# AN ANALYSIS OF ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS IN TURNING RED MOVIE

**THESIS**

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**FAKULTAS TARBIYAH DAN KEGURUAN**
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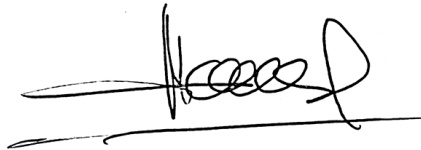**Bachelor of Education in English Language Teaching**

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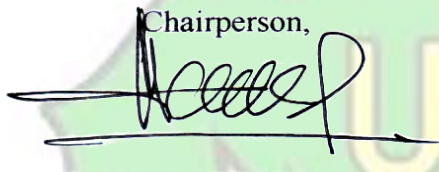for the Bachelor Degree of Education in English Language Teaching

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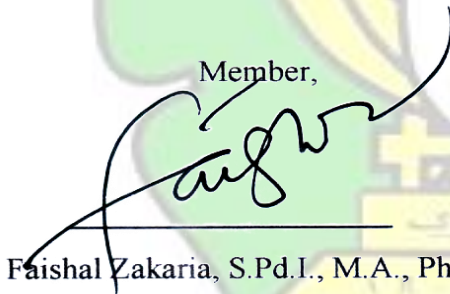
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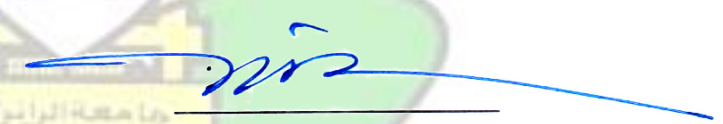
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# SURAT PENYATAAN KEASLIAN
## (*Declaration of Originality*)

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**An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in Turning Red Movie**

adalah benar-benar karya saya, **kecuali semua referensi dan semua kutipan yang disebutkan sumbernya**. Apabila terdapat kesalahan dan kekeliruan di dalamnya, maka akan sepenuhnya menjadi tanggung jawab saya. Demikian surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sesungguhnya.

Banda Aceh, 23 April 2024
Saya yang membuat surat penyataan,

Raysa Murlia

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The researcher acknowledges that this thesis might have limitations and potential areas to be improved. However, the researcher believes that this thesis provides an insightful analysis of the illocutionary acts in Turning Red movie which will be beneficial to the readers and further researchers who are interested in conducting the same topic.

Banda Aceh, April 2024
The researcher,

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# ABSTRACT

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Thesis working title    : An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in Turning Red Movie

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Illocutionary acts, which emanate from the speech acts theory introduced by Austin and developed by Searle, is known as a generated force in conveying intention for specific communicative purpose. In particular, Illocutionary acts fulfill indispensable function in providing a broader comprehension of implicit utterance. Interestingly, the study of illocutionary acts analysis has been a captivating area where number of conducted studies highlighted the implication within a diverse contextual media. Therefore, this research delved into the use of illocutionary acts popular media which is a movie entitled Turning Red. By employed the textual analysis method, this research attempted to identify the types of illocutionary acts found in Turning Red movie as well as its function through the theoretical framework proposed by Searle and Leech. Furthermore, this research also attempted to discover most dominant type of performed illocutionary act in Turning Red movie. As a result, there were five types of illocutionary acts identified; representative (25%), directive (42%), commissive (4%), expressive (24%), and declarative (4%). The identified illocutionary acts served four different functions; competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive with a total percentage 9%, 38%, 22%, and 30% respectively. The directive type of illocutionary acts appeared as the most dominant type in this research. The findings of this research endeavors to enrich the illocutionary acts application within animation movie context. Further extension such as exploring the different movie genres, contexts, and cinematic aspects are suggested for further research.

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# CHAPTER I
# INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Language in society is known as a common form of communication which generally can be considered as an effective tool in supporting communication process. Zagidullina (2018) emphasizes that language is a fundamental tool of communication which are inseparable with human society as it used as a medium of communication. By using the language, the people will be able to exchange, share, and express their ideas, thoughts, feeling and emotions for achieving a particular communication purpose. In fostering an effective communication, there is a need to understand the intention beyond the produced utterances. A specific theory that discusses the underlying intention of produced utterances known as speech acts theory.

Speech acts theory is grounded under pragmatics study deals with the embedded action within utterances that reflect the intention of the speakers in a communicative situations. According to Ishihara and Cohen (2014), speech acts refer to a way in which a specific social functions such as warning, thanking, and refusing conducted through a verbal communication. The performed speech acts reflected what the speaker tries to convey and what the hearer conceives based on the communicated utterances. The speech acts occured when the speakers produce utterances in given context with mutual knowledge that might lead the hearer to conduct an action.

Furthermore, Austin (1962) categorized the speech acts into three types, which are locutionary, ilocutionary and perlocutionary acts. The locutionary acts focused on the literal meaning of particular linguistic expression in corresponding to its gramatical, syntactic, and semantics aspect whilst illocutionary acts concerned with the communicative intent of produced utterances that affect the responses of the hearer. The actual action that indicates a response to performed illocutionary act is known as the perlocutionary act.

The conducted study focused on the use of illocutionary acts in the Turning Red movie. The ability to comprehend illocutionary acts is crucial in fostering successful communication as it influences the hearer's response. Searle (1976) emphasized the illocutionary act as a crucial act in speech acts theory since it generates a pragmatic force that determines possible act taken by the hearer based on the speaker's intention. Futhermore, he proposed five categories of illocutionary acts which consist of directive, commisive, representative, declarative, and expressive. Each types of illocutionary acts served different functions and meaning in a specific circumstances.

The illocutionary acts as it performed in communication served various functions that are tied to a particular intention and context. The comprehension of various functions of illocutionary acts takes a crucial role in communication since it helps the communicators to prevent a misunderstanding or various interpretations for achieving effective and efficient communication. As it is important to comprehend the function of illocutionary acts in communication, Leech (1983) specifies the illocutionary acts function into four categories that include competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive.

In linguistics studies, a movie can be used as a medium in learning a communicated language. The natural use of language is represented through the movie as it reflects a social human life through the recorded sequences of image, (Barsam and Monahan, 2015). The idea of the movie is generally communicated through a dialogue or a conversation of the movie's

characters. The character's dialogue contains utterances which represent particular intention that influence the viewer's emotions. The character's utterances may leave the viewers in a misunderstanding or lead into various interpretations. Therefore, the theory of Illocutionary acts proposed by Searle (1976) as well as Leech's theory about the function of illocutionary acts offer a way to understand how the language is used within a situational context. In other words, the comprehension of illocutionary acts is useful in explaining the intention of conveyed utterances to minimize possible misunderstanding.

In this conducted research, a dialogue from a movie called Turning Red is used as the object of study in exploring and analyzing the use of illocutionary acts theory as well as it functions. This movie is chosen due to the three consideration aspects includes popularity, language use, and cinematography. The Turning Red is the latest animation movie directed by Dome Shi which aired on March 11, 2022. This movie became the most watched movie that ranked in the first place with a total views 1.7 billion viewers since its first released on Disney +. It is a popular animation movie that holds 95% rating according to Rotten Tomatoes platform. Apart from its popularity, it also contains dialogues with a certain intention that represent the natural use of English language in communication. Learning the patterns of the communicated language in the movie will help us in minimizing miscommunication. The researcher also found this movie is relevant to recurrent daily communication patterns of English language since the setting of the movie represents the modern life of a teenage girl who lives in the urban area. In terms of animation technical and cinematography aspects, this movie gained impressive praise for the innovative character, stylized visuals, authentic cultural details, and creative cinematography which blend well in the movie.

The chosen movie tells about the journey of a lovable teenage girl named Meilin Lee who inherits her family's magical curse that transformed her into a giant red panda whenever she experienced strong emotions. The complicated mother-daughter relationship between Mei and

her mother who lives in a mixed cultural environment makes this movie more interesting. This movie also leaves the viewers a moral value, reminding that everyone needs to make peace and stay true to themselves.

With regard to the explanation above, a textual analysis method is chosen to be used in analyzing the phenomenon that the researcher wants to discover. This research focused on the implication of illocutionary acts theory within the chosen animation movie. It attempted to assess the types of illocutionary acts based on Searle's theory and to find out the most dominant type of illocutionary act in Turning Red movie. Moreover, the researcher also attempted to identify the function of each founded illocutionary acts type in Turning Red movie based on Leech's theory. The implication of both Searle's and Leech's theory in animated movie called Turning Red in this research offers a significance in educational field especially for English Teacher. It is useful to develop student's ability in understanding the intended meaning of language complexities through the engaging media.

## B. Research Question

In reference to the background study above, the formulated research questions are as follow:

1. What types of illocutionary acts are found in Turning Red Movie?

2. What is the dominant type of performed illocutionary acts in Turning Red Movie?

3. What are the functions of performed illocutionary acts by the characters of Turning Red movie?

## C. Objective of the Study

Based on the research question above, the objectives of this study are as follow:

1. To identify the types of illocutionary acts found in Turning Red Movie

2. To find out the most dominant type of illocutionary act in Turning Red Movie.

3. To describe the function of performed illocutionary acts by the characters of Turning Red Movie

**D. Significance of Study**

This study is expected to have both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the result of this study is expected to enrich the theories about the analysis of illocutionary acts used in Turning Red movie as a contribution to the development of pragmatics study. Practically, this study is expected to be beneficial for the following:

1. English language learner

   The result of this study provides information related to illocutionary act used in Turning Red movie. It will be beneficial for English language learner to gain knowledge and understanding of how an action can be performed through a language, what is the function of saying certain expression, and how it can affect the hearer. This study also can be used as the example for further understanding in analyzing illocutionary acts.

2. English teacher or lecturer

   This study can be used as additional learning source for English teacher or lecturer since it provides the information related to illocutionary acts used by the characters in Turning Red movie, categorization of the performed illocutionary acts, and its function. The conducted research can be used as an authentic example of illocutionary acts theory implication in animation movie for developing and facilitating student's ability in understanding communicative language within a specific context during the teaching-learning process.

3. Researcher

   The conducted research might be beneficial for future researcher since it can be used as reference in conducting further studies or another research related to the analysis of illocutionary acts.

**E. Terminology**

For clarity, several terms that I use throughout this writing need to be clarified. Those terms are as follows:

a. Illocutionary act

Illocutionary act is one of the types of speech act which stand for performative act. The act is performed by uttering some words to express certain intentions within particular context. Leech (2014) describes it as "the acts performed by virtue of uttering a given piece of language with a particular type of intended meaning and with the kinds of felicity conditions previously mentioned in connection with performatives"(p.308).

b. Turning Red movie

Turning Red is an animated fantasy movie produced by Pixar animation Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios motion pictures. Turning Red is directed by Dome Shi in which the storyline is written by Dome Shi herself and Julia Chu. This movie was released in Disney + platform on March 11, 2022. Turning Red is a movie with a teenage girlhood theme that focuses on Meilin Lee (a talented-thirteen-year-old girl) as the main character who transform into a giant red panda whenever she finds herself in excitement or emotional anguish. Fortunately, she is able to transform back into herself every time she controls all kind of those strong emotions. As she is raised in a restrictive family, it is tough for her to control her strong emotion. Various complex and complicated experience that she went through after she transforms into a giant red panda allows her to explore herself and find her true identity.

**F. Previous studies**

In conducting this research, several related research were selected to be read and reviewed as the preliminary study. There are many relevant researches that focused on speech acts. The first related research was the research conducted by Arrosid and Munandar (2018). The research attempted to examine the illocutionary acts found in online airline advertising slogans

and investigate the most dominant type of illocutionary acts used in the slogans. There are 40 slogans in a total that were collected from online airline advertisement within a period of November 2015 to February 2016 as the data of this study. In executing the data, the researchers used descriptive qualitative method. By referring to speech act theory proposed by Searle, the researchers classifying each utterance that indicate the illocutionary acts in slogans. The result showed that there are four types of illocutionary act found based on the data included assertive (70%), directives (20%), commissive (7.5 %), expressive (2.5 %). Based on the data, the most dominant type of illocutionary acts used in the slogan was assertive type.

The other related research was a research conducted by Lestari and Puspa (2018). The conducted research focused on the types of illocutionary and perlocutionary acts performed by the characters in Coco movie and its application of illocutionary and perlocutionary acts that found in the movie in teaching speaking in tenth grade of vocational high school. In analyzing the types of illocutionary acts, this study applied descriptive qualitative method. The data was acquired from the movie and its script. Based on the conducted study, there were five types of illocutionary acts found in Coco movie which included assertive (33.3%), directive (38%), commissive (4.1%), expressive (23.8%), and declaratives (0.8%) where each utterances showed perlocutionary acts as its effect. As its application in teaching speaking, the researcher found out that the performed utterances that indicate illocutionary acts can be used in improving students speaking skill during the learning and teaching process in the classroom.

The next related previous research was a research conducted by Kumala (2018) This study attempted to identify the locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts aligned with its intended meaning in The Croods movie. In this study, qualitative method was used in analyzing the data which were collected from the movie and its transcriptions. As the results, the researcher found out that all types of speech acts included locutionary, illocutionary,

perlocutionary acts were used in the Croods movie. The directive illocutionary act is the most dominant type of speech act found in this movie.

The other research was the research conducted by Hutajulu and Herman (2019). The research focused on analyzing the type of illocutionary acts that might be appeared in "You Are My Home" movie and determine which types of illocutionary acts is most dominant. In analyzing the data, qualitative and quantitative approaches were used in this study. The results revealed that there were four types of illocutionary acts found in You Are My Home movie. The types were representatives, directives, expressive, and commissive. Based on the research, Directive act was the most dominant types of illocutionary acts found in the movie.

Another research was conducted by Rahayu and Parmawati, (2020) which aimed to describe the language style and investigate the types of illocutionary acts found in teen lit novel "The Perfect Husband". The data were analyzed qualitatively where the source of the data was the novel itself. Regarding to the results, it showed that there were five language style found in the novel which consisted of frozen style, formal style, consultative style, casual style, and intimate style. The most dominant language style was casual style. In addition, this study also revealed that there were five types of illocutionary acts found in the novel which included representatives, commissive, directives, declarations, and expressive. The most dominant type of illocutionary acts found in the novel was directives and expressive.

The next chosen research was conducted by Mubarok et al., (2021) that focused on identifying the directive type of illocutionary acts found in the school slogans at MTS Negeri 3 Tangerang. The conducted research applied the descriptive qualitative method. The results showed that there are three categories of directive illocutionary act found in the analyzed slogans. Those categories are advising, commanding, and requesting with total occurrence twenty, one, and two utterances consecutively.

The last chosen research was a research conducted by Permana and Mauriyat, (2021). The objective of the research was to examine the use of speech acts in political speech and determine the function as well. The data were collected from political speech of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the data were analyzed qualitatively. The results revealed that there were locutionary and illocutionary acts found in the speech. The results also showed that in illocutionary category, there were three types of illocutionary acts found in the speech included assertive (9 utterances), commissive (8 utterances), and directives (4 utterances) where each type stand for different meaning which depend on the context. In reference to the researches presented above, this study has similarities and differences in several aspects. The similarities rely on the focus of study which are the analysis of illocutionary acts and the implemented method in conducting study in which six out of seven presented previous studies above used qualitative method and the other one used the combination of qualitative and quantitative method. This conducted research was a type of qualitative research that applied the textual analysis methods to analyze the proposed research questions. In other hand, the difference relies on the focused object to be analyzed. This study used Turning Red Movie as the focused object to analyze the types of illocutionary acts, found out the most dominant type of illocutionary acts as well as identify the function of the performed illocutionary acts types in Turning Red Movie. The different object of the study in which the Turning Red movie was used to analyze the proposed cases differentiated this research to the seven related researches presented above. The different object used for analyzing the cases was expected to be the gap of study which leads the researcher to acquire a new finding and enrich the discussion on the implementation of illocutionary acts in movie.