

Research Article

Analysis of Locutionary Acts in the Novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni (Pragmatic Study)

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Abstract: Speech acts are one aspect of pragmatic studies. Speech acts are divided into several forms, one of which is locutionary. Locutionary act is a speech act performed by the speaker to convey something. The purpose of this study is to describe locutionary speech acts in the novel *Arsana Behind the Glass* by A.C. Agni. The type of research used is descriptive qualitative. The source of data in this study is *Arsana's Novel Behind the Glass Window*. The data collection technique used was document study with the researcher as the key instrument. Test the validity of using triangulation theory and persistence of researchers. The data analysis technique is content analysis. Based on the research, it can be concluded that the locutionary speech acts contained in the novel are directive, interrogative, and imperative. Practically the results of this study can help to understand speech acts in pragmatic studies.

Keywords: Locutionary; Pragmatics; Novel

1. Introduction

Language is a tool for communication or social interaction among humans. Among the various communication tools, language is the most effective. During communication, each individual conveys information in the form of feelings, thoughts, intentions, emotions, or ideas directly. Therefore, speech events or speech acts occur, which are language behaviors within each communication process. Andewi & Waziana (2019) define speech acts as the activity of uttering a sentence in a specific situation that contains the speaker's intent in accordance with their linguistic competence. A speech act is the activity of expressing something through language by the speaker. Through the language that has been spoken by the speaker, it is expected to influence the behavior of the interlocutor, both visible and invisible (Hidayah et al., 2020; Agustina & Simarmata, 2022).

When conveying their speech, each individual has different ways of doing so. Speech acts are closely related to one branch of linguistics, namely pragmatics. Afrianti & Asmiatiningsih (2021) state that pragmatics is needed by analyzing the meaning conveyed between speakers in accordance with the situation of the utterance. Pragmatics discusses the intention behind the utterance, where the sentences spoken by the speaker can be analyzed regarding the purpose and intention of the conversation. Speech acts can be in the form of written (indirect) or spoken (direct) utterances (Rahmadhani & Utomo, 2020; Maalikh et al., 2022).

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In the communication process, a speech event or activity occurs, along with a speech act or language behavior. These events result in locution, illocution, and perlocution. This study focuses on speech acts, specifically locutionary acts. Akbar (2018) mentions that a locutionary act is the speaker's act of conveying something that is certain, even though there is no obligation for the speaker to perform the content of the utterance. In a locutionary act, the utterance is only related to meaning without any connection to a specific intention (Dahlia, 2022).

In literary works in prose form, speech acts can be found, one of which is in novels. Fudholi et al., (2023) mention that a novel is a depiction of real life and behavior from the time the novel was written. The novel to be studied in this research is *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni. The goal of this research is to describe the use of locutionary speech acts in the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni, so the author can identify the phrases used in the discussion. From this, it will be known how the locutionary speech acts are used in the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni.

Previous research relevant to this study was conducted by Faqih Syah Tantra, Suntoko, and Wienike Dinar Pratiwi (Singaperbangsa University Karawang, 2022). The title of their study is "Analysis of Speech Acts in the Novel *Natisha* by Khrisna Pabichara (A Pragmatic Study)" (Putri & Rosalina, 2022; Pembayun, 2025). The aim of their research was to describe locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary speech acts in the novel *Natisha* by Khrisna Pabichara. In the research titled "Analysis of Speech Acts in the Novel *Natisha* by Khrisna Pabichara (A Pragmatic Study)," there are similarities with the research that will be conducted. The similarity lies in the focus used, which is speech acts. However, the difference in the research that will be conducted is the use of the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni.

This study has benefits for developing knowledge about locutionary speech acts. This is because, in everyday life, we encounter utterances or speech, whether spoken (direct) or written (indirect), like locutionary speech acts. When reading or watching, we only see and hear what is conveyed, so we do not pay much attention to the form of speech acts being uttered. Therefore, through this research, we can expand our knowledge about speech acts, especially for readers who are not yet familiar with speech acts. This research is expected to increase general awareness of the use of speech acts and serve as a reference for other researchers who will conduct similar studies (Murti & Nurhuda, 2019; Rohmadi, 2023).

2. Research Method

This study is a qualitative descriptive research using content analysis method. According to Sugiyono (2017), qualitative descriptive research is a research method based on postpositivist philosophy, typically used to study natural and objective conditions, where the researcher acts as the key instrument. Therefore, this study aims to describe locutionary speech acts in the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni. The data consists of locutionary speech acts found in the novel *Arsana*. This research method uses content analysis. According to Turabian (2018), content analysis is a method used to analyze documents or transcripts written with recorded verbal communication, such as books, newspapers, book chapters,

theses, newspaper headlines, articles, and other historical documents. The document analyzed in this research is the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca*.

The data collection technique used in this research is documentation study. This is because the information is extracted from the document of the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca*.

The data analysis technique used by the researcher is content analysis, which consists of three procedures: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Data reduction involves selecting the type of novel that is suitable to be the object of research. After performing data reduction, data presentation is carried out by mapping the types of locutionary speech acts, such as declarative, interrogative, and imperative, in the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca*. The final step is drawing conclusions by describing the locutionary speech acts in the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni. The validity test for the data in this study uses theory triangulation and enhances the researcher's perseverance during the data analysis process.

3. Results And Discussion

The following is the result of the analysis of illocutionary speech acts conducted on the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni. Illocutionary speech acts refer to the speaker's actions in conveying something certain, even though there is no obligation for the speaker to perform the content of their utterance (Fakhriyah, 2020:275). Based on the data processing from the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni, there are locutionary speech acts in the form of statements (declarative), questions (interrogative), and commands (imperative). The overall data obtained can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Number of Locutionary Speech Act Data

No.	Speech Act	Type of Speech Act	Number of Data
1.	Locutionary Speech Act	<i>Deklaratif</i>	552
2.		<i>Introgratif</i>	340
3.		<i>Imperatif</i>	51

3.1. Locutionary Speech Act of Declarative

According to Rahardi (2005), a locutionary speech act of a declarative is the expression of something reported to the interlocutor regarding an event or occurrence. This sentence typically contains news to the reader or listener, which can take the form of active, passive, and other types of sentences. A declarative sentence can be a direct or indirect utterance. Below is an example of a locutionary speech act of statement (declarative) found in the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni.

- (33) “Yang berkelas bukan pujian Sukarno, Lia. Tetapi karisma seorang Sukarno tiadaandingannya. Baik bagi musuhnya, rakyat, atau wanitanya. Karena semua laki-laki bisa memuji semua perempuan cantik, tetapi tidak semua bisa memikat seperti Bung Karno.” (Arsana, 2021: 25)

This utterance (33) is a statement made by the speaker, Gavin Nino Mahardika, a student of SMA Negeri 1 Semarang, to the interlocutor, Terisa Magnolia Geshchiedenis, in response to a statement made earlier by Lia. The utterance is intended to provide a statement regarding

the speaker's admiration for one of Indonesia's prominent figures during the era of independence.

- (35) "Bisa, asal kamu hafal semua sejarah Indonesia, mulai dari kerajaan hingga reformasi. Kamu juga harus hafal perihal Kudungga hingga B.J. Habibie. Dari tanggal lahir, silsilah keluarga, karier kerajaan atau politiknya, serta kisah cintanya." (Arsana, 2021: 26)

This utterance (35) is a statement made by the speaker, Terisa Magnolia Geshchiedenis, to the interlocutor, Gavin Nino Mahardika, to provide emphasis. The utterance is meant to stress the requirements Nino must meet in order to build a good friendship with Lia. Lia believes that Nino must master the history of Indonesia, from the kingdoms to the reformation era, in order to be accepted in her social circle.

- (61) "Nino, Bung Hatta ialah sosok yang tak banyak bicara, sosok yang memiliki janji manis dan menepatinya. Beliau juga sosok yang sederhana dan begitu mencintai negaranya. Terlebih beliau sangat mencintai buku-bukunya yang beribu-ribu itu. Aku katakan saja, kamu lebih mirip Bung Karno!" (Arsana, 2021: 39)

This utterance (61) is a statement made by Terisa Magnolia Geshchiedenis to Gavin Nino Mahardika to counter Nino's previous statement. The utterance serves as an explanation to Nino, who claims to resemble Bung Hatta, even though he does not love books at all. Lia asserts that Nino, instead, resembles Bung Karno, who had a strong public presence and a different set of qualities.

- (328) "Sebenarnya kamu membawanya ke dalam hal yang positif. Baru kali ini ada perempuan yang bisa mengubah Nino. Ia yang bahkan tak acuh pada guru sejarah Indonesia sekarang berwajah manis di depan beliau. Dia tidak salah mengambil keputusan saat kami beri tantangan itu, tapi entah kenapa ketika berjalan kami merasa ada yang salah." (Arsana, 2021: 120)

This utterance (328) is a statement made by Hito to Terisa Magnolia Geshchiedenis (Lia) expressing his concerns. Hito, who is Nino's friend, feels that Nino has changed significantly since meeting Lia. Hito attempts to talk to Lia about these changes, as he feels uncomfortable with how Nino has become more obedient and developed an interest in books.

- (552) "Lia, terima kasih sudah menjadi perempuan yang mengingatkannya pada Allah Swt. Terima kasih sudah menjadi perempuan yang menciptakan tujuan hidup Nino. Sekarang waktunya kita melepaskan. Tante yakin Nino pernah mengatakan ini padamu, buatlah akhir hidupmu bahagia." (Arsana, 2021: 204)

This utterance (552) is a statement made by Mama Nino to Terisa Magnolia Geshchiedenis (Lia) expressing gratitude. Mama Nino thanks Lia for her role in helping Nino find his purpose in life and reminding him about his faith. The utterance also signifies that it is time to let go, as Mama Nino believes Nino has said to Lia that she should ensure her life ends happily.

3.2. Locutionary Speech Act of Interrogative

A sentence that contains a question is intended to ask something. In line with this, Rahardi (2005) explains that an interrogative sentence is one that aims to ask something to the interlocutor. In other words, if the speaker wants to obtain an answer to their question, they

can use this sentence to request validation from the interlocutor. Below are examples of locutionary speech acts in the form of questions (interrogative) found in the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca*:

(142) “Apakah sebelum kamu jatuh cinta, kamu tahu nantinya kamu akan mencintai siapa?” (Arsana, 2021: 89)

This utterance (142) shows a locutionary question expressed by Lia to her friend, who always worries about her. The purpose of this utterance is for the speaker to ask the interlocutor whether they knew in advance who they would fall in love with, a question about a secret that will only be revealed in time.

(194) “Nanti malam kirim ke surel jurnalistik, ya? Kota Lama, kan?” (Arsana, 2021: 110)

This utterance (194) shows a locutionary question expressed by the head of the journalism department to Lia. The utterance is intended to ask and remind Lia about her previous statement regarding the preparation of the school wall magazine. The head of journalism feels the need to confirm this, considering Lia's recent behavior.

(292) “Kak Lia, jadi burung garuda awalnya dari kisah apa tadi?” (Arsana, 2021: 153)

This utterance (292) shows a locutionary question asked by Junior Lia, a member of the journalism department, to Lia, her senior. The utterance is meant to ask something related to the data that will be made. The Garuda bird, one of the birds in the sub-chapter of the Mahabharata, possesses incredible strength.

(322) “Kamu sudah membunuh hatiku sejak kesepakatan kala itu, Nino. Bagaimana bisa kamu menghidupkan sesuatu yang sudah mati?” (Arsana, 2021: 166)

This utterance (322) shows a locutionary question expressed by Lia to Nino regarding her broken heart. In this utterance, Lia asks Nino about the pain caused by him, using a metaphor about a broken heart that no longer exists.

(340) “Bagaimana dia bisa meninggalkanku secepat ini?” (Arsana, 2021: 204)

This utterance (340) shows a locutionary question expressed by Lia. This question is a monologue that will not be answered. Nino's departure forever causes a wound in Lia's heart. Lia's selfishness has truly erased Nino's existence. This ending resolves the conflicts experienced by various characters.

3.3. Locutionary Speech Act of Imperative

An imperative sentence has the meaning of giving a command to do something. This type of sentence is generally used to command the interlocutor to do something requested by the speaker. According to Rahardi (2005), an imperative sentence can range from a very strong or harsh command to a very polite and courteous request. Locutionary speech acts in the form of commands in the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* can be found in the following sentences:

(4) “Lia, Lia, berhenti membaca kisah masa lalu, bikin orang susah move on saja. Baca-baca wattpad biar otakmu nggak serius-serius amat,” celetuk temanku yang lain. (Arsana, 2021: 14)

This utterance (4) shows a locutionary speech act of suggestion in the form of a command. The speaker, Laras, advises Lia to stop reading history books and instead read Wattpad to

keep up with the majority of the youth around her. Reading on this online platform is seen as more modern among teenagers.

- (9) “Ayolah, Lia. Tinggalkan saja Max Havelaar-mu itu di atas meja. Aku lapar sekali,”
(Arsana, 2021: 19)

This utterance (9) shows a locutionary speech act of invitation in the form of a command. The speaker, Laras, invites Lia to go to the canteen, while Lia wants to continue reading her book. However, Laras is adamant about going to the canteen because she is very hungry. Eventually, Lia follows this command disguised as an invitation.

- (27) “Salat gih, sebelum hatimu jadi batu!” (Arsana, 2021: 50)

This utterance (27) represents a locutionary speech act of command made by Lia to Nino. Lia commands Nino to perform prayers immediately before his heart becomes hardened and loses faith. This is an action performed by Lia as a fellow Muslim who feels the responsibility to remind her brother in faith to perform obligatory worship.

- (42) “Teruslah mencintai sejarah, perjalanan negara ini butuh untuk dikenang. Agar senantiasa kita belajar dari masa lalu, untuk masa depan yang lebih terpelajar,”
(Arsana, 2021: 133)

This utterance (42) represents a locutionary speech act of command in the form of an invitation to love history. Lia conveys this to Nino, as she believes history is a form of love for the homeland. She intends to remind and invite Nino to appreciate history through literacy.

- (48) “Apa pun yang terjadi, tersenyumlah, karena itu pedang paling tajam untuk memangkas kesedihan.” (Arsana, 2021: 146)

This utterance (48) shows a locutionary speech act of command in the form of consolation, expressed by Lia to Nino. Lia urges Nino to keep smiling because smiling is the most effective way to cut through sadness.

4. Conclusions

Based on the analysis of locutionary speech acts in the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* by A.C. Agni, three types of locutionary forms were identified. These locutionary speech acts consist of directives, interrogatives, and imperatives. The locutionary statements in the novel *Arsana di Balik Jendela Kaca* primarily provide information from the speaker to the interlocutor regarding the history they always read. The locutionary questions in the novel contain inquiries between characters, both regarding historical matters and personal questions, marked by question marks. Meanwhile, the locutionary commands in the novel are often characterized by imperative sentences, such as invitations and suggestions, marked by exclamation marks.

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