



Illocutionary Acts in Collider Interviews with the *Jamojaya* Film Crew

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Article Info

Abstract

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This study aims to analyze the types and functions of illocutionary speech acts in interviews with Rich Brian and Justin Chon. It further identifies the most and least frequently used illocutionary acts in the interview. Using a descriptive-qualitative approach, this analysis relies on data drawn from a video interview with the cast and crew of *Jamojaya* on the Collider Interviews YouTube channel. The analysis is based on the framework developed by Searle & Vanderveken (1985). The data, transcribed into written form, was observed and categorized into various types and functions of illocutionary acts. Out of 139 instances of illocutionary acts identified, the breakdown is as follows: 85 assertive acts (61.15%), 33 directives (23.74%), 20 expressives (14.39%), 1 commissive (0.72%), and 0 declaratives. These findings suggest that assertive acts are the most prevalent, encompassing functions like informing, believing, stating, and asserting, which dominate the interview. Conversely, declaratives are the least represented category in this study.

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INTRODUCTION

Communication is a multifaceted process that enables people to exchange information, ideas, and emotions. It encompasses both verbal and non-verbal modes, including speech, writing, gestures, and facial expressions. Language stands as the primary medium for this exchange, allowing individuals not only to convey information but also to perform social actions. Communication extends beyond the surface meaning of words, often involving indirect or intended meanings that listeners are expected to interpret correctly. Within linguistics, *pragmatics* is the branch that addresses these implied meanings.

Pragmatics focuses on the contextually driven meanings of speakers' statements (Yule, 2020). In communication, messages can often carry implicit meanings, requiring listeners to accurately interpret them to prevent misunderstandings. *Speech act theory*, a core component of pragmatics, provides a framework to understand these communicative intentions, bridging the conveyed message and the listener's interpretation.

Speech acts play a significant role in everyday communication. As Yule (2020) explains, they are not merely words or phrases but also actions performed through language, such as expressing emotions or making agreements, known as *illocutionary speech acts*. According to Searle (1979), illocutionary speech acts occur when a speaker says something meaningful to the listener, guiding the listener to understand the speaker's intentions and thereby preventing miscommunication.

Daily interactions inherently involve speech acts, which assist in expressing and interpreting intentions, such as requests, thanks, or apologies. Studying speech acts provides insight into how language functions in different contexts, enhancing our capacity to communicate effectively. This understanding is crucial in managing the nuances of intent and action behind spoken language, particularly in intercultural contexts where varied norms may shape speech acts uniquely. Through such study, people gain skills in crafting language that is clear, polite, and unlikely to cause offense.

Given the importance of understanding speech acts, this study focuses on *illocutionary speech acts* in interviews with the film crew of *Jamojaya*, published on the Collider Interviews YouTube channel. This research seeks to contribute to the understanding of speech act theory in media interviews, where speakers often convey nuanced meanings influenced by professional and cultural contexts.

There are several previous studies which provide a comprehensive understanding of illocutionary speech acts. Using Searle's (1979) framework, Yulian and Mandarani (2023) as well as Fitriani et al. (2020) analyzed illocutionary speech acts, each examining different forms and contexts. Yulian and Mandarani (2023) focused on English utterances by teachers, finding that directive acts were the most frequently used. Fitriani et al. (2020), meanwhile, concentrated on identifying the most dominant types of illocutionary speech acts in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, where they also observed directive acts as the most prevalent among four types identified.

Another study by Rahayu and Amri (2023) explored illocutionary speech acts in WhatsApp conversations, analyzing both forms and meanings using Yule's (2014) theory.

They identified all five forms of illocutionary acts, with directive acts again being the most common. Similarly, Khairatunnisa and Manaf (2021) examined illocutionary speech acts in social media posts and comments from platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, applying Austin's (1962) theory. They found that illocutionary acts are present in everyday social media interactions. Lastly, Haucsa et al. (2020) studied illocutionary speech acts in an interview with Tom Cruise, focusing on the types and functions of speech acts with reference to Cutting's (2002) framework. Their findings revealed four types of illocutionary acts, with representative acts being the most frequently observed.

METHODS

This study uses qualitative analysis to examine the forms of illocutionary speech acts carried out by the hosts of the YouTube channel Collider Interviews with Rich Brian and Justin Chon in order to share the experiences behind the making of their film entitled "Jamojaya" which was released in January 2023. Their video interview was uploaded by Collider Views on February 5, 2023 after the release of their film at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2023. Data for this study was collected by obtaining a video interview between the hosts of Collider Interviews, Rich Brian and Justin Chon, from YouTube, which was 23 minutes and 41 seconds long. The writers chose a qualitative approach because, based on the first study topic, they aimed to study various forms of illocutionary acts contained in podcasts. A qualitative approach is used to provide a detailed description or in-depth analysis of a case (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The writers will examine data sources containing utterances and forms of illocutionary acts shown in the interview video of Collider Interviews host, Rich Brian, and Justin Chon. The data collection process requires several steps to observe and collect data for this study. First, the writers read the entire transcript text, watched the video interview, and marked all the utterances included in illocutionary speech acts. Next, the writers categorized these utterances according to illocutionary act categories based on Searle's (1979) theory: assertive, commissive, directive, expressive, and declarative. Then, the writers will enter the number of illocutionary acts into a table as a summary of the overall data that have been found. Lastly, the writers will explain some illocutionary acts of data that have been found clearly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Rich Brian and Justin Chon's interview, the writers analyzed the illocutionary speech acts conducted by both the interviewer and the guests. The writers found there are four types of illocutionary acts found in the interview video, but there are not any declarative types in this particular interview. On the other hand, the writers have found four categories of illocutionary acts, such as assertive, directive, commissive, and expressive. Below is the table of results of the analysis by the writers.

Table 1. Results of the study.

<i>Illocutionary Acts</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Assertive	85	61,15 %
Directive	33	23, 74%
Expressive	20	14,39%
Commissive	1	0,72%
Declarative	0	0
Total	139	100%

Assertive

a. Informing

Datum 1

[00.00.46 - 00.00.52]

Rich Brian: "Yeah. I'll try. So, **Jamojaya is a movie where I'm playing kind of myself in it.**"

The utterance above represents an assertive (informing). Rich Brian states, "Jamojaya is a movie where I'm playing kind of myself in it." This provides specific information about the movie's title "Jamojaya" and his role "playing kind of myself in it". This utterance reflects an assertive illocutionary act because he informs the audience about the topic of the movie and his role within it. Thus, informing is part of assertive, based on the theory of Searle & Vanderveken (1985), in which it conveys factual information. This data confirms that it is an assertive act because it conveys information about Rich Brian's role in the movie and provides information intended to be understood and accepted as fact by the audiences.

b. Believing

Datum 2

[00:08:09 - 00:08:13]

Rich Brian: "**I think it was worth it** but it was just like it's insane how much setup it takes for one scene."

The utterance above represents an assertive (believing). The utterance shows Rich Brian's belief in the listener. He tries to convey his opinion about how much setup is needed for one scene. The word "I think" indicates that the utterance contains the speaker's belief. It highlights the speaker's dedication to the truth of their opinion or perspective, as seen by Rich Brian's statements about the setup for filming. This expression of belief invites the listener to understand his perspective and the reasoning behind it. Expressing belief in this context also provides insight into the speaker's experiences and assessments, adding depth to the conversation. Thus, believing is part of assertive. based on the theory of Searle & Vanderveken (1985). Therefore, this data confirms that it is an assertive illocutionary act where the speaker expresses their belief or opinion about a certain situation or fact.

Directive

a. Requesting

Datum 3

[00:00:41 - 00:00:43]

Host: **“Would you do the honours and give a brief synopsis?”**

The utterance above represents directive (request). The interviewer is asking for a brief synopsis of the film. The interviewer requests a brief synopsis of the film. This question asks the guest to give an overview of his film. The illocutionary type can be defined as directive. This question directs the guest to share information with the audience. The word “Would you” indicates that the utterance contains a request. The phrase “do the honours” suggests that the guest is being asked to perform a task that is considered respectful or important, in this case, providing a synopsis of the film. By requesting a “brief synopsis,” the interviewer clearly specifies what information the guests should provide. Thus, request is part of directive, based on the theory of Searle & Vanderveken (1985). Therefore, this data confirms that it is a directive illocutionary act where the speaker seeks compliance from the audience to perform the requested action.

b. Suggesting

Datum 4

[00:13:29 - 00:13:32]

Rich Brian: “I think **you should talk about this**, because to me it felt **pretty** smooth the whole time.”

The dialogue above represents a directive (a suggestion). The utterances above indicate a suggestion to discuss a specific topic or offer one's perspective. The use of “should” in the modal verb indicates an obligation or suggestion for someone to do something. Rich Brian's statement is based on his opinion that “to me, it felt pretty smooth the whole time,” which indicates his personal experience or opinion, by suggesting that Rich Brian invites the partner to share their opinion on the suggested topic. Thus, suggest is part of directive, based on the theory of Searle & Vanderveken (1985). Therefore, this data confirms that it is a directive illocutionary act where the speaker suggests or proposes the discussion of a particular topic or aspect.

Commissive

a. Promising

Datum 5

[00:23:22 - 00:23:29]

Host: **“We'll have more interviews from Sundance 2023 for you soon.”**

The utterance above represents a commissive (promising). The word “will” indicates that the utterance is a part of promising, since will is a word that expresses future events. The utterance by the host of Collider Interviews above contains commissive (promising) and it can be seen from “We'll have more interviews ... for you soon”. It clearly reflects a commissive speech act. It describes the host's enthusiastic

feelings so that listeners can hear similar interviews with behind-the-scenes details about the films shown at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. Thus, promising is one part of commissive illocutionary acts, based on the theory of Searle & Vanderveken (1985). This data confirms that promising commits the person who speaks to certain future acts.

Expressive

a. Greeting

Datum 6

[00:00:03 - 00:00:08]

Host: "What's up everyone, **welcome back** to the Collider Studio presented by Saratoga Spring Water."

The utterance above represents an expressive (greeting). The interviewer greets the audience, creating a welcoming and warm environment. In a formal context, this speech is used to express a host's professionalism to welcome and appreciate the audience who watch the interview video. In addition, these words can further emphasise the feelings of acceptance and joy felt by the host. This utterance is an expressive illocutionary act because it aims to acknowledge the presence of the audience and create a connection with them. According to Yule (1996), expressive acts convey the speaker's psychological state or attitude toward a situation. Thus, the word "welcome back" indicates that this utterance is an expressive illocutionary act (greeting), based on the theory of Searle & Vanderveken (1985). In this data, the greeting expresses the host's joy and appreciation for the audience's return.

b. Congratulating

Datum 7

[00:00:20 – 00:00:22]

Host: "**Congratulations**. Continued **congratulations**."

The utterance above represents an expression of congratulations. The interviewer congratulates the guests on their achievements, expressing admiration and appreciation. This is an expressive illocutionary act, as it shows the host's positive feelings towards the guests' success. The word "congratulation" in the utterance indicates an expressive (congratulating) illocutionary act.

The word "congratulations" expresses the host's pleasant feelings and recognition of the guest's success, while the phrase "continued congratulations" emphasises this positive feeling by stating continued admiration. This show of positive emotions not only recognizes and celebrates the guest's achievements, but it also promotes positive social relationships. Thus, congratulating is part of expressive illocutionary acts, based on the theory of Searle (1985). This data demonstrates that congratulating someone is expressive since it expresses the speaker's gratitude for their accomplishments.

CONCLUSION

In summary, this study analyzed the types of illocutionary speech acts found in interviews on the Collider Interviews YouTube channel, specifically in conversations involving the interviewer, the host of Collider Interviews, and interviewees Rich Brian and Justin Chon. Additionally, the study provides a detailed examination of the specific illocutionary speech acts identified in the dialogue. Using Searle's (1985) classification, the utterances were divided into five types: assertive, commissive, directive, expressive, and declarative. In this analysis, 85 utterances were classified as assertive, comprising approximately 61.15% of the total. Directive speech acts followed, with 33 utterances (23.74%). Only 1 utterance fell into the commissive category, accounting for 0.72%, while 20 utterances (14.39%) were classified as expressive. However, no declarative illocutionary acts were found in the analyzed data. Thus, only four of the five types of illocutionary acts—assertive, directive, commissive, and expressive—were represented. This study encountered certain limitations. The primary limitation concerns the interpretation of various utterances, which may affect results due to the inherent subjectivity in data analysis. Different individuals may interpret the same data differently, influenced by cultural and social contexts or by distinct focuses on aspects such as grammatical structure versus conveyed meaning. Such interpretative differences can affect the study's findings. Another limitation is the absence of declarative illocutionary acts, which restricts a comprehensive understanding of all five types of illocutionary acts.

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