



Representative Literal and Nonliteral Speech Acts in Novels “Dear Allah” by Diana Febi: A Sociopragmatic Review

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Receive: 17/01/2023

Accepted: 17/02/2023

Published: 01/03/2023

Abstract

This qualitative descriptive study aims to describe the representation of literal and nonliteral speech acts in the novel "Dear Allah" by Diana Febi. From a theoretical perspective, this research uses a sociopragmatic system or view. While the method or technique of data collection in this research is a documentation study or literature study, in this case, the literature review is in the form of texts contained in the novel Dear Allah by Diana Febi. The novel is the primary data source. Documentation or literature studies are carried out through direct appreciation and rational understanding of the meaning implied in the novel. The results of this study show (1) representative literal speech acts in Diana Febi's novel Dear Allah and (2) representative nonliteral speech acts in Diana Febi's novel Dear Allah. This research makes a scientific contribution, especially in linguistics, on the sociopragmatic aspect so that understanding the implied meaning of a novel can be understood as a whole in terms of social meaning.

Keywords: Sociopragmatic, Literal Speech Act, Nonliteral, Novel

Introduction

This study will discuss representative literal and nonliteral speech acts in the novel "Dear Allah" by Diana Febi. Literal and nonliteral speech acts in stories involve understanding the literal and figurative use of language in literary works. Literal speech acts refer to language that follows the literal meaning of words, whereas nonliteral speech acts involve using figurative language to convey messages that are more complex or different from the literal sense (Allan, 1997).

In a novel, the writer uses literal speech acts to describe events, actions, or dialogues that occur concretely and according to the words' meaning (Gibbs Jr, 2003). This helps the reader visualize what is going on in the story. For example, "He walked quickly" is an example of a literal

speech act where the use of the words matches their literal meaning (Hirst et al., 1984).

On the other hand, nonliteral speech acts in novels involve using more creative and figurative language to create emotional effects, depict more abstract images, or convey more profound meanings (Hardiansyah & Mulyadi, 2022). This can include metaphors, symbolism, or similes. For example, "Her heart was broken into a thousand pieces" is an example of a nonliteral speech act where the use of metaphor describes a deep emotional breakdown (Hardiansyah et al., 2023).

The use of literal and nonliteral speech acts in the novel gives dimension and richness to the writing. Literal speech acts are used to explain facts and events directly,

while nonliteral speech acts create imagination and deeper meaning (Hardiansyah et al., 2022). By effectively using both types of speech acts, literal and nonliteral, the writer can create a richer reading experience and captivate the reader so that what the writer wants to convey is conveyed precisely even though it is given indirectly (Hardiansyah & Mas'odi, 2022).

The book *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*, which Austin and John R. Searle have expressed in (Hardiansyah, 2022), states that in the practice of language communication or the use of language, both conveyed by speakers and also speech partners there are at least three kinds or types of speech acts. These three kinds or types of speech acts are related to one another or successively can be mentioned as follows: (1) illocutionary speech acts or what are known as illocutionary speech acts, (2) illocutionary speech acts or illocutionary speech acts, and (3) perlocutionary speech acts or perlocutionary speech acts (Hardiansyah & AR, 2022).

Locutionary speech acts are expressed in words, phrases, and sentences according to the meaning contained in the comments, terms, and corrections expressed by the speaker; the sense of illocutionary speech acts to convey the information the speaker wants to get to partners (Hardiansyah & Wahdian, 2023). Furthermore, the second speech act is illocutionary, namely, doing or carrying out something with a specific purpose and function in the actual speaking activity. In English, an inquisition speech act is the act of doing something. The last is a speech act. Elocutionary is an act to foster influence or effect on the speech partner by a speaker (Hardiansyah & Zainuddin, 2022).

In pragmatic and sociopragmatic studies, the second speech act or illocutionary speech act, or the act of doing something, is more widely discussed than the first and third speech acts, namely elocutionary speech acts and perlocutionary speech acts. According to Searle in (SMRL et al., 2021), illocutionary speech acts are

grouped or classified into five types of speech acts in speech activities, namely (1) assertive, (2) directive, (3) expressive, (4) commissive, and (5) declaration (Naralita & Azis, 2020).

In pragmatics or sociolinguistics, there are two types of speech acts in language practice; the two types of speech acts are (1) direct speech acts and indirect speech acts and (2) literal and nonliteral speech acts. This study focuses more on the second type of speech act, namely literal and nonliteral speech acts, which will be studied from a novel entitled *Dear Allah* by Diana Febi (Rachmawati, 2018).

Furthermore, literal speech acts can be interpreted as an expression whose meaning or meaning of the expression is precisely the same as the meaning of the word or even the sentences that compose it. Nonliteral or nonliteral speech acts are speech acts whose intent, purpose, or meaning of the expression is not the same or even very different or opposite from what the speaker conveys to the speech partner. For example, the phrase, "Wow, your body is ideal!" If the expression or speech is in the form of flattery, praise, and appreciation for the speech partner conveyed by the speaker, then the lesson is a literal speech act; on the contrary, the address is meant to ridicule, satirize, or even satire then the reading is not literal or nonliteral.

Communicating or speaking activities both orally and in writing in social life are often expressed either with direct meaning or intent or with indirect meaning so that the speech partner can understand the implicit meaning contained in the speaker's expression. Similarly, in a novel, the meaning or meaning in the book is often expressed implicitly. The implied word in the story will never change the meaning or meaning. The novel that will be used to find data related to literal speech acts and nonliteral speech acts in this study is the novel *Dear Allah* by Diana Febi.

The novel *Dear Allah* has been extensively researched from different perspectives, for example, in terms of

cohesion and coherence and character education. However, in this study, the novel *Dear Allah* will be studied regarding speech acts, namely literal and nonliteral. There are several previous studies or relevant studies related to speech acts, so research on speech acts has been previously studied by Anwari (2017) with the title "Speech Acts in Madurese Community Wedding Ceremonies in Kalidandan Village, Pakuniran, Probolinggo: Pragmatic Studies." The results of this study are in the form of illocutionary speech acts; besides that, it also found types of direct speech acts, indirect speech acts, literal speech acts, nonliteral speech acts, explicit literal speech acts, direct nonliteral speech acts, indirect literal speech acts, and the indirect follow is not literal. The second research by Pripta Fajri Ramadhanti (2019) is titled "Impressions of Indirect Speech Actions on Students' Social Sensitivity in Learning." The results of this study include direct speech acts, indirect speech acts, nonliteral speech acts, indirect nonliteral speech acts, and impressions of indirect nonliteral speech acts on social sensitivity. As well as the last or third research by Ni Made Dewi Sucita (2017) titled "Literal Indirect Speech Acts in Drama *Ichi Rittoru No Namida*). The results of this study are changes in the function of interrogative sentences into declarative sentence functions, changes in the process of declarative sentences into imperative sentence functions, and changes in the part of interrogative sentences into binding sentence functions.

So, from the results of the elaboration of previous research, there are differences with this study; the difference lies in the theoretical approach used, namely sociopragmatic studies. The second difference is in terms of the object of study, namely a novel. This research wants to examine literal speech acts and nonliteral speech acts in a novel, namely the novel *Dear Allah* by Diana Febi. This research will explore the role of literal and nonliteral speech acts and analyze the author's use of

language, which contains the meaning of literal and nonliteral speech acts.

Method

The research method is a way of acting according to the rules so that the objectives of research activities are rational and directed to achieve maximum and optimal results. The research method itself is divided into two types, namely qualitative research and quantitative research. This study uses a variety of qualitative research with a descriptive research approach. The illustrative process referred to in this study is to describe or describe the object under investigation, namely the novel. The description of a book is related to the description of a sentence or text quote in the story that reflects or contains literal speech acts and nonliteral speech acts. The theoretical approach in this study uses a sociopragmatic review or perspective. This study's data are sentences containing literal and nonliteral speech acts and their contexts. The data sources used in this study are all the words and sentences in the novel *Dear Allah* by Diana Febi.

Finally, regarding data collection techniques, which are the main steps in a study, data will be generated from the data sources that have been studied. The data collection technique in this study was indirect in the form of a documentary study technique. The documentary study technique is carried out with the following steps: (1) Reading intensively the novel *Dear Allah* by Diana Febiyag, the novel will be used as a source of research data. (2) Identify sentences that contain the meaning of literal and nonliteral speech acts so that the quote from the sentence will be analyzed according to the context. (3) Recording data, namely data that has been selected, is recorded in the data card. (4) Classifying data based on literal and in-literal speech acts. The tool in collecting research data is the researcher himself as a critical instrument in a research activity. Researchers collect data, analyze data findings, and report the results of the analysis of these findings.

Result and Discussion

As stated in the introduction, the purpose of this research is to describe the use of literal and non-literal speech acts in the novel *Dear Allah* by Diana Febi. The presentation analysis is as follows:

Literal Speech Acts

Data (1): "Handsome doctor? Oh, Wildan."

Literal speech involves understanding the text according to its actual or literal meaning. This includes understanding the facts given in the story, such as the physical description of the characters, the setting of the place, or the events in the storyline.

Data (1) includes literal speech acts because it is an actual statement, namely a direct statement about good looks. What is meant by the handsome doctor in the excerpt from the novel is Wildan. Wildan is a man who has an almost perfect face with thick eyebrows, long eyelashes, a long nose, thin reddish lips, white skin, clear eyes, and two crooked teeth adorning his handsome face.

Data (2): "I took a deep breath and then answered, 'You send the name, date, and place. I will do it now.'"

Data (2) includes literal speech acts. In this quote, a literal speech act occurs when one of the characters in the novel expresses his wish to send his data with a deep sigh. This data can be interpreted literally, namely a direct request to transmit personal data in the form of name, date, and place.

Data (3): "Okay, Nai. Thank you very much... you are my best friend who understands me the most."

Literal speech acts are used to describe actions or statements literally. In line with the data, (3) includes examples of literal speech acts because they represent a statement. The information is a thank you.

Data (4): "I huffed my phone on the bed. Again, he talks about Genta:"

The speech above has a meaning that can be interpreted literally. The word "slam" is used directly to describe the act of dropping down violently

Data (5): "Nai, pick up SC's baby! Mbah Sarah exclaimed and told me to pick up the baby for Caesarean section. Incidentally, at that time, I was on guard at level three, a special room for babies born without complications."

Data quote (5) is a literal speech act because its meaning is in the literal sense. "Pick up" or "Pick up" is a direct request for picking up a cesarean section baby.

Data (6): "Doctor Zulfa is still in the room, I concluded as I stepped away from Wildan immediately."

A literal speech act is an expression whose meaning is literal. The literal meaning in question is the meaning according to the letter, word for word, or based on the lexical meaning. Data (6) includes literal speech acts because it describes concrete notifications and occurs directly.

Data (7): "Naira got up from her place and walked towards the mosque's terrace."

Data quote (7) shows a literal speech act because the use of the words "moving" and "walking" literally refers to moving or moving from one place to another. The place is the terrace of the mosque. The words walk and walk are categories of verbs.

Data (8): "Unexpectedly, Wildan took off his doctor's coat and handed Naira's jacket."

Literal speech acts are used to describe actions or statements literally. Data (8) shows literal speech acts because they describe actions concretely and occur directly.

Data (9): "Nai..... Tatan's call broke my thoughts. I turned around and walked into the room to meet him."

Literal speech acts provide a clear understanding even though they are conveyed in written language. Literal speech acts refer to the use of language with a meaning that is by the literal definition or the actual context. Data (9) is a literal speech act because the substance contained in the quote above is by the existing context.

Data (10): "Titan walked towards me and hugged me. And said, dear niece."

Data quote (10) is a literal speech act because its meaning is in the literal sense. This expression is a direct action.

Data (11): "Silence. The living room suddenly fell silent when Wildan and I exchanged glances. I looked at him confused, and he looked at me meaninglessly, only a smile I saw."

Literal speech acts refer to using language literally or by its conventional meaning. In a novel, a writer uses literal speech acts to describe actions and dialogue between characters. Data quote (11) is one of the speech acts used by the writer to describe an activity that can be interpreted literally.

Data (12): "I take a deep breath and then exhale slowly; I don't want everyone to corner me and have me answer yes."

Data 12 is a literal speech act because its meaning corresponds to a literal meaning, not a figurative or metaphorical meaning. The phrase "take a deep breath" means that the characters in the novel take a more extended breath than usual. This is done to relax the energy that has been drained and overcome stress or anxiety within

Data (13): "Bismillah, with the blessing of Allah, I accept the bell as my future priest."

Literary speech acts refer to the literal or actual meaning of utterances, questions, and statements. In a literal speech act, the statement is considered as a statement that describes the belief or willingness to accept Genta as a priest or husband based on provisions or instructions from Allah.

Data (14): "Astaghfirullah... hearing the morning call to prayer, I immediately retook ablution to perform the dawn prayer."

In a literal speech act, the expression "Astaghfirullah" means I beg forgiveness from Allah. When you hear the morning call to prayer, this expression shows that you feel touched and move your heart to ask God for forgiveness. The act of "taking another ablution" refers to the physical act performed after hearing the morning call to prayer. This action aims to ensure that you are clean and pure from uncleanness before starting the morning prayer.

Data (15): "Naira.... Someone called me, and I turned towards that person."

In the context of literal speech acts, when someone calls, and you respond by turning towards the person calling you, it can be explained as the physical action you take in response to the call. This action is intended to show that you have paid attention to the ring and are ready to interact or respond to the person calling you.

Data (16): "The car door was opened when the car I was in just stopped. Abah got out first."

These statements are included in literal speech acts. The data above explains the meaning literally, namely sequential and descriptive actions. When the car stopped, the door opened, and Abah got out before anyone else. This description shows the factual sequence or chronology of events.

Data (17): "Yes, she is Zulfa. Wildan's future wife. The doctor is an angel from our hospital."

The expression uses literal speech to present precise information and the word's meaning in a given context. The data statement above illustrates that the subject in question is Zulfa by providing concrete information about a person's identity and using language. The following report states that the doctor in question is a woman who is considered beautiful, like an angel. By the true meaning of Zulfa in the novel, she is depicted with a light and charming smile, slanted eyes with curled eyelashes, a small nose that matches her facial shape, and dimples that complement her beauty.

Nonliteral Speech Acts

Data (1): "Every verse seems to slap me. I, who have often been negligent, postpone my prayers because I am concerned with world affairs, Astaghfirullahaladzim..."

Text excerpts in the novel Dear Allah by Diana Febi in data (1) include nonliteral speech acts. The nonliteral speech acts in the novel quote above involve understanding the text beyond its literal meaning. The purpose of this statement is that the scope of nonliteral speech acts is imaginative and

figurative aspects (figuratively, symbols, or symbols). Writers or authors often use creative metaphors, characters, and hells to convey more complex messages to readers, requiring deeper interpretation. The data above uses figurative or figurative language to describe a parable about the journey of life

Data (2): "It's not a lie that at that time, I felt flying when I saw that smile. My heart keeps beating fast, as well as my heart, which is like being filled with beautiful fluttering butterflies."

Nonliteral speech acts refer to the use of language in a nonliteral or figurative sense. The use of figurative language to convey more profound messages or to create a more aesthetic effect. The data above uses symbolic or allegorical language that describes a feeling of extraordinary happiness

Data (3): "The rhythm of my breath is a little rushed, but I try to neutralize it by reciting the Bismillah sentence several times."

Nonliteral speech enriches the description and atmosphere that will be told in a novel. Data 3 includes expressions that contain the meaning of nonliteral speech acts by using figurative language or expressions that are not true but imply meanings that are not connotative. The term "rhythm of my breath," when interpreted as "rhythm," tells the strains that occur due to the repetition and change of sound units in long, short streams, loud, soft, high, and low tones. Meanwhile, the parable meaning of the nonliteral speech act is about natural vibrations and inner harmony.

Data (4): "I don't know why my heart aches, but it doesn't bleed when I remember that Wildan will never be mine."

The quote above uses the metaphor "sick but bloodless" to describe the profound sadness experienced by the character or characters. Sick but not bleeding is a form of nonliteral speech act.

Data (5): "I can only be silent while smiling faintly, trying to cover up my heartache."

The data above includes nonliteral speech acts that involve text outside its literal meaning or meaning that is not real. The metaphor "my heart hurts" describes a profound sadness.

Data (6): "When the heart is broken because of the love of an uncertain world, what I need right now is an umi figure."

The expression above is a nonliteral speech act. This sentence uses a metaphor to describe deep sadness. The meaning is not literal but conveys that heartache because of love will lead to great sorrow.

Data (7): "Umi's warm smile is still reflected in the eyelids."

The statement above shows a nonliteral speech act. The word "warm smile" is not in a physical context but as a figure of speech to express a peaceful smile triggered by a sincere feeling from the bottom of the heart.

Data (8): "After pouring out rain accompanied by tears to Allah, now I pour out in the diary that I have filled with various words of encouragement."

The quotation includes nonliteral speech acts. Nonliteral speech acts involve language beyond its literal meaning or the actual meaning expressed by speakers and speech partners. The use of the "rain-crying" metaphor describes the deep sadness felt by the characters in the novel

Data (9): "I feel fractured. Shattered in pieces. However, I try to stay strong; why cry over humans because of unrequited love."

Nonliteral speech acts add additional meaning and create an aesthetic effect. The quote from the novel text above uses a metaphor, namely the expression "cracked and shattered into pieces," which describes an unfortunate feeling or an intense feeling of disappointment. However, this expression has a good connotation.

Data (10): "The memories entered my memory and formed a slide show which showed a moment where Naira's cheeks turned red because of Wildan's treatment."

Nonliteral speech acts refer to language figuratively or metaphorically; the

meaning contained in nonliteral speech acts is a meaning that is not in the literal sense. As in the data quote 10 using figurative language, "slide show." It is a series of motion pictures intended for various purposes if interpreted literally. The word slide show is always synonymous with a presentation activity. While the meaning of the slide show referred to by the data above is a parable to describe a memory

Data (11): "The blush on Naira's cheeks can't be hidden anymore; this woman feels like she's flying."

The expression above uses figures of speech or figurative language to describe joy. Humans will never be able to fly except for other creatures Allah loves, namely birds. However, the expression is used figuratively to convey happiness.

Data (12): "Amen, they said together, then both of them carved a smile to cover the wound, believing that one day Allah will give the best for them."

One function of nonliteral speech acts is to provide the emotional strength felt by the characters and to describe the inner changes between characters. Data 12 includes expressions of nonliteral speech acts. The terms "carving a smile" and "closing the wound" use metaphorical expressions.

Data (13): "Uuugh! May Allah quickly give you bioplacenton so that your heart will be whole again, Nai."

Stories in novels often present complex and profound stories—one of the languages used to express characters' feelings by offering figurative or metaphorical forms. The quote "may Allah quickly give you a bioplaenton so that your heart will be whole again, Nai" is a nonliteral speech act using figurative language with a parable meaning to describe hope.

Data (14): "I just stared at my own eyes in the mirror while digesting Aisyah's words about Genta."

The author uses nonliteral speech acts to enrich the description and atmosphere that will be told in a novel. Data 14 includes expressions that contain the meaning of

nonliteral speech acts by using figurative language or expressions that are not true but imply meanings that are not connotative. The phrase "beads of my eyes," if interpreted literally, means beads are tiny beads that are given holes and suitable for jewelry, necklaces, clothes, etc. Meanwhile, the meaning of "beads of my eyes" is a parable that describes self-charm

Data (15): "A piece of memory suddenly appeared in my mind after a split-second pause hearing Aunt Fatimah's words."

A memory is an expression that contains figurative language. This symbolic language is one of the languages used to indicate the use of nonliteral speech acts. A word that is not true or an expression that is not literal. A piece of memory is a parable describing a remembrance or memory embedded in one's mind.

Conclusion

After analyzing the use of literal and nonliteral speech acts in the novel *Dear Allah* by Diana Febi, it can be concluded that the book's content has the benefit of both literal and nonliteral speech acts in various languages. Literal speech acts refer to using language with a real or literal meaning. During nonliteral speech acts in *Nover*, *Dear Allah* uses metaphorical, figurative, or figurative expressions, parables, comparisons, statements, or agreements. The use of nonliteral speech acts is intended to liven up the story, give a different impression, and add to the aesthetics of the text. This research provides insight or understanding to readers about the importance of using literal and nonliteral speech acts in literary works, especially novels, which are one of the charms of teenagers and provides a basis for further research using different objects.

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