

ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS FOR DIFFERENT RACES IN DR. KING'S UTTERANCES OF AVA DUVERNAY'S *SELMA* MOVIE

Meryka Provitasaki¹, Dwi Setiyadi², Lusiana Kristiasih Dwi Purnomosasi³
Department of English Teaching, IKIP PGRI Madiun, Indonesia
merykaprovitasari@gmail.com¹, dwi.setiyadi@ikipgrimadiun.ac.id², lusiakdp@gmail.com³

Abstract

This research aims to find out the racism occurs from verbal language by using *Selma* movie as the object. It is based on insight from Yule's (1996) illocutionary act theory to analyze the type of Martin Luther King's utterances and Hymes' (in Wardhaugh, 2006) speaking ethnography theory to analyze the context behind Martin Luther King's utterances. The writer finds commissive act (8%); expressive act (44%); and directive act (48%) as the illocutionary act which be used by King, and some datum of speaking ethnography without genre because genre can be found in written text only. The writer finds unity, solidarity, nationality and movement as the meanings which be categorized into racism's representation from analysing the type and context.

Keywords: race, illocutionary acts, movie

INTRODUCTION

Utterance of verbal human communication is used as many purposes, not only to deliver the message but also to do the act in certain meaning. In communication, there is a communicated process between one person to other in same race, same status, or different race as like as between Black and White. The communication can well occur between Black and White by knowing each understanding among them. Their communication can be used to see the atmosphere among them. Communication between Black and White is known from watching *Selma* movie as historical American movie.

Selma movie has Martin Luther King as main character who can do communication not only to Black people but also to White people. By analysing King's utterances from this movie the researcher knows the certain intended meaning of King's utterances by finding the type of those and the context behind those. The writer uses identifying of type and describing of context to find out the intended meaning because the writer can know the purpose of each King's utterances by identifying type and its purpose is belong to one of the speaking ethnography parts which is end part because end means background of utterance by knowing the purpose of it. The writer uses theory of Yule (1996) about illocutionary act of speech act to describe the type and Hymes (in Wardhaugh, 2006) about speaking ethnography to describe the context.

Because of it, the writer has three objectives of study: (1) Identifying the type of illocutionary acts for different races in Dr. King's utterances of *Selma* movie, (2) Describing the conte

xt of illocutionary acts for different races in Dr. King's utterances of *Selma* movie, and (3) Finding the intended meaning of illocutionary acts for different races in Dr. King's utterances of *Selma* movie.

METHOD

This research belongs to on descriptive qualitative because it focuses on identifying and describing the phenomenon (Kothari, 2004:5). *Selma* movie as the object of research is secondary data. By answering three problems in introduction, the writer takes documentation technique because it belongs to on documentation by collecting many documents which help to figure out the problems, and the writer uses flow model (Miles and Huberman, 1994:10) as data analysing technique which be started from selecting and displaying King's utterance from *Selma* movie only and be ended by making interpretation and report of data.

RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The writer finds 25 datum of King's utterances. There are two research findings such as the type of King's utterances and the context of King's utterances.

1. Type of illocutionary acts

The data of King's utterances performs three types of five types in illocutionary act. They are commissive, expressive, and directive. The summary of the illocutionary act performed in data result is presented in the table and the chart below.

Table 1. Summary of the illocutionary act of King's utterances

No.	Types of illocutionary acts	Amount	
		N	%
1.	Commissives	2	8%
2.	Expressives	11	44%
3.	Directives	12	48%
Total		25	100%

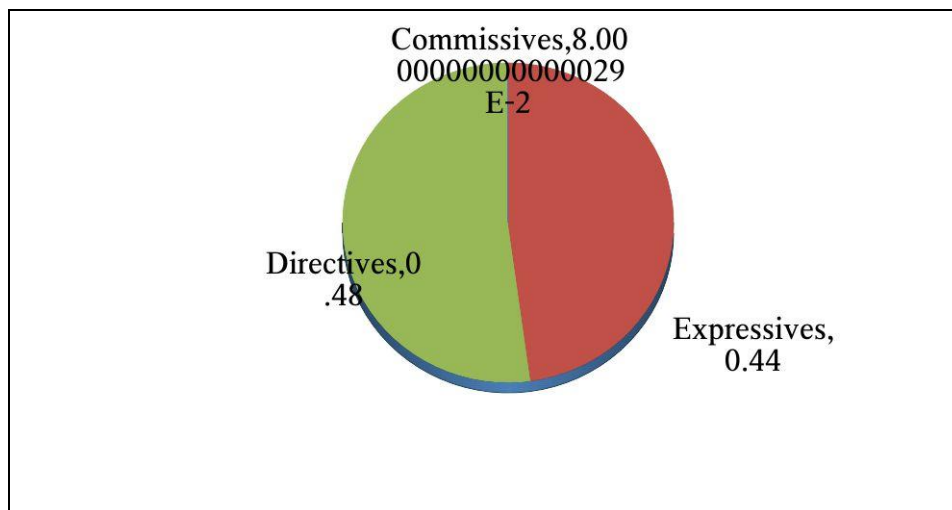


Chart 1. Percentage distribution of King's utterances

From the data, directive is largest proportion with 48% of the illocutionary act which is performed, expressive accounts for 44% and commissive is smallest proportion with 8% of the illocutionary act which is performed. The discussions of three distributions performance above are discussed in detail below.

a. Commissive acts

According to Searle and Vandervken (1985: 37), the commissive is to commit the speaker to do something. Commissive act in King's utterance includes swearing and promising.

Table 2.1. Swearing category

Duration	Type	Utterances
00:19:30-00:19:55	Commissives	King : <u>As good a place to die as any, I guess.</u> Coretta : I wish you wouldn't talk like that.

The sentence belongs to on commissive because the verbs on sentences use present tense properly to indicate the future action such as guess (Kreidler, 1998:193). Dr.King said above does not mean he hopes to die there but it means he will do some dangerous activity there by using joking tone. He performs the illocutionary act of swearing.

Table 2.2. Promising category

Duration	Type	Utterances
----------	------	------------

00:34:37-00:34:55	Commissives	King : Sheriff Clark, <u>we're trying to gain access to the registration office. Which is our legal right.</u> Clark : There's too many of you. And you know damn well there is! Now, y'all just gonna have to wait at the rear!
-------------------	-------------	---

The sentence belongs to on commissive because the verbs on sentences use present tense properly to indicate the future action such as try (Kreidler, 1998:193). Dr. King said above means he promises to get Black people legal right whatever the situation that he will face. It does not mean Dr. King just try it but also he will make it happens. He performs the illocutionary act of promising.

b. Expressive acts

According to Searle and Vandervken (1985: 38), the expressive point is to express feelings and attitudes and the speaker expresses some psychological attitudes about the state of affairs represented by the propositional content. Expressive act in King's utterance includes apologising, greeting, sadness, dislike and disagreeing.

Table 3.1. Apologising category

Duration	Type	Utterances
00:19:30-00:19:55	Commissives	King : <u>It just takes the edge off.</u> Coretta : You and your friends can joke about that. I don't joke about that.

In table 3.1., King expresses his regret to his wife because his bad joking. It is supported with Kreidler (1998:188) who says an expressive utterance springs from the previous actions or failure to act of the speaker. On the previous conversation, his wife says "*I wish you wouldn't talk like that*", and he gives feedback as like as on the table. So, it belongs to on apology.

Table 3.2. Greeting category

Duration	Type	Utterances
00:28:41-00:28:49	Expressives	King : Yess. <u>Hello to you. How are you?</u> Reed : I'm well, sir. Thank you for asking.

In table 3.2., the noun *hello* describes King's greeting to someone. The greeting *How are you?* capture this. So, he performs the illocutionary act of greeting.

Table 3.3. Sadness category

Duration	Type	Utterances
00:37:39-00:37:52	Expressives	King : <u>I'm tired, Ralphy</u> . Tiring of this. Ralphy : Eyes on the prize, Martin.

In table 3.3., the adjective *tired* describe King's sadness not giving information about his body condition.

Table 3.4. Dislike category

Duration	Type	Utterances
00:01:31-00:01:41	Expressives	King : <u>I don't like how this looks</u> . Coretta : Looks distinguished and debonair to me.

In table 3.4., the verb *don't like* describes directly his dislike about one condition. He is unhappy with his action of doing speech in front of the White people. Thus, he dislike about one condition by delivering his dislike of his ascot.

Table 3.5. Disagreeing category

Duration	Type	Utterances
01:22:46-01:22:56	Expressives	Doar : I'm here on the President's order to try and make this work. Please work with me. King : <u>Might I suggest</u> that you speak with Governor Wallace and Sheriff Clark and urge them against violence instead of trying to persuade us not to have a peaceful protest?

In table 3.5., King gives other option to White people as an answer of White saying before. It means Dr. King says her expressive of refusal politely by giving suggestion.

c. Directive acts

According to Searle and Vandervken (1985: 38), the directive point is to try to get other people to do things. Directive act in King's utterance includes requesting, commanding and demanding.

Table 4.1. Requesting category

Duration	Type	Utterances
00:02:18-00:02:39	Directives	King : <u>I'm gonna be a pastor somewhere small.</u> College town. Lead a little church. Teach a class. Maybe the occasional speaking engagement. Coretta : And I'll pay all the bills for us, especially the mortgage for our very own house.

In table 4.1., King performs the directive act of requesting. King asks his wife to handle everything business about home during he goes to Selma.

Table 4.2. Commanding category

Duration	Type	Utterances
00:29:50-00:29:56	Directives	King : <u>Enough of this now.</u> I haven't the time for this. None of us got the time for this. King's friends : (keep silent)

In table 4.2., King performs the directive act of commanding. King can give a command because he has control as the highest position there. Kreidler (1998: 190) states a command is effective only if the speaker has some degree of control over the actions of the addressee.

Table 4.3. Demanding category

Duration	Type	Utterances
00:58:53-00:58:58	Directives	King : <u>Then propose new legislation, Sir!</u> President : I can't do that this year.

In table 4.3., King performs the directive act of demanding. The verb *propose* describes that the speaker asks someone who has highest level position in American about something. Demanding utterance can be uttered from people who stay in low position to people who stay in high position.

2. Context of illocutionary acts

The each datum are analyzed one by one based on speaking factors of speaking ethnography. From all datum analysis, there is no genre because genre is only in written text. So, there are seven parts only in speaking ethnography which can be described.

- a. The setting is always in a private room.
- b. The participants are Black men, Black women, and White men.
- c. The end depends on what the categories are about.

- d. The act sequence is how the start of action until how the end of action.
- e. The keys are formal and informal tone.
- f. The instrument is in oral way of communication. And the registers are law and religion.
- g. The norm of interaction is polite, formal and kind communication.

From analyzing type and context, there are four intended meanings in King's utterances which indicates racism. They are unity, nationality, solidarity, and movement. Black people have unity, nationality, solidarity and movement spirit because they are still as a victim of racism and they want to have same right and status with White people in America legislation to defend their long life.

CONCLUSION

The analyzing of verbal in American movie can be new alternative in searching the racism occurring in America. It accounts for the type which be related with the context in order to produce the intended meaning as the goals. After finishing the research, the writer would like to suggest that this film needs to be explored from many sides. Because of it, the writer hopes the next researcher can analyze this movie from the illocutionary act among different or same gender side.

REFERENCES

- Ary, D., Jacobs, L. C., Sorensen, C., & Razavieh, A. (2010). *Introduction to research in education*. California: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to do things with words*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Back, L., & Solomos, J. (2000). *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Bailey, J. (2014). *Why 'Selma' Is the Film of the Year*. *Flavorwire*. Retrieved 30 June 2016, from <http://flavorwire.com/494657/why-selma-is-the-film-of-the-year>
- Cruse, D. A. (2000). *Meaning in language: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Dijk, T. A. (1991). *Racism and the press*. London: Routledge.
- Dijk, T. A. (2008). *Discourse and Context: A Sociocognitive Approach*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Edelstein, D. (2015). *The 'Selma' Criticism For How It Portrays Lyndon B. Johnson: Is It Fair?*. *NPR.org*. Retrieved 30 June 2016, from <http://www.npr.org/2015/01/09/3761206>

[14/the-selma-criticism-for-how-it-portrays-lyndon-b-johnson-is-it-fair](#)

- Fought, C. (2006). *Language and Ethnicity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Foundas, S. (2014). *Film Review: 'Selma'*. *Variety*. Retrieved 30 June 2016, from <http://variety.com/2014/film/reviews/film-review-selma-1201354433/>
- Griffiths, P. (2006). *An introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Gumperz, J. J. (1982). *Language and social identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Holmes, J. (2013). *An introduction to sociolinguistics fourth edition*. London: Routledge.
- Hornby, A. S., Cowie, A. P., & Gimson, A. C. (1974). *Oxford advanced learner's dictionary of current English*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Kothari, C. R. (2004). *Research methodology: Methods and techniques*. New Delhi: New Age International (P).
- Kirkland, B. (2016). 'Selma' review: David Oyelowo mesmerizing in Martin Luther King Jr. biopic. *Toronto Sun*. Retrieved 30 June 2016, from <http://www.torontosun.com/2015/01/08/selma-review-david-oyelowo-mesmerizing-in-martin-luther-king-jr-biopic>
- Kreidler, C. W. (1998). *Introducing english semantics*. New York: Routledge.
- Llamas, C., Mullany, L., & Stockwell, P. (2007). *The Routledge companion to sociolinguistics*. London: Routledge.
- Mey, J. (1993). *Pragmatics: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Miles, M. B. & Huberman, A. M. (1994). *Qualitative data analysis: An expanded sourcebook*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
- O'Hehir, A. (2016). "Selma": A riveting, timely civil-rights drama brings Martin Luther King's struggle back to life. *Salon*. Retrieved 30 June 2016, from http://www.salon.com/2014/12/24/selma_a_riveting_timely_civil_rights_drama_brings_martin_luther_kings_struggle_back_to_life/
- Omoniyi, T., & White, G. (2006). *The sociolinguistics of identity*. London: Continuum.
- Phillips, P., Francis, B., Webb, S., & Bull, V. (Eds.). (2010). *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary International Student's Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Piperopoulos, G. P. (2013). *Fundamentals of Communication, P.R. and Leadership*. New York: Free Press.
- Rocchi, J. (2014). 'Selma' Review: Martin Luther King Gets His Cinematic Due in a Stirring American Saga. *TheWrap*. Retrieved 30 June 2016, from <http://www.thewrap.com/selma-review-martin-luther-king-oprah-winfrey-david-oyelowo/>

- Samovar, L. A., Porter, R. E., Roy, C. S., & McDaniel, E. R. (2013). *Communication between cultures*. Boston: Cengage Learning.
- Searle, J. R., & Vanderveken, D. (1985). *Foundations of illocutionary logic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tannen, D. (2007). *Talking voices: Repetition, dialogue, and imagery in conversational discourse second edition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tanskanen, S. (2006). *Collaborating towards coherence: Lexical cohesion in English discourse*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Pub.
- Turner, G. (1999). *Film as social practice Third Edition*. London: Routledge.
- Wardhaugh, R. (2006). *An introduction to sociolinguistics fifth edition*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Wilson, C. (2016). 'Selma' is timely and timeless. *stltoday.com*. Retrieved 30 June 2016, from http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/movies/reviews/selma-is-timely-and-timeless/article_143b874e-2d68-5362-b069-4c2400e09f50.html
- Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.