

## **Illocutionary Acts Analysis of Chinese in Pematangsiantar**

Herman, M.Pd

(University of HKBP Nommensen, Medan-Pematangsiantar, Indonesia)

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**Abstract:** *This research is entitled Illocutionary Acts Analysis of Chinese in Pematangsiantar. This research is conducted in order to analyze the utterances of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto, Pematangsiantar. Austin (1975:3) stated that there are three types of speech acts, namely locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. But in this occasion, the writer focuses to illocutionary acts. Illocutionary act has five types, they are representatives, directives, commissives, expressive, and declarative (Searle in Leech, 1983:205). So the writer uses the types of illocutionary acts to analyze the utterances of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto, Pematangsiantar. Problem discussed in this research is what types of illocutionary acts are found on Chinese conversation in Pematangsiantar? To answer the problem, Descriptive qualitative method was adapted in this research. The writer uses sampling data in order to make the research become more efficient. Data were taken from the various contexts which has some conversations. Finally, the writer found that there are only four types of illocutionary acts occurred in the utterances of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto, Pematangsiantar. The types of illocutionary acts occurred in the utterances of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto, Pematangsiantar are Representative (typical of structure expressions of asking), Directive (typical of structure expressions of ordering and inviting), Expressive (typical of structure expressions of greeting and compliment), and Commissive (typical of structure expressions of threatening).*

**Keywords:** *Representatives, Directives, Commissives, Expressive, and Declarative*

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### **I. Introduction**

Human being is stated as a social creature, means that people should interact with the other and impossible to live alone. Interaction can be done by having communication. When people communicate, they use utterances to share their feelings, emotions, ideas, etc to others. People use utterance, not only to explain or to show what they want, but utterances can be used more than just to explain, like to make a relation with other listeners. But, when people want to express their intention, sometimes the listener/partner do not understand what they mean in explicit. For example, when someone (speaker) says “the day is very hot”, maybe the listener/partner will also agree to say that “the day is very hot” but the meaning of the sentence “the day is very hot” can be: 1) the speaker wants the listener/partner to open the window, 2) the speaker wants the listener/partner to make him/her a cup of drink, 3) the speaker wants the listener/speaker to turn on the fan/air conditioner. But in this occasion, what the speaker wants here is to make him/her a cup of drink. This condition sometimes happens unconsciously in our daily life especially in conversation.

The condition just mentioned above is one study of pragmatics. Yule (1996: 4) regards pragmatics as the study of relationships between linguistic forms and the users of those forms and pragmatics is the only one allowing human into the analysis because through pragmatics one can talk about people’s intended meanings, their assumptions, their purposes, and the kinds of actions such as requests and apologizes when they speak.

People use kinds of action unconsciously to express their intention through language. The kinds of action can be informing, questioning, commanding, offering, and requesting. Speech act is one study of pragmatics which concern about how to utter a speech in daily communication. Speech act is a technical term in linguistics and the philosophy of language. Speech acts can be analyzed on three levels: illocutionary act, the performance of an utterance: the actual utterance and its ostensible meaning, comprising phonetic, phatic and rhetoric acts corresponding to the verbal, syntactic and semantic aspects of any meaningful utterance; an illocutionary act: the semantic ‘illocutionary force’ of the utterance, thus its real, intended meaning ; and in certain cases a further perlocutionary act: its actual effect, such as persuading, convincing, scaring, enlightening, inspiring, or otherwise getting someone to do or realize something, whether intended or not (Austin, 1975:3). Furthermore, Searle also stated that speech act attempts to come to grip with the facts of language with utterances, with referring and predicating, and with acts of stating, questioning, commanding and promising. Speech means sound utterance

In this research paper, the writer would like to analyze the illocutionary acts in daily communication because illocutionary acts is an act performed in saying something. According to Searle in Leech (1983:205) there are five types of illocutionary acts such as representatives, directives, commissives, expressive, and declarative. In this occasion, the writer would like to analyze the five types of illocutionary acts in the conversation of Chinese who live in Indonesia especially in Pematangsiantar city. For example, “*Lau I Mei zai jia ma?*” (in English, is Mei at home, aunty?). The sentence is analyzed in representatives which has the meaning of questioning. The writer hoped that this research will give contribution to the teachers and the students who study further about pragmatics, especially in illocutionary acts.

### **1.1 Problem of the Research**

Based on the background above, this research paper is aimed to analyze the illocutionary acts of Chinese in Pematangsiantar. The problem of the research is, what types of illocutionary acts are found on Chinese conversation in Pematangsiantar?

### **1.2 Objective of the Research**

The objective of this research is to answer the problem. It is to find out the types of illocutionary acts on Chinese conversation in Pematangsiantar.

### **1.3 Scope of the Research**

Austin (1975:3) stated that there are three types of speech acts, namely locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. In this research, the writer only focuses to the illocutionary act which has five types, they are representatives, directives, commissives, expressive, and declarative (Searle in Leech, 1983:205). The five types of illocutionary act will be used to analyze the conversation of Chinese, especially who live in the city of Pematangsiantar, Indonesia. Chinese who live in Indonesia can speak some languages such as Cantonese, hokkian, mandarin, tio cu, etc. on this occasion, the writer will focus to the Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto street in the city of Pematangsiantar, Indonesia. In this research, the writer use all Chinese languages used in their daily communication. There will be various context found by the writer and the writer will use the context in order to find out the types of illocutionary acts in their daily communication.

### **1.4 Significances of the Research**

This research paper analysis has some contributions, theoretical and practical. The significances of this research are:

1. Theoretically, the writer hopes that this research paper can enrich and develop the knowledge of pragmatics
2. Practically, it is also hoped that this research can be used as a reference and useful addition information for someone who wants to discuss the related topic on speech act, especially in the types of illocutionary acts.

## **II. Theoretical Review**

### **2.1 An Overview of Pragmatics**

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics which is aimed to discuss about the meaning relates to the context (external meaning) of language unit. Some definitions below will give a better understanding about pragmatics.

Yule (1996:4) regards pragmatics as the study of relationships between linguistic forms and the users of those forms and pragmatics is the only one allowing human into the analysis because through pragmatics one can talk about people’s intended meanings, their assumptions, their purposes, and the kinds of actions such as requests and apologizes when they speak.

Morris (1938:6) in Tarigan (1990:33) states that pragmatics is an analysis about “the relation between signs and interpreters.” Parker (1986:11) as quoted in Wijana (2009:4) states, “Pragmatics is distinct from grammar, which is the study of the internal structure of language. Pragmatics is the study of how language is used to communicate.” Peccei (1999:2) states “pragmatics concentrates on those aspects of meaning that cannot be predicted by linguistic knowledge alone and takes into account knowledge about the physical and social world.”

Furthermore, Crystal (1987:120) in Peccei (1999:7) states, “Pragmatics studies the factors that govern our choice of language in social interaction and the effects of our choice on others

Based on the definitions above, it is clear that pragmatics is a branch of linguistics which discuss about the meaning relates to the context (external meaning) of language unit.

## 2.2 Speech Act

Interaction and communication are two things that cannot be separated in human daily life. Both of them are very crucial in human activities. In order to perform interaction and communication, speaking a language is needed. When people speak a language, they will perform an action. Actions which are performed via utterances are generally called speech acts (Yule, 1996: 47).

Austin (1975:3) stated that speech act is a technical term in linguistics and the philosophy of language. Speech acts can be analyzed on three levels: illocutionary act, the performance of an utterance: the actual utterance and its ostensible meaning, comprising phonetic, phatic and rhetic acts corresponding to the verbal, syntactic and semantic aspects of any meaningful utterance; an illocutionary act: the semantic 'illocutionary force' of the utterance, thus its real, intended meaning ; and in certain cases a further perlocutionary act: its actual effect, such as persuading, convincing, scaring, enlightening, inspiring, or otherwise getting someone to do or realize something, whether intended or not.

Furthermore, Austin (1962:199) defined that the utterances of the speaker can be divided into three meanings, they are Locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act.

### 1. Locutionary Act

Peccei (1999:44) stated that locutionary is the actual form of words used by speaker and their semantic meaning. This act means uttering something, syllable, word, group (phrase), or sentence in the form of language. There are two types of locutionary act, they are utterance acts and propositional acts. Utterance acts is about where something is said (a sound is made) and may not have any meaning, meanwhile propositional acts is where a particular reference is made. For example, the word "Oh" is included into utterance because it happens because of a surprise. For propositional, the word "the white cat" has no communication intended but something is referenced.

### 2. Illocutionary Act

An illocutionary act deals with what the speaker is doing such as commanding, demanding, promising, thanking, asserting, offering, threatening, suggesting, etc. For example, the sentence "*jie, ni hao?*" (translated into "how are you sister?"). That utterance performs illocutionary act of asking information.

### 3. Perlocutionary Act

The perlocutionary act is unlike the other act whether locutionary or perlocutionary because perlocutionary act is an external performance of something. If speaker A utters something, speaker B will response. For example, if speaker A says "there is a worm on your right foot", speaker B may be become panic or scream or may be jump. This emotion or action is called as perlocutionary act. Some other examples of perlocutionary acts are deceiving, persuading, inspiring, deterring, etc.

There are some characteristics of perlocutionary act:

1. Perlocutionary acts are not performed merely by uttering explicit performative sentence. For example, thought, feeling, expression and action.
2. Perlocutionary acts can be represented as an illocutionary act of speaker (S) and its effects on the listener (L). it can be illustrated as below:  
# S tells + L believes... = S persuades L that...  
# S tells + L intends... = S persuades L that...

## 2.3 Types of Illocutionary Acts

According to Searle in Leech (1983:205), there are five types of illocutionary acts such as representatives, directives, commissives, expressive, and declarative.

### 2.3.1 Representatives

Representative is an act of representing the statement of affairs. The speaker becomes committing to the truth of the propositional content. He or she represents external reality by making their words fit the world as they believe it to be. This type is also sometimes called assertive. The typical expression of act is a declarative structure. The subcategories of this category are:

- 1) Stating: to express something in spoken or written words, especially carefully, fully and clearly.
- 2) Asserting: to state something clearly and forcefully as the truth.
- 3) Informing: to give somebody facts or information about something.
- 4) Affirming: to state formally or confidently that something is true or correct.
- 5) Predicting: to say that something will happen.
- 6) Retelling: to tell a story, etc again in a different way.
- 7) Calling: to call somebody's name.
- 8) Answering: to answer somebody's called.
- 9) Concluding: to come to an end or bring something to an end.

Example:

1. *I think it will rain today* (predicting)
2. *It was a warm sunny day* (describing)
3. *I demand my independence* (asserting)
4. *Andrew!* (calling)

(Banjarnahor, 2011:6)

### 2.3.2 Declaratives

Declarative illocutionary act is a special type of illocutionary act that bring an extra linguistic statement of affairs into the existence, since it deals with a special authority or institution such as declaring war, naming, and the like. As we know that everyone cannot declare a war or give a name. In this act, the words of the speaker change the world and the speaker is responsible for this action. The typical expression for this type is a declarative structure and a performative verb in simple present tense.

Example:

1. I name this ship Titanic (naming)
2. I declare the war to be started (declaring)

(Banjarnahor, 2011:6-7)

### 2.3.3 Commissives

Commissive illocutionary act is an act that commits the speaker to do something in the future. The relationship between the words and the world is identical to directives namely the world will fit the words, but the realization of the act is the speaker's responsibility while in directives, it is the responsibility of the listener. The typical expression is declarative structure in which the speaker is the subject and the future time is expressed. Paradigm cases for this illocutionary are such as:

- 1) Promising: a written or spoken declaration that one will definitely give or do or not something.
- 2) Refusing: to say or show that one is unwilling to give, accept or do something.
- 3) Offering: to show or express willingness or the intention to do, give something.
- 4) Threatening: to make a threat or threats against somebody.

Examples:

1. *I'll come to your home tonight.* (promising)
2. *Thank you, but I'll do it by myself* (refusing)
3. *I'll make a cup of tea for you* (offering)
4. *I'll kill you if you tell her that secret* (threatening)

The examples show the act of promising are carried out by the speaker and he or she is responsible for it. Contrast to directives, commissive tend to the function as rather to be convivial than to be competitive. Thus, they involve more positive politeness, because commissive does not refer to the speaker's importance but to the listener's expectation. The speakers of commissive often tend to convince the hearer. (Banjarnahor, 2011:7-8)

### 2.3.4 Directive

Directive is the kind of speech acts that the speaker uses to get someone else to do something. The speaker tries to get the listener to act in such a way or to do a future action according to the intention of the speaker. The relationship between the word and the world is the world will fit the word and the listener is responsible for realization of the changes. The typical expression of this type usually uses imperative structure; however, there are so many ways of expressing this type, they are not only imperative but also integrative and declarative structure are often used to perform directive illocutionary act. The typical examples of them as:

- 1) Ordering: to give an order or command to somebody to do something. Ordering is more polite than commanding.
- 2) Commanding: to tell somebody that they must do something.
- 3) Warning: a statement, an event that warns somebody about something.
- 4) Suggesting: to put an idea into somebody's mind.
- 5) Request: an act of politely asking for something.
- 6) Forbidding: to order somebody not to do something.
- 7) Inviting: to ask somebody in a friendly way to go somewhere or do something.

Example:

1. *Could you please turn on the light?* (requesting)
2. *You had better take a rest.* (suggesting)
3. *Clean the floor!* (commanding)
4. *Watch your move!* (warning)

All of those utterances are in the form of imperative structure and functioned to give orders to the listener to do some actions. (Banjarnahor, 2011:8-9)

### **2.3.5 Expressive**

The act of expressive is to express a psychological statement of the speaker. It includes the notion of reaction to other people or the feeling of the speaker about the surroundings. In this act, the words of the speaker fit the psychological world and the speaker is also responsible for the action. The typical structure of expression is usually in declarative structure with the words referring to the feeling such as:

- 1) Apologizing: to say one is sorry, especially for having done something wrong.
- 2) Thanking: to express gratitude to somebody.
- 3) Greeting: an expression or act with which somebody is greeted.
- 4) Compliment: an expression of praise, admiration, approval, etc.

Examples:

1. *I'm really sorry to hear that.* (apologizing)
2. *Good morning* (greeting)
3. *I thank you for coming to my party.* (thanking)
4. *You are a beautiful woman* (compliment)

The examples represent the statement of the feeling of the speaker, which is called the psychological world. (Banjarnahor, 2011:9-10)

## **III. Research Method**

This chapter discusses about the method and procedure that are used to solve the problem of the research. The writer has written some theories in the previous chapter in order to describe research design, data collecting method, and data analyzing method

### **3.1 Research Design**

The research follows the methodology of descriptive qualitative approach. Ary (2010:29) states that qualitative researchers seek to understand a phenomenon by focusing on the total picture rather than breaking it down into variables. Qualitative research deals with a research method, which focuses on the process rather than a result.

### **3.2 Subjects of the Research**

The subjects of the research were the Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto street in Pematangsiantar. They were female and male that can be children, teenagers, or adults.

### **3.3 Object of the Research**

The conversation between Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto street in Pematangsiantar was the data to be analyzed as the Object of the research in this paper.

### **3.4 Data Collecting Method**

This research paper is conducted in the form of field research in which the data is taken naturally from the conversation of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto street in Pematangsiantar. Some steps followed by the writer in order to collect the data are:

1. The writer observed the utterances of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto street in Pematangsiantar
2. When the conversation was on going, the writer recorded the utterances (conversation) of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto street in Pematangsiantar
3. After recording the conversation, the writer translated the utterances from Chinese languages (Hokkian, Mandarin, Tio cu, etc) into English.

### **3.5 Data Analyzing Method**

After collecting the data, the writer followed some procedures in order to analyze the data, they were:

1. The writer listened carefully and repeatedly the conversation of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto street in Pematangsiantar.
2. The writer wrote the English script of the conversation record
3. The writer analyzed the data by using theory of Searle about the five types of illocutionary acts.
4. Then the writer interpreted the meaning of utterance of Chinese conversation by using theory of Searle.
5. Lastly the writer found the types of illocutionary verbs of Chinese conversation.

## IV. Data Analysis and Findings

### 4.1 Data Analysis

As mentioned in the previous chapter, types of illocutionary acts can be divided into five categories, they are: *representative*, *directive*, *commissive*, *expressive* and *declarative* (Searle in Leech, 1983:104). Below are the analyses of illocutionary acts based on the data of Chinese who live at Hos Cokroaminoto street in Pematangsiantar, Indonesia:

#### Data 1

Context : A man was visiting his friend's house. His friend's mother was there and greeted him. He is 25 years old, the lady is about 45 years old. Both of them are Chinese people and they speak using mandarin language.

- Bobo : Lau I, Mei zai jia ma?  
**(Is Mei at home, aunty?)**
- Lady : zai. Qing jin. Ging zuo  
**(Yes. Come in. sit down)**
- Bobo : xie..xie  
**(Thank you)**
- Lady : na mei quan xi  
**(It doesn't matter)**
- Bobo : Ke ke zai ma?  
**(Is brother at home?)**
- Lady : Ta bu zai. Ta zai gongsi.  
**(No, he's not at home. He's working.)**

Data 1 above shows that there are representative and directive found in the conversation between Bobo and a Lady. The utterance of Bobo "Lau I, Mei zai jia ma?" and "K eke zai ma?" perform the representative of asking. Meanwhile, the utterance of Lady "zai. Qing jin. Ging zuo" performs the directive of ordering.

#### Data 2

Context : This conversation happened in front of a woman's house, exactly in front of the flowers garden. They are 27 years old and 24 years old.

- Lili : jie, ni hao?  
**(How are you, sister?)**
- jie-jie : lili, ni hao.  
**(I'm fine, li)**
- Lili : jie, ni xihuan hua cao ma?  
**(sister, you like flower. don't you?)**
- jie-jie : Hen xihuan.  
**(very much)**
- Lili : Wei shenme ni hen xihuan huacao?  
**(why you like it soo much?)**
- jie-jie : Huacao dui women de shenti henhao  
**(because it's good for our body)**

Representative and Expressive play in the utterance of data 2 above. The utterances of "jie, ni xihuan hua cao ma?" and "Wei shenme ni hen xihuan huacao?" perform the representative of asking. In Expressive, there are two typical of structure expressions, they are greeting and compliment. The utterance of "jie, ni hao?" performs greeting, and the utterance of "Huacao dui women de shenti henhao" performs compliment.

#### Data 3

Context : This conversation happened in front of a woman house. She is about 26 years old. The other woman, she is about 23 years old that passed her friend house and the woman greets her.

- Pipi : cie, lai seng.

- (Come here, please sister!)
- sesi : se mo suo
- (What's up?)
- Pipi : lu ai ki ciaciak bo?
- (Do you want to go to the party?)
- sesi : ai a..or yau a.
- (Yes, I do)
- Pipi : pe..pe ki yo, tan wa ya..
- (Wait for me, so we go together)
- sesi : ha walang pe.pe ki
- (Alright, we'll go together)

Data 3 above shows that representative and directive found in the conversation between Pipi and Sesi. The utterance of Pipi “zie, lai seng” performs the directive of ordering. The utterance of Pipi “lu ai ki ciaciak bo?” performs the representative of asking. The utterances ‘pe..pe ki yo, tan wa ya’ and “ha walang pe.pe ki” perform the directive which has typical of structure expressions of inviting.

#### **Data 4**

Context : This conversation happened in a house which has family name of “Fu”. The conversation is between a man who is about 28 years old and the woman, the man’s mother, is about 59 years old.

- Mother : Wen a.., u bo khi venny e kia sejit a?
- (Wen, you don't go to the birthday of Venny's son?)
- In Wen : Bo a mak... males a...
- (No, I'm in no mood)
- Mother : Kog ane si u? lang chia tapi u mai khi?
- (What's wrong with you? She had invited you but you didn't want to go)
- In Wen : (*only silent*)
- Mother : Tan w kak Venny kong ya kalo lu bo ai khi
- (Later, I'll tell Venny that you didn't want to go)
- In Wen : Ha la...ha la... w khi pun
- (Alright, I'll go)

Data 4 above shows that representative and commissive found in the conversation between Mother and In Wen. The utterances of Mother “Wen a.., u bo khi venny e kia sejit a?” and “Kog ane si u? lang chia tapi u mai khi ?” perform the representative of asking. The utterance of mother “Tan w kak Venny kong ya kalo lu bo ai khi” performs the representative commissive of threatening.

#### **4.2 Finding**

After analyzing the data, the writer found that not all types of illocutionary acts occurred in the utterances of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto, Pematangsiantar. The types of illocutionary acts occurred in the utterances of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto, Pematangsiantar are Representative (typical of structure expressions of asking), Directive (typical of structure expressions of ordering and inviting), Expressive (typical of structure expressions of greeting and compliment), and Commissive (typical of structure expressions of threatening).

### **V. Conclusion**

Having analyzed the types of illocutionary acts of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto street, Pematangsiantar, the writer comes to the conclusion. There are four types of illocutionary acts occurred in the utterances of Chinese who live in Hos Cokroaminoto, Pematangsiantar, they are Representative, Directive, Commissive, and Expressive.

Utterances can be happened in any situation and context in our daily life. The writer hopes that the readers can be more understand about pragmatics, especially illocutionary acts and the writer recommends the other researcher to conduct the analysis of illocutionary acts in other subject such as songs, advertisement, and so on because the writer feels that his research is not enough yet to fulfill human’s needs in further studying of pragmatics study.

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