

## **AN ANALYSIS OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH ACTS BETWEEN THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN “WHITE CHICKS” FILM**

Oviya Talitha Salsabila<sup>1</sup> Murni Mahmud<sup>2\*</sup>

*Universitas Negeri Makassar*

[talithaoviya@gmail.com](mailto:talithaoviya@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup> [murnimahmud@unm.ac.id](mailto:murnimahmud@unm.ac.id)<sup>2\*</sup>

### **Abstract**

This findings of the study title is “An Analysis of Direct and Indirect Speech Acts between the Main Characters in ‘White Chicks’ Film” In analyzing this film used theory by Austin (1975) based on speech acts aspects. This research used descriptive qualitative research in order to describe the aspects and its characteristics that are related to the topic. Using the Austin’s theory, the researcher was to find out the relationship between the main characters. The researcher was categorized the characteristic among the characters based of several aspects from Austin theory of speech acts. The results of this study indicates that there is 1 aspect to maintain the relationship between the main characters. They are 11 typical characteristics based on speech acts theory from Austin. Based on the results of this research, the researcher able to classify the characteristic among the characters.

**Keywords:** Direct Speech Acts, Indirect Speech Acts, Film.

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this era literature was becoming more evolved, as time has passed literature become creativity and new ideas for people’s literature has changed a lot of people’s minds through poems, film, theater etc. It is different from the previous era, in this era literature is tend to be wider, it means people nowadays can easily express their feelings through literary works, they could compose their ideas on songs, paintings, or film works. In this era, there are various steps that can help them to produce their ideas. We can found any of literature works through Internet, or journals or an articles.

Somehow we could found not only in human interaction in daily life, but we can also found it in Film, sometimes we can find that through action, this is also the same part as speech act. A speech act is a word that performs a communicative purpose. Communication and conversation are the most important things to do in basic social interaction. The conversation in this Film, can indicate an example to find out about what the main characters do by saying or acting. Conversation Analysis is a method that related to audio and video of social interaction. In order to learn this interactions, the researcher will discover about how the characters will respond to one another when their talks through a film.

Based on the background above, the researcher thinks that the study of Direct and Indirect speech act in “White Chicks” needs a further more explanation.

1.How does the main characters maintain the communication between each other?

2.What are the typical characteristics of the conversation among the characters in “White Chicks” Film?

Related to the explained above, there are several reviews of related literature about this study as follows

### **Speech Acts**

According to Austin (1962 as mentioned in Jerrold Sadock’ article called “Speech Acts”) In How to Do Things with Words, the contemporary study of speech actions begins with an engrossing monograph. Which is the published version of his 1955 William James lectures at Harvard. This approach begins by observing particular types of statements, such as "I christen this ship the Joseph Stalin; I now proclaim you man and wife." To Christen and wed is to accomplish something. Rather than just saying anything, in Succession. In the sentences Austin designated per formatives, in contrast to constatives, the descriptive sentences that, until Austin, were the primary interest of philosophers of language. The distinction between per formatives and constatives is extensively employed in legal, literary, and political research, among other fields. Austin claimed that the difference was illogical. Austin's premise was that every common word had both a descriptive and an effective component, meaning that expressing anything entails doing. Speech actions are not descriptive; rather, they are claimed to have an effect on a particular situation. The bulk of speaking actions are not historical

in nature. According to Austin, we engage in speech actions on a daily basis, such as greetings, apologizing, demanding, and complaining.

There are two sorts of speaking acts: direct and indirect. Additionally, Yule (1996) asserts that Direct Speech Act occurs when the structure and purpose of the speech are inextricably linked. Meanwhile, Indirect Speech Acts occur when there is an indirect connection between the structure and function of the speech. The connection between the structure and function of utterances. When someone says "it's freezing outside," for example, the direct speech act is to inform the hearer about the current weather conditions outside, while the indirect speech act is to request or offer instruction to close the door to protect the speaker from the cold.

### **Film**

According to Ralph Stephenson (Britannica revised in 2020) Film, often known as motion picture or movie, is a series of images displayed on a screen in fast succession using light. Due to the persistence of eyesight, the illusion and movement become more fluid. Indeed, film is improving its ability to express drama, particularly in terms of emotion development. The film business is incredibly complex, requiring contributions from a variety of artistic disciplines as well as technological expertise. With time, cinema has established itself as the first mass medium of entertainment. Films have advanced in terms of acting, scriptwriting, directing, music, and costume design.

### **Culture**

Film relationship has developed to Cultural, historical or theoretical contexts. In order to put intentionally comment to their context or not, film has always product the culture or period as the time they were created. The relationship between film and culture involving complicated synergy. The relationship film and culture is very important that the ideologies it is common in particular era. The films are produced in late 1940s until 1950s, in that era it is dominated by the sociopolitical and conservatism. However in 1960s, a youth culture began to come up to giving resistance for the dominant institutions. Basically, films are reflected the current concerns, attitudes and trends that has appear in order to tell about the social problems.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The researcher used descriptive qualitative method. The qualitative research uses qualitative data sources such as interviews, documents, and observation. Qualitative research methodologies originated in the social sciences and allow for the examination of social and cultural phenomena. The approach incorporates a variety of data sources, including observation and responder observation, interviews and surveys, documents, and the researchers' perspectives. According to "Denzin and Lincoln (1994)," qualitative research focuses on the interpretation of occurrences in their natural contexts in order to make sense in terms of the meanings individuals assign to these settings. Qualitative research entails the collecting of data from individuals' own experiences, introspection, life stories, interviews, observations, encounters, and visual texts that are relevant to their lives. According to Drew (2009) in the book title "Qualitative research from Start to Finish" by Robert K. Yin, in a more intimate social setting, qualitative research helps to understand and analyze the conversation and interactions between two peoples. Among other signs, the data would include the conversant' expressions, pauses, overlaps and body language. Therefore, the researcher will use descriptive qualitative to analyze direct and indirect between the main characters in "White Chicks" film.

There are two kinds of data sources that the researcher will use in this research which are: The main data, which is taken from the film itself (White Chicks) by Keenan Ivory Wayans. The supporting data, which is taken from journals, articles, books that has relationship with the main data. In collecting the data, the researcher will use interpretative qualitative method. Therefore, the data collection procedure can be described as: Watch and re-watch the movie "White Chicks" 2004 by Keenan Ivory Wayans. taking notes from the conversation about the social interaction that occur between two main characters. Extracting the conversation found in "White Chicks". Organizing the conversation into different types of speech acts. Make a conclusion about the direct and indirect speech acts in "White Chicks" film.

According to Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014), Data condensation, data display and conclusion drawing or verification are three processes in data analysis that are critical to any research. (1) Data condensation is the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, or transferring data found in the body of written field notes, interview transcripts, or documents. By condensing the data, we may make it stronger and avoid losing anything throughout the data reduction process. Any qualitative project will experience data condensation at some point. However, data condensation occurs before the data is gathered, when the researcher determines which examples, study topics, or data gathering procedures to use. After the study is completed and the final report is ready, the data condensing procedure begins. (2) Data Display, The

second stage of the analytical process is data visualization. A display, in general, is a condensed, organised collection of facts that facilitates the drawing of conclusions and taking action. Newspapers and social media platforms are used to disseminate information in daily life. By examining displays, we may have a better understanding of what is happening and what we can do about it, allowing us to make assessments or take action based on that information. The most often used form of displaying qualitative data is text, and both data gathering and display are components of the analytic process. (3) Drawing and verifying conclusion, the third part of the analytical process is the formulation and verification of conclusions. Qualitative analysis is used to determine the meaning of patterns, explanations, causal processes, and assertions prior to beginning data collection. The authors make only a passing reference to the findings. Final results will become apparent after data collection, depending on the study approach or notes employed. Conclusions are also verified as the analyst works; verification is generally defined as the analyst's mind crossing during the writing process; it can be thorough and elaborate, involving lengthy argumentation and review among colleagues to achieve inter subjective consensus, or extensive efforts to replicate a finding in another data set. Qualitative analysis must be documented in order for us to learn from the data.

## **FINDINGS & DISCUSSION**

In this chapter, the researcher took the data from Keenan Ivory Wayan's film named "White Chicks" to find the answers of the research questions that have been mentioned above. "White Chicks" is 01:48:44 length. For the analysis, the researcher focused on a several aspects from Austin theory found in conversation between the main characters.

Moving back to what is Speech act is and what film that related to this result of analyzing. What is Speech act? Language, according to the speech act theory, is viewed as an activity rather than a mode of communication and expression. J. L. Austin, a British linguist, pioneered the current Speech act theory. A speech act is an utterance made for the purpose of communication. We engage in speech actions when we apologize, welcome, request, complain, invite, congratulate, or decline. Both conversation analysis and speech act theory share some characteristics and roles in discourse; both view language as a kind of social interaction.' How Is Conversation Analysis Performed? Between 1964 and 1972, Harvey Sacks pioneered conversation analysis. Conversation analysis is defined by the concept that how discourse is formed and its meanings are determined by the practical, social, and interactional accomplishments of individuals of a society. Talk is not just defined as the exchange of information or communication between two speakers and listeners. Rather than that, participants in a conversation are thought to be cooperating and directing themselves toward organized and meaningful communication.

Based on Austin (1962), the several aspects used for categorizing the conversation in the film are described down below.

## **DIRECT SPEECH ACTS**

Direct speaking activities are usually undertaken using per formative verbs. This group of verbs expresses the speaker's intent clearly. Promising, welcoming, apologizing, and predicting are some of them.

### **Expressive**

This form of action demonstrates a psychological condition or conveys how the speaker feels about a situation. Apologies, welcome, complaints, and congrats were among them.

Extract 19:

(White chicks 00:21:26 – 00:21:44)

Kevin trying to convince Jake by imitating Brittany again.

Kevin: "I want to speak to your supervisor, better yet, I'm going to write a letter."

Jake: "Miss, there is no reason to..."

Marcus: "You are in big trouble."

Kevin: "Dear Mr. Royal Hampton, I am a white woman in America."

In this extract, Kevin is trying to convince Jake by imitating Brittany, he threaten Jake by saying he was going to speak to Jake's supervisor in order to make Jake scared, Kevin also said he is a white woman so Jake believe that Kevin and Marcus are the real Wilson's sisters because Brittany also said the same thing to Kevin to threaten him so Kevin do the same thing to Jake.

### **Directives**

Direct speech acts ask the listener to do something. Order, request, challenge, invite, advice, and beg are examples of illocutionary acts.

Extract 12:

(White Chicks 00:14:48 – 00:15:02)

Brittany and Tiffany are really pissed off to Kevin and Marcus, because of them they got a small wounds on their faces.

Tiffany: "I can't believe, you think we're going to go to the Hamptons with my face looking like this."

Kevin: "It's really not that bad, just get some make up and cover it up."

Brittany: "Put make up on this? I am so fricking pissed."

In this extract, Kevin were asking the girls to cover up their small wounds with a makeup but Brittany and Tiffany refused because their thinks that it is not a small wound that would make their faces looks different and people would say they are ugly.

### **Declarations**

Statements are spoken acts that directly modify or impact a situation or state.

Extract 11:

(White Chicks 00:14:29 – 00:14:46)

They got into a small accident because of Tiffany and Brittany dogs.

Kevin: "is everybody all right?" Brittany: "Oh my god, your lip!" Tiffany: "Oh my god, your nose!"

Kevin: "Marcus, are you okay?" Marcus: "I'm cool!"

In this extract, when they got into a small accident because the Wilson's sisters dog almost fell off from the car so Kevin saved the dog by turning the car into the grass so they car won't hit another car. After that Kevin were asking about everyone situation, while Brittany realized that Tiffany got a small wound on her lip and Brittany got a small wound on her nose. Kevin were asking again about Marcus situation when Marcus said that he was okay but in the reality he got hit by Tiffany and Brittany bags.

### **INDIRECT SPEECH ACTS**

The illocutionary power does not reveal itself directly in indirect speech acts. The inference must be utilized to determine the speaker's intent.

### **Commissives**

These actions motivate the speaker to act in the future. Promises, threats, votes, offerings, plans, and bets are the many types.

Extract 18:

(White Chicks 00:20:39 – 00:20:49)

Kevin imitating Brittany when Jake who was FBI agent was ask him about his id.

Jake: "Hi, yeah, I need a credit card please or some id, please."

Kevin: "Credit card? Id? I'm so fricking pissed."

In this extract, Jake also disguised as a hotel servant were asking Kevin and Marcus about their credit cards and Id's, but when Kevin checked his bag his still using his own Id, so he can't give his Id to Jake or they will get busted, Kevin imitating Brittany by saying "I'm so fricking pissed" to threaten Jake, so he won't ask about their Id's anymore.

### **Assertive or Representative**

This style of behavior persuades the speaker that a stated statement is true. Affirm, imply, declare, present, swear, describe, boast, and conclude are examples of illocutionary activities.

Extract 3:

(White Chicks 00:03:19 – 00:03:22)

Marcus and Kevin revealed they real identity to the ice cream man.

Kevin: "He say, FBI, you are under arrest"  
 Marcus: "He is going to run"  
 Kevin: "No, he ain't"

In this extract, Marcus and Kevin revealed their true identity as FBI agents in order to catch the drug dealers, because they think that the ice cream man is the part of the organization that sell drugs inside the ice cream boxes. Marcus believe that the ice cream man would run away because they know that Marcus and Kevin describing themselves as FBI agents.

**Table 1 of Direct and Indirect Speech Acts**

NO	EXTRACT	Dialogue	ASPECTS
1	Extract 10	"We already gave to the <b>United Negro fund</b> "	Direct Speech Acts
2	Extract 17	"What's up? <b>You damn guys got a problem?</b> You want some of this? I'll take both of you. <b>He was looking at my ass like I'm a girl.</b> "	Direct Speech Acts
3	Extract 39	" <b>Negro please!</b> Somebody get this <b>jigaboo</b> away from me!"	Direct Speech Acts
4	Extract 20	"Wait a minute, there is definitely <b>something different about you</b> "	Direct Speech Acts
5	Extract 7	"Way to go, <b>baskin androbbin.</b> " "Or is it <b>Haag and dazs?</b> "	Indirect Speech Acts
6	Extract 21	"And look, there they are, the fen-phen twins."	Indirect speech Acts
7	Extract 24	"Look King Kong, what don't you take you and your 1980 pickup lines climb the Empire State Building, beat on your monkey chest and then jump off? Excuse me."	Indirect Speech Acts
8	Extract 18	"Credit card? Id? I'm so fricking pissed!"	Indirect Speech acts
9	Extract 22	"yeah, well your mother is so stupid she exercises when she could get liposuction or something"	Indirect Speech Acts
10	Extract 25	"Said what?" " <b>The 'N' word.</b> "	Indirect Speech Acts
11	Extract 30	"Why are you talking to her? Clean it up, coke whore."	Indirect Speech Acts

### Direct Speech Acts

Direct speaking activities are usually undertaken using performative verbs. This group of verbs expresses the speaker's intent clearly. Promising, welcoming, apologizing, and predicting are some of them. The typical characteristic found in this aspects are (1) Kevin and Marcus wants to introduce themselves to the Wilson sisters, Tiffany thought that both of them are from the United Negro fund by saying "We already gave to the United Negro Fund" which is really discriminated Kevin and Marcus as black people because she was say directly in front of Kevin and Marcus, and make Marcus and Kevin feel offended (Declarations, Extract 10), (2) Kevin got seduced by some guys by saying "he was looking my ass like a girl" his statement make the random guys confused because he was using his real voice and his Negro dialect which is very contradict to his figure as a girl because he was uncover as Brittany (Declarations, Extract 17), (3) Marcus reveal himself in front of Latrell by saying "yeah, I'm not a woman", Latrell was shocked that after all this time his spent with his favorite lady that turns out was a man, he feel betrayed because he really likes a white woman, but what he got was a man and also black just like him. He also said "Negro, please!" to Marcus, it sounds harsh but since both of them are black it doesn't matter anymore, he also mentioned "jigaboo", The name jigaboo refers to a black person (Declarations, Extract 39), (4) Karen said Kevin and Marcus looks different by saying "wait a minute, there is definitely something different about you two" she also said Kevin and Marcus lips looks so very thin just like Cameron Diaz since the last time they met, but when they meet again, their lips are changing and looks

very thick just like Jay-z. In fact Jay-z is an black American famous rapper and had the same skin color as Kevin and Marcus, and they had almost the same face shapes as Jay-z while the real Tiffany and Brittany has a very thin lips just like Cameron Diaz an famous white American actress (Expressive, Extract 20).

### **Indirect Speech Acts**

The illocutionary power does not reveal itself directly in indirect speech acts. The inference must be utilized to determine the speaker's intent. The typical characteristics found in this aspects are (1) Jake and Gomes (FBI agents) are mocking Kevin and Marcus by saying Baskin and Robbin while Baskin Robbin and Haag Dazs are the biggest ice cream brands in the world, so they are offend them because Kevin and Marcus mission is associated with ice cream (Assertive or Representative, Extract 7), (2) when Karen said that the Vandergeld twins was fen-phen indirectly to Marcus and Kevin by saying "look there they are, the fen-phen twins" it means a combination of two drugs Fenfluramine hydrochloride and phentermine were formerly given as a weight-loss combo. It means Karen was offending them because they were too skinny just like when people are using drugs (Assertive or Representative Extract 21), (3) Marcus refused Latrell by saying "look Kingkong, why don't you take you and your 1980 pickup lines climb the empire State building, beat the monkey chest then jump off?" he indirectly said Latrell looks like a King Kong and his pickup lines is so lame and no one will use it anymore (Assertive or Representative Extract 24), (4) Kevin and Marcus accidentally say the "N" word which means "Nigga" or "Nigger" by saying "feel like Nigga" in front of Karen, Lisa and Tori. The n-word is a term that dehumanizes people. It's a term that's been used for decades to try to deprive black people of their humanity( Assertive or Representative Extract 25), (5) Heather was pointing at Karen's nose because she used too much powder and made lump on her nose by saying "Clean it up, coke whore." Coke whore means a prostitute who is compensated in cocaine (Assertive or Representative, Extract 30).

### **CONCLUSION**

After explaining and identifying the conversation analysis, the researcher concluded that:

1. Using the speech acts theory from Austin, White Chicks film has 1 aspect to maintain the communication between each other. Based on 2 direct speech acts that occurred in White Chicks film.
2. They are 12 typical characteristics based on speech acts theory from Austin, based on 5 aspects from the speech acts. However, only 3 out of 5 aspects of the speech acts theory that suitable with the typical characteristic of the conversation among the characters, consist of: (1) 1 from Expressive, (2) 3 from Declarations, (3) 5 from Assertive or Representative.
3. Discrimination among the characters occurred in White Chicks film are using harsh words to mocking each other, using slang words, using forbidden words, using different dialects, using sarcasm jokes to mocking each other.
4. In real life, it is not recommended to using harsh words, sarcasm to mocking people.

The result of this research is using speech acts theory from Austin (1975). In this research, the researcher solved two problems which are to identify how the main characters maintain the relationship, the typical characteristics of the conversation among the characters.

Therefore, there is a few problems to identify discrimination in the film, the researcher would give some suggestions. They are:

1. Using this research as a reference from related study in the future.
2. Analyze the social problem found in the aspects from this film.
3. Learn more about the Conversation Analysis that aims to describe and understand to talk as a basic human interactions and social life through this film.

### **REFERENCES**

- Akhmad. (2017). Conversation Analysis (Case Study of Conductor – Passenger Conversation Public Transportation). Cakrawala Pedagogik.
- Bosco, S. (2018, April 16). Acts of Speech: Types and Examples. Retrieved January 18, 2021, from Life Persona website: <https://www.lifepersona.com/acts-of-speech-types-and-examples>

- Britannica. (2021). Film Definition, Characteristics, History, & Facts. In Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/art/motion-picture>
- Bunting. (2020, January 30). Joe Bunting. Retrieved January 20, 2021, from The Write Practice website: <https://thewritepractice.com/freytags-pyramid/>
- Characterization: Definitions and Examples | Literary Terms. (2019, March 9). Retrieved August 20, 2021, from Literary Terms website: <https://literaryterms.net/characterization/>
- Cinematic Terms - A FilmMaking Glossary. (2021). Retrieved January 20, 2021, from Filmsite.org website: <https://www.filmsite.org/filmterms20.html>
- Folarin, S. (n.d.). Chapter Three Types and Causes of Conflict. Retrieved from website: <http://eprints.covenantuniversity.edu.ng/3241/1/Folarin%2025.pdf>
- Green, M. (2020). Speech Acts (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy). Retrieved January 18, 2021, from Stanford.edu website: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/speech-acts>
- Hanafi. (2016). Introducing Conversation Analysis (CA) for Second Language Acquisition (SLA). *Lingua Litera Journal of English Linguistics and Literature*.
- Justova. (2006). Direct and Indirect Speech Acts in English Major Bachelor's Thesis.
- Libraries. (2016). 8.3 Movies and Culture. Retrieved from Umn.edu <https://open.lib.umn.edu/mediaandculture/chapter/8-3-movies-and-culture/>