

PRAGMATICS ANALYSIS OF COMMIT EXPRESSION ACTED BY CHARACTERS IN “FRACTURED” MOVIE

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Abstract

This research analyzed the types of commissive act in a thrilled movie entitled “Fractured”. The data were commissive acts utterances in the movie. The data were observed by using observational and non-participatory technique. Therefore, the researchers watched the movie to get data. The researchers used pragmatics identity method and competence in equalizing to analyze the data. The researchers equalized the data with types of commissive acts theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The findings discovered 15 utterances showed commissive acts in the movie. Threaten had 1 data, accept had 2 data, promise had 6 data, refuse had 3 data, and offer had 3 data. The commissive acts of promise was found to be the most dominant type because all characters commonly promised to take action in the future to other characters in “Fractured” movie. Also, the type became the dominant because most of the speakers had the intention to do action that brought benefits for the hearers.

Keywords: commissive acts, illocutionary acts, pragmatics

1. INTRODUCTION

Understanding from speaker and listener is highly required in communication. By having understanding, it will be no misunderstanding in communication. Misunderstanding between speaker and interlocutor can lead to the unsuccessful communication (Sembiring & Ambalegin, 2019). It states that the effectiveness of communication is dependent on mutual understanding between speaker and listener of conversation. Effective communication has utterance that is in accordance with the intention of the speaker. It also has listener that can define the unspoken meaning from the utterance said by the speaker.

In defining meaning, pragmatics element should be involved. The elements consist of speaker, listener, and context of the utterance. Pragmatics refers to the linguistics branch that

examines language use in context of the utterance (Birner, 2013). The study of pragmatics is indeed beneficial to be studied the same utterance does not always mean the same. Birner (2013) stated that the same utterance will not have the same meaning in the different context. It also will mean different to different people, who participate in the conversation. Therefore, interpreting meaning from an utterance should be done in line with context in order to reveal the unstated meaning

As study of contextual meaning, pragmatics has locutionary acts, perlocutionary acts, and illocutionary acts as speech acts types. The one that is the intention of a speaker is illocutionary acts. According to Huang (2007), illocutionary acts is the type of speech acts that can be found in communication because every time a speaker says an utterance, the speaker

usually says an utterance with some intention. The definition above describes that illocutionary acts is produced in utterance and particularly relates to the speaker's intention in saying something. Illocutionary acts becomes the act that has the various classifications. The classifications are directive acts, commissive acts, assertive acts, declaration acts, and expressive acts (Searle, 1979). These are all classifications of illocutionary acts that are in accordance with speaker's purpose in mind.

Commissive acts appears in one of the YouTube videos published by The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon entitled "Name that Song Challenge with Taylor Swift". It was published in Oct 9th, 2019 and involved Taylor Swift and Jimmy Fallon, who competed as they tried to guess songs played by house band.

Jimmy : "The Roots are gonna start playing a song. One instrument at a time. Taylor and I can buzz in and guess as soon as we know the song..."

Taylor : "Ugh... **Treacherous!**"

Jimmy : "You can play –"

Taylor : "Crazy." (0:01-0:14)
(Hockmeyer et al., 2019)

Taylor Swift appeared as the speaker and Jimmy Fallon as the hearer. In the conversation, the speaker was informing the audiences about the game that the speaker and hearer were going to play. The hearer told that they were going to guess the random songs played by house band named The Roots. After hearing the hearer's instruction, the speaker uttered an utterance in accordance with the speaker's intention

in uttering an utterance. The speaker excitedly accepted to play the game and committed to play it by doing as instructed. The game was accepted to be started by having the speaker to say "Treacherous". Searle and Vanderveken (1985) mentioned that accept is the type that is used to treat acceptance of offer, invitation, or application that the speaker conveys. For this reason, it proves that the utterance has the phenomenon of illocutionary acts. It is specifically commissive acts of accept as the speaker accepted to play the game that was going to be started in the show.

Considering society involves commissive acts phenomena, movie also presents commissive acts. The phenomena appear because movie has characters as part of language users. One of the movies that have the phenomena of commissive acts is "Fractured" movie. The conversation that involves commissive acts is as follows.

Joanne : "Can you get me a Coke, please?"

Ray : "Yeah"

Joanne : "I don't know why, but I'm parched."

(00:06:22-00:06:27)

(Anderson, 2019)

The conversation had Ray as the speaker and Joanne as the hearer. It took place in the car in which the speaker and the hearer had just stopped the car as the hearer wanted to accompany her daughter to go potty. The hearer said that the hearer want to have a coke and the speaker answered by saying that the speaker was going to buy it. The hearer used the utterance to get the hearer to buy things that the hearer needed. Then, the speaker responded by saying "yeah" to show that the speaker would do the future action. It was done by having the speaker to show his commitment

through accepting to do and wanting to take it as the speaker's responsibility. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) said that what is accepted by a speaker should benefit the speaker because the speaker accepts responsibilities and obligations. Thus, the speaker produced the type of accept because the speaker did not reject to buy coke for the hearer.

Lots of researchers have conducted research of commissive acts and following are two previous research of the same topic. The first research was conducted by Desica and Ambalegin (2022). The researchers examined the commissive acts types in "Onward" movie. The utterances of commissive acts produced by characters were used as the data. Those were analyzed by applying the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985) about commissive acts. The results showed that the type of promise, threaten, accept, refuse, and swear were produced in 17 utterances. As for the dominant type, commissive acts of refuse was found to be the dominant type because the characters did not want to bother other characters to do a future action.

Juniartha, Pratiwi, and Wijaya (2020) also discussed commissive acts. In their research, the researchers focused on analyzing the types of commissive acts in "John Wick Chapter 2" movie. It was taken to be analyzed its types of commissive acts that appeared in the utterances of the characters. Data of their research were investigated by using the theory from Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The findings of their research revealed that the type of promise, threaten, warn, and refuse were said by the characters of the movie.

Present and previous research took commissive acts types as the object of the research. The types of commissive acts were also analyzed by using the

same theory. It used the theory from Searle and Vanderveken (1985) regarding the types of commissive acts. The thing that differentiates the present and previous research is the data source because the data source is different. This research took "Fractured" as the data source. This present research aimed at exploring types of commissive acts in "Fractured" movie.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Commissive Acts

Commissive acts is one of the illocutionary acts classifications. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) stated that commissive acts is defined as the type of illocutionary acts that particularly focuses to commit the speaker to some future course of action. This mentions that commissive acts is used when the speaker wants to show that the speaker commit to the action that will be done in the future. Commissive acts commits the speaker to particular future course of action (Black, 2005). Furthermore, Kreidler (1998) also emphasized that speech acts that involves the speaker's commitment to a course of a particular action is commissive acts. The definitions above express that all types of commissive acts are produced when the speaker wants to express the speaker's intention regarding future action. By producing commissive acts, a speaker commits himself towards some future course of action. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), the types of commissive acts are accept, promise, offer, refuse, and threaten.

2.1.1 Commissive Acts Types

A. Accept

Accept is applied when a speaker accepts to take a future action. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) declared that accept is used to treat acceptance of offer, invitation, or application that the

speaker conveys. This explains that a speaker applies commissive act of accept if the speaker commits to do a particular action. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) also added that what is accepted by a speaker should benefit the speaker because the speaker accepts responsibilities and obligations. In other words, the action that is committed to be done should not be disadvantageous for the speaker. Following shows the commissive acts of accept. **“Oh yeah! we don’t have any plans.”** (Desica & Ambalegin, 2022).

B. Promise

This type is known as the commissive acts that differs from other types of commissive acts. Promise is used to remind a particular action to be carried out in the future. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) agreed that promise is always produced if the speaker commits to do an action that will benefit the hearer and this type involves obligation. This clarifies that the speaker commits himself to do what the speaker has stated and the speaker carries responsibility towards future action. The speaker uses this in order to convince the hearer that the speaker will do as desired. An utterance of promise is as discovered by Wijayanti and Yulianti (2020), **“Contain the animal or I will.”**

C. Offer

Offer appears in communication when a speaker wants to offer a hearer to do an action. A speaker uses this type to give an offering about action that is going to be done in the future. As mentioned by Searle and Vanderveken (1985), offer is the commissive acts that is performed to certain course if the hearer accepts to do the future action. It describes that a speaker offers a hearer

to take a certain action through this type. Following is one of utterances of offer. **“You want to eat.”** (Fitriana Devi & Degaf, 2021).

D. Refuse

Refuse refers to the act of refusing thing that the speaker offers the hearer to do. The speaker uses this type to respond the action that is previously offered for acceptance. In other words, this type is the opposite of accept because speaker applies this type to reject everything that is being asked to be done. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) explained that the act of refusing or rejecting offers, invitation, and application is commissive acts of refuse. Therefore, the speaker that refuses to do as wished will use this type of commissive acts in utterance. An example of refuse is as follows. **“Find someone else.”** (Juniartha et al., 2020).

E. Threaten

Threaten is the commissive acts that a speaker says to the hearer that the speaker will inflict harm or trouble if a hearer does not do as desired by the speaker. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) said that this type is totally different from promise as threaten will not benefit the hearer and there also has no any obligations included while the speaker is talking. As there has no any obligations, threaten is not as dependent as commissive act of promise. In other words, the utterance of threaten could be refused to do because the hearer did not have obligations to do as threatened. One of the utterances of threaten is from the research done by Istiqomah and Ibrohim (2020), **“How dare you believe in him before I have given you permission?”**

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The researchers used descriptive qualitative research. As said by Creswell (2013), qualitative research is used to get the detailed understanding of issue. In this present research, the utterances that showed commissive acts in “Fractured” movie were taken to be the data. Data collection was done by using observational method. This research took non-participatory technique as the technique of collecting data. Both of the method and technique were applied based on the theory of Sudaryanto (2015). Steps of collecting data have three steps. The researchers watched the movie “Fractured” directed by Anderson (2019), downloaded the movie script, watched the movie while reading the movie script, and highlighted the utterances of commissive acts.

This research used pragmatic identity method and pragmatic competence- in equalizing technique. The method and technique were proposed by Sudaryanto (2015). It describes that the data were analyzed by equalizing the data with the theory. Searle and Vanderveken (1985)’s theory about commissive acts was used to analyze the data. There are three steps of analyzing the data that the researchers followed. The researchers found the context of utterances that the researchers highlighted, equalized data with theory, and findings showed the utterances and types of commissive acts.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Findings

There were 15 data of commissive acts produced in “Fractured” movie. The researchers found the type of accept, promise, offer, refuse, and threaten in the movie. The total data of each type appears in the table below.

Table 1. Commissive Acts in “Fractured” Movie

No.	Commissive Acts Types	Frequency
1	Accept	2
2	Promise	6
3	Offer	3
4	Refuse	3
5	Threaten	1
Total data		
15		

4.2 Discussions

Data 1

Ray : **“Look, why don't we just go home and do Thanksgiving all over again, all right? Just the three of us. Our way. We could get pizza. Peri loves pizza...”**

Joanne : We need to stop kidding ourselves, Ray.” (00:02:43-00:03:05)

The speaker was Ray and the hearer was Joanne. They were in the car on their way back to home after visiting the hearer’s family for Thanksgiving. In the car, they were previously arguing about their relationship and the behavior that the hearer’s parents showed while the speaker was visiting them. The speaker used the utterance above to give an offering about going home and having three of them to celebrate Thanksgiving. The speaker also offered the hearer to have pizza as their daughter named Peri loved pizza. Based on the utterance that is written in bold, it shows that the **commissive acts of offer** appears.

Data 2

Ray : “Who do you want me to be?”

Joanne : “I want you to be yourself. The guy that I married six years ago...”

Ray : “**I’m still that guy, Jo.** I’m in a patch, and I admit it, but I love you, okay?” (00:03:31-00:03:51)

Ray as the speaker asked the hearer named Joanne about who the speaker was expected to be. They were still talking about the relationship that was believed had been broken. The speaker’s question then was answered by the hearer. It was answered by saying that the hearer wanted the speaker to be himself who she married to six years ago. The hearer expected the speaker to be the one who she was used to laugh and dream with. Then, the speaker said that he was the same guy that the hearer adored. By saying it, the speaker refused to change himself to be another person as wanted by the hearer. It describes there is the **commissive acts of refuse** because the speaker did not intend to be different.

Data 3

Ray : “**Daddy will get you some more batteries, all right, sweetie?**”

Peri : [looking at her toy that was out of batteries] (00:04:32-00:04:34)

In the car, Peri as the hearer did nothing besides listening to the music from the toy. The hearer enjoyed listening to it during their way to back home. However, the toy was suddenly out of batteries that made the hearer could not hear the sound anymore. Ray as the speaker then said the utterance by saying the speaker would give the hearer more batteries as the speaker forgot to buy the extra batteries for her. The speaker said the utterance to inform the hearer as the one looked disappointed that he would do the

action in the future. It mentions that the utterance has the **commissive act of promise**.

Data 4

Peri : “I gotta go.”

Joanne : “Can you hold it?”

Peri : “No.”

Ray : “Okay, **I’ll pull over at the next rest stop, and then we’ll..** tinkle. Okay?” (00:05:38-00:05:46)

In the conversation above, the hearer named Peri suddenly said she wanted to go potty. The hearer wanted the speaker named Ray to stop the car and helped her to find the toilet for her. The car should have been stopped when the hearer wanted to go to rest stop because three of them were still in the car. After Peri said it, the speaker then answered by saying he would stop the car at the next rest stop and would let her daughter to go potty. The speaker used the utterance to show that he committed to do an action, which is stopping the car at the rest stop as desired by her daughter. Thus, the speaker applied the **commissive acts of promise** to commit that he would do as the hearer wanted him to do.

Data 5

Peri : “I had it in the ladies' room, remember?”

Joanne : “You check your pocket? In the ladies' room? **Okay. Well, I will go check** in the ladies' room..”

Peri : “Okay.” (00:08:07-00:08:20)

The conversation above was said right after the hearer named Peri had realized that she left her compact in ladies’ room. The hearer realized it when she had been in the car and her father was about to drive the car. Then, the hearer asked Joanne as the speaker

about whether Peri left it in the ladies' room. The speaker answered and asked whether she had checked it in her pocket. Because the hearer still could not find it, the speaker committed to back to the toilet in order to find the compact there. The speaker also said that once they got the compact, the hearer could not get to touch it until they arrived home. From the utterance, it can be seen that there is **commissive acts of promise**.

Data 6

Joanne : Gentle, Ray."

Ray : "Okay. It's all right. Up we go." (00:13:20-00:13:24)

This conversation was produced when Peri had just attacked by a dog in the rest stop. Because of it, she fell into the construction site that was located behind her. The accident caused her to fall and could not move her body. Then, Ray as the speaker hugged her daughter so that they could bring her to hospital as soon as possible. Joanne as the hearer of the conversation wanted the speaker to hug their daughter as the speaker was still in panic. The speaker committed to do as wished by hugging her in gentle way as Peri was still in pain. The utterance shows that the speaker produced **commissive acts of accept**.

Data 7

Ray : "Hang on, it's my daughter."

Queuer : "No!" (00:16:02-00:16:16:03)

The conversation above showed Ray was emotionally talking to the receptionist of the hospital. The hearer named Ray found that the receptionist was not responsive to respond the emergency. The hearer previously talked to the receptionist, but he was asked to wait for his turn. Then, it led the hearer to say that the patient was his daughter. The hearer talked to the

receptionist, but there was another queuer there. The queuer became the speaker as she was the one that produced the commissive acts. The speaker refused to let the hearer to take her turn as she had been queuing. Because of this, it indicates that there is the **commissive acts of refuse**.

Data 8

Ray : "Mm-hmm. Just stay calm"

Joanne : "I'll be calm when a doctor sees our daughter." (00:16:25- 00:16:30)

It took place in the waiting room of the hospital. The hearer named Ray previously went to the nurse station to ask about whether his daughter could be checked by doctor quickly. The hearer found it was weird as his daughter did not get the treatment once they had arrived at the hospital. This condition made the hearer came back and forth to make the nurse could have done more quickly. Then, the hearer asked the speaker named Joanne to be calm as the speaker was worried about her daughter's condition. The speaker then said that she would be calm when the doctor checked her daughter. Thus, it shows that the speaker used **commissive acts of promise** because the speaker promised.

Data 9

Ray : "What do you want me to do? You want me to kick down the doors and drag a doctor out here?"

Joanne : "...Do something. Do something, Ray." (00:16:36-00:16:49)

Ray as the speaker uttered the utterance when he had just came back from the nurse station. The speaker went there to ask the confirmation about

when her daughter would be checked. Previously, the hearer named Joanne looked annoyed as she had to wait longer. It then made the speaker to ask about the thing that he had to do. The speaker offered kicking down the doors and dragging a doctor out from the hospital as the actions that he had to do. He had tried to hurry the receptionist, but he got nothing as the receptionist still served other patients. Then, the hearer answered that the speaker had to do actions that the speaker previously mentioned as the hearer had been disappointed with the service. It shows that the speaker produced the **commissive acts of offer**.

Data 10

Customer Service: “Would you like Peri listed for organ donation?”
Joanne : “**No.**” (00:21:39-00:21:43)

This conversation took place in the office of the hospital. The customer service as the hearer firstly asked whether the speaker’s daughter would like to be listed as the organ donator. The hearer asked it because she was registering Peri as one of the hospital patients. The hearer asked lots of questions that further made the speaker to feel annoyed. Then, the speaker answered “no” as she refused to have her daughter to be donator. The speaker did not let the hospital to arrange the donation as the speaker came to the hospital to get treatment for her daughter. As the speaker refused it, it describes that the speaker used **commissive acts of refuse**.

Data 11

Ray : “Won't be long.”
Joanne : “Better not be... or **I'm gonna break somebody's arm.**”
(00:24:24-00:24:26)

The daughter of Ray and Joanne had been moved to emergency room. The speaker named Joanne previously had been forced to be patient as the hospital could not quickly treat her daughter who had just experienced an accident in the construction area. In the conversation above, the hearer tried to calm the speaker by saying it would not take too long for the doctor to visit her daughter. The speaker then said it was better if it would not take too long as she was going to break other people’s arm because she could not control her anger anymore. By saying the utterance, the speaker committed to break somebody’s arm. The speaker committed to do it because she had waited for hours in the hospital. Therefore, it implies that the speaker used the **commissive acts of threaten**.

Data 12

Dr. Berthram : “So, Peri, I'm gonna see how that arm is doing, and if anything hurts, anything at all, I want you to let me know. Deal?”
Peri : “**Deal.**” (00:25:18-00:25:27)

Dr. Berthram became the hearer and Peri as the speaker of the conversation above. The speaker had just visited Peri as the one, who had just experienced accident in the construction area. In the conversation above, the speaker said that he was going to check the speaker’s arm and he asked the speaker to inform him if she felt hurt. After hearing it, the speaker answered “deal” to show that the speaker accepted to inform the hearer once she felt the pain in her arm during the checkup. By saying it, it shows the speaker committed to take the future action as desired by the hearer. The speaker would inform him about the pain if it

was felt by her. It indicates the utterance is **commissive acts of accept**.

Data 13

Dr. Berthram : “Yeah, but you need to know... it is a costly procedure.”

Ray : **“I would do anything for my family, so you do what you have to do. Make sure she's okay.”**

Dr. Berthram : “That's a wise choice...” (00:27:35-00:27:51)

Outside of the emergency room, the hearer named Dr. Berthram explained the treatment that should have been treated to the speaker's daughter. The hearer previously said that his daughter was not in a good condition because of the accident. The hearer informed him that it would not cost inexpensive and the speaker needed to know before agreeing it. Then, the speaker said he promised to do anything for his family and he wanted the hearer to do his duty. Also, he wanted the hearer to make sure his daughter would be okay. The speaker's utterance describes that the speaker produced a **commissive acts** specifically **promise**.

Data 14

Receptionist : “Hi, **how may I help you?**”

Ray : “My daughter?”

Receptionist : “Oh, right, yes. I did leave word, sir, but I haven't heard back yet.” (00:35:52-00:35:58)

This conversation took place in the nurse station in which Ray aggressively talked to the receptionist. The hearer named Ray was sure that his family was kidnapped by doctor and nurse of that mysterious hospital. It made him had to ask the receptionist to show the form

that the hearer had filled in. Through the conversation above, the speaker offered the hearer an offer about thing that she could do as a receptionist. The speaker used it to ask anything that the speaker could assist regarding future action. Then, the hearer said that he wanted her to find her missing daughter. Because of this, it describes that the speaker produced the **commissive acts of offer**.

Data 15

Ray : “Now do you want to tell me... where my wife and daughter are? They should've locked you up!”

Officer Childes : **“We'll handle this.”** (00:52:13-00:50:17)

Conversation above was said in the emergency room when the speaker named Ray attempted to find her daughter and wife. The hearer also came with the officer Childes as the speaker who would help him to find them. The hearer believed that the hospital had hidden his family by pretending they did not about their missing. In the conversation above, the hearer said they should have been locked up as they had made him became insane. Then, the speaker wanted him to be calm as the hearer would help him to handle this case. By saying the utterance, it shows the speaker committed to take the action that would benefit the hearer. Thus, the speaker produced the **commissive acts of promise**.

5. CONCLUSION

This research revealed there had 15 commissive acts utterances in “Fractured” movie. The phenomena were found in the utterances of the characters in the movie. The findings appeared in 2 data of accept, 3 data of refuse, 6 data of promise, 3 data of offer, and 1 data of threaten. Promise

was found to be the most dominant type among others. The reason is that the characters of the movie frequently committed to do the future action that had obligations and involved benefit for the hearers. Furthermore, language users need to understand commissive acts as one of illocutionary acts classifications. Language users that understand commissive acts will not face misunderstanding regarding future action. Having the understanding of this type can lead speaker to show the speaker's commitment to hearer.

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