An Analysis of Illocutionary Act in Western Song Lyrics "Espresso" By Sabrina Carpenter

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Abstract

This research was conducted to analyze the illocutionary acts in the song Esspresso by Sabrina Carpenter. The purposes of this research is to investigate the types of illocutionary acts in the song lyrics of Sabrina Carpenter's "Espresso". The illocutionary act itself is the core action of communication, which is the intention to be conveyed by speech that can express feelings, requests, promises, and also statements of fact. Using a descriptive qualitative method, data were collected and analyzed based on John Searle's (1979) theory of illocutionary acts. The lyrics of "Espresso" contained a total of 22 data of illocutionary acts. The analysis revealed four categories: assertives (50%), directives (18,20), expressives (18,20), and commissives (13,60%). Assertives, the most dominant category, highlighted the speaker's statements and beliefs. Directives and expressives conveyed commands and emotions, while commissives indicated commitments. This study demonstrates how song lyrics function as a medium for emotional and social communication, contributing to understanding language use in art and culture and offering insights for educational approaches integrating popular culture.

*Keywords***:** *Discourse Analysis, Speech Act, illocutionary, Song, Lyrics.*

1. Introduction

Language is an important communication tool that humans have discovered. Language helps us communicate and makes people understand what people say. Ghani (2014) states that language is the sound produced by the human speech and speech apparatus. Language is used as a tool to convey opinions, messages, through groups, organizations or in the form of media. According to Mailani (2022), in communicating, the most important tool in social life in society is language. In order to carry out daily activities, humans really need language (Avifah & Nurhayati, 2022). Without language, humans would not be able to understand and communicate with each other. Language can also be used as an art, there is music, novels, films or other written works that are created using language that allows the audience to understand the author's intentions. Thus, it can be seen that language has an important role in communicating needs, desires and ideas so that humans can have a shared understanding.

Songs are one of the works of art that can be enjoyed whenever and wherever we are (Dian et al., 2023). With the development of the times and available technology, songs have become a media channel that can be used to convey verbal and nonverbal messages. Making a song must be used for a specific purpose, then the results are heard by many people. In this modern era, songs have become a necessity for humans. For songwriters, songs become one of

the best emotional outbursts for them, where the feelings felt by songwriters can be conveyed through beautiful harmonies (Wati, 2022). In addition to containing many layers of meaning in it, there are also speech acts conveyed by the musician and have the intention to state information and to perform an action, thus making song lyrics valuable for a linguistic analysis.

Discourse analysis is a branch of linguistics that studies the use of language in the context of communication. One of the important approaches in discourse analysis is speech acts or speech acts. According to Searle (1969, p. 21), speech act is a basic unit of communication which together with the principle of expression shows a series of analytical relationships between thoughts. Speech acts, what is meant by the speaker, what is the intention of the spoken sentence (or other linguistic elements), what is understood by the listener, and what rules govern these linguistic elements, namely locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. In addition, according to Searle (1969), there is a general classification system that lists five general functions performed by speech acts. They are declarative, assertive, expressive, directive, and commissive. Declarative is speakers after the external status or condition of an object or situation: resigning, baptizing, firing, naming, punishing, declaring. Assertive is speakers assert a proposition to be true: believe, affirm, state, propose, report. Expressive is Speakers express an attitude to or about a state of affairs: apologize, appreciate, congratulate, regret, thank, deplore, detest, criticize. Directive is speakers try to make the hearer do something with words: ask, request, challenge, command, insist, order. Commissive is speakers commits themselves to a (future) course of action: guarantee, promise, vow, pledge.

This research focuses on the song "Espresso" by Sabrina Carpenter to explore the illocutionary actions in its lyrics. Illocutionary acts, as defined by Yule (1996), refer to the intention of the speaker in an utterance, which can be classified into five main categories: declarative, assertive, expressive, directive, and commissive. By analyzing these songs, this study aims to reveal how texts work to convey certain messages and emotions. However, through the analysis of illocutionary acts, we can dig deeper to understand the message and meaning the singer wants to convey and how the words used in the song lyrics can be used to achieve certain communicative goals (Gunadi, 2023).

2. Methods

The data analyzed in this study uses the theory of illocutionary acts from John Searle (1979), where the researcher woud like to discuss the distribution and significance of several types of illocutionary acts contained in the lyrics of the song "Espresso" by Sabrina Carpenter. This research employs a qualitative-descriptive approach, as it is well-suited for describing and analyzing phenomena such as social activities, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, and the use of language in both individual and group contexts (Sukmadinata, 2009). Descriptive research, specifically, aims to define a situation or phenomenon based on what it is (Sukmadinata, 2005).

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that this type of research uses qualitative methods because the data analysis is in the form of written or spoken words. By using this qualitative-descriptive approach, the research analyzes the illocutionary speech acts contained in the lyrics of "Espresso," identifies and classifies the types of illocutionary acts in each line of the song, and interprets them in the context of conveying the message, expressing

emotions, and understanding the meaning intended by the singer (Nurindahsari, 2019). Document analysis techniques are used to analyze the illocutionary speech act data, as the lyrics are a written document. Additionally, recording techniques are employed to document and analyze the findings using the established theoretical framework.

3. Results

Based on the results of the research, there are four categories of illocutionary acts from five types of illocutionary acts contained in the lyrics of Espresso by Sabrina Carpenter analyzed in this study, namely assertive, directive, commissive, and expressive. The findings of illocutionary acts in the lyrics of Espresso by Sabrina Carpenter are illustrated in the following table.

Table 1. Data result of Illocutionary Acts in song lyrics Espresso.

Illocutionary Act Categories	Frequency	Presentase
Assertives	11	50%
Directives	4	18,20%
Commissive	3	13,60%
Expressives	4	18,20%
Total	22	100%

Table 1 shows that the total number of data contained in the song Espresso is 22 data containing types of illocutionary acts. It can be seen in the table that the most dominant illocutionary act category found in the song lyrics is assertive with 11 data (50%), followed by directives with 4 data (18.20%), and expressive with 4 data (18.20%), then the last is commissive with 3 data (13.60%). From the data findings in the table, the researcher can conclude that Sabrina Carpenter in her single titled "Espresso" mostly aims to make speech partners form a belief that Sabrina Carpenter is committed to a certain belief by telling, explaining, reporting, predicting, etc.

4. Discussion

The analysis revealed four types of categories of illocutionary acts namely assertives, directives, commissives, and expressives, but no song lyrics containing declarative illocutionary acts were found in the song lyrics.

4.1 Assertive

According to Apriastuti (2017 p. 44) Assertive speech acts are speech acts that have the purpose of conveying something related to a truth or to make a statement. Assertive speech acts can simply be said to be speech acts that provide information or to state the truth. Below is an example of song lyrics that are assertive:

"Now he's thinkin' 'bout me every night, oh"

"I'm working late 'cause I'm a singer"

The most dominant category in espresso song lyrics is assertive. In line with the research entitled "Tindak Tutur Ilokusi pada Lirik Lagu Album the Best of Chrisye Karya Chrismansyah Rahardi" where it was found that in the speech act the assertive speech act is dominant because the speech act binds the speaker to the truth of his utterances

such as stating and admitting. The percentage of assertive illocutionary acts obtained is 50% of the identified illocutionary acts. The song lyric *"Now he's thinkin' 'bout me every night, oh"* is an example of an assertive action. It means that the singer is reporting a situation, conveying their beliefs about someone's thoughts. While in the lyrics of the song *"I work overtime because I'm a singer."* This statement does not only report the singer's actions, but also asserts their identity as a singer. This shows that this song uses a lot of statements that convey the singer's beliefs, reports, and descriptions. The abundant use of assertive words shows that Sabrina Carpenter as a speaker uses her lyrics to communicate her speakers' point of view to the truth of what Sabrina Carpenter says effectively (Searle, 1979:21).

4.2 Directive

Directive speech acts are the expression of the speaker's intention to the speech partner in the form of hope or desire as a reason for action, not limited to the speaker's expression of the speech partner's actions, as explained by Saputri and Laili (2020 p. 251). Meanwhile, according to Kiuk and Imam (2018, p. 62), directive speech acts are attempts by speakers to make speech partners do certain things. Below is an example of song lyrics that are directive:

"Move it up, down, left, right, oh"

"My honey bee, come and get this pollen"

The directive has a percentage of 18.20% of illocutionary actions. The lyrics *"Move it up, down, left, right, oh"* are an example of a directive action. From the lyrics of the song, it can be interpreted that the singer commands the listener to move in a certain direction. While in the lyrics of the song *"My honey bee, come and get this pollen"* this is a commanding directive speech but in the form of a request which, this request is intended to encourage certain actions from the listener, creating a sense of involvement and interaction. The use of commands and requests adds a dynamic and interactive element to the song, and gets the listener involved by suggesting actions or responses.

4.3 Expressive

Expressives are a type of illocutionary that represents what the speaker feels. They express about the psychological and also the emotions they feel for example apologizing, praising, congratulating, regretting, praising, thanking, liking, disliking and others. Leech (1993 p. 336) states that expressives are attitudes. Searle (1969, p. 21) states that expressive is speakers express an attitude to or about a state of affairs. Then, according to Meyer (2009, p. 50), expressive speech acts can be direct or indirect, literal or non-literal, implicit or explicit. Below is an example of song lyrics that are directive:

"My 'give a fucks' are on vacation"

"Oh, he looks so cute wrapped around my finger"

Expressive, which also represent 18.20% of the actions, are used to convey the speaker's emotions and attitude. The lyrics *"My 'give a fucks' are on vacation"* is an example of an expressive act. Here, the speaker or singer expresses indifference, conveying their emotional state to the listener. While in the lyrics of the song *"Oh, he looks so cute wrapped around my finger"* expresses an affection and contentment of the speaker or singer, which is an utterance that expresses their positive emotions. This type of expressive action allows the artist to share their personal feelings,

making the lyrics more relatable and impactful. In line with Searle's (1969) opinion, expressiveness is an attempt to show an attitude towards a situation that occurs.

4.4 Commissive

Andika (Bachari, 2017: 43), stated that speech act expressives are expressions that show attitudes and feelings towards a condition or the speaker's reaction to people's attitudes and actions. Examples of expressives are congratulating, thanking, regretting, apologizing, welcoming, and thanking. Below are two examples of song lyrics that are directive:

"Soft skin and I perfumed it for ya"

"That morning coffee, brewed it for ya"

Commissives, which account for 13.60% of illocutionary acts, are rarely used but still important. In the lyrics *"Soft skin and I perfumed it for ya"* is an example of a commissive act. Here, the speaker or the singer commits to prepare themselves in a certain way for another person. This type of commissive action points to the speaker's promise or commitment to perform a certain action, increasing the sense of dedication and intentionality in the lyrics. While in the lyrics of the song *"That morning coffee, brewed it for ya"* shows the speaker's commitment to a future action. This statement shows the speaker's commitment to perform a certain action for the listener, reinforcing a sense of care and responsibility. The use of commission verbs highlights the speaker's willingness to make promises and take responsibility for certain actions, adding a layer of credibility and intentionality to the lyrics. According to (Rahmawati & Harahap, 2022, p. 118), the use of commissive acts in song lyrics can add a layer of credibility and sincerity, because the speaker's promise or commitment is explicitly stated.

In conclusion, it can be said that the analysis of the Illocutionary acts in Sabrina Carpenter's "Espresso" reveals strategies for using language to achieve different communicative goals. The assertive dominance produces a strong narrative voice, while the directive and expressive presence adds emotional involvement and depth. Commissives, though fewer, emphasize the speaker's commitment and intention. Through this combination of illocutionary acts, Sabrina Carpenter conveys her message effectively, engages her audience, and provides a varied listening experience.

5. Conclusions

This research analyzes the illocutionary types contained in the lyrics of espresso by Sabrina Carpenter. Based on the analysis, it is found that in the song lyrics of espresso there are several illocutionary types including assertives, directives, commissives and expressives. From the results, it can be concluded that there are 11 assertives data where this illocutionary type dominates the lyrics of the song which is used to provide an informational statement from the speaker, 4 directives data are used to influence the actions of the listener, 4 Expressive data are used to conveying speaker emotional state to the listener, 3 commissives data are used for the commitment that the speaker has to his future actions. The results of this study show that the lyrics of the song "espresso" by Sabrina Carpenter provide emotional messages using the types of illocutionary speech acts. this song is not only an entertainment medium, but this song can also be one of the effective communication tools in conveying emotional and social values. thus, the

analysis of these types of illocutionary can be a tool in understanding the meaning and function of language in the context of art and culture.

This research on speech act analysis, especially illocutionary in espresso song lyrics, can not only make readers understand the meaning of the song, but also this research can contribute to the field of education. Through this analysis, we can find out if language can be used in the context of popular culture, one of which is music whose purpose is to convey messages, emotions, and also social values so that it can help develop educational approaches with relevant cultures at this time. In addition, understanding the illocutionary types contained in song lyrics can increase insight into how communication and self-expression can be built in different contexts, so that it can be one of the learning and teaching strategies in the classroom.

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