



SPEECH FUNCTIONS ANALYSIS USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN “OVER THE MOON” MOVIE (2020)

Ni Made Rima Agustina Dwiningtyas¹, Ni Luh Putu Krisnawati², Ni Luh Nyoman Seri Malini³

¹Universitas Udayana, rimaagustinary11@gmail.com

²Universitas Udayana, putu_krisnawati@unud.ac.id

³Universitas Udayana, seri.malini@unud.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Speech functions is a study of a variety of utterances used and their function in speech. Utterances are produced during conversations in daily life, including the function of speech. This study aims to analyze whether the speech function occurs in the movie entitled “Over the Moon”, which talks about the adventure of a girl named Fei Fei. The data was taken from the movie and its script. The data were analyzed by using the qualitative descriptive method, through observation and note-taking as methods and techniques to collect the data. The theory used in this study is proposed by Holmes (2013). There are six categories of speech functions namely: expressive, directive, referential, metalinguistic, poetic, and phatic functions. The result shows that out of the six categories, there are five categories of speech functions found in the movie: expressive, directive, referential, poetic, and phatic. Among the five functions, the directive is the most used speech function in the conversation of the movie. The function of speech can differ, depending on the data source used. Each data source has a different plot, theme, style, setting, and situation when the dialogues occur.

Key Terms: *speech functions, utterances, movie*

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INTRODUCTION

As human beings, language plays an important role in our life. Language is utilized for communication, and information is conveyed during that communication (Newmeyer, 1998, p. 119). Language typically refers to both the superordinate category and the standard variety in ordinary speech. It is a key to allowing people to communicate and interact with one another as it provides how to address, greet, and other stuff in a variety of ways. The way people use language depends on the social contexts, whether in formal or casual contexts. The use of language can also

differ for the talk, which leads to the function of language and speech. (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015, p. 29)

Language serves a range of functions as it can be used to ask and give information, to express indignation and annoyance, or even to express an admiration and respect. As everyone engages in communication, it is inevitable that this interaction will result in the expression of utterance, which has the meaning of “the action of expressing ideas, etc in words” (Hornby, 1995, p. 1316). An utterance would usually convey two things: information and an expression of feelings. Holmes (2001, p. 275) also stated that there are sociolinguistic norms available that differ cross-culturally and involve a culturally appropriate way of the range of speech functions.

Speech function is the term that explains the variety of utterances using its function in speech. According to Eggins & Slade (1997, p. 54), discourse structure patterns demonstrate how participants decide on how to interact with one another by their choice of speech functions, such as demanding challenging contradicting, or supporting, as well as how participants' decisions affect whether conversational interactions continue or come to an end. It is important to learn about speech functions as it will be very helpful in doing a good communication speech functions and very helpful in communicating well with other people.

Utterances are produced almost every day as a tool to communicate with others and they would have their own speech functions. According to Holmes (2013), there are six functions namely: expressive (expressing feelings), directive (to get someone to do an action), referential (provide information), metalinguistic (comment on the language), poetic (accentuate the aesthetic elements of language), and phatic (show support and compassion for others). The function of speech not only can be found in daily conversation but can also be found in a movie as it involves human communication. According to Oxford Learner’s Dictionary, a movie is a series of moving pictures recorded with a sound that simultaneously provides a story. Utterances are a fundamental element of dialogue in movies as it plays a crucial role in developing the plot, characters, and themes. Speaking of dialogue, there are two components to it: goods-&-services or information, as well as giving and demanding. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2004, p. 107)

There are some related studies of speech function, Martanto (2014) in his study described the kinds of speech functions and interpersonal roles that Alex and Sara used in the *Hitch* movie based on Halliday (1994) theory. Martanto pointed out that only ten out of twelve speech functions, with statement as the highest interpersonal role used by Alex and Sara. Syamsiyah (2018) with the same

theory, found four speech functions and also discussed the role implication of speech functions in language learning. Using the same theory from Halliday, Septiowati (2019) found only four speech functions were dominantly used along with the response of speech functions. Based on Holmes (2013) theory, Wilany, Megah, and Iriyani (2018) analyze the speech functions that were used by the main character in the novel “A Little Princess of Frances Hodgson Burnett” with two addition of another theory of speech functions. The results of the study showed that out of the eight speech functions, only five were found: expressive, directive, referential, phatic, and commissive. On the other hand, Praditya (2022) discovered all six of Holmes' speech functions in his research.

As mentioned above, people produce utterances to communicate with one another, and these utterances would have speech functions of their own. Thus, it is a fascinating occurrence to see how the speech functions are employed in the utterances made by the characters of *Over the Moon* movie. The movie talks about the adventure of a young girl named Fei Fei who wanted to meet the mythical goddess Chang’e. This paper aims to analyze the speech functions and which functions that are used frequently by the character of a movie titled “Over the Moon” (2020).

METHOD

The data of this study was taken from a movie produced by Gennie Rim and Peilin Chou, written by Audrey Wells. The movie was published on a streaming platform called Netflix with the duration of one hour and forty minutes. It talks about a little girl named Fei Fei as the main character, and her adventure with Chin trying to search for a mythical goddess—Chang’e- leading her to the moon. The reason why this movie was chosen is because it is an interesting movie which based on a folktale. Additionally, it highlights aspects of Chinese culture and tradition, which Chinese viewers worldwide have praised the film for doing. Because the movie displays Chinese culture in an authentic and respectful way, it is a great example of how cross-cultural storytelling can be done well. Therefore, seeing how speech functions were used in the movie is interesting.

The data was analyzed through the descriptive qualitative method since it involves non-numerical data, which is the dialogue of the character in the movie. The observational method was used to gather the data. The technique used to collect the data involved the steps below. First, the data were observed by watching the movie and reading the subtitles. The second step followed by taking notes on the conversations which are seen as speech functions. After all the data were

collected, the utterances spoken by the character are analyzed through the six categories of speech functions.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The utterance chosen were spoken by these three characters in the movie: Fei Fei, Chin, and Chang'e. All of the utterances were analyzed based on the speech functions theory by Holmes (2013).

Expressive

Expressive utterances are an expression of the speaker's feelings, according to Holmes (2013: 275). It concentrated on the addressee in order to steer the speaker's attitude toward the subject of his speech. Here are the expressive function used by the character in the movie:

(1)

Auntie Ling : "Take a look!"

Fei Fei : "*Oh yeah, my favourite*"

The scene occurred when they had a family dinner. The utterance of "*Oh yeah, my favourite*" shows how Fei Fei feelings about the thing that Auntie Ling brought to her house. After hugging Fei Fei, Auntie Ling told her to take a look in the grocery bag she brought to the house. It is apparently her favourite hairy crabs, and Fei Fei was happy about that that she smiled so big.

(2)

Fei Fei : "Get used to him? I'll never get used to him! What's so "special" about your moon cake" "*I don't want IT... Urgh! And I don't want YOU.*"

The utterance occurred when she was alone in her room, showing how Fei Fei's feelings towards the little boy named Chin, which happen to be the son of her father's fiancé. The way she yelled showed how upset she was and how she does not want any new addition to the family. Fei Fei also thinks that Chin behaviour is weird because he has a frog as a pet and always smashing his head into the wall.

(3)

Fei Fei : "*I've lost everything now.*"

Gobi : "Not everything. You still have this... and this... and..."

The third utterance is when Fei Fei has arrived on the moon and searches for the gift that she was going to give to the moon goddess Chang'e. However, the chicken bandits stole her dolls which they believed as Chang'e gifts. Fei Fei sighed and hugged her own knees, closing her eyes as she expressed her sad feelings with the utterance "*I've lost everything now.*" thinking that she already lost everything.

(4)

Chang'e : (To Jade) "Well, at least the potion is working..."

(Jade looks at her sheepishly)

Chang'e : "*I'll never see Houyi again, will I?*" [SIGHS SOMBERLY]

The scene continued after the Moon Goddess finished a ping pong match with Chin. She was not happy and feeling overwhelmed because of the situation. The utterance "*I'll never see Houyi again, will I?*" is considered to be an expressive function. In order to be able to meet Houyi, Chang'e needed the gift that is brought by Fei Fei. Thus, since the gift is not in her hands yet, she expressed her worries about not being able to meet his other half, Houyi.

(5)

Fei Fei : "Chin?!"

(Chin spots Fei Fei, running towards her -)

Chin : "Fei Fei! Oh my gosh, *I'm so happy to see you!*"

Since they got separated in the first place, they were happy to meet each other again. Chin expressed his feelings with "... *I'm so happy to see you*" when he finally met his sister, indicating that he was glad they are able to meet each other. The utterance aligned with how expressive function is being explained, which is about one's feelings and emotions.

(6)

Chin : "(Battle cry) *I WANT MY SISTER!*"

This scene occurred after Fei Fei was able to go through the barriers to the chamber. Chin, upon knowing that his sister could possibly stay in the chamber forever, banged his head into the barriers. Chin's utterance "*I WANT MY SISTER*" has the function to express his emotions, as he was worried about not being able to meet his sister again.

(7)

Chang'e : ***“Thank you for bringing me the gift, Fei Fei.”***

(Chang'e finally hands Fei Fei the long forgotten photo from before. Fei Fei takes it.)

Fei Fei : “I wish it had given you everything you wanted.

Chang'e : “It did. The real gift was you.”

The conversation above occurred before they returned to the earth. The Moon Goddess was expressing her gratitude towards the gift that Fei Fei had brought to her. Therefore, the utterance ***“Thank you for bringing me the gift, Fei Fei”*** has an expressive function as it was used to convey Chang'e emotions and feelings.

Directive

Holmes (2013: 277) defines directives as the act of forcing someone to perform a task. These speaking acts have varying degrees of express directive force. Declaratives or interrogatives are frequently used in English to request respectful behavior from others. The use of intonation, tone, and context in speech also play a role. This can be seen in the movie from the utterances below:

(1)

Fei Fei : ***“Tell me about Chang'e.”***

Father : “Again?”

Fei Fei : “Again, again! I love to hear about the moon goddess! Tell me, momma?”

The utterance ***“Tell me about Chang'e”*** was a scene where her mother was narrating about the mythical creature, moon goddess Chang'e. Fei Fei wants to hear more about the moon goddess, hence, she pleaded to her mother, saying that she would want to hear more about the moon goddess, and her mother gladly continued her story. Thus, her utterance aligned with directive function that used to request something from others.

(2)

Chin : “What? Don't you know leapfrog? Here, watch Croak”

Fei Fei : ***“You can't let a frog loose in here!”*** “Who exactly are you?”

The utterance “*You can’t let a frog loose in here!*” occurred when Chin brought his frog pet to Fei Fei house. Fei Fei was not happy with the frog, therefore with an unhappy face, she told Chin that frog cannot be there, and caught the croak—giving it back to Chin. Her action and utterance indicates a directive function as it was a force to get Chin’s frog out of the house.

(3)

Chin : “My mom and your dad are getting mar—“

Fei Fei : “*Don’t say it! Don’t!*”

The utterance occurred after Fei Fei decided to stop joining the family dinner and wanted to return to her room. She met with Chin in the hallway, and Chin kept telling her that they would be a brother and sister, that their parent would marry each other. Fei Fei did not want to hear about it, thus she yelled and told Chin to not say that by saying “*Don’t say it! Don’t!*” and Chin managed to not continue his words.

(4)

Chang’e : “Pictures. She wants pictures. Everybody wants pictures!” (to Fei Fei) “Does this look like a photo op to you?”

(Chang’e strikes an amazing pose.)

Fei Fei : “(Timid) Um... yes?”

Chang’e : “Then *do it fast.*”

The Moon Goddess utterance has the function of directive. This is because Chang’e utterance “... *do it fast*” has the meaning to get Fei Fei to do the action as fast as possible, in this case, it was the action to take the photo. Therefore, it aligned with the criteria of the directive function that was used to get someone to perform an action or task.

(5)

Gretch : “Ah! Are you nuts!? It’s mine!”

Fei Fei : “*Give it back!*”

Gretch : “Get your grubby mitts off!”

The utterance “*Give it back*” occurred during the time when Fei Fei already landed on the moon. The chick bandit stole Fei Fei’s doll which they believe was a

gift for the moon goddess. Fei Fei obviously mad at how they easily stole the gift when she was the one who found it, thus she shouted at them, telling them to give the doll back.

(6)

Chang'e : "Lunarians! I announce a competition! Anyone who finds and brings me the gift will get their wish granted!"

(The Lunarians [CHATTER EXCITEDLY]. Chang'e turns back to Fei Fei, her eyes narrow.)

Chang'e : "If you bring it to me first, you'll get your photo. (Addressing the crowd) Good luck and GOD SPEED, ***FIND IT!***"

The conversation above occurred after Fei Fei and Chin landed on the moon and were finally able to meet the Moon Goddess for the first time. Chang'e instructed everyone including Fei Fei and Chin to get her the gift by saying "... ***FIND IT!***". Thus, the utterance has the function of directive as she used her utterance to get everyone searching for her gift.

(7)

(Chin and Bungee sneak around the palace corridor as a group of moon guards march nearby. He peeks out from behind one of the columns and leans over to Bungee—)

Chin : "***You take that one*** and I'll take the rest! Easy peasy."

The conversation above occurred after Fei Fei left Chin alone with Bungee, Fei Fei's bunny. The two of them wanted the photo that Fei Fei has taken with the Moon Goddess. Unexpectedly, they need to fight the moon guards in order to get to Chang'e. Chin instructed Bungee with the utterance "***You take that one...***" that has a directive function as it meant to get someone to do something.

(8)

(Chin gives Croak a high-five. Furious, Chang'e lifts the table and launches it down to the floor with a [FRUSTRATED YELL], the pieces disintegrating. Chin lands next to it. Chang'e turns away—)

Chang'e : "***No one's leaving*** until I get that Gift!"

Chin and Chang'e were having a ping pong match with each other. Upon knowing that Chin is the winner, Chang'e yelled in frustration by uttering "***No one's leaving...***". Her utterance can be considered as directive function as it was meant to warn Chin that he cannot get out from the palace until Fei Fei is back with the gift.

Referential

Words used to indicate things or facts are referred to as being referential. According to Holmes (2013: 275), referential language includes statements that give information. In the utterances from the movie, it can be seen from utterances below:

(1)

Fei Fei : "Did you know if you put forty billion moon cakes side-by-side you could reach the moon?"

Male customer #2: "That's a lot of moon cakes."

Fei Fei: "***Course if the moon is at its furthest point from the Earth, you'd need four hundred twenty-six million two hundred thirty-two more***"

This is an utterance that occurred when Fei Fei was delivering the moon cakes and decided to talk to her customer. The utterance above can be considered as referential because it has information given by Fei Fei about how many moon cakes are needed to reach the moon, which is ***four hundred twenty-six-million two hundred thirty-two more***.

(2)

Father : "Alright... Hey, we've got company tonight, so don't be late. Okay?"

Fei Fei : "***I'll be back in time***"

This is where Fei Fei needs to deliver the moon cakes to her customer. She was going out on her bike when she was told by her father that they were going to have a guest later, which is a sign to Fei Fei not to come back late. That is when Fei Fei gave information to her father by replying, that she ***will be back in time***.

(3)

Chin : "What are these things?"

(One of them zap Chin—)

Chin : (CONT'D) "Ow!"

Chang'e : "*Palace Security.*"

The conversation above occurred when Chin encountered the Moon Goddess Chang'e. He asked the Moon Goddess about the living creature that keep shots on him. Chang'e then replied with an utterance that has a referential function as she referred to the shooting star that Chin has asked as a "Palace Security", which means the palace guard.

Poetic

Without considering the larger issues of language, poetic function cannot be explored in a way that is useful, so it must be carefully considered. This function focuses on the aesthetic aspects of language. It could be a rhyme, a lyric, or a catchy phrase (Holmes, 2013: 275). This function can be seen from the utterance in the dialogue:

(1)

Mother : "Because, Houyi died here on Earth"

Fei Fei : "*And when she cries, her tears turn into stardust.*"

The utterance "*And when she cries, her tears turn into stardust.*", occurred when Fei Fei and her mother were talking about the legend mythical creatures named Chang'e. Her mother always narrating her about Chang'e, and Fei Fei remembered the words that her mother always used to describe Chang'e. The choice of words matches the poetic function which is a function of the aesthetic features in speech.

(2)

Chang'e : "*ALWAYS AND FOREVER IN THIS HEART OF MINE LONGER THAN THE HEAVENS AND THE STARS THAT SHINE*"

The lyrics of Chang'e song above is considered as a poetic function as it focuses on linguistic aesthetic features. Poetic function is indicated by the rhyme and it could be seen from the word "mine" and "shine". Therefore, the lyrics that were uttered by Chang'e aligned with the criteria of poetic function.

Phatic

According to Holmes (2013: 275), the phatic function is similarly significant from a sociolinguistic perspective. Phatic communication conveys an emotive or social message as opposed to a referential one. Phatic statements demonstrate empathy and solidarity with others. This function of solidarity and empathy to others can be seen in the utterances:

(1)

Auntie Ling: “Hello! Anybody order twelve big, hairy crabs?”

Auntie Mei: “Move aside, good looking is gonna start cooking.”

Fei Fei : “***Hi, Aunties!***”

Fei Fei greets her two aunties who enter her house at that time and hugged them. Auntie Ling brought her a hairy crab, while Auntie Mei said that she will cook their dinner. Fei Fei’s utterance “***Hi, Aunties!***” can be considered as phatic function because it is a greeting that shows solidarity.

(2)

(Jade Rabbit’s footsteps quietly approach—)

Chang’e : “Jade?”

(He hops in, delighted with himself.)

Chang’e : “***What’s going on with you?***”

The scene continued with Jade approaching Chang’e whilst bringing her the potion that she has asked for previously. The conversation above occurred as a form of sympathy towards Jade the Rabbit, as the Moon Goddess was worrying about his condition when he approached her. Thus, it aligned with the phatic function that demonstrates empathy or sympathy to one another.

(3)

(Gobi meets Chin as they run to the throne room—)

Gobi : “Hi, I’m Gobi!”

Chin : “***Rad. I’m Chin.***”

Chin’s utterance “***Rad. I’m Chin***” occurs after he finally meet her sister. It has the phatic function as Chin introduces himself to Gobi after Gobi greeted him.

This fits the phatic function criteria as it employs solidarity and empathy with others.

CONCLUSION

Being able to communicate is crucial for human beings. The element of communication is language. The function of language and speech is influenced by how language or speech is used, which might vary depending on the talk's objectives. A person must create utterances to communicate. Every utterance serves a different speaking function. There are also utterances, which in a movie have their speech function because the communication between the main characters is included. After observing and analyzing the movie *Over the Moon with Holmes* (2013) theory, it can be seen that the movie matched the speech functions theory. This is because out of six speech functions, five of them were found in the movie. There were 23 utterance where the speech functions found with directive as the most used speech function with 8 data, followed by expressive (7), referential (3), poetic (2), and phatic (3) functions. The result of this study shows a different result from the previous studies, and it can be concluded that the result of speech function would differ from each data source. This can be caused by how each data source has its own differences in the theme, plot, style, situation, and setting.

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