

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the fundamental framework of the research, focusing on the illocutionary acts performed by the main character in the movie *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*. It provides a comprehensive overview of the study by outlining the background and rationale for the research, formulating the specific research questions, and defining the primary objectives. Additionally, this chapter explains the significance of the findings and establishes the scope and limitations to ensure a focused and systematic investigation.

1.1. Background of the study

Film as a complex form of communication art has an important role in conveying messages and meanings. In this context, analyzing the language used in movies can provide deep insights into interpersonal interactions and character dynamics. Movies are a rich source of authentic language because they reflect real-life communication styles, including expressions, speech acts, and Pragmatic functions used in daily conversations. By using films as data sources, researchers can observe how language is used naturally in various contexts, which helps enhance understanding of linguistic theories such as speech acts. Moreover, films provide visual and situational contexts that support a more comprehensive analysis, making them highly beneficial for linguistic and Pragmatic studies.

“*Guardians of the Galaxy*” was chosen in this research because it is a popular movie with a wide audience and strong character portrayals. The movie is known for its unique blend of humor, action, and emotional scenes, resulting in a variety of speech acts used by the characters. The dialogues are not only entertaining but also meaningful, containing implicit and explicit illocutionary acts that reflect the intentions and personalities of the characters. This makes “*Guardians of the Galaxy*” an ideal object of study to analyze how language is used to command, request, promise, express feelings, and declare intentions within different situations.

Specifically, “*Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*” was selected because it provides deeper character development compared to the first movie. In the sequel, the story focuses more on the personal backgrounds, emotional conflicts, and relationship dynamics among the characters, especially the main character, Peter Quill. This movie reveals how Peter Quill communicates to lead his team, resolve conflicts, and express his feelings about family and friendship. Therefore, by choosing the second volume of this movie, this study aims to explore a richer variety of illocutionary acts performed by the main character in diverse emotional and social contexts.

As part of this study, this research delves into the speech act theory proposed by Austin (1975), which posits that speaking is a form of action. This concept refers to the intent or purpose behind a statement, which suggests that every statement not only conveys information, but also involves certain actions in the context of communication. In this movie, main character’s use of illocutionary acts reflects their relationships, conflicts, and character development throughout the story. By understanding that speech has the power to perform actions, this research will examine how illocutionary acts in movies can create deeper meanings and influence character dynamics.

This concept is particularly suitable for this study because Speech Act Theory provides a clear framework to analyze how language functions beyond its literal meaning. In the context of movie dialogues, especially in *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, characters often use language not just to convey information, but to command, request, persuade, promise, and express emotions, all of which are categorized as illocutionary acts. By applying this theory, the research can systematically identify and classify the types of speech acts used by the main character, revealing the communicative intentions embedded within each utterance. Furthermore, this approach is effective in analyzing movie scripts because it allows researchers to explore the Pragmatic aspects of language, including how speech is used to achieve social goals and manage interpersonal relationships. Thus, using Speech Act Theory enables a deeper understanding of how the main character’s language reflects his leadership, emotional struggles, and interactions with others throughout the movie.

Illocutionary acts are chosen as the focus of this study because they represent the speaker's intentions and the functions of language in communication. Understanding illocutionary acts allows researchers to analyze how language is used to perform actions such as commanding, requesting, promising, or expressing feelings, rather than merely conveying information. This concept is fundamental in Pragmatics as it emphasizes that language is a tool for action within social contexts. By studying illocutionary acts, this research can reveal how meaning is constructed and negotiated between interlocutors, which is crucial in understanding authentic communication patterns as seen in movie dialogues. Thus, analyzing illocutionary acts provides deeper insights into the communicative competence of speakers and how language influences interactions and relationships.

This study focuses on the main character because the main character plays a central role in driving the plot, resolving conflicts, and interacting with various other characters throughout the movie. The main character's dialogues often contain diverse types of illocutionary acts as he needs to instruct, motivate, negotiate, express emotions, and assert his ideas to others. By focusing on the main character, the research can analyze a wide range of speech functions that reflect his personality, leadership, and emotional development. Additionally, the main character's utterances tend to influence the storyline more significantly compared to supporting characters, making them a rich source of data to understand how language is used to achieve goals, resolve conflicts, and establish social relationships within the movie.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 is worth analyzing because it presents complex interpersonal interactions and character dynamics within a unique context of humor, action, and emotional storytelling. The movie explores themes such as leadership, friendship, loyalty, and family, all of which are communicated through meaningful dialogues. The main character, Peter Quill, frequently uses language to express his struggles with identity and family issues, to command his team in critical missions, and to maintain harmony among diverse group members with different personalities and backgrounds. This combination of humorous, directive, emotional, and assertive speech acts creates a rich Pragmatic phenomenon, making

it an ideal object of study to understand how illocutionary acts function to build character relationships and advance the narrative meaningfully.

From the theories previously discussed, it can be concluded that communication between characters in movies plays a crucial role, particularly in creating speech acts that carry meaning and intention. One of the interesting movies that demonstrates various speech acts is *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*. This movie, which is a sequel to *Guardians of the Galaxy* (2014), follows the adventures of a group of anti-heroes consisting of Star-Lord (Peter Quill), Gamora, Drax, Rocket, and Baby Groot as they embark on a new mission while uncovering Peter Quill's origins.

Linguistically, *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* is rich in illocutionary acts because its dialogues reflect a wide range of speech functions such as commanding, requesting, expressing emotions, promising, and persuading within various contexts. The movie combines action, humor, and emotional scenes, which lead the characters to use language not only to deliver information but also to influence, motivate, argue, and build relationships. For example, Peter Quill as the main character frequently uses directive speech acts to lead his team, expressive acts to reveal his feelings, and commissive acts to promise and reassure his teammates. These speech acts show how language is used strategically to achieve goals, maintain team unity, and express personal struggles.

What makes the illocutionary acts in this movie particularly interesting to study is how the characters' utterances reflect their personalities, relationships, and development throughout the story. The interactions among diverse characters, each with unique backgrounds and communication styles, create rich Pragmatic phenomena that reveal the dynamics of leadership, loyalty, and conflict resolution. Therefore, analysing the illocutionary acts in *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* will not only provide insights into the functions of language in fictional dialogues but also demonstrate how language is used to build character depth and advance the narrative meaningfully.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the background of the study, there are two statements of research questions that can be analyzed, those are:

1. What are the types of illocutionary acts of main character in the *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*?
2. What are the functions of the illocutionary acts in the main character of *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*?

1.3. Objective of the Study

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To classify the types of illocutionary employed by main character in "*Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*".
2. To explain the functions of illocutionary acts in the main character of "*Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*".

1.4. Significance of the Study

This research has strong significance from both theoretical and practical aspects. Theoretically, this research will contribute to the development of illocutionary theory by applying language analysis to works of fiction, particularly in the context of movies. It will make a valuable contribution to the understanding of main characters in movies and how their illocutionary actions can reveal personality as well as influence narrative development.

In practical terms, this research will provide a more in depth interpretation of *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, giving viewers a deeper understanding of the main characters and the messages implied in the work. In addition, it will also help language students and researchers to develop better language analysis skills, which can be applied in various communication contexts. The result of this research is expected to be useful:

1. For Lecturers :

This research can serve as a valuable reference and teaching material for lecturers specializing in Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis. It provides practical examples of speech act application in modern media, which can be utilized to

enrich classroom discussions or be further developed into collaborative academic publications and scientific journals.

2. For Students :

Students will gain a deeper understanding of language analysis and its application in film studies. This will enrich their learning experience and help in their own research.

3. For Researchers

The result of this study can serve as a foundation for further research in language analysis in works of fiction or character analysis in film. This study will also contribute to the scientific literature and understanding of language in the context of film, thus providing benefits for future studies in this field.

Overall, this research makes an important contribution to academic, educational, and knowledge development in the field of language analysis and film studies, benefiting both lecturers, students, and researchers working in this field.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research specifically focuses on the illocutionary acts performed by the main character, Peter Quill, in *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, based on Searle's theory (1969). This study aims to identify and analyze the types of illocutionary acts used and the illocutionary functions inflicted by the main character towards other characters in the narrative. The types of illocutionary acts will be analyzed using Searle's theory (1969), while the functions of the illocutionary acts will be analyzed based on Leech's theory (1983). However, it is important to realize the limitations of this study.

This research limits its data to the utterances of Peter Quill (Star-Lord) in *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* only, and does not extend the analysis to other characters, movies, sequels, prequels, or adaptations within the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Furthermore, this study does not analyze non-verbal communication, such as gestures, facial expressions, or visual cues that might strengthen the illocutionary force of the utterances. The analysis is also limited to the linguistic aspects of the dialogues without considering the full psychological motivations or

detailed character backgrounds beyond what is presented in the film itself. Lastly, this research only focuses on English utterances in the movie and will not analyze dubbed or translated versions that may have different Pragmatic meanings.

Despite these limitations, this study provides valuable insights into the use of illocutionary acts and how they contribute to character and plot development in *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, and serves as a foundation for further research in the field of Pragmatics and film studies.