



## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Therefore, pragmatics, a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between context and meaning in utterances, plays a crucial role in Language is a fundamental aspect of human communication, enabling individuals to convey information, express emotions, and influence others. In daily interactions, the meaning of an utterance depends not only on the words spoken but also on the context, the speaker's intention, and the situational conditions. understanding the dynamics of communication (Yule, 1996). One of the key concepts in pragmatics is speech acts, first introduced by J.L. Austin (1962) in *How to Do Things with Words*. According to Austin, when we produce an utterance, we not only say something (locutionary act) but also perform an action (illocutionary act) and achieve a certain effect (perlocutionary act). This theory was further developed by John R. Searle (1969, 1974), who classified illocutionary acts into five categories: assertive, commissive, directive, expressive, and declarative, each with specific communicative functions.

In narrative media such as film, dialogue is a primary tool for advancing the plot, developing characters, and conveying messages to the audience. Analyzing illocutionary acts in film dialogue can reveal how characters use language to express meaning, influence interpersonal relationships, and reflect cultural context. The film chosen for this study was *3 Idiots* (2009), directed by Rajkumar Hirani, which was an ideal subject due to its widespread popularity, educational themes, and engaging dialogue. The researcher also chose the film because it was his favorite film, which he had enjoyed since he was a teenager, and made him want to learn more about it. The film follows three engineering students (Rancho, Raju, and Farhan) navigating academic pressures, family expectations, and their quest for identity, touching on education, friendship, and courage. The dialogue in *3 Idiots* is rich in illocutionary acts that reflect the characters' personalities, narrative conflict, and sociocultural values, such as teacher-student hierarchy and family pressures.

Although illocutionary acts theory has been widely applied in analyzing conversations and written texts in everyday life, its application to film dialogue remains underexplored. Previous studies on *3 Idiots* have primarily focused on thematic aspects, such as critiques of the education system or contextual analysis of its dialogue. Based on this research gap, this study aims to identify the types of illocutionary acts performed by characters in the dialogue of *3 Idiots* and to explain the pragmatic meaning of these speech acts. By analyzing dialogue within its narrative context, this study seeks to enrich the understanding of speech act theory in film and contribute to pragmatic and cultural studies.



g illocutionary acts in 3 Idiots is crucial for understanding communication s in cinematic narratives.

### ation of the Study

Based on the background above, the problems to be addressed in this study are as follows:

1. The types of illocutionary acts performed by the main in the dialogues of the “3 Idiots” film.
2. The meaning of illocutionary acts performed by the characters in the dialogues of the “3 Idiots” film.

### 1.3 Scope of the Study

Based on the problem above, this study analyzes the illocutionary acts performed by the main characters (Rancho, Raju, Farhan, and Chatur) in selected dialogues in the “3 Idiots” film. The scope is delimited to identifying the types of illocutionary acts and explaining their meaning.

### 1.4 Research Questions

Based on the scope of the problem above, research question there are two research questions, as follows:

1. What types of illocutionary acts are performed by the main characters in the “3 Idiots” film?
2. What is the meaning of the utterances performed by the main characters in “3 Idiots” film?

### 1.5 Objectives of the Study

Based of the research questions above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To identify and describe the types of illocutionary acts performed by the characters in the dialogues of the “3 Idiots” film.
2. To explain the meaning of illocutionary acts performed by the characters in the dialogues of the “3 Idiots” film.

### 1.6 Significance of the Study

This study offers both theoretical and practical contributions, as outlined below:

1. Theoretical Significance  
This research contributes to pragmatics by enhancing the understanding of illocutionary acts in film dialogues. It also serves as a reference for future studies on the application of speech act theory in narrative media.
2. Practical Significance  
This research provides valuable insights for researchers, educators, and students interested in analyzing illocutionary acts in film dialogues. It



ances the ability to interpret the pragmatic meaning and context of argues, particularly in culturally rich narratives like 3 Idiots. It serves as a urce for studying speech acts in cinematic contexts.

### Previous Related Studies

There are many previous studies that have analyzed illocutionary acts. The related studies are considered to assist the writer to complete the thesis. The following are some previous studies that are related to this study.

The first is the research conducted by Indah Apriyanti Kusumaningsih entitled “Illocutionary Speech Act in Pierre Salvadory’s Hors De Prix Film” in 2016. This study aims to describe the types and functions of illocutionary speech acts found in conversations between the cast in the film Hors de Prix. The researcher identified that the film Hors de Prix uses four types and four functions of illocutionary speech act in conversations between the cast, namely assertive speech acts, directive speech acts, commissive speech acts, and expressive speech acts. Then, the illocutionary speech act functions in the conversation between the cast in the film Hors de Prix, namely the competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflict functions. The study focuses on romantic interactions in a French cultural context, differing from the educational and friendship themes in 3 Idiots.

The second is conducted by Bowo Setyanto entitled “Illocutionary speech acts at the 5 Cm Film Dialogue by Rizal Mantovani (Pragmatics Review)” in 2015. This study aims to describe illocutionary speech acts in 5cm film by Rizal Mantovani and to know the meaning of illocutionary speech acts in the 5cm film by Rizal Mantovani. The researcher found that there are 80 illocutionary speech acts in the 5cm dialogue film by Rizal Mantovani. There are 45 Assertives ( Asertives) illocutionary speech acts. 15 illocutionary speech acts Directives. 13 Expressive illocutionary speech acts. 5 Commissive illocutionary speech acts. 2 Declarative illocutionary speech acts (Declarations). There are 16 meanings of illocutionary speech in Rizal Mantovani’s 5cm film dialogue, stating, proposing, complaining, reporting, ordering, rule, beg, giving advice, promise, offer, saying thank you, saying congratulations, forgive, praise, hiring employees and giving punishment. The study emphasizes adventure and friendship themes in an Indonesian context, contrasting with the Indian educational critique in 3 Idiots.

The third is conducted by Agung Suryo Nugroho entitled “An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in Sherlock Homes Movie” in 2011. This study aims to know the types of Illocutionary acts which are dominant presented by Sherlock Homes in the movie through its script. The reseacher found that Sherlock Homes uses all types of illocutionary acts: Assertives (Arguing, Asserting, Informing, Telling), Directives (Advising, Asking, Commanding, Entreating, Insisting, Inviting, Ordering, Requesting), Commissives (Promising, Refusal), Expressive ( Congratulating, Praising, Welcoming, Thinking), Declaratives (Appointing). This research reveals that Sherlock Homes in his utterance uses illocutionary acts of directive more often than



The study highlights how language reflects problem-solving and I dynamics in a Victorian-era detective context, differing from 3 Idiots is e educational and cultural context.

... is research, the researcher focus on the classifications and the meaning of the illocutionary acts in the 3 Idiots movie. This research used descriptive qualitative methods to analyze this research.

## 1.8 Theoretical Framework

### 1.8.1 Pragmatics

Pragmatics is the study of the relationship between language and its users. Pragmatics examines how context and meaning are contained in a speech and how the context affects the meaning (or the interpretation of linguistic meaning in context). The linguistic context is the discourse that precedes the sentence to be interpreted, and the situational context is knowledge about the world. This is consistent with what Levinson (1983, p.5) defines pragmatics as the study of language use, that is the study of the relation between language and context which is basic to an account of language understanding which involves the making of inferences that will connect what is said to what is mutually assumed or what has been said before. Therefore, context becomes the basic thing in understanding the meaning of a speech. A speaker will easily understand the meaning of the interlocutor because they understand the context to be discussed, so they can understand each other and communicate well. Pragmatics provides the advantage in learning a language, that is, someone can easily convey their goals, intentions, and several different things spoken. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that pragmatics is the study of language, which involves understanding the meaning according to the context of a speech. This means that someone can easily understand speech clearly, following the context of the speech that has been explained.

### 1.8.2 Speech Act

A speech act involves saying something while performing an action and eliciting the expected reaction. Speech acts and speech events are two symptoms found in a communication process in conveying or mentioning one intention by the speaker. The speech act is a means of saying something while acting according to what was said and causing the expected reaction from those words. Speech acts and speech events are two symptoms found in a communication process in conveying or mentioning one intention by the speaker.

J.L Austin developed speech act theory in a series of lectures at Oxford University. His book "How to Do Things with Words" was the first to propose the concept of speech acts, studying the relationship between utterances and performatives. According to Austin (1962, p. 94) in say something is to do something, as utterances can function as actions like promising or ordering. He distinguishes three types of speech acts:



ary Act: The act of saying something with a specific meaning (e.g., "It's hot").

ary Act: The intended action performed through the utterance (e.g., opening to open window).

- c. Perlocutionary Act: The effect of the utterance on the listener (e.g., the listener opens the window).

### 1.8.3 Illocutionary Acts

Illocutionary acts are speech acts that are performed to do something which is related to the purposes of the speech. An illocutionary act is an act that is done when saying something, like making a statement or promise, issuing an order or request, and so on. Therefore, illocutionary act is the act of speaking in which the meaning of the information contained in a speech can be understood through the context and function of the speech. For instance, "it's very hot here", this speech is not only meant to inform the speech partner about what the speaker is feeling, but rather the speaker wants the speech partner to do something like open a window or open a door.

Illocutionary acts are speech acts with specific intentions, such as informing, requesting, or promising. Searle (1976) classifies illocutionary acts into five categories based on their communicative functions:

#### a. Assertive

Definition: Assertive acts express the speaker's belief in the truth of a proposition, committing the speaker to the truth of what is said (e.g., stating, reporting, suggesting).

Purpose: To convey information or state facts.

Example: In Datum 2, Utterance 3, Rancho states, "It will fly! We'll make it fly," in response to Virus's claim that Joy's drone design is impractical (Chapter IV, p.12).

Explanation: This utterance is an assertive act because Rancho commits to the truth that the drone design is feasible, challenging Virus's authority and reflecting his nonconformist attitude and belief in innovation, central to the film's critique of rote learning.

#### b. Directive

Definition: Directive acts aim to get the listener to perform a specific action (e.g., ordering, requesting, advising).

Purpose: To influence the listener's behavior.

Example from 3 Idiots: In Datum 1, Utterance 1, Farhan says, "Step on the gas, dude!" to Raju while rushing to help a friend (Chapter IV, p. 9).



tion: This directive act urges Raju to act quickly, reflecting the urgency of the situation and the strength of their friendship, which is a key theme in 3 Idiots.

ive

Definition: Expressive acts convey the speaker's feelings, attitudes, or emotional state (e.g., apologizing, thanking, praising).

Purpose: To express emotions or psychological states.

Example from 3 Idiots: In Datum 2, Utterance 6, Raju says, "He's full of crap" in response to Chatur behaviour (Chapter IV, p. 27).

Explanation: This expressive act conveys his annoyance and disdain for Chatur's arrogance and taunts. This remark reflects loyalty as Raju firmly defends Rancho from Chatur's taunts and his rejection of Chatur's materialistic values.

- d. Commissive: Committing the speaker to future actions (e.g., promising, offering).  
Example: Rancho's commits "Wait, I'll stop him." to taking action to intervene, showing initiative to stop Chatur.

Definition: Commissive acts commit the speaker to a future course of action (e.g., promising, offering).

Purpose: To bind the speaker to perform something.

Example: In Datum 5, Utterance 4, Rancho says, "Wait, I'll stop him," when planning to intervene in Chatur's (Chapter IV, p. 33).

Explanation: This commissive act shows Rancho's commitment to take action to resolve the situation, highlighting his leadership and initiative, which align with his role as a catalyst for change in the film.

- e. Declarative

Definition: Declarative acts change the world or social reality through the utterance (e.g., appointing, declaring), typically requiring institutional authority.

Purpose: To alter a situation by the act of speaking.

Example: No declarative acts were identified in the analyzed dialogues of 3 Idiots (Chapter IV). However, an example of a declarative act would be Virus declaring a student's expulsion.

Explanation: Declarative actions are rare in 3 Idiots because they require institutional power, which Virus primarily possesses. The absence of declarative actions in the analyzed data reflects the focus on student interactions.

These categories will be used to classify illocutionary acts in "3 Idiots" dialogues, with their pragmatic meanings interpreted within the dialogue in the film.



### How of 3 Idiots

is a 2009 Indian Bollywood comedy-drama film directed by Rajkumar Khanna based on Chetan Bhagat's novel Five Point Someone. The film follows three students—Rancho (Aamir Khan), Farhan (R. Madhavan), and Raju (Sharman Joshi)—at the fictional Imperial College of Engineering (ICE), under the strict regime of their professor, Viru Sahastrabudhhe, nicknamed Virus (Boman Irani). The story, narrated through flashbacks by Farhan and Raju, explores their friendship, struggles with academic pressure, and quest for self-discovery, sparked by Rancho's nonconformist philosophy. The film critiques the Indian education system's emphasis on rote learning, societal expectations, and the pursuit of passion over conformity.

#### 1.9.1 Synopsis of the Movie

This film tells the story of the friendship of three young men who are both new students at a prestigious Engineering campus, they are Farhan Qureshi (Madhavan), Raju Rastogi (Sharman Joshi) and 'Rancho' Shamaldas Chanchad (Amir Khan). very disciplined in enforcing the learning system and rules. The university has the figure of a ruthless Chancellor named Professor Viru 'Virus' Sahastrabuddhe, Nothing can change or dare to fight the campus education system that has been applied firmly and strictly for years, until Rancho appears. Rancho is indeed a unique student and often goes against the existing system. He did not agree and seemed to oppose the teaching pattern that had been implemented at the Virus Professor's campus. It is not surprising that several students committed suicide several times, one of which was named Joy Lobo (Ali Fazal) who died by hanging himself.

Although very much against the Professor, Rancho falls in love with Virus's daughter Pia (Kareena Kapoor), Rancho manages to make the beautiful medical student love her back. Even with his two friends, Rancho went to see Pia at his house while drunk and unconsciously caused trouble by destroying the front fence of Virus's house. This made the resentment of the Virus towards the three students even bigger, but with an uphill battle, they finally managed to graduate and get a job. After working the three of them apart, until one of Rancho's competitors during college, Chatur 'Silencer' Ramalingam, challenged him to a success contest. When he was about to meet, Virus's favorite student Silencer was very arrogant by showing off all his wealth. Silencer was not alone because he was accompanied by Farhan and Raju. Rancho finally silenced Silencer's arrogance because of the fact that Rancho, who changed his name to Phunsuk Wangdu, was Silencer's superior. And at the same time Pia came to Rancho and the two of them reunited.

#### 1.9.2 Main Themes

a. Critique of the Education System: The film highlights the flaws of a rigid, exam-centric education system that prioritizes grades over creativity, as seen in scenes like Rancho's challenge to Virus's teaching methods and Joy's tragic suicide due to academic pressure.



o and Loyalty: The bond between Rancho, Farhan, and Raju drives the  
emplified by their support for each other in crises, such as saving Raju's

ormity and Passion: Rancho's mantra, "Aal Izz Well" (All is Well),  
encourages optimism and pursuing one's passion over societal expectations,  
inspiring Farhan to chase photography and Raju to overcome his fears.

d. Socio-Cultural Pressures: The film reflects Indian cultural norms, including parental  
expectations (e.g., Farhan's father's insistence on engineering) and the competitive  
academic environment.

## CHAPTER II

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



#### of Research

This study used a descriptive qualitative research design to examine illocutionary acts in the dialogues of the “3 Idiots” Film (2009). According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research involves exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human phenomenon through detailed, contextual analysis. The descriptive qualitative approach is particularly suitable for this study as it aims to describe and interpret the types of illocutionary acts and pragmatic meanings of illocutionary acts performed by the main characters (Rancho, Farhan, Raju, and Chatur) in selected dialogues. This method allows the researcher to examine the dialogues in their narrative and socio-cultural context, aligning with the study’s objectives of identifying the types of illocutionary acts (assertive, directive, expressive, commissive, and declarative) based on Searle’s (1976) classification and explaining their pragmatic significance within the Indian cultural framework depicted in 3 Idiots.

#### 2.2 Sources of Data

The primary data source for this study consists of dialogues spoken by the main characters (Rancho, Farhan, Raju, and Chatur) in the “3 Idiots” Film (2009), directed by Rajkumar Hirani. The film was selected due to its rich dialogues, which are replete with illocutionary acts reflecting themes of education, friendship, and resistance against societal pressures in the Indian context. Dialogues from key scenes, such as classroom interactions, confrontations with Virus, and moments of camaraderie among the friends, were chosen for their relevance to the study’s focus on communicative acts and their cultural significance. The dialogues were sourced from the film’s official subtitles and verified through repeated viewings to ensure accuracy.

#### 2.3 Technique of Collecting Data

This research used the technique, watching the film and note-taking to transcribe selected dialogues into a structured format, noting the speaker, context, and utterance. Dialogues were chosen based on their relevance to the study’s objectives, prioritizing scenes that depict significant interactions (e.g., Rancho’s challenges to the educational system or Virus’s authoritative commands). The transcriptions were organized in a table format, including columns for the dialogue text, speaker, scene context, and initial observations of potential illocutionary acts.



## ue of Analyzing Data

data analysis followed a systematic process to address the research ; regarding the types and pragmatic meanings of illocutionary acts in "3 Idiots". The steps were as follows:

### 1. Data Organization

The data collected by watching and reading the film's script and the transcribed dialogues were compiled into a database, categorized by character and scene, to facilitate analysis.

### 2. Classification of Illocutionary Acts

Each dialogue was analyzed using Searle's (1976) classification of illocutionary acts (assertive, directive, expressive, commissive, declarative). The researcher identified the type of act based on the speaker's intention and the utterance's function within the scene. For example, Rancho's utterance "Aal Izz Well" was classified as an expressive act conveying optimism.

### 3. Interpretation of Pragmatic Meaning

The pragmatic meaning of each illocutionary act was interpreted by examining its narrative context (e.g., plot progression, character relationships) and socio-cultural context (e.g., India's educational pressures, hierarchical norms). This step involved analyzing how the act reflects or challenges cultural values, such as respect for authority or individual freedom.

### 4. Presentation of Findings

The results were organized into tables and narrative descriptions, detailing the types of illocutionary acts identified and their pragmatic meanings. These findings were linked to the research objectives, highlighting their significance in understanding communicative strategies "3 Idiots" film.