



**THE STUDY ON THE ASSERTIVE ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS OF THE
MAIN CHARACTERS IN *MY SISTER'S KEEPER* MOVIE SCRIPT
BY NICK CASSAVETES AND JEREMY LEVEN**

THESIS

Written by:

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
JEMBER UNIVERSITY
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A thesis presented to the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University
as one of the requirements to get award of the Sarjana Sastra Degree
in English Studies

Written by:

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DEDICATION

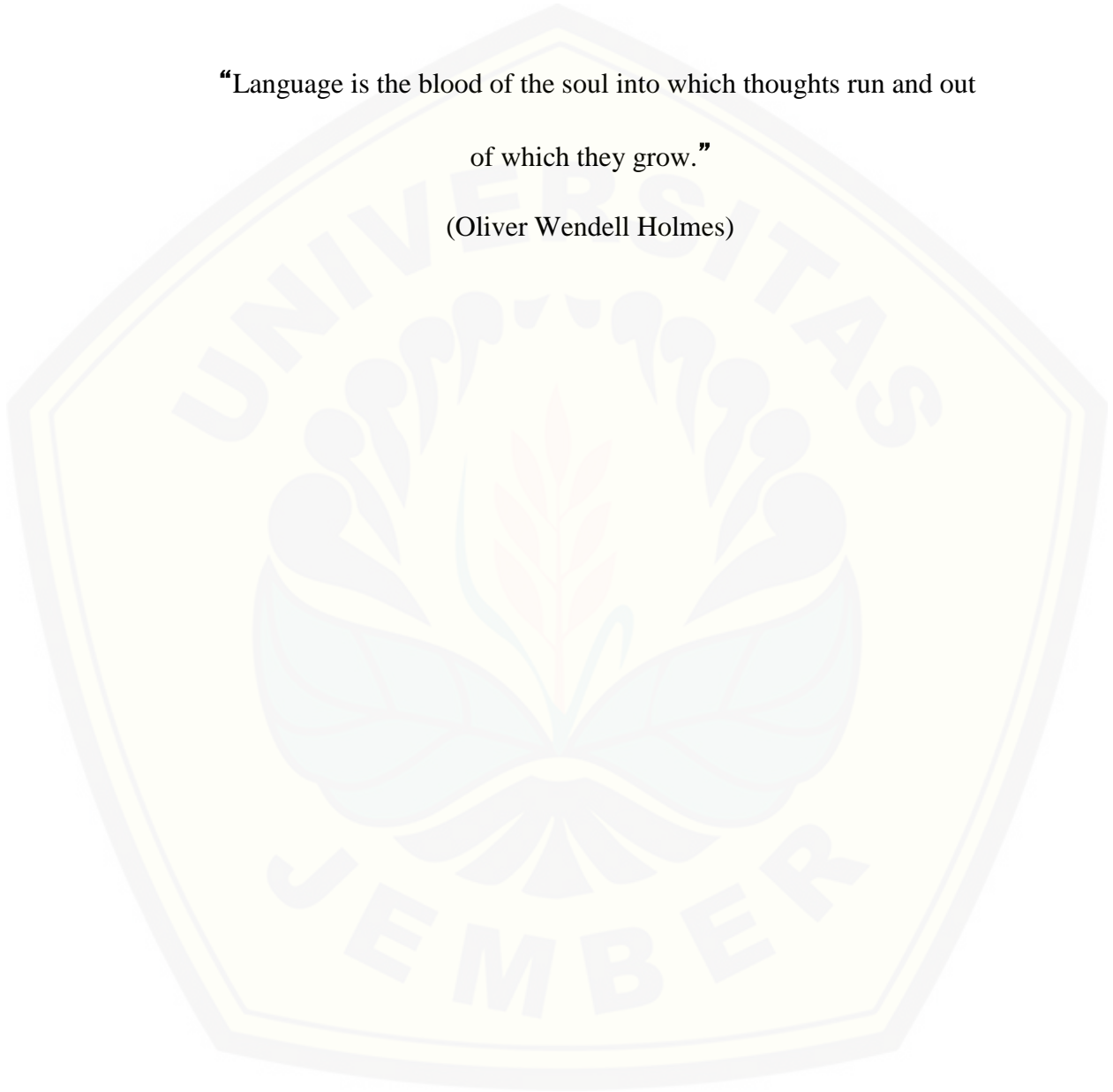
I dedicate this thesis to:

1. My beloved father, Kartono, and my dearest mother, Suyati for unceasing affection, the support, and never-ending sacrifice;
2. My lovely little brother, Wibi Andriansyah, as the reason for me to keep fighting;
3. All of my dearest friends, especially for Reza Emelia YWS, Ummu Niswah, Fiirly Khoofidha F, Lia Dwi S, and Iqbal Mahrus S, thanks for coloring my life;
4. Muhammad Miftahul Munir, who is always by my side;
5. My Almamater, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

MOTTO

“Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run and out
of which they grow.”

(Oliver Wendell Holmes)



*) <https://voxy.com/blog/index.php/2011/04/inspirational-quotes-for-language-learners/>,
[October 7, 2015]

DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled **The Study on the Assertive Illocutionary Acts of the Main Characters in *My Sister's Keeper* Movie Script by Nick Cassavetes and Jeremy Leven** is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publication.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis has been acknowledged.

Jember, October 2015

The Writer,

Viajeng Indraswuri

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Finally, may Allah SWT bless them with all virtue. Hopefully this thesis may give a good contribution to the English language studies, especially in the study of Speech Act.

Jember, October 27th, 2015

Viajeng Indraswuri

SUMMARY

The Study on the Assertive Illocutionary Acts of the Main Characters in *My Sister's Keeper* Movie Script by Nick Cassavetes and Jeremy Leven; Viajeng Indraswuri; 100110101063; 2015; English Department; Faculty of Letters; Jember University

This study concerns with the use of assertive illocutionary act uttered by the main characters in *My Sister's Keeper* movie script which is linguistically under the study of pragmatics. It reveals the intended meanings of utterances, speakers' purposes in using such assertives, and the way of the context influences main characters to assert something in certain phenomena.

This study applies qualitative research method and the source of the data of this study is *My Sister's Keeper* movie script by Nick Cassavetes and Jeremy Leven that is acquired from <http://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/moviescript.php?movie=my-sisters-keeper> website. The theory of Searle (cited in Levinson, 1983:240) is applied to probe the types of assertive act that are uttered by the main characters in the whole movie. It is also completed by Halliday and Hasan (1983:7) theory about context of situation that influences the production of assertive utterances.

The results of this study show that both characters use six kinds of assertive illocutionary act namely *asserting*, *reporting*, *explaining*, *showing something*, *suggesting*, and *refusing*. The main characters' purposes in producing assertive acts are various according to the types of assertive they produce. Every character has the different thought which is expressed through assertive utterances. It is supported by context of situation that contributes to the speakers' intentions.

The main characters' intentions in producing assertive utterances are used to convey information about something that happens in their life. They try to embrace

and persuade the hearers through their utterances. They expect that by using assertive act, it is able to make the hearers comprehend and consider the speakers' feelings.



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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the general idea of the whole study is presented to give a clear overview about the topic being discussed. It provides the background of the study, the research topic, the research problem, the research questions, the scope of the study, the goals of the study, the significance of the study, and the organization of the study. Each point is elaborated as follows:

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is the system of human communication to express all ideas and feelings using sound and symbol, either spoken or written (Hornby, 1995:662). Language becomes one of the important parts in communication because it concerns with human activity in society. As Yule (1996:47) states that in attempting to convey the message through the language, people express not only their ideas or feelings, but also they perform the actions through utterances. By using language in communication, the speaker achieves a certain response from the hearer which can determine the success of communication. This role of language can be learned in the study of speech act.

Speech act is one of pragmatic fields which concerns with the acts performed by the speaker through the words. Yule (1996:47) explains that speech act is the action performed by a speaker with utterance, such as refusing, requesting, persuading, and so forth. In uttering something, the speaker has the intention which closely relates with the context of situation such as the place, the time, and the way how the speaker conveys utterance. Speech act cannot be separated from the context because context builds the meaning of utterance and determines interpretation of the hearer. From uttering something, the speaker expects response from the hearer as the effect toward utterance being uttered. By speech act, it can be understandable that

every utterance has the intended meaning and how the hearer interprets the utterance can be influenced by the context.

One of the functions of speech act is to convey information to others. Speech act that explores this purpose is categorized as assertive act as proposed by Searle. Searle (cited in Levinson, 1983:240) states that assertive is the act that makes the speaker believes in something to be truth in some propositions. For example, “The sky is very cloudy” is the statement that is believed by the speaker as a truth. This kind of speech act aims to explain something to be accepted or refused. Assertive influences many parts of social life, for instances the ways people persuade others, attract attention, get someone to think about, make somebody believes in something and so forth.

This study is conducted to analyze assertive speech act in *My Sister's Keeper* movie script written by Nick Cassavetes and Jeremy Leven which is mainly focused on two main characters, namely Sara Fitzgerald as a mother and Anna Fitzgerald as the youngest child. *My Sister's Keeper* is 2009 American drama film which is adopted from the novel entitled *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. This movie depicts the story of Anna Fitzgerald, a child who becomes a donor for her older sister, Kate Fitzgerald, who suffers from Leukemia. Since childhood, Anna is forced to be a helper for Kate by donating parts of her body to prolong Kate's life. Her mother, Sara Fitzgerald does all things to safe Kate's life and takes less care to other parts of the family. Meanwhile, Anna wants her existence is meaningful in her family, not just being a donor child who was born to survive her sister. *My Sister's Keeper* examines how to be good parents and a good sister.

In this movie, there are many obvious phenomena that happen and make the characters produce various speech acts in a variety of events, such as telling something, explaining, emphasizing, reporting and so on which pragmatically indicate the assertive speech acts. The utterances uttered by the main characters have the intentions that are expected give the effects to the hearers. This case cannot be separated from the context that influences the way characters assert and interpret

utterances. In certain circumstance, the speaker has to think the appropriate way of asserting his or her intention to be comprehended by the hearer. Furthermore, the hearer gives various responses to assertive speech acts that have been uttered. In doing so, this case is interesting to be analyzed because the acts of assertive carry out some states of affairs that speaker believes as the truth to be expressed in some ways.

1.2 The Research Topic

This study deals with the analysis of assertive illocutionary act uttered by the main characters on *My Sister's Keeper* movie script. The discussion presented in this thesis highlights on the main characters' utterances, namely Sara Fitzgerald and Anna Fitzgerald. Moreover, it examines the intended meanings of utterance, speakers' purposes in using such assertives, and how the context influences the ways main characters assert something in certain phenomena.

1.3 The Research Problem

The problem to be discussed is the use of assertive illocutionary acts uttered by the main characters in *My Sister's Keeper* movie script. In this movie, there are many phenomena that happen and make the characters produce utterances such as telling something, explaining, reporting which belong to assertive illocutionary acts. The use of assertive acts happen more often. Both characters seem to have the different intentions by uttering assertive utterances which are influenced by context of situation. These utterances also give the effects to the hearers to do something. Therefore, this study is conducted to explore the intended meanings and the purposes of the main characters in conveying assertive illocutionary acts in the whole movie.

1.4 The Research Questions

Based on the research problem, there are three questions to be answered in this research:

1. What are the types of assertive illocutionary acts uttered by the main characters on *My Sister's Keeper* movie script?
2. What are the intended meanings of assertive illocutionary acts uttered by the main characters on *My Sister's Keeper* movie script?
3. Why do the main characters use such assertive illocutionary acts and what are their purposes?

1.5 The Scope of the Study

This study is emphasized on the use of assertive illocutionary acts uttered by main characters on *My Sister's Keeper* movie script which is linguistically under the study of pragmatics. It is focused on two main characters; Sara Fitzgerald and Anna Fitzgerald. The analysis of this study deals with the types of assertive, the intended meanings within utterance by looking at the context, and the speakers' purposes in uttering assertive illocutionary acts.

1.6 The Goals of the Study

There are several goals in doing this research. It is formulated as follows:

1. To reveal the types of assertive illocutionary acts uttered by the main characters in conversation.
2. To comprehend the intended meanings of assertive illocutionary acts.
3. To discuss further about the reasons or purposes why the characters produce such assertive illocutionary acts.

1.7 The Significance of the Study

The findings in this study are expected to provide enlightenment concerning with the appropriate utterances of assertive illocutionary acts in communicating with other people. The speaker can adjust how he or she asserts something to the hearer in different context, so that the hearer can interpret speaker's intention appropriately. By

comprehending this way, a good communication will be maintained between the speaker and the hearer.

1.8 The Organization of the Study

This thesis is organized into five chapters. First chapter is introduction that consists of the background of the study, the research topic, the research problem, the research questions, the scope of the study, the goals of the study, the significance of the study and the organization of the study. Second chapter describes the theoretical review. It provides the description of some previous researches that illustrate the similarity and the gap compared to this thesis. Supporting theories which relate to the topic of research are also elaborated in this chapter to answer the problems to be discussed. Furthermore, chapter three is research methodology which concerns with the types of research, data collection, data processing and data analysis. Next, chapter four deals with the analysis and discussion. It explores the discussion and the results of the analysis. The last chapter is conclusion as the final result of this thesis.

CHAPTER 2. THEORETICAL REVIEW

This chapter provides the content of previous researches and the theories which are applied in this study. Theoretical review is significant as a guide to analyze the data of the research. Firstly, previous researches related to this study are presented in order to find the gap of this study and the previous ones. Furthermore, the theories are also elaborated as a tool to explore the problems of the study. Each point is explained as follows:

2.1 Previous Researches

There are some researchers conducted the study of speech act that relates to this study. The first is conducted by Hamdani (2011) that analyzed the speech act in the dialogues of Peter Morgan's movie script *The Queen*. This study deals with the explanation of locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts produced by the main characters. The research employed a descriptive qualitative method as the research methodology and the data were taken from selected dialogues of 25 scenes. In analyzing the data, the researcher used Austin's and Searle's theory of speech acts to probe into brief analysis of the use of speech acts in daily communication.

The results showed that there were many kinds of speech acts produced by the main characters, namely Elizabeth and Prime Minister. Illocutionary acts that consisted of directive appeared 14 times; assertive occurred 8 times; expressive were uttered twice and commissive was once. The most dominant illocutionary act was directive. It indicated that the characters expressed their feelings of getting the addressee to do something such as advising and commanding.

Second, Akinwotu (2013) did a research that investigated the role of language in communication and the interpretation of intention by examining selected political speeches. It presented some of significant illocutionary acts that are uttered by the speakers in the acceptance of nomination speeches of presidential candidates in

Nigeria. It gave the overview of various ways of language that were used in defending and promoting personal and group interests in subverting the opponents' goals. The data of this study were taken from selected speeches of Chief Awolowo (Presidential candidate of the Unity Party of Nigeria -UPN- in 1979) and Chief Abiola (Presidential candidate of the Social Democratic Party -SDP- in 1993). The researcher adopted Searle's classification of illocutionary acts that examined the intended meanings of selected speeches uttered by the speakers.

The results of this study showed that assertive act was the most dominant act with 27.3% performed in this research. Moreover, expressive and commissive acts accounted for 22.70%, directive and declarative acts accounted for 18.2% and 9.1% respectively. The data showed that the speakers often performed the acts of stating and inspiring. It aimed to persuade their listeners to trust their speeches. Speech was mostly used as mobilization strategy, especially in political campaign which was essential for candidates to persuade their listeners toward a desired goal of winning the election.

Similar to this research, those two previous researches identify the speech act in the pragmatics scope. The methods and theories that have been discussed help the writer to do the research in the same field. This research adopts some parts of speech act theories proposed by Austin and Searle to support the theoretical review of this study. The differences of this study and the previous researches lay on the object and the topic of the study. The object of two previous researches are *The Queen* movie script and the political speeches of presidential candidates in Nigeria, while the object of this study is *My Sister's Keeper* movie script that focuses on two main characters. This study also differs from both previous researches which discuss the classification of speech act, the discussion of this study is only focused on assertive illocutionary act. This research applies Searle's (cited in Levinson 1983:240) theory to probe the assertive act in movie script. It is also completed by Halliday and Hasan (1983:7) theory about context of situation that influences the production of utterances. Therefore, this research is certainly different from the previous researches. This study

focuses on analyzing the types of assertive act, the intended meaning, and the influence of the context within utterance.

2.2 Theoretical Reviews

2.2.1 Pragmatics

Pragmatics is one of major fields of linguistic study that unravels meaning in language use. Yule (1996:3-4) states that pragmatics concerns with the study of meaning of utterance conveyed by the speaker and interpreted by the listener. When people communicate with others, they utter utterances to express their feelings and to convey the message. Every utterance that has been uttered by the speaker has the implied meaning that determines the speaker's intention. It cannot be separated from particular context such as the time, place, condition that contribute to the meaning of what the speaker has said. The speaker has to organize what she or he wants to say by looking at the context so that the intention will be understandable and the hearer can make the inference from the utterance that has been uttered. The study of pragmatics reveals the people's intentions, their assumptions, their purposes and the kinds of actions for examples request and order that they perform when speaking.

Furthermore, Crystal (1997: 301) states that :

“Pragmatics is the study of language from the point of view of the users, especially of the choices they make, the constraints they encounter in using language in social interaction and the effects their use of language has on other participants in an act of communication. Pragmatics is about how people understand other's thought and idea which are expressed through verbal communication.”

In conclusion, pragmatics concerns with what people say, what people intend and understand through their utterances according to the context. Context has the important role in the study of pragmatics. It builds the meaning of utterance and influences the hearer's interpretation. Pragmatics will discuss the study of assertive illocutionary acts in this research because pragmatics is more emphasized on the

analysis of what people intend from their utterances than only what the meaning of utterances is.

2.2.2 Speech Acts

Speech acts includes the study of pragmatics. Yule (1996:47) states that generally speech act is defined as the act of communication. Speech act is what people do through language. In regarding to express their feelings, people produce not only utterances containing grammatical structure, but they also performs some actions through the utterances such as apology, complaint, invitation, promise, and so forth. The speaker normally expects that the act performed via utterance will be recognized by the hearer. After that the hearer can give the response as the effect of utterance that has been uttered. Here context plays an important role in analyzing utterance because it contributes to meaning of interaction. The speaker is not always expressing the intention directly, the speaker can use direct or indirect speech act and sometimes the speaker uses implicit or explicit meaning. As Yule gives example, the speaker says *'This tea is really cold'*. This utterance is uttered in a wintry day, the speaker reaches for a cup of tea and believes that it has been freshly made. The speech being performed is likely to be interpreted as a complaint. As shown in this example, speech act involves certain language functions in communication. The act must take place in a specific context of situation in order to be performed successfully. Furthermore, Levinson (1983:243) adds the explanation of speech acts:

“All utterances not only serve to express proposition, but also perform action. In uttering some linguistic expressions a speaker was doing something, there is one privileged level of action that can be called the illocutionary act or more simply, the speech act”.

In short, speech act is how people do things with utterances. Speech act depends on the condition and situation between speaker and hearer. By knowing its context, identifying speech act that is carried through particular utterance can be comprehended easily.

2.2.3 The Types of Speech Act

The speech act theory begins with Austin's theory. Austin (cited in Levinson 1983:236) divides three types of speech act. Those are locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts.

a. Locutionary Act

As Austin (cited in Levinson 1983:236) simply defines that locutionary act is the literal meaning of the utterance with determinate sense and reference according to the context. Similarly, Sadock (cite in Horn and Ward 2006:54) mentions that:

“Locutionary acts are acts of speaking, acts involved in the construction of speech, such as uttering certain sounds or making certain marks, using particular words and using in conformity with the grammatical rules of a particular language and with certain senses and certain references as determined by the rules of the language from which they are drawn”.

It can be inferred that locutionary act refers to the basic meaning of the actual words from utterance uttered by the speaker to the hearer. It is the way how the speaker produces utterance which is determinated by the rules of the language, such as word choice, limited sentence, sense, and so forth.

b. Illocutionary Act

Illocutionary act is the act performed by the speaker that closely concerns with the intentions, e.g. stating, questioning, promising, requesting, threatening, giving commands and many others. As Yule (1996: 48) states, the illocutionary act is thus performed via the communicative force of an utterance which is also generally known as illocutionary force of the utterance. In conversation, people are not only saying something but also forcing the hearer to do something. The hearer interprets the intention by looking at the form and the context in which it occurs. When there is the effect toward the hearer, it means that the intended meaning within utterance can

be understood by the hearer. Illocutionary act is the social function of what is said, for example the utterance *'It's hot in here'* could be interpreted as an indirect request for somebody to open the window. The functions of illocutionary based on Searle (in Levinson, 1983:240) are categorized into some categories namely assertive, directive, commissive, declarative, and expressive.

c. Perlocutionary Acts

Perlocutionary act is defined as the effect of the utterance that has been uttered by the speaker to the hearer. As Austin (cited in Levinson, 1983:236) states that perlocutionary act is bringing about the effect of the sentence conveyed by the speaker to the hearer which relates to the circumstance of utterance. Every utterance has purpose to affect the hearer to do something which depends on the circumstance, when, where and how the utterance occurs. When there is the effect toward the hearer, it means that the intended meaning of utterance can be understood by the hearer. In addition, Leech (1983:203) reports the list of perlocutionary verb expression such as: persuade, encourage, irritate, frighten, amuse, inspire, impress, attract attention and so forth.

These three kinds of speech acts represent the whole communicative acts of speaking which contribute to the intention and interpretation of interaction between the speaker and the hearer. However, this study is only focused on assertive illocutionary act that reveals the intended meanings within utterances in *My Sister's Keeper* movie script, the influences of context of situation, and the purposes in using such assertives in certain phenomena. Therefore, the theory of assertive is used as a tool to analyze the data of the study.

2.2.4 Assertive

Some linguists have attempted to classify illocutionary act into a number of functions. Searle (cited in Levinson 1983:240) gives five categories of illocutionary acts, one of those is representative or assertive speech act. He states that assertive is

the act that makes the speaker believe in something to be truth in some propositions. It is the act which is used to convey information about some state of affairs from the speaker to the hearer. The speaker utters certain utterance that she or he believes as a truth. The categories of assertive act that are proposed by Searle are stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining, claiming, and reporting. Leech (1983:205) completes Searle's theory within the syntactic characteristics of assertive verb categories that is explained below:

“Assertive verb normally occur in the construction ‘S verb (...) that X’, where S is the subject (referring to the speaker), and where ‘that X’ refers to a proposition: eg: affirm, allege, assert, forecast, predict, announce, insist.”

The sentence of assertive never stands alone as a simple propositional content, but assertive is used to perform some functions. People have their own purposes when they utter something, for examples to explain something, to emphasize, to conclude, and so forth. Furthermore, the types of assertive speech acts that have been categorized are specified and explained as follows:

1. Asserting

Asserting is defined as to state something as a statement of the truth and factuality (Hornby, 1995:61). It is the way to claim, to state, to declare, and to affirm the feeling and thought. For instance:

“I hereby allege that the money was stolen.” (Leech, 1983:216)

2. Reporting

Hornby (1995:993) states that reporting is defined as to give information to the people about something has been done. It is the way to make people believe in something. Leech (1983:204-205) states that the verb such as inform and tell are the speaker's intention to make hearer know something.

For instance:

“Jim reported that no one had arrived.” (Leech, 1983:211)

3. Explaining

According to Hornby (1995:405), explaining is the act to tell about something or to give a reason in a way that makes something easily understood. It is the way to describe something in detail so that it can be clear. For instance:

“However, to succeed and to be sustained in office, the next civilian administration must not only arrest and reverse the deterioration, but must also re-activate, re-generate and give a new boost to our economy and public finance.” (Akinwotu, 2013:47)

4. Showing something

This type is the way how the speaker indicates something. Usually the speaker informs, gives a sign or points out on something to be clear (Hornby, 1995:1093). For instance:

“This is a time of great difficulty and uncertainty, a time of the most daunting challenges.” (Akinwotu, 2013:47)

5. Suggesting

Suggesting is determined by putting forward an idea or a plan for other people to be considered. It is the act to say that something is good or bad to be chosen (Hornby, 1995:1195). For instance:

“They warned us that to take enough money.” (Leech, 1983:207)

6. Refusing

Refusing is the act to say that someone will not do something that has been asked to do (Hornby, 1995:981). For instance:

“He complained that he ate too much.” (Leech, 1983:210)

2.2.5 Context

Context is an essential point in conducting the analysis of speech acts. In conversation, the utterance that has been uttered by the speaker can be examined from the context because it can build the meaning. As Levinson (1983:276) states that context is a sequence of some propositions, portraying beliefs, knowledge, commitment and other elements within the participants. Context is a background knowledge which is understood by the speaker. The context is considered to assist in comprehending the particular meaning of the words or phrases. It belongs to certain time, place, condition and the presence of supporting people which is used by the speaker to support his or her intention.

Halliday and Hasan (1989:12) explain some principles that can be used to determine the appropriate way in representing the context of situation, it may be related to the fact of the event rather than unimportant fact and people must understand each other. They provide the concept of three features in comprehending the context of situation: the field, the tenor, and the mode.

1. “THE FIELD OF DISCOURSE refers to what is happening, to the nature of social action that is taking place: what is it that the participants are engaged in, in which the language figures as some essential component?
2. THE TENOR OF DISCOURSE refers to who is taking part, to the nature of participants, their statuses and roles: what kinds of role relationship obtain among the participants, including permanent and temporary relationships of one kind or another, both the types of speech role that they are talking on in the dialogue and the whole cluster of socially significance relationships in which they are involved?
3. THE MODE OF DISCOURSE refers to what part the language is playing, what it is that the participants are expecting the language to do for them in that situation: the symbolic organization of the text , the status that it has, and its function in the context, including the channel (it is spoken or written or some combination of the two?) and also the rhetorical mode, what is being achieved by the text in terms of such categories as persuasive, expository, didactic, and the like.” (Halliday and Hasan, 1989:10)

The three features that have been explained above show the elements of the situation in conversation. In addition, Halliday and Hasan (1989:13) give a clear and brief overview in analyzing the context based on the text.

1. The text is taken from the radio talk by the Bishop of Wollwich

“The Christian should therefore take atheism seriously, not only so that he may be able to answer it, but so that he himself may still be able to be believer in the mid-twentieth century. With this in mind, I would ask you to expose yourself to the three trusts of modern atheism-each is present in varying degree in any representative type-so much as three motives which have impelled men, particularly over the past hundred years, to question the God or their up-bringing and ours. They may be represented by three summary statements:

God is intellectually superfluous;
 God is emotionally dispensable;
 God is morally intolerable.

The situational description is examined as bellow:

Field : “Maintenance of institutionalized system of beliefs; religion (Christianity), and the members’ attitudes towards it; semi-technical.”

Tenor : “Authority (in both senses i.e. person holding authority, and specialist) to the audience unseen and unknown (like readership), but relationship institutionalized (pastor to flock).”

Mode : “Written to be read aloud; public act (mass media: radio); monologue; text is whole of relevant activity lecture; persuasive, with rational argument.”

In doing so, context is the important aspect in analyzing conversation. Identifying the speech act being performed by a particular utterance can be done if the speaker and hearer are noticing the context itself. Therefore, this theory is applied to fulfill the analysis of assertive speech act uttered by the main characters on *My Sister’s Keeper* movie script.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Chapter three explains about the research design and the methodology of this study as the framework used to answer the problems discussed. It includes the type of research, data collection, data processing, and data analysis. Those are presented as follows:

3.1 The Type of Research

The type of this research is a qualitative research. Qualitative research is a research based on descriptive data without using quantification and statistical procedures. It is used to study the natural phenomena of individuals or events rather than a large group of people (Mackey and Gass, 2005:162-163). This research is written by conducting qualitative research because it works with the analysis of sentences in conversation and it is not numbers in statistical matter. Qualitative research is applied in this research to find out the types of assertive utterances, the intended meanings, and the reasons of the main characters in using such assertives in *My Sister's Keeper* movie script.

3.2 Data Collection

The data in this research are in the form of document that is the main characters' utterances in *My Sister's Keeper* movie script. The source of the data are gained from <http://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/moviescript.php?movie=my-sisters-keeper> website. According to Denscombe (2007:230), document includes obtaining the data via internet as an object of research. The data of this research is only focused on assertive illocutionary acts that are uttered by two main characters, namely Sara Fitzgerald and Anna Fitzgerald in a whole *My Sister's Keeper* movie script.

To collect the data, the first step to do is separating the script into scenes which are completed with the speakers' names in every conversation with the help of the movie. Next is giving highlights on the utterances in the movie script that contain

assertive acts uttered by the main characters. After that, the utterances that have been signed are rewritten to get the clear data. The data consists of 98 assertive utterances that will be analyzed further.

3.3 Data Processing

Some steps are applied in processing the data of the research. From the data that have been gained, the utterances are classified based on their types. In order to differentiate utterances based on assertive types, table is used in classifying the data. The table contains assertive utterances uttered by each character and six types of assertive act. Furthermore, each utterance is classified by giving the sign according to its type. As the result, the whole data of the study are categorized to get the data analysis.

3.4 Data Analysis

First, the data that have been classified according to assertive types are presented into table. This table contains the result of assertive classifications uttered by the main characters and the numbers of occurrence in the whole movie script. Then, the data are calculated in the percentage form to know which type of assertive that is mostly used by the main characters. The formula that is used to count the percentage of each assertive type is:

$$\frac{\sum \text{Each type of assertive}}{\sum \text{Assertive utterances}} \times 100 = n \%$$

Explanations:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| \sum Each type of assertive | : The numbers of each assertive type |
| \sum Assertive utterances | : The numbers of total assertive utterances |
| n % | : The result in percentage |