

THE ILLOCUTIONARY ACT OF ISLAMIC VIDEO ENTITLED “THE MEANING OF LIFE” BY TALK ISLAM

MUHAMMAD FATKHU ARIFIN & FITRI PALUPI

*Department of Teacher Training and Education
Muhammadiyah University
Lampung, e-mail: upin19ipin@gmail.com*

Abstract

The title of this research is “The Illocutionary Act of Islamic Video Entitled ‘The Meaning of Life’ by Talk Islam”. This research is purposed to answer the problem formulation that questioning about the types of the utterances, the functions of illocutionary acts, and the context of illocutionary act’s functions. This research used descriptive qualitative method that described the data which have been collected. The object of this research is the illocutionary acts of the video entitled “The Meaning of Life” by Talk Islam. The data are collected by downloading the video through You Tube site. The collected data, then was analyzed by dividing the illocutionary acts into some types of utterance, they are; imperative, interrogative, and declarative. To find the context, the illocutionary acts are divided into some functions, those are; representative, directive, expressive, commissive, and declarative. Furthermore, The result shows that the speaker spoke mostly declarative utterances followed by interrogative utterances, and then imperative utterances. The speaker delivered most of his illocutionary acts with representative function, the following illocutionary acts are with expressive function, directive function, declarative function, and commissive function. Seeing the percentages, it shows that the speaker intended to provides the strong argument with the massive evidences sourced from the Holy Quran.

Keywords: Illocutionary Act, Speech Act, The Meaning of Life

1. Introduction

Illocutionary act is a kind of pragmatic study which is concerned in this study. It is one of three types of the speech acts namely locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. The second course of action namely illocutionary acts are acts of doing something. Discussed in this speech acts is about purpose, function, or the power of speech.

Based on the description above, this study is proposed to answer how far the illocutionary acts are included in the Islamic video entitled “The Meaning of Life” by Talk Islam. It is aimed is to find out the purposes of the video and to verify the message that the producer wants to share through the video.

2. Theoretical Background

3. Method

Researcher believes that the qualitative research is considered more appropriate toward this study –analyzing the illocutionary act. This believe is in line with Hancock, et al., (2009) that qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena. That is to say, it aims to help us to understand the social world in which we live and why things are the way they are.

The technique of collecting data that is used in this research is observation. Based on Hancock, et al., (2009), observation is a technique that can be used when data cannot be collected through other means, or those collected through other means are of limited value or are difficult to validate. In some research observation of people is not required but observation of the environment. This can provide valuable background information about the environment where a research project is being undertaken. To sum up, the researcher used observation technique in order to collecting data from the video entitled “The Meaning of Life” by Talk Islam. The original video entitled “The Meaning of Life” was published by the official administrator of Talk Islam on September 15th 2013.

Further, The data analysis involves processing or summarizing the mass of the data collected then present the most important features (Hancock & Ockleford, 2009). Hancock added that in qualitative research, the practice of data analyzing is such describing the phenomenon, articulating what it means, and understanding it. While in this research, the researcher applying all the implementations that are mentioned by Hancock. The researcher analyzed the data by making a percentage of the types of utterance and the functions of illocutionary act. after that, the

researcher described the percentages. The last, the researcher interpreted the illocutionary acts based on the functions.

4. Result and Discussion

Result

In this part, the researcher tabulates the collected data of utterances that are classified as illocutionary act. The researcher classified 44 utterances (printed in bold) from the total 77 utterances in the video entitled “The Meaning of Life” by Talk Islam as illocutionary act. It means that the numbers of illocutionary acts are dominant by represent the 57,14 % of the whole utterances in the video.

Further, the division of the utterances is required for content analysis. It makes the analyzing process easier and clearer. By deviding the utterances, the context of the utterance will be discovered. The utterances are devided based on the types and the functions. The utterances are divided into three types; *a) imperative*, *b) interrogative*, and *c) declarative*, while the illocutionary acts are divided into five functions; *a) representative*, *b) directive*, *c) expressive*, *d) commisive*, and *e) declarative*.

Discussion

The rsearcher analyzes the data in order to answer problem formulation. As the demand of it, the researcher provides the research finding as; *a) types of utterance*, *b) functions of illocutionary act*, and *c) the context of illocutionary acts' function*.

1. **The Types of Utterance**

a. **Imperative**

The data show that there are five utterances that are categorized as imperative form. It has been known that the numbers of illocutionary act are 44 in the video entitled “The Meaning of Life” by Talk Islam. Based on the calculation above, it can be concluded that there are 11,36 % of illocutionary acts that are spoken in imperative form.

b. **Interrogative**

Based on the data collected, the researcher found three illocutionary acts that are spoken in interrogative form. It means that there are 6,82 % of illocutionary acts that are have interrogative form. It is less than the imperative forms which is represent 11,36 % of the illocutionary acts.

c. **Declarative**

From the data collected, it can be seen that there are 36 utterances that are used in the declarative form. The speaker used 81,81 % of the illocutionary acts in the declarative form. It made the declarative utterances become the majority of the illocutionary acts delivered by the speaker in the video entitled “The Meaning of Life” by Talk Islam.

2. **The Functions of Illocutionary Act**

a. **Representative**

From the data collected, it can be found that there are 21 illocutionary acts which have the representative function. It represent 47,73 % of all illocutionary acts in the video entitled “The Meaning of Life” by Talk Islam.

b. **Directive**

The data show that there are 8 illocutionary acts which have the directive functions. Those represent 18,18 % of the whole illocutionary acts that are used by the speaker in the video entitled “The Meaning of Life” by Talk Islam.

c. **Expresive**

Based on the data collected, there are 10 illocutionary acts which have the expressive function. It means that there 22,73 % of illocutionary acts in the video have the expressive function.

d. **Commisive**

The data shows that there are only two illocutionary act which have the commissive function. It can be concluded that there are 4,54 % of illocutionary acts have the commissive function.

e. **Declarative**

There are three illocutionary acts that have declarative function. It shows that 6,82 % of the illocutionary acts which are spoken by the speaker have declarative function.

3. **The Context of Illocutionary Act's Functions**

a. **Representative**

It is the act of speech which bind the speaker to the truth of what (s)he says, i.e; stating, reporting, mentioning, proposing, complaining, expressing opinion etc. The illocutionary acts with the representative function are:

(53) To a man who couldn't read or write, as he would recite whatever the angle spoke.

He meant to describe why did he call the Holy Quran as miracle. By saying this utterance, he mentioned that all those scientific and historical contents are inside the Holy Quran which was given to prophet Muhammad ﷺ who could not read or write. He justified that it is a miracle because somebody who could not read or write is impossible to create such complete package like the Holy Quran.

b. **Directive**

It is the act of speech which is proposed to make the audience to do the act that is mentioned in the utterance, i.e; commanding, requesting, demanding,

suggesting, challenging, ordering, advising etc. The illocutionary acts with the directive function are:

(76) *And don't let that day be the first day you find out what's your life really means!*

The word '*that day*' refers to the death day. The function of this utterance is to suggest the audience to think immediately for everything he has explained while they are able to breathe.

c. **Expressive**

Its function is to reveal or express the psychological attitude of the speaker towards the circumstances that is implied in illocutionary, i.e; praising, thanking, criticizing, complaining, congratulating etc. Some utterances that have expressive functions in the video entitled "The Meaning of Life" by Talk Islam are as follow:

(26) *So many sign, yet we still deny.*

The function of this illocutionary act is to criticize those who still disbelieve after all. By saying this utterance, he demanded all the unbelievers to think further about their limited point of view.

d. **Commissive**

It is the act of speech that binds the speaker to carry out what (s)he has mentioned in the utterance. So, it is strongly related to the future act, i.e; promising, vowing, threatening, offering etc. The illocutionary acts with the commissive function in the video entitled "The Meaning of Life" by Talk Islam are as follow:

(25) *And if the whole world was to come together, we wouldn't be able to create a single fly.*

By saying this utterance, the speaker vowed that even the highest intelligence of human being would not be able to be compared with Allah's creation.

e. **Declarative**

Declarative is the act of speech that is done by the speaker in order to make or declare something such; status, circumstances, situation, and so on. The speaker stated by saying the following utterance:

(31) *So you can believe in the big bang but I'd rather believe in He Who caused it to explode.*

The speaker declare his faith that big bang is not naturally happen, instead of there is Allah I who made it happen.

5. Conclusion and Remark

This section provides the conclusion related to the result of the research. Those are covering the types of utterances are used in the video entitled “The Meaning of Life” by Talk Islam, the functions of illocutionary act, and the meaning of illocutionary act’s functions. There are 44 illocutionary acts in the video.

The utterances which are classified as illocutionary act have three form, those are; *a) imperative, b) interrogative, and c) declarative*. The result of the research shows that the speaker spoke 81,82 % of declarative utterance, 11,36 % of interrogative utterances, and 6,82 % of imperative utterance when delivered his illocutionary acts. It means that the most of the utterances are in declarative form.

The research also had discover there are 47,73 % of illocutionary acts use representative function, 22,73 % of illocutionary acts use expressive function, 18,18 % of the illocutionary acts use directive function, 6,82 % of illocutionary acts use declarative function, and 4,54 % of illocutionary acts use commisive function. The data shows that the speaker used mostly representative functions which mean that the speaker directed the audiences to believe what he believes. Another functions are also used in order to make the presentation becoming more varieties and interesting.

This research is also proposed to analyze the meaning of illocutionary acts. Based on the data that had been collected, the speaker used mostly representative

functions of illocutionary acts. The speaker gave a massive evidences to empower his argument through the representative functions of illocutionary act. The evidences that the speaker brought are referred to the Holy Quran.

Besides to give a massive evidence towards the speaker's thought, the used of representative functions was also reflected his knowledge about the unbelievers perspective. The speaker tried to show the weakness of the unbelievers perspective. After all, the speaker intended to give an alternative perspective through the video entitled "The Meaning of Life". He directed the audiences to accept his perspective.

Reference

Hancock, and Friends. 2009. *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*. Nottingham : The NIHR RDS for the East Midlands.