Research Review
Jurnal Ilmiah Multidisiplin
Vol. 5, No. 2, November 2026 ISSN: 29622743

Perlocutionary Acts in "The Good Dinosaur" Movie
(Tindak Perlokusi dalam Film "The Good Dinosaur")

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Article Info

Article history:

Received: 9 October 2026
Revised: 2 November 2026
Accepted: 2 November 2026

Keywords:

Perlocutionary Acts
Speech Acts
Pragmatic Study
Movie The Good Dinosaur

Kata Kunci:

Tindak Perlokusi
Tindak Tutur
Studi Pragmatik
Film The Good Dinosaur

Abstract

This study aims to identify and analyze the types and meanings of perlocutionary acts contained in the movie "The Good Dinosaur". Descriptive qualitative methods are used in this study because the data analyzed are in the form of speech or words so that they do not require processing in the form of statistics or numbers. The research data sources come from dialogues and communication actions displayed by the characters in the movie. Data were collected through documentation techniques by watching the movie, reviewing the script, and identifying and recording utterances containing perlocutionary acts based on Qiang's theory (2013). Continued with analysis techniques through a selection process, classification into four types of perlocutionary acts, descriptive presentation, and interpretation of meaning to produce research conclusions. The results obtained in this study found 27 perlocutionary acts, including 20 verbal sentences and 7 nonverbal sentences. Based on the analysis, there are 12 utterances for type 1 perlocutionary acts, 2 utterances for type 2 perlocutionary acts, 12 utterances for type 3 perlocutionary acts, and 1 utterance for type 4 perlocutionary acts, while in this also showing that the meaning of speech is greatly influenced by how the listener interprets the message in a particular context.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis jenis-jenis dan makna tindak perlokusi yang terdapat dalam movie "The Good Dinosaur". Metode kualitatif deskriptif digunakan dalam penelitian ini karena data yang dianalisis berupa tuturan atau kata-kata sehingga tidak memerlukan pengolahan dalam bentuk statistik maupun angka. Sumber data penelitian berasal dari dialog dan tindakan komunikasi yang ditampilkan oleh para tokoh dalam movie. Data dikumpulkan melalui teknik dokumentasi dengan cara menonton movie, menelaah naskah, serta mengidentifikasi dan mencatat ujaran yang mengandung tindak perlokusi berdasarkan teori Qiang (2013). Dilanjutkan dengan teknik analisis melalui proses seleksi, klasifikasi ke dalam empat jenis tindak perlokusi, penyajian secara deskriptif, dan interpretasi makna untuk menghasilkan simpulan penelitian. Hasil yang diperoleh dalam penelitian ini, ditemukan sebanyak 27 tindak perlokusi diantaranya terdapat 20 kalimat verbal dan 7 kalimat nonverbal. Berdasarkan analisis, terdapat 12 ujaran untuk tindakan perlokusi tipe 1, 2 ujaran untuk tindakan perlokusi tipe 2, 12 ujaran untuk tindakan perlokusi tipe 3, dan 1 ujaran untuk tindakan perlokusi tipe 4, sementara dalam hal ini juga menunjukkan bahwa makna suatu ujaran sangat dipengaruhi oleh bagaimana pendengar menafsirkan pesan dalam konteks tertentu.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the primary tool humans use to convey information, express feelings, and build social relationships (Bonvillain, 2019). In the communication process, meaning is determined not only by the words spoken, but also by the context behind those utterances (Dey, 2023; Hansen & Terkourafi, 2023). Therefore, pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that examines the relationship between language and the context in which it is used to produce meaning (Yule, 1996). One important area of study within pragmatics is speech acts, which consist of locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts (Ramdhani & Amalia, 2023). Of these, perlocutionary acts focus on the effects or impacts an utterance has on the listener, such as changes in attitudes, emotions, beliefs, or actions. The study of perlocutionary acts is important because it can demonstrate how an utterance influences the interlocutor in the communication process.

In recent years, research on speech acts in movie has increased, particularly focusing on illocutionary acts. Movies are often used as data sources in pragmatics research because they display language use similar to everyday communication and demonstrate the verbal and nonverbal responses of the characters. Sukmawati et al. (2022) examined illocutionary acts in the movie "Sing" and found their contribution to English language learning. Maharani and Sari (2023), in their study of the movie "Soul," found that directives were the most dominant type of illocutionary act used by the characters. Similar research conducted by Ramdhani and Amalia (2023) showed that the study of speech acts in movie still focuses primarily on the function and type of illocutionary act. Furthermore, Loi (2025) identified various types of illocutionary acts in the movie "The Good Dinosaur" and explained the meaning of utterances based on Searle's theory (1969). The results of these studies indicate that the analysis of illocutionary acts in movie has developed well and become a primary focus in pragmatics.

However, research on perlocutionary acts remains very limited compared to research on illocutionary acts. Most previous research has focused on the speaker's intent when delivering an utterance, while the impact of the utterance on the listener has not been analyzed in depth. Furthermore, research using Qiang's (2013) theory of perlocutionary acts is rare, particularly in animated movies. Qiang (2013) categorizes perlocutionary acts into four types: Type 1, when the listener understands the speaker's utterance, Type 2, when the listener does not understand the utterance, Type 3, when the listener understands the utterance but chooses not to act accordingly, and Type 4, when the listener understands the utterance through the assistance of a third party. Previous research also generally has not detailed how an utterance produces a specific effect, as reflected in the character's verbal and nonverbal responses. This situation indicates a research gap that needs further study to broaden our understanding of perlocutionary acts in communication.

Based on this gap, this study examines the types and meanings of perlocutionary acts in Peter Sohn's movie, The Good Dinosaur, using Qiang's (2013) theory. This movie was chosen because it displays various interactions that demonstrate changes in the characters' emotions, attitudes, beliefs, and behavior in response to the utterances they receive. The unit of analysis in this study is the utterance containing perlocutionary acts and the verbal and nonverbal responses shown by the characters as a result of the utterance. This study aims to identify the types of perlocutionary acts and analyze the meaning of the perlocutionary acts that appear in the movie The Good Dinosaur.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach. This approach was chosen because the data analyzed consisted of utterances and verbal and nonverbal responses containing perlocutionary acts in the movie "The Good Dinosaur." The data in this study are not numerical and therefore cannot be analyzed using quantitative methods. According to Bogdan and Biklen (1997), descriptive qualitative research is research that describes in depth a phenomenon, event, or social behavior without using numerical data, but data in the form of words, narratives, or visual. This approach is considered appropriate for the research objectives, namely to identify types of perlocutionary acts and analyze the meanings that emerge through the characters' responses in the movie. By using a qualitative descriptive approach, this study not only describes the data found but also interprets the relationship between utterances and their influence based on the underlying communication context.

The primary data source for this study is the animated movie "The Good Dinosaur," directed by Peter Sohn by Pixar Animation Studios (2015). This movie was chosen because it depicts various communication interactions that demonstrate the influence of speech on the characters' emotions, attitudes, and behavior. In addition to the movie, this study also uses dialogue transcripts obtained from The Script Savant website (www.thescriptsavant.com) as supporting data sources. The simultaneous use of movie and transcripts aims to ensure the accuracy of the analyzed data. The unit of analysis in this study is utterances containing perlocutionary acts, along with the verbal and nonverbal responses that arise as a result of these utterances. After going through a process of data identification and selection according to the research focus, 27 data points were obtained that met the analysis criteria.

The data collection technique used was documentation. The data collection process was conducted by repeatedly watching the movie "The Good Dinosaur" to understand the storyline, conversational context, and relationships between characters. Next, the researcher read and compared the dialogue in the movie with the obtained transcripts. Afterward, the researcher identified utterances containing perlocutionary acts and observed the responses displayed by other characters, both verbally and nonverbally. The obtained data were then documented and selected based on their alignment with the perlocutionary act theory used in this study. The use of two data sources, namely movie transcripts and dialogue, was carried out to increase data accuracy and ensure that each utterance and response could be analyzed according to the context in which it occurred.

Data analysis was conducted descriptively using the perlocutionary act theory proposed by Qiang (2013). The first stage is to identify all utterances containing perlocutionary acts. Next, the data is classified into four types of perlocutionary acts: type 1, type 2, type 3, and type 4. After the classification process is complete, each data item is analyzed based on the context of the utterance, the meaning conveyed by the speaker, and the verbal and nonverbal responses shown by the interlocutor. The results of the analysis are then explained sequentially to explain the types and meanings of perlocutionary acts found in the movie The Good Dinosaur. To maintain the validity of the data, the researcher rechecked each item by comparing the dialogue in the transcript with the scenes in the movie so that the resulting interpretation is in accordance with the actual communication context.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on research conducted by researcher at the Movie The Good Dinosaur, it was found that there were 12 utterances for type 1 perlocutionary acts, 2 utterances for type 2 perlocutionary acts, 12 utterances for type 3 perlocutionary acts, and 1 utterance for type 4 perlocutionary acts. The total of 27 data containing perlocutionary acts, there are 20 verbal sentences and 7 nonverbal sentences.

3.1 Results

3.1.1 Type 1: Listener Understands the Speaker's Intention

In type 1, the listener understands the speaker's utterance. This means that the speaker's desired outcome can occur when the listener is able to understand the meaning of the utterance and act accordingly, thereby achieving the communication goal desired by both parties.

The data was found in a scene where Butch assigns Arlo to stand on a large rock and scream, in order to lure a group of bull thieves out of their hiding place. Upon reaching the rock, Arlo begins to make a sound, but it's barely audible. Seeing this, Spot takes action by biting Arlo's leg.

Arlo: (He opens his mouth to roar... NOTHING COMES OUT! Just strangled whisper.)

Spot: (Spot bites one of Arlo's legs, he screams!) 00:57:39

Referring to data 8, Spot as a listener who saw Arlo not shouting loudly, finally Spot knew what action he should take. Through Spot's response, namely "Spot bites one of Arlo's legs, he screams!" this means that Spot has understood Arlo's intended meaning and the action taken by Spot is a nonverbal communication act in the form of touching by biting. In this action, Spot responds so that Arlo screams louder. The meaning of Spot's nonverbal action shows that he started biting Arlo's leg with the aim of making Arlo make a louder sound so that it can be heard by a group of bull thieves. Therefore, the nonverbal action taken by Spot which is underlined in bold shows that this is included in the first type of perlocutionary act because Spot fully understands the meaning based on the situation that is happening between him and Arlo.

3.1.2 Type 2: Listener Misunderstands the Speaker's Intention

In type 2, the listener is unable to understand the speaker's utterance. This means the listener has a misunderstanding that prevents the speaker's expectations from being realized, resulting in a failed perlocutionary effect.

Data found in the scene Spot shows the path to the berry tree, but when he arrives at the location, Spot realizes there is a danger in the form of a snake so he tries to warn Arlo through nonverbal actions by growling and blocking, but the warning is not understood by Arlo who still insists on approaching and taking the berries.

Spot: the boy jumps between Arlo and the berries, growling fiercely.

Arlo: What's with you? Th-they're right here. 00:34:39

Referring to data 14, Spot as the speaker wants the listener (Arlo) not to approach the berry tree because there is a snake guarding the tree. Furthermore, in Arlo's speech, he states "What's with you? Th-they're right here" shows that Arlo does not understand the meaning of Spot's nonverbal actions. In the utterance, Arlo is confused and does not understand Spot's actions in a situation that is considered important. The meaning of the utterance used by Arlo shows a sense of confusion towards Spot's behavior that hinders him when the berry tree is near them. Thus, Arlo's action contains the second type of perlocutionary act because there is a mismatch between the speaker's understanding of the meaning and the listener's response so that it can be said that the action between the two is not achieved.

3.1.3 Type 3: Listener Understands but Does Not Cooperate

In type 3, the listener fully understands the speaker's intended meaning, but is unwilling to act accordingly or cooperate, resulting in a failed effect or outcome.

The data in this scene occurs when Arlo is shocked to see a small reptile being eaten by Thunderclap. This incident makes Arlo start to think about his pet creature named Spot so that he worries that if the flying birds see Spot, they will eat him. Arlo starts trying to get away from the group of flying birds, namely Thunderclap, Downpour, and Coldfront. When Arlo was just about to get away from the group, Thunderclap along with Downpour and Coldfront came to intercept Arlo and would not let him get away easily.

Downpour: Where is it?!

Arlo: H-He's hiding. Over there, b-by that big rock. 00:51:23

Referring to data 22, the speaker wants the listener to tell him where he hid his pet. In the utterance, Arlo says "H-He's hiding. Over there, b-by that big rock" shows that Arlo has understood the meaning of Downpour's utterance but chooses not to cooperate. In the utterance, Arlo feels pressured and lies by continuing to point to a place where Spot is not actually present. The meaning of the utterance used by the listener (Arlo) is to indicate that he is lying to the speaker (Downpour) because Arlo is worried that if he tells the truth, Spot will be in danger. Thus, the bolded utterance contains the third type of perlocutionary act because the listener fully understands the meaning, but the listener does not act accordingly by lying about Spot's whereabouts.

3.1.4 Type 4: Understanding through Third-Party Clarification

In type 4, the listener will only understand the speaker's intent if they include a third person who shares the same context as the utterance. This involvement can help the second listener grasp the speaker's meaning, thus ensuring the desired perlocutionary act is successful.

Data is discovered during their journey by Butch, Ramsey, Nash, Arlo, and Spot, who discover a herd of bison being stolen by a group of carnivorous Velociraptor dinosaurs. Realizing the situation, Butch devises a strategy to trap the thieves and make them reveal themselves.

Butch : I need you to keep on the dodge and sidle up the lob lolly past them hornheads, just hootin' and hollerin' to score off them rustlers. We'll cut dirt and get the bulge on 'em.

Arlo : What?

Ramsey : He just wants you to get on that rock and scream. 00:56:33

Referring to data 27, in Ramsey's statement that says "He just wants you to get on that rock and scream" shows that Ramsey has understood the speaker's (Butch) utterance's meaning so that he explains it simply to Arlo and the involvement of a third person (Ramsey) is able to make Arlo immediately understand the meaning of the sentence. In the utterance, Ramsey emphasizes simplifying the command so that Arlo understands his task clearly and easily. The meaning of the utterance used by the third listener (Ramsey) shows that the first listener (Arlo) only needs to do a task that is actually quite simple, namely climbing onto the rock and shouting to help their plan. Therefore, the utterance with a bold line contains the fourth type of perlocutionary act, where the first listener (Arlo) will only begin to understand the speaker's (Butch) meaning if there is involvement of the speech of a third person or second listener (Ramsey).

3.2 Discussion

The types of perlocutionary speech acts used by the listener to the speaker have been identified based on the classification of perlocutionary speech acts proposed by Qiang (2013), namely type 1, type 2, type 3, and type 4. Based on the analysis that has been carried out on perlocutionary speech acts in the movie "The Good Dinosaur" directed by Peter Sohn, the discussion can be described as follows.

The first type of perlocutionary speech act is Type 1, this type shows that the listener is able to understand the speaker's intention well, thus producing the desired effect. In this movie, the researcher found 12 utterances and can be found in data 1 to data 12. As one example, in data 8, Spot's action of biting Arlo's leg is a nonverbal response based on understanding the situation, namely to help Arlo scream louder. This shows that understanding meaning is not always achieved through verbal language but also through

interpretation of context. This finding is in line with Qiang (2013), who said that perlocutionary acts focus on the concrete results of an action, although not always conveyed through direct speech.

The second type of perlocutionary speech act is Type 2, where there is a failure to achieve the desired effect because the listener does not understand the speaker's intention. As one example in data 14, when Spot warned Arlo not to approach the berry tree, but Arlo did not understand the signal made by the speaker and continued to approach the tree. In this case, even though Arlo had a specific goal, he was still unable to understand the actions shown by Spot. Thus, the second type emphasizes that the success of communication is highly dependent on a common understanding between the speaker and the listener. This is in line with Thomas's (2014), view that says that meaning is constructed through an interpretation process that involves context and communication participation. When the listener fails to use contextual information to interpret the speaker's intention, then the formation of meaning is not optimal. Thus, if a message is conveyed by the speaker but cannot be understood by the listener, then there will be a failure in communication.

The third type of perlocutionary speech act is Type 3, in this type it is found that the listener actually understands the speaker's intention, but does not show cooperation in responding to it. As an example in data 22, Arlo provides incorrect information regarding Spot's whereabouts. In this situation, Arlo understands the question asked by the speaker (Downpour), but chooses not to provide a truthful answer due to anxiety. In the data that has been explained, the speaker's communicative purpose is understood by the listener, so the process of interpreting the meaning takes place well. However, despite understanding the speaker's intention, the listener consciously chooses to ignore that desire. This is in line with the view of Mey (2001) who emphasizes that language is used to achieve certain goals in a social context, but successful understanding does not always guarantee the realization of those goals. Thus, the third type shows that understanding does not always guarantee the achievement of the expected communication effect.

The last type of perlocutionary speech act is Type 4, where understanding the meaning of an utterance can occur with the help of a third party. In data 27, the listener one (Arlo) failed to understand the meaning instructed by the speaker (Butch) because the language used was too difficult. However, Ramsey is a second listener then explained the meaning in a simpler way, so that Arlo was finally able to understand and carry out the given task. This shows that communication does not always occur directly between two parties, but can involve other participants to achieve understanding. This is in line with Hymes (1972) who stated the importance of the role of participants and context in speech events. One important element in the SPEAKING model is Participants, namely the parties involved in the speech event and provide assistance in the process of forming meaning. Thus, the fourth type shows that the success of perlocutionary speech can be influenced by the help of third parties in the communication process.

The dominance of Type 1 indicates that many interactions in the movie are built on successful understanding and emotional cooperation, especially between Arlo and supportive characters such as Poppa, Momma, Spot, and Nash. However, the high number of Type 3 also shows that understanding does not always lead to cooperation. Several characters understand the intended meaning but resist, reject, manipulate, or refuse to act accordingly. This pattern is important because it shows that perlocutionary success depends not only on comprehension but also on willingness, emotional condition, and situational interest.

Compared with previous studies, such as Sari et al. (2022) show that in terms of variations in the success and failure of perlocutionary acts influenced by context and shared understanding between speaker and listener. However, the novelty of this study lies in showing that perlocutionary effects in The Good Dinosaur are not only verbal but also nonverbal. Gestures such as patting, biting, pushing, howling, and arranging objects function as evidence of understanding, misunderstanding, resistance, or mediated clarification. This expands the analysis of perlocutionary acts beyond spoken responses and highlights the role of embodied communication in animated movie discourse. This finding complements the findings of Loi (2025), Sukmawati et al. (2022), and Maharani and Sari (2023), which focused more on illocutionary acts, by showing that the final effect of an utterance (perlocutionary act) has more complex dynamics.

The utterances in the movie "The Good Dinosaur" demonstrate that the perlocutionary acts occurring in the interactions between the characters produce various effects that do not always align with the speaker's intentions. Therefore, the success of an utterance depends not only on the language structure but also on the situational context, social relationships, and the listener's ability to interpret the utterance's meaning

4. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusions

The conclusion of this study shows that perlocutionary acts that appear in interactions between characters have various forms and effects, depending on social relationships, situational context, emotional conditions, and the listener's ability to understand the speaker's intentions. In this study, 27 data were found

from the movie entitled "The Good Dinosaur". The data were analyzed based on pragmatic studies, especially in perlocutionary acts using Qiang's (2013) theory. Type 1 (perlocutionary acts that successfully achieve the desired effect according to the speaker) consisted of 12 data, type 2 (perlocutionary acts that fail because the listener does not understand the speaker's intentions) consisted of 2 data, type 3 (perlocutionary acts when the listener understands the speaker's intentions but does not provide an appropriate response) consisted of 12 data, and type 4 (perlocutionary acts whose success is assisted by a third party) was found only in 1 data. Thus, this study answers the problem formulation regarding the types of perlocutionary acts in the movie "The Good Dinosaur" while in this also showing that the meaning of speech is greatly influenced by how the listener interprets the message in a particular context.

4.2 Suggestions/Recommendations

After presenting the conclusions, the researcher then offers recommendations to readers regarding the findings of this study. These recommendations are intended for linguistics students who wish to conduct research in the same field. Speech act theory is not limited to the types of speech acts and their classifications, but other researchers can also observe other contextual clues such as the types and functions of nonverbal communication in perlocutionary speech acts, to determine whether the perlocutionary speech act was successfully fulfilled or not. Therefore, future researchers can explore speech act theory in greater depth. Additionally, it is recommended that future researchers conduct studies examining perlocutionary acts using diverse sources such as novels, talk shows, social media, and everyday conversations to gather a broader range of data.

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