

Account in *The Devil All The Time* Movie Script

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Abstract

This research aims to discuss Account in *The Devil All the Time* movie script, based on Scott and Layman's (1968) theory on the Justification and Excuses aspects. Data was collected through searching, downloading, reading, watching, and coding and the data collected was analyzed through several steps; presenting, describing, interpreting, classifying and concluding the results of this research. The results showed that the account really exists and is applied by the character. The researcher finds several types of accounts, namely justification 5, defeasibility 3, scapegoating 3, and biological 2. One type of account was not found, namely an accident. In the finding, the researcher finds that every excuse contains justification but every justification does not contain an excuse. Moreover, the justification aspect is more dominantly used because the character always justifies bad behavior of others or themselves. In excuses, the defeasibility aspect is used because many murders are committed on the basis of victims who deserve to be killed. The scapegoating aspect is used by the character to accuse others of the mistakes he made so as not to become a suspect of his actions and the biological is the last factor that causes Account's behavior in this Movie script.

Keywords : *account, discourse analysis, movie script*

INTRODUCTION

In human life, language is needed to be a means of communication. Communication has various forms, such as asking for something, socializing, sharing information, entertainment, and others. A language that is inseparable from the social life of society, usually there is a social process about how a person wants to present himself, especially when someone who is involved in unusual or unusual conditions is done by many people, gives statements and special reasons to justify bad behavior by someone that causes a conflict in human life and in work itself. This behavior is known as Account. Accounts in discourse analysis are reasons or justifications for a behavior that is not good or not commonly done or explains unexpected behavior, Scott and Lyman (1968: 46) define account as a social process of how people position themselves, especially when involved in conventional deviant conditions. Such

people tend to use accounts or statements to explain unexpected or unwanted behavior. The reasons and justifications for an unusual behavior are categorized as account types.

This research is significant to answer the research question in this research, that is, related to what are the types of Account described in the script of *The Devil All the time* movie, which is based on Scott and Layman's theory (1968), and to help the audience of this movie and the readers of this thesis in the future, especially in increasing their understanding of how to use accounts in *The Devil All the time* Movie, because the account actions of the main character and other characters are very strongly related to discourse analysis, which is how a person gives specific reasons to justify his actions and avoid the impact he has made. When conducting preliminary research, This research is a research that is used to complete the previous research, from researchers using the same theory, the researcher found that there were several previous studies related to the account element in this research, "Justification, Excuse and Explanation: A Pragmatic Perspective" by Hasson & Saffah (2017). in this research they advocate that justification and excuse are interrelated speech acts that have tons in common inside the sense that their dreams are frequently distracting and that most effective contextual clues allow distinguishing one from the alternative, and "Adopting The Black Radical Perspective: An Analysis of Autobiographical Accounts" by Brown (2020) who discusses autobiography analysis in Accounts. The reason why the researcher chose the previous research was that the previous research did not take into account types of account to examine the action in a movie. From previous research, no one uses accounts to analyze the action in a movie. Therefore, the researcher decided to investigate the use of accounts in the movie *The Devil All the Time*.

Based on the description above, the researcher chose *The Devil All the Time* movie as the object in this research instead of choosing another object because when the researcher conducted preliminary research, the researcher also found that there were types of account in other movies. However, in the movie *The Devil All the Time*, the researcher found more account types than other movies. The second reason is that this movie has never been examined from an account perspective. The third reason is that researcher have more control over the account in *The Devil All the time* movie than other movies that contain account. In the end, the account has a significant role in social life. Therefore, the researcher is interested in analyzing the types of account carried out by the main character and other characters

in *The Devil All the Time* movie script using the theoretical account approach from Scott and Layman (1968).

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses descriptive qualitative research to describe the analysis of data in the form of information from the narrative. It is connected with the characteristics of the research in describing the use of accounts in *The Devil All the Time* movie script, following types based on the theory of Scott and Lyman (1968: 46). Qualitative research is defined as an investigation approach for understanding a social or human problem based on the construction of a complex, holistic image through the use of words, the reporting of specific perspectives from informants, and the use of natural settings, according to Cresswell (1994). The researcher uses qualitative methods because this research is descriptive and uses analysis. In addition, the process and meaning (subject perspective) are more emphasized in qualitative research coupled with qualitative data forms that describe how the story is shown in *The Devil All the Time* movie script. Later the researcher will describe systematically, factually, and accurately to analyze and present the facts and causes of the phenomena found in the movie.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data 1

- Roy : *I could tell the police what happened. That it was an accident.*
Theodore : You stabbed your wife in the neck with a screwdriver. Tried to bring her back from the dead and then buried her body. That ain't an accident, Roy.
That sounds like a crazy person who killed his wife
Theodore : Keep driving south. If we stay off highways, we should be fine.

Roy is a young preacher at the Coal Creek local church. In every sermon, Roy always spills a jar of spiders on his face to show his congregation that if we believe in God, our fear will disappear. But after marrying Helen, Roy locked himself in a cupboard because while doing a sermon he spilled a jar full of spiders on his face but the spider bit Roy's head which made his head swell like a pumpkin. The incident made Roy feel that he had been abandoned by God and shut himself up so that God would come back to him in his solitude in the closet. Until one day Roy suddenly felt that he had met God and received the grace of God to be able to resurrect the dead. Roy, who felt that he had the grace of God, invited his wife Helen

and Theodore to go by car to a place. Arriving at the destination on the outskirts of the forest, Roy took Helen for a walk into the forest and left Theodore in the car alone. Roy and Helen were walking through the forest but Roy stopped his steps at one point and said to Helen we can feel good in this place. Helen who listened to her husband's words closed her eyes while praying to God but suddenly Roy stabbed Helen in the neck using a screwdriver until Helen died right in front of Roy. After knowing that Helen had died, Roy, who received the grace of God to be able to resurrect the dead with full faith in God, Roy tried to resurrect Helen from the dead. But his efforts were not successful even though Roy tried many times while asking God to resurrect Helen. Theodore who saw the incident suggested Roy to bury his wife and asked him to run away and leave the city so as not to be caught by the police but Roy who really loves his wife and children said that he would tell what happened to the police and justify that it happened by accident. From the conversation above, it can be found that the account aspect is justification where Roy, who wants to report his actions to the police is a form of his confession because he made a mistake but he wants to justify that the incident was an accident not because he intentionally killed and wants to resurrect her.

Data 1	Aspect of Account	Types of Excuses	Data Interpretation
Roy : <i>I could tell the police what happened. That it was an accident.</i>	Justification	-	Roy who killed his wife and wanted to resurrect her is a wrong act and Roy still wants to report and justify his killing, but Roy still wants to justify by saying that this action was just an accident.

Data 2

Bodecker : God dammit, boy, don't– don't fuck with me!
 Arvin : Put the gun down, Sheriff! I got one pointed right at you!
 Bodecker : Can't do that, son!
 Arvin : Just set it on the ground and step away!
 Bodecker : What?
 Arvin : Just set it on the ground and step away!
 Bodecker : So you can kill me like you did my sister and that preacher down in West Virginia?!

Arvin : I'm not a bad person, Sheriff. That preacher weren't no good! He hurt my sister so bad she killed herself, Sheriff! I had no choice!

Arvin : **I hate to be the one to tell you this, Sheriff, but your sister and her husband, they weren't no good neither!**

Arvin : I got a snapshot in my pocket here of her hugging some dead guy. You let loose that gun and I'll show it to you!

Arvin : **They were gonna kill me, I swear. I begged her to put the gun down. I'm sorry.**

Arvin had finished burying his pet dog as a child who had been sacrificed to heal his mother, and not long after that sheriff Bodecker came to arrest Arvin who was known to have killed the sheriff's sister, Sandy. Arvin, who knew the arrival of sheriff Bodecker because he heard the sound of footsteps and gunfire immediately Arvin secured himself and hid behind a tree and prepared to fight. Sheriff Bodecker asked Arvin to turn himself in so that there would be no gunfight, but Arvin refused and asked Sheriff Bodecker to lower his gun and Arvin will explain all his actions. After that Arvin gave the reason why he killed Sandy, the sister of Sheriff Bodecker by saying *"I hate to be the one to tell you this, Sheriff, but your sister... and her husband, they weren't no good either!"* dan *"They were gonna kill me, I swear. I begged her to put the gun down. I'm sorry."* Arvin was forced to commit murder because if he didn't shoot first Arvin would also be killed by Sandy and Carl.

Data 2	Aspect of Account	Types of Excuses	Data Interpretation
<p>Arvin : <i>I hate to be the one to tell you this, Sheriff, but your sister... and her husband, they weren't no good either!</i></p> <p>Arvin : <i>They were gonna kill me, I swear. I begged her to put the gun down. I'm sorry.</i></p>	Excuses	Defeasibility	Arvin in this scene contains elements of Excuses type defeasibility because when he heard the statement that he killed Carl and Sandy, Arvin gave a reason that they deserved to be killed because they were not good people and Arvin killed them both because if Arvin didn't kill then Arvin would be killed. kill by Carl and Sandy.

Data 3

Bodecker : Jesus Christ.
 Sheriff 1 : Lee?
 Bodecker : Give me a couple minutes here alone with her.
 Narrator : ***She'd always been sort of fucked up, but Lee blamed Carl for the way she'd gone downhill. Regardless of all that, she was still his baby sister.***
 Narrator : But the sheriff couldn't help but think of his own situation for a moment. He thought about that photo he found of her and worried about what else people might find if he didn't get to it first.

Sheriff Bodecker, who already knew that the corpse found in the forest was his younger sister, immediately went to the crime scene to confirm the truth of the information, after arriving at the scene it turned out that the corpse was really the sister of Sheriff Bodecker. Despite knowing how his sister's attitude towards him was, sheriff Bodecker was still sad and deplored the death of his sister. Even though she doesn't know who killed her sister, Sheriff Bodecker, knowing that Carl did a bad job, blames all of this on Carl, who plays the husband

of Sandy, Sheriff Bodecker's sister, because after all, Sandy is still Sheriff Bodecker's favorite sister.

The narrator in this scene says “*She’d always been sort of fucked up, but Lee blamed Carl for the way she’d gone downhill. Regardless of all that, she was still his baby sister.*” This is an account that is scapegoating type excuses because Sheriff Bodecker blamed all of this incident that made his sister killed to Carl.

Data 3	Aspect of Account	Types of Excuses	Data Interpretation
Narrator : <i>She’d always been sort of fucked up, but Lee blamed Carl for the way she’d gone downhill. Regardless of all that, she was still his baby sister.</i>	Excuses	Scapegoating	The narrator in this scene explains that Sheriff Bodecker blames everything including Sandy's sister's death on Carl, who plays Sand's husband even though he doesn't know who the real killer is. This scene contains an account, namely excuses of the scapegoating type due to the actions of Sheriff Bodecker who delegated all the blame to Carl.

Based on the finding above, the researcher found an element of justification because in the actions taken by several characters directly admitting bad actions that have been done but rejecting or eliminating the negative elements of these actions, as Roy Laferty did when after he killed his wife, Roy wanted to reported his actions that had killed his wife to the police but Roy justified by saying that his wife was killed in an accident. Researchers also found elements of Excuses, namely Defeasibility, Scapegoating and Biological because the actions taken by Carl when killing his victims were mostly based on Carl who was insane and Carl only felt the presence of God when he was confronted by someone's death, then when Arvin who interrogating Pastor Teagardin, the character actually blamed his actions on Lenora to free himself from the mistakes that Pastor Teagardin had made, which was Excuses' action, namely Scapegoating, and also in this film there are biological-type excuses actions carried out by Carl which explain the reasons by The narrator says that Carl's paranoid actions that got his wife killed appear because Carl is a murderer who is always paranoid with suspicious actions. Finally, in this study, there is no accident aspect because the reason for blaming this accident is focused on giving reasons that cannot be investigated directly which are not found

in the script of *The Devil All the Time*. In addition, the account's actions in 2 aspects, namely justification and excuse carried out by the characters in *The Devil All the Time* movie, do so that they are given freedom from the actions they take and this is in accordance with the account described by Scott and Lyman (1968). This is done to save yourself or to satisfy the desires of the characters in the story. The bad events or actions that the characters do in this film are mostly motivated by the character's thoughts that seem to have been controlled by the devil so that they do bad actions and try to be free from their own actions.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings and discussion above, conclusions can be drawn with research questions about "What types of Account are described in *The Devil All the Time* movie script based on Scott and Layman's theory (1968; 46)". In terms of justifications and excuses that are done by several characters in the movie, characters who use justification are done to avoid the responsibilities they do and eliminate the negative connotation of the actions they take even though they are bad and bad actions, where most users of justification are aware direct bad deed that is done but gives a different story and is not in accordance with the facts or the action is done because of necessity not because of the desire of the character itself, and in the form of excuses in *The Devil All the Time* movie, many characters also use Excuses to provide explanations and reasons for the bad actions they take so as not to be blamed, one of which is the scapegoating type of excuses which is mostly done by the character of Pastor Teagardin because it is to save his reputation as a priest he blamed others for what he had done. Aspects of account type defeasibility are also often done by Carl Hendersen's character who kills an army soldier and argues that they are helping him to die because the soldier will die on the battlefield. Then the biological type account aspect can be found in the character of Carl Henderson, who is a murderer who has an additional trait, namely paranoia, which makes his wife killed.

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