THE FUNCTION OF THE ILLOCUTIONARY ACT IN A NOVEL ENTITLED
ONE OF US IS LYING

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ABSTRACT

Humans will always need others to communicate and build a relationship since they are created as social beings. Language enables people to express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. It helps the hearer to clear up the speaker's intention. Using Leech's theory (1983), this research aims at analyzing the function of the illocutionary act of Nate Macauley in a novel entitled One of Us Is Lying. The qualitative descriptive method was used as the research design to analyze and describe the function of the illocutionary act of Nate's utterance. Karen M. McManus' novel entitled One of Us Is Lying was used as a data source for this research. The data comprised written text (phrases, clauses, and sentences) which was spoken by Nate Macauley. The result indicates from 108 data, all of the illocutionary act's functions are discovered, there are competitive function (Asking, ordering, and demanding), convivial function (Offering, inviting, greeting, thanking, apologizing, and complimenting), collaborative function (Asserting and reporting), and conflictive function (Accusing and cursing). However, some forms of the function of illocutionary act did not appear, such as begging in competitive function, congratulating in convivial function, announcing and instructing in collaborative function, threatening and reprimanding in conflictive function. The conclusion also implies that a single datum can have several illocutionary act's functions. In this study, collaborative function is found to be the most frequently used illocutionary act's function, specifically in a form of asserting. This function is indifferent goal since it is employed to state the truth or the speaker's opinion regardless of whether it is good or bad.
Key words: Funtion of Illocutionary Act, Novel, Speech Act

INTRODUCTION

Human has a very close relationship with society since they are created as social being. They need other humans to survive and naturally surround themselves with others to create an associated life. It means that a man cannot be isolated, they will tend to build a relationship and interact with other humans as they lived in a society. The primary purpose of the society is to promote a good and happy existence for its citizens (Hossain & Ali, 2014). Language is a communication tool in our daily life. It is described as a rule-govern system that is used by humans to teach how sounds and words combine (Mooney & Evans, 2015). Language allows people to convey their thoughts, feelings, and ideas, as well as enables the listener to clear up the speaker's intention in delivering a message to accurately and efficiently form social bonds.

This research was motivated by the notion that language (particularly spoken language, meaning utterance) is a crucial human communication tool that does not always support the social goal. Other utterances can compete, indifferent, or even in opposition to the social goal. This matter is discussed in one of the speech act theories, namely illocutionary act's function proposed by

Leech (1983). It is one of the pragmatics areas which discussed how language can do things or how an utterance is meaningful. It does not merely consist of words, it means to carry out the speaker's objective and the listener's action (Vanderveken & Kubo, 2001). By comprehending this concept, we are able to discover which utterance can increase social harmony, reduce social harmony and even cause conflict in communicating and socializing with others. Hence as a speaker, this theory will help us to maintain a good relationship in society. The purpose of this study is to identify illocutionary act function of Nate Macauley in Karen M. McManus' novel entitled *One of Us Is Lying* (2017).

Several studies have been conducted on Leech's theory. Wiliastini et al., (2021) has explored illocutionary act's function in Moana movie based on the types of directive illocutionary act. All of the functions were discovered with collaborative as the most frequently employed function. Putri (2019) analyzed various types of illocutionary acts using Searle's theory and illocutionary act's function using Leech's Theory on the character Liz Gilbert in Eat, Pray, Love movie directed by Ryan Murphy. Novyanti (2019) discussed Searl's illocutionary act theory and Leech's functions of illocutionary act from Divide album. Collaborative function became the most dominant function since it was intended to tell the truth committed by the speaker. Siahaan (2019) explained the function of illocutionary acts in the utterances of the main characters in the Queen of Katwe movie script. This research found 80 utterances which comprised the function of illocutionary act. Nurdiansyah (2018) identified illocutionary act's function in hero series. The findings proved that the four functions of Illocutionary act were located in the script of Heroes series in 6351 utterances.

According to Levinson (as cited in Huang, 2017), speech act is one of the pragmatics theories. This theory discusses language regarding the speaker's utterance which includes not only meaning but also action. It signifies that the speaker hopes the listener understands what he or she is saying and take an action as the result of it. According to Austin (as cited in Birner, 2013), there are three parts in speech act theory, which are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act.

Afterward, Jucker (as cited in Allan and Jaszczolt, 2012) stated that Searle elaborated a more specific theory with Austin's speech act theory as a foundation. The speaker's intention which is expressed in every utterance is the subject of this theory. It consists of one aspect of Austin's theory, which is illocutionary act. Searle (as cited in Sidiq, 2019) proposed five categories of illocutionary acts. There are representatives (state the truth), directives (direct the hearer), commisives (bind the speaker to future action), expressives (express feelings), and directives (declare something). There have been so many researches (Saputro, 2015; Situmorang, 2017; Setiani & Utami, 2018; Pinilih, 2019; Haucsa et al., 2020) that discussed this theory. Yet, there is one speech act idea that is still infrequently discussed in depth.

Another theory of speech act was developed by Leech (1983). This research particularly explored four categories of illocutionary act's function. Leech (as cited in Leech, 2014) proposed the function of illocutionary act which focuses on how this theory related to maintaining social harmony and establishing comity. The first category of illocutionary function is competitive. This category of

illocutionary act's function competes against the social goal since it is regarded as negative politeness which aims to soften the impolite expression of what the speaker needs by increasing the expression of politeness (good manner), namely a polite request. This category can take many different forms. For instance, ordering, asking, demanding, and begging. The second category of illocutionary act function is convivial. This category supports the social goal. Convivial function is regarded as positive politeness since it aims to strengthen the expression of positive value, such as offering, inviting, greeting, thanking, and congratulating. In addition, complimenting and apologizing are also the example of positive politeness. The third category of illocutionary act's function is collaborative. This category is indifferent in fulfilling the social purpose. Collaborative function does not involve politeness or support the social goal since politeness was irrelevant. It pledges the speaker to the truth of the stated proposition. For instance, asserting, reporting, announcing, and instructing. The last category of illocutionary act's function is conflictive. This category is against or opposes the social purpose. Conflictive function does not involve politeness at all since the nature of conflictive function is offending deliberately. For example, threatening, accusing, cursing, and reprimanding.

In analyzing the data, this research uses direct and indirect speech acts. It helps to determine which illocutionary act's function the speaker employs by recognizing if the speaker's statement has a specific meaning (literal meaning) or the speaker means anything other than the stated words. Searle (as cited in Senft, 2014) postulated the direct and indirect speech act. When the speaker's intention and what she or he says are in sync, the direct speech act is used. It is considered more explicit and less context-dependent. When what the speaker says and what the speaker intends to express do not match, the indirect speech act is applied. It is considered less explicit and more context-dependent, which implies there is a hidden meaning out of what is spoken by the speaker. For instance, the speaker says to the hearer if he or she can pass the salt. Since the speaker tries to ascertain the hearer's ability to accomplish something, the utterance illustrates a direct speech act. We can see that what is spoken by the speaker and what the speaker intends to communicate are in sync. However, if the statement is identified indirectly (based on the situation: the speaker is having breakfast at the restaurant) the speaker's real intention is getting something done, specifically requesting the listener to pass or give the salt to the speaker. Since what the speaker says and the speaker's intention does not match, the example above indicates an indirect speech act.

RESEARCH METHOD

Based on Leech's theory, this study employed a qualitative descriptive technique to analyze and described the findings of the function of illocutionary act of Nate Macauley in the novel *One of Us Is Lying*. The researchers carefully read several times to comprehend the storyline and to find the data containing the function of illocutionary act.

In this study, the data were highlighted particularly the statements which contain types of illocutionary act's function spoken by the central figure, Nate Macauley. This step was completed to mark out the statements which would be served as the data of the study.

Subsequently, the data were analyzed and elaborated on the basis of Leech's

four functions of illocutionary act, using the direct and indirect strategy proposed by Searle (1975). They comprised competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive. After the data have been analyzed, the result was drawn.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1.
The Function of Illocutionary Act of Nate Macauley in *One of Us Is Lying* Novel

No	Function of Illocutionary Act	Form	Frequency	Total
1.	Competitive	Asking	8	
		Ordering	1	10
		Demanding	1	
		Begging	0	
2.	Convivial	Offering	7	
		Inviting	5	
		Greeting	6	30
		Thanking	3	
		Congratulating	0	
		Apologizing	5	
		Complimenting	4	
3.	Collaborative	Asserting	62	
		Reporting	5	67
		Announcing	0	
		Instructing	0	
4.	Conflictive	Threatening	0	
		Accusing	7	18
		Cursing	11	
		Reprimanding	0	
Total			125	

According to the results, Nate employs all of the illocutionary act's functions. However, not all forms of illocutionary act's function are applied. There is no begging, congratulating, announcing, instructing, threatening, and reprimanding form. There are 108 data of utterances containing illocutionary act's function. It implies that 1 datum can have more than one function. In addition, the findings present collaborative becomes the most frequently used function, specifically in a form of asserting.

Competitive function includes asking, ordering, demanding, and begging. The researchers found 3 forms of competitive function in 10 out of 108 data. There are 8 data of asking, 1 data of ordering, and 1 data of demanding. The most frequently used form of competitive function is ordering. In the utterance of Nate, competitive function is the 4th most commonly utilized function of illocutionary act.

Nate uses asking as one of the forms of competitive function to request someone to perform anything. The conversations which are classified as competitive function in a form of asking emerge when Nate decides to watch a horror movie with Bronwyn. Unfortunately, she is too scared to watch it, so Nate gives in. Before Bronwyn sleeps, Nate asks her to hang up the phone, so her phone's minutes don't run out and he can call her again the next day. Nate's statement

contradicts the social purpose because it concentrates on the speaker's desire to be fulfilled and has a negative manner. This is in line with Sidiq's research finding which stated that asking something to the listener is an act that does not contain the aspect of courtesy or manners. The speaker employs an indirect speech act in delivering the utterance since what the speaker says does not match the speaker's purpose. Based on the situation, the speaker is only asking a question, yet he is indirectly implying that the listener should do something.

Offering, inviting, greeting, thanking, congratulating, apologizing, and complimenting are all forms of convivial function. The researchers found 30 data out of 108 data of convivial function. In this study, there are 6 forms of convivial function. 7 data of offering, 5 data of inviting, 6 data of greeting, 3 data of thanking, 5 data of apologizing, and 4 data of complimenting. One form of convivial function which does not exist is congratulating. The most frequently used form of convivial function is offering. In Nate's statement, convivial function becomes the 2nd most commonly employed illocutionary act's function.

Thanking is one of the forms of convivial function which is used by Nate to express gratitude when someone has done something good for him. It is defined as a state of gratitude for something (Hornby, 2010). This form supports the social purpose that can lead to social harmony. This function is applied in the conversations of Nate Macauley. The dialogue involves two people, which are Chad Poster and Nate. It takes place at Bayview High School when the school is finished. Nate is informed by one of his friends, Chad Poster, that three reporters are looking for him because of the incident of Simon. He suggests Nate

use the other way in order not to get caught by the reporters. Therefore, Nate replies "thanks" for the suggestion he gives. Nate's utterance is classified as convivial function in which he expresses gratitude that supports the social purpose. According to Astuti (2018), thanking is a form of convivial function since it coincides with the social purpose which shows politeness and gratitude towards someone's good deed. In delivering the statement, the speaker uses a direct speech act since what he says matches his purpose. It is clear from the word choice "thanks" which directly depicts the expression of gratitude and the purpose according to the situation is also to thank.

Asserting, reporting, announcing, and instructing are forms of collaborative function. Out of 108 data, 67 are identified as collaborative function. This research discovered 2 forms of collaborative function. There are 62 data of asserting, and 5 data of reporting. Two forms of collaborative function which do not exist are announcing and instructing. Asserting becomes the most commonly used form of collaborative function. Collaborative function becomes the most frequently used illocutionary act's function in the utterance of Nate.

Reporting form of collaborative function is used by Nate to give a spoken account about something he has done or investigated. Reporting can be defined as an act of telling or giving information about something that you have seen, heard, or done (Hornby, 2010). The conversation which is classified as reporting emerges when Simon collapses after drinking a glass of water. Nate who knows that Simon is having an allergic reaction, immediately asks for an Epinephrine to ease the shock. As sirens blare in the distance, Mr. Avery comes in and gets a report from Nate. He says, "We can't find his EpiPen," Mr. Avery becomes

very concerned and immediately orders Cooper to check the medicine in the nurse's office. Nate's utterance implies an action that disregards the social goal and does not involve politeness since the speaker only states what is true. In reporting, the speaker focuses on committing to the veracity of expressed proposition. The speaker employs a direct strategy in conveying the message. The speaker delivers his utterance directly because what the speaker says matches the speaker's aim. It is clear from the phrase 'we can't find' which depicts a report directly and the intention based on the condition is also to give a report.

Threatening, accusing, cursing, and reprimanding are examples of conflictive function. There are 18 data out of 108 data that are categorized as conflictive function. This research found 2 forms of conflictive function. There are 7 data of accusing and 11 data of cursing. Threatening and reprimanding are two forms of conflictive function that do not exist. The most commonly used form of conflictive function is cursing. In the utterance of Nate, conflictive function is in the 3rd most frequently employed function of illocutionary act.

Nate uses accusing form of conflictive function to state someone's bad affairs. This form is employed to say that someone has done something wrong. Accusing is an act which against the social goal and only causes feelings of anger. This function is applied when Nate and Bronwyn are having a conversation regarding who is the real killer of Simon. Bronwyn thinks that none of the other students in detention class will harm him in this way, yet Nate disagrees. He thinks that nobody is trustworthy, even Bronwyn herself. He says "Face it, Bronwyn, none of us really know each other. Hell, you could've done it. You're smart enough to plan something this messed

up and get away with it." He assumes that Bronwyn may have been the one who committed the crime. Then Bronwyn replies, "How can you say that?" Nate's statement is classified as conflictive function, specifically accusing form, which is against the social purpose. Astuti (2018) stated that there is no courtesy in conflictive function since it was meant to offend. The speaker uses a direct strategy in delivering the message because the speaker's statement matches the speaker's aim. It is clear from the word selection 'you could have done it' which directly depicts the speaker's accusation and the intention based on the situation also to accuse.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After analyzing the utterances by Nate Macauley, the result shows that all of the functions of illocutionary act are found in the novel dialogue of *One of Us Is Lying*. Starting with the most widely used function, which is collaborative function (Asserting and reporting), followed by convivial function (Offering, inviting, greeting, thanking, apologizing, and complimenting), conflictive function (Accusing and cursing), to the least used function, which is competitive function (Asking, ordering, and demanding). It can conclude that the comparison between the previous research and this research's result pattern of illocutionary act's function tends to be different. The findings also imply that one datum can have more than one illocutionary act's function.

In addition, the most frequently used function of illocutionary act is collaborative function, with asserting as the most commonly used form. This function is indifferent to the social purpose since it is employed to state the truth, speaker's beliefs, feelings, or opinions straightforwardly. It means Nate Macauley as the central figure

frequently expresses what is considered right for him.

The researchers suggest taking more attention to comprehend the illocutionary act's function since it will help us to know which utterance supports the social purpose and which utterance competes, indifferent, and even conflicts with the social goal. Hopefully, by knowing this we can choose to always establish comity and harmony in socializing with others. This research hopefully will be helpful in comprehending illocutionary act's function proposed by Leech (1983) and can be employed as reference materials for the upcoming researcher who is conducting on a similar topic.

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