

**AN ANALYSIS OF COMMISSIVE SPEECH ACT  
USED BY DANIEL FORESTER AS A MAIN CHARACTER  
IN THE TOMORROW WAR MOVIE BY CHRIS MCKAY**

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**Abstract**

Commissive is a style of speech act in which the speaker expresses a willingness to do something in the future. This research aimed to find the kinds of commission speech acts used by Daniel Forester as the main character in The Tomorrow War movie in 2021 and to probe the functions of the commissive speech act used. Descriptive qualitative research was applied in this research. The data were taken in the form of utterances that came from the main character who was Daniel Forester. The researchers used Austin's and Searle's theories to analyse the kinds of commissive speech acts and the functions of each kind. In this research, the researchers found some results: (1) the entire data of commissive speech act in Daniel Forester, the main character in The Tomorrow War movie were 23 data including 6 kinds of commissive speech act, those refusal, offer, promise, volunteer, threat, and guarantee. (2) The researchers have identified the functions of each data of the commissive speech act. In conclusion, the researchers have analyzed Daniel Forester's utterances in The Tomorrow War movie and found 6 kinds of commissive speech acts and their functions by using Austin and Searle's theory.

**Keywords:** Commissive, speech act, movie, main character

**INTRODUCTION**

At present time, movies have become a necessity for humans as a means of entertainment. To capture what the filmmaker wants to express, of course, an understanding of the plot of the film and the language used in the film is needed. To understand the purpose of the story in a film, education is needed. For this reason, learning about implied and explicit meanings is so important. In addition to understanding the context of the film, understanding the messages contained in the film can be implied in everyday life to avoid misunderstandings between individuals.

In this study, the researchers use a science fiction-action film entitled The Tomorrow War. This movie told about people who come from the future, in 2050 to be exact, to ask for help from humans who live in 2022 to deal with aliens that almost wiped out the entire human population on earth. The main character, Daniel Forester is a former soldier who becomes a

Biology teacher and is recruited to participate in this future war. Starring Chris Pratt, this movie, attracts the interest of the researcher to be used as a medium because it represents a movie in the science fiction genre, which is one of the genres favored by the researcher. The researchers analyses commissive speech acts utterances that only come from the main character in this study. In this movie, the researchers found the appropriate data that is needed for the study on commissive speech acts.

Additionally, the researchers want to show that movies, besides to entertain people, it also can be a subject for research and also for teaching, and learning. The researchers want to contribute to English Department students who have studied semantic-related topics utilizing movies, particularly The Tomorrow War movie, as a media learning tool, the researcher also wants to give her contribution to English teachers or lecturers who are teaching semantics. In addition, to present fresh perspectives on using movies as learning tools and to steer clear of the researcher bias.

There are various studies related to this research. The first research by Pambudi (2017) with titled An Analysis of Commissive Speech Act Used in The Vow. Pambudi discovered four types of commissive speech acts in The Vow movie as a result: threat, promise, refusal, and warning. Meanwhile, the locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary found in commissive speech serve as a persuasion, suggestion, warning, promise, advice, and urging between the speaker and the listener.

Husain (2018), with his research entitled Commissives Speech Acts in The Death of Salesman by Arthur Miller, is the researcher of the second study. As a result, the researcher examines the many sorts of commissive speech acts as well as the state of happiness.

### *Commissive Speech Act*

Commissive speech act is one of five kinds in illocutionary act declared by Austin (1962) and Searle (1979). Commissive is utterance comes from speaker that commit to some future action. Searle (1979:14) suggested that commissives are illocutionary acts that aim to bind the speaker (again, to varied degrees) to a specific course of conduct in the future. While Austin (1962:150-151) said, commissives are characterized by promise or other undertaking; they bind you to carry out a specific action. Commissive also include declarations or

announcements of purpose, which are not promises, and more nebulous statements that we can refer to as espousals, such as siding with. It means that commissive speech act is utterance that comes from the speaker that will happen in the future. When the speakers say a sentence or words contains commissive speech act, what they said do not happen immediately, but he/she will do what he/she said in the future.

## **METHOD**

In this research, the researchers use a qualitative approach to figure out the commissive speech act used by Daniel Forester as a main character in The Tomorrow War movie by Chris McKay. For the data, the researchers use commissive speech act utterances that come from the main character of The Tomorrow War movie in this research. To collect the data needed for the research problem, the researchers use the observation method. The instrument of collecting data in this research is the researcher herself as the primary instrument. The secondary instruments in this research are laptop, notes, documents, data sheets, smartphone, and WiFi to collect the data in the form of utterances that come from Daniel Forester as the main character in a movie entitled The Tomorrow War.

In collecting data, the researcher uses some steps, those are visiting Layar kaca 21 site and then search movie entitled The Tomorrow War which has a duration of 138 minutes, downloading The Tomorrow War movie on <https://lk21.xn--6frz82g/the-tomorrow-war-2021/>, watching The Tomorrow War movie to understand the story and observe it, writing the conversation of the characters in The Tomorrow War movie which has a total of 47 characters, writing a note to identify the kinds of commissive speech acts used by Daniel Forester as the main character in The Tomorrow War movie, identifying the function of the commissive speech act those are used by the main character of The Tomorrow War movie, Daniel Forester, the last is concluding all the results.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The researchers use Austin's and Searle's theories to analyze the data in this research. There are six kinds of commissive speech act found in 23 data of the analysis of utterances that are

used by the main character in The Tomorrow War movie, they are refusal, offer, promise, volunteer, threat, and guarantee as can be seen in table 1.

Table1: Kinds of Commissive

| Kinds of Commissive  | Data   | Total     |
|----------------------|--|-----------|
| Refusal              | Datum 1, Datum 6, and Datum 11, 15                                     | 4         |
| Offer                | Datum 2, Datum 9, Datum 13, Datum 14, Datum 17 and Datum 20            | 6         |
| Promise              | Datum 3, Datum 8, Datum 10, Datum 15, Datum 16, Datum 18, and Datum 21 | 7         |
| Volunteer            | Datum 4 and Datum 15   | 2         |
| Threat               | Datum 5 and Datum 7  | 2         |
| Guarantee            | Datum 12 and Datum 19  | 2         |
| <b>Total of Data</b> |  | <b>23</b> |

- **Refusal**

According to Pambudi (2017:79), refusal is the act of rejecting anything that has been asked, politely offered, or accepted.

- *Datum 1*

“Look, I’m incredibly proud of my career in the military, and I did two combat tours, but, uh, *I was never gonna be a career guy*. I found my passion in the Army Research Lab. I used my GI Bill to, uh... to go to Cal State, and I’m currently teaching high school biology”

Commissive speech act kind of refusal here identified by the word "never" which is a negative sign to strengthen the speaker's statement that he never continued his military. Thus, the function of refusal here is to express Dan's rejection of his military career.

- *Datum 6*

“*I’m not asking him for a goddamn thing.*”

To emphasize Dan's disapproval of his interlocutor's thought, it is marked by the word "no". The function of refusal in this context reject Emmy's idea to ask for help from Dan's father.

- *Datum 11*

“*I know for a fact I would never leave you.*”

To identify commissive speech act kind of refusal, it can be indicated by the word "never".

- *Datum 15*

“All right, Muri. Okay. *I’ll take the toxin back. I’ll have it mass-produced.* But understand this: *I am not going to leave you here to die.* I’m coming back for you. And you and me, *we’re gonna save this world.* Together.”

To signify the refusal sentence it can be known by the word "not" followed by the words "going to". In Dan's sentence contains refusal has a function to express Dan's disagreement.

- **Offer**

According to Kumalasari (2019:28), offer is a promise made subject to acceptance by the hearer. A speech act known as an offer commits a listener to take a particular action if it is accepted by the listener.

- *Datum 2*

“That’s great, but I have some more data, and I’m nearby, so I-I want to bring a new proposal”

To analyze the offer sentence here, it can be signified by the word "want" that followed by transitive verb which is "to bring" and the thing "new proposal" as the object of the sentence. So, the function of offer sentence in this context is to proposed something to the listener.

- *Datum 9*

“Understood. Yeah. You got a lot of work to do. I’ll just... I’ll make dinner.”

Here the function of offer words is to proffer something to the listener, so that the listener wants to do what the speaker’s order.

- *Datum 13*

“Oh, hey. Shit. That’s supposed to be buried deeper than that. I’ll give you ten dollars if you tell your mom that you cut that cable, not me.”

In this condition, offer has a function to bid on the thing that going to do by the speaker.

- *Datum 14*

“I wanna help.”

The function of offer in this situation, made Dan as the speaker offers something to be done by him, so that he can be useful.

- *Datum 17*

“Hey. We’ll just sit here for a while. Okay?”

The situation in this context made Dan to state an offer word, it is aimed to bid to do by the speaker and the listener.

- Datum 20

*"I guess we're gonna cut that son of a bitch open and shoot anything that looks sideways at us."*

To signify the commissive speech act kind of offer in this context, it can be seen by the word "...re gonna" followed by other words that indicate the speaker's offer to do something that he said. The offer sentence in this condition has a function to answer Dan's interlocutor question and it was also will be done by Dan.

• **Promise**

According to Kumalasari (2019:51), the act of promise is something that will be carried out, which indicates that the act of promise is to allay the hearer's doubt.

- Datum 3

*"I know how to do this. It's seven days. I'll survive. I'm a pretty tough guy."*

The function of promise here, to the speaker to commit to the listener, that he will actually do what he said in the future.

- Datum 8

*"Yeah. Yeah. Hey, hey, hey. It's okay. Don't worry. I want you to know something. I will be back."*

Promise in this context aims to convince the listener of something that the speaker will do and make the listener not feel worried.

- Datum 10

*"Hee-haw! Hee-haw! I'll come soon back before the end of the game. Okay?"*

The promise sentence here has the same function as in Datum 8, which is to persuade the listener of something the speaker will do and to alleviate their concerns.

- Datum 15

*"All right, Muri. Okay. I'll take the toxin back. I'll have it mass-produced. But understand this: I am not going to leave you here to die. I'm coming back for you. And you and me, we're gonna save this world. Together."*

The function of promise in this condition is as a reminder if the speaker is really going to do what the interlocutor wants.

- Datum 16

*"I promise. What about you?"*

In this case, the promise has a function as same as in datum 15, which is a gentle reminder of whether the speaker truly intends to comply with the request of the listener.

- *Datum 18*

“We need to mass-produce this and send it back. *It’ll kill ’em all.*”

To indicate the sign of promise in this context, it can be seen by the word "...ll". at this dialogue, the promise has a function to convince the listener that a thing will definitely useful for something in the future.

- *Datum 21*

“I never told her about our seven days together nor how, in a future that now will never happen, she changed me forever. I’m never gonna leave her. *I’ll never leave this family.* Because my best future, it turned out, was always right in front of me.”

In this context, the promise has a function as same as in datum 15 and 16, which is as a reminder that the speaker will actually do what he is talking about.

- **Volunteer**

As Husain (2018:17) said, a volunteer is someone who offers to perform something without being required to.

- *Datum 4*

“When I come back, I’m gonna have a new job, and *I’m gonna eat all your tuna Santa.*”

To indicate the kind of volunteer can be seen in the third sentence with the word "gonna" and followed by the words that represent what the speaker going to do for the listener. Thus, the volunteer sentence has the function to proffer something that will be done by the speaker in this context.

- *Datum 15*

“All right, Muri. Okay. *I’ll take the toxin back. I’ll have it mass-produced.* But understand this: *I am not going to leave you here to die.* I’m coming back for you. And you and me, *we’re gonna save this world.* Together.”

A volunteer word in this context has the same function as in datum 4, which is the speaker offering himself to do something in the future.

- **Threat**

As said by Pambudi (2017:77) an purpose to do harm, pain, punishment, or evil is expressed through threat.

- *Datum 5*

“Get your hand out of my face, or I’ll bite your finger off. Hold on a second. Can we just slow this down for just a second? H-Hold on, hold on, hold on. Can we just slow down one second? I...”

In this situation, a threat sentence used by the speaker has the function to scare his interlocutor.

- *Datum 7*

“No. You didn’t leave for us. You quit, because you’re a coward. And you still are. Stop sending Christmas cards to my house. You’re never gonna know Muri. You don’t get a second chance.”

The speaker was mad at his interlocutor, and he pronounce a threat the function to punish the target because of the mistakes he made.

- **Guarantee**

As Husain (2018:14) stated, providing a guarantee is firmly promising to carry out an action or cause an event. It is a commitment to the reality of something or the likelihood of something happening.

- *Datum 12*

“We can. We can. This is gonna work. You’re gonna save the world.”

The function of guarantee here, is to ensure the listener, that something will certainly happen in the future.

- *Datum 19*

“I’m not a hero. I was trying to save my daughter. If I got to save the world to save her, then I’m damn sure gonna do it.”

In this context, a guarantee has a function to make the listener sure that the speaker will really do something in the future.

## CONCLUSION

This research aims to analyze the kinds of commissive speech acts that are used by Daniel Forester as the main character in The Tomorrow War movie directed by Chris McKay in 2021



and analyze the functions of the kinds of commissive speech act that have been found by the researcher in the main character utterances. Based on the research findings and discussions, it can be seen that the researchers have found 6 kinds of commissive speech act in Daniel Forester's utterances, and those are, 4 data of refusal, 6 data of offer, 7 data of promise, 2 data of volunteer, 2 data of threat, and 2 data of guarantee. So, the total of the data are 23 and the kind of commissive that mostly promises. In addition, the function of those kinds of commissive speech act arisrefusal is to deny or unwillingness the speaker to do something in the future, offer sentence is for the speaker to suggest to the listener something that the speaker will do, a promise has functions like an attachment for the speaker to do what is said in the future, offering oneself is called a volunteer sentence, a threat expressed through a commissive statement has the function to intimidate the target, and guarantee has the function to convince the listener that something will happen in the future.

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