

Exploring Assertive Utterances in Rings of Power series movie

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Abstract

This research explores assertive speech acts in "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power," analyzing how characters communicate within the narrative. The study categorizes these acts, with "Notifying" and "Informing" being the most prevalent, showcasing their significance in conveying vital information and advancing the storyline. Additionally, less frequent acts like "Accusing" serve to punctuate pivotal moments, enhancing narrative depth and tension. Beyond classification, the research contextualizes these speech acts within the story, revealing complex character dynamics and motivations. Overall, this study underscores the integral role of assertive speech acts in shaping both language and narrative in the movie series.

Keywords: *assertive*, The Lord of the Rings, Rings of Power

Introduction

The investigation of speech acts, particularly assertive speech acts, is fundamental to linguistics and communication studies. Assertive speech acts, such as demonstrations of belief or knowledge, are essential in the transmission of information and knowledge between communicators, facilitating coherent and meaningful interactions (Hussein & Hussein, 2020; Maharani et al., 2020). The study trajectory in this subject is complex, frequently involving many dimensions such as linguistic structures, socio-cultural contexts, and communicative techniques (Chen & Wang, 2023; Vergaro, 2015). A comprehensive understanding of assertive speech acts can illuminate the mechanics of effective communication, negotiation of meanings, and the myriad socio-cultural implications embedded within these communicative acts (Ayeomoni & Akinkuolere, 2012; Putri et al., 2020).

The collection contains a variety of research that investigates various features of speech acts from various viewpoints. For example, while Gerken (2012) explores the epistemological underpinnings of discursive justification and skepticism, Vergaro (2015) casts a spotlight on assertive nouns in English through the lens of their behavioral profile and illocutionary force. On the other hand, Chen & Wang (2023) delve into the communicative challenges and strategies amidst assertive speech acts among Chinese EFL learners. These studies collectively enrich the

academic and pragmatic understanding of speech acts across various contexts and dimensions (Pane & Arbain, 2023).

Despite the abundance of research, there are still research gaps and unknown areas in the realm of aggressive speech acts. While there is study on violent speech behaviors in specific settings or languages (Chen & Wang, 2023; Vergaro, 2015), There appears to be a study vacuum in systematically comparing the use and manifestation of aggressive speech acts across different languages, cultures, and communicative settings. Comparative research could reveal nuances and differences in the formulation, interpretation, and response to aggressive speech actions across linguistic and cultural situations (Arbain, 2023).

Moreover, investigating the intersectionality of aggressive speech actions with other socio-demographic characteristics such as gender, age, socio-economic status, and educational background may expose novel patterns and dynamics. While some research may have investigated speech acts within specific socio-cultural contexts, a holistic analysis that integrates aggressive speech acts with varied intersectional aspects across multiple contexts may reveal nuanced patterns and dynamics that have previously gone unnoticed. Intertwining research on aggressive speech acts with psycholinguistic and cognitive features may also reveal cognitive processes, biases, and mechanisms underlying the production and interpretation of these speech acts.

Future study could focus on the integration of theoretical frameworks and empirical data in examining aggressive speech acts to make a strong scientific contribution. A combative study that contrasts different types of speech acts, particularly aggressive ones, across several languages and cultures could reveal underlying trends, deviations, and anomalies important for linguistic theories, language training, and cross-cultural communication methods (Şimon, 2020; W.Lafi, 2018).

Assertive speech acts in "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power" will be carefully examined. The research analyzes and categorizes characters' aggressive speaking acts to better comprehend human communication, particularly in narratives. The research seeks to illuminate how assertive speech acts are communicated and perceived in a fictional, yet relatable, medium. Its findings may apply to linguistics, communication studies, artificial intelligence, education, and international relations. The ramifications of these discoveries could shape and modify existing theories, policies, technology, and practices in many fields, providing a nuanced view of human communicative behaviors and dynamics. The research aims to navigate the complex and multifaceted landscapes of global communication, providing deeper insights into how assertive speech acts can be strategically used and interpreted across diverse communicative contexts and cultural milieus, broadening our academic understanding and improving practical applications in various disciplines.

Method

This descriptive qualitative study examines assertive speech acts in "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power" performed by the main character, Galadriel. The data is painstakingly reported and evaluated using Searle's (1968) speech act theory. According to Soetopo (2006), the primary

aim and focus were chosen before starting the research. Given the conceptual and methodological aspects of language study, selecting a research location is crucial. Lincoln and Guba (2017) define "focus-determined boundary" as linguistic research's connection to a location that transcends geographical or physical boundaries to include media. The study's focus shapes the research site. Santosa (2021) adds that the research site includes the research item, circumstances, participants, and events. The research site's structure and narrative stages help the study achieve its social aims as a third-order social phenomenon by focusing on the story's orientation, intricacy, evaluation, and resolution. Thus, the research carefully integrates past scholarly work's analytical frameworks with its main topic to create a unified academic exposition.

Academic study reveals major aspects of data provenance and milieu, including locales, individuals giving information, occurrences, written documents, and physical locations (Santosa, 2021). Documents are the main data source for this study. This study used *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* movie series as its primary source because of its popularity and current relevance, as seen by its successful adaptation into video games and films. Sutopo (2006) defines papers and archives as items with a strong relationship to an event or activity, emphasizing their importance in this study.

The research employed a purposive sampling strategy based on the criteria outlined by Santosa (2021). The sample requirements for this study consist of assertif speech acts uttered by the characters in the film series titled "*The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*." The data collection technique employed in this study is document analysis, as indicated by the cited research type and data sources. In order to gather data pertaining to assertif speech and its many kinds, the researcher obtained the complete set of subtitles from the movie. The process involves engaging in reading, listening, and recording utterances that encompass assertif speech, drawing upon the pragmatic approach. Upon conducting the analysis, the researcher will get the assertif speech and its corresponding functions.

In order to establish the validity of the data, the researcher employed triangulation techniques. Triangulation is a method used to enhance the credibility of data by incorporating external sources for the purpose of verification or comparison. Santosa (2017:57) identifies four types of triangulation techniques, namely source triangulation, method triangulation, theory triangulation, and researcher triangulation. In this particular study, data validation was conducted through the utilization of two types of triangulation, specifically data source triangulation and method triangulation. The present study employs the data analysis technique based on the theoretical framework proposed by Santosa (2021). The explication of the linguistic research analysis technique has four distinct steps, specifically domain analysis, taxonomy analysis, componential analysis, and cultural theme analysis. The repetition of the execution of the analysis stages, from domain analysis to the cultural theme analysis stage, is possible even when it occurs at the final stage.

Result

The results of this study describe the speech act functions contained in the movie series The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power. In accordance with the results of the document analysis, twenty (20) assertive speech functions are obtained as presented in the following data.

Tabel 1. Function of Assertive Speech Acts

No	Fungsi	Jumlah data	Persentase
1	Notifying	42	26.5
2	Informing	35	22.1
3	Affirming	20	12.7
4	Stating	17	10.8
5	Assuring	12	7.6
6	Guessing	6	3.8
7	Arguing	4	2.5
8	Denying	3	1.9
9	Disclaiming	3	1.9
10	Reminding	3	1.9
11	Asserting	2	1.2
12	Confessing	2	1.2
13	Predicting	2	1.2
14	Showing	2	1.2
15	Accusing	1	0.6
16	Claiming	1	0.6
17	Identifying	1	0.6
18	Reporting	1	0.6
19	Suggesting Insisting	1	0.6
TOTAL		158	100

This research investigates the presence and usage of assertive speech acts in the movie series "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power." The dataset comprises 158 instances of dialogues labeled with various sub-types of assertive speech acts, such as "Informing," "Stating," "Affirming," and "Notifying," each demonstrating distinct expressive purposes within the series' narrative context.

The most prominent sub-types of assertive speech acts identified in the series are "Notifying" and "Informing," with 42 and 35 occurrences respectively. These instances primarily involve characters providing new information or updates to others, reflecting the dynamic and evolving nature of the plot. For example, an instance labeled as "Informing" is where a character says, "I made it just as you taught me," providing information about an action performed in line with the teachings received.

Additionally, the series also manifests a diverse range of other assertive speech acts, including "Affirming," "Assuring," and "Stating," which occur 20, 12, and 17 times respectively. These

illustrate characters making assertions, giving assurances, and making straightforward statements, enriching the interactions between them. Notably, some sub-types like "Accusing," "Claiming," "Identifying," "Reporting," and "Suggesting Insisting" are relatively rare, each occurring only once, showcasing specific, pivotal moments in the narrative.

The dataset not only catalogs the utterances but also provides the contexts in which they are made, offering insights into the circumstances and motivations behind each speech act. For instance, a dialogue labeled as "Denying," "No. This place is so evil forces give off no heat," is made in the context of a character contradicting a guard's statement about the presence of evil forces, revealing the underlying tensions and differing perceptions of the characters involved.

The research uncovers the intricate patterns of assertive speech acts in "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power," revealing the multifaceted ways characters convey information, make affirmations, and interact with each other. The varied use of assertive speech acts serves as a narrative device, contributing to the depth and richness of the storyline, character developments, and the overall cinematic experience of the series. The detailed classification and contextualization of these speech acts provide a comprehensive understanding of the communicative dynamics within the series, paving the way for further linguistic and cinematic studies. The following are examples of assertive speech functions in The Lord of the Rings movie series: The Rings of Power.

1. Assertive utterance with the function of Notifying

Notifying utterance is the most common utterance with 42 data. The following is an example of the use of the utterance in the subtitle of the movie series The Lord of the Rings movie series: The Rings of Power.

example 1

0114

text My brother. Finrod. And my husband.

In data 0114, the main character tells us that there is a woman who is experiencing deep sorrow because she lost her husband and brother. This is done by Galadrial with the words *My brother. Finrod. And my husband.*

example 2

0135

text All of a sudden, the two of you seem quite familiar.

In data 0135, Galadrial told his friend about the strange thing that had happened. Those who had just known each other suddenly became familiar.

2. Assertive utterance with the function of Informing

Informing is the second most frequent utterance spoken by Galadrial as the main character with the number of utterances as much as 35 data. The following are examples of the use of the informing function in research data.

example 1

0001

text I made it just as you taught me.

In data 0001, The main character said that he was able to build the ship because he copied what his brother taught him.

example 2

0012

text When I was a child, it was the only feeling I knew.

In data 0012, The main character said that he was able to build the ship because he copied what his brother taught him.

3. Assertive utterance with the function of Affirming

Affirming is the most used utterance by the main character with 20 utterances. It is used to affirm the information that the main character knows. The following is an example of such utterances.

example 1

0075

text They are untested against this foe.

In data 0075, Galadrial emphasized that his troops were not ready for war because of their lack of experience.

example 2

0081

text We still have three ships. And your father's blessing.

In data 0081, Galadrial spoke to the king to assure him that he still had a ship to travel on.

4. Assertive utterance with the function of Stating

Stating is the fourth most common utterance found in this study with 17 data. The following is an example of such utterances.

example 1

0006

text It's Colder than the rest.

In data 0006, Galadrial stated that there was something strange because the place he came to was much colder than the previous place.

example 2

0015

text You know very well why I must.

In data 0015, Galandriel is stating that she will keep on searching sauron again because that is her main intention even though she's just arrived.

5. Assertive utterance with the function of Assuring

The next most common function of assertive speech act is assuring. This research found 12 data of assuring speech act usage.

example 1

0085

text Men like you. Not you, yourself.

In data 0117, Galadriel here is trying to convince Halbrand that he is definitely capable.

example 2

0117

text You did not intend for this to happen.

In data 0117, Galadriel assures the child that it was not his fault and it did not happen by his will.

6. Assertive utterance with the function of Guessing

This speech is done by the characters by predicting things that will happen. There are 6 data related to guessing speech. The following is an example of such utterances.

example 1

0037

text We may be about to find out.

In data 0037, the woman guesses they both might find the reason why Numenor began to cast away or cut off the contact with the elves.

example 2

0047

text If Sauron has indeed returned, the Southlands are but the beginning.

In data 0047, the woman is telling her worry that if Sauron really returned then the Southlands will soon be attacked.

7. Assertive utterance with the function of Arguing

This speech is caused by the conflict between the characters. In this research, there are 4 arguing speeches done by Galadriel and other characters. The following is an example of such utterances.

example 1

0059

text There is a tempest in me. It swept me to this island for a reason. And it will not be quelled by you, Regent.

In data 0059, Galadriel got angry after the queen said that Galadriel has no authority and said she was a castaway. She got angry and told her arguments proudly (considering this is very rude to the noble especially she said it to the queen)

example 2

0141

text You convinced Míriel to save the Men of Middle-earth.

In data 0141, Galadriel denies that she convinced Queen Miriel to save Hthe Men of Middle-earth, stating that it was Halbrand himself who requested Queen Miriel to save the Men of Middle-earth.

Discussion

This study explores the intricate realm of assertive speech acts portrayed in the film series "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power." Through the examination of a collection of dialogues, this research classifies many forms of assertive speech actions, including "Notifying," "Informing," "Affirming," and "Stating," among others. These speech acts are crucial in shaping the narrative progression of the series.

The functions of "Notifying" and "Informing" are consistently prominent throughout the series. The aggressive acts primarily involve characters that contribute fresh ideas or provide updates, so emphasizing the dynamic movement of the plot. As an illustrated example of the "Informing" function, the mention of a character's mastery of a skill acquired through instruction serves to indicate the completion of an action based on preexisting information.

Furthermore, the story also encompasses other types of aggressive speech acts such as "Affirming," "Assuring," and "Stating." These communicative behaviors serve to enhance the comprehension of the characters, as they emphasize their presence, provide assurances, or express frank statements. On the other hand, speech actions that occur less frequently, such as "Accusing" or "Reporting," although not as commonly observed, serve to punctuate the narrative at crucial moments, so underscoring their significance within the storyline.

The holistic approach employed in this research is a fundamental component. In addition to classifying the utterances, this process also situates them within the narrative, offering valuable perspectives on the underlying motivations behind each speech act. When examining a literary work, it is possible to discern deeper tensions, conflicts, or divergent perspectives among the characters through the analysis of seemingly straightforward "Denying" statements. In summary, this study offers a thorough examination of the complex network of assertif speech acts in "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power," highlighting their crucial significance in enriching the narrative complexity and fostering the growth of characters within the series.

Conclusion

The study of assertive speech acts in "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power" shows how the story's characters talk to each other. "Notifying" and "Informing" are the most common speech acts. They show how characters are always sharing important information that fits with the expanding story. These kinds of interactions aren't just conversations; they're essential to the story's growth. Acts like "Accusing," which happen less often but are just as important, serve to emphasize key times and give the story more depth and tension. The study does more than just put these speech acts into groups. It also places them in the bigger story, showing the complex motivations and character dynamics at play. For example, "denying" something isn't just a contradiction; it can also show deeper tensions, conflicts, or differences in how different people see things. The main point of this study is to show how language and story are connected in the movie series. It stresses how important bold speech acts are not only as ways to communicate but also as key plot devices that add a lot to the story, help characters grow, and make the movie experience better overall.

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