

Speech Acts Describing The Stage Of Self Acceptance In The Main Character In The Film Wonder (2017)

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Abstract: *This study aims to identify the forms and types of illocutionary and perlocutionary speech acts that describe the stages of self-acceptance of the main character in the Wonder 2017 film. This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. The primary data source is taken from the main character's speech, which reflects the stages of self-acceptance collected using the listening and note-taking methods. The results of this study include the following: 1) There are 15 utterances of the illocutionary act in the main character, assertives, and expressions are the dominant types is the most found. Perlocutionary speech acts are found with verbal, nonverbal, and verbal non-verbal types. 2) There are 5 stages of self-acceptance in the main character's speech: phase 1 denial, phase 2 anger, phase 3 bargaining. Phase 4 depression, and phase 5 acceptance. From the five stages of self-acceptance, phase 2 of anger is the dominant type, specifically 6 utterances. 3) There are speech acts in this film that reflect the stages of self-acceptance in the main character who is going through a process of self-acceptance*

INTRODUCTION

Humans basically have advantages and disadvantages in themselves. Individuals who accept themselves will have tolerance for themselves. According to Ross (2006) self- acceptance has five stages before reaching acceptance including stage I denial, stage 2 anger, stage 3 bargaining. Stage 4 depression, and stage 5 acceptance Individuals who can accept themselves well mean that they have succeeded in passing through several of these stages because the more individuals understand themselves, the better their self- acceptance will be.

The primary source in this study is the story of the main character in the Wonder 2017 film which is a film adaptation of the novel of the same name, namely Wonder written by Jack Thorne, Steven Conrad, and Chbosky. The film stars Jacob Tremblay, directed by Stephen Chbosky. Wonder tells the story of a boy named August "Auggie" Pullman (Jacob Tremblay) who has Treacher Collins syndrome but tries to adjust. Auggie lives in a brownstone in brooklyn with his mother Isabel (Julia Roberts), father Nate (Owen Wilson), older sister Via (Izabela Vidovic). He was born with a rare medical facial deformity which he refers to as mandibulofacial dysostosis which makes his face look scary.

According to Anderson (2008) self-acceptance means that the individual has succeeded in accepting all the strengths and weaknesses of oneself as they are. Individuals who have self-acceptance behavior will view weaknesses or lack of self as something that is natural for every individual because in essence no individual is perfect. Self-acceptance in individuals can be seen from their behavior and speech. For this reason, speech acts are related to self-acceptance because the speech conveyed contains a form of self-acceptance that is conveyed by the speaker to the speech partner. Speech act or speech act is central in pragmatics.

Yule (1996) defines speech acts as actions performed through utterances. Speech acts have various forms to express a purpose. Like not only when communicating directly but also through print media. It aims to make someone able to know and understand the speech act. All this time Auggie was home schooled but as he approached fifth grade his parents decided to enroll him in a private Beecher Prep school. His family wants Auggie to grow and have progress in living in a new environment. According to Harlock (2006: 171) positive self-acceptance in children is supported by the role of the environment, both the family environment, residence and school.

The self-acceptance stage that the child goes through makes the child able to rise after initially the child feels down and cannot do anything. Auggie tries to survive even though at first he doesn't have any friends and even some of his friends always make fun of him at school. His family's support motivates Auggie to develop himself without caring about the ridicule of others. Auggie is aware that he must be able to accept all the strengths and weaknesses in himself until finally Auggie can get through it all by reaching the stage of self-acceptance.

RESEARCH METHODS

This type of research uses a type of qualitative research. Molcong (2005; 6) defines qualitative methods for understanding phenomena about what is experienced by the subject for the example such as behavior and actions through descriptive methods in the form of words and language in a context. The data analyzed in this study are the main character's speech acts in the 2017 *Wonder* film. The research contained in the film's dialogue was obtained from the website <https://www.scripts.com/script-voters/23635>.

The second data source was obtained from several research journals, books, and theses to complete the theory that the researcher would use. Auggie's behavior is one of the self-acceptance stages, namely stage Denial where the individual shows self-defense in the form of self-rejection. In speech Auggie shows an attitude that does not accept reality, he thinks that he is the only human being, the strangest that ever existed. So that made him even more depressed in his shortcomings. Data 2 (22,54-23.05)

Dialog: Nate his father: Come on, how was your day? Auggie: Good Nate his father: Good how? Good like it was good? Or good like it was bad and you just don't wanna tell us? Auggie: Why can't I just say "good" like anybody else?! (leave the table)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The film *Wonder* tells the story of a boy named August "Auggie" Pullman (Jacob Tremblay) who has Treacher Collins syndrome but tries to adjust. Auggie lives in a Brownstone in Brooklyn with his family. He was born with a rare medical facial deformity he refers to as "mandibulofacial dysostosis" and has undergone 27 different surgeries to allow him to see, smell, speak and hear. During this time Auggie was home schooled but as he neared fifth grade he entered a private Beecher Prep school.

When he first enters school, Auggie is ostracized. However, he can adjust to his environment and he can make friends at school. Auggie's attitude reflects the stage of self-acceptance because according to Auggie's life the deficiencies that exist in him are an obstacle and a test for him. That is what he faces, how to get through it all without having to run away from the

reality that exists. His family: (shocked)

He illocutionary speech act shown to the speaker in speech is a type of expressive illocutionary act with the function of releasing anger, namely “Why can’t I just say “good” like anybody else?!”. The speech shows that Auggie was annoyed so he took out his frustration on his father because his father asked too much. Auggie left the table just like that, Actually Auggie was annoyed with friends who mocked him at school. This makes Auggie think why he can’t be like other people, and why he can’t do what other people do.

Data 1 (02:50-0254)

Dialog:

Auggie: I’ve had 27 surgeries since then. They’ve helped me to breathe, to see, to hear without a hearing aid, and some even helped me look a bit better. But none of them have made me look ordinary.

Doctor: (silent)

The illocutionary speech act found in Auggie’s speech “But none of them have made me look ordinary” is an assertive type with the function of declaring. The story shows that Auggie doesn’t feel better with his current situation, even though he has done 27 surgeries, he still doesn’t feel confident. The surgery performed by the doctor was considered useless because he would still look strange with his current facial condition.

The perlocutionary acts that appear are non-verbal perlocutionary speech acts in which the response shown by the speech partner is in the form of body language. In this context, the speech partner is silent because the doctor has actually helped maximally starting to breathe, see, and fox Auggie’s face to make it look better, but Auggie is still complaining and not grateful.

Auggie’s behavior is one of the self-acceptance stages, namely stage Denial where the individual shows self- defense in the form of self-rejection. In speech Auggie shows an attitude that does not accept reality, he thinks that he is the only human being, the strangest that ever existed. So that made him even more depressed in his shortcomings.

Data 2 (22,54-23.05)

Dialog:

Nate his father: Come on, how was your day? Auggie: Good Nate his father: Good how? Good like it was good? Or good like it was bad and you just don’t wanna tell us?

Auggie: Why can’t I just say “good” like anybody else?! (leave the table)

His family: (shocked)

He illocutionary speech act shown to the speaker in speech is a type of expressive illocutionary act with the function of releasing anger, namely “Why can’t I just say “good” like anybody else?!”. The speech shows that Auggie was annoyed so he took out his frustration on his father because his father asked too much. Auggie left the table just like that, Actually Auggie was annoyed with friends who mocked him at school. This makes Auggie think why he can’t be like other people, and why he can’t do what other people do.

The perlocutionary acts that appear are non-verbal perlocutionary speech acts, namely the effects shown by the speech partner in the form of body language. The speech partner shows an expression of surprise with Auggie’s attitude, who speaks in a high and impolite tone. His family who heard Auggie scream like that didn’t know what problem had made him angry.

In this context, Auggie’s behavior in speech includes one of the self-acceptance stages, namely stage 2 (anger) where the reaction is anger, envy and hatred for the problems experienced. At this stage the individual will find it difficult to give understanding and advice because they often project their anger onto other parties such as family. At this stage Auggie cannot control his emotions because he is angry which makes him unable to think rationally. He also prefers to be

alone to relieve his emotions.

Data 3 (36:50-36:55)

Dialog:

Jack: Thanks for your help me today and don't worry, I got a couple wrong so Ms. Pelosa wouldn't know. I'm not worried.

Auggie: Well, if you need help in science you can come to my house after school you know, if you want.

Jack: Great. Thanks!

The illocutionary speech act found in the speaker can be seen from speech is a commissive type with the function of offering help, namely "Well, if you need help in science, you can come to my house after school. You know, if you want." The point of this speech is that Auggie offers to help teach science lessons directly because he understands enough in science so he intends to help, even if his friends want to study together and come to Auggie's house.

The perlocutionary acts that appear are verbal perlocutionary speech acts, namely responses in the form of verbal utterances accompanied by body language. Jack responded by smiling happily "Great. Thanks!" This statement shows that Jack accepted an offer from Auggie to come to his house. He also now wants to be friends with Auggie because he thinks Auggie isn't as bad as other people say.

There is a stage of self-acceptance in Auggie's behavior in speech, namely stage 3 of bargaining where the individual begins to transfer his shortcomings with good things, besides that the individual will experience the problem accompanied by effort. In this situation Auggie has adjusted between his weaknesses and strengths, now he can make up for his shortcomings with his strengths. Even though he has a strange face, it's not a big problem now, because he actually has learning abilities that other people don't have, such as his academic excellence in science subjects. With his superiority in science subjects he can now have friends. Even Auggie managed to make himself confident because he could teach science to other people. This is a positive self-evaluation factor that reflects positive self-awareness, especially when faced with negative events. This shows that even though Auggie is faced with difficult circumstances to socialize with other people, he can get through it all by proving that he is able to make himself useful for others.

Data 4 (24:40-24:46)

Dialogue: His mother: Hey, come on. Talk to me.

Auggie: Why do I have to be so ugly? Isabel

His mother: You are not ugly, Auggie.

Auggie: You just have to say that because you're my mom.

His mother: Oh, because I'm your mom, it doesn't count? Because I'm your mom, it counts the most because I know you the most.

The illocutionary speech act found in the speaker can be seen from speech is an assertive type with a complaining function, namely "Why do I have to be so ugly?" The speech shows that Auggie feels sad with the state of his face. Why does he have to have a strange face. It's only because of his face like this that all the friends at school insult and stay away from Auggie which makes him not have a single friend.

The perlocutionary acts that appear are verbal perlocutionary speech acts, namely the speech partners' responses in the form of verbal utterances. His mother tries to calm down on speeches by stating "You are not ugly. Auggie" and "Because I'm your mom, it counts the most because I know you the most he is an evil. Maybe his friends only see Auggie from the outside, don't really know him. His mother tries to explain to Auggie that Auggie is a good boy, because his mother knows Auggie better than anyone else.

Auggie's behavior in speech is one of the stages of self- acceptance, namely stage 4. Stage of depression (depression) where the individual shows despair and loses hope, turns into a quiet person, refuses interaction with his surroundings. And spends a lot of time crying and blaming himself. In this state, the individual will reflect on everything that has happened. Conditions like this are an attempt to escape from pent-up anger and this is a natural response. Auggie just needs time so he doesn't dissolve in his sadness.

Data 5 (1.41.10-14113)

Dialog: Auggie: Thank you Isabel: For what?

Auggie: Making me go to school. I was so mad at you sometime but I'm really happy to be here Isabel You really are a wonder Auggie.

The illocutionary speech act for Auggie can be seen in speech (55) which is an assertive type with the function of declaring, namely "I was so mad at you sometime but I'm really happy to be here" school as the best student thanks to the support of his mother.

The perlocutionary acts that appear are verbal perlocutionary speech acts, namely responses in the form of verbal utterances. His mother responded with "You really are a wonder Auggie". The meaning of the utterance is that the speech partner is also happy because in the end Auggie can successfully show that he deserves to be the best student in his school. The said partner feels proud of Auggie because Auggie is like a miracle in his life.

In this context, Auggie's behavior in speech includes one of the stages of self-acceptance, namely stage 5 of acceptance. The individual has accepted what happened to him. Auggie is very happy because thanks to his mother's support he can succeed as he is today. In Auggie's current state he is able to accept his flaws as well as the people around him who accept Auggie as he is. Auggie has succeeded in making everyone proud of what he has achieved being the best student in school.

CONCLUSION

From this study it can be concluded that there are speech acts that describe the stages of self-acceptance in the film *Wonder 2017*. The speech containing self-acceptance is motivated by the inner will to accept all the weaknesses and strengths that exist so that one can live life without any burdensome pressure. This stage will help the formation of self-integrity to become a better individual so that the individual can live life confidently.

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