Illocutionary Act Found in Movie "Nimona"

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Abstract- Illocutionary act is a way of someone to utter something with intended meaning or purpose behind it. This research aimed to find out the type of illocutionary act that is uttered in a movie titled "Nimona". Searle's theory was applied in this research, which is types of illocutionary acts. The movie was chosen as a data source because the researcher was interested in the movie plot and the characters unique direct and indirect expression of illocutionary act. The studies were needed to offer a deeper understanding about what type of illocutionary act was found in the movie and about the movie plot that shown a various of unique expressions that was delivered by the characters. The result of the discussion showed that all the illocutionary acts were found throughout the movie. The researcher found 74 data points in total after observing the movie and script, the most data that were found was expressive illocutionary act. There are 3 data of declarative, 1 data of assertive, 41 data of expressive, 25 data of directive, and 4 data of commissive.

Keywords: Illocutionary Acts, Nimona, Qualitative Analysis, Movie Analysis

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most crucial things in human life. As human beings, it is crucial to communicate with one another. Language also has different forms, which are spoken, written, and sign. We communicate to convey our needs, express our feelings, share information, develop social relationships, etc. Linguistics is a study of language. In linguistics, it studied about structure of language such as how does language transform into a sentence, the history of language such as how does language become a way to communicate, and many more. Linguistics also studied about a few specific materials; one of them is pragmatic.

In pragmatics, language plays an important role. According to (Yule, 1996), pragmatics is a study about contextual meaning communicated by speakers or writers, and interpreted through listeners or readers. Therefore, language play an important role in pragmatics. In pragmatics, it is not only focusing on the words themselves, but also conveying the meaning of the real-life situation. From pragmatics, we can learn more about what people are saying. We can learn the meaning of what people utter from learning pragmatic. One of the pragmatic studies is called speech act. Based on Yule's theory, speech acts can be divided into 3 categories, which are: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts.

(Yule, 1996) stated that "locutionary act is the basic act of utterance or producing a meaningful linguistic expression". A locutionary act can be said to be the basic way to utter something; for example, the weather is so hot today. According to (Yule, 1996), "illocutionary act is performed via the communicative force of

an utterance". An illocutionary act is about the speaker's intention toward something that uses the function in mind. "perlocutionary act is the actual effect that is achieved by an utterance", stated (Yule, 1996). A perlocutionary act is an effect that the speaker achieves after uttering a request or a statement that the speaker produces from illocutionary act.

According to (Searle, 1969), illocutionary can be divided into five categories, which are: declaration, assertive, expressive, directive, and commissive. The first category is declaration, which is a way to declare some situation from the speaker that has a specific role. Assertive is a way for the speaker to utter believe in something. Expressive is used to express what the speaker feels in some situation. Directiveness is used by the speaker to ask the listener to do something. The last one is commissive, which is used by the speaker to intended some situation by giving promises, threats, refusals, and pledges to the listener.

This study main achievement is to find the type of illocutionary act that is implied in the movie entitled "Nimona" using Searle's theory, and to find what the meaning of illocutionary acts that has been found.

There are several related studies that are linked to illocutionary speech act study. The first related studies were taken from an article written by (Puranjani & Rajeg, 2022). It was focused on analysing directive illocutionary acts from a movie entitled "The Desperate House." In the research, it was mentioned that there were seven directive illocutionary acts found in the movie entitled "The Desperate Hour." This includes, asking, commanding, inviting, begging, suggesting, requesting, and interrogating.

The second related study was taken from an article written by (Permana & Mauriyat, 2021) that analysed a speech act that was uttered by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in his political speech. In this research, the writers covered 21 illocutionary acts and locutionary acts that uttered by former President. The result of their finding includes; reporting and stating (assertive), advising and commanding (directive), and testing (commissive).

A thesis written by (Hanun, 2021) analysed a speech act that were found in the movie script entitled "Sammy's Adventure." This research covers locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts. This thesis used theory by Yule (1996). The thesis found all types of illocutionary acts.

Both (Permana & Mauriyat, 2021) and (Hanun, 2021) studies analysed a speech act. (Permana & Mauriyat, 2021) studies analysed how speech acts were found and used in a political speech that was uttered by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The illocutionary act that was found in the studies was directive, commissive, and assertive. (Hanun, 2021) studies focused on analysing a speech act via movie script. The studies showed all types of illocutionary acts were found.

A thesis that was written by (Sa'adah, 2021) covered an analysis of illocutionary speech acts that were uttered by the main character in a movie entitled "The Jungle Book Movie." The writer found all types of illocutionary acts in the movie "The Jungle Book Movie. Another article was written by (Haucsa et al., 2020). The study analysed an illocutionary speech act that was found in Tom Cruise's interview. This study's data was taken by watching a YouTube video of Tom Cruise's interview, and the writers collected 39 data points of the illocutionary speech act. Both studies focused on analysing all types of illocutionary speech acts. The difference between those studies is that (Sa'adah, 2021) studies found all types of illocutionary acts and used movies as a media to collect the data, (Haucsa et al., 2020) studies used an interview via YouTube as the media and found all types of illocutionary speech acts except declarative.

The last related studies were an article written by (Candra et al., 2023). The studies were focused on analysing expressive illocutionary act from a movie entitled "The Visit." This study discussed seven different types of expressive illocutionary speech acts. Namely protest, condole, apologize, compliment, deplore, thank, boast.

This study is different from other studies that have been stated. Thus, this study uses the theory of (Searle, 1969) and analyses the movie that has not been analysed before. Therefore, this research created to provide a new founding of illocutionary act in a different media that has not been analysed.

In this study, the writer applied a theory from (Searle, 1969). The data were collected from an animated movie from Netflix entitled "Nimona" that was released in 2023 with a review by (Metacritic, 2023) which are 7.3 and (Tomato, 2023) which are 92%. According to (Bruno, 2023) the movie "Nimona" talking about a girl namely Nimona helping a knight namely Ballister to gain back his reputation by revealing

the truth about the Queen's killer.

Movie is a media to express people emotion through a moving picture with storytelling or a media to tell documentary of a real event. According to (Cambridge University, 1999), movie is a film shown in a cinema or on television and often telling a story, based on (Webster, 1999) *Merriam Webster* dictionary, movie is a recording of moving image that tell a story. One of the most used streaming media to watch a movie is called Netflix. (Hosch & Ashburn, 2024) stated that Netflix is a streaming service that use to stream movie or television series.

II. METHODS

The data for this research was taken from an American science fiction film entitled "Nimona," which was released on June 30, 2023, and was directed by *Nick Bruno* and *Troy Quane*. The script was written by (Baird & Taylor, 2023) and downloaded from a website called thescriptlab.com, and the movie was streamed from a streaming platform called Netflix with a duration of one-hour forty-one minutes. The data were collected using the observation method by watching the movie and reading the script, then taking note of the data that are related to the illocutionary act by Searle (1969). The data that was already found was analysed using the descriptive-qualitative method by linking the data with the type of illocutionary act by Searle's theory. By using qualitative method, it can help the reader to fully understand of the context from the data that has been collected.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of this study is presented to analyze the illocutionary act that can be found in a movie entitled "Nimona" by using the theory of Searle (1969). It analysed the type of illocutionary act by Searle (1969), namely declaration, assertive, expressive, directive, and commissive. The research may also be found with more than one type of illocutionary act, since the dialogue can mean one or more statement. The researcher found 74 data points in total. The most dominant illocutionary act is expressive speech act classification that has 41 data, followed by directive that has 25 data, commissive that has 4, declarative that has 3 data, and finally, assertive that has 1 data. The data was analysed by showing conversation between characters, followed by a description analysis of the data meaning. The following part is a discussion of the result in analysing type of illocutionary speech act in the movie entitled "Nimona." Expressive was found the most dominant in the movie entitled "Nimona" because the movie shown a lot of relation from one character to other characters, also the film has a lot of dramatic scenes, conflict, etc. Therefore, the movie "Nimona" cover various of expression from their characters.

1) Declaration

Searle (1969) stated that declaration is a way of someone who have an important role utter some situation to happened. The result of the data collection shown how declaration uttered in movie entitled Nimona.

Data 1

Queen Valerin	:	**I hereby pronounce you sir Ambrosius Goldenloin, Hero of the Realm. Stand, Sir Knight.**

("Nimona", 0:06:38 - 0:06:49)

Based on the dialogue above, it is shown that Queen Valerin as the queen, declares the accolade of Goldenloin as a knight in front of numerous townsfolks.

Based on the data that were found, Queen Valerin has a role as a queen in the city. The utterances that are bold, can be called as declaration because how someone with a specific role declaring some situation to happened. In this case, Queen Valerin directly declare Goldenloin as a knight. Therefore, the statement above can be considered as a declaration illocutionary act.

Data 2

Queen Valerin	:	**My people. Starting today, any of you should be able to hold the sword, if you want it. If you earn it.**
Queen Valerin	:	I've watched this young man earn it many times over.

("Nimona", 0:07:12 - 0:07:26)

Based on the data above, before the Queen bestow Ballister, the Queen namely Queen Valerin, declaring that now everyone is able to hold a sword or it can say that everyone is able to be a knight if they want to be one. Not only those who are a descendant of a knight.

Based on the dialogue above, Queen

Valerine declaring to her people that everyone can have a title of a knight, if they are able to earn it and able to hold the sword. The dialogue shown that Queen Valerine as the Queen, directly declare an important statement to her people. That action categorized as a declaration illocutionary act, because it was a declaration made by the Queen to her people.

2) Assertive

Assertive based on Searle (1969), is a way of someone to believe in some situation. The result of the data collection shown how representative can be utter in movie entitled Nimona.

Data 3

Ballister	:	Why are you helping me?
Nimona	:	Because I'm bored.
Nimona	:	and everybody hates you, too.
Ballister	:	**The Squire...has to know something. He's the one that gave me the sword. The sword that...that...**

("Nimona", 0:22:39 – 0:23:25)

On the dialogue above, it is taking place in Ballister house. Nimona offer to help Ballister clear out his name from the criminal list but Ballister look skeptic and scared that Nimona might has some bad intention towards him. Because of that, he asking Nimona what is her real intention towards him.

Based on the dialogue, Ballister believe that the Squire know something about the Queen's killer. Ballister also stated that the Squire is the one who gave the sword to him. This is can be categories as a representative because Ballister believe that the Squire must be plotting bad scene and blame Ballister for what happened.

3) Expressive

Searle (1969) stated, expressive is a way of the speaker to express what they feel the result of the data collection shown how expressive can be utter in movie entitled Nimona.

Data 4

Nimona	:	**Whoa, yeah, sick arm!** Did it bleed a lot?
Ballister		Huh?
Queen Valerin	:	Did they let you keep the old one?!

("Nimona", 0:10:37 – 0:10:27)

Based on the data above, it is shown that Nimona was interested with Ballister missing arms while she observing everything inside Ballister's house. She shown a very exciting expression while asking Ballister a question about his arms.

The dialogue shown that Nimona give an excited expression and curiousness towards Ballister's missing hand. She shown it by directly asking Ballister about the feeling of his missing arm with the expression of excitement and curiousness.

Data 5

Ballister	:	Director. I'm Innocent, I swear on Gloreth's name.
Ballister	:	I don't know how it…how it happened.
Director	:	**We all saw how it happened. I feel so foolish and… I trusted you. The Queen believed in you. She thought someone like you could be a hero. And it cost her her life.**

("Nimona", 0:13:12 – 0:13:40)

The data above shown that the director visit Balliser in his cell to say how disappointed she feel knowing that Ballister, the new knight that are chosen by the Queen killed the Queen while she declares Ballister as a knight. Ballister trying to convince the director that he is not guilty, but she already feels disappointed at Ballister.

Based on the dialogue above, the director shown that she was disappointed at Ballister because he was the one that killed the Queen, while the Queen bestowed Ballister. The feeling of disappointment that are spoken by the director directly to Ballister can be categorized as an expressive illocutionary act. It is shown an expression of sorrowness from the director.

4) Directive

Directive based on Searle (1969), is a way of the speaker to asking someone to do something. The result of the data collection shown how directive is utter in movie entitled Nimona.

Data 6

| Institute Analyst | : | **My people. Starting today, any of you should** |

		be able to hold the sword, if you want it. If you earn it.
Goldenloin	:	And we'll be there to meet him. Now we go. Everyone to the martket!
Knight	:	Yes sir!

("Nimona", 0:32:12 – 0:32:21)

Based on the data above Goldenloin, Institute Analyst, and Knight trying to find and track Ballister and Nimona to arrest them. On the dialogue above, Goldenloin as the leader commanding the Knight to chase and capture Nimona and Ballister at the market.

It can be shown on the dialogue above that Goldenloin directly commanding or asking the Knights to hunt and capture Nimona and Ballister at the market. Therefore, it can categorize as directive because how Goldenloin ask the Knights to hunt and capture Nimona and Ballister.

Data 7

Ballister	:	**We just find the squire and question him.**
Nimona	:	And then hurt him.
Ballister	:	No, no. And then find the proof

("Nimona", 0:27:46 – 0:27:50)

Based on the data above, it is shown that Ballister and Nimona have a mission to search the squire to ask for some proof. Nimona asked Ballister if they will hurt the squire in order to get the proof, and Ballister said to Nimona that they just going to capture and interrogate the squire.

The dialogue shown that Ballister directly asking Nimona to capture and question the squire without any force. The dialogue shown that Ballister asked Nimona to do something, and it is can be categorized as directive illocutionary act.

Data 8

Nimona	:	Oh yeah, the punk in the trunk. Let's go dunk on the punk in the trunk.
Ballister	:	Start talking

("Nimona", 0:40:59 – 0:41:08)

Based from the dialogue, Nimona and Ballister capture the squire, the name of the squire is Diego. They put Diego on the trunk of their stolen car. When Ballister talk with Nimona, Diego gains conscious and knocking on the trunk. Nimona opened the trunk and Ballister asked him to start talking and reveal the truth.

The dialogue above shown that Ballister demand Diego to speak up about the truth that happened before the accolade. The dialogue shown that after Nimona opened the trunk, Ballister directly demand Diego to reveal the truth about what had happened. It is shown that what Ballister utter can be categorized as directive illocutionary act.

5) Commissive

Searle (1969) stated that commissive is a way of the speaker to committing themselves onto something, such as telling promises. The result of the data collection shown how commissive is utter in movie entitled Nimona.

Data 9

Ballister	:	Why would I trust you?!
Nimona	:	Because if you don't, you're gonna die in this closet!!
Ballister	:	Die?
Nimona		So, promise!
Ballister		**I Promise!**

("Nimona", 0:17:26 – 0:17:31)

Based on the data above, it is shown that Nimona asking Ballister to making a promise to her that he won't be panicking. They trapped in a tiny closet trying to escape the guard because Nimona helping Ballister escaping from the prison.

The dialogue above shown, that Nimona directly asked Ballister to make a promise that he would not freaking out by what going to happened. Because of the intense situation, Ballister agree to make a promise to Nimona. The bolded part can be categorized as commissive illocutionary act. It is shown that Ballister promise her not to freak out.

Data 10

Nimona	:	You promised
Ballister	:	Right!
Nimona	:	Right. **You promise not to freak out.**

("Nimona", 0:18:28 – 0:18:32)

Based on the data above, the dialogue shown that Nimona and Ballister was escaping the guards in the castle. Nimona was shapeshifting throughout the entire fleeing, Ballister seems scared and concerned that he might get injured from Nimona shapeshifting and he wanting to

just run instead of using Nimona to escaping the castle. Ballister already making promise that he would not freak out of anything that going to happened.

The dialogue state that Ballister dierectly made a promise to Nimona that he would not freak out when something unexpected happened while they fleeing from the guards. It is shown that what Ballister does can be categorized as commissive illocutionary act.

IV. CONCLUSION

In line with the finding and analysis above, it can be concluded that the movie entitled "Nimona" contains 74 data of illocutionary act using theory by Searle (1969). Which are, expressive that has 41 data, followed by directive that contain 25 data, continue by commissive that has 4 data, declarative that has 3 data and finally, assertive that has 1 data. In accordance with the data that has been collected, it is shown that the most dominant type found in the movie entitled "Nimona" is expressive speech act classification. It is shown that the movie entitled "Nimona" has plenty of expression that are shown from the character inside the movie. The strong bond from one character to other character, the genre of the movie, the plot that were covered by the movie such as friendship, love, betrayal, ect, can be an indicate that expressive illocutionary act appear frequently throughout the movie. For future research, the recent finding can be compared with the future research that cover other movie or do a deeper dive on the most common tpye of illocutionary act namely, expressive illocutionary act by categorizing what type of expression does the characters utter or shown.

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