A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF COMMISSIVE UTTERANCES
IN ARISTOCRATIC MOVIE MANUSCRIPT

Research Paper
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by
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In communication, people speak anything. Sometimes, they speak about future actions. For example, speaker utters words that make hearer to do something or not to do something in the future. Beside that, there is a moment when the hearer does not believe in the speaker’s words. Then, the speaker commits his/herself to make hearer believe in the speaker’s words. Therefore, people use commissive utterances in their conversation to show their acts in the future.

According to Kreidler (1998: 192), commissive is utterances used in theory of speech acts that commit a speaker to a course of action. These include promises, pledges, threats, vows, etc. Commissive verbs are illustrated by agree, ask, offer, refuse, swear, all with following infinitive. They are prospective and concerned with the speaker’s commitment to the future action. For example, I promise/ I guarantee.

The writer finds the phenomena dealing with such commissive utterances in aristocratic movie manuscript since the social strata of aristocratic community (The King, Knight, Emperor, slaves, servant, etc) are various. In these scripts, she finds some conversations in commissive utterances with its situational context, its relationship between speakers. The
examples of commissive utterances that the writer finds in aristocratic movie manuscript are:

1. **NIGHT TIME**
   The conversation between Frodo and Gollum continues. Gollum says that he will do what Frodo want. However, Frodo does not trust Gollum’s words.
   
   Gollum: *We swears to serve the master of the precious. We swears on…on the precious.*
   
   Frodo: The Ring is treacherous. It will hold to your word.
   
   Gollum: Yes…on the precious. On the precious.

2. **EXT. TROJAN SHIP**
   It is in Trojan ship when Hector orders the pilot to back to Sparta. However, Paris tries to stop him. Hector shoves his brother backwards. The older brother’ physical power is obvious. SAILORS watch in awed silence.
   
   Hector: Do you know what you’ve done? Do you know how many years our father worked for peace? How many brothers and cousins he lost on the battlefield?
   
   Paris: I love her.
   
   (The muscle in Hector’s jaw bulge against his cheeks.)
   
   Hector: Say another word and I’ll break your arm. This is all a game for you, isn’t it?

   The first utterances “*We swears to serve the master of the precious. We swears on…on the precious*” are the commissive utterances. Gollum commits himself by swearing to do an action to make Frodo (hearer) is sure about what he said. It is indicated by a verb *swears*. Gollum realizes that Frodo does not belief him so he tries to make Frodo belief him. That verb indicates that the speaker intends to do a certain action on the future by himself. The commissive utterance “*We swears to serve the master of the precious. We swears on…on the precious*” implies swearing.

   The second utterances “*I’ll break your arm*” are the commissive utterances. Hector commits to himself by threatening to do an action to break
Paris’s arm if he says words again that make Hector angry. It is indicated by verb *will*. That verb indicates that the speaker intends to do a certain action in the future by his self. The commissive utterance “*I’ll break your arm*” implies threatening.

Through implicature, as one of the studies of Pragmatics, it gives more meanings of an utterance. The other implied understandings can be revealed by one of the pragmatics techniques in order to get a better comprehension of the aristocratic movie manuscript.

Based on the cases above, the writer is interested in finding out the implicatures (the implied meaning) of the commissive utterances in aristocratic movie manuscript. The writer chooses the aristocratic movie manuscript because it consists of so many commissive utterances.

**B. Previous Study**

The research in which the writer wants to focus is not the first research that concern with Pragmatics. To prove the originality of this study, the writer wants to present the literary review that deals with the Pragmatics study.

The first previous study is conducted by Erfinah (2007) in “*The Study on Representative Utterances in English Translation of Al-Qur’an*”. She analyzes the representative utterances in the English Translation of Al-Qur’an. Her research is aimed at describing the forms and finding out the speaker’s intention of representative utterances. Having analyzed the data, the writer finds that there are three kinds of forms of representative utterances used in
English translation of Al-Qur’an, namely declarative, interrogative and imperative sentence. The most of declarative sentences are started by the use of subject in front of the sentence itself. She also finds some sentence, which begins with the use of conjunction. There are some sentences started by interrogative pronouns. There is also a negative sentence indicated by the appearance of the word not after the subject of the sentence. There is an interrogative sentences by indicated the appearance of the word “what”. Based on the form of imperative sentence, she finds that some sentences begin with predicate, conjunction and followed by predicated. Related to the meaning she finds five kinds of intention namely sentence of asserting, describing and advising.

The second research is written by Hatmini (2008) entitled “A Pragmatics Analysis of Commissive Utterances in English Translation of Prophetic Tradition Related by ‘Bukhori’”. This research studies about commmissive utterances in English Translation of Prophetic Tradition Related by Bukhori. Her goals on that research are to identify the form and to describe implicature of the commmissive utterances in English of Prophetic Tradition related by Bukhori. She finds that the interrogative forms of commmissive utterances are begun by WH question and modal as question mark of the sentence. In the exclamation sentence, it is formed by the pattern “What + S + V”. The sentence by imperative is formed by the pattern “V₁ + O + to Infinitive”, while declarative generally has pattern “S + V”. Related to the
implicature, she categorizes them into six classifications. They are offer, warning, thereat, swear, volunteering and promise.

Based on those researches, the writer can find differences and similarities between previous research and this research. This research is similar with Hatmini that analysis the commissive utterances. Beside similarity, this research also has differences. The differences between two researches are located on the data and data source. The data source that is used in this research is in aristocratic movie manuscript. As a result, the writer intends to study about Pragmatics analysis of commissive utterances in aristocratic movie manuscript.

C. Problem Statements

Based on the background above, research problems on this research are:

1. What are the forms of the commissive utterances used in aristocratic movie manuscript?
2. What are the implicature of the commissive utterances in aristocratic movie manuscript?
3. What are the politeness patterns of the commissive utterances?

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study of this research are:

1. To identify the forms of the commissive utterances in aristocratic movie manuscript.
2. To describe implicature of the commissive utterances in aristocratic movie manuscript.

3. To describe the politeness patterns of commissive utterances in aristocratic movie manuscript.

E. Limitation of the Study

This study is as a part of speech act theory. However, the technique which used is implicature. So, the framework of this study is pragmatics. This study will only deal with one of the speech act’s classifications. That is commmissive utterances. The writer chooses it because she wants to enrich the discussion of commissive utterances viewed pragmatics angle. She will analyze the forms, the implicatures and the politeness patterns of commissives utterances.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer expects this research gives contribution for academic and practical sphere:

1. Academic Benefit
   a. This research will give contribution in Pragmatics study, especially in implicature and commmissive utterances.
   b. The research finding will enrich the theories in pragmatics, especially in implicature and commissive utterances.
2. Practical Benefit

The result of this research can be used to add the reference for other researchers in studying implicature and commissive utterances.

G. Research Paper Organization

The writer is going to organize this research to make it easier to understand. The following shows the contents in this research:

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of the study, previous study, problem statements, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, and the research organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory. That is the notion of Pragmatics, Pragmatics’ principles, the notion of implicature, the notion of speech act, classification of speech act, felicity condition, context of Pragmatics, politeness principle, types of sentences and key terms used in movie manuscript.

Chapter III is the research method. It consists of the type of research, object of research, data and data source, the method of collecting data, and the technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is data analysis. In this phase, the writer presents the data analysis and the discussion of research finding.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. It is as the final result of this research.