

THE ILLOCUTIONARY ACT FOUND IN SHOTGUN BOY ENGLISH WEBTOON

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ABSTRACT

The title of this research is "The Illocutionary Acts Found in Shotgun Boy English Webtoon." The purpose of this research is to classify the types and identify the functions of illocutionary acts based on Searle's theory. Qualitative descriptive approach was applied in this research. The data source of this research is a webtoon entitled Shotgun Boy, and the data were collected from the utterances that contain illocutionary acts. In collecting the data, the researcher used observation and note-taking methods. The steps to collect the data in this research included downloading the Webtoon app, reading the entire Webtoon, determining the utterances that present illocutionary acts, classifying them based on Searle's five types of illocutionary acts, and identifying the functions of each type. The research result was described descriptively and presented using an informal method. The result of this research shows the use of five types of illocutionary acts, which are assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives. In addition, each type has several functions such as stating belief, getting someone to do something, committing to something, expressing feelings, and declaring a status or change.

Keywords: *Function, Illocutionary Acts, Types*

INTRODUCTION

Communication is the act of giving, receiving, and sharing information. Talking or writing and listening or reading is an act of communication. In most situations, communication is used to convey something or to express an idea. Effective communication is the main goal of communication. The communication process happens when communicators interact with their communicants to create a meaning between the two. The effectiveness of interaction and communication depends on having a good understanding of communication. However, even when the speaker tries to deliver information, misunderstanding can happen. To

avoid this kind of situation, speech act theory exists to solve that problem.

A speech act is an utterance that serves a function in communication (Leech, 1983). We perform speech acts when we apologize, greet, request, compliment, refuse, or express gratitude (Hidayat, 2016). According to Austin (1962), speech acts are classified into three categories: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. Locutionary act is the act of saying something; it refers to the literal meaning of the utterance. Illocutionary act is the act of doing something through saying it (Amal, 2015; Rahayu, 2018; Sihombing, 2021; Ramadhani, 2022). It often contains hidden intention behind the speaker's utterance. Perlocutionary act is the effect caused by the

illocutionary act, especially the reaction from the hearer based on what the speaker has said.

This research focuses on the illocutionary act. Illocution is a type of act that involves creating an utterance with a certain intention and achieving that intention through how it is said. Illocutionary acts can include promising, ordering, inviting, congratulating, requesting, and more. According to Searle (1979), illocutionary acts are divided into five types: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. By understanding illocutionary acts, we can understand the speaker's intention in particular situations, and one of the interesting data sources to explore this is comics.

Comics are a type of visual art that combines text and image, usually in speech balloons or captions. Nowadays, comics can be accessed in digital format, such as through Webtoons. Webtoons are online comics that are easily accessible through apps or websites. They are especially popular among young readers and often contain engaging stories with a lot of character interaction. However, analyzing illocutionary acts in Webtoons is still relatively uncommon, because most research tends to focus on printed comics, movies, or novels.

One of the Webtoons chosen for this research is *Shotgun Boy*, a psychological thriller from Korea. The story contains various speech situations with different illocutionary intentions, such as giving warnings, asking for help, expressing gratitude, or even threatening someone. For example, in one scene:

Seongbin: Hand it over.

Gyuhwan: Stay back. I'll shoot.

The bold utterance spoken by Gyuhwan, "Stay back. I'll shoot," is a commissive act. He commits himself to take action (shooting) if the hearer (Seongbin) moves closer. This shows how characters in Webtoons use language to perform acts rather than only deliver information.

The concept of speech acts holds significant importance in the field of communication. Consequently, it has attracted the attention of numerous scholars who have examined this topic in various academic studies. Some of these relevant works will be explained. The research entitled "The Illocutionary Acts Found in English Webtoon Entitled Seasons of

Blossom: Hamin's Flower" was conducted by (Dewi, K. S. M., Budiarta, I. W., & Rajistha, I. G. N. A. (2022). The Illocutionary Acts Found in English Webtoon Entitled Seasons of Blossom: Hamin's Flower. *International Conference on Language, Culture and Communication, 1996*, 147–153.) Utilizing a qualitative descriptive approach, the study aims to identify and categorize the types and functions of illocutionary acts in the webtoon. The main issue explored is the necessity of examining how the characters' utterances reflect meaning and intention within the context of the comic. The findings reveal five types of illocutionary acts—declaration, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive—with directive acts being the most dominant, comprising various forms such as requests and commands. The previous research and this research both discuss about illocutionary act. Previous research using Yule's illocutionary act theory, meanwhile this study using Searle's theory about illocutionary act.

Based on the background above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the types and functions of illocutionary acts found in *Shotgun Boy* Webtoon. Each utterance in the Webtoon carries meaning and intention that reflect the character's situation and emotion. Therefore, this research can contribute to the study of speech acts, especially in digital comic media.

METHODS

The data source of this research was taken from the English-translated Webtoon *Shotgun Boy*. This Webtoon was chosen because it contains many utterances that reflect illocutionary acts and because it is popular among readers, making it a relevant example of digital storytelling.

The data were collected using the observation and note-taking methods (Creswell, 2012). The researcher downloaded the Webtoon app, read all chapters of *Shotgun Boy*, identified the utterances that contain illocutionary acts, and then took notes on those utterances. After that, the utterances were categorized based on the five types of illocutionary acts proposed by Searle: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

The data were analyzed descriptively. Each utterance was interpreted in terms of what type of illocutionary act it represented and what function it served. The analysis focused on the context of the situation and the speaker's intention. The results were presented using informal methods, in which explanations and descriptions were delivered through sentences, not symbols or statistics.

DISCUSSION

The types of illocutionary acts and the functions of each type of illocutionary act found in the English webcomic Shotgun Boy are the two issues that are explored in this research. These issues are examined using Searle's (1979) theory of illocutionary acts. The theory of illocutionary acts, according to Searle, can be classified into five categories: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. The function of illocutionary acts, according to Searle, is that they represent the intended activity of the speaker. These acts are fundamental to understanding the social part language plays in communication since they determine the reason of an utterance.

Assertive

Assertives as known as "Representative" is kind of illocutionary act that shows the truth condition of the meaning of the utterance. The speaker attempts to position the words fit the world of belief by using Assertives. Agree, deny, affirm, allege, announce, believe, boast, complain, conclude, forecast, inform, insist, predict, report, state, and suggest are all the example of this type. The assertive types of illocutionary act uttered several functions behind their own words. The following are examples and function of the assertives illocutionary acts.

(1) Ep. 6 – Shotgun Boy

Chanyeok : Sanggwon! Do something!
Sanggwon : What the hell do you want me to do! Didn't you just see what just happened to the P.E teacher's head?! Don't you get it? **They're not even human!**

The dialogue above was taken between Chanhyeok and Sanggwon when the monsters begin attack all the students and all the teachers in the auditorium in the middle of student do their performance. Mira who possessed by Five, one of the villains start the aggression. She starts pull tentacles from his body, the students and the teacher in shock and don't know what to do get immediately killed by Mira. Students immediately rushing go out from auditorium but but it turns out there are other monsters blocking the exit. The monsters start killing the student and P.E teacher want to attack back get smashed on his head. Chanhyeok told Sanggwon to do something because the monsters attack them.

The bold statement performed by Sanggwon is an assertive type of illocutionary act. Sanggwon as the speaker informs Chanyeok that they, the monsters are not even human by their behaviors far from human being and have a strength above the normal human. In this case statement performed by Sanggwon suit the world via his utterance of inform. The function of Sanggwon utterance is an informative statement. Sanggwon told Chanhyeok the monsters that attacked them are so inhuman and can't be categorized as human beings based on their characteristic, thereby presenting this claim as a factual information

(2) Ep. 9 – Shotgun Boy

One : I think that's our cue to exit.
Five : **Agreed.**

The sample above was taken from scene when the monsters almost getting shot by Gyuhan and one of them get killed. Four, one of the monsters starts attacking the student and in the same time Gyuhan shot three arms but Four save him. Four grab a student and using the student as a shield so he can attack Gyuhan, but the moment Gyuhan pull the trigger of his shotgun Four throw away the student to him. Jayden quickly caught the student and told Gyuhan to shot the Four but missed. One, the monsters knows that the bullets that shot them can kill them all because the bullets specially made to kill them.

The bold statement performed by Five is an assertive type of illocutionary acts. One suggests all his monster's friend to retreat and

Five as the speaker believe with One suggestion by statement “**Agreed**”. In this situation, Five makes his agreement suit the world via his utterance. The function of Five utterance is belief that the statement made by One is valid and accurate. It’s a brief way of communicating agreement with the recommendation that they should exit, and it serves to assert that Five holds the same view, stating the truth of that believe.

Directives

Directives is kind of illocutionary act that the speaker get the hearer to do something. The speaker uses a directive illocutionary act to persuade someone else to do something. This directive may place an obligation on the hearer. Advice, ask, beg, bid, command, demand, forbid, order, recommend, and request are of the example of Directives. The directive types of illocutionary act uttered several functions behind their own words. The following are examples and function of the directive illocutionary acts.

(1) Ep. 1 – Shotgun Boy

Student : Man, look at those clouds. I think this school retreat is gonna be a bust.
Suyeon : **Hey sit down back there! Stop walking around.** I don’t want any accident on this retreat. Got it?!

The example above was taken when the student goes to the school retreat on the bus. The student, as usual, couldn’t keep quiet, some were making noise with their friends next to them, some were singing and even running around on the bus. Suyeon as teacher directing the student to sit down and quiet because she doesn’t want something bad that can cause the retreat go wrong.

The bold utterance performed by Suyeon consist of directives type of illocutionary act. Suyeon as the speaker command the students by utterance “**Hey sit down back there! Stop walking around**”. The bold utterance performed by Suyeon can be classified as a directive type of illocutionary act of commands. The function of Suyeon utterance is a directive speech act of command. This is often aiming to

control behavior by direction the students to sit down and stop moving. It serves a regulative work ensuring order and possibly safety within the given context of situation.

(2) Ep. 7 – Shotgun Boy

Director Lee : Jayden! **Do something!**
Jayden : What? Really?!

The example above was taken from the scene in the auditorium when the monster start attacking all of the students and the teachers. When all of them get cornered by the monster, Shinhyeong provokes the monsters to draw their attention to her. One, one of the monsters facing the trembling Shinhyeong while she carrying a small knife and tells her to stab him but Mira who is possessed by Five wants her to face Shinhyeong because the real Mira really hates Shinhyeong. In the same moment Director Lee told Jayden to take some action.

The bold utterance performed by Director Lee consist of a directive type of illocutionary act. Director Lee as the speaker command Jayden to take action for them. The bold utterance comes within the category of directives type of illocutionary act of command. The function of Director Lee utterance is to command Jayden. The command compelling Jayden to act without hesitation because Director Lee feels it essential within the moment.

Commissive

Commissive is speech that is created with the intention of eliciting subsequent action. Searle states in Levinson (1983: 240) Commissive, which commit the speaker to some future course action. They convey the speaker’s intentions. Commissive is identical with promises and threats. This category of statements includes promises, threats, and refusals. The commissive types of illocutionary act uttered several functions behind their own words. The following are commissives and function of the commissive illocutionary acts.

(1) Ep. 1 – Shotgun Boy

Seongbin : What do you think will happen to you tomorrow if a single mosquito bite on me?

Gyuhwan : **I-I'll make sure that won't happen.**

The conversation above was taken from conversation between Seongbin and Gyuhwan in their room at night. Gyuhwan have to share a same room with Seongbin and other students. Their room was filled with mosquitos. Seongbin can't sleep peacefully at night tell Gyuhwan to kill the mosquitos. The sound of Gyuhwan clapping his hand in order to kill the mosquitos wakes up Seongbin and he threaten gyuhwan if he gets bitten by a mosquito, he won't let go Gyuhwan after the night. Gyuhwan who scared of Seongbin have to kill the mosquitos in their room with his hand but cannot make any sound.

The bold utterance performed by Gyuhwan consist of consist of commisive type illocutionary act. Gyuhwan as the speaker commit to kill the mosquito. The bold utterance comes within category of commissive types of illocutionary act of promise. The function of Gyuhwan utterance functions as a promise, as it commits Gyuhwan to ensuring a certain event does not occur, expresses a firm intention to prevent a certain event from happening and guarantee for a future action indicating Gyuhwan responsibility to resolve the mosquito issue.

(2) Ep. 10 – Shotgun Boy

Gyuhwan : I'm not giving this gun to anyone. **If you try to take it from me, I'll shot. I mean it.**

Director Lee : You little punk.

The sample above was taken after the monster attack the students and the teachers in the auditorium. The conversation happens when Shinheyong give shoes to Gyuhwan and telling him the auditorium. Shinhyeong told everyone go to teacher romm and Gyuhwan have to take a lead because he has a gun and it can kill the monsters. Before going to teacher room Director Lee tell he doesn't want a student like Gyuhwan holding a dangerous weapon and he want to take it from Gyuhwan.

The bold utterance performed by Gyuhwan consist of commissive type illocutionary act. Gyuhwan as the speaker threaten Director Lee by shooting him if he wants to take the gun. The

bold utterance comes within category of commissive types of illocutionary act of threat. The function of Gyuhwan utterance as a commissive speech act of threat is to threaten Director Lee if he takes a certain action. Gyuhwan committing to do harmful action and being serious about the action he will going to make.

Expressive

Expressive is a part of illocutionary act that the speaker conveys their feelings or attitudes about a situation and not intended to change the situation or provide information but to express personal emotions or reactions. Apologize, appreciate, blame, congratulate, mock, pardon, praise, thank, and welcome are all example of expressive. The expressive types of illocutionary act uttered several functions behind their own words. The following are the samples of expressive illocutionary act found in Webtoon.

(1) Ep. 09 – Shotgun Boy

Seven : **Thanks, Four.**

Four : Don't mention it.

The example above was taken from conversation between Seven and Four in auditorium. Gyuhwan almost attacked by one of the monsters but he quickly killed the monster. The other monster gets silent for a moment because they knew that a shotgun with a special bullet where it can kill them. Seven begin to attack Gyuhwan in fast but Gyuhwan definitely shoot Seven. The shot is missed slightly but still hit Seven's arm. Four see Seven arm got shot immediately cut Seven arm so he doesn't die from the bullet of the gun.

The bold utterance performed by Seven consist of expressive type illocutionary act. Seven as the speaker express his gratitude to Four for saved him. The bold utterance comes within category of expressive types of illocutionary act of thank. The function of utterance stated by seven is expressive illocutionary act of thanking as he is presenting his gratitude. Seven is stating that he feels grateful for Four action in order to saving his life from the bullet of the gun.

(2) Ep. 30 – Shotgun Boy

Three : I suppose so

Chanhyeok : **Th-thank you!**
Thank you so much!

The example above was taken from conversation between Three and Chanhyeok in the forest. Three who possessed Hayeong body see Seongbin meet Zero in his sunconscious. Chanhyeok and Sanggwon finally knew Hayeong is one of the monsters. Hayeong asked both of them if they will keep the secret is Hayeong is the Monster, but Hayeong if she really need both of them to deceive Seongbin. Chanhyeok asked Three for let him live and asked Chanhyeok and Sanggwon what the reason they want to live, they can't give any specific reason to Three. Three begin to attack them but Three just messing with them because they might have to jounce force.

The bold utterance performed by Chanhyeok consist of expressive type illocutionary act. Chanhyeok as the speaker express his gratitude to Three for not kiiling him. The bold utterance comes within category of expressive types of illocutionary act of thank. The function of Chanhyeok utterance is expressive illocutionary act of thanking as he is expressing a gratitude and emotional intensity. Chanhyeok with a strong emotional action thank for Three for not killing him with Sanggwon.

Decralative

Declarative illocutionary acts, as described in the previous chapter, occur when a speaker is using words to make a statement that changes the situation or the world. The declarative types of illocutionary act uttered several functions behind their own words. These examples of declarative illocutionary acts are based on the research findings.

(1) Ep. 25 – Shotgun Boy

Three : What the hell are you?

Zero : **I am zero.**

The example above was taken from the conversation between Three and Zero in the forest field. Seongbin accused Chayeong is a monster and hit her head with a baseball bat. Sanggwon tried to stop Seongbin because he know Chayeong is not a monster, if Chayeong really a monster she will have a tentacle come out from her body. Chayeong afraid of Seongbin action and run away from them. Three hiding in the forest see their action just

smile evily. Three following Chayeong in order to kill her. Three was attacked Chayeong because Chayeong saw too much action about Three killing the student. Then, Zero appear and cut Three tentacle, this make Chayeong save her life.

The bold utterance performed by Zero as the speaker is an act of declaring about herself. Zero as the speaker declare herself is Zero after Three asked her. The bold utterance performed by Zero can be classified as declarative type of illocutionary act because it expresses or declaration about the speaker state or identity. The function of Zero utterance is an identity confirmation, providing factual assertion of his name and resolving any ambiguity about Zero identity. The utterance performed by zero is a declarative statement and crucial for maintaining communication between Zero and Three.

(2) Ep. 47 – Shotgun Boy

Seongbin : Hayeong, were you always so cold- blooded?

Sanggwon : Of course, she was.

Because she actually one of the monsters.

The example above was taken from conversation between Seongbin and Sanggwon in the middle of the forest. The soldier come to the forest to eliminated the student. Seongbin, Sanggwon and Hayeong run away from soldier by pushing Chanhyeok to the soldier as a bait, Seongbin asked why hayeong so cold-blooded because he knew she is so kind.

The bold utterance performed by Sanggwon is declaration about Hayeong condition. Sanggwon as the speaker declares Hayeong is a monster because of his act using Chanhyeok as a bait. The bold utterance performed by Sanggwon can be classified as declarative type of illocutionary act because it expresses or declaration about Hayeong state or identity. The bold utterance performed by Sanggwon is a claim that Hayeong is a monster. The function of Sanggwon utterance is stating Hayeong become a monster by the fact Hayeong have different personality.

CONCLUSION

Based on research result in the previous chapter, there are some conclusions about this

research entitle “The Illocutionary Act Found in Shotgun Boy English Webtoon” that can be drawn. The conclusions will be explained in the following.

This study analyzes the types and functions of illocutionary acts using Searle’s (1979) theoretical framework. Searle classifies illocutionary acts into five categories: assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives. Each type serves a specific communicative purpose, with the primary function being to convey the speaker’s intended action within a particular context. Firstly, there are five types of illocutionary act found in English Webtoon entitled Shotgun Boy. Those types are assertive type, directive type, commissive type, expressive type, and declarative type.

Secondly, there are some functions of each type of illocutionary act found in English Webtoon entitled Shotgun Boy. The first assertive type has function to inform, belief, affirming, and informing about something they believe to be the case or not. The second is directives type has function to instruct the listener by uttering a statement about command and request. The third is commissive type has function to show the speaker’s promise and threat. The fourth is expressive type has function to express the speaker’s psychological statement of thankful and apologize. The last type is declarative type which has function to declare someone’s identity.

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