

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer would like to discuss several points of the introduction of the research. There are background of the study, research question, definition of key terms, objective of the study, significances of the study, and organization of the thesis.

A. Background Of the Study

In this chapter, the writer would like to present the introduction. Which cover the background of the study, the research question, the definition of the key terms, the objective of the study, the significances of the study, and the organization of the thesis.

One of the most viewed superhero films globally is The Avengers: Endgame. This film contains many fascinating Illocutionary acts that are worth delving into. Austin (1962: 98) views making statements, asking questions, or giving commands as illocutionary acts, which are actions carried out using language. In communication, context is important because it helps the listener understand the speaker's purpose. Without a context, the addressee will have difficulties trying to make sense of what the speaker is trying to convey. Without context, the speaker and the addressee will not communicate well. The addressee may be confused or misinterpret the speaker's intentions.

Nadar (2009: 3-4) states, "Pragmatics is the study of the relation between language and its environment which is inscribed in the context structure". When

dealing with pragmatics, context is important. Nadar (2009: 6) asserts that background information that is assumed to be shared between the speaker and the addressee but assists the addressee interpret the utterance is context. Besides context, other elements of communication are the speaker and hearer, the objectives of the speech, and so on.

Chojimah (2015: 31) states that philosophers' sentences do not serve a purpose until their accuracy has been validated. There are characteristics which serve as declarative sentences that describe a particular situation. In accordance with speech acts theory, every utterance made by a person has several interpretations. These speech acts are observable in films, such as in the dialogues between characters. Thus, the author made a decision to analyze the film *Avengers: Endgame* to classify it into various types of illocution as outlined in speech acts.

There is also a way to use speech in which we attempt to assist someone in attaining their objectives. There are three components involved in the speaking act as detailed by Elite and Murcia (2000: 34): (1), the semantic component is the meaning given by the words that are used. "I am thirsty" presents a state that a speaker is in and describes it very simply. In the case of "please give me some water," It shows that it is in form of request so it displays the utterance's intended meaning. The term perlocution also encompasses the consequences of the action on the person who suffers the consequences.

Huang claims that a speaker's intended purpose or action associated with an utterance is an illocutionary act (2007: 102). Also, Cruse (2000: 332) asserts

that illocutionary acts are activities that are internal to locutionary acts in that they are performed after the locutionary act provided the suitable background conditions obtain.

According to Searle (1969: 120-123), sort the most fundamental types of illocutionary acts into groups. Its five types include: declarative, expressive, directive, representational, and commissive.

An example of an illocutionary act that encapsulates the values 'true or false' is Directive (guiding the interlocutor towards the primary objective of the speaker), expressive—conveys the speaker's true emotions, which does not externally reflect the world. Commissive (binds the speaker to a subsequent action) and Declaration (performing an illocutionary act that transforms the status quo).

In fact, communicative is social interaction in which speech acts occur. There is always a purpose behind every word an individual uses to address another. For purposes such as seeking help, making a promise, or making a request, illocutionary acts bridge the gap and thus become inextricable from speech acts.

Illocutionary acts can manifest in the spoken word or written form such as magazines and newspapers. Zumaroh (2012: 22) states, "a movie is a motion image which is considered as an art form or a means of entertainment" as per Webster's third updated international dictionary. Since utterances in films do tend to have particular meanings, the filmmakers' dialogue can be analyzed as an educational of illocutionary acts. Every so often we get films which feel like

conversation we have in our day to day lives.

The writer remember one of such movies is Avengers: Endgame. It follows the story of superheroes attempting to undo the devastating consequences of Thanos' attack which eliminated half of life in the universe. With multiple superheroes and different philosophies, they try to unite. Iron Man is the main character who captures a time machine and ultimately decides to self-destruct to redeem the universe. Using advanced tech, the Avengers attempt to retrieve the Infinity Stones by going to different eras in MCU's timeline. There are many trials and losses, including Black Widow's sacrifice. This also allows Thanos to come from the future which leads to a massive conflict with the Avengers and their allies. In the end, during the epic final fight, Iron Man defeats Thanos, but at the cost of his life.

B. Research Question

The question related to this research is: what categories of illocutionary acts are present in the script of the movie Avengers: Endgame?

C. Definition of the Key Terms

In order to not overlook key concepts, the writer provides the following definitions:

1. Speech Act

In the form of spoken word, a task can be achieved by making a statement, giving a question, commanding, or even promising. "Speech acts are actions performed via utterances," as quoted by Yule (1996: 47). So, in context, doing speech is more than just expressing thoughts. It is accompanied

with layers of reasoning and intention.

2. Illocutionary Act

This is a subset of verbal actions that carry the intended meaning of the speaker. “Ordering, promising, saying, recommending and complaining are also illocutionary acts” (Searle, 1979: 12). This research focuses on Searle’s classification of speech acts which are: representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives.

3. Movie Script

A screenplay or movie script captures all dialogues, actions, face expressions and choreography in a film. It signifies not only the conversation between characters but also outlines the production's master plan. As noted by Bordwell and Thompson (2008: 38), a cinema script provides a structured sequence of scenes and dialogue that shapes the trajectory and execution of the film.

4. Avengers: Endgame

An American superhero film released in 2019, *Avengers: Endgame* was produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. It is the twenty-second addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) and a direct sequel to *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018). The movie serves as a great case study for practical evaluation, particularly with the use of speech acts such as illocutionary acts considering it a deeply woven tale featuring intense dialogues and interactions among the characters.

Avengers: Endgame serves as a the subject of the study because it

contains numerous speech acts performed by numerous characters in high-tension politically transformative moments. This allows for the identification of illocutionary functions like, demanding, expressing, requesting and asserting.

D. Objective of the Study

This research aims to achieve the following objectives: to examine the Avengers: Endgame movie script and to identify the various types of illocutionary acts contained within.

E. Significances of the Study

The findings of the study are expected to be useful theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically

This research is valuable to the study of pragmatics, specifically in relation to speech act theory. It broadens the literature on illocutionary acts by analyzing their contextual application in the script of a well-known movie, Avengers: Endgame. Utilizing Searle's classification of illocutionary acts, this research illustrates the empirical claim that language used in fiction often mirrors actual dialogues during interactions and communicates real-life intentions. It also creates baseline data for subsequent linguistic and discourse studies of comparable genres or forms of media.

2. Practically

In practical terms, the significance of the study can be summarized in the following two points:

a. For the Writer

This study improves the writer's comprehension and skill in employing pragmatic theories, especially the theory of illocutionary acts. It aids the writer understand the value of pragmatic inquiry and deepens their critical stance towards the role of language in mediated discourse.

b. For the Readers

This study serves as a relevant and useful example for students and enthusiasts of linguistics on how movie scripts can be analyzed through the prism of speech act theory. It enables students to appreciate the interplay between utterances and implicit functions such as requests, commands, or promises, and how these functions shape the plot and character evolution.

3. Pedagogically

This research can be used as a pedagogical reference in English language teaching and in courses such as linguistics, particularly in pragmatics and discourse analysis. It is more relevant with its popular culture references than abstract examples, thus capturing the attention of students. This study can help educators show the real-life application of speech act theory to dialogues, thereby making lessons more dynamic than traditional lecture formats.

F. Organization of the Thesis

The writer divides the thesis into five chapters. There are introduction, review to related literature, method of investigation, findings and interpretation, and conclusion

and suggestions. Chapter I is introduction that consists of background of the study, research question, definition of the key terms, objective of the study, significances of the study, and organization of the thesis. Chapter II is review of related literature that consists the theoretical study, previous studies, and theoretical framework. Chapter III is method of investigation that consists of research design, the source of data, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis. Chapter IV is findings and interpretation. The last is Chapter V that consists of conclusion and suggestions.