

## **ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS PRODUCED BY THOR IN THE “AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR” MOVIE**

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### **Abstract**

This study aimed to investigate the speech acts in Avengers Infinity War that were specifically used by one of the characters, Thor. The analysis focused on the illocutionary acts types of each speech act produced by Thor. Using a descriptive qualitative method, the result of the study is in the form of a word description. The source of the data was the movie. Using Searle's theory (1969), the data collected in the table then analyzed based on the classification of the illocutionary acts for each utterance which was determined by considering four conditions of the felicity conditions of all the utterances. Furthermore, the result of the study found 6 representatives, 4 directive, 3 commissive, 1 declarative, and 1 expressive. In other words, the data was dominated by the representative speech acts. This study of illocutionary acts is expected to be an additional reference for those who want to learn more about speech acts, especially in a movie.

**Keywords:** *felicity conditions; illocutionary; movie; speech act*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Language is one of the most important things that are very useful in everyday life, especially to help humans communicate with each other. Language itself is the system of rules or agreements as in an alphabet letter, a pause, or a single word that can be combined by humans to convey larger meanings (Amberg and Vause, 2010). Language is naturally a complex system of rules and principles from human expressions, and also a tool for showing thought and feeling that comes from a truly human existence. (Chomsky,2002,2006). Human existence refers more to the social aspect where humans use language to interact with other humans. Hence, it is reasonable that language and humans are two things closely related to each other because language comes naturally from every human mind and becomes the main system to communicate with each other.

Communication itself is an activity that is done by one person to another person as the communication partners by using language for any kind of purpose in this activity. Through the utterances, both sides of the communicators are expected to succeed in delivering their purpose and being understood by each other. The most common form of communication is in the form of spoken language or verbal communication. Thus, both sides of the communicators are expected to succeed in delivering their purpose and being understood by each other. Kaburise (2011) stated that successful communication not only depends on the hearer's acceptance but also the way the hearer could recognize the speaker's communication intention so there will produce an appropriate behavior and response of it.

In communicating, humans perform language and expecting the successfulness in delivering thoughts, feeling, or other things that are intended to convey in verbal or nonverbal communication. The success of delivering the intention relies on the intended meaning of the

speaker's utterances, and the intended meaning can be expressed through the speech act. The speech act is a phenomenon of the performance of the speaker's intention and context uttered. Speech acts require the intentions and the intention content, but the content of intention must be as complex as the natural language sentence itself to make the meaning can directly recognize. (Dylgjeri, 2017, Barker, 2004). Therefore, speech act is a natural phenomenon of the language used by humans when they tried to convey a particular action through speech utterances.

The observation of speech acts is purely from the phenomena of utterances from a speaker to the listeners that include the act on it. Unconsciously, it is a kind of natural language communication by humans with the purpose to convey the speaker's intention. Bach (1979) explains that action in verbal communication has a message in itself, so communication is not only about language but also with action. In other words, the speech act is the utterance that occurs and acts refer to an action.

In language use, speech acts can be found when the action is conveyed through the speech utterances of the speaker. The term 'speech' refers to the sentence or utterance, and 'act' refers to the action that is represented or conveyed from the speech that is spoken. The speech act was first introduced by Austin (1962), that discovered the speech act as a way of saying something to do something. Austin introduced the three related acts in the speech act named locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. The locutionary act is focused on performing the literal meaning of the speech, illocutionary act is about the function of the speech act, and perlocutionary act refers to the effect of the speech.

The speech act theory become a wider theory after developed by Searle (1969) that defines a speech act is the basic unit of communication that is performed under certain conditions. Furthermore, Searle developed his theory of speech act more into the illocutionary act with the result of the five illocutionary act classifications by types named representative, directive, commissive, declarative, and expressive. Representative is the act to commit the speaker in varying degrees and the true-false conditions. A directive is the act to make the hearer do a particular thing through utterance. Commissive is the act to represent the speaker's upcoming action. Declarative is the act to cause a change in the current situation referred. Expressive is the act to express the psychological feeling of the speaker. These five classifications of illocutionary acts represent the different function of speech act and become important to be analyzed to make humans easier in analyzing speech act types. In classifying the speech act, there are four conditions that have to be fulfilled to make it recognized as a speech act, and the conditions are called the felicity conditions contain of Preparatory condition, Propositional condition, Sincerity condition, and essential condition.

Utterances that reflect speech acts can be found in many kinds of human conversation in common, for countries that use English as a foreign language might get misconceptions in analyzing speech acts which makes it necessary to learn more to get a better understanding of speech acts as one of the language use. It is worth to be analyzed more and more about the language use of speech acts such as in the movie conversation. Movies can be useful as an object to identify the speech act as it contains conversations between the characters in various situations along the movie plot. Syarifuddin (2013), movies present the kinds of human existence stories including the social problem in the certain community which makes movies become a type of learning media. Thus, a movie is such a great medium for analyzing speech acts, and this study will focus on the analysis of the utterances of illocutionary acts in the "Avengers: Infinity War" movie, especially that uttered by Thor, one of the Avengers members.

Thor is known as the God of Thunder, a superhero from Asgard in space. In this movie, Thor and the other Avengers have the same goals which is to stop Thanos, the supervillain who wanted to collect the six infinity stones and want to remove half of the population on earth by snapping fingers with the gauntlet and the six infinity stones. Because the setting of the movie is both on Earth and in space, it will make the utterances more interesting because the context must be different from the conversation in common daily life.

There are some research on speech act analysis in a movie have been conducted previously. The first study is conducted by Zamzami (2016) with the title “An Analysis of Speech Act Used by Elsa as One of the Main Characters in Frozen Movie Script.” Second, Violeta (2019) with the title “Speech Act Analysis of the Main Character in Maleficent Movie Script by Jane mc Tee.” Then, Paramitha (2022), with the research title “An Analysis of Illocutionary Act in Main Characters’ Utterances in Luca Movie Script”. These studies have the same focus on analyzing the speech act in one character of the movie. Therefore, this current study aimed to conduct research that focused on the illocutionary act analysis of different character in a different movie which is Thor as one of the movie characters in Avengers: Infinity War.

**METHOD**

This study was conducted by analyzing the phenomena of the language used in speech acts, especially the illocutionary acts in the movie. It was used the descriptive qualitative method, which explained by Hancock (2001) as a method that concerns the description and the interpretation to develop an explanation of the social phenomena, it belongs to descriptive because the data were in the form of words. The subject of the research was Thor, one of the superhero characters in the movie. In this research, the primary source of data is in the form of utterances and dialogues of conversation by the characters in the “Avengers: Infinity War” movie with two hours and twenty-nine minutes duration. The movie shows all of the situation, circumstances, context, and all of the details of each utterance which help the researcher to analyze and interpret the utterances of the research subject.

In this qualitative research, an observational method is used to collect the data by observing the whole utterances in the movie. The researcher analyzed the data based on Searle’s theory (1969) of the illocutionary act, primarily focused on the interpretation of the researcher and additional instrument in the form of a table to support the analysis of the collected data. The tables were made to help the researcher classify the illocutionary act based on Searle’s theory, the specific function of the data, and the tabulation data to show the total of the illocutionary act, to support the data collection.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

As one of the common phenomena, speech act can easily be found in any kind of conversation and everyone can produce that usually, so does Thor as one of the movie characters. After doing the observation, the collected data shows that Thor produced all of the illocutionary act types based on Searle’s theory of speech act. In identifying the speech act types, it is determined by the felicity conditions of each utterance that will be discussed in the discussion section.

*Table 1. Illocutionary acts produced by Thor in the movie*

No.	Minute	Utterances in the movie dialogues	Illocutionary speech act category	Function of the utterances
1.	03.35	We don't have the Tesseract. It was destroyed on Asgard.	Representative	Report
2.	06.04	You're going to die for that!	Commissive	Threat
3.	33.34	The Time and Mind Stones are safe on Earth. They're with the Avengers.	Representative	Report
4.	34.28	I assume you're the captain, sir?	Representative	Conclude

5.	34.32	Will you join me on my quest to Nidavellir?	Directive	Request
6.	1.13.48	Thank you, sweet rabbit.	Expressive	Thanking
7.	1.15.09	This forge hasn't gone dark in centuries...	Representative	Report
8.	1.15.25	Go back to the pod.	Directive	Command
9.	1.15.49	Asgard is destroyed.	Representative	Assert
10.	1.16.59	Trust me, I know. But together, you and I, we can kill Thanos.	Commissive	Swear
11.	1.21.50	Rabbit, fire up the pod.	Directive	Command
12.	1.35.09	Fire the engines!	Directive	Command
13.	1.36.05	That's Nivadellir!	Representative	Assert
14.	1.36.41	I'm gonna hold it open.	Commissive	Promise
15.	1.45.46	BRING ME THANOS!!!	Declarative	War declaration

*Table 2. The tabulation data of illocutionary act types*

No.	Illocutionary act	Number of data	Percentage
1.	Representative	6	40%
2.	Directive	4	26.67%
3.	Commissive	3	20%
4.	Declarative	1	6.67%
5.	Expressive	1	6.67%
	<b>Total</b>	15	100%

Searle (1969) introduced his notion of four conditions to be fulfilled in the felicity conditions. Four conditions that included in the felicity conditions named Preparatory Condition, the Propositional Condition, the Sincerity Condition, and the Essential Condition. If an utterance of speech act is able to fulfill the felicity conditions, it can be classified as a felicitous speech act. Thus, in this section were provided the felicity conditions of each utterance in the found data.

#### **Representative**

Representative is the act of producing the speaker's belief in utterances. (Yuliarti, et al, 2021). Speaker's belief can be shown in the way to report, conclude, and assert, as the way shown in the data of Thor's utterances in the found data below:

- 1) *The Time and Mind Stones are safe on Earth. They're with the Avengers.* [U3/33.34/Report] (S= Thor, H= Guardians of the galaxy, P= reporting, Performative= are)

<b>Preparatory Condition</b> : Thor has evidence of the information he intended to convey about the truth of the thing he reports.
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<b>Propositional Condition</b> : Thor intended to report information based on what he knew to The guardian of the galaxy.
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**Sincerity Condition** : Thor believes that he tells true information about the infinity stones.

**Essential Condition** : This utterance was expressed by Thor as an attempt to describe the actual information of the infinity stones to commits the truth of the information.

Based on the four felicity conditions that are met, it shows that the performative word works and this utterance is felicitous. With the purpose to report, this utterance contains an explicit performative as it uses the word 'are' to indicate the performative of the utterance. Based on Oxford Dictionary, the word 'are' is part of *to be* that also as a linking verb that uses to describe or naming a person or thing. It is in accordance with how the speaker uses this utterance to describe the information of the location of the stones. Therefore, Thor has successfully produced a representative illocutionary act by reporting with an explicit performative.

2) *I assume you're the captain, sir?* [U4/34.28/conclude]

(S= Thor, H= Rocket, P= concluding, Performative= assume)

**Preparatory Condition** : Thor has a specific reason to believe the truth of the thing he concludes.

**Propositional Condition** : Thor concludes the thing that he decides to believe based on a specific reason.

**Sincerity Condition** : Thor believes his conclusion about Rocket's action represents his decision.

**Essential Condition** : The utterance is uttered as an attempt to express that he commits himself to the truth that he decides to believe based on reasoning, to represent the current state in actuality.

Based on the felicity conditions, it shows that the performative word is work, and the conditions are fulfilled which makes this utterance felicitous. This utterance contains an explicit performative as can be seen in the use of the word 'assume' which indicates the performative that is used by the speaker. Based on the Oxford Dictionary, the word 'assume' has a meaning when someone starts to think and accept the truth of a particular thing without needing any more proof for it. It relates to the way Thor uses this utterance to believe that Rocket is the captain and uses the performative word 'assume' to reflect his conclusion. Thus, Thor successfully produced a representative illocutionary act by concluding with an explicit performative.

3) *Asgard is destroyed.* [U9/1.15.49/Assert]

(S= Thor, H= Eitri, P= Asserting, Performative= is)

**Preparatory Condition** : Thor has evidence about the truth of the particular thing that he asserts.

**Propositional Condition** : Thor is convinced that he asserts "*Asgard is destroyed*" based on the truth of it.

**Sincerity Condition** : Thor believes that his assertion is true information that he is sure about it.

<p><b>Essential Condition :</b> This utterance was expressed by Thor as an attempt to indicate the true-false dimension of the statement he expressed about Asgard.</p>
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Based on the four felicity conditions that are met, it shows that the performative word works and this utterance is felicitous. With the purpose to assert, this utterance contains an explicit performative as it uses the word 'is' to indicate the performative of the utterance. Based on Oxford Dictionary, the word 'is' is part of *to be* that also a linking verb that uses to describe or naming a person or thing. It is in accordance with how the speaker uses this utterance to describe Asgard's condition to the hearer. Therefore, Thor has successfully produced a representative illocutionary act by asserting with an explicit performative.

**Directive**

Cruse as cited in Setiani&Utami (2018) described a directive as an act with the aim to make the hearer do some acts. Based on the found data, Thor as the speaker, uttered utterance to cause the hearer to do a particular activity through request commands that are discussed below:

- 1) *Will you join me on my quest to Nidavellir?* [U5/34.32/Request]  
(S= Thor, H= Rocket , P= Requesting, A=Join, Performative= Will)

<p><b>Preparatory Condition :</b> Rocket is able to perform the act of 'join'.</p>
<p><b>Propositional Condition :</b> Thor predicates the future act of Rocket which is mentioned as 'join' in terms of joining him on the quest.</p>
<p><b>Sincerity Condition :</b> Thor wants Rocket to do a specific act of 'join' as it is mentioned straightly in the utterance.</p>
<p><b>Essential Condition :</b> Thor uttered this as an attempt to make Rocket do what he said which is to join him in the quest to Nidavellir.</p>

Based on the felicity conditions, all conditions are met and make this utterance felicitous. For the performative, it shows that the performative word works as an implicit performative. The utterance uses 'will' to start a question to indicate the performative word. Based on Oxford Dictionary, the word 'will' is a modal verb, one of the functions of this verb is used to talking the future. However, in this sentence, the use of 'will' to start a question refers to another function which is to ask someone to do something. when Thor uses the word 'will' in "*will you*" as a question instead of using the expression 'I request you' indicates that this is a question to make a request with an implicit performative. Therefore, Thor successfully produced a directive illocutionary act with an implicit performative word through this request.

- 2) *Fire the engines!* [U12/1.35.09/command]  
(S=Thor, H=Rocket, P=Command, A= Fire, Performative= Fire)

<p><b>Preparatory Condition :</b> Thor has a right to tell Rocket to do the act of 'fire the engine' when rocket is on the ship.</p>
<p><b>Propositional Condition :</b> Thor expresses the future acts of Rocket through the instruction of 'fire'.</p>
<p><b>Sincerity Condition :</b> Thor wants Rocket to fire the engine.</p>
<p><b>Essential Condition :</b> Thor uttered this utterance in an attempt to make Rocket fire the engine and the Rocket must fulfill the instruction.</p>

Based on the felicity conditions and the performative words of this utterance, it shows that this utterance is felicitous because all conditions are met, and the performative words work. This utterance contains explicit performatives which show that the utterance used the verb 'fire' which indicates the performatives of the utterance. Based on the Oxford Dictionary, the word 'fire' is a

verb, and especially for the engine it means that the engine starts to work after the fuel burn. The use of this verb is relatable to the purpose of Thor to make his servants do his commands. Therefore, Thor successfully performed a command with explicit performative words as a directive illocutionary act.

### Commissive

According to Yule as cited in Rohmah (2013), commissive is the speech act produced to express the speaker's intention of the future action to do a thing. The way Thor produced this commissive act is through threaten, swear, and promise as discussed below:

1) *You're going to die for that!* [U2/06.04/threat]

(S= Thor, H= Thanos, P= Threatening, A= die, *Performatives* = going to)

<b>Preparatory Condition :</b> Thor thinks that the future event mentioned will happen and Thanos as the hearer wouldn't be like it if the thing to occurs.
<b>Propositional Condition :</b> Thor focuses on the future event that is mentioned to give a warning to Thanos
<b>Sincerity Condition :</b> Thor believes that the future act mentioned "die" is definitely not the thing to be liked by Thanos.
<b>Essential Condition :</b> This utterance is produced by Thor as an attempt to tell Thanos that the upcoming event is definitely not the thing that he liked to occur.

Based on the felicity conditions, it shows that all conditions are met which makes this speech act utterance felicitous. It also used the explicit performative 'going to' to express a future act as in threatening. Based on the Oxford Dictionary, the word 'going to' refers to the expression of the future act. The future act expression is given the point that it threatens Thanos about the thing that is likely to happen. Thus, Thor successfully produced a commissive illocutionary with an explicit performative word act through this utterance of threatening.

2) *Trust me, I know. But together, you and I, we can kill Thanos.* [U10/1.16.59/Swear]

(S= Thor, H= Eitri, A= kill, P= swear, *Performatives*= Trust)

<b>Preparatory Condition :</b> Thor believes that Eitri would likely prefer him to swear.
<b>Propositional Condition :</b> Thor predicts his future act with Eitri as he used the word 'we' and mentioned the act in the utterance.
<b>Sincerity Condition :</b> Thor intends to kill Thanos as his future act and intended to fulfill it together with Eitri as it uses the expression 'you and I' and "we".
<b>Essential Condition :</b> The expressed utterance of swearing can be counted as an attempt by Thor to commit himself to killing Thanos.

Based on the felicity conditions, all the conditions are met which makes this utterance felicitous. The performative word also works as an implicit performative regarding its function of it in the utterance. Thor uses the expression 'trust me' instead of 'swear' to indicate a swear and still correlates with the context because a swear is a serious promise to do something. Based on the Oxford Dictionary, the word 'trust' has a meaning to express that something is true and can rely on it. Thus, with the purpose of swearing or make a serious promise to do something, Thor successfully produced a commissive illocutionary act with an implicit performative word through this utterance.

3) *I'm gonna hold it open.* [U14/1.36.41/Promise]

(S= Thor, H= Eitri, A= Hold, P= Promise, *Performatives*= gonna)

<b>Preparatory Condition :</b> Thor believes that Eitri prefers him to hold the specific thing open.
<b>Propositional Condition :</b> Thor, the speaker predicts his future action himself that mentioned in the utterance.
<b>Sincerity Condition :</b> Thor intends to do the ‘hold’ and is willing to fulfill the promise which makes this a sincere promise.
<b>Essential Condition :</b> This utterance was expressed by Thor as an attempt to hold the thing open as his future act before he actually had a chance to do it.

Based on the felicity conditions, it can be seen that the performative word is works which makes this utterance felicitous. The purpose of the utterance is to make a promise, and the promised act is ‘hold.’ The speaker is Tony Stark, who decides his future act through this utterance that relates to the hearer, Peter Parker. Instead of ‘promise’, this utterance uses ‘gonna’ to indicate a promise. Based on the Oxford Dictionary, the word ‘gonna’ is also a way of saying ‘going to’ in informal speech and it refers to the future expression. It is correlated because in this utterance is used to express the future act in promise. Thus, Thor successfully produced a promise with an implicit performative as an example of a commissive illocutionary act.

### Declarative

A declarative act is only produced in a specific circumstance with an expression to change the world through words. (Pulungan & Ambalegin, 2022). Based on the data, Thor only uttered one declarative act that uttered as a war declaration, as discussed below:

1) *BRING ME THANOS!!!* [U15/1.45.46/War declaration]

(S= Thor, H= Villain soldier, P= War declaration, *Performative*= Bring)

<b>Preparatory Condition :</b> Thor used his authority to change the current condition around him because was so ready to start battling Thanos with his new weapon.
<b>Propositional Condition :</b> Thor declares a thing that wanted to change when he knows the current condition. In this case, the condition is war in Wakanda.
<b>Sincerity Condition :</b> Thor believes his decision to declare war to change the current condition. He was sincerely expressing this war declaration without any hesitation.
<b>Essential Condition :</b> Thor declares war through this utterance as an attempt of him to change the current situation around him.

Based on the felicity conditions above, this utterance is felicitous as the four conditions are met. This utterance used the implicit performative because the utterance does not contain a ‘declare’ as the verb to show that this sentence was made as a war declaration. Instead of directly declaring, this utterance uses ‘bring me’ followed by the supervillain’s name to indicate a war declaration. Based on Oxford Dictionary, the word ‘bring’ is a verb that can be a way to cause somebody to be in a particular condition or place. A declaration must bring a change in the current condition, it is correlated with the way Thor uttered this to indicate the declaration that focused on the changing situation of Thanos coming. With an implicit performative, Thor successfully produced a declarative illocutionary act as in this war declaration.



## Expressive

Rahmawati (2021) Stated that expressing the speaker's sincerity is the purpose of producing an expressive act. In line with this idea, Thor uttered an expressive act in purpose to express his sincerity to thank someone, as discussed below:

1) *Thank you, sweet rabbit.* [U6/1.13.48/Thanking]

(S= Thor, H= Rocket, P= Thanking, *Performative*= Thank you)

<b>Preparatory Condition :</b> Thor reflects his feeling about things that he feels bring him a benefit.
<b>Propositional Condition :</b> This utterance is performed by Thor to thank or show gratitude to the past act of Rocket indicated by the word " <i>Thank you</i> ".
<b>Sincerity Condition :</b> Thor feels grateful for the way Rocket give him a present so he uttered this sincerely.
<b>Essential Condition :</b> This utterance was expressed by Thor as an expression of gratitude to Rocket for his act.

Based on the felicity conditions, four conditions of this utterance are met which makes this utterance felicitous. This utterance also used the explicit performative that works to indicate the act. This utterance contains the verb 'thank' which is known as the strongest sign of the speaker thanking someone. Moreover, based on the Oxford Dictionary, 'thank' is a way to tell someone that the speaker is grateful for something. In purpose to produce an expression of thank or gratitude, Thor successfully produced an expressive illocutionary act with an explicit performative word.

## CONCLUSIONS

The phenomenon of speech act is a common use of language that can be found anywhere, including in the movies. Therefore, the researcher decided to do research on the speech act of one character in the movie. After analyzing the whole utterances that are produced by Thor in the Avengers Infinity War movie, This study only focused on 15 utterances that are considered as illocutionary acts among 5 types according to Searle's theory. Based on the result and the discussion, the utterances fulfilled the four felicity conditions that make all utterances recognized as speech acts. Based on the data, the most apparent type among the five illocutionary acts is the representative act. It shows the data of 6 representative acts as in assert, report, and conclude; 4 directive acts of request and command; 3 commissive acts of threaten, swear, and promise; 1 declarative act of war declaration; and 1 expressive act of thanking. The research limitation is an analysis of the illocutionary act in content analysis which is the movie. This study is conducted expected to be an additional insight into speech act analysis in movies and provide a deeper understanding of speech acts for those who want to learn about the speech act, especially illocutionary acts and the related things. The researcher recommends that other researchers are able to conduct research using the other medium of other interesting content to be analyzed, especially the speech act, the medium can be a movie with a different genre, a popular series, or other types of content as the analysis medium. As a result, the interesting contents is not only used to entertain but also as study references.

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