

THE ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS APPEARED IN BABYMONSTER'S SONG ENTITLED "STUCK IN THE MIDDLE"

Wati Purnama Sari

Faculty of Letters and Cultures, Gunadarma University

Article History

Received : 11-03-2024

Revised : 21-03-2024

Accepted : 23-04-2024

Published : 30-04-2024

Corresponding author:

wp_sari@staff.gunadarma.ac.id

No. Contact:

Cite This Article:

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.56127/jushpen.v3i1.1468>

Abstract: *The research purpose is to identify the illocutionary acts appeared in BabyMonster's song entitled "Stuck In The Middle". This research used a descriptive qualitative method. Moreover, Searle (1979) theory about illocutionary acts is applied to analyze the data. The results revealed that there are 42 data found namely Assertive with 26 data, Commissive with 4 data, Directive with 3 data, and Expressive with 9 data. Through the results, it clearly stated that the most used illocutionary acts in the BabyMonster's song entitled "Stuck In The Middle" is Assertive with 26 data. The result inferred that Assertive, the illocutionary acts used most in the song, expressed that the speaker informed about the speaker's experiences. Those proposed something that the speaker truly believes in.*

Keywords: *Illocutionary Acts, Song, Searle*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a medium to communicate what someone thinks to other people. Through language, we can fully understand about a message of what someone has spoken. As Austin (1962) said that in which to say something is to do something; or in which by saying or in saying something we are doing something (p.12). It means in an utterance; it will appear the speaker's intention to convey a message and cause an effect to the hearer. This is known as the illocutionary acts. Searle (1979) stated that performing illocutionary acts mean stating, questioning, commanding and promising, etc.... in performing illocutionary acts one characteristically performs propositional acts and utterance acts...the same propositional acts can be common to different illocutionary acts (pp.23-24). Through this, we can see that illocutionary acts in someone's utterance can have many explanations. So, based on this statement it is important to do research of illocutionary acts in a song lyric. As we know today, lots of people drawn in music. Many people communicate their feeling through songs. It happened because people have connected strongly to the music lyrics. We can see many comments in the music video which showed that the listeners adore the music as it is related to their story. Besides, those songs can reach to the top of music chart in many music platforms in a minute because many of their listeners attach deeply to the song lyrics. It means there is a communication between the singer and the listeners of the song lyrics, so there are illocutionary acts performed here.

One of the songs that streams massively in Youtube is a song from BabyMonster entitled "Stuck in the Middle". This song has reached 1st trending in Youtube as the most viewed Music Video released in 2024 in its first 24 hours with over 12.887.096 views. The song entitled "Stuck in the Middle" is a song from a South Korean girl group namely BabyMonster which released on February 1, 2024. As this song became a big hit in its 24 hours released, many people are close to this song and the researcher will investigate the illocutionary type appeared in the song lyrics. Through this research, it is hoped that it can give a deep

understanding about the types of illocutionary acts in a song to the next researcher and the one who are curious about the types of illocutionary acts from Searle (1979) in song lyrics.

The previous research on the illocutionary acts in song lyrics have been carried out before. The first previous research entitled “An Analysis on Illocutionary Act in Song “1x1” By Bring Me the Horizon” from Nurfarizi, M.A, Senowarsito, and Aji, A.S (2022) focused on identifying illocutionary types in song lyrics entitled “1x1” By Bring Me the Horizon. Their research used a descriptive qualitative method and Searle’s theory. The research results showed that there are three types of illocutionary acts found namely representative (76,40%), directive (17,60%), and expressive (6%). The representative was in the form of stating, informing, believing, rejecting and insisting. The directive was in the form of asking, requesting and commanding. The expressive was in the form of praising and blaming.

The second previous research is a research entitled “The Unique Of Speech Acts Used In Song Lyrics Of Taylor Swift In The Theme Of Life Lesson” from Gawa, D.M.T, Munir, A., Setiawan, S. (2023). Their research searched for illocutionary act and function of illocutionary act in the three-song lyrics of Taylor Swift that has the same theme namely life lesson. Their research used Searle’s theory about illocutionary acts and Leech’s theory about illocutionary acts function. The results showed that there are four categories of illocutionary acts in those songs. Representative with 67 data (70,52%), directives with 16 data (16,84%), commissive with 10 data (10,52%), and expressive with 2 data (2,1%). Then for the illocutionary acts function, collaborative is the most dominant function of illocutionary acts with 16 data (69,56%). The other functions found are conflictive with 5 data (21, 73%), competitive with 1 data (4,34%) and convivial with 1 data (4,34%).

The third previous research is from Sari, A.W, and Emelia, T.W. (2022) entitled “An Analysis Of Illocutionary Act On Song Lyrics Of Bruno Mars’s Doo-Woops & Hooligans Album”. Their research focused on finding the illocutionary acts types and function in Bruno Mars’s album. Their research used a descriptive qualitative method and theory from Searle and Leech. The research results stated that representative is the most used illocutionary acts and collaborative is the most used illocutionary acts function in Bruno Mars album entitled “Doo-Woops & Hooligans”.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Searle’s illocutionary acts is a development theory from illocutionary acts from Austin (1962). Searle (1976) classified the illocutionary acts based on the illocutionary point, direction of fit and expressed psychological state. Here are the illocutionary acts classified by Searle (1979, pp.12-17)

1. Assertives, the point or purpose of the members of the assertive class is to commit the speaker (in varying degrees) to something’s being the case, to the truth of the expressed proposition. Besides, it counts into a dimension of assessment which includes *true* and *false*. The direction of fit is words-to-the-world where the psychological state expressed is Belief. Emphasizing the words such as “belief” and “commitment” that intended to mark dimensions (true and false). This is due to something that is determinables rather than determinates.
2. Directives, the point of this classification is the fact that they are attempts more precisely that the speaker get the hearer to do something. It may be very modest “attempts” as when I invite you to do it or suggest that you do it or may be very fierce attempts as when I insist that you do it. The direction of fit is world-to-words and the sincerity condition is want (or wish or desire). Verbs denoting members of this class are ask, order, command, request, beg, plead, pray, entreat, invite, permit and advise.
3. Commissives, the point is to commit the speaker to some future course of action. The direction of fit is world-to-word and the sincerity condition is intention. The propositional content is always that the speaker does some future action.
4. Expressives, the point is to express the psychological state specified in the sincerity condition about a state of affairs specified in the propositional content. The paradigms of expressive verbs are thank, congratulate, apologize, condole, deplore and welcome.
5. Declarations, the point is the successful performance of one of its members brings about the correspondence between the propositional content and reality, successful performance guarantees that the propositional content corresponds to the world. If I successfully perform the act of appointing you chairman, then you are chairman. Declarations bring about some alteration in the status or condition of the referred to object or objects solely in virtue of the fact that the declaration

has been successfully performed. The direction of fit is both words-to-world and world-to-words because of the peculiar character of declarations. There is no sincerity condition.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a descriptive-qualitative method. This means that data in this research are in a form of words. Moreover, the researcher does a collection data by herself. Cresswell said (2014) that the primary instrument in data collection is the researcher rather than some inanimate mechanism... the data that emerge from a qualitative study are descriptive. It means data are reported in words.. or pictures rather than in numbers..... (p.255).

The data source of this research are a song entitled “Stuck In The Middle” from BabyMonster, a South Korean girl group which released the single on February 1st, 2024. The song “Stuck in the Middle” is composed by Jared Lee, Dan Whittemore and Dee P.. This song was released under YG label.

In collecting the data, the researcher took the following steps. First, the researcher tried to listen the song entitled “Stuck In The Middle”. Second, after listening to the music, the researcher started to focus to the song lyrics. Third, the researcher took a note of the song lyrics counted into illocutionary acts advocated by Searle (1979) in a list. Fourth, the researcher listened to the song lyrics and re-checked the data again. The last, all the data arranged in the table. After all data are collected, the researcher analyzed and organized the data using illocutionary theory from Searle (1979). Next, the researcher tried to make a conclusion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Here are the research results:

Table 1. Data Findings

No.	Song lyrics	Type of Illocutionary Acts
1.	All this time, we've been together And I still don't know How you feel	Assertive
2.	Maybe it's make believe	Assertive
3.	Maybe it can be true	Assertive
4.	I try to tell myself, I'm not in love with you	Assertive
5.	I thought that I knew everything	Assertive
6.	I guess I don't know anything, yeah	Assertive
7.	Wondering if there are all kinds of things	Assertive
8.	I'm not supposed to know	Assertive
9.	I try my best to let it go	Assertive
10.	Baby, then you bring me back	Assertive
11.	You lift my feet off of the ground	Assertive
12.	Keep me spinning around and around	Assertive
13.	I don't ever wanna come down from your arms	Assertive
14.	Oh boy, you got me really confused	Assertive
15.	Pulling me in	Assertive
16.	Pushing me out	Assertive
17.	Pulling me back again	Assertive
18.	Don't know if your mind is made up but I know that nobody wanna be stuck	Assertive
19.	You say you want me	Assertive
20.	You say you care when we're together	Assertive
21.	Are you even there	Assertive
22.	And you gave me the keys (To your heart)	Assertive
23.	Yeah, you made me believe (From the start)	Assertive
24.	Now all that I know is	Assertive
25.	I got all this love I won't take back	Assertive
26.	It's true	Assertive
27.	I'm stuck in the middle with you, you, you	Commissive
28.	All I can promise you now is my love	Commissive
29.	I've tried and I've tried to be good to myself	Commissive

30.	Good for my health	Commissive
31.	Sometimes I wish you'd just talk to me	Directive
32.	You are the one that I want	Directive
33.	Is it selfish If I'm constantly turning to you	Directive
34.	Don't know what I'm supposed to do	Expressive
35.	I get emotional and hypothetical	Expressive
36.	You tell me that you need me then you walk away	Expressive
37.	Keep promising forever with the words you say	Expressive
38.	You were the spark	Expressive
39.	Light in the dark	Expressive
40.	Gave you my everything	Expressive
41.	If you knew what I'm feeling right now	Expressive
42.	You'd comfort my heart	Expressive

Discussion

Assertive

Table 2. Assertive

No of Data	Data	Type of Illocutionary Acts
1	All this time, we've been together And I still don't know How you feel	Assertive

The utterance above can be seen as a statement that express a belief. The phrase “All this time” it is a clue that the speaker committed to something that hold for so long. Then, the word “I don’t know” it is a dimension that can be assessed whether is true or false. So, it is clear that the utterance in data 1 is counted into Assertive based on Searle’s Theory about illocutionary acts (1979).

Table 3. Assertive

No of Data	Data	Type of Illocutionary Acts
2	Maybe it's make believe	Assertive

The word “Maybe” it is a clue that the speaker believed on something that intended to mark a dimension that can be assessed whether is true or false. So, it is clear that the utterance in data 2 is counted into Assertive based on Searle’s Theory about illocutionary acts (1979).

Expressive

Table 4. Expressive

No of Data	Data	Type of Illocutionary Acts
38	You were the spark	Expressive

We can see here that the word “spark” meant the speaker expressed her psychological state about how the speaker admired someone. It is clear that the utterance above counted into Expressive based on Searle’s theory about illocutionary acts (1979).

Table 5. Expressive

No of Data	Data	Type of Illocutionary Acts
42	You'd comfort my heart	Expressive

We can see here that the phrase “comfort my heart” meant the speaker expressed her psychological state about how the speaker admired someone. It is clear that the utterance above counted into Expressive based on Searle’s theory about illocutionary acts (1979).

Commissive

Table 6. Commissive

No of Data	Data	Type of Illocutionary Acts
28	All I can promise you now is my love	Commissive

The clause “I can promise you” showed that the speaker committed to do a future action. The speaker had an intention to promise something to other person in the future. Therefore, it is counted into Commissive based on Searle’s theory about illocutionary acts (1979).

Commissive

No of Data	Data	Type of Illocutionary Acts
29	I’ve tried and I’ve tried to be good to myself	Commissive

The phrase “I’ve tried” showed that the speaker committed to do a future action. The speaker had an intention to do something important related to the speaker’s own good in the future. Therefore, it is counted into Commissive based on Searle’s theory about illocutionary acts (1979).

Directive

Table 8. Directive

No of Data	Data	Type of Illocutionary Acts
31	Sometimes I wish you'd just talk to me	Directive

The word “wish” it is a clue from the speaker to get the hearer do what the speaker’s wanted. Therefore, it is clear that the utterance above counted into Directive based on Searle’s theory about illocutionary acts (1979).

Table 9. Directive

No of Data	Data	Type of Illocutionary Acts
32	You are the one that I want	Directive

The word “want” it is a clue from the speaker to get the hearer do what the speaker’s desired. Therefore, it is clear that the utterance above counted into Directive based on Searle’s theory about illocutionary acts (1979).

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this research, the researcher used illocutionary acts theory from Searle (1979). The results of the research demonstrated that from 42 data of illocutionary acts found in BabyMonster’s song entitled “Stuck In The Middle”, there are four types of illocutionary acts appeared. Those are Assertive with 26 data, Commissive with 4 data, Directive with 3 data, and Expressive with 9 data. Thus, it can be concluded that the most used illocutionary acts in the song entitled “Stuck In The Middle” is Assertive with 26 data. The result implied that the use of illocutionary acts namely Assertive means that the speaker conveys the speaker’s experiences which presented as something that the speaker truly believes in.

For the future researchers who are willing to perform research on illocutionary acts, they can do research in different source of data such as novel, movie or newspaper. Moreover, they can do research with the same source of data using BabyMonster’s song entitled “Stuck In The Middle” with another topic, such as do research about the usage of figurative language in that song.

REFERENCES

[1] Austin, J.L. (1962). *How to Do things with Words* (Second Edition ed.). Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.

- [2] BABYMONSTER. (2024). 'Stuck In The Middle' M/V. Accessed on 20 Juni 2024, link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gsv1i0QHi-o>
- [3] Cresswell, J. W. (2014). Fourth Edition Research Design Qualitative, Quantitative And Mixed Methods Approaches. USA: SAGE Publications, Inc.
- [4] Gawa, D.M.T, Munir, A., Setiawan, S.. (2023). The Unique Of Speech Acts Used In Song Lyrics Of Taylor Swift In The Theme Of Life Lesson. Journal Basis. Vol.10 No. 1 April 2023. Link: <https://ejournal.upbatam.ac.id/index.php/basis/article/view/5574>
- [5] Nurfaizi, M.A., Senowarsito, and Aji, A.S. (2022). An Analysis On Illocutionary Act In Song "1x1" By Bring Me The Horizon. PROCEEDING ETERNAL CONFERENCE. Vol.2 No. 1. Link: <https://conference.upgris.ac.id/index.php/etll/article/view/2824/1663>
- [6] Sari, Ambar & Emelia, Tengku. (2022). AN ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACT ON SONG LYRICS OF BRUNO MARS'S DOO-WOOPS & HOOLIGANS ALBUM. Jurnal Guru Kita PGSD. 7. 166. 10.24114/jgk.v7i1.41892.
- [7] Searle, J. (1979). Expression And Meaning: Studies in The Thoery of Speech Acts. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- [8] Wikipedia. (2024). BabyMonster. Accessed on 20 Juni 2024, link: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BabyMonster>
- [9] _____. (2024). Stuck_in_the_Middle_(BabyMonster_song). Accessed on 20 Juni 2024, link: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stuck_in_the_Middle_\(BabyMonster_song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stuck_in_the_Middle_(BabyMonster_song))
- [10] X, @babymonchart. (2024). BABYMONSTER Charts. Accessed on 20 Juni 2024, link: <https://x.com/babymonchart/status/1753072815467806952>