

COMMISSIVE SPEECH ACT IN THE MOVIE *JOHN WICK CHAPTER 2*

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Abstract

Commissive is a kind of speech acts that used by the speakers to commit themselves to some future course action. It expresses the speaker's attention to do something on some future action. This study concerned on finding out the types of commissive speech act used by characters in the movie *John Wick Chapter 2*, as well as analyzing the meaning of its utterances. This study applied the theory of pragmatics from Yule (1996) to find out the types of commissive speech act, theory of meaning from Thomas (1995) to analyse the implied meaning and supported by the theory of context of situation from Halliday and Hasan (1989). The data were collected by observation method and analysed by descriptive qualitative method. The finding is presented in formal and informal way. Our finding shows that there are four types of commissive speech acts which predominantly used by the characters in the movie *John Wick Chapter 2*, they are: refusal (12%), warning (48%), promise (12%) and threat (28%).

Keywords: *commissive, speech act, utterance, meaning*

I INTRODUCTION

In a communication, people deliver their thoughts and ideas through speeches in many different ways. However, some issues happened in communication due to misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer. Therefore, it is important to know the implied meaning of the utterances in a communication by understanding the topic and context of situation. Pragmatics is the study which belief that what is communicated is more than what is said. It means pragmatics is closely related to the analysis of what people mean by their utterances than what the words or phrases in those utterances might mean by themselves (Yule, 1996: 3). Here what Yule want to emphasize is the meaning that speakers have is more than the words they say.

To understand the meaning of the utterances spoken by the speaker, we might also pay attention to the context. Thus, pragmatics also concerns with context. Pragmatics should also consider aspects of context such as who people are talking to, when, where, and under what circumstances that will determine the way they say and what they want to say. We cannot simply judge the meaning through what people say. In many ways, pragmatics is the study of invisible meaning, and how we recognize, what is meant even it is not actually said or written. In order for that to happen the speaker or writer must be able to depend on a lot of shared assumption and expectation. Pragmatics concerns to people's assumption, people purposes, and the types of action that they are performing when they speak (Yule, 1996: 4).

When we produce utterances, we do not simply make statements or say something without any intention. Yule (1996: 47) states that speech acts is action, which is performed via utterances. Here people can perform an action by saying something. The speakers do not need to do the action physically. The utterances said would be sufficient to perform an action. We perform speech act when we offer an apology, greeting, request, complaint, invitation, compliment, or refusal. In particular, this study focussed on commissive speech act.

Commissive is kind of speech acts that used by the speakers to commit themselves to some future course action. They express the speaker's attention to do something on some future action. Sometimes, someone wants to do something in the future times by saying something such as promise, threat, warning, or refusal. It can be performed alone by the speaker, or by the speaker as the member of the group. In using commissive, the speaker undertakes the world to fit the words (Yule, 1996: 54). These words that people deliver during the conversation in movie, speech, or daily conversation is not as simple as it seen. They have their implied meaning that makes it very interesting to be analysed. This study aims at identifying types of commissive speech act and the implied meaning of the utterances as delivered by the characters in the movie *John Wick Chapter 2*.

II MATERIALS AND METHOD

The data of this study were taken from the movie *John Wick Chapter 2*. The data were taken from the utterances of selected characters in the movie, they are: *John Wick, Winston, Santino D'Antonio, Giana D'Antonio, Bowery King, Cassian, Abram, and Julius*. The data were collected through

observation method by watching the movie repeatedly. The data were classified into types of commissive speech act such as: refusal, warning, promise and threat. The data then analyzed qualitatively by using some theories, such as theory of pragmatics from Yule (1996) to identify types of commissive speech act; theory from Thomas (1995) to analyse the meaning of the utterances; and supporting theory from Halliday and Hasan (1989) to analyse context of situation. The data were presented in formal and informal method.

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our finding shows that there are four types of commissive speech act that predominantly used by the characters in the movie John Wick Chapter 2, they are warning, threat, promise, and refusal. It can be seen in the table below.

NO	TYPES OF COMMISSIVE SPEECH ACT	NUMBER OF ACCURACY	PERCENTAGE	
1	Warning	He once killed three man in a bar	12	48%
		You have my car		
		A marker is not small thing John		
		Do you remember? This is your blood		
		You rejected his marker. You're lucky he stopped there		
		Two rules that cannot be broken, Jonathan. No blood in Continental ground and every markers must be honoured		
		Santino will lay claim my seat at the Table. He will take New York. And you... will have been the one who gifted it to him		
		Gentlemen... Gentlemen... Do I need to remain you, that there will be no business conducted on the Continental grounds?		
		Now he's free of the marker, what do you think he'll do?		
		And now he's coming again.		
Jonathan, just walk away				
You have one hour. I can't delay it any longer				
2	Threat	It's not just a car. It is John Wick's car	7	28%
		If you don't do this, you know the consequences		
		You dishonour the marker you die. You kill the holder of the marker		

		you die. You run you die		
		An eye for an eye John. You Know how it goes		
		You want a war? Or do you wanna just give me a gun?		
		The door in any service or provider in connection with the Continental are now closed to you. I am sorry. Your life is now forfeit		
		John Wick Excommunicado		
3	Promise	All right. It will be ready Christmas	3	12%
		I promise		
		I'll kill them. I'll kill them all		
4	Refusal	No one gets out and comes back without repercussion	3	12%
		Find someone else		
		I can't help you		
	Total		25	100%

All types of commissive speech acts are explained in the following section. Only ten selected examples are presented in the discussion.

3.1 WARNING

Warning is utterance that aims other to be careful. It could be an advice, a warn, a suggestion. In the movie *John Wick Chapter 2*, twelve utterances which categorized as warning are found. The selected examples are explained as follows:

Data 1

Abram : **He once killed three men in a bar.**

Abram's subordinate: With a pencil. I know. I've heard that story.

Abram : With the fuckin pencil. Who the fuck can do that?

(00:05:42 – 00:05:49)

The data above is a conversation between *Abram* and his subordinate. The conversation took place in *Abram* headquarter. *Abram* and his subordinate talked about how feared *John Wick* is by everyone and what he has done. Everyone who works at underworld crime knows the story about *John Wick* who killed three men in a bar just by using a pencil. *Abram* used declarative sentence to state a fact about *John Wick*. In this conversation he emphasized to his subordinate who *John Wick* actually is. *Abram* said, *He once killed three men in a bar*. The utterance can be categorized as warning since *Abram* warned his subordinate that *John Wick* killed three men in a bar just by using a pencil. Thus, the sentence means that if they wanted to face *John Wick*, it could be very hard to win over him. *Abram* said

that to make his subordinate be careful and alert about possibilities that will happen if they messed with *John Wick*.

Data 2

John Wick: **You have my car.**

Abram : Baba Yaga

(00:06:25)

The conversation is between *John Wick* and *Abram*. They talked about *John Wick's* car which stolen by *Abram's* nephew and now it is in *Abram* headquarter. *Abram* headquarter is the place where *Abram* runs his crime. *John Wick* told *Abram* that he knew his car is there and he will take it back. Everyone knows there are three things that *John Wick* loves the most; they are his wife, his car, and his dog. If somebody dared to steal one of them, they must pay it back. The type of sentence that used by *John Wick* is declarative sentence, since *John Wick* declared something that based on the fact or truth.

This utterance is categorized into warning. *John Wick* warned *Abram* that he will take his car back no matter what. He warned *Abram* that there will be a danger or problem because *Abram* kept *John Wick's* car in his headquarter. *John Wick* will take an action when he says *You have my car* to *Abram*. Finally, *John Wick* killed *Abram's* nephew because he did not only steal his car but also killed his dog.

Data 3

Santino D'Antonio: This is because of me. This, in part, is mine.

John Wick : Take it back.

Santino D'Antonio: Take it back?

John Wick : Take it back.

Santino D'Antonio: **A marker is not small thing John.**

(00:21:46 – 00:21:56)

The conversation is between *John Wick* and *Santino*, which took place in *John Wick's* house. They talked about a plan to kill *Santino's* sister. *Santino's* family has a right to stand in one of twelve seats on High Table as the Comorra or Italian Mafia. That position was held by *Santino's* father. After his father died, the position is replaced by his sister *Giana D'Antonio*. That is why he wants his sister die. No matter how hard *Santino* attempted to persuade *John Wick*, he kept refuse it. Then *Santino* showed *John Wick* the evidence of their engagement. There is *John Wick* blood on a kind of agreement paper. The blood shows the evidence that *John Wick* has a marker with *Santino D'Antonio*. If a hit man had a marker with someone, he will be paid to kill somebody. If he broke the marker, he will get a punishment. The High Table will find and kill him.

Santino's utterance is categorized into warning. *Santino* used declarative sentence, declaring how important that marker is. This kind of sentence is used to inform something true or based on the fact. On the other hand, *John Wick* refused *Santino's* demand to kill his sister. *Santino* said, *A marker is not small thing John*. What *Santino* means here is, the luxury house where *John Wick* lives and all of the things inside it are *Santino's* gift for him. *Santino* gave it all to *John Wick* because of that marker. *John Wick* replied, *take it back*. The fact is *John Wick* does not want to kill people again. Therefore, *Santino* warned *John Wick* that the marker is really important and it is the thing that a hit man should afraid of. Everybody who has bound by the marker must obey the rules. By saying that utterance, *Santino* warned *John Wick* that he still has an obligation to do his job as a hit man.

3.2 THREAT

Threat is an expression of an intention to inflict pain, injury, punishment or evil. It is a statement in which speaker tell someone that speaker will cause them harm or trouble if they do not do what speaker want. There are twelve utterances which categorized as threat found in the movie *John Wick Chapter 2*. The selected examples can be seen as follows:

Data 4

Abram's subordinate : So we're giving everything up for a car?

Abram : **It's not just a car. It is John Wick's car.**

Abram's subordinate : Oh

(00:04:08 – 00:04:16)

The conversation is between *Abram* and his subordinate when they were on duty in *Abram's* headquarter. This conversation is about *John Wick's* car that currently among their inventories. *John Wick's* car was stolen by *Losef Tarasov*. When he stole *John Wick's* car, he also killed his dog. For that reason, *Losef Tarasov* and his father were killed by *John Wick*. *Abram* is *Losef Tarasov's* uncle who has crime business in New York City. *Abram's* utterance can be categorized as a threat since it is threatening to know that it is not just a car but it is *John Wick's* car. *Abram* used that statement to inform his subordinate to be aware because *John Wick* will come to inflict pain or injury to take his car back. He is a famous hit man also known as bogeyman, for that reason *Abram* says *it's not just a car. It is John Wick's car*. It's obvious that they will be in trouble.

Data 5

Santino D'Antonio: You came to me. I helped you. **If you don't do this, you know the consequences.**

(00:22:21 – 00:22:30)

This conversation is in *John Wick's* house where *Santino* visited *John Wick* to ask for a demand. It is *Santino's* right to ask *John Wick* due to the marker they have. If *John Wick* dishonoured the marker, it means he breaks the rules and he will get the punishments in underworld crime that governed by the High Table. When *Santino* threaten *John Wick*, he used imperative sentence. *Santino* told *John Wick* that if he did not fulfil the demand, he will get the consequences. The utterance can be categorized as threat since *Santino* gives an expression with an intention to inflict pain and punishment to *John Wick*. If *John Wick* did not do it, he will be in trouble. *Santino* wants *John Wick* to do what he wants and there is no reason to refuse it. He wants to make *John Wick* fulfilled his demand by reminding him the consequences he will get once he broke the rules and forgot about the marker.

Data 6

John Wick: I have no choice?

Winston: **You dishonour the marker you die. You kill the holder of the marker you die. You run, you die.**

(00:29:28 – 00:29:32)

The conversation is between *Winston* and *John Wick* in Continental Ground New York City. They talked about the consequences if *John Wick* broke the marker. *Winston* as *John Wick's* friend gave an advice to *John Wick* not to take a wrong decision. There is no way that *John Wick* can be free from the marker which finally force him back to be a hit man. *Winston* used imperative sentence to threaten *John Wick*. He wants to tell *John Wick* to avoid dangerous situation which put his life and family at risk. *Winston* utterance can be categorized into threat since it tries to threaten *John Wick* by describing the consequences of his decision if he dishonoured the marker. The only way he could free from the marker is by honouring the marker, following what the holder of the marker wants and completing his job.

3.3 PROMISE

Promise is an oral or written agreement to do or not to do something. It is an utterance used to remind the speaker about something to be done in the future. There are three utterances which categorized as promise found in the movie *John Wick Chapter 2*. The selected examples can be seen as follows:

Data 7

Aurelio : John, what the hell? I thought you love this car.

John Wick: What do you think?

Aurelio : Your motor's about to fall out and, the chassis' all bent up, the... the driveshaft is all destroyed. And I don't know if you noticed, but you got a crack in your windshield. I mean... what do I think? I could fix it.

John Wick: Thanks for finding her.

Aurelio : Not a problem, man. Just made a few calls. No big deal.

John Wick: Let me know when it's fixed.

Aurelio : **All right. It will be ready Christmas.**

(00:17:23 – 00:17:47)

This conversation took place in *John Wick's* home between *Aurelio* and *John Wick*. They talked about the car of *John Wick*. *Aurelio* is *John Wick's* friend who own a garage and also works at underworld crimes in New York City. *Aurelio* came to *John Wick's* house to see the condition of *John Wick's* car and took it to his garage to repair it. *Aurelio* also helped *John Wick* to find his car which stolen by *Abram's* nephew.

Aurelio's utterance can be categorized into promise since he declared something to *John Wick* that he will do in the future. He gave assurance to *John Wick* to fix his car. He promised that the car will be ready on Christmas. When *Aurelio* saw *John Wick's* car for the first time, he was shock since it was badly broken, yet he knows *John Wick* really loves his car. *Aurelio* explained the problems of the car. When *John Wick* said, *Let me know when it's fixed*, he persuaded *Aurelio* to promise him. Then *Aurelio* replied, *It will be ready Christmas*, to show his commitment and the action that he will do in the future.

Data 8

Casian : I'll make it quick. **I promise.**

John Wick: I appreciate that. I'll try and do the same.

(01:07:29 – 01:07:38)

The conversation between *John Wick* and *Casian* took place in a bar at Rome Continental ground. At that moment, *John Wick* just finished his mission to kill *Giana D'Antonio*. *Casian* is also a hit man and the body guard of *Giana D'Antonio* and they have special relationship. He is so mad with *John Wick* and wants to revenge. *Casian* used declarative sentence since he declared something that he will do to *John Wick* in the future. It can be categorized as promise since *Casian* commits himself about something that he will do in the future. He promised to kill *John Wick* because *John Wick* kills *Giana D'Antonio*. *Casian* says *I'll make it quick. I promise*. It means that he will kill *John Wick* as soon as possible. Afterwards *John Wick* replied, *I appreciate that. I'll try and do the same*, to show that he is not afraid of it.

3.4 REFUSAL

Refusal is the act of refusing, denial of anything demanded, solicited, or offered for acceptance. There are three utterances which categorized as refusal found in the movie *John Wick Chapter 2*. The selected examples can be seen as follows:

Data 9

Santino D'Antonio: For a man to grant a marker to another, is to bind a soul to a blood oath.

John Wick : **Find someone else.**

(00:21:59 – 00:22:10)

This conversation took place in *John Wick's* house when *Santino* came and asked him to kill his sister. They do not have any special relationship instead of business partner. *John Wick* refused *Santino's* demand by saying, *Find someone else*. It can be categorized as refusal since *John Wick* did not want to do *Santino's* demand. *John Wick* did not want to do that because he has retired. He retired because of his wife who has passed away. He did not want to be a hit man anymore since it made him having so many enemies and putting his wife and family in danger all the time.

Data 10

John Wick : I'm asking you don't do this

Santino D'Antonio: I'm sorry. **No one gets out and comes back without repercussion**

(00:21:12 – 00:21:22)

The conversation is between *Santino D'Antonio* and *John Wick*. *Santino* kept forcing *John Wick* to kill his sister yet *John Wick* did not want to do it. He told *Santino* not to do this. However, *Santino* refused it by saying, *No one gets out and comes back without repercussion*. *Santino's* utterance can be categorized into refusal since *Santino* did not want to accept *John Wick's* suggestion. By saying that expression, *Santino* refused *John Wick's* suggestion and he wanted *John Wick* to accept his demand to kill his sister. It means that *John Wick* is not allowed to retire from being a hit man before he completed his job.

IV CONCLUSION

This study analysed types of commissive speech acts in *John Wick Chapter 2* movie and the meaning of its utterances. There are 25 data of commissive act found in *John Wick Chapter 2* movie. The finding shows that there are four types of commissive speech acts, which predominantly used by the characters in the movie John Wick Chapter 2, they are: warning (48%), threat (28%), promise (12%) and refusal (12%). Warning is utterance that has purpose for other to be careful. Threat is an expression of an intention to inflict pain, injury, punishment, or evil. Promise is an utterance used to remind the speaker about something to be done in the future time. Refusal is an act of the speaker in refusing, denial of anything demanded, or offered for acceptance. Each character in this movie has different emotion when they deliver the utterances depend on the context of situation, the topic that being discuss, the participants, and language role. Among four types of commissive speech act, warning is the most dominant type which found in this movie. This type became more dominant than the others due to the genre of this movie, which is a thriller action movie. Thriller action movie is a blend of either action and thriller movie in which the protagonist confronts dangerous adversaries, obstacles, or situations that must be conquered. When the characters used commissive utterances, they determine what they will do in the future time. Through warnings, they make statements and tell people about possible danger, problem or any other unpleasant situation that might happen.

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