# A STUDY ON THE CATEGORIES OF SPEECH FUNCTIONS USED IN DUNE FILM

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*Abstract: This study aims to examine the speech act functions found in the Dune film. To actualise this aims, this study was conducted using qualitative research designs and by making the speech act theory of (Levinson, 1979) and the speech act function theory of Searle (1979) as the basis for examining the speech act functions. The data were collected using the open coding and documentation method in which the oral data were collected from the utterances of the film, then transcribed into written data. This research used content or document analysis as the way to analyze the data. The data analysis result are presented informally or descriptively. The results of data analysis showed there are five speech act functions in the film, namely representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. The result finding shows that the speech function representative is at 57%, directive 20%, expressive 12%, declarative 7%, and commissive is at 4%. Examining the function and meaning of speech acts in the film Dune from the perspective of sociolinguistics is an important topic to raise as a method in language learning.*

*Key Words: Function of Speech, Speech Act, Dune Film*

# STUDI KETEGORI SPEECH FUNCTION YANG DIGUNAKAN DALAM FILM DUNE

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**Abstrak:** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji fungsi tindak tutur yang terdapat dalam film Dune. Untuk mewujudkan tujuan tersebut, penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan desain penelitian kualitatif dan dengan menjadikan teori tindak tutur (Levinson, 1979) dan teori fungsi tindak tutur Searle (1979) sebagai dasar untuk mengkaji fungsi tindak tutur. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan metode open coding dan dokumentasi dalam pengumpulan datanya. Data lisan dikumpulkan dari percakapan kemudian ditranskripsikan menjadi data tertulis. Penelitian ini menggunakan analisis isi atau dokumen sebagai cara untuk menganalisis data. Hasil analisis data disajikan secara informal atau deskriptif. Hasil analisis data menunjukkan ada lima fungsi tindak tutur dalam film yaitu representatif, direktif, komisif, ekspresif dan deklaratif. Hasil temuan menunjukkan bahwa fungsi tutur representatif berada pada 57% direktif 20%, ekspresif 12%, deklaratif 7% , dan komisif sebesar 4%. Menelaah fungsi dan makna tindak tutur dalam film Dune dari perspektif sosiolinguistik merupakan topik yang penting untuk diangkat sebagai metode dalam pembelajaran bahasa.

**Kata Kunci**: Fungsi Pidato, Tindak Tutur, Film Dune

## INTRODUCTION

In real-life interactions, language is needed for communication to flow smoothly between speaker and listener. According to Lyons (1981), languages are the principle of communication systems used by particular groups of human beings within the specific society of which they are members. The daily activities of people, such as asking friends, listening to lectures, and other activities are using language. Although, with different gender, social status, educational level, and age difference, there are bound to be various use of language that often creates misunderstanding. To avoid that, the contextual meaning of the language used is needed as one of the important aspects of communication. The contextual meaning includes setting, participants, topics of discussion, and the conditions or atmosphere in which the communication is taking place.

Sociolinguistics, which studies the relationship between language and society, explains why we speak differently in different social contexts. It concerns with identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning. Examining the way people use language in different social contexts serves a wealth of information about the way language works, as well as about the social relationships in a community, and the way people convey and construct aspects of their social identity through their language (Holmes, 2013).

Speech act is an utterance that serves a function in communication dealing not only with the language, but also the situations and conditions that occur in ongoing communication. Speech acts are related to speakers' performance in saying something (Azhari, Priono, & Nuriadi, 2018). The communicative act or verbal communication is usually represented by the utterances. In attempting to express themselves, people produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words. It shows that every word, phrases or a sentence that is human uttered perform different form and if the hearer cannot get the intention of every utterance, it will lead a misunderstanding. Thus, knowing the functions of speech acts is important for language learners.

The significance of learning foreign languages in today's world is not difficult to understand as the world has become smaller (Johnson, 2013) and turned into a global village. In recent times, most of the language instructors, designers of study materials, and research scholars are showing interest in assessing the effectiveness of the different strategies and methodologies to be employed in English learning classes (Nguyen & Terry, 2017). One of the most recent techniques of learning foreign languages is to effectively use English films to encourage language learners so that they can develop and improve their linguistics competencies, such as understanding speech functions. Speech acts have at least five functions, which are representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative (Searle, 1979). Each of these functions is represented by a different type of speech act. Those speech functions are not only found in real life but also in media, such as books and films.

Film, with the communication of actors in it, is a form of media portraying human life through a process of conversation or speech act. Aside from being a form of entertainment, film can also be used as a medium of communication, either implicitly or explicitly, to convey the author's message to the audience. According to Sharjeel &

Dadabhoy (2013) films provide a visual expression and present an effect of reality. With this effect of reality, the film can provide students with natural and authentic English.

There have been many studies carried out by scholars on the form and realization of speech acts function in films. Seeing as using films to study the different kinds of speech functions is convenient, for the reasons that films can be easily obtained through YouTube and other streaming services that offers a wide variety of choices, films offer many kind of genres such as comedy, action, drama, science fiction and historical that differ in their difficulties of topics and themes that the language learners can graps according to their linguistics competencies, and film is a medium that make learning process becoming a fun and interesting experience for students. That is in accordance with the result of research conducted by Lestari (2018), stating using a movie to increase students' vocabulary is an interesting and enjoyable activity where some students learned by doing their favorite activity which is watching the movie.

One of the best films that came out last year was Dune. Dune is a film adapted from the 1965 novel by Frank Herbert with science-fiction and adventure as the genres. It covers the first half of the book where the film follows Paul Atreides who is thrust into a war for the deadly but also the most valuable desert planet Arrakis. Dune is a fascinating film that covers Paul Astreides' journey in the aftermath of his family and his House assassination by the hand of the Harkonnen and Sardaukar troops. The film received numerous awards at the Academy Awards and it received praise from the critics for its visuals, score, technical innovation, and for its faithfulness to the source material which is the 1965 novel by Frank Herbert.

In any case, speech acts may be difficult to perform and to categorize the functions as a non-native speaker. As learners may not know the idiomatic expressions and the cultural norms from the film. Hence, this study is led for the researcher to discuss the type of speech acts that are found in the conversations between the actors of Dune film. Specifically, the study's aim is to categorize the speech functions found in the film in question. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting a research on the Categories of Speech Functions Used in Dune film.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### Participants of the Research

The primary source for this research is taken from the film "Dune". Dune is an American epic science fiction film directed by Denis Villeneuve. It is the first of a two-part adaptation of the 1965 novel by Frank Herbert. The film released on September, 3 2021 in Venice. "Dune" has 156 minutes running time. The secondary source in this research was taken from certain journals, relevant books and also internet.

**Data Collecting Technique**

The oral data is collected from the utterances of the characters of Dune, which were then transcribed into written data. This research also used open coding to gather the data. According to Ary, et al. (2010), open coding deals with labeling and categorizing the data (p. 465). Moreover, depending on the categories that are used, the coding may involve varying degrees of interpretation (Wood & Kroger, 2000:32).

**Data Analysis Technique**

This research used content or document analysis as the way to analyze the data. Document analysis is collecting data from sources other than human (non-human source) (Chaedar, 2006). Intentionally, it is collected from various sources, such as political periodic reports, meeting notes, documents an individual, personal journal, transcripts of interviews, and others. It's completed by formulating the investigation, and to concern in solving problem through content analysis. Mason (2018) said that the analysis of documentary sources is a major method of social research, and one which many qualitative researchers see as meaningful and appropriate in the context of their research strategy. The term document here refers to a wide range of written, physical, and visual materials, including what other authors may term artifact (Ary, 2018).

**RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

**Research Findings**

In this research, the data were taken from the Dune film with duration of 156 minutes that is collected from original DVD and internet for the video transcript. This research also used open coding to gather the data. Then, all the data of the research finding were analyze by using content analysis. Based on the data that was organized by the researcher using open coding, the analysis was done by the researcher to identify and categorize the type of speech functions that appear in the utterances of Dune film. The data were categorized according to Searle (1979), there are five types of Speech function: (a) representative; (b) directive; (c) commissive; (d) expressive; and (e) declarative. The results are similar to the research which was done by Dewi, Kardana, and Muliana (2020) titled Functions of Speech Acts in "Critical Eleven", where they found five speech act functions in the film. The following table presents the number of the frequency on the types of speech function.

**Table 4.1 The types of speech function and frequency**

| No | Type of Speech function | Frequencies |
|----|------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Representative | 258 |
| 2 | Directive | 91 |
| 3 | Commissive | 14 |
| 4 | Expressive | 54 |
| 5 | Declarative | 32 |
|  | Total | 458 |

The table above shows that representative speech function has the largest portion among other categories with 258 times of it served in utterances of the film which means over a half of all frequencies. Following that is directive speech function is with 91 times of it can be found in utterances of the film. Then, expressive speech function with 54 times of the speech function found in the film. After that is declarative speech function with second smallest number which is 32 times. The last is Commissive speech function with 14 times of it served in utterances of the film which is the smallest portion of frequencies.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusion

It can be concluded that there are five types of speech act functions in this study, namely representative functions, directive functions, commissive functions, expressive functions, and declarative functions. In answering the research question "What categories of speech functions are used in the conversations between the characters in Dune film?." The conclusion is drawn based on the result of data analysis and data findings that are explained in previous chapter. These categories of speech functions were found in the utterances of characters in Dune film. Representative has the highest frequency among other categories with more than a half percentage of frequency that is 57%. Directive speech function is second with almost a quarter percentage that is 20%. Then, expressive speech function is in the middle with percentage of the category found in the film 12%. The second to last category is declarative speech function that have the percentage of 7%. Finally, the category with the lowest frequency of it found in the utterances of the film is commissive speech function with percentage that is 4%.

From the data above, it can be seen that representative and directive are generally used in the film. It means that representative and directive functions are uttered the most. The reason could be because the genres of the film are science fiction and action. For the representative function, there are a lot of information and facts being stated in the

dialogues between the characters as most of science fiction films need to establish the world building. For the directive function, the genre being an action one could be the reason for the frequency of directive function's type of utterances spoken in the film. An action film with classic heroism, fights involving guns, swords or karate moves, horseback action or any destructive forces of nature, is naturally going to have utterances that include forcing, urging, commanding, instructing, demanding, inviting and more. Thus, making the directive function has the second most frequency among the other functions.

**Recommendations**

Through this study, the researcher proposes for individuals who are intrigued in understanding and applying speech functions in relation to language learning to conduct their own discussion using different films or even using other media. The researcher recommends that speech function can be one of the points for research in relation to language teaching as the few studies stated that using film as a medium for teaching speech act functions can improve students listening comprehension and improve students vocabulary's skill through using English films with subtitles. Furthermore, the researcher recommends studies applying speech function theories from other experts and using film with different genres to investigate if the findings would deliver dissimilar results to this study. Lastly, the researcher recommends to the next researcher that they conduct related study further with deeper understanding and better techniques.

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