



ILLOCUTIONARY ACT IN FOOTBALL MANAGER 2023 VIDEO GAME NEWS COLUMNS: A PRAGMATIC STUDY

Heri Heryono¹, Adlian Chandradinata²

^{1,2} English Department, Widyatama University, Indonesia
heri.heryono@widyatama.ac.id

Abstract. This research is entitled “Illocutionary Act in Football Manager 2023 Video Game News Column: Pragmatics Study”. This study aims to (1) analyze the types of illocutionary speech acts contained in the Football Manager 2023 video game news column and (2) analyze the speech act strategies used in the Football Manager 2023 video game news column. The theory used to analyze the type of illocutionary speech acts is taken from Searle in Saifudin (2019) while the speech act strategy is taken from Yule (1996). This research uses descriptive qualitative method with the following research steps: determining the topic, making a preliminary study, formulating problems, determining research methods, collecting data, classifying and analyzing data, drawing conclusions and suggestions. The results of this research produced 30 data divided into: (1) 6 data of assertive illocutionary speech act (20%), 3 data of directive illocutionary speech act (10%), 13 data of commissive illocutionary speech act (43%), 8 data of expressive illocutionary speech act (27%), and 0 data of declarative illocutionary speech act (0%), (2) 20 data of direct speech act strategies (67%) and 10 data of indirect speech act strategies (33%). Based on the results of the research, it is found that the Football Manager 2023 video game news column is dominated by assertive and commissive illocutionary speech acts, with more direct speech act strategies.

Keywords: pragmatics, speech act, illocutionary speech act, speech act strategies, video game.

1 First Section

1.1 A Subsection Sample

Video games are one of the most popular forms of leisure activities, especially for young people around the world (Abbasi et al., 2021). Their growing popularity signifies their significant influence in various aspects of life, including culture, communication, and social interaction. This has led to the emergence of various studies that examine video games from various perspectives, including pragmatics. Pragmatics is the study of the meaning communicated by speakers (or writers) and interpreted by listeners (or readers). As a result, it has more to do with the analysis of what people mean by their utterances than what the words or phrases in an utterance mean by

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V. Mardiansyah and R. A. E. V. Targa Sapanji (eds.), *Proceedings of the 1st Widyatama International Conference on Management, Social Science and Humanities (ICMSSH 2024)*, Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research 886,
https://doi.org/10.2991/978-94-6463-608-6_13

themselves. Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning (Yule, 1996). Studying the relationship between language and context, which is the basis of an explanation of language understanding, is the focus of pragmatics. One of the branches of pragmatics that will be discussed in this study is speech acts, according to Levinson (1983) in Jafar (2019). Speech act itself is an individual symptom that is psychological, and its continuity is determined by the speaker's language ability in dealing with certain situations, according to Afidah et al. (2019) in Megawati, (2022). This shows that the way a person communicates does not only depend on the language structure they use but also on psychological aspects such as mood, confidence, and the social situation at hand. Speech acts usually have specific labels, such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise, or request. Basically, speech acts are actions in the form of communication, according to Yule (1996) in Ibrahim (2021). Football Manager 2023 is a football simulation video game developed by Sports Interactive and published by Sega on November 8, 2022. This video game allows players to manage a soccer team in very high and realistic detail. Players can take important decisions such as player transfers, on-field strategies and tactics, and interaction with the media. Football Manager 2023 can be played on various platforms such as Windows, MacOS, Playstation, Xbox, Nintendo, as well as Android and IOS for mobile and touch versions where these versions have fewer features and gameplay than the PC or Mac versions of Football Manager 2023. The problem identification in this research is as follows: 1 What types of illocutionary act are found in the Football Manager 2023 video game news column? 2 What speech act strategies are used in the Football Manager 2023 video game news column? The benefit of this research are: to identify the types of illocutionary speech acts used in the news column of Football Manager 2023 video game and knowing what speech act strategies are used in the Football Manager 2023 video game news column. In addition, the benefit of doing this research is to increase the knowledge and understanding of the readers and also the author about illocutionary speech acts in video games with sports simulation types in order to better understand the types of illocutionary speech acts and speech act strategies contained therein. Based on the title of this research, "Illocutionary act in the Football Manager 2023 video game news column," the research will be limited to avoid widening the problems that arise by only analyzing the types of illocutionary speech acts using Searle's theory in Saifudin (2019), which is divided into five types, namely assertive illocutionary speech acts, directive illocutionary speech acts, expressive illocutionary speech acts, and declarative illocutionary speech acts. In addition, this study also discusses speech act strategies using the theory of Yule (1996).

Pragmatics is one of the linguistic studies that focuses on how language is used to achieve certain goals. Pragmatics is the study of language from a functional perspective, which tries to explain the facts of linguistic structures with reference to non-linguistic pressures and causes (Levinson, 1983). Pragmatics is basically the science of language that studies the meaning of an utterance in which a speaker says something to a speech partner that contains its own meaning (Dianita & Achmad Sofyan, 2023). Speech acts are actions performed by speakers through their speech. In an Contribution Title (shortened if too long) 3 effort to express themselves, people not only make speech consisting of words and grammatical structures, but they also do something.

Actions displayed through speech are called speech acts, according to Yule in Sudipa (2021). Speech acts are actions carried out with the aim or intention of conveying, informing, or conveying their wishes (speakers) to listeners through speaking or communicating directly (Frاندika & Idawati, 2020). Illocutionary act are speech acts that contain hidden meanings or meanings that speakers want in relation to their interlocutors. The communicative power of an utterance allows for illocutionary speech acts. Sentences for communication purposes can be uttered as statements, offers, or explanations (Yule, 1996). Assertive illocutionary act are speech acts that bind the speaker to the truth of the proposition expressed by Searle in Saifudin (2019). Examples of assertive speech acts are stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining, and claiming. Directive illocutionary act are types of speech acts used by speakers to order speech partners to take an action Searle in (Saifudin, 2019). Examples of directive illocutionary speech acts are commanding, ordering, pleading, advising, and recommending. Commissive illocutionary act are types of speech acts that speakers commit to taking an action in the future, Searle in Saifudin (2019). Examples of forms of commissive illocutionary speech acts are promising, swearing, refusing, threatening, and guaranteeing. Expressive illocutionary act are expressions of speakers' opinions and feelings about certain situations or reactions to individual actions and attitudes (Searle in Saifudin, 2019). Declarative illocutionary act are speech acts used by speakers to make a change in reality, Searle in Saifudin (2019). Examples of declarative illocutionary speech acts are baptizing, firing, naming, and punishing. When performing speech acts, speakers can convey their speech directly or not. This depends on the context of the relationship between the speaker and the speech partner or the condition in which the speech is spoken. In producing speech acts, speakers can be direct or indirect. This means speakers can use direct or indirect strategies in conveying their speech. Yule in Jafar, (2019). Whenever there is a direct relationship between structure and function, it has a direct speech act. (Yule, 1996). Direct Speech Acts are speech acts that are spoken directly and clearly without using figurative words or similes. The speech is expressed as it is, clear and straightforward, and can be understood by the interlocutor (Izar et al., 2021). Whenever there is an indirect relationship between structure and function, it has an indirect speech act (Yule, 1996). Indirect speech act are speech acts that occur when speakers use their speech intentions not in accordance with their speech intentions; for example, declarative sentences, which are usually used by speakers to inform something to speech partners, are used to command. (Mulyana, 2021).

The descriptive qualitative research method. Qualitative methods show a different approach to scientific research than quantitative research methods. Although the process is similar, qualitative methods rely on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis, and use diverse procedures (Creswell, 2022). Qualitative research is more descriptive. The data collected is in the form of words or images, so it does not emphasize numbers (Sugiyono, 2019).

This section presents an analysis of thirty data containing illocutionary act in the Football Manager 2023 video game news column. The data analyzed is taken from the post-match interview speech contained in the Football Manager 2023 video game news column. This analysis aims to answer two problem identifications that have

been mentioned previously in chapter II, namely: types of illocutionary act contained in the Football Manager 2023 video game news column and speech act strategies used in the Football Manager 2023 video game news column. There are four types of illocutionary act, namely, assertive, directive, commissive, and expressive. As for the speech act strategies, they are direct speech act strategies and indirect speech act strategies. Persib Bandung coach Adlian Chandradinata was interviewed during the press conference before the match in BRI Liga 1 against Persita Tangerang. One of the questions asked by reporters was Chandradinata's concern about losing, which could damage the team's morale. Headline: Chandradinata believes spirit is permanent. Adlian Chandradinata took several questions about the match and player performance from The Indonesian Soccer Gazette, The Bandung Soccer Latest, The Indonesian Soccer Daily, and The Indonesian Soccer Messenger in the build-up to Persib's Bank Rakyat Indonesia. Liga 1 match against Persita Tangerang. The Bandung Soccer Latest chose a probing subject to focus on, with journalist Wahyu Slamet asking: "How concerned are you about suffering a defeat that hurts morale?" Chandradinata replied: "I don't worry. My squad is very strong mentally." (FM News, September 15th, 2023) Analysis: The utterance in data above is a type of assertive illocutionary speech act. In this speech, Chandradinata makes two statements that he considers facts. "I don't worry." indicates his state of mind, and "My squad is very strong mentally" indicates the state of the team. Both statements are not promises, commands, or expressions of feelings. The strategy used in the above speech is a direct speech act strategy. In this case, Chandradinata directly and clearly answers the question about his level of concern without using figures of speech or innuendo. Chandradinata clearly states that he is not worried in the first sentence, "I don't worry," which directly answers the question, "How concerned are you?" This shows that the statement has no ambiguity or need to further interpret the meaning of the answer because it directly relates to the question. Press conference before the AFC Champions League match between Al-Hilal and Persepolis Football Club. Al-Hilal coach Jorge Jesus answers media questions. Al-Hilal's chances of leading the group in the AFC Champions League were the main topic of this press conference. Headline: Jesus looking to take control of the group Jorge Jesus took several questions about the match and player injuries from Asharg Al-Awsat. Tehran Times and IRIB in the build-up to Al-Hilal (KSA)'s AFC Champions League Group A match against Persepolis Football Club. Asharg Al-Awsat chose the main focus point for the conference, with journalist Yasser Al-Malki asking: "The group remains anyone's for the taking, and the right result could give you a considerable advantage. Are you hopeful of seizing the initiative?" Jesus replied: "We've given ourselves a chance with our record to date, and it's about time we used that to our advantage." (FM News November 7th, 2023) Analysis: In this sentence, Jesus gives the team strong encouragement and advice to act. By Contribution Title (shortened if too long) 5 saying, "We've given ourselves a chance," he indicates that the team has taken advantage of the opportunity and then says, "It's about time we used that to our advantage." The phrase "it's about time" is often used to encourage action that should already be taken. Although Jesus uses the word "we," which includes himself, this statement is clearly intended to influence the actions of the team as a whole, encouraging them to take advantage of the circumstances they

themselves created. The strategy used in the above speech is an indirect speech act strategy. The statement “We’ve given ourselves a chance with our record to date” shows confidence and belief in the team’s abilities. On the other hand, the second statement, “It’s about time we used that to our advantage,” indirectly invites the team to act, not just a statement of hope. With an answer like this, Jesus not only answers the question of hope but also conveys an additional message of team readiness and encouragement to act, which requires further interpretation from the speech partner.

Persib Bandung coach Adlian Chandradinata attends a press conference and answers journalists’ questions before the Indonesia Cup semifinal match between Persib Bandung and Borneo FC Samarinda. One of the questions asked was the possible return of Persib player Dedi Kusnandar, who was previously injured. **Headline:** Kusnandar could make a comeback Adlian Chandradinata took several questions about playing the same opponent back-to-back and player injuries from The Bandung Soccer Latest and The Indonesian Soccer Daily in the build-up to Persib’s Piala Indonesia Semi Final match against Borneo FC Samarinda. The Bandung Soccer Latest chose the main focus point for the conference, with journalist Wahyu Slamet asking: “Can you tell us whether Dedi Kusnandar will be available against Borneo FC following injury?” Chandradinata replied: “I’m going to speak to our medical team after this, but I’ve been hearing positive things about his progress.” (FM News, February 28th, 2024). **Analysis:** The utterance in data above is a type of commissive illocutionary speech act. The use of the phrase “I’m going to” describes a plan or intention that will soon be implemented. The sentence “to speak to our medical team” is an action that Chandradinata will take to speak to the medical team about the injured player’s condition after the press conference. The speech act strategy used in the above speech is a direct speech act strategy. After the press conference, Chandradinata explicitly states what he will do by saying, “I’m going to speak to our medical team after this.” The utterance has no hidden meaning or other intentions. It functions as a direct response to the journalist’s question about the availability of injured players and provides information about the next action to be taken by the coach.

Headline: Chandradinata wants to maintain tradition. Adlian Chandradinata discussed a number of subjects, including the cup round and transfer policy, following questions from The Indonesia Soccer Daily in the wake of Persib’s convincing 5-1 Piala Presiden Indonesia Semi Final Second Leg aggregate win over Persib. The Indonesia Soccer Daily chose the main focus point for the conference, with journalist Maria Nugroho asking: “Congratulations on guiding Persib to a second consecutive President’s Cup final. Can you go on to retain the trophy?” Chandradinata replied: “This is something we targeted right from the very beginning, and we’ve worked hard to achieve. It’s a very nice moment for everyone involved.” (FM News July 18th, 2023) **Analysis:** The word “congratulations” clearly expresses the journalist’s positive feelings and appreciation for the achievement of Chandradinata and the Persib team. This congratulation was given in response to Persib’s success in reaching the President’s Cup final for the second time in a row, which is a significant achievement. By congratulating, the journalist not only recognizes this achievement but also appreciates the efforts and performance of the team that made it to the final round of the prestigious competition. Therefore, the utterance in data above belongs to the type of ex-

pressive illocutionary speech act. The speech act strategy used in the above speech is direct speech act strategy. Journalist Maria Nugroho congratulated Chan dradinata and the Persib team directly and clearly by using the word “congratulations.”. By reaching the President's Cup final for the second time in a row, this congratulations provides a clear and unambiguous context. In addition, this congratulations does not require special context or special knowledge to be interpreted, which is clear and easily understood by speech partners.

Based on the results of the research on the Football Manager 2023 video game obtained based on the theories related to the types of illocutionary speech acts and speech act strategies, the following conclusions can be drawn: The types of illocutionary speech acts found in this study are assertive illocutionary speech acts of 6 data, directive illocutionary speech acts of 3 data, commissive illocutionary speech acts of 13 data, and expressive illocutionary speech acts of 8 data. There is no data containing declarative illocutionary speech acts in this research. The speech act strategies found in this study are direct speech act strategies of 20 data points and indirect speech act strategies of 10 data points. The number of direct and indirect speech act strategies is mostly found in commissive illocutionary speech acts, as much as 8 data points for direct speech act strategies and 5 data points for indirect speech act strategies.

Acknowledgments. This research was funded by Widyatama University. The research was fully supported by all lecturers and students involved.

Disclosure of Interests. The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

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