



## Commissive Act Used in Fatherhood Movie (2021)

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### Abstract

The researchers identified types of commissive act that used in Fatherhood Movie that released in June 2021. This research used Yule's and Searle's theory to analyse the data. The research was conducted using qualitative research theory by Creswell (2017). The researchers used observational technique to collect the data using Sudaryanto (2015). This research got the data from watching Fatherhood movie. From the results of this analysis, the researchers found 15 data divided into 6 types. There are 6 types for offering, 3 types for refusal, 2 types for promising, 2 types for guarantee, 2 types for threatening, and the last 1 type for volunteering. It can be concluded that the most common use of commissive act in the Fatherhood Movie is offering, while the least is volunteering.

**Keyword:** Commissive act, Illocutionary act, Speech act

### Introduction

Speech acts as is the activity that is performed in creating an utterance. Similarly, (Yule, 1996) defined speech acts as activities carried out by utterances. Speech acts are a study of how the speakers and hearer use language. It can conclude that language is not only used to give information or describe things but also used to performed act. The study of speech acts is important in learning how to conduct these actions and recognizing them when they are performed by others. Then, by identifying the meaning and intent of the speaker in a certain context, we may avoid misunderstanding or miscommunication that commonly occurs between the speaker and the hearer via speech act.

According to (Yule, 1996) speech act divided into three: locutionary act, illocutionary act

and perlocutionary act. The illocutionary acts are spoken through the communicative power of speech, such as promising, apologizing and offering (Yule, 1996). As cited in Gea & Johan (2020), Searle divided types of illocutionary speech acts, they are assertive, directive, expressive, commissive, and declarative. This research focuses in commissive speech act.

Commissive speech act is not uttered that are done in order to bind the speaker to do something in the future. One of the phenomena of commissive speech act that occurs in Fatherhood Movie can be seen from dialogue blow:

Liz: Oh okey. **Mom, we will call you as soon as it is over, okey?** I love you.

Marion: No, no! skype me while it is happening.

Matt: What? Mom!

The conversation above takes place in the movie Fatherhood at 0:04:26 minutes. The situation in this conversation described Liz who was about to give birth calling her mother and her mother was asking Liz to call her while Liz was in the process of giving birth. Liz's utterance is a promise that to be made in the future. This phenomenon is a commissive act. When she said 'we will call you as soon it's over, okey' this showed that she 'will' call her mother after the birth process. It meant she was making a promise and she was saying something that she will do in the future.

Lots of researchers have researched the commissive act. There are some of research that related to commissive act. Juniarta et al. (2020) searched about commissive speech act in "John Wick Chapter 2 Movie" by using observation method and analysed by using descriptive qualitative method. The research also used theory of (Yule, 1996) to find out the types of commissive act and used Thomas's (1995) theory to find out the meaning. The research found four types of commissive speech act, which are as follow: 12% of rejection, 48% of warning, 12% of promise, and 28% of threat. The previous research has similarities to this research in term of using movies as a data source. The theory that the previous research and this research used to find out the types of the commissive acts is different.

Syafitri (2020) searched about commissive speech act used by the shopping host of MNC shop. The research used qualitative data and collected the data by using observational method. The theory of types are based on Alwi's and Putrayas's theory. the research found 55 data that are classified into 3 types, they are declarative mood, interrogative mood, and exclamative mood. The previous research and this research used the same method that is descriptive qualitative and observation method. The theory that the previous research and this research are different. The previous research used different data source while the previous research used advertisement as a data source and this research used movie as a data source.

There are similarities this research with the previous research such as used the same method. There are also has differences between this research and previous research. In conclusion, the researchers used (Yule, 1996) and (Searle, 1975) theory in analysed the kinds of commissive speech acts.

## **Literature Review**

### **Commissive act**

According to (Yule, 1996) commissive is types of illocutionary act that is commit the speaker to some future course of action. When persons act commissive, they may use performative verbs such as promises, oath, guarantee, and vow. Based on (Searle, 1975) theory, he differentiated commissive act into some types, those are offer, guarantee, volunteer, refusal, threat, and promise.

#### **A. Offer**

Based on (Searle, 1975) explanation, offer is to express your willingness to do something for or give something to someone. The speaker makes an attempt to make an offer to the interlocutor. Example, "if you want to take another piece of cake, I will give you one" (Hadad, 2021).

#### **B. Guarantee**

Based on (Searle, 1975) explanation, guarantee is a strong commitment that something will happen or that you will do something. It is a promise that something will happen or that something exists. Example, "I bet his existence." (Devi, 2020).

#### **C. Volunteer**

Based on (Searle, 1975) explanation, volunteer is described as a willingness to accomplish something without being forced to do so. It is to provide or offer to provide a service of one's own free will. It entails voluntarily providing or giving without being asked. Example, "Let me help you escape." (Devi & Degaf, 2021).

#### **D. Refusal**

Based on (Searle, 1975) explanation, refusal is an unpleasant reaction to invitations, requests, offers, and suggestions. The speaker has a goal or a viewpoint. As a result, the speaker rejects the interlocutor's point of view. The majority of the sentences are negative. Example, "We will not do that" (Nainggolan et al., 2020).

#### **E. Threat**

Based on (Searle, 1975) explanation, threat is a declaration of intent to punish someone. It means to intimidate the listener if the listener refuses to obey the speaker's demand. The speaker attempts to persuade the listener by using an impact word in one of the phrases. Example "I'll punish you if you don't behave yourself." (Khadim & Mahood, 2013).

#### **F. Promise**

Based on (Searle, 1975) explanation, promise is a statement that tells someone that you will do something or that you will not do something. This is a type of verbal promise made by one person to another to accomplish something in the future. The speaker makes an attempt to commit to doing what the speaker says. The purpose of the phrase is to persuade the listener that the speaker is honest in his or her intentions. Example "I will be there at 5 o'clock" (Sembiring & Ambalegin, 2019).

## **Method**

The researchers analysed the sort of illocutionary in the Fatherhood Movie using qualitative research by Creswell (2017). The qualitative research described an analysis of illocutionary in Fatherhood Movie. The technique that the researchers used for collecting the data were observational method by Sudaryanto (2015). There are 5 steps to collect the data. First, watching the movie several times. Second, observing the dialogue from script. Third, collecting the data by watch the movie and understand deeply and look for all the utterances. Four, collect the data and find the utterance that contain of illocutionary act. The last, classify the utterances into the types of illocutionary act in Fatherhood Movie.

## **Results**

### **Finding**

There were 15 data that found in Fatherhood movie that contains commissive act. The table below was the data that found in Fatherhood movie:

NO	COMMISSIVE ACT	FREQUENCY
1	Refusal	3
2	Promise	2
3	Threatening	2
4	Offering	6
5	Volunteer	1
6	Guarantee	2
TOTAL		15

*Table 1. Frequency of commissive act*

## Discussion

### Data 1

Matt: "Hi mom."

Anna : "Hi."

Matt: "**Don't dress me.**"

Anna : "You're gonna be okey. The both of you are gonna get through this because the lord has a plan for you."

Matt : "I know, mom **but don't put on my shoe.**"

The conversation above is part of commissive act because the speaker refuses his mother not to wear his shoes. It means he refuse what his mother has done. The speaker's words: "Don't wear me" and "But don't wear my shoes" are refusal because there is the word "Don't" which means he rejects his mother's actions.

### Data 2

Marion : "Love your sense of humor, Matt."

Matt: "Yeah, well, at least I got one, bye-bye."

Liz : "oh, okey. Mom, **we will call you as soon as it's over, okey?** I love you."

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of promising. The speaker says a word that has the meaning of promise. The word "will" signs that she was promising to take an action in the future, the speaker promises to call his mother after everything is done.

### Data 3

Oscar : "You through that?"

Jordan : "Because you're strong and confident and you'll get through this too."

Matt: "This is so much worse than that. How is that the same?"

Jordan : "I'm just trying."

Matt : "I promise you, **I'mma punch you in the face. Don't say anything else to me.**"

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of threatening. The speaker's words are threatening. In this conversation Jordan tried to give advice but Matt threatens to punch him if Jordan keeps talking. The sentence "I'mma punch you in the face" is the threatening.

### Data 4

Marion : "Hmm."

Jordan : "What up? How you doing? These are flaming hot. **Anybody want some? Grandma or want me to give one to the baby?** Mm y'all looking good ladies. Can I say it to you?"

Anna : "Thank you"

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of offering. The speaker says "Anybody want some? Grandma or want me to give one to the baby?" here the speaker tries

to offer his own food to grandma and baby.

**Data 5**

Matt : "Can you take me to the baby store?"

Jordan : "Hell yeah."

Matt : "Thank you."

Jordan : "Team single father! **I'm here to help you at the end of the day.**"

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of volunteering. Jordan's utterances "I'm here to help you at the end of the day" is a volunteer because Jordan volunteered to say he's here to help Matt at the end of the day. There is no forcing or offering from Matt but Jordan is ready to help Matt.

**Data 6**

Jordan : "Team single father! I'm here to help you at the end of the day."

Matt : "Thank you. Okey Marion. **How about we do this? How about, how about When you go back, right, I promise to give you updates, let you know how Maddy's doing? Uh' I'll post pictures on my Instagram all the time.**"

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of offering and promising. The first Matt's utterances "How about we do this? How about, when you go back" this utterance is offering because the speaker tries to offer to the hearer. Matt is making an offer to Anna what if we did this while Anna was going home. The second utterances "I promise to give you updates let you know how Maddy's doing? Uh I'll post picture on my Instagram all the time." This utterance is promising because there is word "promise". Then, Matt offers if Anna returns to her house Matt promises to update about Maddy and will always update about Maddy on Instagram.

**Data 7**

Marion : "All right. I'll go home when Anna goes **but if you are not handling everything all very well. You move your butt back to Minnesota.**"

Matt: "Why would I agree to that?"

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of threatening. Anna's utterance is threatening. Anna threatens Matt that if he can't handle things properly then Matt will be transferred to Minnesota.

**Data 8**

Marion : "Because it's not about you."

Matt: "Deal."

Jordan : "Brother, real quick. You good on the fish?"

Matt: "**I don't want the fish, man.**"

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of refusal. Jordan asked Matt if he was great at fish or not but Matt immediately refused and said "I don't want the fish, man". It's called refusal because the speaker refused something.

**Data 9**

Strangers: "Where's her mom? Me, I can't wait till Monday comes so I can get away from my kids screaming."

Matt : **"Wow I bet they're probably psyched to get away from you too."**

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of guarantee. Because the speaker believed that the kids want to get away too from the stranger. It is called guarantee.

**Data 10**

Howard: "Uh, Matts got baby."

Matt : "I apologize for storming out like that but she goes on these crying jags, and it's impossible to really get her to stop and calm down."

Howard: **"Does she wanna try sucking on my pinkie?"**

Matt: **"No"**

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of offering. In this situation Matt is at work and brings his daughter to the office. Suddenly while he was doing the presentation his daughter cried and he came out of the room. The clients and office officials also came out after hearing the baby's cry. Then, Howard offered matt. Howard offered matt if his daughter would suck on Howard's pinky because Howard's daughter loves it.

**Data 11**

Howard: "They love to suck on the pinkie."

Oscar : "No sanitary."

Clients : **"Maybe this will help, matt. It's um. It's a white noise app. It helps me sleep."**

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of offering. The client who heard the crying also offered to Matt his cellphone. The client tries to offer Matt his cellphone because there is a noise app that can help him fall asleep and maybe it will be useful for Matt's daughter.

**Data 12**

Matt : "Oh, she doesn't speak English yet. She's just a baby"

Summer: **"Oh, I believe you have to treat the infant with respect. Right, Maddy? We've got this"**

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of guarantee because the speaker believed that the interlocutor had to treat the infant respect to his baby. It's called guarantee.

**Data 13**

Marion : "I told Mike that I was spending the day at the SPA"

Matt : **"You told. Want me to take you? I can give you a ride."**

Marion : “No, she needs to get her little nap.”

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of offering. Marion and Matt want to hospital to give Maddy immunizations. Then, Marion will return to his house after accompanying Matt to the doctor. Then Matt offers to take Marion home. What Matt said was an offer.

#### **Data 14**

Maddy : I guess

Lizzie : Girls I guess to.

Maddy : All right

Lizze : Maddy and I are gonna go get some ice cream. **You wanna third wheel?**

Matt: I mean yes

The conversation above is part of commissive act, it has meaning of offering. Lizzie and Maddy were going to buy ice cream and then Lizzie offered to Matt whether he want to come with them or not. Lizzie’s utterance is an offer.

#### **Conclusion**

After interpreting the theory of commissive speech acts and analyzing the movie subtitles Fatherhood to analyze the type of commissive speech acts, the researchers reach the following conclusion. Based on the researcher’s analysis, this research can find 6 types of commissive speech act. The researchers found 15 data from the movie entitled Fatherhood. There are 6 offering, 3 refusal, 1 volunteering, 2 promising, 2 threatening and 2 guarantees. Based on the research, the researchers found the most frequently is offering, then followed by refusal. Then, promising, threatening, guarantee and last is volunteering.

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