ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN
CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S THE DARK KNIGHT
(A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS)

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University
In Partial Fulfillment to Obtain Sarjana Degree in English Department

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THESIS

ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S THE DARK KNIGHT
(A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS)

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It has been examined before the Board of the Thesis Examination on Friday, February 22nd, 2019 and is declared to have fulfilled the requirements.

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Today, Friday, February 22nd, 2019, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by OYAN QINAYA LOLONG RANTEUPA (Student No. F21114303) entitled, **ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S THE DARK KNIGHT (A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS)**, submitted in fulfillment of 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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With the reference to the letter of the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences No. 1279/UN.4.9.1/DA.08.04/2018 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the thesis draft to be examined at the English Department of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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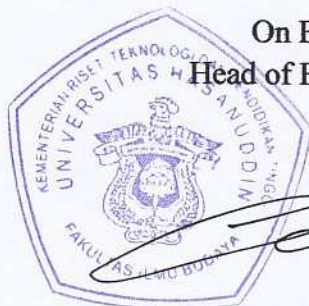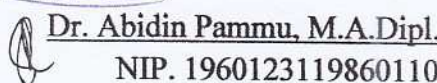NIP. 196110221987032001

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The Writer,

Oyan Qinaya Lolong Ranteupa

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ABSTRACT

Oyan Qinaya Lolong Ranteupa. 2019. "Illocutionary Acts in Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight*: A Pragmatic Analysis". (Supervised by Harlinah Sahib and Simon Sitoto).

The aims of this study are to describe the types of illocutionary acts used in the screenplay of *The Dark Knight* and explain the meaning of the illocutionary acts used by the characters.

The data were analyzed by using qualitative method. The data were collected from the screenplay of *The Dark Knight*. The selection was conducted by choosing some of the dialogues that have conversations that contain illocutionary acts.

The results of this study are that illocutionary acts used in the dialogue of *The Dark Knight* screenplay are many used by the characters. They use the speech acts of directive, commissive, representative, expressive, and declarative.

Keywords: Conversation, Illocutionary Act, Speech Act

ABSTRAK

Oyan Qinaya Lolong Ranteupa. 2019. "Tindak Ilokusi dalam *The Dark Knight* karya Christopher Nolan: Sebuah Studi Pragmatik". (Dibimbing oleh Harlinah Sahib dan Simon Sitoto).

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan tiap jenis tindak ilokusi yang dipakai dalam naskah film *The Dark Knight* dan menjelaskan makna dari tindak ilokusi yang dipakai oleh karakter.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan dari naskah film *The Dark Knight*. Pemilihan data dilakukan dengan memilih beberapa dialog yang memiliki percakapan yang mengandung tindak ilokusi.

Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah bahwa tindak ilokusi dalam dialog naskah film *The Dark Knight* banyak digunakan oleh karakter. Mereka menggunakan tindak tutur *directive*, *commissive, representative, expressive*, dan *declarative*.

Kata Kunci: Percakapan, Tindak Ilokusi, Tindak Tutur

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language has an important role in human life as it is created to form relationships between people. Language is used by people to express emotions, things, communications, thoughts, etc. Without language, people cannot communicate with each other. That is why language is considered the main tool of communication. Despite there are so many ways to communicate with people.

Language studies have some aspects. One of the aspects in of language is linguistics. Linguistics studies about language form, language meaning, and context of language.

In linguistics, there is one field of study that focuses on context and meaning, called pragmatics. Pragmatics concern in the meanings of the utterances that people utter to other people. Sometimes people tell something rather implicit or explicit.

Sometimes when a speaker utters an expression to another, it doesn't always mean to be the exact meaning that the first speaker utters to another speaker. The illocutionary acts that happened between 2 people's conversations is rather interesting to be analyzed, because it is not always the ing that the person is uttering. Sometimes when a speaker is asking to er person, it doesn't always mean that the speakers is asking about

something. It is usually translated as an expression of confusion, or an expression of challenging another speaker to correct their statement(s).

From the statement above, the writer realizes that in order to analyze dialogues containing one or several meanings, the study of illocutionary act is the best way to analyze them. Illocutionary act is a part of speech act and a branch of pragmatics that deals with a speaker's intention in uttering something in order to get a reaction from a hearer.

That is why the writer chooses the title "**ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN CHRISTOPHER NOLAN'S THE DARK KNIGHT (A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS)**". The Dark Knight is a superhero film that focused on the story of Batman, Commissioner Jim Gordon, and Gotham District Attorney Harvey Dent's battle to stop the Joker from destroying Gotham City. The writer chooses this movie to be analyzed because there are many exchanges of dialogues between characters that are direct and indirect. Therefore, that is the main issue that the writer wants to analyze.

1.2 Identification of Problem

Based on the topic above, the writer found some identified problems as follows:

1. The characters use direct and indirect illocution to express their dialogues;

2. Some dialogues contain utterances that are not directly interactive for one another (i.e. Character A utters a question and Character B utters

another question, therefore character B does not directly answer the question from character A).

1.3 Scope of Problem

Based on the problems above, the writer would like to limit the material in order not to confuse the readers while reading this thesis. Therefore, the writer limits his analysis on direct and indirect illocutions.

1.4 Research Questions

The research questions of this thesis are based on the scope of problem above. Therefore, this thesis will be analyzed as follows:

1. Which dialogues contain either directive, commissive, expressive, representative, or declarative utterances performed by the characters?
2. What are the type of illocutionary acts performed by the characters?
3. What are the meaning of the utterances performed by the characters?

1.5 Objectives of Writing

The writer has some purpose in writing this thesis, they are as follows:

1. To disclose dialogues containing directive, commissive, expressive, representative, and declarative utterances that are performed by the characters.

To explain the illocutionary acts that are performed by the characters.

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3. To describe the meaning of the utterances that are performed by the characters.

1.6 Sequence of Chapters

CHAPTER I: Background, Identification of Problem, Scope of Problem, Research Questions, Objectives of Writing, and Sequence of Chapters

CHAPTER II: Previous Studies, Pragmatics, Speech Act, Aspects of Illocutionary Act, Types of Utterances, Film, and The Dark Knight

CHAPTER III: Library Research and Field Research

CHAPTER IV: Presentation and Data Analysis

CHAPTER V: Conclusion and Suggestion

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Studies

There are some writers do investigation about illocutionary acts. The writer decided to take previous studies for this research from:

a. "Illocutionary Acts in Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*" by Monika Gultom (1996). She described the use of direct and indirect illocutionary acts. Her research focused on analyzing utterances such as asking, informing, asserting, and insulting. She used a novel manuscript for her object of research and she used qualitative method for analyzing her research.

b. "Illocutionary Acts in the Play The Good Woman of Setzuan by Bertolt Brecht" by Zaenab (2003). She described the use of direct and indirect illocutionary acts. Her research focused on analyzing utterances such as declarative, interrogative, and imperative. She used a play script as her object of research and she analyze the aspects of illocutionary acts using qualitative method.

c. "Illocutionary Acts in Two Radio Programs" by Frenky Himaya (2003). He described the use of direct and indirect illocutionary acts. His research focused on analyzing utterances such as declarative, interrogative, and imperative. He used conversations in two different radio programs as his object of research and he used qualitative method to analyze his research.

d. "Illocutionary Acts in Speaking Class I (Study Case)" by Nelly Halim (2004). She described the use of direct and indirect illocutionary acts. Her research focused on analyzing utterances such as declarative and interrogative. She used activities in Speaking Class as her object of research and she used quantitative methods to analyze her research.

The differences between this research and the previous studies are this research focused on analyzing directive, commissive, representative, expressive, and declarative utterances; and this research only focused on indirect illocutionary acts. This research analyzes a movie screenplay, more specifically The Dark Knight screenplay, and this research uses qualitative methods to analyze this research.

2.2 Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that learn about language and the context. Yule (1996:4) stated that "Pragmatics is the study of the relationship between forms and the users of those forms." He also mentioned some benefits that people can get through the study of pragmatics, there are for express their assumptions, their true meanings, and their goals when they speak to others.

According to Gazdar (in Levinson 1983:12), "Pragmatics is the aspect of the meaning of utterance that is spoken indirectly." While Morris (in Levinson 1983:1) stated that "Pragmatics is the study of relation of signs to ...reters." In this case, pragmatics explains how the hearer can interpret the ...ing of what is said by the speaker.

Based on some definitions about pragmatics above, the writer can conclude that pragmatics is a study of language about the context, meaning, and purpose from the speaker's utterance.

2.3 Speech Act

According to Stubbs (1983:152):

"Utterances can perform three kinds of act. *Locutionary act* is the act of saying something: producing a series of sounds which mean something. *Perlocutionary act* produces some effects on hearers. This has been a traditional concern of rhetoric: the effect of language on the audience. *Illocutionary act* is performed in saying something, and includes acts such as betting, promising, denying, and ordering. "

Austin (1962) who is known as the first philosopher in formulating the speech act, said that speech act is a theory that assumes that utterance are not just statements but also action.

According to Austin (1962:94), speech act is divided into three kinds:

1. Locutionary act; an act of saying something with a certain sense and reference.

2. Illocutionary act; an act performed in saying something, such as offer, promise, etc.

3. Perlocutionary act; an act produced to effect on audience.

2.3.1 Locutionary Act

Lyons (1997:730) states "Locutionary act is an act of saying; production of a meaningful utterance." While Stubbs (1983:152) says

that "Locutionary act is an act of saying something." It means that in uttering an utterance, a speaker does not perform an act.

Therefore, locutionary act is an act that focuses on the speaker's way of uttering something.

2.3.2 Illocutionary Act

Lyons (1997:730) suggests that "An illocutionary act is an act performed in saying something, as making statement or promise, issuing a command or request, asking a question, etc." While Stubbs (1982:152) says that "Illocutionary act is performed in saying something includes at such as ordering, denying, etc."

Hurford and Heasley (1987:259) stated that:

"The illocutionary act carried out by a speaker making an utterance is the act viewed in terms the utterance's significance within a conventional system of social interactions. Illocutionary acts are defined by social convention, apologizing, challenging, complaining, condoling, congratulating, deploring, etc."

For this act, Hurford gives example:

"I'm very grateful to you for all you have done for me."

For the utterance above, he says that the speaker performs illocutionary act of thanking.

Therefore, the writer can conclude that illocutionary act is an act that engaging in what the speaker utters to the hearer in social interaction, i.e. asking, promising, thanking, guaranteeing, etc.

2.3.3 Perlocutionary Act

According to Lyons (1997:730):

"A perlocutionary act is an act performed by means of saying something; getting something, to believe that something is so persuading someone to do something moving someone to anger, consoling someone in his distress, etc., means that perlocutionary act can be effective only if the speaker utters an utterance that can be affect the hearer on his behavior, beliefs, or feeling."

And according to Searle (1962), perlocutionary act is similar to illocutionary act, for example, by arguing we may persuade or convince someone, by warning them we may alarm them, by making a request we may get him to do something, or by informing him we may convince them.

Therefore, a perlocutionary act is an act that allows a speaker to make someone to do something that was told from the speaker in order to make something done and make an effect on the hearer.

For example:

Will you open the door?

The utterance above contains an illocutionary act of requesting; the speaker wants the hearer to open the door. This utterance also contains a perlocutionary act by asking someone or hearer to open the window so the hearer automatically will open the door. So, by asking a request we may ask someone to do something.

2.4 Aspects of Illocutionary Act

According to Searle (1975:69):

> "In such cases, the speaker intends to produce a certain illocutionary effect the hearer and he intends to produce this effect by getting the hearer to recognize his intention to produce it. But not all cases of meaning are simple, the speaker's utterance meaning come apart in various ways. In such cases a sentence that contains the illocutionary force indicators for one kind of illocutionary act, for this reason it is important to know the distinction between direct and indirect illocution."

Hurford and Heasley (1983) stated that illocutionary act uttered by a speaker is an act that viewed in the terms of the utterance's significance within a conventional system of social interaction.

Therefore, the writer can conclude that in illocutionary act, sometimes a speaker utters an utterance that have literal meaning to a hearer, but sometimes a speaker can utter an utterance that have more than one meaning. Thus, there are 2 types of illocutionary act, direct and indirect illocution.

2.4.1 Direct Illocution

According to Hurford and Heasley (1987:269), "Direct illocution of an utterance is the illocution most directly indicated by a lateral reading of the grammatical form and vocabulary of the sentence uttered."

Levinson (1983:274) stated that "A direct illocution is an illocutionary act in which only the illocutionary force and propositional content literally expressed by the lexical items and syntactic form of the utterance are communicated."

Example:

I believe this is what you are looking for.

The direct illocution of the example is asserting that speaker believes that he found the thing that the hearer has been looking for.

2.4.2 Indirect Illocution

Searle (1975:61) said that "In indirect speech act the speaker communicates to the hearer more than what he says." In another words, the speaker said one thing but it means the other thing.

Hurford and Heasley (1987) defined the indirect illocution as any further illocution the utterance may have.

Example:

Why don't we watch this movie tomorrow?

In the example above, not only does the speaker ask the hearer to watch the movie tomorrow, but the speaker also utters the act of suggesting, that the speaker suggests to the hearer that they can go watch the movie tomorrow.

The difference between direct and indirect illocution is that direct illocution can be known by the lateral or by the formal language for instance syntax, semantics, but in indirect illocution, aspects of non-language (context) are influent to know the message of the speaker to the hearer, for example by culture, social relationship, etc.

2.5 Types of Utterances

There are five basic kinds or categories of utterances (actions that can be performed in speaking) developed by Yule (1996). They are as follows:

1. Directive: a kind of utterance that the speaker's intention to make someone else to do something which means makes the world fit words. In other words, speaker wants the situation. It consists of:

   a. Asking: *to expect or demand something*

   b. Inviting: *to ask or request someone to go to an event*

   c. Ordering: *to tell someone that they must do something*

   d. Begging: *to ask for something urgently and without pride because one wants it very much*

   e. Requesting: *to politely or officially ask for something*

   f. Recommending: *to suggest that someone or something would be good or suitable for a particular job or purpose, or to suggest that a particular action should be done*

   g. Demanding: *to ask for something forcefully*

   h. Permitting: *to allow something*

   i. Commanding: *to give someone an order, especially one given by a soldier*

   j. Daring: *to ask someone to do something which involves risk*

   k. Questioning: *to ask a person about something, especially officially*

   l. Pleading: *to make an urgent, emotional statement or request for something*

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2. Commissive: a kind of utterance that focuses on the speaker's commitment. The speaker commits themselves to some future action which means make the worlds fit words. In other words, speaker intends the situation. It consists of:

   a. Refusing: *to say that one will not do or accept something*

   b. Promising: *to tell someone that one will certainly do something*

   c. Volunteering: *to offer to do something that one does not have to do, often without having been asked to do it and/or without expecting payment*

   d. Committing: *to promise or give one's loyalty, time, or money to a particular principle, person, or plan of action*

   e. Guaranteeing: *to promise that something will be done or will happen*

   f. Offering: *to ask someone if they would like to have something or if they would like to do something*

   g. Pledging: *to make a serious or formal promise to give or do something*

   h. Threatening: *to tell someone that one will kill or hurt them*

   i. Agreeing: *to have the same opinion, or to accept a suggestion or idea*

   j. Disagreeing: *to not have the same idea*

   k. Consenting: *to agree to do something, or to allow someone to do something*

3. Representative: a kind of utterance that the speaker believes to be the case or not which means words fit the world. In other words, speaker believes e situation. It consists of:

a. Swearing: *to state or promise that one is telling the truth or that one will do something or behave in a particular way*

b. Informing: *to tell someone about particular facts*

c. Boasting: *to speak too proudly or happily about one has done or what one owns*

d. Asserting: *to say that something is certainly true*

e. Suggesting: *to communicate or show an idea or feeling without stating it directly or giving proof*

f. Criticizing: *to express disapproval of someone or something*

g. Denying: *to say that something is not true*

h. Claiming: *to say that something is true or is a fact*

i. Complaining: *to say that something is wrong or not satisfactory*

j. Describing: *to say or write what someone or something is like*

k. Reporting: *to give a description of something or information about it to someone*

l. Affirming: *to state something as true*

m. Stating: *to say or write something, especially clearly and carefully*

n. Insisting: *to state or demand forcefully*

o. Emphasizing: *to show or state that something is particularly important or worth giving attention to*

p. Predicting: *to say that an event or action will happen in the future, especially as a result of knowledge or experience*

Reminding: *to make someone aware of something they have forgotten or might have forgotten*

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4. Expressive: a kind of utterance that describes what the speakers feel which means make words fit the world. In other words, speaker feels the situation. It consists of:

a. Condoling: *to express one's sympathetic grief one the occasion of someone's death*

b. Praising: *to express admiration or approval about the achievements or characteristics of a person or thing*

c. Thanking: *to express to someone that one is pleased about or appreciate something that they have done*

d. Complimenting: *to praise or express admiration for someone*

e. Regretting: *to feel remorse or sorry for someone*

f. Congratulating: *to praise someone and say that one approves of or are pleased about a special or unusual achievement*

g. Apologizing: *to tell someone that one is sorry for having done something that has caused them inconvenience or unhappiness*

h. Consoling: *to make someone who is sad or disappointed feel better by giving them comfort or sympathy*

i. Greeting: *to welcome someone with particular words or a particular action, or to react to something in the stated way*

j. Deploring: *to say or think that something is very bad*

k. Welcoming: *to meet and speak to someone in a friendly way when they come to the place where one is*

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5. Declarative: a kind of utterance that makes the world change by their utterances which means words change the world. In other words, speaker causes the situations change. It consists of:

a. Declaring: *to announce something clearly, firmly, publicly, or officially*

b. Confirming: *to give certainty to a belief or an opinion which was previously not completely certain*

c. Blessing: *to render holy by means of religious rites*

d. Approving: *to have a positive opinion of someone or something*

e. Betting: *to have faith or confidence in something*

f. Dismissing: *to formally ask or order someone to leave*

g. Naming: *to give someone or something a name*

h. Adjourning: *to have a pause or rest during a formal meeting or trial*

i. Baptizing: *to administer baptism to someone*

j. Resigning: *to give up a job or position by telling one's employer that one is leaving*

2.6 Film

According to Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, film is "a series of moving pictures, usually shown in a cinema or on television and often telling a story." There are two types of film: live-action and animation. Each type of film can either be a feature length or a short subject.

There are several genres of film, to name a few:

1. Action: the film genre in which the protagonist(s) is forced into a series of challenges that typically include violence, extended fighting, and exciting chases;

2. Biographical: the film genre that tells a story about the life a non-fictional or historical figure(s);

3. Comedy: the film genre that emphasizes on humor and designed to make the audience laugh;

4. Crime: the film genre that focuses on a tale of good and evil, usually include police force and the criminals;

5. Drama: the film genre that focuses on stories with settings of real-life situations that portray realistic characters in conflict with either themselves or others;

6. Horror: the film genre that emphasizes on aiming to provoke with audiences' fear and the feel of terror;

7. Science-fiction: the film genre that deals with imaginative concepts such as advanced technology, outer space, and extra-terrestrials;

8. Thriller: the film genre that gives the feel of suspense and anxiety for the audience.

2.7 The Dark Knight

"The Dark Knight" is a 2008 action-crime-drama film directed by topher Nolan. It is a sequel to Batman Begins that released on 2005, and

it is the second installment to The Dark Knight Trilogy. Some film critics and film-goers describe this film as "the best superhero film of all time." The film receives positive reviews from film critics, comic book fans and film fans in general.

The film tells about a story of Batman, Commissioner Gordon, and Harvey Dent trying to uncover a money laundering scheme that happened in Gotham City. The Mob leaders, Sal Maroni, Gambol, and the Chechen with their accountant Lau, are responsible for money laundering, and they are also trying to bright down Gotham City. Until then, a new villain come into town, named The Joker, trying to make a name for himself by also destroying the city. And then the cat-and-mouse game by Batman and The Joker begins, until it becomes very personal for Batman. The Joker threatens to kill more people if Batman doesn't reveal his identity. Before Bruce is revealing himself as Batman, Dent steps into the spotlight, claiming himself as Batman. And then Dent sent into protective custody, but then get attacked by the Joker. Dent and Rachel is escorted by detectives that got paid by Maroni. And then Bruce realize that they never get back home. Harvey Dent and Rachel Dawes are kidnapped by The Joker. But it is not easy for Batman, because he put Dent and Rachel in 2 different places. Batman couldn't save both, so Batman calls for Commissioner Gordon's help; Batman tries to help Dent while Gordon tries to help Rachel. But the Joker sent Batman to Dent's location instead. But Batman is too late. Rachel died in an explosion, set up by The Joker. Dent st died from the explosion. Instead, he got burnt in half of his body. And Dent gets treated in a hospital. Dent got a visit from The Joker. The Joker

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trying to manipulate Dent; forcing him to believe that everyone is responsible for Rachel's death. When Dent got out from the hospital, he is doing a killing spree, decided to kill someone based on his coin flip. When Dent gets to Gordon's family and trying to kill Gordon's son, Batman arrives and then tackles Dent to his death. Then Batman told Gordon that he will hold the responsibility for Dent's actions. And Batman is on the hunt by Gotham PD officers.