

**REFUSAL EXPRESSION OF SPEECH ACT
FOUND IN *NOT CINDERELLA'S TYPE* MOVIE (2018)**

Wiwid Sutanti Alfajrin; Maryadi

**Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan
Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta**

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan jenis-jenis ekspresi penolakan dan strategi penolakan yang digunakan oleh karakter dalam film *Not Cinderella's Type*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Data penelitian ini adalah seluruh ujaran penolakan yang terdapat dalam film *Not Cinderella's Type*. Pengumpulan data menggunakan teknik dokumenter. Data dianalisis menggunakan teori Beebe et al. (1990) mengenai jenis-jenis dan strategi penolakan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat tiga jenis penolakan, yaitu penolakan langsung, penolakan tidak langsung, dan adjunct to refusal yang didominasi oleh penolakan tidak langsung dibanding dengan penolakan langsung, dan adjunct to refusal. Peneliti menemukan dua belas strategi penolakan yaitu non-performative statement, statement of regret, excuse reason explanation, statement of alternative, statement of principle, statement of philosophy, attempt to dissuade interlocutor, acceptance that functions as a refusal, avoidance, statement of positive opinion, pause fillers, gratitude/appreciation. Karakter pada film *Not Cinderella's Type* mendominasi ujaran penolakan menggunakan strategi non-performative statement, excuse reason explanation, and avoidance.

Kata Kunci: jenis penolakan, strategi penolakan, ujaran penolakan

Abstract

This study aims to describe the types of refusal expressions and refusal strategies used by the characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. This research uses descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research are all utterances of refusal contained in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. Data collection using documentary technique. Data were analyzed using the theory of Beebe et al. (1990) regarding the types and strategies of refusal. The results showed that there were three types of refusal, namely direct refusal, indirect refusal, and adjunct to refusal which were dominated by indirect refusal compared to direct refusal, and adjunct to refusal. The researcher found twelve refusal strategies, namely non-performative statement, statement of regret, excuse reason explanation, statement of alternative, statement of principle, statement of philosophy, attempt to dissuade interlocutor, acceptance that functions as a refusal, avoidance, statement of positive opinion, pause fillers, gratitude/appreciation. The characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie dominate the utterances of refusal using non-performative statements, excuse reason explanation, and avoidance strategies.

Keywords: refusal utterance, strategy of refusal, types of refusal

1. INTRODUCTION

Refusal arises as a reaction to the listener's disapproval to do something that the speaker expects. Refusal is a sensitive action to convey. This condition can trigger misunderstandings and create a lack of harmonious relationship between listeners and speakers. Refusal can be found in many things, especially in movies. In the modern era, movies can not only be found in cinemas. Many movies that we can access easily using the internet via cellphones and laptops, such as on Youtube, Netflix, Disney+ Hotstar, WeTV and many more. Youtube is an application that can be easily used to access many shows, especially movies, for free without paying. On Youtube, researcher found a movie that was used as research material. The title of the movie is "*Not Cinderella's Type*" which is shown on a YouTube channel called SparkTV. *Not Cinderella's Type* movie has a storyline that is easy to understand with the use of simple language. In addition, in this movie there are also many utterances that contain refusal which is useful as research material according to the focus of the researcher.

Some people think that all refusals are always related to the word "no". In fact, people can say refusal in many ways by choosing the type of refusal to deliver. Each of type of refusal is followed by the strategy of refusal. Refusal strategy is a method used by someone when they disagree or refuse the speaker. People can save the speaker's face using strategies of refusal. This research provides many examples of the use of the types of refusal and the strategy of refusal. Direct refusal is a reaction that is immediately said with the aim of refusal usually the manifestation of this expression is said by the word "no". Then, indirect refusal is manifested through various combinations of speech acts in one utterance, such as thanks, apologies, offers and suggestions. Meanwhile, adjunct to refusal is an additional refusal used to refused requests from the interlocutor. One of the examples found in the data source about refusal expression found in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie: Example of dialogue 1:

Bryant : "Wait. Please forgive me Indy"

Indy : "Before you killed my cat, you hadn't even said two words to me and now you expect me to be nice? **No. Bryant, I won't forgive you.**"

The dialogue above is conversation between Bryant and Indy. Bryant came to Indy who was doing exercise with her best friend, Maxton. Bryant asked for pardon because he had hit Indy's beloved cat until death, but Indy was very angry to Bryant then Indy

refuse Bryant's apology. The dialogue contains an expression of refusal because there is an act of refusal in the utterances said by the character. The dialogue shows the type of direct refusal by applying non-performative statement and negative willingness or ability strategies.

There are some previous studies conducted in terms of refusal. First, Rifandi *et al.* (2019) discussed the *Refusal Strategies in The Movie The Walking Dead: A Pragmatic Study*. The results showed that 35 data regarding direct and indirect refusal. In this study, direct refusal was used 18 times more than indirect refusal 13 times. Besides that, there is the use of two refusal strategies in one dialogue as much as 4 data. Non-performative statements dominate direct refusal. While the form of giving reasons, explanations, attempt to dissuade interlocutor, statements of regret, avoidance (verbal and nonverbal), non-specific answers and adjunct to refusal that is appreciation are used in indirect refusals. This previous study and this study used same theory from Beebe *et al.* (1990) but in conducting research this previous study and this study have different movie to analyse, this previous study used *The Walking Dead* movie while this study used *Not Cinderella's Type* movie.

Further, research by Mulyadi (2019) investigated "*The Analysis of Refusal Speech Act in Some Selected Episodes in "Friends" Drama Series*". This study contains the types of refusal speech acts that are often used in selected episodes in the drama series "Friends". In all episodes in the drama series "Friends", 90 types of refusal speech acts were found. The conclusion from the data analysis carried out, obtained seven kinds of refusal according to Tumbull and Saxton (1997:145 – 181). In the drama series "Friends", the modalities used by the three selected episodes are: 1: The One Where Monica Gets a New Roommate in episode 1, The One with the Sonogram at the End in episode 2, The One with the Thumb in episode 3. The results found include: Negate request (35%), Use performatives (3%), Indicate reluctance (15%), Indicate Impediments (11%), Avoid decision (7%), Show goodwill (19%) and Suggest alternative (10%).

Another research is conducted by Hidayati *et al.* (2020) entitled *A Socio-Pragmatics Approach of Refusal Strategies on a Biopic Movie "Sang Pencerah (the Enlightener)"*. The researcher uses a qualitative descriptive method using the theory of Miles and Huberman. The theory from (Beebe *et al.* (1990) was applied to compile this research and use observation and note taking technique to collect the data. There were 16

indirect refusal strategy conversations including, 4 utterances using the expression of positive opinion, 5 utterances using the expression of regret, and 7 utterances using the expression of reason or refusal of the interlocutor.

From the three previous studies above, the researcher can conclude that there are similarities and differences between this study and previous studies. This study uses Beebe et al. (1990) theory for data analysis, the same as Rifandi and Hidayati's research, but different from Mulyadi's research, which uses theory from Tumbull and Saxton (1997). Furthermore, this study uses the same qualitative method as the three previous studies above, but there are differences in data collection techniques. Then, this study analyzes three types of refusal, namely direct refusal, indirect refusal, and adjunct to refusal, while previous studies only analyzed direct and indirect refusal.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting further research on speech acts of refusal, in this case the researcher wants to compile research entitled "Refusal Expression of Speech Act Found in *Not Cinderella's Type* Movie". The data used to compile this research are all the expression spoken by the characters in this movie. Further analysis is needed to determine the type and strategy of refusal that is most often used in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. In conducting this research, researcher used the theory by Beebe et al. (1990).

The researcher has several reasons why choosing this topic as the final project research: first, the researcher intends to provide information about the speech act of refusal which is included in the commissive act. In this case the researcher presents types and strategies of refusal that are used to express refusal properly so that a harmonious relationship is established between the speaker and the interlocutor. Second, refusal is not only found in everyday life but can also be found in movies. Many movies provide examples of refusal expressions and the researcher chose the *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. The researcher chose the *Not Cinderella's Type* movie because this movie has a storyline that is easy to understand using simple language and has stories related to everyday life. Third, this movie also contains expressions of refusal which are useful as research material according to the focus of the researcher. The purpose of this research is to find out the types of refusal expression and refusal strategies used by the characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie.

2. METHOD

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative method. Moleong (2007) defines qualitative research as a research method that produces research data in the form of descriptive data with written or spoken words and existing actions to observe. The object of this research is refusal expression which are categorized into types of refusal and strategy of refusal. The data of this research are all utterances of refusal contained in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. While, the data source is *Not Cinderella's Type* movie from YouTube on SparkTV Channel and *Not Cinderella's Type* movie transcript. In this research, the researcher used documentary technique to collecting the data. There are some steps taken by researcher in analyzing data, 1) Identifying utterances that contain refusal expression based on types of refusal, 2) Classifying the data of the refusal expression based on the refusal strategy using theory from (Beebe et al., 1990), 3) Presenting the data. The data are introduced with context provided by researcher based on the data source, 4) Analyzing the types of refusal and refusal strategies using theory from (Beebe et al., 1990), 5) Drawing conclusions from the result of the research.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Result

3.1.1 Types of Refusal

Researcher summarize research findings based on the formulation of the problem and data analysis that has been done. The findings consist of the types of refusal and refusal strategies used by the characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. Researcher analyzed the types of refusal using the theory from (Beebe et al., 1990). There are three types of refusal, namely direct refusal, indirect refusal and adjunct to refusal. This research found three types of refusal used by the characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. The findings are presented in the table below.

Table 1. The Types of Refusal

No	Types of Refusal	Example	Σ	Percentage
1.	Direct Refusal	Bryant : "I'd like us to be friends." Indy : "No."	7	24,18%
2.	Indirect Refusal	Bryant : "Wanna walk to school tomorrow?"	19	65,48%

	Indy	: “I actually probably shouldn't. I have to go to Maxton's soccer game on Saturday and I wouldn't wanna be grounded before then.”		
3.	Adjunct to refusal	Maxton : “I, I wanna be your boyfriend.” y : “Thank you.”	3	10,34%
	Total		29	100%

Based on the table above, the researcher found 29 data which are classified into types of direct refusal, indirect refusal, and adjunct to refusal. There are 8 data (24,18%) from direct refusal, 19 data (65,48%) from indirect refusal, and 3 data (10,34%) from adjunct to refusal. It can be concluded that indirect refusal is the most dominant type of refusal used by characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie.

3.1.2 Strategy of Refusal

The researcher found twelve refusal strategies. Below is the table show the strategies of refusal.

Table 2. Strategy of Refusal

No	Strategy of Refusal	Example	∑	Percentage
1.	Non-Performative Statement	No	7	24,18%
2.	Statement of Regret	I'm sorry, I just don't feel very good right now	1	3,44%
3.	Excuse, Reason, Explanation	I don't think I can, I have chores	4	13,80%
4.	Statement of Alternative	Oh, why don't you go get some food and then come watch the movie?	3	10,34%
5.	Statement of Principle	The best way to make it up to me is to leave me alone	3	10,34%

6.	Statement of Philosophy	I already told you I wasn't hiding	1	3,44%
7.	Attempt to Dissuade Interlocutor	And you, look, you're just not my type, okay?	2	6,90%
8.	Acceptance that Functions as a Refusal	Just not with you	1	3,44%
9.	Avoidance	I need some more time to think	4	13,80%
10.	Statement of Positive opinion	I'd love some but Clarise would probably say I'm not working hard enough	1	3,44%
11.	Pause Fillers	Oh, Indy will be just fine without you	1	3,44%
12.	Gratitude/ appreciation	Thank you	1	3,44%
Total			29	100%

Based on the table above, the researcher found 29 data which are classified into 7 data (24,18%) of non-performative statement, 1 data (3,44%) of statement of regret, 4 data (13,80%) of excuse, reason, explanation, 3 data (10,34%) of statement of alternative, 3 data (10,34%) statement of principle, 1 data (3,44%) of statement of philosophy, 2 data (6,90%) attempt to dissuade interlocutor, 1 data (3,44%) of acceptance that functions as a refusal, 4 data (13,80%) of avoidance, 1 data (3,44%) of statement of positive opinion, 1 data (3,44%) of pause fillers, 1 data (3,44%) of gratitude/appreciation. In this study, non-performative statements, excuse reason explanation, and avoidance are the dominant strategy used by the characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie.

3.2 Discussion

The results of the types of refusal show that there are three types of refusal found in this study. This is supported by Beebe et al. (1990) theory which categorizes the types of refusal into three types: direct refusal, indirect refusal, and adjunct to refusal. In this finding, indirect refusal is the most dominant type of refusal used by the characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. Through this type of indirect refusal, the characters in *Not*

Cinderella's Type movie express refusal in an indirect way so that the interlocutor is not offended and understands the speaker's intent.

The findings of refusal strategy show that the researcher only found 12 out of 17 types of refusal strategies based on the theory of Beebe et al. (1990). The 12 types of refusal strategies are, non-performative statement, statement of regret, excuse reason explanation, statement of alternative, statement of principle, statement of philosophy, attempt to dissuade interlocutor, acceptance that functions as a refusal, avoidance, statement of positive opinion, pause fillers, gratitude/appreciation. However, there were several refusal strategies that the researcher failed to find in analyzing this study. The refusal strategies are, performative statement, wish, set condition for future or past acceptance, promise of future acceptance, and statement of empathy. In this study, non-performative statements are the dominant strategy used by the characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. This is because, many characters use flat refusals such as "no", "I can't", "I won't" which are included in non-performative statements. The next strategy that is often used is excuse, reason, explanation. The character uses refusal followed by reasons for refusal such as "I don't think I can, I have chores" which explains why the refusal was made. Furthermore, the character also uses avoidance as a refusal strategy, such as "I need some more time to think".

The findings in this study are in line with research conducted by Retnowaty (2018) who investigated *Refusal Strategies by Javanese Teachers in Balikpapan*. The results of this study indicate that there are 189 refusal data found. The refusal strategies found in this study are performative statement, non-performative statement, statement of regret, excuse reason explanation, statement of alternative, set condition for future or past acceptance, statement of principle, statement of philosophy, attempt to dissuade interlocutor, acceptance functioning as refusal, avoidance, statement of positive opinion, statement of empathy, pause fillers, gratitude/appreciation. In this study, excuse, reason, explanation is the most dominant strategy used and the use of the wish strategy to refuse was also not found. Compared to Retnowaty (2018), the difference in present research is using movie to collect data. Meanwhile, previous research used a discourse completing task (DCT) to collect data. While the similarity is that previous research and present research both analyze the speech act of refusal. In addition, in data analysis both use theory from (Beebe et al., 1990).

4. CLOSING

Based on the research findings and discussion, the researcher found three types of refusal used by the characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie such as, direct refusal, indirect refusal, and adjunct to refusal. The results of the study show that there are 8 data (24,18%) from direct refusal, 19 data (65,48%) from indirect refusal, and 3 data (10,34%) from adjunct to refusal. It can be concluded that indirect refusal is the most dominant type of refusal than direct and adjunct to refusal used by characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. Then, the researcher found 29 utterances were classified into twelve refusal strategies used by the characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie. The result of the study shows that there are Based on the table above, the researcher found 30 data which are classified into 7 data (24,18%) of non-performative statement, 1 data (3,44%) of statement of regret, 4 data (13,80%) of excuse, reason, explanation, 3 data (10,34%) of statement of alternative, 3 data (10,34%) statement of principle, 1 data (3,44%) of statement of philosophy, 2 data (6,90%) attempt to dissuade interlocutor, 1 data (3,44%) of acceptance that functions as a refusal, 4 data (13,80%) of avoidance, 1 data (3,44%) of statement of positive opinion, 1 data (3,44%) of pause fillers, 1 data (3,44%) of gratitude/appreciation. It can also be concluded that non-performative statements, excuse reason explanation, and avoidance are the dominant strategy used by the characters in *Not Cinderella's Type* movie.

REFERENCES

- Beebe, L. M., Takahashi, T., & Uliss-Weltz, R. (1990). *Pragmatic transfer in ESL refusals. Developing communicative competence in a second language*. New York: Newbury House.
- Dede, R., Kamil, W., & Wiyasukti, N. (2019). Refusal Strategies in The Movie *Thewalking Dead: A Pragmatic Study*. *Library Journal*, 11(2), 61–67. <https://doi.org/10.5840/wipj2010/201164>
- Hidayati, Bafadal, F., & Rahmaniah, R. (2020). *A Socio-Pragmatics Approach of Refusal Strategies on a Biopic Movie "Sang Pencerah (the Enlightener)"*. 8(1), 2339–2940.
- Moleong, L. J. (2007). *Metodologi penelitian kualitatif edisi revisi*.
- Mulyadi, A. (2019). The analysis of refusal speech act in some selected episodes in "Friends" drama series. *Syntax Literate*, 4(7), 15–23.
- Retnowaty. (2018). Refusal strategies by javanese teachers in balikpapan. *RETORIKA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa*, 4(1), 10–16.