

THE EXPRESSIVE ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN "THUMBELINA" SHORT STORY ADAPTED BY SUE REID: A PRAGMATIC STUDY

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Abstract

This research is entitled "The Expressive Illocutionary Acts in "Thumbelina" Short Story adapted by Sue Reid: A Pragmatic Study". Expressive means a kind of expressions, such as thanking, praising and blaming. The data of this research are gathered through reading Thumbelina short story and classify the data of expressive illocutionary acts. Descriptive qualitative research is applied in this research to describe, analyze and interpret expressive illocutionary acts which occurred in Thumbelina short story. The related theory applied in this research is (Searle, 1979) to determine expressive illocutionary acts in Thumbelina short story. Based on the data, there are 11 expressive illocutionary acts in the story, namely 6 in praising act, 2 in criticizing act and 3 in thanking act. The result of this research shows that praising an act is the most dominant expressive illocutionary act in the story and it is followed by thanking act and criticizing act.

Keywords: *Expressive; Illocutionary Act; Short Story*

1. Introduction

Language is used as a tool for communication that is intended to connect humans with others and one of its forms is speech. The science of language is not only tied to the structure and sentence patterns, but how the language is used in a context. Verhaar in (Arifsetiawati & Parnaningroem, 2020) states that the branch of linguistics that discusses context and "extralingual" matters is Pragmatics. Pragmatics can be applied to literary works, namely short stories.

In short stories, the language usage is very important since the good and correct story will be received and understood by the readers. Apart from it, the use of signs is also an important part of a short story. According to Morris, semiotics is divided into three types, namely syntax (the formal relationship between one sign and another sign), semantics (namely the relationship between a sign and everything that the sign refers to), and pragmatics (namely the relationship between a sign and its user). Sign users are humans, both those who produce signs and those who understand signs. In producing or capturing signs, users always make interpretations based on context, setting, and the relationship between the user and the sign (Rahyono, 2011)

Pragmatics is focused with the observation of meaning as uttered by using a speaker or author and interpreted by using a listener or reader (Yule, 1996). Pragmatic theory explains

the nature or thoughts of speakers and listeners in establishing mutual relationships in the context of a sentence sign with a proposition (plan or problem). Pragmatics studies special utterances in certain situations and focuses attention on the various ways in which various social contexts of language performance can influence the interpretation. Apart from the definition above, pragmatics is the study of speaker intentions. This type of study needs to involve people in a specific context and how that context influences the utterances spoken.

Furthermore, Yule (1996: 4) stated that the advantages of studying language through pragmatics is that one can talk about a person's intended meanings, assumptions, goals, and the variations of actions that they are completed once they speak in terms of pragmatics, one of the most essential phenomena is speech act theory. Speech act is the propositions/locutions performed often depend on the speaker's aim and the context in which the propositions are uttered. In addition, the Speech act is one of the components of pragmatics as it has considerable features within the study of communication. Austin (1962:108) in his book *how to Do things with words* mention 3 kinds of speech act; they are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. While a person is producing an utterance that person is not most effective uttering something but additionally doing an act, which is known as illocutionary act. It is considered quite complicated because illocutionary act refers to kind of feature the speaker intends to fulfill, or the kind of action the speaker intends to perform in the course of producing utterance. Searle (1962) classifies illocutionary acts into five types, namely assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declaration.

In addition, Searle (1976: 12) states expressive to mentions behabitive by Austin. It is used to express the psychological state in sincerity condition about a state of affair in specified in the propositional content. Including the expressive speech act are welcoming, praising, blaming, etc. A literature can be traced within prose, poem, short stories and others. A short story is a fictional work that is short in length and can be read in one sitting. Characters, setting, conflict, plot and theme are the elements of a short story. In a short story, characters play important roles in the sequence of events and conversation usally occur in each chapter of story to enliven the story. The characters talk to each other and there will be illocutionary acts in it as in Thumbelina short story. This short story can be the source of data to analyze expressive illocutionary act.

The previous research is about An Analysis of Comissive Speech Act Used by The Main Character of "Knives Out" conducted by Devi (2017). It analyzed about intended meanings of each types of commisives speech acts and the function used by the characters in the Knives Out movie. She used two theories to analyze the data in this movie. First, the theory of commisive speech acts by Austin (1969). Then, the theory functions of commissive speech acts by Searle (1985). The differences between her thesis and this studies are the data source and the research concerns remain the same.

Another research is "*An analysis of Illocutionary Act in Beyond the Blackboard Movie*" written by Rachman (2017). Data in that research was analyzed by applying Searle's theory of speech act. The similarities between her article and this study are illocutionary act theory. The differences are the types of speech acts which are analysed in this study concerning the directly and indirectly of types of illocutionary acts. Based on her research, it was found there are some fillings. There are types of illocutionary acts found in the movie Beyond the Blackboard this dedicates that to different findings.

The data source of this research is Thumbelina short story which is a fairy tale and written by Hans Christian Andersen adapted by Sue Reid, since it contains spoken utterances and other linguistic units that can be researched by applying a pragmatic approach.

2. Methods

This research applied descriptive qualitative method since the data form are utterances include words or sentence that is produced through the kinds of expressive illocutionary act in Thumbelina short story. Qualitative research are descriptive data in which the data is collected in the form of words or pictures rather than variety by Bogdan & Biklen (2007). The technique of collecting data is conducted by reading the short story, collecting the data, and interpreting as well as analyzing the data that is related to the problems to find out the result of studies. Finally, the last step is by concluding the result of the research.

3. Results and Discussion

In this section, the researcher provides results and discussion of the research. The data of this research are all of utterances that include expressive illocutionary act founds in a short story entitled: "Thumbelina". The data targeted on kinds of expressive illocutionary act. There are eleven utterances as expressive illocutionary acts.

3.1 Praising

Praising is an expression for warm approval or admiration. Here, the researcher only found six utterances in the short story. Meanwhile, the researcher will explain about that utterances include praising type from that story by Searle (1979)

Datum 1

She hurried home and planted the grain in a pot. At once a flower began to grow. 'What a pretty flower,' exclaimed the woman and she bent down to kiss the petals. As she did, the petals burst open. (p. 2)

The context of the above utterance was stated by a woman after planting seeds from a witch into a pot. Immediately, a beautiful flower grew as she exclaimed and bent down to kiss the petals. The expression *what a pretty flower* is an exclamation and an act of praising in which it is used for warm approval or admiration. It is clear that the utterance is directly spoken. Based on the above data, the woman's utterance *what a pretty flower* is the expressive illocutionary acts of praising.

Datum 2

"I do not want to marry a big ugly toad and live in a house with him under the mud," she said.

A bird: **"What a pretty little girl,"** they said to each other. *"We cannot let her marry an ugly creature like that."*

So they swam up to the stalk that held the leaf and gnawed away at it until at last the lily floated free. (p. 3)

The context of situation in the above utterance was stated by birds which saw Thumbelina sitting down and crying on the leaves. Under lily flower, the birds heard Thumbelina expressing her feelings and raised their head to see her. One of the birds said *what a pretty little girl* and they said to each other. The expression *what a pretty little girl* is an act of praising to someone, namely Thumbelina and it is spoken directly by the birds. Based on the above data, the birds' utterance *what a pretty little girl* is the expressive illocutionary act of praising.

Datum 3

She did not see the beetle fly overhead. Then all of a sudden she felt a pair of claws grip her around the waist and lift her off the lily leaf. Up the beetle flew into a tree, Thumbelina still clasped tightly in its claws.

*Thumbelina was very frightened but there was nothing she could do. The beetle put her down on a large leaf. **'You are very pretty,'** it said.*

The other beetles who lived in the tree came to look at her. (p. 3)

Based on the context of situation, Thumbelina was lifted her off the lily leaf then was put her own on a large leaf. The beetle said that she was very pretty and other beetles approached her too. The expression **'You are very pretty'** is uttered by the beetle as an act of praising to Thumbelina. She was so pretty that the beetle made a decision to take her off the large tree. It is clear that the beetle stated it directly. Therefore, based on the data, **'You are very pretty'** is the expressive illocutionary act of praising.

Datum 4

Field-mouse: **"He is very rich and clever,"**

'He would make you a fine husband. He cannot see very well, but he lives in a big house and wears a black velvet coat.'

But Thumbelina didn't care how rich and clever he was. She didn't want to marry a mole. (p. 3)

In this context of situation, a conversation took place between a field-mouse and Thumbelina. Here the field-mouse referred a mole as a would-be husband for her. He praised the mole as a very rich and clever one. On the other hand, Thumbelina did not care for the mole although he lived in a big house. The expressive illocutionary

acts are found out in the expressions ***“He is very rich and clever,” “He would make you a fine husband, and He cannot see very well, but he lives in a big house and wears a black velvet coat.”*** as the field-mouse spoke directly. They are the expressive illocutionary act of praising.

Datum 5

Thumbelina: *‘Perhaps this is the bird that sang so sweetly to me in the summer,’ she thought. ‘How happy its song made me’.* (p. 4)

The context of situation told the reader that Thumbelina found out the bird that sang so sweetly in the summer and she praised the bird for what he did in the summer as she said ***‘How happy its song made me’***. She stated her praise directly to the swallow bird. The expression ***‘How happy its song made me’*** is the expressive illocutionary act of praising.

Datum 6

In the middle of its petals, stood a little prince, a gold crown on his head. He was as fine and delicate as Thumbelina herself. Shining wings sprouted from his shoulders. He was the king of the flower people. In every flower a tiny person lived, and he was the king of them all.

‘He’s very beautiful,’ Thumbelina thought.

‘Isn’t she lovely,’ thought the prince. (p. 6)

Here is the context of situation telling the reader that a little prince living in the middle of its petals. Gazing each other, he was the king of the flower people who praised Thumbelina by saying ***‘Isn’t she lovely,’*** thought the prince and Thumbelina did the same by saying ***‘He’s very beautiful,’*** Thumbelina thought. These expressions refer to the act of praising since the little prince and Thumbelina spoke it directly at that time. Therefore, these two expressions are the expressive illocutionary acts.

3.2 Criticizing

Criticizing means to indicate the faults of (someone or something) in a disapproving way. Here are three data found out in the story as illocutionary acts of criticizing.

Datum 7

‘Why, she has only got two legs,’ scoffed one. ***‘And she hasn’t got any feelers,’*** snorted another, waving his about proudly. ***‘And look how thin her waist is. Ugh! She is not pretty – not pretty at all,’*** they said. The beetle who found her decided that they were right and so Thumbelina was put back down on the ground. (p. 3)

Based on the above data, the beetles criticized Thumbelina for what she looked like. she had only got two legs, had not got any feelers and she was not pretty at all. In the context of situation, Thumbelina was not expected to be the one which the beetles wished. They criticized her as the expressions **'Why, she has only got two legs, 'And she hasn't got any feelers, 'And look how thin her waist is, and Ugh! She is not pretty - not pretty at all,'** they said. These expressions are the illocutionary acts of criticizing.

Datum 8

Field-mouse: **'There's one we won't have to listen to any more,'** he said. **'I don't like birds. They make an awful din!'**

The Mole: **'Quite right,'** said the field-mouse. **'Yet everyone thinks so highly of them. I cannot think why.** (p. 4)

The context of situation above referred to a statement of the field-mouse that he did not like birds since they made an awful din! He would not have to listen anymore. The mole agreed with the field mouse. Here they criticized the birds by saying **'There's one we won't have to listen to any more,'** he said. **'I don't like birds. They make an awful din!'** and **'Quite right,'** said the field-mouse. **'Yet everyone thinks so highly of them. I cannot think why.** These expressions are expressive illocutionary acts of criticizing found out in the story.

3.3 Thanking

Thanking is used to express to someone that you are pleased about or are grateful for something that they have done. Three data of expressive illocutionary acts of thanking are found out in the short story.

Datum 9

The woman: **'Old witch,'** she said. **'I would dearly like to have a child of my own. Can you help me?'**

The Old witch: **'Ah, that's easy,'** said the witch. **'Here's a barleycorn for you. Take it home and plant it in a pot. Then wait and see what happens.'**

The woman: **'Oh thank you,'** said the woman. **She hurried home and planted the grain in a pot. At once a flower began to grow.** (p. 1)

The context of situation above is about a conversation between a woman and the old witch. The woman was willingly to have a child by begging for the old witch. As a result, that old witch helped her by giving barleycorn that should be planted in a pot. The woman thanked the old witch for what she gave. It is clear that the woman spoke directly to the old witch by saying **'Oh thank you,'** said the woman. The expression is classified as the expressive illocutionary act of thanking.

Datum 10

Context: The utterance was spoken by Thumbelina to a bird which helplessly laid down. She was grateful for the bird that it always sang during summer.

That night Thumbelina could not sleep. So she got out of bed and plaited a small blanket of hay. Then she crept back down the passage and spread it over the bird. 'Farewell, pretty bird,' she said. 'Thank you for singing to me in the summer, when the trees were green and the sun shone all day.' Then she laid her head on its heart. (p. 4)

Based on the context of situation, Thumbelina went out to see the bird and plaited a small blanket of hay. She intended to do that since she wished to say farewell to that pretty bird and thanked the bird for singing to her in the summer. It is clear that she spoke to the bird directly by saying **'Thank you for singing to me in the summer, when the trees were green and the sun shone all day.'** The expression is classified as the expressive illocutionary act of thanking as it is proposed by Searle.

Datum 11

The bird was so big and she so small. But she tucked the little blanket closer over the bird's head to warm it. The next night she came back to see the bird again. It opened its eyes.

The bird: **'Thank you,'** it said faintly. **'You have saved my life. Soon I will be able to fly away.'**

Thumbelina: **No!** insisted Thumbelina. **'It is too cold outside for you to leave. Stay here. I will look after you. (p. 4)**

Here is the context of situation telling the reader that Thumbelina came back to see the bird in the next night. Fortunately, the bird opened his eyes after and it was alive. She was frightened after seeing the big bird. In fact, Thumbelina was so small. The bird, however, did not attack Thumbelina and said **'Thank you,'** it said faintly. **'You have saved my life. Soon I will be able to fly away.'** That expression is clear that it is expressive illocutionary of thanking Thumbelina.

4. Conclusions

This study analyzed expressive illocutionary act in Thumbelina short story and the context within the expressive illocutionary acts. Based on the research findings, three expressive illocutionary acts occurred in the story, namely praising, criticizing and thanking. As for praise, there are 6 utterances, criticizing 2 utterances, and thanking 3 utterances. For further research related to illocutionary act, it is recommended that the research apply other theory,

such as SPEAKING (Scene and Setting, Participants, Ends, Act Sequence, Key, Instruments, Norms, Genre) Framework by Dell Hymes to sharpen the analysis of Illocutionary Acts.

Acknowledgements

The researchers would like to acknowledge with sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude and appreciation, the special persons who contributed much for the fulfilment of this study.

Ms. Titin Lestari, Mr. Deri Fikri F. and all junior college students at Putra Indonesia University for their endless support, kind and understanding spirit.

Last but not the least, to the Almighty God for giving us strength and motivation in persevering through hardship that we faced. Thank you for the gift of life.

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