

**SPEECH ACTS USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER
REMY IN THE MOVIE *RATATOUILLE***

A THESIS BY :

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English Education Study Program

Department of Language and Art Education



FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

SRIWIJAYA UNIVERSITY

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DECLARATION

I, the undersigned

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Certified that thesis entitled "Speech Acts Used by the Main Character Remy in the Movie *Ratatouille*" is my own work and I did not do any plagiarism or inappropriate quotation against the ethic and rules commended by the Ministry of Education of Republic Indonesia Number 17, 2010 regarding plagiarism in higher education. Therefore, I deserve to face the court if I am found to have plagiarized this work.

Indralaya, 13 July 2023

The undersigned



Khoirun Nisa Harahap
06011181924071

DEDICATIONS AND MOTTOS

This thesis is sincerely dedicated to my beloved parents, thank you for all the sacrifices, good advices, and prayers that you never stop giving me.

To my mother and my father

Misrawati Siregar & Ahmad Sorip Harahap

“Verily, with every difficulty, there is relief”

Quran: Surah Al-Inshirah | Verse 5

“Time is a sword”

Imam Al- Shafi’I

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The writer



Khoirun Nisa Harahap

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**SPEECH ACTS USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER
REMY IN THE MOVIE RATATOUILLE**

ABSTRACT

Speech acts are the actions that speakers take when they make an utterance. This is often found in our daily conversations and even in movie dialogs. This study's object was the Movie Ratatouille. The aims of this study were (1) to find out the speech acts used by the main character Remy in the movie Ratatouille, (2) to find out the locution, illocution, and perlocution of each of the speech acts used by the main character Remy in the movie Ratatouille, (3) to disseminate speech acts at SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya. This study utilized descriptive qualitative research. In collecting the data, this study downloaded the Movie and the scripts from the Internet. The data were classified into some types of speech acts based on Austin's theory (1962). The result showed that 22 utterances by Remy that contain speech act function in the movie Ratatouille. There were 11 utterances that function as statements (50%), 1 utterance that functions as a claim (4.5%), 1 utterance that functions as a suggestion (4.5%), 1 utterance that functions as a promise (4.5%), 2 utterances than function as a command (9%), and 1 utterance that function as a request (4.5%), 1 utterance that functions as an order (4.5%), 3 utterances that function as entreaties (14%), and 1 utterance that functions as thank. The dissemination of speech act at SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya showed that the eleventh grade, most students could determine the speech act of each utterance. However, they still made mistakes in distinguishing illocutionary and perlocutionary acts.

Keywords: *Speech Acts, the main character, Remy, Movie Ratatouille.*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents (1) background of the study, (2) problems of the study, (3) objectives of the study, and (4) significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is very important in human life because it is the main means of communication. Through language, we convey our feelings and thoughts and also we can influence other people. Walija (1996) states language is the most comprehensive and accurate means of communicating ideas, messages, intentions, emotions, and opinions to others. Language is very important in a community and has become our main tool for socializing. Without language, humans will probably be unable to convey their feelings, opinions or thoughts, emotions, desires, and beliefs.

In conversation, the speaker often uses utterances that are not grammatical, making it difficult for the listener to understand. However, this won't be a problem since the speaker's speech can be understood and received by the listener or others. According to Yule (1996, p. 47), in attempts to express or assert themselves, people not only produce sentences with structure or grammatical but also produce or show actions in that language.

In addition, when in conversation, the speaker and listener must understand every meaning of each utterance. We express clear utterances with speech acts to make it easier to understand and reduce misunderstandings. Janney et. al (1994, p. 227) mention, that the utterance context of a sentence must be understood in understanding the meaning of a sentence. Sometimes the listener does not understand what the speaker has said, because what the speaker said has many meanings. The definition of an utterance is analyzed and understood through pragmatics.

One of those branches of linguistics that studies language is pragmatics. Pragmatics is studying what the speaker means. In his book, Yule (1996, p. 4) says

that pragmatics studies the relationship between the meaning intended by the speaker to be interpreted by the listener. In other words, learn what the speaker means. According to Yule (1996, p. 3), pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning. The study involves the interpretation of what is meant in a given context and how it affects what is said. In pragmatics, it is not only understanding the meaning said by the speaker but also understanding the context that will be interpreted by the listener. One of the pragmatics studies is the speech act, which will be the focus of the researcher in this thesis.

A speech act is a part of pragmatics that involves the speaker and listener. According to Yule (1996, p. 47), speech is a speech by shows action. In other words, the speaker has context in his/ her speech to move the listener through what he/ she says. The speaker will express attitudes/emotions through language and show those emotions when in speech. Then the listener will interpret whether the speaker is sad, angry, or happy (Chaer, 2014). With a speech act, the listener can do something according to what the speaker wants. Speakers can use sentences expressing orders, appeals, requests, or seductions (Chaer, 2014).

The speech act itself is very important to make us understand the content of the message in any utterance. When we are in conversation, the speaker not only produces an utterance from the language but there is also a meaning contained in the utterance to the listener. That way, the listener will clearly understand what the speaker is saying.

Aspects of linguistics, one of which is the speech act that we often encounter in movies. This type of speech act is mostly done by characters in a movie. So not infrequently many people don't understand the meaning of every utterance said by characters.

A speech act is a theory of language use written by John Langshaw Austin (1962) in his book entitled, *How to do things with words*. Austin (1962, p. 109). According to Speech Act Theory, each utterance consists of three related acts, locution act, illocution act, and perlocution act.

First, locution act, Austin states that locutions are simply saying something, conveying information, speaking, asking, and so on (1962, p. 108). Locution

utterances meet the requirements of truth and require reasons/feelings and references to be understood. Narrative references depend on narrative narration (Austin, 1962, p. 143). Simply put, "saying something" is doing a locution speech act. For example, *I eat meatballs* the meaning of that utterance is *I eat meatballs* of the literal meaning.

Second, illocution act are speech acts that are not descriptive and are not subject to the conditions of truth. Austin states that an illocution act is the performance of an action in saying something (1962, p. 99). This speech act has a hidden meanings or other meaning that is conveyed by the speaker to the speech partner. Illocution speech acts are speech acts that convey the potential to make specific actions that are related to saying something. When the speaker utters an utterance, he/ she also takes action, which conveys his intentions or desires through the utterance. For example, because the music is too loud, Anni said to Sri "*turn it down!*" that means Anni ordered Sri to turn down the music volume.

Third, perlocution act. Perlocution is the result or effect that appears to the speech partner after hearing a speech. According to Austin, perlocution speech acts are what we produce or achieve by saying something such as convincing, persuading, obstructing, telling, surprising, or misleading. In other words, the act of growing influence on the speech partner. Perlocution acts contain the power to do something by saying something. Perlocution acts are more concerned with results because the speech act is said to be successful if the speech partner does something related to the speaker's speech. For example, *your cat has died*, that utterance would give feeling unhappy to the hearer.

Searle, an Austin student who developed the Austin speech act formulation (1962, p. 150) states that there are five types of speech acts, they are representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

As a medium of mass communication, a movie/ film is interpreted as a work of art that is not only made as a means of entertainment only but also to send messages to a wide audience. The messages contained in the movie are also diverse, conveyed through dialogue, scenes, and stories. The most important thing in the movie is the interaction between characters through speech. There are various kinds

of speech acts in movies, such as asking, forbidding, and so on. sometimes the speech in the film is not in the basic form of written rules of a language, but what is more important than the language is understanding the meaning contained.

The researcher focused on analyzing the speech acts used by the main character, Remy in the movie *Ratatouille*. The researcher chose Remy because in one of the scenes in the movie, Remy uttered a word, but the interlocutor/listener did not understand what Remy meant by the utterance.

Ratatouille movie is an animated film produced by Pixar and distributed by Walt Disney Pictures. Directed by Brad Bird and Jan Pinkava. This movie received a fairly high rating of 8.0/10 on IMDb, as well as a good appreciation on the Rotten Tomatoes website of 96% with an audience score of 87%. This movie received 1 Oscar and 64 wins from various film awards.

The researcher chose the movie because, it has an inspiring moral, which is to be yourself, be brave, and be optimistic. This movie told the story of a mouse named Remy who is very good at cooking and has a talent for knowing the delicacy of a dish just from its smell. He makes friends with a human who is not good at cooking. In his heart, he wants to be a successful chef like Gusteau. with Gusteau's famous motto: "*Everyone can cook.*" Remy was deeply influenced by this motto and convinced himself that he could cook.

Based on the background of the research, this research is entitled "Speech Acts Used by the Main Character Remy in the Movie *Ratatouille*"

1.2 Problems of the Study

From the above explanation, this study attempts to formulate these three research problems as follows:

1. What are the speech acts used by the main character Remy in the movie *Ratatouille*?
2. What are the locution, illocution, and perlocution of each of the speech act used by the main character Remy in the movie *Ratatouille*?
3. How is the dissemination of speech acts at SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the following research problems, the researcher concludes that this research has three objectives. The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To find out the speech acts used by the main character Remy in the movie *Ratatouille*.
2. To find out the locution, illocution, and perlocution of each of the speech act used by the main character Remy in the movie *Ratatouille*.
3. To disseminate speech acts at SMA Negeri 1 Indralaya.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes that this research can improve and increase knowledge about pragmatics to readers, especially about speech acts that we often encounter in life. So that there is no miscommunication and can communicate in a good way.

The researcher also hopes that this research can be useful for other researchers in the future and be used as one of their references to further explore pragmatics, especially speech acts that are often found in movies.

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