THE ILOCUTIONARY MEANINGS OF QUESTIONS IN
“LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL” MOVIE

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By

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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
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APPROVAL

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ii
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Surakarta, April 2017

The Researcher

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ABSTRACT

The research aimed to identify the types of questions form and analyze the illocutionary meaning of question in Life is Beautiful Movie. The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method as research method. The data source of this research is Life is Beautiful movie manuscript. Data are analyzed by using Searle’s (1979) theory of illocutionary act to analyze the illocutionary meanings, Hymes’ theory (1974) to provide the situational context of the conversation in Life is Beautiful movie. The result of the study shows that 250 data containing of types of questions employed by the characters in Life is Beautiful movie. They are WH-Question with the percentage of 68.4%, Yes-No question with 27.6%, and Tag-Question with only 4%. After identifying the types of question form, the researcher analyzes the illocutionary meaning of question in Life is Beautiful Movie. The researcher also found 4 classification of illocutionary act based on the context of conversation in this Movie, there are representatives, expressive, directives, commissives, and declaratives is not found in this movie.

Keywords: types of question form, illocutionary meaning, and context
1. **INTRODUCTION**

Pragmatics is the study of the aspects of meaning and language use that are dependent on the speaker, the addressee and other features of the context of utterance. In other words, Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and interpreted by a listener (Yule, 1996:3). Pragmatics is the study of ‘speaker meaning’, or how we recognize what is mean even when it is not actually said (or written). Yule states that the physical environment, or context, is perhaps more easily recognized as having a powerful impact on how referring expression are to be interpreted (Yule, 1996:21). Fasold states that “Pragmatics is the study of the use of context to make inferences about meaning” (in Fauziati, 2016:136).

To convey the ideas of the speaker and to get the responses from the addressee, that people used the speech acts. Speech acts deal with the utterance to perform a specific action (McCarthy, 1991: 9-10). In attempting to express themselves, people do not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words, they perform actions via those utterance. “Speech acts are actions which are performed via utterances” (Yule, 1996:47). According to Yule (1983) the actions performed by producing an utterance will consist of three related acts. They are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act.

Illocutionary acts are acts performed by speakers in saying something (with an appropriate intention and in an appropriate context). According to Searle’s (1969), there are five classifications of illocutionary acts including their illocutionary functions (Searle, 1979: 12; Yule, 1996: 36). For example, representative, directives, expressive, commissive, and declaratives. This present study will be analyzed the illocutionary meanings in question form are employed by the characters of *Life is Beautiful* movie.
Most often questions are used to get information, but sometimes questions are also used to express surprise feeling, for example the WH questions *what*, when the speaker uttered it in high intonation, the function of WH questions *what* is as exclamation or to show surprises feeling. Modal auxiliaries word in the form of interrogative are used to show politeness. Questions also have multiple functions in making an order or offer usually the speaker uses questions. The answer of a question is verbally, but it could be an act if the question uttered in the form of speech act.

The following data are some the illocution meanings of questions in *Life is Beautiful* movie, which mostly happen from those who have an authority or superiority over to others (hearers). In these scripts, question or interrogative form were used with their situational context. For examples:

**Dialogue:**
In the corner of the road to repair of a machine car.
Guido Orefice : *Now what do you need?*
Fernuccio : Nothing, I need ten minutes alone.
Guido Orefice : *Do you want the screw, from before?*
Fernuccio : No, I want to be alone.
Guido Orefice : All right, I’ll leave you alone. *Do I toss out the screw, if I find it?*

The sentences are uttered by Guido Orefice in the corner of the road with his friend. Therefore, Guido always asks a question whether Ferruccio needs a screw or not. He says, “*I found the screw. Now, what do you need?*” it is employed by Guido used an interrogative form which is not merely a question that needs an answer. This question has a function or purpose. The illocutionary meaning of this questions *is offering a help* to Ferruccio in repairing the damaged car. Because Ferruccio with his capability thinks that the car has a trouble in the machine. Because Ferruccio does not need help from Guido. In the last question, Guido asks,
“Do I toss out the screw if I find it?” the illocutionary meanings of this question is confirming to Ferruccio. Because he really wants to help him to repair this car.

In general study of illocutionary was done by researchers with kinds of media. The first study of the illocutionary act in the commissives act are used by characters of the movie or novel (Kusumo;2015, Listiana;2012, Nindyasari;2013, Nugroho;2011, and Wardani;2011). The second is analyzed the directive utterance and speech act in interrogative form (Puspitasari;2015, Kurniadi;2015, Corddy;2001, Zahroh;2015, Pramesti;2011, Sundari;2009). The third is studied of the illocutionary acts that used in advertisement and social media (Rdiwan;2013, Alnajjar;2015, Oyele and Ayodele; 2012, Ainurrohmah;2011).

This research more specific topic. That focus on the study illocutionary meaning especially in question or interrogative form are employed by the characters in Life is Beautiful movie. In analyzing data, the researcher used Searle’s theory (1979) to analyze the illocutionary act and it supported by Hymes theory (1974) about situational context with SPEAKING formula.

Based on the phenomena above, the researcher is interested to analyze about the Illocutionary meaning of questions in Life is Beautiful movie. The research will be entitled The Illocutionary Meanings of question in Life is Beautiful Movie.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The types of this research is descriptive qualitative. The object of this study is question form are employed by the characters in Life is Beautiful movie which contains the illocutionary meanings. The data were collecting by using documentary and determining the types of question form using Frank theory (1972), an then analyzed the illocutionary meaning by using Searle’s theory (1979).
3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In analyzing data, the researcher found 250 data of interrogative or questions form. The major classes of questions can be divided into three classes according to the answer they expect, such as YES-NO questions, WH questions, and TAQ questions which most appeared in this movie. The result of data findings is presented in the diagram.

**Diagram 4.1. Percentage amount diagram of type question**

Based on the findings, the researcher mostly use interrogative or question form that Wh-question serves the dominant frequency of types questions in the conversation in Life is Beautiful movie, there are 171 data. The following examples:

1) Ferruccio: *Where is this house, anyway?*  
   *(Datum/15/WHQ/Ferruccio/)*

2) Guido: *Why didn’t you cry for help?* *(Datum/21/WHQ/Guido/)*

3) DR.Rodolfo: *What’s going on here?*  
   *(Datum/30/WHQ/DR.Rodolfo/)*

4) Guido: *So when is his replacement due?*  
   *(Datum/34/WHQ/Guido/)*
5) Guido: *How many years have you taught in this school district?* (Datum/65/WHQ/Datum/)

The second position is Yes/No question represented by 69 data. Yes/No question is the question that expect affirmation or negation. The following examples:

1) Guido: *Do you want the screw from before?* (Datum/02/YNQ/Guido)

2) Dora: *How frightening. I almost killed myself. Did I hurt you?* (Datum/10/YNQ/Dora)

3) Ferruccio: *Is your uncle sleeping here too with us?* (Datum/16/YNQ/Ferruccio)

4) Cabbie: *Should I wait for you?* (Datum/143/YNQ/Cabbie/)

5) Ernesto: *Are you all right?* (Datum/107/YNQ/Ernesto/)

The lowest rank frequency of types question form is Tag Question with only 10 data. The character in this movie, they are rarely used tag question. The following examples;

1) Uncle: *This is your poet friend, right?* (Datum/22/TQ/Uncle/)

2) Upholsterer: *Nice production, wasn’t it?* (Datum/74/TQ/Upholsterer/)

3) Guido: *He’ll come by again, won’t he?* (Datum/167/TAQ/Guido/)

The researcher also presents the table of illocutionary meaning of questions that used by the characters of *Life is Beautiful Movie*. The researcher used Searle’s theory to classify the illocutionary meanings of questions. According to Searle’s theory, they are five types of illocutionary meaning, they are declaratives, representatives, expressive, directives and commissives. This table displays the number calculate the illocutionary meaning of questions.

*Table 4.1. Data the illocutionary meanings of questions*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Illocutionary acts</th>
<th>Illocutionary meanings</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

6
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Subcategory</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Declaratives</td>
<td>Confirming</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boasting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asking an opinion</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complaining</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressives</td>
<td>Apologizes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expressing Admired</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expressing Surprised</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thanking</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deriding</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Angrying</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teasing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fooling</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Entertaining</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worrying</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directives</td>
<td>Inviting</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Requesting</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ordering</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commentating</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guessing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Challenging</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reminding</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begging</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frightening</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>warning</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offering</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the table above, the illocutionary meaning of question which often used in this movie with the highest percentage is representatives with 38% or 23 data, consisting of the meanings (confirming 12 data, complaining 6 data, asking an opinion 4 data, and boasting 1 data). The second position is directives with 27% or 16 data, it has various functions (inviting, requesting, ordering, commentating, guessing, challenging, reminding, begging, frightening). The third is expressive with 25% or 15 data, consisting of the meaning expressives (apologizes, expressing admired, expressing surprised 4 data, thanking, deriding, angering 2 data, teasing, fooling, entertaining, worrying 2 data). The lowest rank is commissives with 12% 7 data, consisting of the meanings (offering, refusing, warning). And the last meaning of declaratives that is not found in this movie, it just found four types of illocutionary meaning in this movie. Based on the context from the conversations in *Life is Beautiful movie*, the illocutionary meaning of questions that most often appear used by the characters in this movie is representatives meanings.

4. **CONCLUSION**

The research found 250 data containing of types of questions employed by the characters in Life is Beautiful movie. They are WH-Question with the percentage of occurrence 171 data (68.4%), Yes-No question represented by 69 data (27.6%), and Tag-Question with only 10 data (4%). It shows that the dominant of types of questions use WH-question and the least often use tag-question.
The researcher has found four types of illocutionary meanings which used by the characters in Life is Beautiful movie. It can be concluded almost of the types of illocutionary meaning according to Searle’s theory has found in Life is Beautiful movie. The representatives has found four meanings, for examples; confirming, complaining, asking an opinion, and boasting. Directives has ten meanings, for examples; inviting, requesting, ordering, commentating, guessing, challenging, reminding, begging, frightening and warning. Expressive has ten meanings , for examples; apologizing, expressing admired, expressing surprised, thanking, deriding, angering, teasing, fooling, entertaining, worrying. Commissives has two meanings, for examples; offering, refusing, warning. The last declaratives but it is not found in this movie. Based on the context from the conversations in Life is Beautiful movie, the illocutionary meaning of questions that most often appear used by the characters in this movie representatives meanings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


