

## Illocutionary Act Analysis of Encouragement Songs

Received: February 26, 2020

Revised: March 05, 2020

Accepted: March 10, 2020

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### Abstract

The objective is to analyze Illocutionary Act in lyrics with meanings of encouragement. This research was conducted using qualitative research methods. The data is collected from 23 encouragement songs that come from the song suggestion website which are in the form of clauses and sentences from the lyrics. The data will be analyzed according to the theory Illocutionary by Searle (1996). This research shows that there are three types of Illocutionary Act are found in the lyrics. They are Representative, Directive and Commissive. Representative is found the most common type of Illocutionary act with 47 data (44.33%) followed by Directive with 37 data (34.90%), and Commissive with 14 data (13.20%). There are also some sentences with more than 1 types of illocutionary act. There are 3 data (2.830%) of representative and directive and 3 data (2.830%) of directive and commissive, and the least, there are 2 data (1.886%) representative and commissive. Encouragement songs tend to use storytelling, truth, experience, and imagination of the composers.

**Keywords:** Speech Acts, Song Lyrics, Encouragement Song

### Introduction

Language is an important thing for people. People use language to express their opinions and emotions through speaking, writing, including gestures in order to communicate with each other. Tira Nur Fitria (2015: 2) says that "language

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is communication." Communication is the connection between each other to share and exchange information with each other. Speech act theory focus on the use of language. When speaker utter the word or sentence, they expect that hearer can understand what the speaker means and react with the word or sentence that speaker said. Speech act try to explain that the way words are created by the speaker, whose intent is for the hearer to understand, not only clearly, but also implicit meaning. In addition, how does the speaker's intent affect the hearer how to respond or act? The scope of the speech act will focus on the intended meaning or illocutionary act.

The illocutionary act is centered to the concept of a speech act. Searle (1997) states that illocutionary act is an act performed in saying something. Therefore, Illocutionary acts are often found in spoken language or our daily conversation. But Illocutionary acts are also performed the intention of the speaker to say whether the state, suggestion, promise etc. So, Illocutionary act can be found in written language which is intended to speak to the reader. In the language of writing, literature work such as dramas, movies, novels, short stories, and songs can be analyzed by Illocutionary act theory.

Song is a type of literary work that writer compose the language into lyrics and add melodies to create melodious. The song can make the listener to feel the emotions with the song. song is like communicating with listeners through lyrics that are in the form of words or sentences. Noni Novyanti (2019: 4) states that written language such as song lyrics the speaker is the writer and the speech act partner. The example below is shown the illocutionary act found in encouragement song lyrics. It is taken from the song lyrics of "Survivor" by Destiny's Child:

I'm a survivor  
I'm gonna make it  
Keep on surviving

From the lyrics above can be seen there are illocutionary acts such as representative: “I’m a survivor” which is stating something that she still alive, commissive: “I’m gonna make it” which is promising to the addressee that the speaker will do something, and directive: “Keep on surviving” which is commanding the addressee to keep they life to survive. The example above explains how this research will be done using illocutionary act theory.

From the previous research, it has found there are quite a lot of research in speech act in many ways such as movie, advertise and song. But most of research, they tend to study songs that are albums by the singer alone or from the song name. Examples; Zulkarnain Wisnu Cahyono (2013) studied A Pragmatic Analysis of Imperative Sentences in The Song of Mr. Big Album. This research analyzed locution and illocution act and classifying illocutionary act from imperative sentences in the song of Mr. Big album. The results of the research found 35 locution acts of imperative sentence from 18 songs. And illocutionary act found on imperative sentence: the most is representatives, followed by directive, commissive and least expressive. Hoegeline Debby Inusentia Ngape (2017) studied The Illocutionary Acts Found in the Lyrics of the Script’s #3 Album. This research is to find out what types of illocutionary act are found in lyrics of 3 songs of the album entitled “#3”. The result of this research shows that there are only 4 out of 6 types of illocutionary acts that can be found in the lyrics of the 3 songs which are representative, commissive, directive and expressive. The rogative and declaration function do not appear in those 3 songs. Noni Novyanti (2019) studied Illocutionary Act in Song Lyrics of Ed Sheeran’s Divide Album This research analyzed the lyrics of Ed Sheeran’s Divide Album. The results of the research found 4 illocutionary act types: the most is representatives, followed by directive, express and least commissive. Function of Illocutionary Act found 4 types: the most is collaborative function followed by competitive function, convivial

function and least conflictive function. The researcher is therefore interested speech act from the meaning of song. The researcher chose the topic which is encouragement song.

Therefore, In the present people tend to have problems with stress, depression, lack self-esteem and discouragement, these conditions occur due to lack of encouragement. Louise Clarke (2014) states that encouragement means to put courage in, to inspire. Encouragement makes one feel good about oneself and therefore believe in oneself as it comes from within, it is an internal motivator. Encouragement helps build self-esteem and self-confidence. [www.yourdictionary.com](http://www.yourdictionary.com) (2018) defined encouragement is as an expression of support or approval or is words or actions that assist or inspire someone or something. Encouragement can be done in many ways such as; going to see a doctor for advice, talking with good friends or family for encourage them. Beside from the methods mentioned above, there is another way you can heal the stress, depression, self-esteem and discouragement by listening to song because song is special that can make us feel emotionally along with the song. For example, if you listen to a sad song, you will probably feel sad about the song. Likewise, if the days you need encouragement. The song with encouragement content will help inspire you and give you the power to move forward.

In this research, the researcher purpose shows that what kind of speech act is used in encouragement song lyrics that people highly listened and recommended as a song that can encourage people.

## **Objective of Research**

To explore the types of illocutionary act in the encouragement contents of encouragement songs.

Research Methodology

The data are collected by purposive sampling method. The data are compiled from the lyrics of encouragement song with the following steps: randomly selected 7 websites that rank the encouragement song, select the song that each website recommends alike at least 3 songs or more and have at least 20 million views on YouTube, listening the songs, reading and understanding lyrics, selecting song content that is meaningful in giving encourage, write lyrics selected in the paper, classify lyrics by type illocutionary act. There are 23 encouragement songs in order to analyze the illocutionary act according to Searle (1997:) There are five types of illocutionary act; Representatives, Directives, Commissives, Expressives and Declarations which types are according to Searle's theory

Result of Research

The finding shows that the amount of data is 106 utterances in 23 encouragement songs. It can be categorized in three types of illocutionary acts in the encouragement song including representative, directive and commissive. Expressive and declarations are not found in the encouragement lyrics.

Table 1 Percentage data finding of Illocutionary Acts

Types of speech act	Number	Percentage
Representative	47	44.33
Directive	37	34.90
Commissive	14	13.20
Representative + Directive	3	2.83
Representative + Commissive	2	1.88
Directive + Commissive	3	2.83
Total	106	100

Table 1 shows that the total numbers of data are 106 data from 23 songs having Illocutionary Acts. In the table we can see that the most dominant types of Illocutionary Acts found is *representative* with 47 data (44.339%), followed by *directive* with 37 data (34.905%), *commissive* with 14 data (13.207%), *representative + directive* and *directive + commissive* 3 sentences (2.830%), and the least *representative + commissive* 2 sentences (1.886%). From the data finding that shows in the table, the researcher can conclude that encouragement songs often use language from the speakers to believe, prediction, truth, etc. The example of illocutionary act analysis from lyrics with meaning in encouragement, as following

**1. Representatives** This type of illocutionary act is a talk or explanation about what a speaker believes or is true. The speaker makes the words he believes to be true such as predicting, confessing, denying, retorting, conjectures, suppositions, and includes stating, claiming, informing, concluding, representing, deducing, describing, reporting, telling, and many others.

(1) “You can do anything you set your mind to, man”

This lyric comes from the song "Lose yourself" by Eminem. This lyric is representative of telling. He tells the listener that you can do everything you want to do.

**2. Directives** This type of illocutionary act is in which the speaker wants the hearer to do something, such as asking, advising, encouraging, warning, begging, suggesting, commanding, ordering, requesting, inviting, are all the examples of how the speaker expresses his or her wants.

(2) “Don’t lose your grip on the dreams of the past”

This lyric comes from the song " Eye of the Tiger " by Survivor.

This lyric is directive of encouraging. He says to the listener that do not abandon the dream, must dare to face it and the lyrics have content to stand up to fight to be a survivor.

**3. Commisives** This type of speech act is to commit the speaker himself, such as promising, offering, threatening, recommending, refusing, vowing, wishing, guaranteeing, and refusals.

(3) "I'm gonna make it.",

This lyric comes from the song " Survivor" by Destiny's Child. This lyric is commissive of promising. She commits to future action that she has something to do. In this song, it talks about her ex-boyfriend who abandoned her. She must live without him. What she wants to do is to be stronger and have a better life, even without her ex-boyfriend.

#### **4. Representative + Directive**

(4) "You only get one shot, do not miss your chance to blow"

This lyric comes from the song " Lose yourself " by Eminem. This lyric has two types of illocutionary act: representative of stating and directive of suggesting. He says you don't have a lot of chances and since once they come to you, he suggests you that don't let them go.

#### **5. + Commissive**

(5) "You call me up because you know I'll be there."

This lyric comes from the song " True Colors " by Cyndi Lauper. This lyric has two types of illocutionary act: representative of telling and commissive of guaranteeing. She tells someone called her and she guarantees that she will be by their side.

#### **6. Directive + Commissive**

(6) "Take my hand and we'll make it."

This lyric comes from the song " Livin' on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi. This lyric has two types of illocutionary act: directive of ordering and commissive of promising. He orders his lover to take his hand and he promises to do something with his lover.

## Conclusion and Discussion

The purpose of this research was to analyze song with encouragement content by using Searle's illocutionary theory. The result of the research shows that the lyrics that have the meaning of encouragement are found most in the representative type. This is probably because composers often use storytelling, the experiences of the composers to write songs. It is consistent with Noni Novyanti (2019) that found the representative most because the author wants to represent his belief or thought to the addressees. Both Noni Novyanti (2019) analyzed the lyrics of Ed Sheeran's Divide Album and Hoegeline Debby Inusenthia Ngape (2017) find out what types of illocutionary act are found in lyrics of 3 songs of the album entitled "# 3" they chose to analyze all lyrics of song. As for Zulkarnain Wisnu Cahyono (2013), chose to analyze specific imperative sentences from the song. But in this research, the researcher chooses to analyze the lyrics from the meaning which has not been done before. We also found that in 1 sentence there can be 2 types of illocutionary act. Although there are quite a few types of 2 types of illocutionary act in 1 sentence, which may come from the composition of the language to be easy to sing, rhyme and concise. Therefore, they often use 1 type of illocutionary act per 1 sentence. But the results of the research show that there are many types of illocutionary act in the encouragement song. Song is like telling a long story with many sentences combined, as well as communication in daily life we do not communicate with just one illocutionary act. In a conversation, we have storytelling, notices, requests, expressions etc. Encouragement is another way to have a conversation. To encourage someone, we should consider many factors, including the emotions of the people that we are encouraging and the problems they have faced. Some people may have difficulty encourage people. They choose the wrong words, even if they want to encourage, but the words may seem to blame hearer to make the hearer feel bad. Therefore, if you want to encourage your hearer to feel good. You can use the encouragement sentence patterns of encouragement song in this research to encourage people in everyday life.

## Suggestions

According to the finding, the researcher would like to propose some suggestions as follows,

1. To the future researchers, the locution and illocution act of encouragement songs would be analyzed in order to understanding both form and function of illocutionary force in deeper understanding.

2. The researcher hope that the next study would be analyzed in the other songs including country songs, church songs and lullaby songs.

3. The other encouragement utterance could be conducted with illocutionary act including movies and influencer's speech. It may be exploring the distinctive result.

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