

## Analysis of Speech Acts Classification in Movie Script of The Main Character of Netflix Series Entitled “Wednesday” Episode 1

<sup>1</sup>Fatmawati, <sup>2</sup>Sri Mulatsih

<sup>1,2</sup>Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia  
([311202102429@mhs.dinus.ac.id](mailto:311202102429@mhs.dinus.ac.id))

**Abstract.** The aim of this research is to analyze types of speech acts classification contained in films. This research applies pragmatic studies to obtain types of speech acts classification from the film entitled “Wednesday”. Then, the speech was analyzed and classified by applying the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The data source for this research is utterances used by the main character “Wednesday Addams” in the Netflix series of “Wednesday”. This series has 8 episodes directed by famous director Tim Burton. The main character “Wednesday Addams” is Jenna Ortega. To obtain the desired research results, research was carried out using qualitative descriptive methods. The data of this research was analyzed using pragmatic approach. Researchers found 41 speech acts in the main character’s speech. The researchers found 5 types of speech acts classification used in character “Wednesday Addams” on episode 1. It consists of representatives (22%), directives (44%), commissive (17%), expressive (15%), and declaratives (2%). In this study directive speech acts were dominantly used by the main character, such as giving orders, asking for help, asking instructive questions.

**Keywords:** *language; film, pragmatics, speech acts, classification*

### RESEARCH BACKGROUND (HEADING 1 STYLE)

In this current era of globalization, language has become an important component in interacting with fellow humans. Language is a tool for humans to connect and bond with each other. Languages have many varieties throughout the world that maybe countless. The language used to communicate can also be a means of expressing oneself. For example, when we feel disappointed in someone, we will express it through language by using certain diction which indicates that the words contain the meaning of disappointment. Each language has its own uniqueness and specialties. However, it has the same function, namely as a tool for expressing oneself and a means of communication. Based on Jeans Aitchison (2008: 21) “Language is patterned system of arbitrary sound signals, characterized by structure dependence, creativity, displacement, duality, and cultural transmission”.

Film is also a tool for communicating through visual and sound media. Likewise, with language, language can be conveyed through sound and visuals. Films are not only a tool for seeking entertainment but also a tool for communicating and interacting with many people. Films are made with the aim of conveying a message certain social or moral aspect to the audience. On it there is a reality that grows and develops in society, film can create almost the same as what the audience feels. In this research I chose to analyze a Netflix series with the title “Wednesday”. This film released in 2022. Wednesday tells the story of a character named Wednesday Addams who is smart, sarcastic, and a little heartless. Wednesday Addams investigates a murder while meeting new friends and some enemies at Nevermore Academy. Film stars by Jenna Ortega, Gwendoline Christie, Riki Lindhome and produced by Alfred Gough, Miles Millar. This film has a mystery, school life, and thriller background. I chose this film because there are many language expressions related to pragmatics and speech act.

To understand language use and context, pragmatics knowledge is needed. A more complete concept was put forward by Glanberg (2005) and Ariel (2008) that pragmatics is the study of something more than beyond what the speaker means through his speech because there is additional information (extra-information) in context. The opposite of the concept accordingly, Griffith (2006) put forward a narrow concept that pragmatics is the study of the meaning of speech. Deep “meaning”, Griffith’s concept is “intent” according to other experts. Levinson (in Hasan et al, (2021:24) states that pragmatics as the study of the relation language and context. Meanwhile, according to Verhaar (1996: 14), Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that discusses what constitutes language structure as a means of communication between speakers and listeners, and as a reference to language signs on “extra lingual” things being discussed.

Talking about pragmatics and language, there is an expression called speech act. In linguistic, speech acts are utterances that are grouped based on the speaker’s intentions and their effect on the listener. Generally, speech act also hopes to provoke among their audiences. Speech act can be form of requests, warnings, promises, apologies, greetings, or several statements. This study deals with speech acts, the writers formulate a problem of the study as follow. “What are the types of speech acts on the film entitled Wednesday?” Related to the formulation as before, the objective of this study tries to identify the types of speech acts classification on the film entitled Wednesday. This research analyzes the speech act classification of the main character, named Wednesday Addams or Jenna Ortega.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE (HEADING 1 STYLE)**

According to Leech (1983: 6) states that pragmatics is the study of meaning which is related to the speech situation. Yule (1996:3) states that speech acts are a study of how the speakers and hearers use language. Bach (1979) explains that an action in verbal communication has a message, so the communication is not only about language but also with action. Meanwhile, the definition of pragmatics according to Levinson (1987: 5) is the study of language use or the study of language and a functional perspective. Yule (1996) has quoted that pragmatics deals with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker or a writer and interpreted through a listener or reader. Moreover, pragmatics is learning about how more acquires communicated than it said due the fact that is investigates how are listeners may appeal inferences about what speakers intend to say.

According to Griffiths (2005: 148) states that speech act is the basic unit of linguistic interactions such as giving warning, greeting, applying, telling information, confirming, an appointment, and other expression. (Yule, 1996:47) speech act is the utterances which are performed in action by two people or more as a speaker and hearer. Speech act does not only focus on the sentences of conversation but also depending on the situation because a sentence has meaning when it is related to the situation and the context. Cruse (2006: 167-169) describe that speech act is acts which crucially involve the production of language. While, according to Nunan (1993: 65) speech acts are simply things people do through language. For examples, apologizing, instructing, agreeing, warning, and complaining. Searle (1996: 16) defines that the production or issuance of a sentence taken under certain condition is a speech act and speech act are the basic or minimal units of linguistic communication. Speech acts classification (Searle), that at least five classifications speech acts pragmatically that can be proposed by the speaker such as representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations.

### **1. REPRESENTATIVES**

Representatives are speech acts that the utterances commit the speaker to the truth of expressed proposition. It reveals the underlying condition of the utterance's meaning. Representatives speech act can be noted by some speech acts verb such as: informing, reporting, announcing, predicting, concluding, believing and so on. For example, "*Nasa announced that the sun always rises from the east*". Nasa stated a fact that it is true that the sun always rises from the east. Phrases that contain facts and statements are called representative; people also believe in the fact that the sun always rises from the east. The statements states what the speaker believe to be the case or not, this is related to the person's view or respective perspective. Fact statements, assertions, descriptions, and conclusions are examples of a speaker representing the world as they believe it to be.

### **2. DIRECTIVES**

Directives is a speech act used by speaker to persuade people to take an action. Directives speech act can be noted by some speech acts verb such as: advices, asking, requesting, command, recommendation, ordering, suggesting, and forbidding. For example, when you are having dinner with friends and at the table to your friend there's a pot of drink, you want to take a glass of drink because your hand can't reach it. So, we'll say "*Can you get me a drink next to you, please?*" the sentence is an example of an expression of request.

### **3. COMMISSIVE**

Commissive is a type of speech act used by speakers to make a commitment to do something in the future. Commissive speech act can be noted by some speech acts verb such as: promising, threatening, offering, and refusing. For example, "*I promise we'll meet when I return from America someday*". Indicates that speaker intends to meet you after returning from America. This sentence is an expression of promise.

### **4. EXPRESSIVE**

Expressive is speech activities that express the speaker's emotions are considered expressive. These speech act include saying thank you, apologizing, welcoming, congratulating, ridiculing, praising, applauding, blaming someone and so on. For example, "*Wohoo-hoo. That's a good choice*". Indicates that speaker gives a very enthusiastic and happy expression. The words "*Wohoo-hoo*", we can imagine they said it while jumping for joy when they finds out that their friend are talking to agrees with their decision or in the context of a friend asking them to go on holiday to japan, but when you ask them whether they wants to or not they're still in doubt then in the end they agree to go on holiday together with you.

### **5. DECLARATIONS**

Declarations are speech acts whose utterance gives rise to instantaneous changes in institutional circumstances and which tend to rely on complex extralinguistic institutions. Declarations speech act can be noted by some speech acts verb such as: excommunicating, declaring war, baptism, dismissal from work, and appointment. For example, When the principal said, "*From today you are expelled from this school because you have committed violence*". This sentence includes a declaration, where the context is that a student is forcibly expelled for violating school regulations. The only person who can say something like that is someone who has the highest authority in the school

## RESEARCH METHOD (HEADING 1 STYLE)

The method of this research is descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative is a method which describes and observes the characteristic of phenomenon being studied. According to Cresswell (1994: 195) “A qualitative study focuses on participants’ perceptions and experiences which are presented with words”. This method goals to gain a better understanding of the previous studies. The data of this study gets from the Netflix Series entitled “Wednesday”.

The main data of this study were dialogue transcript of the film. Since it is descriptive qualitative approach, the data were in the forms of lingual units such as words, clauses, or sentences. The data collected from the utterances performed in the dialogues by the character “Wednesday Addams” in Wednesday film just only on episode 1. The researcher watches this film comprehensively in order to get a deep comprehension. So, they also try to find out the lingual units related to the objective of the study. They write the data and classify based on Searle’s types of speech acts classification consist of representatives, directives, declaration, commissive, and expressive.

The process of this analysis began when the researcher collect data. The researcher attempts to identify the types of speech acts classification utilized by character “Wednesday Addams” in the film. In addition, the researcher provided a descriptive exhaustive explanation of data sources, documentation findings are referred to as descriptive texts. After the data already got identification, the data classify and analysis into their 5 types of speech act classification by Searle including representatives, directives, declaration, commissive, and expressive. Then, the researcher describes an interpret the data in order to answer objective of this study.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (HEADING 1 STYLE)

In this data section the researcher total of 41 sentences were found containing speech acts classification. The highest gain was in the directive speech acts type up to 44%, the secondgain was occupied by representative speech acts type 22%, the followed by commissive speechacts type 17%, then expressive speech acts type 15%, and the last declaration speech acts typepercentage gain 2% only. Directive speech act was dominantly used by the character because....

**Table 1. Speech Acts Classification**

Speech Acts Classification	Frequency	Percentage
1. Representative	9	22%
2. Directives	18	44%
3. Commissive	7	17%
4. Expressive	6	15%

5. Declaration	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100%</b>

Here are five pieces of data collected by researchers in researching of speech acts classification from *Netflix series* entitled “*Wednesday*” directed by famous director Tim Burton, on episode 1:

## EXCERPT 1

### Representative Speech Acts

(Informing, reporting, announcing, predicting, concluding, believing and so on) Wednesday:  
*“I find social media to be a soul sucking avoid of meaningless affirmation”.*

This sentence is a **representative speech acts** because it conveys information or describes existing facts. The context is when the character “*enid*” offers “*Wednesday*” to download a social media application, because Enid is a youtuber and she wants Wednesday, who is closed to the outside and modern world, to have a more colorful life and have fun, but Wednesday says so, “*I find social media to be a soul sucking avoid of meaningless affirmation*”. Wednesday believes that having social media is useless. Regardless of whether it is factual or not, the statements made by Wednesday are subjective. In a representative speech act, the speaker (*Wednesday*) conveys a statement that can be considered true or false, such as providing information, describing a situation, or stating a fact. So, representative sentences usually play a role in conveying information or describing the situation that *Wednesday* feels.

## EXCERPT 2

### Directive Speech Acts

(Advices, asking, requesting, command, recommendation, ordering, suggesting, and forbidding)

Wednesday: “*Lurch, please remind my parents that I’m not longer speaking to them*”.

The sentence “*Lurch, please remind my parents that I’m not longer speaking to them*” is a **directive** expression of speech act classification. Because that sentence shows a request expression that is only found in the structure of a directive speech act sentence. Directive

speech acts include giving orders, asking for help, asking instructive questions, and the like. The context here is that character of *Wednesday* is talking to her parents in the car. However, Wednesday felt annoyed because her parents kept discussing that Nevermore School would provide a good life for *Wednesday*. Basically, *Wednesday* didn’t want to be moved to Nevermore but because she acted up and almost killed her friend she was forced to move. Nevermore is the place where her parents went to school and met. But because Wednesday doesn’t want this move, she is annoyed with her parents. Her parents asked her why she was acting cold, she said something to the driver and asked him to tell her parents.

### EXCERPT 3

#### Commissive Speech acts

(Promising, threatening, offering, and refusing)

Wednesday: *"I will never fall in love or be a housewife or have a family"*.

This sentence is a **commissive** sentence because it contains a promise. Commissives often use verbs that express commitment, such as *"I will," "I promise,"* or *"I declare."* And in this sentence, there are the words *"I will never"* which means *Wednesday* will not do what she has previously said. The context here is when *Wednesday* has a private conversation with her mother and then her mother gives her a W-shaped necklace and gives a little advice about life. Then *Wednesday* denies her mother's words that she doesn't want to fall in love and have a married life like her. Because *Wednesday* is known as a mysterious person, ignorant, heartless, and doesn't care about people's nonsense, she is an anti-romantic person.

### EXCERPT 4

#### Expressive speech act

(Thank you, apologizing, welcoming, congratulating, ridiculing, praising, applauding, blaming someone)

Wednesday: *"Hello, thing!"*

The sentence *"Hello, thing"* is an **expressive speech act** because the word *"hello"* contains the meaning of greeting someone. A greeting mostly expresses an expression of pleasure. This speech act includes expressions of feelings, such as happiness. Expressive sentences often use words or phrases that express the speaker's personal feelings, such as *"I'm happy," "I'm sad,"* or *"I'm angry."* The context here is that *Wednesday* finds out that she is being spied on by her father by sending *"thing"* (the name of the character) as a spy subject. *Thing* here is described as a severed hand that can walk on its own and can be commanded but considered as her family by the Addams family.

### EXCERPT 5

#### Declaration Speech Acts

(Excommunicating, declaring war, baptism, dismissal from work, and appointment.)

Wednesday: *"No mask, no tips. Winner draw first blood"*

The sentence “*No mask, no tips. Winner draw first blood*” is a type of speech act **declaration** because it contains a governing sentence. The context here is that *Wednesday* as the main character enters the fencing competition arena. She wants to fight a character named Bianca who is considered superior in fencing. After half the match, *Wednesday* gave a challenge to compete without masks, tips, and who could injure the opponent until she bled, she would win. The fencing coach agrees, so character *Wednesday* here is considered to have the power to make decisions. Declarations often function to provide official information or statements that are considered to change status or circumstances and can also be an expression of formalizing a decision.

## CONCLUSION (HEADING 1 STYLE)

From the research result the researcher can conclude that there are five types of speech acts classification which occur on Netflix series entitled “Wednesday” Those are representative, directive, commissive, expression, and declaration. From the data that already analyzing, it clearly seen that the most frequent occurrence of speech acts classification found in series “Wednesday” is directive speech acts with a percentage gain of 44%. The total data found in series “Wednesday” by the character of “*Wednesday Addams*” in episode 1 was 41 sentences. With a small percentage of declaration speech acts. Based on the analysis, declaration speech act is the fewest because the context in the film refer to mystery and thriller films, so the expression to formalize something or considered to change status or circumstances rarely found in this film. On the contrary, the words commands, requests, suggestions and orders are often expressed by the character of “Wednesday”.

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