



Speech Act Used by Main Character “Teddy” in The Man from Toronto Movie

Trio Setia Estrada¹, Endratno Pilih Swasono²

triosetia.rr@gmail.com

^{1,2}Sastra Inggris, Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel, Surabaya, Jawa Timur

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to describe the speech act of the main character "Teddy" in The Man from Toronto Movie. The other description of this study is to find the speech acts function in Teddy's utterances. This study used a qualitative method to acquire the data. The writers collected the data by downloading the transcript of The Man from Toronto Movie. In investigating the speech acts of Teddy, this study applied Searle's (1980) theory of speech acts in analyzing the utterances produced by Teddy in The Man from Toronto Movie. The results showed that Teddy's 177 utterances were representative, expressive with 118 utterances, directive with 111 utterances, commissive with 10 utterances, and declarative with 2 utterances.

Keywords: *Pragmatic; Speech Act; Movie*

Introduction

Movie is a visual communication that uses video and audio to tell stories and help people learn. (Bottomley, 2018) stated that the potential of film for learning is for developing language, cultural understanding, and academic skills. There are many genres of movies, namely action, adventure, animation, comedy, drama, tragedy, horror, romance, thriller and fantasy. In this study, the writers are interested in analyzing the speech act used by the main character "Teddy," in an action-comedy movie entitled The Man from Toronto. The Man from Toronto is a 2022 American action-comedy film directed by Patrick Hughes. The movie stars Kevin Hart, Woody Harrelson, Jasmine Matthews, Kaley Cuoco, Pearson Fode, Lela Lauren, Jencarlos Canela, and Ellen Barkin. The Man from Toronto was released by Netflix on June 24, 2022.

This movie tells the story of "Teddy," a reckless fitness instructor who always messes up everything and wants to do something that can make his wife happy. However, in the midst of all these efforts, he is caught in a problem that drags him into a dangerous mission. He experienced various stressful things that he had never experienced. In the end, he managed to get through all these problems and managed to make his wife happy and, at the same time, met The Man from Toronto, the world's deadliest assassin who changed the course of his life.

There are a number of reasons and writers' considerations for choosing The Man from Toronto as the subject of this study. The first is the genre in The Man from Toronto, a merger of two opposite genres: action, which tends to be full of tension, and high tension, and comedy, which tends to be funny and fun, making the storyline not monotonous. The second is that this film stars Kevin Hart, a famous American stand-up comedian and actor.

The Man from Toronto also has moral values that we can implement into our daily lives, such as not being a careless person, always loving your partner under any circumstances, and always learning about communication and how to interact with other people so that it is not easily taken advantage of by others. In addition, the movie is fascinating as it presents many conflicts with the main characters making so many utterances to convey the message of this story.

A speech act is one of the pragmatic concepts expressed by John. L Austin. Examining the intended meaning of utterances, both spoken and written, is the field of study of pragmatics. Speech acts are acts related to actions performed by speech (Austin, 1962). Furthermore, (Yule, 1996) stated that speech acts are acts performed through speech. The concept of this theory deals essentially with the message intended to be conveyed by the speaker. This means that language produces words and sentences and performs actions. The core meaning studied in speech acts is the speaker's intention to express the action so the listener can understand the message.

(Searle, 1980), in his practical study of speech act, he considers speech act to be the most important in pragmatics. He classifies speech act into five types based on meaning and function: representative, expressive, directive, commissive, and declarative. Representative is a speech act related to a statement, explanation, answer, expression, or narration. Expressive speech acts are associated with

emotions, apologies, greetings, and condolences. A directive is a speech act about actions, giving instructions, or prohibiting. A commissive is a speech act related to a commitment, promise, oath, or swearing. Furthermore, declarative is a speech act about the declaration.

Previous studies discussing speech acts in movies area focused speech act (Royanti, 2019) conducted research entitled "Expressive Speech Act as Found on La La Land Movie" using qualitative method. The result showed that There are 35 utterances that include expressive speech acts. They are 10 utterances of apologies, 10 utterances of thanking, five utterances of welcoming, 2 utterances of lamenting, 2 utterances of deploring then, 2 utterances of boasting, 1 utterance of congratulating, and 3 utterances of forgiving withinside the conversation La La Land film and categorized their social function. (Tanjung, 2021) conducted research entitled "The Expressive Speech Act in The Lovely Bones Movie" using qualitative method. The results showed that there are 80 utterances of expressive speech acts used by the characters were found in The Lovely Bones movie. There were 7 utterances of apologizing, 6 utterances of blaming, 1 utterance of congratulating, 8 utterances of doubting, 8 utterances of greeting, 20 utterances of praising, 13 utterances of thanking, 10 utterances of regretting, 7 utterances of wishing.

Other researchers discussing speech acts in movies area (Muhartoyo & Kristani, 2013) conducted research entitled Directive Speech Act in The Movie "Sleeping Beauty" using qualitative methods. The result showed that 139 directive speech acts have found in the movie and the speech act of ordering was the most frequently used in the movie (21,6%). (Sari, 2020) conducted research entitled "The Speech Act of Cartoon Movie: Spongebob SquarePants' The Movie" using a descriptive qualitative method. The result showed that e directive speech act is the most frequent in SpongeBob SquarePants The Movie, with data 118 or 44,36% from 266 or 100% of the whole data. (Fitria, 2019) conducted research entitled "an Analysis of Directive Speech Act Found in "Koi Mil Gaya" Movie" using qualitative method. The result showed that the "Koi Mil Gaya" movie shows a directive speech act that contains a command, request, and suggestion. First, there are 165 data utterances in command. Second, suggestion with 20 utterances. Third, request with 11 utterances. (Sitanggang & Afriana, 2022) conducted qualitative research entitled "The Directive Acts in Joker 2019 Movie". The result showed 15 data from types of directive speech acts which was separated into 4 requestives, 2 requirements, 3 questions, 2 prohibitives, 3 permissives and 1 advisories. (Juniartha, 2020) conducted research entitled "Commissive Speech Act in the Movie John Wick Chapter 2" using a descriptive qualitative method. The result showed that four category of commission speech acts are predominantly used by the characters in the movie John Wick Chapter 2. They are warning (48%), threat (28%), promise (12%), and refusal (12%). (Nugraheni & Iriana Sari, 2022) conducted descriptive qualitative research entitled "An Analysis of commissive speech act in Movie Entitled Cinderella" The results showed that the types of commissive speech act found in Cinderella movie are refuse, threaten, promise, accept, offer, bet, commit, consent, and assure. (Malau,

Sinambela, & Sihite, 2022) conducted qualitative research entitled "an Analysis of Declarative Speech Act in Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunter Movie." The result showed four types of declarative speech acts found in the movie. That consists of declarative speech act, namely command, order, request, and suggestion. The most dominant type of declarative speech act used is a command. There were 48 declarative data taken from the movie transcript. It consisted of 23 utterances for command, 10 utterances for order, 5 utterances for request, and 10 utterances for suggestion.

The gap between this research and previous research in identifying speech acts with the movie as the object is that the nine previous studies only focused on identifying one speech act classification from Searle's theory and did not cover the entire classification of Searle's speech act theory. In this study, the writers identified five speech act classifications from Searle's theory to be able to understand speech act in a wider scope in the movie.

In this study, the writer focuses on identifying (1) what are the speech act classifications used by the main character "Teddy" in the film *The Man from Toronto*? And (2) what is the function of the speech act classification? As a novelty, this research focuses on identifying the overall classification of speech acts from Searle's theory: representative, expressive, directive, commissive, and declarative.

Method

In this study, the writers used a qualitative research design to analyze speech acts in *The Man from Toronto* Movie script to analyze words and word forms by referring to sentences and their types of speech acts. According to Perry (2005), cited in (Rahayu, Syahrizal, & Sadikin, 2019), qualitative research is characterized by the verbal description of its data. The data was taken from the movie script of *The Man from Toronto*.

Qualitative research is about how information reaches listeners or hearers and interprets the meaning of language. Data acquisition is made in several steps. The writers collected the data from the transcript of *The Man from Toronto* Movie. Firstly, the writers searched and watched *The Man from Toronto* Movie online. Then, the writers searched for the transcript of the movie and downloaded it from the internet. The writers then tested whether the speech in the movie and the transcript were

matched and synchronized by watching the movie. After that, the writer identified the speech act of the lines of the main character in the Movie named Teddy through the movie transcript.

Results

The results showed that the types of speech acts used by main character "Teddy" based on Searle's theory in The Man from Toronto Movie can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. Kind of Speech act used by the main character "Teddy" in The Man from Toronto Movie

Speech act	Utterances
Representative	177
Expressive	118
Directive	111
Commissive	10
Declarative	2
Total	418

Based on the table above, we know that the total number of utterances used by Teddy is 418 utterances. In that speech, the writers found 177 are identified as representative acts function to (informing, explaining, and asserting), which is one of the most frequently used kinds of speech acts in the movie. Then, expressive speech acts function to (apologies, greet, thank, and fear) with 118 utterances. Directive speech acts function to (ask, advise, command) with 111 utterances. Commissive speech acts function to (promise, refusing) with 10 utterances, and the last is declarative speech acts function to (deciding) with 2 utterances.

Discussion

Representative

Representative speech acts are actions or expressions used by a speaker to convey a truth or belief to the listener. The speaker speaks to the listener because the listener does not feel or does not know the information from the speaker.

Data 1 (Informing)

This situation happened in the morning in the gym. Teddy goes to work as a fitness instructor at Marty's Gym. After spreading the brochure of the new programs at the gym to the people through the street, Teddy met his boss, Marty. Teddy talks about his idea to Marty.

Teddy : Non-contact boxing, Marty.

Marty : Non-contact boxing?

Teddy : This is big. This is the whole breakdown of the idea. Now, the big thing here

is that it's still boxing, without the contact. That's the beauty of the idea. Look at this. I'm getting that same burn that I normally would, right? (imitates punches landing) But I don't touch you.

The speaker uttered the speech in data 1 to the listener to inform the listener that he wanted to bring his idea. The idea that Teddy put forward to Marty is unique, namely, non-contact boxing. Marty does not understand Teddy's idea, so he repeats the same sentence to Teddy with question intonation. Teddy explained the idea to Marty, believing it would work and bring huge profits to the gym. This conversation is categorized as a representative act.

Data 2 (Explaining)

This situation occurred when Teddy was on a mission with The Man from Toronto. Teddy gets on a mission to interrogate several people to recognize which of them is named Green. Because of Teddy's inability to interrogate someone, Teddy drops the equipment that will be used to threaten the person being interrogated. As someone who is good at communicating, Teddy tries to cover up his incompetence with an explanation of reverse psychology.

The Guy : You dropped the knives? You want some help with that?

Teddy : Are you familiar with reverse psychology?

The Guy : No.

Teddy : That's right. The answer's no. If you did know the tactic that I just employed, dropping my utensils on the floor, making me seem incompetent, it was all just a ploy to get into their heads. Mind games.

In the conversation on data 2, teddy explains the definition of reverse psychology and will apply it to the people he will interrogate. Here it can be concluded that teddy uses a speech act representative to explain. Teddy explains his tactics to people who offer him help who do not know the definition of reverse psychology.

Data 3 (Asserting)

This situation happened when Teddy got the wrong arrest by the police agent after he came into the wrong cabin. Teddy is at the police agent's headquarters and is being interrogated with several questions by the agents.

Teddy : It was a low toner situation. Me and my wife, we were going to a cabin. But because of the low toner, I couldn't make out the address. I didn't know if it was a six or an eight. Look, I'm not the Man from Toronto, okay? I'm actually just an idiot from Yorktown.

Agent : We're well aware, Mr. Jackson.

The conversation in data 3 stated that Teddy emphasized to the police that the actual situation was a misunderstanding. Teddy explained that the situation occurred because of low toner, causing him to enter the cabin incorrectly. The type of speech act used by Teddy here is representative, which asserts that he wants to be released from wrongful arrest. The sentence *I'm actually just an idiot from Yorktown* emphasizes that teddy has nothing to do with what happened in the cabin.

Expressive

The expressive speech act is a type of speech act that describes how the speaker feels. That is how words adapt to the world. In other words, the speaker perceives the situation.

Data 4 (Apologizing)

This situation occurred when Teddy was at the airport with The Man of Toronto before meeting with his wife at a restaurant to celebrate his wife's birthday. Teddy called his wife to ask how she was and said something.

Teddy : How are you doing?

Lori : Missing you, Mr. Presentation.

Teddy : I miss you too. I just called because I want you to know that I'm sorry for missing your birthday in the past and Teddying everything. I just...

Lori : Baby, don't worry about it.

The conversation in data 4 occurred when the speaker tells his feeling to the listener. In this scene, Teddy experiences a feeling of regret. In her married life, he always makes things go wrong. Even his wife made the verb "Teddy" as a pronoun "to mess up." Teddy felt sorry for all that. He realized all the mistakes he had made and had the determination to fix them all. Expressive speech act form of utterances spoken by Teddy is sorry and missing, miss his wife because he has had long time no see because of the situation that happened to him.

Data 5 (Greeting)

This situation occurred in the morning. Teddy went to the gym while distributing flyers to people along the way. Then he met an older woman named Betty, greeted her, and gave Betty his pamphlet.

Teddy : Morning.

Betty : Teddy. Oh, I know. I know. I've been meaning to come by the gym.

Teddy : Well, you better come, Betty!

The conversation in data 5 that Teddy did to Betty in the application of the expressive speech act function was to say *morning*. The greeting is a form of expression for someone to get closer to the other person. Teddy did the greeting in the hope that Betty would come to the gym.

Data 6 (Thanking)

This situation occurred when Teddy and The Man from Toronto escaped a chaotic situation because of a fight with the enemy. The Man from Toronto allows Teddy to drive his car, Debora, to pick up Teddy's wife at the station.

The Man from Toronto : Get your girl.

Teddy : What are you talking about?

The Man from Toronto : Go on. Get in there.

Teddy : You're gonna let me take Debora?

The Man from Toronto : Yeah, yeah, I'll find you. Hey. Two things. First thing, you so much as scratch her, I kill you. Second thing...

Teddy : Don't forget the first thing. I already know.

The Man from Toronto : Yeah. You got it. Get outta here.

Teddy : Thank you. Bye-bye!

The conversation in data 6 shows that Teddy uses an expressive speech act in the form of thanking. Debora is her much-loved car, The Man from Toronto. Even The Man from Toronto did not hesitate to kill someone who scuffed his car. Teddy was very grateful to The Man from Toronto for loaning him a car to quickly meet his

wife at the station. Teddy was pleased because if he did not meet his wife soon, their marriage relationship would be threatened.

Data 7 (Fear)

This situation occurs during a cabin raid that teddy enters the wrong way. The cabin he was in was bombed by agents and destroyed.

Agent : Shots fired on the ground!

Teddy : Whoa! Ah! Ah! My car! (screams) No! Ah! (panting) Oh!

The utterance in data 4 is the realization of the expressive speech act that teddy said about fear. Teddy is shocked and screams after a bomb detonates the cabin he is in and sees his car explode. Screaming is a natural response when someone experiences fear or something startling.

Directive

A directive speech act is a type of speech act that expresses the speaker's intention to make someone do something, which means making the world fit words.

Data 8 (Asking)

This situation occurred in the morning after teddy and his wife woke up and were still in bed. Teddy gave his wife a reservation ticket that they were going on vacation. Then there was a small argument between the two of them.

Lori : I hear you. But you know you can't Teddy that one, right?

Teddy : What... What does that mean, honey?

Lori : That's what they call it at the firm now. If a paralegal screws up, they say they Teddied it.

Teddy : They named a screw-up after me?

Lori : You're actually a verb now.

Teddy : Okay, listen, that's the past. Why talk about the past? I wanna focus on the present. Look at this. Come on, look at it.

The conversation in data 6 shows the classification of speech acts called directives with the function is asking. The form of directive speech act that Teddy speaks is *listen* and *look*. Teddy asked his wife to do what Teddy wants, which is to listen to what teddy has to say and see his reservation ticket. He wants his wife to stop discussing his past mistakes and focus on what he is going to do now, which is to give his wife a reservation ticket in a cabin.

Data 9 (Advising)

The situation that occurs in data 8 is when Teddy and The Man from Toronto are in a restaurant. The Man from Toronto is not used to restaurants and blends in

with the crowd because his job is an assassin.

Teddy: Okay, come here. Let me talk to you. Please. Please. I want you to relax. Okay? Listen, you should... Get your hands off of me like that. It's 'cause of the cameras. Stop with the paranoia stuff. Somebody looks you in your eyes and they smile, smile back. Make eye contact. Be a person.

The sentence spoken by Teddy in data 9 is a classification of speech act directives whose function is advising. It can be seen that the characteristic of the advising sentence is the presence of the word *should*. Teddy gave The Man from Toronto some advice not to look nervous about being in a crowd.

Data 10 (Commanding)

This situation occurred during a shootout between The Man from Toronto and the enemy. Teddy accidentally got hit by enemy fire, and he was in pain.

Teddy : He's shootin' at me! I'm getting light-headed!

The Man from Toronto : You are experiencing a lack of oxygen to the brain.

Teddy : Will you stop diagnosing me and just kill the guy! Kill him right now! Shoot him!

The form of the directive speech act that Teddy speaks is that he commands The Man from Toronto to immediately end the firefight and shoot the enemy instead of diagnosing Teddy's symptoms after he was shot. Teddy uses the verbs *stop*, *kill*, and *shot* to tell The Man from Toronto to do what he wants.

Commissive

A commissive speech act is a kind of speech act that focuses on the speaker's commitment. The speaker commits themselves to some future action which means making the situations fit the speaker's words.

Data 11 (Promising)

This situation happened after Teddy and his wife argued in the bedroom. Suddenly the lights in their room went out.

Lori : You think maybe we could start with some light bulbs and toner?

Teddy : That's what Teddying it looks like, right?

Lori : Mm-hmm.

Teddy : Okay, all right. I'll get the bulb.

Lori : And toner.

Teddy : And the toner.

After their argument ended and the lights in their room went out, Teddy finally realized the concept of "teddy" that his wife meant. The form of commissive speech act that teddy says is that he will fix the bulb and toner in the future. The word *will* is included in the promise that it will happen in the future. After understanding the term, "teddy" is correlated with messed up, Teddy has thought that he will not "teddy" whatever he does to make his wife happy.

Data 12 (Refusing)

In this scene, Teddy is the victim of the wrong arrest by the police for a raid on the wrong cabin. Teddy conveys all intents and purposes that tomorrow will not be in DC tomorrow, and he hopes the police will release him. The police told Teddy to disguise himself as The Man from Toronto to carry out the next mission because he had been caught on camera as the figure of The Man from Toronto.

Agent : You're supposed to meet Marín tomorrow morning in DC. Are you compliant?

Teddy : No, I will not do it, okay? I'm not supposed to be in DC tomorrow. I'm supposed to be with my wife. And if I miss this birthday..

The form of the commissive speech act of Teddy's utterance can be seen from the words *will* and *supposed*. The word *will* becomes a reference for events that will be carried out in the future. Teddy will not be in Washington, DC meeting a man named Marin because he has promised his wife to come to her birthday party. Teddy's sign of refusing is the presence of the word *no*.

Declarative

Declarative is a kind of speech act that change the situation via their utterance. In using a declaration speech act, the speaker changes the world via words.

Data 13 (Deciding)

This situation happened in the restaurant. Teddy is dancing with his wife to celebrate his wife's birthday. With romantic music, Teddy and his wife dance passionately.

Lori : Are you okay?

Teddy : Bathroom break.

Lori : Oh. Okay.

The conversation in data 9 occurred when Teddy's enemies and The Man from Toronto arrive. Teddy stopped dancing and told his wife to take a bathroom break to avoid enemies. The sentence *Bathroom break* made the romantic atmosphere of the dance tense and then Teddy asked The Man from Toronto to run away from the restaurant. In that conversation, Teddy performed a declarative speech act whose function was to decide. Teddy makes a decision to end his current situation with his wife.

Conclusion

From the results shown above, it can be seen that there are five types of speech acts in the utterances of the main character "Teddy" in The Man from Toronto Movie, namely representative, expressive, directive, commissive, and declarative speech acts. Speech act types of the main character "Teddy" in The Man from Toronto Movie are mostly representative, which is 177 utterances. The second is expressive at 118 utterances. Moreover, the third is directive at 111 utterances. The next is Commissive at 10 utterances. Moreover, the last is declarative with 2 utterances. The realization of the speech acts of the main character, "Teddy," representative functions are informing, explaining, and asserting. There are 13 functions of the main character "Teddy" speech act (informing, explaining, asserting, apologizing, greeting, thanking, fear, asking, advising, commanding, promising, refusing, and deciding).

In this study, the author identified all speech act classifications from Searle's theory. Of the five types of speech acts in Searle's theory, there are still many functions that are not mentioned in this study. Therefore, future researchers are advised to add more functions to the classification. Future researchers are suggested to research similar topics related to speech acts in the other movie genre. Since the current writers only focus on the action-comedy movie genre. Further researchers are advised to examine speech acts in other movie genres so that more film genres can be dissected in terms of the speech act, and it will provide more information about what the characters in the movie mean in their roles throughout the movie.

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