AN ANALYSIS OF INDIRECT SPEECH ACT USED BY CHARACTERS IN *GREEN BOOK* MOVIE (2018)



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Department

By

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Today, Wednesday, July 6th 2022, the Board of the Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **BESSE ASTRIANTI** (Student Number: F041181016) entitled:

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Submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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Makassar, May 27th, 2022

The writer,

Besse Astrianti

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ABSTRACT

BESSE ASTRIANTI. An Analysis of Indirect Speech Act Used by Characters in Green Book Movie (2018). (Supervised by Herawaty and Sitti Sahraeny)

This research investigates the use of indirect speech act performed by characters in Green Book movie. The aims of this study is to analyze the structural form and communicative function of indirect speech act used and to find out the real meaning of the utterances that performed indirect speech act

This study used a qualitative method and used the theory of indirect speech act by George Yule (1996) as the main theory.

The result of this study is the writer found 30 utterances that perform indirect speech act. There are 2 indirect speech acts function as declaration which all of them performed in interrogative form, 8 indirect speech acts expressing question which all of the utterances performed in declarative form, and 20 indirect speech acts expressing request in which 13 utterances are performed in declarative form, and 7 of them are performed in interrogative form.

Keywords: Pragmatic, Indirect Speech Act, Yule.

ABSTRAK

BESSE ASTRIANTI. An Analysis of Indirect Speech Act Used by Characters in Green Book Movie (2018). (Dibimbing oleh Herawaty and Sitti Sahraeny)

Penelitian ini mengamati penggunaan tindak tutur tidak langsung yang dibawakan oleh tokoh dalam film Green Book. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis bentruk struktural dan fungsi komunikatif dari tindak tutur tidak langsung yang ditampilkan oleh tokoh dalam film Green Book dan menemukan makna yang sesungguhnya dari tuturan yang ditampilkan dalam bentuk tindak tutur tidak langsung.

Penelitian in menggunakan metode kualitatif serta menerapkan teori tindak tutur tidak langsung oleh *George Yule* (1996) sebagai teori utama.

Hasil dari penelitian ini ialah penulis menemukan 30 tuturan yang merupakan tindak tutur tidak langsung. Terdapat 2 tindak tutur tidak langsung yang berfungsi sebagai pernyataan dimana keduanya disampaikan dalam bentuk interogatif, 8 tindak tutur tidak langsung yang menyatakan pertanyaan dimana seluruh tuturan tersebut ditampilkan dalam bentuk kalimat deklaratif, dan 20 tindak tutur tidak langsung yang mengekpresikan permohonan dimana13 tuturan ditampilkan dalam bentuk deklaratif dan 7 diantaranya disampaikan dalam bentuk interogatif.

Kata Kunci: Pragmatik, Tindak Tutur Tidak Langsung, Yule.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Communication is one of human's activities that occur in any kind of interaction of their life. It has been a part that bolsters up our activity to face the world and being in any environment. According to West and Turner (2018:5) communication is a process in a social life where people use symbols to create and to construe meaning in their surroundings. In addition, Samovar *et al* (2012:27) define communication as our capability in sharing thoughts and feelings. They assumed that wherever people live and stay, when they try to share their thought and feelings with others, they all engage in the same activity. While people's verbal and nonverbal symbols may sound and look different, the reasons they communicate tend to be the same (Samovar, *et al*, 2012:27). Through a communication, people can show what is in their mind and give responds to each other.

In doing the communication itself, language is essential to equip this activity. It is a must in communication to use language since it is the means or tools used by people in expressing their ideas as stated by Keraf (1997:1) that language is means of communication among the community members in the form of sound symbol produced by human's speech organ. It is a system used to interact with other people. By the use of language communication can take place, and through communication interaction can occur.

Although the existence of language has facilitated and eased human's life, at some point it can be something that is on the contrary complicated. When the language is used in a direct way by the speaker, the meaning that is delivered can be understood easily. If A for instance wants B to make him a cup of coffee then says "make me a cup of coffee" it can be directly understood that A is giving a command to B to make coffee. However, there is a situation when the speaker wants to present something but say it in other way. People sometimes want to give a command or request but show the function in other form such as performing a question rather than imperative form. This happens when speaker applies indirect speech act.

Indirect speech act as stated by Searle is one that is "performed by means of another" (Searle quoted in Thomas, 1995: 93). In addition, Yule in his book entitled *Pragmatic* (1996:55) assumed that when the structure of a sentence uttered has an indirect relationship with its function, then we get indirect speech act. In this situation, when the speaker uses the indirect form, the interlocutor has to put more effort to process the language use which leads to an ambiguity. It is said to be ambiguous since when uttering the language the interlocutor has more than one referral to get its meaning due to the form of the utterance that performs more than one function. When uttering sentences or words the speaker may have an expectation which apparently different from what is understood by her or his interlocutor. If a speaker produces the utterance "can you make coffee?" it can be interpreted into two intentions, whether the speaker is just asking for the ability of the hearer to make coffee

or requesting her to make a cup of coffee for him. In this case, it is needed to look at the context where the utterance takes place such as the setting surrounds the communication process and the relationship of the speaker and the hearer.

Just like real life communication, movie also shows some conversations that provide various phenomenon of language, which one of them is indirect speech act. Through movie, the viewers do not only get what kind of story shown or how the story develops and how it ends, but more than that they can also look the phenomenon of language applied by the characters in the conversations which also contributes substantial role in communication process in the movie. How the language is used, what kind of language use applied by characters, how it works, how it affects the act of the characters and how it is affected by the situation that is surrounding it also can be seen in a dialogue that is performed in conversations that are presented in movie. Related to this, the writer also saw some utterances in conversations presented in a movie which are recognized as indirect speech act. One of movies in which the writer found the phenomenon of indirect speech act is Green Book Movie.

Green Book is an American biographical comedy-drama film which was released in 2018 and directed by Peter Farrelly. This movie is based on a true story that tells about the tour of an African American pianist named Dr. Donald Shirley which is driven by an Italian American bouncer Frank Tony Lip Vallelonga by using a negro motorist Green Book, a mid-20th century

guidebook for African-American travelers. In Green Book movie, the writer found some utterances that are recognized as indirect speech act. One of the utterances is found in the conversation below:

Tony: Do Yourself a favor, go home with your friends

Mikey: You don't tell me where to go. Do you know who I am?

In this conversation, by looking at the utterance produced by Tony it can be directly interpreted that Tony gives a request to Mikey to go home. It is identified by looking at the situation where the conversation takes place in which the situation in bar was ruined due to an accident caused by Mikey. Mikey was found fighting with other people in a bar. In this situation, Tony who worked at the bar and had an obligation to police the bar took an action then asked Mikey to go home in order to keep the coziness of the bar. The structure of the sentence uttered is a type of an imperative sentence which is indeed basically used to perform a request. Thus, the utterance "Do Yourself a favor, go home with your friends" that is produced by Tony can be understood easily as the structure has a direct relationship with the communicative function intended by the speaker.

On the contrary, the utterance "You don't tell me where to go" which is produced by Mikey does not perform the basic function of its structural form. This sentence is known as a declarative sentence which is generally used to perform a statement or a declaration, while the intention of the speaker expresses another function. The speaker Mikey actually intends to give a

command to the hearer. It can be known by looking at the context that surrounding the utterance. Here, the social status of the speaker is higher than the hearer. In this situation, the speaker is treated badly then asked to go home by the hearer. That makes him grudge then leads him utters the sentence. In this case, it is seen that the form shown in the utterance does not express the literal function but another communicative function which then also make the utterance has another meaning. This utterance is identified as indirect speech act as there is an indirect relationship between the structural form of the utterance and its communicative function.

Another Indirect Speech act utterances found in this movie is "Can we get the cuffs of him, let him puts his pants on, we talked about this?" which is uttered by the main character, Tony. This utterance structurally shows the characteristic of interrogative sentence which is usually used to perform a question. However, the speaker has another intention while uttering the sentence. In this case, the speaker intends to give a request to the hearer.

The topic of indirect speech act has been an interesting point for the writer which then motivates her to do a research related to the topic. The writer also has found some utterances that are recognized as an indirect speech act in *Green Book* movie. Based on the examples and the other indirect speech act utterances found in the movie, the writer decided to analyze the indirect speech acts used by characters in *Green Book* Movie (2018). By conducting this analysis, it is highly expected that the intention of the speaker who apply indirect speech act in the movie can be identified so that the meaning of the

utterance can also be understood. Moreover, it is also hoped that this research can give a contribution to the identification of indirect speech act in other communication processes.

B. Identification of the Problem

According to the background, there are some problems identified:

- There is a difficulty in communication process when indirect speech
 act applied due to the indirect relationship between the form and
 function of the utterance.
- 2. It is needed to look at the context when the indirect speech act applied

C. Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the phenomenon of indirect speech act and the work of context used as a media in getting the intention of the indirect speech found in communication process. This research is only limited on the indirect speech acts uttered by characters in *Green Book* movie.

D. Research Question

- 1. What are the forms of indirect speech act used/uttered by characters in *Green Book* Movie?
- 2. What is the communicative function of indirect speech act intended by the speakers in *Green Book* movie?

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the research questions, this study aims to:

- 1. Describe the form and the function of the indirect speech act performed in *Green Book* movie
- 2. Explain the utterance in *Green Book* movie that use indirect speech act to get the communicative function and meaning of the utterance intended by the speaker in *Green Book* movie

F. Significance of the Study

1. Theoretically

The result of this study is expected to theoretically give a significant contribution to the theories dealing with speech act especially indirect speech act.

2. Practically

It is expected that this study can help other researchers who conduct the same study, namely the study of indirect speech act. For the researcher herself, it is expected that she can understand more about the concept that deal with indirect speech act after conducting the study.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Previous Study

There are several studies that have been conducted by researchers in the field of indirect speech act. The following are some studies related to the topic chosen.

Hanum Fitrah Amalia (2017) conducted a study entitled *An Analysis of Indirect Speech Act in X-Men Film Series*. The aim of this study was to analyze the form of indirect speech act and its function, also to analyze the typology of indirect speech act. In this study, Amalia took a film entitled *X-Men* as the object and the dialogue uttered by characters of the film as the sample of this study. This research used qualitative method and documentation technique in the process of collecting data. The study found three types of speech act contained in indirect speech act uttered by the characters in the film which are declaratives, imperatives and interrogatives. Those forms as the result of this study present different function, such as requesting, suggesting, begging, asking, refusal and commanding.

The next study is *Indirect Speech Act of Utterance in the Intervention Movie* by Ilham Leo Maulana (2018). This study aimed to investigate the use of indirect speech act in the *Intervention* movie and find out the types and function of it. The study used a qualitative data analysis method in analyzing the utterances. The study classified the data into three categories which are indirect speech act of requesting act, indirect speech act of questioning act,

and indirect speech act of offering act. The result was there were two types of indirect speech acts found, directive speech acts which were used as requesting act and questioning act, and commissive speech acts which were used as offering act.

Another study is conducted by Fyngky Oktadistio *et al An Analysis of Direct and Indirect Speech Acts Performed By Main Character in the Movie Revenant Script*. The purpose of this study was to find out the types, and functions of speech acts whether it was direct speech act or indirect speech act in the movie script entitled *'The Revenant'*. The research was a descriptive analysis and used theory of Yule (1996). From the analysis, it was found that both direct speech acts and indirect speech acts are used by main characters in this movie. The most dominant type of speech act used in the movie script was direct speech act (13 utterances) and then followed by indirect speech act (9 utterances).

The last is a study conducted by Risti Pramita (2018) entitled *Indirect Speech Act Used by Characters in Bobby Ann Mason's Detroit Skyline*, 1949 Mini Novel. This study aimed to describe the literal meaning of the utterance, the context of the utterance performed by characters, also indirect speech act achieved from understanding the concept. In this study, the researcher used qualitative descriptive method and analyses the indirect speech act into three stages which are analysis of literal meaning, analysis of context, and analysis of indirect speech act.

Similar to the previous research, this research also focuses on the implementation of the speech act theory. Whereas, the difference of this study to the previous studies is the object of the study in which the writer used the utterances of the dialogue in *Green Book* movie. Moreover, the writer also took the setting of the dialogues where the indirect speech act occurs as the context analysis.

B. Theoretical Background

In this part, some theories related to and support the research are presented.

a. Pragmatic

Pragmatic is a study in which the meaning of an utterance is analyzed through some aspect in the process of communication. The analysis of the utterances associates with the speaker, what she/he has in mind that becomes the intention of what she/he is saying, how is the situation around the communication process and the relationship between the speaker and the interlocutor. Leech (1983:6) in distinguishing semantic and pragmatic defined pragmatic by proposing the idea "What do you mean by X?". From this statement, it can be said that pragmatic does not merely show the meaning of the words or language itself, but more than that it deals with the speaker as the user of the language, which in this case the meaning that is intended by the speaker when the language is produced (Leech, 1983:6).

In Yule (1996:3), pragmatic itself indicates four areas to be consider with which are pragmatic as the study of speaker meaning, pragmatic as the study of contextual meaning, the study of more gets communicated than is said, and the study of expression of the relative distance.

Pragmatic is the study of the speaker meaning refers to pragmatic as a field that analyze what the speaker her/himself means by giving the utterance which then interpreted by her/his interlocutor. Pragmatic also includes the involvement of context which gives a big influence to the communication process. This type of analysis - analysis of what a speaker means in a certain context is what is called pragmatic as the study of contextual meaning. Pragmatic is the study of how more gets communicated than is said means pragmatic as the analysis of how the listener catches information more than what they hear from the speaker as a part of what is communicated to interpret what is the speaker intends to say. The last area is pragmatic as the study of expression of relative distance means to pragmatic that involves the influence of relationship between speaker and the listener, how close are they physically, socially, and conceptually (Yule, 1996: 3).

b. Speech Act

Speech act is one of some issues of language included in pragmatic study. Mey assumed that "speech acts are a verbal actions happening in

the world" (Mey, 2001:95). Yule in his book entitled *Pragmatic* (1996:47) proposed the concept of speech act as the activity of performing actions via utterance that is produced by the speaker. In his book Yule stated that when expressing themselves people also performs action through the utterances they produce as oppose to only producing utterances containing grammatical structures. For example, when a boss utters "you are fired" to an employee in his office, the utterance appears as more than just a statement but can also be used to perform the act of ending his worker's employment (Yule, 1996:47).

Speech act is firstly introduced by John Langshaw Austin (1962). In his work, Austin differentiates speech act into constative and performative acts. Austin simply differentiates both types by saying that "constative utterance is true or false and the performative is happy or unhappy" (Austin, 1962:54). Constative according to Austin (1962:132) deals with the matter of truth or falsehood by uttering a sentence or the matter of saying something while performative refers to what is done or happening when uttering as oppose to just saying something. He also distinguishes Locutionary act, Illocutionary, and Perlocutionary act. It can be seen from the explanation of Austin that Locutionary act is an act of saying something, Illocutionary act is an act of performing something in saying something, while Perlocutionary act is the act of affecting someone in saying something (Austin, 1962:94-101).

Searle (1979) in other hand proposed five broad categories in speech act which are:

- Assertive, a type of speech act that commits the speaker to something being true to the expressed proposition's truth. For instance, asserting, predicting, and insisting
- 2. Directives, attempts by the speaker to persuade the listener to take action, such as directing, ordering, and entreating.
- Commissives, acts that commit the speaker to a specific action in the future like committing, promising, and threatening.
- Expressive, these indicates the speaker own feeling, psychological state in sincerity which includes expression of apologize, thank you, and praise.
- 5. Declaratives, cause a change in the world, such as when someone declare A to be X, A will be known as X from now on.

Yule (1996) also proposed the general classification of speech act into five types which are declarations, representatives, expressive, directives, and commissives. Moreover, he added categories of speech act classification which are based on the relationship between structural form and function and the action performed by producing an utterance. Based on the action performed by producing the utterance, Yule classified speech act into Locutionary, Illocutionary, and Perlocutionary act. While based on

the relationship between the structure and the function of the utterance he divided speech acts into two types which are direct and indirect speech act.

c. Locutionary, Illocutionary, and Perlocutionary Act

1. Locutionary Act

Yule (1996:48) stated that Locutionary act is a type of speech act which performs the basic or literal meaning of an utterance. For example, when someone says *it is hot here* the speaker refers to the temperature of a place.

2. Illocutionary Act

According to Yule (1996:48), Illocutionary act shows a communicative intention of an utterance produced by the speaker. In Illocutionary act the utterance *it is hot here* may be produced for the intention of making a statement, giving information or request to open the window and the other communicative purpose.

3. Perlocutionary Act

Perlocutionary act according to Yule (1996:48-49) deals with the effect of the utterance intended by the speaker to the thought, feeling, and action of the hearer in the communication process. In a word, Perlocutionary act performed to get a certain effect. When someone says it is hot here then by this utterance the hearer goes to open the window for

the speaker after he utters the words, the utterance then performs a Perlocutionary act.

d. Direct and Indirect Speech Act

1. Direct Speech Act

According to Yule (1996: 54-55) we could identify an utterance as a direct speech act if the given structure has direct relationship with the function of the utterance performed. When a speaker intends to give command to the hearer to give him a cup of tea by producing an utterance give me a cup of tea, the speaker performs direct speech act. It can be seen from the structure of the sentence uttered which is imperative form, and it has the direct relationship with its function, that is giving a command.

2. Indirect Speech Act

According to Smith (1991:19) indirect speech act is an utterance in which an Illocutionary act is performed by another type of Illocutionary act. Searle (1979:31) in his theory shows issue of indirect speech act which is figuring out how the speaker can say one thing and imply that while also means something another. And because meaning is based on part on the speaker attention to produce understanding in the listener, a big part of the issue is figuring out how the listener can understand the indirect speech act when the sentence he hears and he understands means something different.

Thus, Searle (1969:31-32) suggests that to get the point of indirect speech act what is needed to be understood is "the speaker communicates to the hearer more than he actually says by way of relying on their mutually shared background both linguistic and non-linguistic, together with the general powers of rationality and interference on the part of the hearer.

One of well-known examples of indirect speech act given by Searle (1969) is "can you pass the salt?". This utterance performs a question. However, it does not really mean that but means a request for the interlocutor to pass the salt for her/him. Another example is "I have to study for an exam" as a respond to the proposal "let's go to the movie tonight". It is simply a statement about the speaker which has to study for an exam in terms of its meaning. When take context into account this statement will be different from the literal meaning which it implies a rejection. But how the hearer knows that that is a rejection to his proposal is the issue. There is a brief reconstruction which is needed to go to the conclusion that it is a rejection. Related to the utterances, Searle proposed these steps (A is speaker of "let's go the movies tonight and B is the speaker of "I have to study for an exam)

Step 1: A has made a proposal to B and in response he has made a statement to the effect that he has to study for an exam (facts about the conversation).

Step 2: A assumes that B is cooperating in the conversation and that therefore his remark is intended to be relevant (principles of conversational cooperation).

- Step 3: A relevant response must be one of acceptance, rejection, counter proposal further discussion, etc. (theory of speech acts).
- Step 4: But his literal utterance was not one of these, and so was not a relevant response (inference from Steps I and 3).
- Step 5: Therefore, he probably means more than he says. Assuming
- Step 6: I know that studying for an exam normally takes a large amount of time relative to a single evening, and I know that going to the movies normally takes a large amount of time relative to a single evening (factual background information).
- Step 7: Therefore, he probably cannot both go to the movies and study for an exam in one evening (inference from Step 6).
- Step 8: A preparatory condition on the acceptance of a proposal, or on any other commissives, is the ability to perform the act predicated in the propositional content condition (theory of speech acts).
- Step 9: Therefore, I know that he has said something that has the consequence that he probably cannot consistently accept the proposal (inference from Steps i, y, and 8).
- Step 10: Therefore, his primary Illocutionary point (meaning) is probably to reject the proposal. (Searle, 1969:34-35)

In addition, Yule (1996:55) emphasized the characteristic of the indirect speech act by looking at the relationship between the structure of

an utterance and its function. If there is an indirect relationship between the grammatical form and the function of the utterance, then that is the type of indirect speech act. A declarative form of a sentence uttered in indirect speech act will not give a declarative function, but implying another such as request which is basically performed in imperative form. For instance, a request for someone to not standing in front of the TV in direct way will be uttered in imperative form such in (a). The utterance (b) has an interrogative form. However, it does not only perform a question but also indirectly shows a request. The utterance (c) and (d) also imply a request indirectly but have a declarative forms. Thus, the utterance (b), (c), (d) are indirect speech act.

- (a) Move out of the way!
- (b) Do you have to stand in front of the TV?
- (c) You're standing in front of the TV.
- (d) You'd make a better door than a window.

As a conclusion, indirect speech act performs itself in another form to give its meaning. Therefore an analysis to get the meaning of the utterance which is in the form of indirect speech act is needed.

e. Types of Sentence Structure and Sentence Function

Yule (1996:54) stated that the types of speech act which are direct and indirect speech act are identified by looking at the relationship between the structure and function of the utterance produced. According to this

statement, Yule proposed three basic sentence types in English based on the structural form and the functions. The three sentence types are declarative, interrogative, and imperative, while the three general communicative functions are statement, question, and command/request (Yule, 1996:54).

1. Sentence Structure

1.1. Declarative Sentence

According to Halliday (2014:56), declarative sentence is realized by the "sequence of Subject followed by Finite" (Halliday, 2014:56). In addition, it is assumed that Subject-whole verb is the syntactic characteristic of a declarative sentence (Sauter and Verspoor, 2000:16). If the Subject comes before the finite the sentence performs a declarative type. This type of sentence structure appears to express a statement (Halliday, 2014:143). For example, *He is diligent*. In this sentence the subject *He* precedes the finite *is*. Thus, this sentence is declarative.

1.2. Interrogative Sentence

Halliday (2014:143) divided interrogative form into yes/no type and WH-type. Yes/No type is characterized by the Finite which comes before the Subject such in the sentence *Is He diligent?* in which the Finite *Is* precedes the Subject *He*. If the interrogative sentence has a WH element it is indicated as the WH type of

interrogative sentence such in *Who is diligent?* Interrogative form is used to express a question (Halliday, 2014:143).

1.3. Imperative Sentence

Halliday (2014:165) proposed that imperative form is characterized by Predicator or the verb form only such in *look*, Subject only, Finite only such in *Do and Don't*, or Finite followed by Subject such in *Don't You*.

2. Sentence Function

2.1. Statement

Statement as a sentence function provides an information. It basically works with declarative sentence. The sentence *she wears a hat* provides an information about "*she*" which *wears a hat*

2.2. Question

This sentence function performs an intention to get information. For instance, the sentence *How many cars do you have?* is a type of question and need an information related to the question.

2.3.Command/Request

Command/request served as an intention to ask someone to do something. The use of the sentence "put your book on the table" intends to ask someone to do something, that is put the book on the table.

f. Context

Context deals with the circumstance or the situation around the communication process when an utterance produced. It includes who is the speaker, the hearer, the relationship between the hearer and the speaker, time and place in which a word or utterance performed and others such as the background or thoughts of the speaker/writer and hearer/reader. Brown and Yule (1983:25) proposed the concept of context as a physical setting surrounding when the word is used. Leech (1983:13) assumed context as a shared background knowledge of the speaker and hearer that will work as the media for the hearer to get the meaning of the utterance given by the speaker. By looking at the context it will be easier to get the meaning of a sentence produced in a communication process. Butt et al (2000) proposed two types of context which are context of situation and context of culture. Situational context or context of situation in Butt et all is described as those that includes "the things going on in the world outside the text that makes the text what it is" (Butt, et al, 2000:4). According to Leech cited in Widyaningsih (2018:58) situational context associated with the participants or people, time and place setting, also the cultural background. On the other hand, cultural context includes both material and non-material things related to the shared elements of human society which are the city, organizations, school, ideas and custom, also a pattern of family, relationship and language.