

Illocutionary Acts of Depressed Teenagers as Used in WhatsApp (Pragmatic Analysis)



THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences of Hasanuddin University
as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain a Graduate Degree
in English Literature Study Program

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
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THESIS
**ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS OF DEPRESSED TEENAGERS AS USED IN
WHATSAPP (Pragmatic Analysis)**

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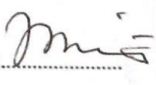
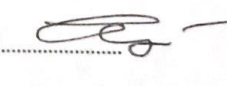
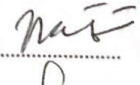
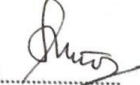
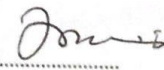
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Today, Monday, 23 November 2020, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by SRI AYU SETIA LESTARI (Student No. F21116036) entitled, **ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS OF DEPRESSED TEENAGERS AS USED IN WHATSAPP**, submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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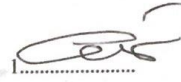
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Menyatakan bahwa Skripsi yang berjudul “**Illocutionary Acts of Depressed Teenagers as Used in WhatsApp (Pragmatic Analysis)**” adalah BENAR merupakan hasil karya saya sendiri, bukan merupakan pengambilan tulisan atau pemikiran orang lain.

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Makassar, 30 November 2020



(Sri Ayu Setia Lestari)

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The Writer,

Sri Ayu Setia Lestari

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ABSTRACT

Sri Ayu Setia Lestari. 2020. *Illocutionary Acts of Depressed Teenagers as Used in WhatsApp. A Pragmatic Analysis* (Supervised by **Simon Sitoto** and **Ainun Fatimah**)

This research aims to (1) investigate the types of illocutionary acts performed by depressed teenagers in WhatsApp status and (2) reveal the meanings implied in the utterances.

This research used qualitative descriptive method. The writer found 18 WhatsApp statuses which consist of 27 utterances that were collected from four depressed teenagers. The collected statuses were limited to the ones that talked about family issues and depressed feelings. The data were identified and classified based on types of sentences and Searle's types of Illocutionary acts.

The result found that there are 21 declarative sentences, two imperative sentences, and four interrogative sentences based on types of sentences. While there are four classifications of illocutionary acts that were performed by depressed teenagers. They are 10 assertive utterances, 12 expressive utterances, two directive utterances and three commissive utterances. In case, the kinds of direct illocutionary acts are found 21 asserting, two begging, and four asking. Other, kinds of indirect illocutionary acts are three warning, one claiming, 10 complaining, nine requesting, three informing, and one asking.

Keywords: *utterance, illocutionary acts, depressed teenagers, WhatsApp.*

ABSTRAK

Sri Ayu Setia Lestari.2020.*Illocutionary Acts of Depressed Teenagers as Used in WhatsApp.A Pragmatic Analysis* (Dibimbing oleh **Simon Sitoto** dan **Ainun Fatimah**)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui tipe tindak ilokusi yang dilakukan oleh remaja depresi di status WhatsApp dan menyatakan makna yang tersirat pada ujaran.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Penulis menemukan 18 status WhatsApp yang terdiri dari 27 ujaran yang dikumpulkan oleh 4 orang remaja depresi. Pengumpulan status dibatasi pada ujaran yang membicarakan isu keluarga dan perasaan tertekan. Kemudian, data diidentifikasi dan diklasifikasi berdasarkan jenis kalimat dan jenis tindak ilokusi pada teori Searle.

Hasil dari penelitian ini, 21 kalimat deklaratif, 2 kalimat imperatif, dan 4 kalimat interogatif berdasarkan jenis kalimat. Sementara, terdapat 4 macam tindak ilokusi yang dilakukan oleh remaja depresi, yaitu: 10 ujaran asertif, 12 ujaran ekspresif, 2 ujaran direktif, dan 3 ujaran komisif. Dalam hal ini, jenis tindak ilokusi langsung ditemukan 21 ujaran asertif, 2 ujaran memohon, dan 4 ujaran bertanya. Kemudian, jenis tindak ilokusi tidak langsung adalah 3 ujaran peringatan, 1 ujaran menuntut, 10 ujaran mengeluh, 9 ujaran permintaan, 3 ujaran informasi, dan 1 ujaran meminta.

Kata Kunci: ujaran, tindak ilokusi, remaja depresi, WhatsApp.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Depression is a serious medical illness that harms the sufferer. This illness results from the loss of family member, sexual harassment experience, or broken home. However, some people are feeling the despondency for a month, a year, or if the sufferer is untreated, it could last a lifetime.

Depression has been increasing in recent decades. Since the number of cases in youth is lower than in adults, depressed teenagers are often overlooked or misdiagnosed. Its symptoms are different, and many depressed teenagers are dismissed. Because its symptoms are varied and subtle, it is difficult to identify depressed teenagers. Depressed teenagers have been through several changes that influence their mood and behavior. Several symptoms may appear very often, and they may be expressed through anger, destructive behavior, or sudden aggressiveness.

Depressed teenagers often fail in school, isolated from their family and friends, and they may fall into drug or alcohol abuse. For instance, a boy may turn his depression into anger and directed it towards society or get involved in dangerous or violent behavior. While, a girl who suffered from depression may get anxious or nervous, have eating disorder, and become suicidal.

Nowadays, depression is a mental health problem which affects numerous people. Many researchers have been investigating this case from the linguistics

point of view. Depressive utterances can be identified by speech acts, especially illocutionary acts. The illocutionary acts can reveal specifically the meanings that implied by utterances.

There are three reasons why the writer conducts this research. First, the writer is interested to know the types of illocutionary acts of depressed teenagers as used in WhatsApp and the meanings implied by these utterances. Second, mental health is important, and most people are unaware of mental illness. Third, depression is serious problem and keeps increasing every year. Furthermore, the writer used WhatsApp as third most popular social network worldwide, and it could also be used as a private social media where people are able to save their close friends in their contacts.

B. Identification of Problems

Many problems can be identified from the background, those are:

1. Illocutionary acts of depressed teenagers as used in WhatsApp and the meanings that implied by utterances.
2. Mental health is important, and most people are unaware of mental illness.
3. Depression is a serious problem and keeps increasing every year.

C. Scope of Problems

The writer is interested to the types and implied meanings of illocutionary acts used by depressed teenagers in WhatsApp. Therefore it becomes the limitation of this research.

D. Research Questions

This research aimed to answer the research questions formulated as follow:

1. What are the types of Illocutionary acts used in teenagers' WhatsApp status?
2. What are the implied meanings of the Illocutionary acts used by teenagers?

E. Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions, the objectives of this research are to:

1. Identify the types of language used by teenagers to show their depression using Illocutionary acts analysis.
2. Reveal the meanings that implied in the utterances used by depressed teenagers in WhatsApp.

F. Significance of the Study

This result of this research provides valuable contributions as follows:

1. Practical Benefits

This research is dedicated to teachers, students, and researchers in the linguistic field. The writer also provides several theories from different perspectives related to Illocutionary acts.

2. Theoretical Benefits

The findings of this research function as a reference that is beneficial for future researches.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter discusses earlier studies related to the research and explanation of the pragmatic theory, speech acts, classification of speech acts, and types of speech acts that used in this research.

A. Previous Study

In completing this research, the writer found many theses that focused on different objects and using similar analysis approach that could function as references to this research.

Iffah Tsabita Ihsani (2019) in her thesis, “Illocutionary Act in Online Charity Advertisement”. She focused on micro and macro speech act which contained five basic acts, i.e. assertive, directive, commissive, declarative, and expressive. She used descriptive qualitative and quantitative methods in analyzing and interpreting the corpus of the charity advertisement. She took 20 advertisements from several NGO’s Facebook posts in 2018 as her sample. So, the sample was 60 advertisements which have micro and macro speech act. She found 14 micro speech acts and four macro speech acts of language were used in the advertisements. Based on the frequency, the most used micro speech acts are information, direction, assertion, while the most encountered macro speech acts are persuasion and information.

Meliana B (2019) “The Illocutionary Acts of Jokowi’s Speech in World Economic Forum”. The researcher identified and analyzed the meaning of Jokowi’s speech based on the illocutionary acts. She used the descriptive qualitative method. She found 26 data categorized as representatives, three data as direction, five data as commissive, five data as expressive, and one data as declaration. She also found that all kinds of illocutionary acts from these data were conveyed directly.

Kiki Richa Malia (2019), “Illocutionary Acts Performed in Hunger Games, A Movie by Gary Ross”. The study focused on the utterances of the movie characters. This study employed a qualitative approach. In her analysis, she found the dominant sentence types are declarative, interrogative, and imperative. The direct illocutions presented in thirty data are acts of asserting, asking, and ordering.

In conclusion, the first researcher focused on the micro and macro speech act and she used qualitative and quantitative approaches to analyze the data and interpret corpus in advertisement. While the second researcher used descriptive qualitative method. The researcher focused to identify and analyze Jokowi’s speech based on Illocutionary acts. In contrast, the third researcher focused on the characters of the movie that were performed by utterances. The researcher used qualitative approach to find dominant sentence types and illocutionary in the data.

B. Theoretical Background

1. Pragmatics

According to Kroeger (2018), pragmatics can be defined as a study of language use that concerned with the meanings. It derives from the way the words and sentences are used. The basics of the pragmatics meaning can be related to the semantics. In contrast, pragmatics arises from the context of the utterances. Similarly, Griffith (2006) stated that pragmatics is concerned in meaningful conversation. It is the interaction of semantic knowledge, but pragmatics refers to the context.

Noveck and Sperber (2004) stated that pragmatics is the study of language use. It includes loosely related research that is ranging from formula studies of deictic expression to sociological studies of ethnic verbal stereotypes. In addition, pragmatics is how linguistic properties and textual factors are connected by the interpretation of utterances.

Gibson in Mey (1993) stated that pragmatics is the science of language that has a relation to its users. Science of language as it is used by real, live people, for their own purpose, and within their limitation. It means that pragmatics is part of language as science that used by the speaker and its purposes as communication in daily life.

To summarize, pragmatics is the study of language use or the science of language use that connection to the speaker. It is concerned with the meaningful

conversation and interacts with the semantic study. In contrast, pragmatics refers to the context of the utterance and interpreted by how the word expresses something different than what it appears to mean. In addition, pragmatics purposes as communication.

2. **Speech Acts**

Horn and Ward explained speech acts as:

“Speech acts are acts done in the process of speaking. The theory of the speech acts is not relating to those acts that are not completely covered by the major divisions of grammar, such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantic or under some general theory of actions.” (2006:53)

From the explanation above, speech acts are acts that relating to the utterance. In case, speech acts are not completely described by grammar or other major divisions. Then, formal features of the utterance that is carrying out the act which might be directly intertwine to its accomplishment.

Griffith (2006) stated that speech acts are the basic units of linguistics interaction, e.g. warn, greet, apply for, tell what, and confirm an appointment that refers to the acts, not to labels. In contrast, Searle in Mey (1993) argued that speech acts are supposed to proportional content. The theory of speech acts is intended to explain the utterance of illocutionary force or purpose of the utterance.

In conclusion, speech acts are acts used in language or actions performed by a speaker that has utterances such as offering, stating, ordering, or

questioning. Speech acts are not relating to the major division of grammar. But it explains the illocutionary force or purpose of the utterance. In addition, there are 5 classifications of speech acts such as assertive, directives, Commissives, expressive, and declaratives.

3. Direct Speech Acts

Kroeger explained direct speech acts as:

“Direct speech acts are spoken that is accomplished by the literal meaning of the words. The declarative sentence will express with statements, interrogative with questions, and imperative with commands. When it all sentences are met, it will refer to a direct speech act. In another side, explicit performatives are also a direct speech act.” (2018:186)

The explanation above, directs speech acts are acts that completed by meaning and it consists of declarative sentence. It will be direct speech acts when the declarative sentences are met. In addition, explicit performative is included as direct speech acts.

Hufrod, Heasley and Smith (2007) stated that direct speech act or direct illocution is mostly indicated by the literal reading of the grammatical form and vocabulary. In addition, Kissine (2013) stated simply explanations that direct speech acts are act that aims to provoke an action from the addressee. Such as order, command, or request.

Furthermore, Allan and Jaszczolt (2012) stated that direct speech is more explicit and less context dependent. It still requires specific speech acts from felicity conditions, for instance, specified context, to be felicitous.

To conclude, direct speech acts are speech that is more explicit in illustrating the intended meaning of a speaker. It consists of grammar, vocabulary, and it needs specify context. Direct speech act is purposing to provoke the addressee. It is also explicit and less contact dependent.

4. Indirect Speech Acts

Sadock (1974) explained indirect speech acts as language use is a note for distinguish between language and indirect speech acts. If postulate conversation and natural language are transitive. It means indirect speech acts are not a category of transitive.

Kroeger (2018) stated that indirect speech acts are accomplished by implicature. An indirect speech acts will typically be expressed either as declarative, interrogative, or imperative sentences. So, the act is normally a statement, question, or command. The other best known of indirect speech acts is the rhetorical question that involves interrogative, but it does not refer to a request for information.

Searle (1979) stated that indirect speech acts are acts when the speaker is talking to the hearer more than what is supposed to share about background

information that is related to linguistic, nonlinguistic, and inference of the hearer.

As a conclusion, indirect speech acts are acts that are conducting illocutionary acts indirectly. It mostly involves questions but refers to request utterance. Indirect speech acts are related to the implicature completely. It will be expressed by imperative, interrogative, and declarative sentence. In addition, indirect speech acts are acts that aims to share background information that connected by linguistics, nonlinguistic, and inference of the hearer.

5. Locutionary acts

Yule explained illocutionary acts as:

“Locutionary act, which is the basic act of utterance, or producing a meaningful linguistic expression. If you have difficulty with actually forming the sounds and words to create a meaningful utterance in a language (for example, because it’s foreign or you are tongue tied), then you might fail to produce a locutionary act, producing “*aha mucosa*” in English will not normally count as a locutionary. Mostly, we do not just produce well-formed utterance with no purpose.” (1996:48)

From the explanation, Yule argued that locutionary acts are the basic act of utterance which is producing a meaningful expression. If sounds and words are difficulty to produce a meaningful expression, especially foreign languages, it will not count as locutionary acts. Because, locutions are produced by explicit purpose.

Austin, cited in Horn and Ward (2006), stated that locutionary acts are acts done in construction of speech. It is also using particular words and grammar rules of language. Such as, making a certain sound with certain reference can be determined as rules of language from where it is drawn.

Thus, the locutionary acts are the locutionary acts are the basic act that producing in the utterance with expression. It is using grammar rules of the language. In addition, locutionary acts are something that consists of speech sound and gives information to the hearer.

6. Perlocutionary Acts

Yule (1996) explained perlocutionary acts are acts that intended to affect the hearer to do something. For example, to account the wonderful smell or to get the hearer drinks some coffee.

Similarly, Sadock (1974) explained that perlocutionary acts are acts that affect the hearer with utterance that may be intentional or unintentional. It means that the effect of utterances is not limited. In addition, Hufrod, Heasley, and Smith (2007) stated that perlocutionary acts are acts that are carried by the speaker and causing a particular effect on hearer and others.

Allan and Jaszczoltas (2000) explained that perlocutionary are acts that persuading someone to do something. Perlocutionary can be done in language used. The base of external acts can be defined by locutionary acts.

To conclude, perlocutionary acts are acts that performed by the language as a tool. It also defined the acts as the external of locutionary acts. It means, perlocutionary acts are acts that utter to affect someone to do something or to get hearer believe something in the case.

7. Illocutionary acts

According to Sadock (1974), illocutionary acts are speech acts which are accomplished from communication intention. Illocutionary acts are the conventional force of an utterance. Similarly, Hufrod, Heasley, and Smith (2007) stated that illocutionary acts are acts that carried out by the speaker and viewed as insignificance within social interaction. Then, illocutionary acts are also reflected by the utterance of the speaker.

Austin, cited in Hord and Ward (2006), stated that illocutionary acts are done in speaking that is including a variety of acts that supposed to performative sentence, e.g., christening or marrying. Then, Austin called the illocutionary as stating or asserting. In addition, Searle (1979) divided the illocutionary (as) into two parts. Such as illocutionary acts and illocutionary verbs. Illocutionary acts are part of particular language. And illocutionary verbs are also particular language. The difference among of them is illocutionary verbs are a good guide than illocutionary acts.

Furthermore, Cruse (2000) explained that Illocutionary acts are acts that are internal to the locutionary acts. Then, illocutionary acts can be

performed in different locutionary. In addition, *I will be there* is also the case that performed locutionary acts without illocutionary acts.

To conclude, illocutionary acts are acts that done in speech with the purpose to do an action. For instance, *I stuck on the traffic jump*. It means the speaker gives information that is supposed to be late for the meeting.

8. Illocutionary Force

According to Cruze (2000), the illocutionary act aims to produce an utterance is known as the illocutionary force of the utterance. Then, Illocutionary force is always explicit. However, the utterance of illocutionary force is not always specified linguistically.

Searle, cited in Turner (1999), stated that illocutionary force is how a person understands to respond to others and comprehend in rhetorical analysis in dialogue. Furthermore, Keckes and Horn (2007) explained that illocutionary force is intertwined strictly by the context and it has a relative of actions. It is also different from speech acts that are practical.

In conclusion, the illocutionary force is an utterance that is produced by illocutionary acts, and it is related to the context. It essentially to understand the way a person responds to another and it related to the actions.

9. Classification of Illocutionary Acts

This analysis uses Searle's classifications of illocutionary acts which are summarized from a book entitled "Meaning and Language. An

introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics” by Cruze (2000). There are 5 classifications of Illocutionary acts, such as:

a. Assertive

Assertive is committing the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition: state, suggest, boast, complain, claim, report, warn (that). Notice that “boast” and “complain” also express an attitude to the proposition expressed other than belief in its truth.

Examples:

1. She did not read a book
2. It is cold in this room

b. Directive

Directives is eliciting of attention to some sort of hearer’s action. This kind of speech acts are stated by what the speaker wants. Such as, order, command, request, beg, beseech, advise (to), warn (to), recommend, ask, and ask (to).

Examples:

1. Give me a cup of tea
2. Can you find me other books?

c. Commissive

Commissive is committing the speaker to future actions, such as promise, vow, and offer, undertake, contract, and threaten.

Examples:

1. I will be back
2. I am going to read books next time

d. Expressive

Expressive is used to make clear the psychological attitude of the speaker to the presupposed state of affair. Such as thank, congratulate, condole, praise, blame, forgive, pardon.

Example:

1. I hate you!
2. It was a happy day
3. I am sorry to hear that

e. Declarative

Declarative is said to bring the change in reality. Declaration brings immediate changes in the institutional state of affair and which tend to rely

on elaborate extra-linguistic institutions. For example, resign, dismiss divorce, christen, or name.

1. Priest: I pronounce you as a husband and wife
2. Jury Foreman: We find the defendant guilty

10. WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a messaging application and is used as a cross-platform of text and voice message over serviced by Facebook. WhatsApp is functioning to send messages, voice messages, voice note, and video call. The application can be accessed from mobile phone or desktop computers. It is connected to the internet.