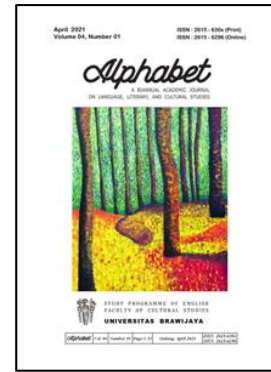


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Nabilla Sekarayu Amalia

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Illocutionary Act of Dissociative Identity Disorder in the Main Character of the *Split* Movie

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Nabilla Sekarayu Amalia¹

Abstract

Individuals produce speech to communicate that can lead to an action, which is referred to as a speech act. This study aimed to examine one type of speech act, the illocutionary act, as portrayed by the main character in the *Split* movie who suffers from Dissociative Identity Disorder. The problems of this study covered: (1) the types of illocutionary acts found in the main character, (2) the perlocutionary effect related to illocutionary in the utterance produced by the main character, and (3) the reason for the main character of demonstrating the speech accommodation when he acts like an adult or kid to the addressee. The method used to conduct this study was a qualitative approach using document analysis. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the theory of the illocutionary act proposed by Searle (1976), the perlocutionary act by Austin (1962), and communication accommodation by Holmes (2013). The results showed that the main character demonstrated five types of illocutionary acts. In this movie, the perlocutionary effect was the listener's action that the speaker wanted, or it might be unexpected. Besides, most of the accommodation used by the main character was speech convergence.

Keywords:

speech act, illocutionary act, Dissociative Identity Disorder, *Split* movie

When a speaker says something, whether it is a greeting, request, promise, apology, warning, etc., there are particular purposes beyond their words. The action performed by produced utterances is referred to as speech acts. The theory of speech acts, according to Chojimah (2015), is used to identify the action behind the speech. As can be seen, the speech act is used to help people understand the implicit meaning of the speech. In a particular case, a speech act is considered to show a different manifestation when it is performed by an individual with specific disorders.

In the *Split* movie, the illocutionary act, as one type of speech act, is expressed by a person who suffers from Dissociative Identity Disorder. Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), also commonly known as multiple

personality disorder (Spiagle, 2019), is a type of dissociative disorder marked by more than two personality states (also called alters, self-states, or identities) that take in turn in one single individual. DID is one of the dissociative disorders. As explained by Loewenstein (2018), the types of dissociative disorder are Dissociative Amnesia, Depersonalization Disorder, Dissociative Fugue, Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), Dissociative disorder not otherwise specified (DDNOS), and other additional problems.

Dissociative Identity Disorder is the disorder suffered by the main character of the *Split* movie, Kevin Wendell Crumb. Kevin has 23 distinct personalities, each with something strange and dangerous for his captives. As it has been briefly explained, a person with Dis-

¹ Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang Indonesia. E-mail: nabillasekarayuamalia@gmail.com

sociative Identity Disorder communicates with the addressee in a “different” way. Even though a movie is merely a representation of what people do in real life, it is in some ways similar to it. It has a specific message that the director wants to deliver to the audience. In particular, the *Split* movie also shows how the speech conveys by the actor in the movie has some actions behind it.

Speech act, according to Yule (2010), is the type of “action” that a speaker engages in when making an utterance. The term “speech act” is used to describe actions like requesting, commanding, questioning, or informing. Austin (1962) divided the speech act into three types, consisting of the locutionary act (locution), illocutionary act (illocution), and perlocutionary act (perlocution). The locutionary act refers to the literal meaning of an utterance, whereas the illocutionary act refers to the act behind the utterance. Besides, the perlocutionary act is bringing the effect on the addressee using illocutionary acts.

Searle (1976) refined Austin’s classification of illocutionary acts by introducing five categories consisting of representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaration. Representatives are to commit the speaker (in varying degrees) to something being the case, to the truth of the expressed proposition. Directives are attempts by the speaker to get the listener to do something. Commissives deal with a speaker’s commitment to future actions such as promising, threatening, offering, vowing, or warning. Expressives are to express the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a state of affairs, particularly in the propositional content. The last, declaration is the successful performance of one to their members that changes the reality.

Furthermore, when speaking, speakers frequently try to meet the expectations of others. Wardhaugh (2006) argued that accommodation is one way of explaining how individuals and groups perceive their relationships with one another. According to Holmes (2013), the way the speaker accommodates the addressee can be divided into two, consisting of speech

convergence and speech divergence. Convergence towards the speech of another person has usually reflected a polite speech strategy. Meanwhile, speech divergence means that the respondents intentionally diverge from the speech style, even the language, of the addressing person.

Similar studies on the illocutionary act have been conducted by Afianti (2018) and Anggraeni (2016). However, in terms of theory, they used different theories. The former used the theory introduced by Searle (1976), while the latter used the theory introduced by Austin (1962). Meanwhile, this study was more compact, applying the theories proposed by Searle (1976) to analyze the types of the illocutionary act, Austin (1962) to analyze the perlocutionary effect related to illocutionary in the utterance produced by the main character, and Holmes (2013) to analyze the reason for the main character of making the accommodation of the various speech when he acts like an adult or kid to the addressee in the *Split* movie.

Despite an abundance of research done by preceding researchers, this study was quite different from those previous studies. This study focused specifically on the movie that presents a fictional character with Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), which makes him very interesting to study. This was because the act behind the utterances of the main character in the *Split* movie was greatly variable. The diverse personalities ranged from those that dominate adults to the personality of a nine-year-old child made a variation of the illocution.

METHOD

This study was qualitative research since the researcher used a qualitative approach to analyze the data. The data source of this study was from speech produced by the main character of the *Split* movie, who suffered from Dissociative Identity Disorder. The human conversation examined in this study indicated that this study used descriptive data, which were in the form of written or spoken words

produced by people and also behavior that can be observed (Moleong, 2004). Next, the data collected were assessed using document analysis, a type of analysis concentrating on analyzing and interpreting data in the form of records (including film, reports, letters, etc.) by referring to its context (Ary, 2010).

The data were then analyzed by conducting the following steps; first, classifying the data based on types of illocutionary acts proposed by Searle (1976) in a tabular form. This step involved coding and putting the data into a table. Second, analyzing the utterances that were considered the type of act to illocutionary act by using the aforementioned theory. Third, analyzing the perlocutionary act by using the theory from Austin (1962). Next, determining the way the character accommodates the addressee that can help the flow of communication during his act in some personalities using Holmes's accommodation theory (2013). The last, drawing a conclusion.

RESULTS

Illocutionary Act and Perlocutionary Act of the Main Character in the *Split* Movie

The finding showed that the main character of the *Split* movie performed five types of the illocutionary act proposed by Searle (1976), including representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaration. All of the illocutionary act was demonstrated by different alters trapped in Kevin's body, including the most common ones: Barry, Dennis, Ms. Patricia, and Hedwig. His 23rd and final alter, "The Beast," is a cannibalistic sociopath with superhuman capabilities.

Representatives

Representatives (Searle, 1976) showed the act that has a commitment to the truth of something. It means that the words state what the speaker believes to be the case. Representatives include informing, telling, stating, confessing, asserting, claiming, complaining, concluding, and inferring. In the *Split* movie, 108

utterances found were classified as representatives. Below is the example of the analysis:

"I've heard that Asian people's music aids digestion." (Shyamalan, 2016, 00:45:23)

The utterance above was stated by Ms. Patricia, one of the alters that is described as a sympathetic mother figure. Ms. Patricia informed that Asian people's music could help digestion. In this scene, Ms. Patricia prepared breakfast for two prisoners, Casey and Marcia. She made the situation more comfortable by playing a song by Asian people. By saying that, Ms. Patricia wanted the prisoners to enjoy their breakfast and shared what she thought about Asian people's music. Ms. Patricia used the expression "I have heard that" to show the statement of informing, which is an act to give information to someone about something officially that might communicate the speaker's knowledge of the listener (Oxford-Dictionary, 2008).

The perlocutionary effect was that the listeners felt comfortable. There was also an action as a result of hearing the utterance. While they were eating breakfast, the listeners added more interesting information to the discussion. In this part, the prisoners also got a chance to take a look at the room. One of the prisoners, Marcia, tried to escape from the room.

Directives

According to Searle (1976), directives are attempts by the speaker to persuade the listener to do something. Directives included questioning, requesting, commanding, asking, suggesting, and advising. The researcher found 53 utterances classified as directives. An example of directives in the *Split* movie is as follows:

"Please take it off." (Shyamalan, 2016, 00:48:53)

In this situation, Dennis requested Casey to take off her shirt because Casey's shirt was strewn with crumbs. Dennis used the expression "please" to showed the statement of re-

questing act. This part also portrayed the real personality of Dennis. Dennis, who has a personality that is obsessed with cleanliness, asked Casey to change her clothes.

The perlocutionary act was that the speaker persuaded the listener to change the shirt. Casey, as the listener, was speechless with the situation. Casey looked confused when Dennis suddenly requested her to change the clothes. Casey then understood what was the concern of Dennis, which was cleanliness to every single thing.

Commissives

Commissives, according to Searle (1976), are acts that bind the speaker to a future course of action. Promising, offering, threatening, and warning were four types of commissives identified by the researcher. In the *Split* movie, 34 utterances were discovered that were then classified as directives act. The following is an explanation of the data found in the movie script that functioned as a commissive:

“Okay, I’ll show you something cool in my room.” (Shyamalan, 2016, 00:53:52)

There was an utterance stated by Hedwig. Hedwig is portrayed as the personality of a nine-year-old child. This utterance was a sentence that made a possibility in the future to the hearer would accept or reject the offers. In this case, Hedwig willing to show something extraordinary in his room to Casey. They were sharing a secret.

Expressives

According to Searle (1976), the psychological state specified in the seriousness condition about a state of affairs described in the propositional content is called expressives. It refers to an act in which the speaker’s words expressed his or her feelings. Thanking, greeting, joking, apologizing, deploring, and rejoicing are among the use of expressives. In this research, twenty-two expressions were identified by the researcher as expressives and the character in the movie who frequently used

this act is The Beast, as shown in evidence below:

“Thank you for helping us till now.”
(Shyamalan, 2016, 01:28:02)

This was a sentence in which the speaker expressed gratitude to the listener. The Beast made that remark because he was helped by Dr. Fletcher, who had always been there for him when he was suffering from DID. Before killing the doctor, The Beast thanked the doctor as a farewell statement. Dr. Fletcher was killed by The Beast because she refused to believe in his existence.

The perlocutionary effect is evidenced when Dr. Fletcher cried. The speaker’s statement shocked her. She was even unable to respond to The Beast’s statement. This act can be interpreted as the perlocutionary act because the listener, Dr. Fletcher, took action after hearing what was uttered by the speaker, The Beast. Dr. Fletcher is eventually killed by The Beast.

Declaration

According to Searle (1976), the illocutionary act of declaration is the type of illocutionary act in which what the speaker says will give immediate changes to the propositional content and reality. Declaration includes proclaiming, approving, and disapproving. Particularly, twenty-five utterances identified as the declaration were found by the researcher. Below is an example found in the movie script that has the function as the declaration illocutionary act:

“I see. Now, I see. That’s clever. That’s clever, but I’m not Dennis.” (Shyamalan, 2016, 00:39:56)

The utterance above contained a disapproving act since Barry disapproved of Dr. Fletcher’s assumption stating that he was actually Dennis. In this scene, Dr. Fletcher made a professional guess based on the description of all 23 identities. However, the main character denied some of Dr. Fletcher’s statements by convincing her that he was Barry. The ut-

terance "...but I am not Dennis" means that he declared that he was not that character.

The perlocutionary effect happened since Dr. Fletcher argued that she was talking with Dennis based on professional prediction through the description of all twenty-three identities in Kevin's body. She stated that the personalities had been forbidding from the light for quiet. She also asked herself some questions in order to convince herself. Thus, it can be seen that there was action as a result of hearing the utterance.

Accommodation of the Main Character in the *Split* Movie

To analyze the accommodation—specifically, the communication accommodation or speech accommodation—of the main character in the *Split* movie, Holmes's theory of accommodation (2013) will be used as the reference. This theory looked at how people adjust their behavior to accommodate their communication to their partner and how much they believe their partner has adjusted appropriately to them. Holmes (2013) explained that people have two possible ways to accommodate the addressee, including speech convergence and speech divergence. Convergence toward another person's speech has typically reflected a polite speech strategy, whereas divergence means that the listeners purposefully diverge from the speaker's speech style, both in terms of verbal and non-verbal differences.

Based on the examination, the way all of the main character's alter identities in the *Split* movie accommodating the addressee is mostly categorized as speech convergence. Ms. Patricia, Hedwig, Barry, Dennis, and Jade showed politeness to the interlocutors when they had a conversation. They accommodated the addressee to set the same wavelength and talk about the same topic so that they could understand each other well. It can be proven by looking at the illocutionary and perlocutionary analysis as discussed previously.

Speech convergence requires the speaker and the listener to adjust their conversation

topic to become very similar or even the same. As an illustration, there is a scene showing that Ms. Patricia, Casey, and Marcia had a conversation during breakfast. Ms. Patricia started the conversation and said, "I have heard that Asian people's music aids digestion (Shyamalan, 2016, 00:45:23)." In this case, she expected the listeners to feel comfortable during their breakfast. However, Casey added some information to respond to the speaker's statement. Ms. Patricia then moved on to other topics related to the current situation in order to keep the conversation going. In brief, Ms. Patricia's act demonstrated convergence because she placed herself on the same wavelength as the listener and used a polite speech strategy.

On the other side, some of the alter personalities of the main character of the *Split* movie did not represent convergence to the addressee, such as the Unknown Character and The Beast. The Unknown Character and The Beast seemed to be purposely maintaining their particular communication style to indicate the differences among them. They wanted to have their voices heard without regard for reciprocity. They indeed needed to show their true selves on purpose.

An example of speech divergence is demonstrated by The Beast. It can be clearly observed because anytime The Beast made a statement, the listener would obey his will and felt scared. In a scene, The Beast appeared for the first time and met Dr. Fletcher. Once the Beast said something to her, Dr. Fletcher remained silent and cried. The Beast did not need the listener to respond to him. Instead, he killed Dr. Fletcher. The act of The Beast was divergent because it indicated that he did not accommodate his speech to the addressee.

In their conversations, the majority of Kevin's alter personalities showed speech convergence. It was evident in the illocutionary and perlocutionary acts. The researcher concluded that the reasons why the main character of the *Split* movie used speech convergence were to get feedback in the conversation between the speaker and the listener.

DISCUSSION

The researcher found 239 types of acts categorized as illocutionary acts including 108 acts of representatives, 53 acts of directives, 34 acts of commissives, 19 acts of expressives, and 25 acts of declarations. The representatives (i.e. informing acts) are obtained as the type of illocutionary acts that are mostly used by the main character of the *Split* movie, particularly by Kevin's twenty-three alter identities. The main character frequently applied informing acts, an act that aims to share information from someone to another about something, which is carried out officially. The tendency of the main character to use this illocutionary act is to reveal the truth.

The first most used illocutionary act by the main character is representatives. The possible reason why there were many acts of representatives mostly found in the main character's utterances was that he wanted to tell the truth about himself that he was actually suffered from Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID). The types of the illocutionary act of representatives showed by the main character include informing, telling, stating, confessing, asserting, claiming, complaining, concluding, and inferring. Kevin's alter identity who frequently uses this type of illocutionary act is Dennis.

The second most used illocutionary act by the main character is directives. The illocutionary act of directives was used because the main character wanted the prisoners or the psychologists to do things for him. The types of the illocutionary act of directives demonstrated by the main character include questioning, requesting, commanding, asking, suggesting, and advising. The alter identities that frequently use directives are Dennis and Hedwig.

The third most used illocutionary act by the main character is commissives. The illocutionary act of commissives is used to show how the main character is committed to the future that the speaker expected for the listeners. The possible reason why there was only a few of illocutionary act of commissives per-

formed by the main character was regarding how the main character was committed for the future that the speaker wanted for the listener. In the *Split* movie, the types of this illocutionary act are in the form of promising, offering, threatening, and warning. The alter identity that frequently uses this act is Dennis.

The fourth most used illocutionary act by the main character is expressives. The potential background of why the main character used the act was because he respected the psychologist or the prisoners for what they had done. Moreover, he attempted to entertain the listeners by demonstrating this type of illocutionary act. The types of this illocutionary act are in the form of thanking, greeting, joking, apologizing, deploring, and rejoicing. The alter identity that frequently uses this act is The Beast.

The least illocutionary act by the main character found in the *Split* movie is the declaration. The reason for applying the illocutionary act of declaration was that because the main character wanted to declare a statement to other people of his DID. The types of the illocutionary act of declaration identified in this study include proclaiming, approving, and disapproving. The alter identity that frequently uses this act is also The Beast.

The perlocutionary effects followed the illocutionary act showed by the main character. The perlocutionary act that emerged was the action of the listener that the speaker expected. Furthermore, the findings also showed that the perlocutionary effect was not something that the speaker wanted. The connection between the perlocutionary effect and illocutionary act was reflected in the main character's utterance, "You know, we are gonna have to take care of ourselves, and nobody even believes that we exist (Shyamalan, 2016, 00:16:07)." In this particular scene, Dr. Fletcher, as the listener, attempted to calm Barry, who was terrified of his own existence. Then, Dr. Fletcher responded by saying that she had made arrangements with a colleague to take over his responsibilities. This action proved that the listener showed her respect

and responded to what the speaker expected. As a result of this feedback, there has been an ongoing conversation that affected the speech accommodation.

The reason for the main character to make an adjustment by accommodating their communication when he acted like an adult, woman, or kid is because almost all of alter identities in Kevin's body attempted to have the same wavelength of the topic with their listeners. Most of the alter identities used the type of accommodation of speech convergence. In this case, they intended to accommodate the addressee in making the conversation flowing to understand each other.

Based on the research investigation, the researcher found how the main character who suffered from Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) transformed the personalities to his alter identities. There was a typical pattern that he would change his style of speech and topic of conversation when the personalities were switched to one of his alter identities. One of the alter identities whose personality changed drastically and showed instability is the Unknown Character. A stressful and confused expression is often reflected in the scenes showing the Unknown Character. Overall, the transformation of Kevin's twenty-three alter identities can be identified from the act.

The findings of this study had similarities with the finding of the previous studies. In the previous study carried out by Afianti (2018), the illocutionary act of representatives was mostly used by Barack Obama in his final speech as a president. It is similar to the current study in which the main character of the *Split* movie mostly used representatives. The intention of Barack Obama and the main character of the *Split* movie by applying this type of illocutionary act was to tell the truth and to give some information to the listeners.

Besides the similarity, the researcher also found out that the findings of this study contradict the findings of several previous studies. Since the study by Anggraeni (2016) applied the theory from Austin (1962) and this study applied the theory proposed by Searle (1976),

the grouping of findings was different. Moreover, Anggraeni found that the most frequently used illocutionary act by Rahwana in the *Ramayana Comic The 1st Series* was exercitive, particularly in terms of asking, ordering, and warning. Further, the previous study categorized the perlocutionary act as intended or unintended, while this present study did not focus on categorizing the perlocutionary act. Since the subject analyzed in this study was suffered from Dissociative Identity Disorder, this study focused specifically on observing the illocutionary act, the perlocutionary effect, as well as speech accommodation. The diverse personalities ranged from those that dominate adults to the personality of a nine-year-old child made a variation of the illocutionary act.

CONCLUSION

This study was conducted to identify the illocutionary act of the main character of the *Split* movie who suffered from Dissociative Identity Disorder. Based on the analysis, the total of illocutionary acts produced by the main character was 239 types of acts. These include 108 acts of representatives, 53 acts of directives, 34 acts of commissives, 19 acts of expressives, and 25 acts of declarations. Representatives were the most commonly used illocutionary act. It was because the main character, who suffered from Dissociative Identity Disorder, wanted to tell the truth about himself and give his opinion on the current situation to the listeners.

It was also crucial to understanding the perlocutionary act that affected the listeners through the illocutionary act produced by the main character. In this movie, the perlocutionary effect was the hearer's action that the speaker wanted, or it might be something unexpected. Besides the illocutionary act and the perlocutionary effect observed, the findings also revealed that the accommodation used by the main character was speech convergence. It was because the main character adjusted the same wavelength of the topic so both the speaker and the listener could understand each other. The accommodation could help the

flow of communication during the conversation.

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