

CONVINCING AND CHEATING ACT IN “CATCH ME IF YOU CAN”

MOVIE SCRIPT BY STEVEN SPIELBERG

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at revealing the perlocutionary act that is used in the movie “Catch Me if You Can”. The movie contains many perlocutionary act which are the cheating and convincing acts. Both acts are done by the main character and other minor characters who have conversation with the main character. The perlocutionary act which is analyzed in this study is limited to only convincing and cheating acts because both acts are done many times by the main character and other characters. This study follows the perlocutionary act which is proposed by J.L. Austin. The writer applies qualitative descriptive method to analyze the study. The data collection technique of this study includes downloading, watching, classifying, and coding the data. To analyze the collected data the writer applies several techniques such as identifying the data, describing the data, categorizing the data, analyzing, and concluding the data. The result of this study is there are 7 data (38%) of convincing act and 13 data (72%) of cheating act. The cheating act is the most dominant act found in the movie and mostly is done by Frank the main character as the speaker that exists when Frank William Abagnale pretends to be a pilot under the name of Frank Taylor. Frank goes around the aviation company as a co-pilot to be able to cash the fraudulent checks. The bank and the aviation company end up believe in Frank and cashes the checks for him. Frank does the cheating act of perlocutionary act to make other people do what he wants them to do.

Keywords: *Convincing act, cheating act, perlocutionary act, movie script.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a framework that comprises of the turn of events, obtaining, support and utilization of complex frameworks of correspondence, especially the human capacity to do as such, and a language is a particular case of such a framework. In correspondence, language has significant job since it is utilized to convey data, thoughts, emotions, and wants of what speakers needs in conveying language to the audience or to clarify what the speakers needs the audience to accomplish something in conveying language.

The purpose of communication itself is informative which means an appeal to the mind that is accomplished through language (Berlo 1963: 8). In communication, there will be a speaker and listener, and each other have their own way to express their own mind. In this communication, the use of the utterances cannot be denied. When the speaker uttered something the listener will fully understand if they hear it while they look at the speaker expression or body language. Therefore, it is not impossible that there will be a miscommunication between the speaker and the listener.

People use language to send or pass on their motivations, message or data. Message and data can be appeared from the structure of language, or by understanding characteristic importance of its statement arrangement. In communication sometimes people get difficult in interpreting the message. Leech (1983: 1) holds that someone cannot understand rightly about the feature of language itself, if he or she does not know how the language is used in communication.

In general, function of language is a communication tool can even be seen as the primary function of language. According to Finocchiaro & Brumfit (1983: 65-66), there are five functions of language: (1) personal function is function of the language for clarifying or arranging one's ideas likes, expressing feelings, communicating moral, intellectual, and social concerns. (2) Interpersonal is function of language for enabling us to establish and maintain desirable social and working relationships, it consists of greetings and leave-taking (3) directive function is attempting to influence the actions of others accepting or refusing direction, (4) referential function is talking or reporting about things actions events or people in the environment in the past or in the future, it consist of making request and making suggestion, (5) imaginative function is expanding ideas offered by others or by a listening or reading passage likes creating rhymes poetry and solving problem.

According to Austin (1955: 94) "there are three things we do when we use language in communication". He distinguishes three degrees of activity past the demonstration of expression in correspondence, those are: the demonstration of saying something, what one does in saying it and what one does by saying it. He at that point characterizes these into the 'Locutionary', 'Illocutionary', and 'Perlocutionary' act. At this study, the writer only use Perlocutionary act to analyze "*Catch Me If You Can*" movie. This decision is because the Perlocutionary act is the action of addressee or addresser of the utterances which is worth to be analyzed individually. The perlocutionary act may seem easy however, it requires the writer to have high focus because meaning related context and action have to be analyzed specifically. In fact, there are twelve kinds of

perlocutionary act that can bring complication to the study, thus the writer chooses only the perlocutionary act to be the focus theory of the study.

The perlocutionary act itself is a topic with twelve branches of other acts. The writer has done observation and finds two types of perlocutionary act are most dominant in the movie of "*Catch Me if You Can*". The two most dominant are the cheating act and the convincing act. Both of these are the part of the perlocutionary act. The writer focuses on the most dominant perlocution that is done by the main character of the movie, this is why there are only two types of perlocutionary act that will be analyzed in the study. As seen in the movie and the movie script the main character's utterances deal mostly with convincing and cheating acts.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, the writer used a descriptive qualitative method. The writer used a descriptive qualitative method to classify and analyze the utterances. Qualitative research was concerned with meaning as they appeared to, or were achieved by persons in lived social situations (Sherman & Webb: 1988). Meanwhile, Bogdan and Biklen (1982) state that qualitative research was descriptive which the data was collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. Taylor (2010 p.4) said that qualitative method was a method that produces descriptive data in the form oral or written and people behavior that can be observed.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The perlocutionary act is the act that is carried out by a speaker when making an utterance causes in certain effect on the hearer and others. Perlocutionary act is called by the act of affecting something. Perlocutionary act is the act by which the illocutionary produces a certain effect in or exerts a certain influence of addressee. Perlocutionary act is the expected effect of the speaker to the hearer with an utterance from the speaker. This part of discussions focuses only on how the main character of *Catch Me if You Can* movie uses perlocutionary act in the form of convincing and cheating. It can be seen from the movie script that there are perlocutionary act which are convincing and cheating act that is explained as below. Convincing is act of getting to believe that achieved by the response of speaker, and Cheating is behaving dishonestly to gain disadvantages or certain aims of the speaker.

Convincing Act

Mr. Abagnale : Well, because one day, you'll want something from these people...a house, a car. They have all the money. There's 50

checks there, Frank which means, from this day on... you're in their little club.

Frank : **¹I'm in their little club.**

In this situation Frank's 16th birthday and his father open a paycheck under his son name Frank Abagnale Jr. Frank does not understand why despite the fact that his father has been turned down their loan, his father open a paycheck. His father explains to Frank that the bank is like a club for people who have the money. They can take money from the people and cash the money to get cars and houses. This seems to be unclear but Frank ends up in trusting this once again. This can be the background of why Frank has the idea of doing check fraudulent crime. The idea that his father told him shapes the mindset. Frank is convicted that he is in the club of people with money without doing jobs.

The writer finds this conversation is a convicting act because Frank has very conviction to his father about the money club thing. This one is restricted to a convincing act because his father only wants to assert the rich people opinion in Frank's personality not because he wants to turn him in to a bad man. Frank is not yet a fraudulent check villain when they are having this conversation with his father. Frank with big eyes and heart is so happy to have the paycheck with \$25 in and to be the part of the little club.

Convincing Act

Frank : Uh, excuse me. I'm sure you hear this all the time but you have the most beautiful eyes I have ever seen.

A lady : **²Yeah, I do get that all the time. How would you like it?**

Next data is a conversation between Frank and a lady who works as a customer service in a bank. Frank is well dressed as normal pilot and aims to cash the fraud check he makes by himself. He then goes to the bank and the lady he talks to pays more attention to the check. Frank here gets a little nervous that if the lady can tell that the check is fraudulent. So Frank aims a compliment to the lady to assure her she does not have to look at the check because Frank acts just like any other pilot compliments her beautiful eyes. As she assured, she starts to cash the check for Frank. This is the way Frank cashes checks at the bank. He gets away well. Because most of the bank tellers are women and they are liked to be complimented. In the movie of Catch Me if You Can, the women image is easy to be convinced.

The writer puts this data as the convincing act, because Frank is not talking about his fake identity. He talks to the lady and wants to cash some

money. He is afraid the lady can tell the check is a fraudulent one so he puts strategy to compliment the girl so she does not pay more attention to the check because in fact she is beautiful and she agrees that many people say that she has beautiful eyes and most people she met at work some of them must be pilot like Frank. Because Frank dresses like a pilot and acts like a pilot, talks like a pilot she is more interested to talk to the pilot because there is no way a pilot will give a fraudulent check. This data can be proven as convincing because the lady said that she did often hear it from other people.

Convincing Act

Frank : You think the FBI are the only ones on this guy? I mean, come on. Come on, he's dabbling in government checks here. We've been following a paper trail on this guy for months now. Hey, you mind taking that gun out of my face? Please. Really. I mean, it makes me nervous.

Carl : Let me see some credentials.

Frank : Yeah, sure. Take my whole wallet. You want my gun, too? Come over here. Take my gun. Hey, hey, look, just do me a favor. Take a look outside. Look. Look out the window. My partner's walking him to the car as we speak... Look. Old guy almost pissed in his pants when I came through the door. He jumped right through the window onto the hood of my car. Hey, Murph? - Yeah? Call the LAPD again. I don't want people walking through my crime scene.

Carl : **¹I didn't expect the secret service on this.**

The context for this conversation is that Carl finds out where is the secret place the famous money Fraud makes all his check fraud done. It is at a hotel room and Carl is planning to make a good arrest on Frank. However, Frank who already guess the situation soon pretends to be a secret service to trick Carl. Carl is a smart man who is very precise and careful. But, Frank is too. Thus Frank tries to assure Carl by his steady and brave appearing from the bathroom, he speaks and acts with no fear as if he has done nothing but the right thing. He then tells Carl that he has a friend outside who arrests the guy they are looking for. But actually, Murph is his friend who has no idea what is happening, so he returns to Carl's call, while he is helping an old man who also knows Frank. The old man is blind so Murph needs to guide him very carefully into the car which seems as if he is arresting someone. Carl who is asked to see this Murph and the blind man outside the hotel to the car suddenly believes to Frank. Frank is pretty clever here because he shows very good body language of an officer like Carl. He then attains

Carl's believe. Carl says that he has no idea about the including of secret service on the chasing mission.

The writer concludes this as the convincing act because Carl is convicted by the evidences Frank showed him. The way he utters the narrative is very convincing that Carl remains trusting Frank and lets Frank go. This data can be proven convincing because Carl finally let Frank out of the room to bring evidence, and followed Frank's orders to stay in the room to wait for Frank's colleague.

Cheating Act

Frank : Hello. I'm Frank Black from Murrow High school and I have an appointment with Mr. Morgan.
A receptionist : **²You're the young man who's writing the article for the school paper.**
Frank : Yes, ma'am, that's me.

Here in data six is the other time Frank deceives other people. Here he deceives a receptionist. Frank under covers himself as Frank Black from a High School. He dressed and talk like a high school student. The receptionist lets him in to do the interview under the name of Frank Black who has the appointment to interview a pilot. Here, he has intention to learn how to be a pilot because he is inspired by a pilot image he saw at the airport. He wants to learn how to be a pilot and how to get into a flight industry. Of course, the pilot he is interviewing has no idea about the fake Frank Black he is playing.

The writer finds this as a cheating act because Frank deceives the receptionist and gets a fake identity to go in as a legal visitor in the office to interview a pilot. The lady is very welcoming and says to Frank as if they've been waiting for this guy named Frank Black. This data can be proven to be cheating because Frank clearly falsified his identity as a student and made the receptionist trust him with the appearance of a student.

Cheating Act

A teacher : They sent for me. They said they needed a sub for Roberta. I came all the wayfrom-from Dixon.
Frank : **²Well, uh, I always sub for Roberta. Excuse me, why aren't you reading?**
A teacher : I'll never come back to-to Bellarmine Jefferson again! You tell them not to call me! What do they think, it's easy for a woman my age and all the money that it costs to travel?

The data is about Frank deceives other people who is not his classmates in French lesson but a sub-teacher for French lesson who comes all the way from Dixon. Frank tells the lady that he always substitute Roberta in French lesson, and he is very assuring that the lady trusts him and goes home with tears in his eyes. The teacher does not come to teach then but to go back again. The teacher believes to what Frank says and cursing that she will never go back to the high school again.

The writer considers the data as a cheating act. This is because Frank pretends to be the teacher and he tells the real sub-teacher that he always subs for Roberta makes the listeners that the school is the one that fools her, she is very angry not to Frank but to the school because she sacrifices a lot to go to the high school for nothing. Here the lady trusts Frank who pretends to be the sub-teacher.

Cheating Act

Frank : Hi. I'm a copilot based out of San Francisco. I flew a flight into New York last night but the problem is I'm headed out to, uh, Paris in three hours.

Purchasing : How can we help you?

Frank : I sent my uniform to be cleaned through the hotel and I... I guess they must have lost it.

Purchasing : **²They lost a uniform, happens all the time. Go down to the Well-Built Uniform Company at Ninth and Broadway. They're our uniform supplier. I'll tell Mr. Rosen you're coming.**

Data seven is about Frank once again deceives people, but this time he is dealing with a flight company called Pan American. It is a company he is going to work in. Frank pretends to be a co – pilot and calls for a Purchasing side to be able to get pilot uniform. This works well, Pan Am trusts the call that Frank makes through a public telephone. He then talks to Purchasing side and gets to go get the suit to the uniform supplier.

This data is recognized as a cheating act because the company trusts what Frank says. Frank is then talking to the purchasing side and the purchasing side says it is very common to a pilot to lost their dress in the laundry hotel service, this always happens to a pilot. So the lady from the purchasing finds Frank's reason logical and acceptable. But she trust Frank just like that so this is categorized as cheating act because Frank does not lose any pilot suit as he is not a pilot. He is only a teenager. The purchasing calls the uniform supplier to tell about Frank's need of suit. But this happens because she thinks she was talking to

a pilot. This data was proven to be cheating after it was proven that Frank's identity that he used as a co-pilot was fake and had expired 3 years ago.

DISCUSSION

Based on the findings above, the writer expects to answer the objective of the study; it is to describe the most dominant type of two parts of perlocutionary act. Total data found in this object is 18 data, consists of 7 data of convincing act and 13 data of cheating act found. The conclusion is that the convincing act data found is lesser than the cheating act data in the movie script of *Catch Me if You Can*. Thus, the most dominant data between the convincing and the cheating act is the cheating act. The convincing act is done by Frank and other people who are the participants of the conversation. The convincing act has function to convince other participant of the conversation such as the listener or the addressee.

The convincing act is done based on the need of the speaker or the addresser of the speech which is to get to convince other participants. The cheating act is a perlocutionary act to get the listener cheated or deceived. This happens because the speaker does not tell the truth and they intentionally make the listener do what they want other to believe the lie in the speech. Frank gives a lot of fake information to the listener and get the listener to do what he wants them to do by deceiving the listener. For example, Frank introduces himself as Frank Black, Connors, Taylor, and Barry Allen which are his fake identity. He introduces himself with different names because he wants to benefit from them, such as he introduces himself as Frank Conner to be able to get the doctor to let him work in the hospital he is applying, of course the fake name comes with fake identity and fake curriculum vitae.

CONCLUSION

The perlocutionary act itself is a topic with twelve branches of other acts. The writer has done observation and finds two types of perlocutionary act are most dominant in the movie of *Catch Me if You Can*. The two most dominant are the cheating act and the convincing act. Both of these are the part of the perlocutionary act. The writer focuses on the most dominant perlocution that is done by the main character of the movie, this is why there are only two types of perlocutionary act that were analyzed in the study. As seen in the movie and the movie script the main character's utterances deal mostly with convincing and cheating acts.

According to the analysis, the writer concludes that the most dominant type of perlocutionary act that is done in the movie especially by the main

characters and other characters that catch up with the main character Frank is the cheating act. The cheating act done in the movie script of *Catch Me if You Can* is 67,65%. Compared to the convincing act which is another type of perlocutionary act that is done in the movie there is only 32,35% of convincing act found. It is a huge comparison of the result of the data.

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