

## The analysis of speech act in Thor: Ragnarok

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** People attempt to express themselves by producing utterances. The utterances do not only contain grammatical structures and words but people also perform actions through the utterances. In producing an utterance, the speaker regularly anticipates the hearer to recognize his/her intention. The study that covers this is the speech act.

**Purpose:** This research attempted to analyze the classification of speech acts proposed by Searle, namely representatives, directives, expressive, commissives, and declarations in the movie script of Thor: Ragnarok.

**Design and methods:** A qualitative method was used in this research. The object of this study is the movie script of Thor: Ragnarok.

**Results:** The result showed that there are 189 data included in the category Representative which covers 38% out of the total data, 183 data included in the category Directive which covers 37% out of the total data, 77 data included in the category Expressive which covers 15% out of the total data, 50 data included in the category Expressive which covers 10% out of the total data, and 2 data included in the category Declarations.

**Keywords:** speech act, illocutionary acts, pragmatics

### Introduction

People attempt to express themselves by producing utterances. The utterances do not only contain grammatical structures and words but people also perform actions through the utterances. The actions performed by the utterances can be pleasant, unpleasant, acknowledgment of thanks, expression of surprise, etc. For instance, a judge says “For the murder of Stacy Smith the defendant is sentenced to be put to death in the manner prescribed by law” is not just an expression but it can be used to perform the act of ending someone’s life. In producing an utterance, the speaker regularly anticipates the hearer to recognize his/her intention. In the process of recognizing the intention, both the speaker and the hearer are usually helped by the circumstances surrounding the utterance which is called speech event. This determines the interpretation of an utterance. For instance, “Calvin is hot”. If it is uttered in the summer season, it may imply that Calvin is feeling hot so he is sweating. In different circumstances, it can also imply that Calvin is gorgeous. This action is generally called speech act.

Austin in Cutting (2002) defines speech acts as “the actions performed in saying something (p. 16)”. It implies that utterances do not only contain grammatical structures and words but also actions. Searle (1996) says that the example of speech acts is making statements, giving commands, asking questions, making promises, etc. There are three related acts in performing actions via utterances. Those are named locutionary act, illocutionary act,

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and perlocutionary act. Based on Austin in Levinson (1983), locutionary act is the utterance of a sentence with determinate sense and reference. It is a fundamental act of utterance which delivers a significant linguistic expression. Illocutionary act deals with the functions or the purposes that a speaker has in mind when uttering a sentence. The perlocution belongs strictly past the examination of language and meaning since it oversees the results or impacts of an utterance.

Searle has presented the notion of 'indirect speech act', which in his record is intended to be, more especially, an indirect 'illocutionary' act. The speaker communicates with the listener more than he truly says depending on their commonly shared background knowledge linguistically and non-linguistically, both have the same understanding and inference with respect to the hearer. Searle, in his teaching of speech act, attempts to explain how it is conceivable that a speaker can say something and mean it, but additionally mean something else. On these bases, Searle makes an improvement of Austin's classification of the speech acts, classifies speech acts into five categories, namely, (1) representative is to commit the speaker to something's being the case, to the truth of the communicated approach. Moreover, Yule (1996) added it means the speaker is representing the world as he or she believes it is. The speaker makes words fit the world (p. 53); (2) directive, the illocutionary point is the speaker attempts to get the hearer to do something. The sincerity condition is want or wish or desire; (3) expressive, the illocutionary point of this class is to express the psychological states specified in the sincerity condition about state of affairs specified in the propositional content; (4) commissive, the point of this act is to commit the speaker to some future course of action. The sincerity condition is intension. The direction of fit is the world to words; and (5) declaration, bring about some alternation in the status or condition of the referred-to object or objects solely in value of the actuality that the declaration has been successfully achieved.

Speech acts are not only found in daily conversation but it can be found in movies. An account to that, this research attempt to analyse the five classifications of speech acts proposed by Searle in a movie script of *Thor: Ragnarok*. The movie script was taken from a website ([www.imsdb.com](http://www.imsdb.com)) written by Eric Pearson and Craig Kyle & Christopher L. Yost. The movie itself was showing in theatres across the world in 2017. The movie was directed by Taika Waititi and starred by Chris Hemsworth as Thor, Tom Hiddleston as Loki, Mark Ruffalo as Hulk, and many more. It netted \$854 million, turning into the most elevated earning film of the set of three and the ninth-highest-grossing film of 2017. This movie tells about Thor who must get away from the outsider planet Sakaar so as to spare Asgard from Hela and the approaching Ragnarök.

## Methods

This research used a qualitative method. Denzin and Lincoln (2000) state that "... qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them" (p. 3). He says it concerns an interpretive and naturalistic approach. This method is suitable to find the classification of Searle's five basic categories of the speech act in the movie script *Thor: Ragnarok*. This research used several steps to collect the data. Firstly, watching *Thor: Ragnarok* movie, reading the movie script that was taken from [www.imsdb.com](http://www.imsdb.com) thoroughly. Second, marking and listing the words presumably to be the classification of the five basic speech acts by Searle. Next, classifying the data into each category of speech acts namely, representative, directives, expressives, commissives, and declarations. This research also used several steps in analyzing the data such as identifying the data based on Searle's category of speech acts

whether it is included in representative, directives, expressives, commissives, and declarations; analyzing the data using Searle's theory about speech acts, and lastly, drawing a conclusion.

## Findings & Discussion

### Findings

After collecting and analyzing the data, there are 501 utterances spoken by all the actors in the movie Thor: Ragnarok. Furthermore, the data are classified into five categories of speech acts proposed by Searle, namely: Representative, Directive, Expressive, Commissive, and Declarations as show on figure 1. There are 189 data included in the category Representative which covers 38% out of the total data, 183 data included in the category Directive which covers 37% out of the total data, 77 data included in the category Expressive which covers 15% out of the total data, 50 data included in the category Expressive which covers 10% out of the total data, and 2 data included in the category Declarations which covers 0% out of the total data.

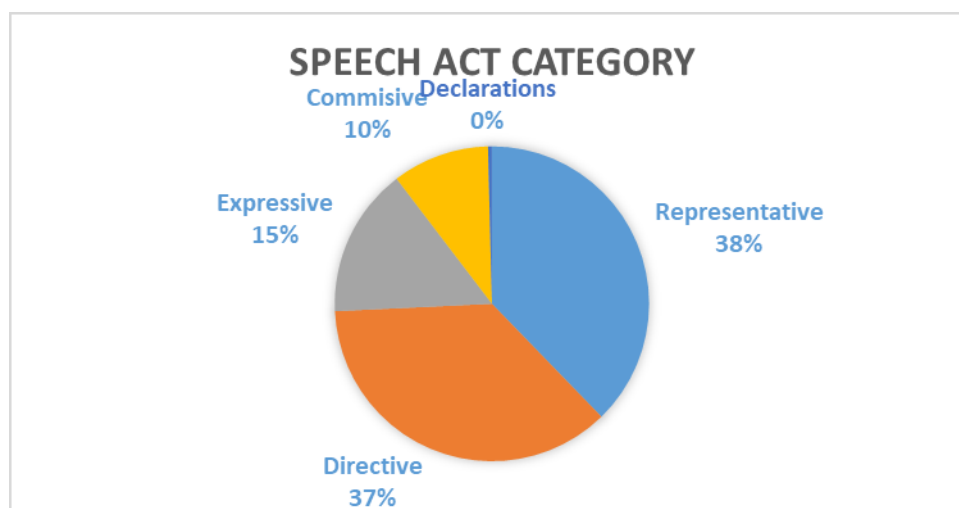


Figure 1. Category of Speech Act

### Discussion

The data found in the movie Thor: Ragnarok are being discussed in this section. The data are classified into 5 categories of speech act which are 189 data included in the Representative, 183 data included in the Directive, 77 data included in the Expressive, 50 data included in the Expressive, and 2 data included in the Declarations.

Furthermore, each category is divide into sub category as follows: out of 189 data included in the Representative, 48 data or 26% out of the total data are informing, 37 data or 20% out of the total data are asserting, 25 data or 13% out of the total data are describing, 14 data or 7% out of the total data are stating opinion, 12 data or 6% out of the total data are concluding, 12 data or 6% out of the total data are alerting, 7 data or 4% out of the total data are complaining, 7 data or 4% out of the total data are stating a fact, 5 data or 3% out of the total data are claiming 2 data or 1% out of the total data are boasting.

Out of 183 data included in the Directive, 62 data or 34% out of the total data are ordering, 44 data or 24% out of the total data are questioning, 25 data or 14% out of the total data are requesting, 17 data or 9% out of the total data are confirming, 16 data or 9% out of the

total data are suggesting, 13 data or 7% out of the total data are commanding, 3 data or 1% out of the total data are challenging, 3 data or 2% out of the total data are begging.

Out of 77 data included in the Expressive, 17 data or 22% out of the total data are apologizing, 12 data or 16% out of the total data are thanking, 11 data or 14% out of the total data are greeting, 6 data or 8% out of the total data are parting, 6 data or 8% out of the total data are expressing fondness, 5 data or 7% out of the total data are expressing dislike, 5 data or 6% out of the total data are welcoming, 5 data or 6% out of the total data are praising, 3 data or 4% out of the total data are congratulating, 3 data or 4% out of the total data are expressing disbelief, 2 data or 3% out of the total data are grieving, 1 data or 1% out of the total data are expressing sadness, 1 data or 1% out of the total data are expressing fright.

Out of 50 data included in the Commissive, 15 data or 30% out of the total data are promising, 12 data or 24% out of the total data are accusing, 10 data or 20% out of the total data are offering, 8 data or 16% out of the total data are threatening, 5 data or 10% out of the total data are refusing.

Out of 2 data included in the category Declarations, 2 data or 100% out of the total data are declaring.

Each subcategory is analyzed as follows:

#### 1. Representative

According to Searle, the representative is to carry out the speaker to something's being the case, to the authenticity of the expressed premise. Moreover, Yule (1996) added it means the speaker is representing the world as he or she believes it is. The speaker makes words fit the world (p. 53).

##### 1.1. Informing

Datum 1

Topaz: We located your cousin.

Grandmaster: Oh good!

While Grandmaster is talking to Thor, one of his subordinates comes and informs him that his cousin's whereabouts has been known.

##### 1.2. Asserting

Datum 2

Valkyrie: I'm not getting dragged into another one of Odin's family squabbles.

Thor is persuading Valkyrie to join his team to defeat Hela, his own sister for invading Asgard. Thor says that the members of the team are him and Valkyrie but Valkyrie declines his offer by asserting that she does not want to get involved with Odin's family. The use of Simple Present Continuous Tense implied that her decision is firm and she wants to emphasize her intention to Thor.

##### 1.3. Describing

Datum 3

Grandmaster: He's wonderful.

It takes place in Grandmaster's place. He was staring at Thor who is stranded there. He does not know what to make of him so he is curious and thrilled. In fact, he describes Thor as wonderful.

#### 1.4. Calling

Datum 4

Actor Thor: You fool, you didn't listen!

It takes place in Asgard. There is a play to commemorate Loki's "death". One of the scene is when Loki sacrifices his life for Thor and then Thor is holding him and says "You fool, you didn't listen!". In his utterance, Thor calls Loki "fool".

#### 1.5. Stating opinion

Datum 5

Grandmaster: Oh good!

(to Thor:)

Yeah, come on. I think you're gonna like this.

It takes place in the grandmaster's place. Thor is tied up on a chair. Later, Grandmaster is informed that his cousin has been found. He is excited to introduce him to his cousin. he is stating his opinion by saying "I think you're gonna like this."

#### 1.6. Concluding

Datum 6

Surtur: **Then you have seen Ragnarok**, the fall of Asgard. The great prophecy—

Surtur is a charred demonic skeleton. He is eighteen-feet-tall. Its flesh made of fire, and he has demonic spiked horns on his skull. He is Thor's enemy. Somehow, they meet. Thor tells him about his terrible dream about Asgard up in flames. Then Surtur concludes his story that it means Thor has seen Ragnarok.

#### 1.7. Alerting

Datum 7

Heimdall: Hela is ravenous. If I let her leave, she'll consume the Nine Realms and all the cosmos.

Heimdall is talking to Thor about Hela. He told him that Hela grows even stronger while she stays in Asgard. Later, he told him that he cannot let Hela leave Asgard because she will consume the nine realms and the cosmos. This utterance implies that Heimdall is alerting Thor that Hela is dangerous so Thor has to stop her.

#### 1.8. Stating a fact

Datum 8

Surtur: Odin is not on Asgard. And your absence has left the throne defense less.

When Thor is having a conversation with Surtur, Surtur tells him about the Eternal Flames. According to Thor, the Eternal Flames is locked away in Asgard. Since, Thor who is supposed to rule Asgard is there with Surtur, Asgard is defenseless. In the utterance above, Surtur is stating a fact.

### 1.9. Complaining

Datum 9

Thor: No, I don't have a phone, but you could have sent an electronic letter. It's called an email.

Thor is meeting with Doctor Strange. He is asking about his father's whereabouts. Strange knows about it yet he does not tell him so he gets angry at him. Thor is complaining to Strange why he did not call him to inform him about his father's whereabouts. Strange says that Thor does not have a phone and it is true. Later he complains why he did not send an email instead.

### 1.10. Claiming

Datum 10

Scrapper #142: He's MINE.

When Thor is stranded in the Grandmaster's house, he stranded on pile of junks. There, he is found by Scrapper #142. Other scrappers are also trying to catch Thor. Not wanting to lose, Scrapper #142 is claiming that Thor is her's target by uttering "mine".

### 1.11. Boasting

Datum 11

Thor: ...It's a long story but **basically I'm a bit of a hero**. See, I spent some time on earth, fought some robots, saved the planet a couple of times....

In beginning of a movie, it is revealed Thor who is in cage. In that scene Thor s talking to himself or to the audience. He talks about himself, why he is in the cage. Later he is boasting about himself by saying that he is a hero.

## 2. Directives

According to Searle, the illocutionary point is the speaker attempts to get the hearer to do something. The impartially condition is wish or want or desire. Yule (1996) adds that it can be carried out by the speaker alone, or by the speaker as a representative.

The sub categories of this type of speech act are:

### 2.1. Ordering

Datum 12

Strange: My name is Doctor Stephen Strange and I have some questions for you. Take a seat.

It takes place in Doctor Strange's lair. Somehow, Thor is at 177A Bleecker Street. He knocks the door but no one answers. But suddenly, he is inside Strange's lair. Strange is welcoming him, levitating, drifts towards Thor. They have a short introduction. Then Strange orders him to take a seat in front of him.

### 2.2. Questioning

Datum 13

Thor: What's going on here?

After getting stranded in Grandmaster's place, Thor asks Heimdall to bring him to Asgard. Somehow, Thor suddenly finds himself in Asgard. There he meet Heimdal who is

hiding in the shadows. Asgard is in chaos. Not knowing of what is happening, Thor asks Heimdall "What's going on here?"

### 2.3. Requesting

Datum 14

College Girl 1: Hi. Would you mind taking a picture with us?

It takes place in shady acres nursing home where Odin is supposed to there. In fact, he is not. While, Thor and Loki are having an argument, a college girl comes and asks him if he can take a picture of her and her friend.

### 2.4. Confirming

Datum 15

Loki: Does this mean you don't want my help?

This utterance occurs when Thor is locked in a cell in Grandmaster's place. He is desperate to get out of that place. Suddenly, Loki's illusion pops up and starts talking to him. As Thor becomes angry, he throws stones at his illusion. Loki keeps talking to him. He asked Thor if it means he does not want his help. It implies that Loki is confirming that Thor does not need his help.

### 2.5. Suggesting

Datum 16

Loki: Perhaps we can reach an arrangement.

This utterance takes place in Asgard. There Thor and Loki meet Hela, his own sister for the first time. Thor is introducing himself to her. On the other hand, Loki is trying to have a deal with Hela by suggesting that maybe they can reach an arrangement.

### 2.6. Commanding

Datum 17

Grandmaster: Loyal Sakaarians, Lord of Thunder has stolen my ship and my favorite champion. Sakaarians, take to the skies. Bring him down. Do not let him leave this planet.

It takes place in Grandmaster's palace. Thor is stealing a commodore ship from the garage. Knowing this, Grandmaster gets angry then command his subordinates to catch Thor and not let him leave that planet.

### 2.7. Challenging

Datum 18

Scrapper #142: Wait! He's mine. So if you want him, you go through me.

When Thor is stranded in Sakaar, he is surrounded by Scrappers who want to catch him. Knowing this, Scrapper #142 who did not have an intention to catch Thor changes her mind. Being so competitive she is, she challenges other scrappers to defeat her first before going after Thor.

### 2.8. Begging

Datum 19

Thor: Please, help me. I need your help.

Getting trapped in Sakaar, Thor meets Scrapper #142 who turns out to be a Valkyrie. Valkyrie is an elite force of women warriors. Thor is so happy to see her there and he hopes she will help him get out of that place. Unfortunately, Valkyrie does not care about him. Despite that, Thor keeps begging her to help him.

## 3. Expressives

According to Searle, the illocutionary point of this class is to express the psychological states specified in the impatiably condition about state of affairs specified in the propositional content.

### 3.1. Apologizing

Datum 20

Actor Loki: I'm sorry.

The utterance occurs in a play to commemorate Loki's death which later turns out to be a fake death. In the play, Loki is dying and Thor is crying for him. When he is dying, Loki asks for forgiveness by saying "I'm sorry".

### 3.2. Thanking

Datum 21

Thor: Yeah of course (they shake hands): Thank you very much for your help.

Thor is asking Doctor Strange to take him to his father. After taking him to his father, Thor thanks Strange for his help.

### 3.3. Greeting

Datum 22

Loki: Hello, Bruce.

It takes place in Valkyrie's apartment. When Valkyrie opens the door, she find Loki has been already there, sitting in the middle of the apartment with a dozen chains around him. Everyone was surprise to see him there, including Bruce Benner. It is his first time seeing Loki after transforming from being Hulk. There, Loki greets Hulk by saying " Hello, Bruce".

### 3.4. Parting

Datum 23

dr. Strange: Bye-bye.

After Doctor Strange taking Thor to his father, he brings back Loki to Thor so he can handle him from there. It is the first time Loki meets him. When Loki is about to attack him, he is saying goodbye, not wanting to fight with Loki.

### 3.5. Expressing fondness

Datum 24

Odin (Cont'd): I love you my sons



Finally, Thor and Loki find their father, Odin because of Strange's help. Odin is having a conversation with Thor. Odin tells them about Hela, their own sister who turns into an evil and is ready to take over Asgard. Thor asks him to come back but Odin says that they are on different path because Odin is dead. Before disappearing into the sky, Odin express his love for his sons.

### 3.6. Expressing dislike

Datum 25

LOKI: I still hate it. It's humiliating.

When Loki and Thor are about to escape from Sakaar, Thor suggests him to play 'get help'. Loki does not like the idea yet they keep doing it. After it has done, Loki says that he still hates the game because it is humiliating.

### 3.7. Welcoming

Datum 26

Heimdall: Welcome home. I saw you coming.

In the middle of war against Hela, Heimdall is fending off Hela's encloaching minions when suddenly Loki appears to help him. Seeing him there, he welcomes him for coming back to Asgard.

### 3.8. Praising

Datum 27

Natasha (V.O.): Nice work, big guy. We don't know where Ultron's headed, but you're going very high, very fast.

Thor is trying to get Hulk out of Sakaar by riding a Quinjet but Hulk keeps smashing everything because of his temper. In order to stop that, Thor plays a recorded message from Natasha to calm him down. In that recording, Natasha is praising Hulk by saying "Nice Work".

### 3.9. Congratulating

Datum 28

Soothing Voice (V.O.): Where once you were nothing, now you are something. You are the property of the Grandmaster. Congratulations! You will meet the Grandmaster in five seconds.

On Sakaar, Thor is strapped to the chair and he is hearing a soothing voice telling him about the place. Later, the voice congratulates him because he is about to meet the owner of the place, Grandmaster.

### 3.10. Expressing disbelief

Datum 29

Loki: What? You're alive?

In Sakaar, Thor meets Loki. Loki is surprised to see him. He thought Thor was dead.

### 3.11. Grieving

Datum 30

Actor Thor: Noooooo!!!

In a play to commemorate Loki's death, there is a scene when Loki is dying and Thor is crying for him. Then Loki dies.

### 3.12. Expressing sadness

Datum 31

Grandmaster: I'm upset! I'm very upset. You know what I like about being upset? Blame. Right now, that's the mindset that I'm in. And you know who I'm blaming?

Loki and Valkyries are brought before Grandmaster. He is mad at them. He says he is upset because Thor and Hulk are running away.

### 3.13. Expressing fright

Datum 32

Banner: Oh, no. This is bad. This is really, really bad. Thor, I think I'm freaking out.

Thor and Hulk are trying to run away from Askaar with Quinjet. Hulk has transformed himself into Bruce Benner. After transforming into Benner, he does not remember what is happening. Suddenly, Benner feels like he wants to transform into Hulk again and he is afraid to become Hulk again.

## 4. Commissives

According to Searle, the point of this act is to commit the speaker to some future course of action. The sincerity condition is intension. The direction of fit is world to words.

### 4.1. Promising

Datum 33

Thor (Cont'd): I know you're in there, Banner. I'll get you out!

Thor is forced to fight with Hulk, his friend. However, Hulk does not remember him so he fights him hard. Thor realizes that Benner is somehow trapped in Hulk's body and is not able to get out that is why Thor promises that he will get Benner out of Hulk.

### 4.2. Accusing

Datum 34

Thor: Fine, then you must be a traitor or a coward because the Valkyrie are sworn to protect the throne.

Valkyrie refused to help Thor to protect Asgard. Thor is getting angry at her. So he accused as a traitor.

### 4.3. Offering

Datum 35

Thor: The prophesied death of my home world, the end of days, it's the end of- (Hulk's blank stare) If you help me get back to Asgard, I can help you get back to Earth.

Thor is asking Hulk to help him prevent Ragnarok but he refused. Thus Thor is offering Hulk to help him get back to earth if he helps Thor to get him back to Asgard.

#### 4.4. Threatening

Datum 36

Hogun: Whoever you are... whatever you've done, surrender now! Or we will show you know mercy.

The E-guard is trying to make Hela surrender. They want her to leave Asgard. As predicted, Hela refuses to go. Thus, they are threatening her.

#### 4.5. Refusing

Datum 37

Loki: I disagree. Open communication was never our family's forte.

Loki and Thor meet at Grandmaster's palace. There, Loki is on grandmaster's side meanwhile Thor is a prisoner. Thor tries to make Loki help him by telling him that they need to talk but Loki refused to talk to him.

### 5. Declarations

According to Searle, they bring about some alternation in the status or condition of the referred-to object or objects solely in virtue of the fact that the declaration has been successfully performed.

#### 5.1. Declaring

Datum 38

Hela (Cont'd): With the Eternal Flame, you are reborn!

Hela is trying to make Fenris, a wolf comes back to life with the Eternal Flames.

## Conclusion

The result found in this research shows that There are 189 data included in the category Representative which covers 38% out of the total data, 183 data included in the category Directive which covers 37% out of the total data, 77 data included in the category Expressive which covers 15% out of the total data, 50 data included in the category Expressive which covers 10% out of the total data, and 2 data included in the category Declarations which covers 0% out of the total data. Each category of the illocutionary acts are divided into sub-categories. out of 189 data included in the category Representative, they are informing, asserting, describing, stating opinion, concluding, alerting, complaining, stating a fact, claiming, boasting; out of 183 data included in the category Directive, ordering, questioning, requesting, confirming, suggesting, commanding, challenging, begging; 50 data included in the category Expressive, apologizing, thanking, greeting, parting, expressing fondness, expressing dislike, welcoming, praising, congratulating, expressing disbelief, grieving, expressing sadness, expressing fright; out of 50 data included in the category Commissive, promising, accusing, offering, threatening, refusing; out of 2 data included in the category Declarations, declaring.

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### **Biography**

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