositional content
Propositional content of the utterance represents the speaker's course of action in giving statement about something to the hearer.
- b. Preparatory
The preparatory condition is that the speaker believes that her statement is something important.
- c. Sincerity
The speaker is sincere in giving her statement to the hearer as a matter of some importance.
- d. Essential
The utterance shows the speaker's seriousness in giving her statement.

G. CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis and discussion previously presented, there are two points to be concluding related to the problem of this study. First, it was found that there are four illocutionary acts types found in the utterances in the part one of the novel entitled "A Thousand Splendid Suns" authored by Khaled Hosseini based on the theory of Searle (1997). They are representative, directive, commissive, and expressive. Each of the main characters mainly performed directive speech act (65%). A directive speech act occurs when the speaker expects the listener to do something as a response. It means that the utterances produced by each of the main characters is primarily in the form of question, request, and command. Second, based on the speech function theory proposed by Schiffrin (1994), the finding shows that the speech function mainly used by the main characters is request (47,5%). However, the requests here are not simply requests in general. Commands are included in the request form since they can be paraphrased into requests.

H. REFERENCES

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