Quarreling: Speech Acts Found in Quarreling Speech Events

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Abstract

This research seeks to identify the types of speech acts found in 6 different quarreling speech events in *Ted 2* film. The quarreling speech events analyzed in this research are couple's quarrel, neighbor quarrel, friends 'quarrel, and enemies' quarrel. The data were collected purposively and analyzed using content analysis and focus group discussions. The findings conclude that quarrels are dominated by assertive, directive, and expressive speech acts that imply the argumentative and emotional nature of the quarreling speech event. The types of participants and their relations also affect the speech acts found in quarrels. Couple's quarrel is dominated by expressive speech acts, while neighbors' quarrel is dominated by directive speech acts, and friends and enemy quarrels are dominated by assertive speech acts. A quarrel is less likely to find resolution unless the type of relation between the participants is close and one of the participants is willing to accept the disagreement proposed by the speech partner.

Keywords: Quarreling; Speech Event; Speech Acts

Introduction

Culltural learning medium can be found in many forms, one of which is film [1]. Films present how communities from different origins communicate using their original language in accordance with the social and linguistic norms that apply in their respective communities.

The way certain community interacts to discuss a particular subject matter in certain context of time, place, and situation is a speech event [2]. An utterance does not stand alone, but is a part of a situation or text. One formula regarding the components of speech event was proposed by Hymes. According to Hymes, the eight components of speech events can be abbreviated with the acronym SPEAKING which stands for Setting and Scene (background of place, time, and situation), Participant (Actor, speaker and speech partner), Ends (goal), Act Sequence (form, sequence and the contents of the utterances), Key (the way the speech delivery or tones), Instrumentalities (variety of languages used), Norm of Interaction (social or linguistic norms), Genre (types or forms of interaction, including speech acts used and the flow of interaction) [3].

According to Hymes' analogy, speech situation can be ilustrated as a party, and the conversation at the party is a speech event, then the utterances in the conversation are speech acts [4]. Speech events usually have unwritten rules that apply to each particular community group such as speech events in proposing, trading, interviewing, and etc.

Quarreling speech events are interesting to discuss because of their emotional speech situations, thus the speech acts in them tend to be uncertain depending on the flow of interaction. Quarreling speech event, according to several definitions, is a heated argument or disagreement, typically about a trivial issue and between people who are usually on good terms (Oxford online dictionary, 2018); an angry disagreement between two people or more or groups (Cambridge online dictionaries, 2018); and an angry argument or disagreement (Merriam Webster online dictionary, 2018). Thus in general, a quarrel can be classified as argumentation. According to Jacobs and Jackson (2013), the argument is "Speech events related to disagreement" characterized by projections, production, suppression, or resolution of disagreements [5]. Arguments not only serve to convey cases of explicit disagreement but also regulate speech acts that disagree with one another (*ibid*). From the several definitions of quarreling above, the quarreling speech event is interesting because it is classified as a genre of argumentation in general, but its emotional nature may lead to different genres from the common arguments.

Each community has certain language rules or culture that is used in each context of events or speech events. The language norms or culture can be categorized as a genre. This is in line with what was stated by Grundy (2000) that speech events can simply be defined as genre [6].

The genre in Hymes' SPEAKING model consists of speech acts used in a speech event. Some research on speech acts have been conducted by previous researchers, such as research on speech acts that appears in a film series *The Good doctor* [7]. This research is still general in nature and not specific to certain speech events. Another research was conducted on the translation technique used in translating responses to refusing speech act [8]. This research also only focused on speech act level and does not limit the scope at speech event level.

Research on speech events have also been carried out by several previous researchers such as Kihara (2015) who examined the speech events in a language game of "Mchongoano" in Kenya, Zand-Vakili *et al*., (2012) who examined the speech events in the television series "Friends," and Simon and Cartis who examined the types of speech acts used in advertising speech events [4], [9][10]. Speech events examined in previous studies did not focus on the events of the quarreling speech event. A previous research by Yuda *et al*., 2019, studied quarrel speech event, but the focus of the research emphasized on translation equivalence of the subtitles and the type of the quarrel is limited to friends' quarrel [11]. Different participants in an event may lead to different results or genre. Thus, it is important to expand the scope of the research to quarreling speech event with different participants such as couple's quarrel, neighbours' quarrel, and enemies' quarrel.

Ted 2 is a film that has many quarreling scenes in it. This film tells the story of a young man who befriends with a talking Teddy Bear. Despite being fictional, the story in the film Ted reflects a strong friendship that is commonly found in young people in American society. In this film sequel, Ted marries a woman named Tamy Lynn and they face many common problems experienced by couples in society such as economy, law, and physiology. These problems led to quarrels between Ted and his wife, Ted and Johnny, and with their old enemy Donny. The number of quarreling speech event scenes with different participants and types of relationships is interesting to study to establish the quarreling genre in different situations.

Methodology

This study aims to identify the types of speech acts that occur in quarreling speech events in Ted 2 film to help map the genre in the quarreling speech events film setting culture. In this study, 6 quarreling speech events in *Ted 2* film were examined. This research used a sociolingiustic approach proposed by Dell Hymes and pragmatic approach proposed by Searle. The scope of this study is based on the Hymes' SPEAKING model regarding speech events and speech act classification proposed by Searle [3], [12]. The speech events studied in this research were limited to quarreling speech event with a research focus on the genre that consists of a series of speech acts carried out by the participants of the quarrels. The data in this study are sentences that accommodate speech acts in quarreling speech events in *Ted 2* film. The data were collected purposively using criterion-based sampling through document analysis (content analysis) and focus group discussions. Data validity was determined using data triangulation and methods. The data analysis techniques used to adapt was the model proposed by Spradley (1980), namely domain analysis, taxonomic analysis, componential analysis and cultural theme analysis [13]. This technique links each part of the data along with the data collection process.

Results and Discussion
Findings of Speech Actions that Appear in the Fight Speech Event in the Subtitles of Ted 2 Film

In this study, there were 6 quarreling speech events consisting of couple's quarrel, neighbors' quarrel, friends' quarrel and enemies' quarrel. The speech acts data that appear in quarreling speech events in Ted 2 film are 223 data. The speech acts include assertive, expressive, directive, commissive and declarative. The distribution of speech act findings based on pragmatic theory by Searle and Vanderveken [14] can be seen in table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Distribution of speech acts findings that appear in quarreling speech events in Ted 2 film

No	Speech Acts	CQ	NQ	FQ 1	FQ 2	EQ 1	EQ 2	Total
1	Assertive	19	1	17	12	6	26	81
2	Directive	14	11	9	9	2	23	68
3	Expressive	27	4	9	13	3	7	63
4	Commissive	2	1	2			5	11

CQ: Couple's Quarrel; NQ: Neighbors' Quarrel; FQ: Friends' Quarrel; EQ: Enemies' Quarrel

Based on table 3.1 above, there are 223 research data. Of the 223 data, 4 types of speech acts were found, including assertive (81 data), expressive (63 data), directive (68 data) and commissive (11 data). In general, the table above indicates that quarrels are dominated by assertive and directive speech acts that show argumentative nature. The next dominant speech act is the expressive speech act which shows the emotional nature of the quarreling speech event.

The situation in each quarrel is triggered by a disagreement from one party to the attitudes or actions of the other party which is often responded to emotionally. These findings generally explain that quarrels are dominated by argumentative expressions of disagreement and responses among participants which are demonstrated by the use of assertive speech acts as the most frequent speech acts.

The next dominant speech act is the expressive speech act that shows the emotional character of quarreling speech event. In the couple's quarrel, Ted and Lynn taunted each other, protesting, insinuating, criticizing, and expressing their emotions, likewise in the quarreling speech event between Ted, his neighbour, Johnny and Donny. These findings are consistent with the opinion of Searle (2005) regarding the function of expressive speech acts, namely to express or inform the psychological attitude of the speaker, with various levels, regarding a situation or proposition [12]. The situation established in each quarrel is triggered due to disagreement from one party that is emotionally responded to by the other party. This is in accordance with the definition of quarreling according to Cambridge online dictionary (2018), namely "an angry disagreement between two people or more or groups". Then, Jacobs and Jackson (in Koczogh 2013) added that speech events related to "disagreement" were characterized by projections, production, suppression, or resolution of disagreements [5].

In this study, out of the 6 quarrels, only 1 quarrel ends with a resolution over the disagreement between parties in the quarreling speech events, namely when Ted argued with Johnny in friends' quarrel 1. This implies that disagreement does not always "end with resolution. Resolution in quarreling speech events can occur if one of the parties accepts the suggestion or acknowledges their mistake marked by the commissive speech acts promising to correct what is wrong. However, if there is no participant who is willing to accept or approve the disagreement of the speech partner, then the argument will end without resolution. In the case of enemies' and couple's quarrels, the commissive speech acts that appear are even in the forms of threatening speech acts. The details of each quarreling speech event is presented in the next sub-section.

A. Couple's Quarrel

The context of the couple's quarel act sequence in the Ted 2 The film is as follows: Ted criticized Tamy Lynn's way of spending money on shopping, but Tamy Lynn felt she had the right reason to spend her money and turned back criticizing Ted's behavior in spending money on cannabis and also Ted's shortcomings as a husband. The quarreling increasingly culminated with Ted and Lynn throwing objects around them. The speech acts in couple's quarrel are presented in table 3.1.1.

Table 3.1.1 Speech Acts found in Couple's Quarrel

No	Speech Acts	Number of Speech act
1	Expressive	27
2	Assertive	19
3	Directive	14
4	Commissive	2

Table 3.1.1 shows that in the couple's quarrel, there are 27 expressive speech acts, 19 assertive speech acts, 14 directive speech acts and 2 commissive speech acts. The dominance of expressive speech acts shows a high level of emotion in the couple's quarrel speech event. Expressive speech act is intended by a speaker so that the utterance is interpreted as an pyschological evaluation of the things mentioned in the speech. The expressive speech acts are used to praise, thank, apologize, criticize, congratulate, and complain [14]. The emotional closeness of the participants in the couple's quarrel affects the type of speech act they use tobe more emotional. The types of expressive speech acts that occur in couple quarrel are complaining, blaming, expressing dislike, and swearing.

B. Neighbours' Quarrel

The contex of neighbors' quarrel act sequence in the Ted 2 The film is as follows: Ted and Tamy's neighbors were annoyed by their noisy argument and he shouted at Ted from his apartment. Ted does not want to budge and compete with the neighbor's argument which disturbs their other neighbor who is coming from Russia. The fight ended when there is a neighbor whom they both do not like and choose to criticize the neighbor together.

The findings of speech acts in neighbors' quarrel are presented in table 3.1.2.

Table 3.1.2 Speech Acts found in Neighbours' Quarrel

No	Speech Acts	Number of Speech act
1	Directive	11
2	Expressive	4
3	Assertive	1
4	Commissive	1

Table 3.1.2 shows that neighbors' quarrel is dominated by directive speech acts in the form of demanding and ordering. The directive's speech acts are intended by the speaker so that the speech partner takes the actions mentioned in the speech. Speeches that are included in directive speech act include ordering, begging, demanding, suggesting, requesting, opposing, appealing, etc. The dominance of directive speech acts and the moderate appearance of expressive speech acts, with only one assertive and commissive speech act data indicate that neighbors' quarrel emphasizes on winning the argument and not so much on being argumentative. This implies a more distant bond compared to couple's or friends' quarrels that will be discussed in the next sections.

C. Friends' Quarrels

The context of friends' quarrel 1 act sequence in *Ted 2* film is as follows: Ted found lots of pornographic files on Jonny's laptop and thought that his friend was addicted and had to improve himself by moving on with his life after divorcing with his wife. Johhny initially did not want to admit but then realized that he had gone too far astray.

While The context of friends' quarrel 2 act sequence in *Ted 2* film is as follows: Ted expressed his disappointment and Sam felt guilty for failing to win Ted's case. But Johnny defended Sam and said that Sam had tried her best. Ted was upset with that and thought that Johnny and Samantha were not serious about supporting him and blamed their newly grown love relationship.

Speech act findings in friends' quarrel 1 and 2 are presented in table 3.1.3.

Table 3.1.3 Speech Acts found in Friends' Quarrel

No	Speech Acts	Friends' Quarrel 1	Friends' Quarrel 2
1	Assertive	17	12
2	Directive	9	9
3	Expressive	9	13
4	Commissive	1	-

The dominance of Assertive speech acts implies a tendency of argumention, to justify or explain the way each participant comes to their standings. Assertiveness is a statement that binds the speaker of the truth of what is submitted, including stating, reporting, predicting, showing and mentioning. The moderate dominance of both directive and expressive speech acts imply a fairly close emotional relationship between the participants.

The commissive speech acts that are found in friends' quarrel 1 is the form of promise to be better or to do what the friend / speech partner ask. This implies that disagreement does not always "end with a resolution. Settlement in a speech situation can occur if one of the parties accepts the suggestion or acknowledges the error marked by commissive speech acts promising to improve. However, if there is no participant who is willing to accept or approve the disagreement of the speech partner, then the argument will end without resolution.

D. Enemies' Quarrels

The contex of enemies' quarrel 1 act sequence in *Ted 2* film is as follows: Donny, who is obsessed with having a Teddy Bear who can speak, disguised himslef as a Ninja turtle comic character and asked Ted to go backstage by pretending to ask for an autograph. After they were alone then Donny opened his mask and a quarrel happened because Donny had previously tried to kidnap Ted and even damage him.

While The context of enemies' quarrel 2 act sequence in *Ted 2* film is as follows: Donny kidnaped Ted and tied him to the operating table to dissect him. A quarrel occured when Donny stateed how he wanted to know Ted's secret to make another Teddy bear like Ted. Johnny came when Donny almost dissected Ted. The quarrel then developed into a fight.

The findings of speech acts in enemies' quarrel 1 and 2 are presented in the following table:

Table 3.1.4 Speech Acts found in Enemies' Quarrels

No	Speech Acts	Enemies' Quarrel 1	Enemies' Quarrel 2
1	Assertive	6	26
2	Directive	2	23
3	Expressive	3	7
4	Commissive	-	5

The enemies' quarrels are both dominated by assertive and directive speech acts. The dominance of the two speech acts implies the tendency for arguing and the strong intention to win the argument. This can be seen from the fact that the directive speech acts found are in the forms of telling, asking, pleading,

demanding, and opposing. Unlike the friends 'quarrel where the commissive act found is in the form of positive promises, the commissive speech acts found in the enemies' quarrel is in the forms of offering and threatening in a more negative sense. Both of the enemies quarrel do not have its resolution since none of the participants is willing to give in to the enemies' demand.

Conclusion

In general, quarrels are dominated by assertive and directive speech acts that show argumentative nature. The next dominant speech act is the expressive speech act which shows the emotional nature of the quarreling speech event. The speech acts found in quarel are also affected by the relational types of the participants. Couple's quarrel is dominated by expressive speech acts, while neighbors' quarrel is dominated by directive speech acts, and friends and enemy quarrels are dominated by assertive speech acts. A quarrel is less likely to find resolution unless the type of relation between the participants is close and one of them is willing to accept the disagreement proposed by the speech partner.

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