

# Revealing Characterization of Clive Durham in *Maurice* (1987) Movie Through an Analysis of Illocutionary Acts: A Study of Speech Acts

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**Abstract.** This study aims to unfold the characterization of Clive Durham portrayed in *Maurice* (1987) movie directed by James Ivory by analyzing his utterances using the speech acts theory proposed by Searle. In analyzing the data, the writer considers the context of the utterances and the implicit message conveyed by Clive Durham to acknowledge his characterization. The result shows that there are three types of illocutionary acts performed by Clive Durham which are classified into assertive, directive, and expressive. Based on the analysis, Clive Durham is the typical person who is assertive, afraid of social judgment, has the audacity to express his thoughts and feelings, and knows how to behave politely and considerately.

## 1 Introduction

Character is a crucial element in a movie because it can help the audience to understand the plot, conflict, and other elements. Kenney [1] states that character is a part or element in literary work which needed to support the story's plot and make the reader easily understand how the story goes. According to Abrams and Harpham [2], characterization can be examined through what the characters say, their distinctive ways of saying words, and their action. In analyzing the characterization using words, utterance delivered by its character is an important unit that must be considered to reveal the character's traits.

Characterization can be examined through utterances performed by a character. Speech acts can be used as a device to analyze characterization. According to Yule [3] speech acts is an action performed by a speaker with an utterance. Searle [4] categorized speech acts into five types of illocutionary acts: assertive, directive, expressive, commissive, and declarations. This research aims to unfold the characterization of Clive Durham in *Maurice* (1987) movie by analyzing the utterances conveyed by Clive Durham that occur in the movie through illocutionary acts analysis. The research question of the analysis is to analyze the characterization of Clive Durham as portrayed in *Maurice* (1987) movie by analyzing his utterances depicted in the movie through an analysis of illocutionary acts.

There are several previous studies that conduct speech act analysis to analyze characterization in a movie that were reviewed in comparison to this research in order to improve comprehension of the chosen topic and demonstrate the novelty of the research. Febi [5] analyzed the characterization of the main character of *I, Frankenstein* movie using speech acts under a study entitled "*The Pragma-Stylistic Analysis of Speech Acts as Device of the Characterization of the Traits of the Main Character as Found in I, Frankenstein Movie*". The result showed that the expressive speech act is the most dominant type of speech act that occurs in the movie which unfolds the characterization of Adam as the main character in the movie. In a detailed analysis, the writer concluded that Adam has a strong personality.

Sari [6] conducted a study entitled "*Mr. Keating's Directive Speech Act in the Movie Dead Poet Society: A Pragmatics Study*" that analyzed the directive speech acts produced by Mr. Keating in *Dead Poet Society* movie and obtain the realization of the directive speech act in the form of the perlocutionary act in order to present Mr. Keating's characterization of being a good teacher. The results showed that Mr. Keating is considered as a good teacher because he treats his students well by asking request and using polite words through his utterances that contain directive speech acts.

Based on the previous studies that have been reviewed, it can be seen that speech acts can be used to unfold the characterization of a character by analyzing the utterances performed in a movie. After reviewing four previous studies, the researchers did not discover any research whose title is similar to the present study. Even though a study of speech acts is widely used, none of the previous studies analyze the characterization of Clive Durham as depicted in *Maurice* (1987) movie directed by James Ivory.

## **2. Methods**

This study is categorized into qualitative-descriptive research. The data of this study is taken from the utterances uttered by Clive Durham in a British romantic movie entitled *Maurice* (1987) directed by James Ivory. The data source is taken from a literary text, which is *Maurice* (1987) movie script. Moreover, the population of the data is all of the utterances uttered by Clive Durham, while the sample is the illocutionary acts performed by Clive Durham in *Maurice* (1987) movie.

In collecting the data, the researchers did some steps including watching the movie and reading its script in order to get deeper and more detailed information. The next step was analyzing and identifying the utterances performed by Clive Durham in *Maurice* (1987) through an analysis of illocutionary acts proposed by Searle [4]. The existing data which contains the utterances performed by Clive Durham was classified and categorized in order to find the types of illocutionary acts conveyed by Clive Durham as depicted in the movie. Furthermore, the data that has been classified was analyzed to unfold the characterization of Clive Durham portrayed in the movie by considering the context of the utterances, how the utterances are conveyed, and the implicit message conveyed by the character.

## **3. Result and Discussion**

Based on the analysis, the researchers found a total of fifty-eight (58) illocutionary acts that are classified into twenty-three (23) assertive speech acts, twenty (20) directive speech acts, and fifteen (15) expressive speech acts. Among fifty-eight (58) illocutionary acts that have been found, the researchers did not find any utterances performed by Clive Durham that indicate commissives and declarations. Furthermore, based on the analysis of characterization through the illocutionary acts delivered by Clive Durham as depicted in *Maurice* (1987) movie, Clive Durham is portrayed as a person who is assertive in defending and standing up for himself, but he lacks of assertiveness when dealing with

the general public due to his dread of social judgments. He has the bravery to express his thoughts and feelings directly, knows how to behave politely and considerately, and honest in expressing feelings.

Tabel.1 frequency of the data results of identification of illocutionary acts

Types of Illocutionary Acts		Frequencies	Total
<b>Assertives</b>	Arguing	13 (56.6%)	23 (39.7%)
	Statement	7 (30.4%)	
	Opinion	3 (13%)	
<b>Directives</b>	Request	10 (50%)	20 (34.4%)
	Warning	8 (40%)	
	Command	2 (10%)	
<b>Expressives</b>	Anger	4 (26.7%)	15 (25.9%)
	Apology	2 (13.3%)	
	Thanking	3 (20%)	
	Surprised	2 (13.3%)	
	Dislikes	3 (20%)	
	Discomfort	1 (6.7%)	
<b>Total</b>		58	58

Based on the analysis of each type of illocutionary act performed by Clive Durham as found in the movie, it can be concluded that Clive Durham uses assertive to inform and intend to convince the other characters about his beliefs and views toward something. Directives is used by him to get the other characters to do something that he wants, while expressive is used to express his feelings and attitudes toward something. Analyzing the utterances performed by Clive Durham through illocutionary acts analysis can unfold how his characterization is portrayed in the movie. Here is the explanation of the characterization of Clive Durham according to the types of illocutionary acts performed by him as depicted in *Maurice* (1987) movie.

### 3.1. Assertive

Clive Durham is portrayed as an assertive person in defending himself and standing up for himself because he has nothing to fear about rejecting and expressing his disagreement with others' viewpoints or anything else that he believes to be irrational or unfavorable by delivering several arguments directly with different beliefs and views to convince the other characters that what he believes is the right one.

**Datum 33 – (1:01:07 – 1:01:38)**

Maurice Hall : “Can the leopard change his spots?  
Clive, you're in a

muddle. What is it you're afraid to tell me? Surely we've got past sparing each other. You can't trust anyone else. You and I are outlaws. All this will be taken away from us if people knew.”

Clive Durham : **“Precisely. By continuing like this, you and I are**

**risking everything we have. Our careers, our- our families, our names”.**

In datum 33, it can be seen that Clive Durham tried to defend himself by delivering arguments against Maurice Hall because he indeed did not want to risk everything he has by continuing his romantic relationship with Maurice Hall. It shows that Clive Durham has the bravery to express his disagreement toward the other's viewpoints. By seeing how he delivers arguments and tries to convince the other character, it can be concluded that Clive Durham is portrayed as a person who is assertive in defending and standing up for himself.

Even while Clive Durham is portrayed as a person who is assertive, especially in defending and standing up for himself, he lacks assertiveness when dealing with the public because of his dread of social judgment because he was afraid of being punished and risking everything he had as an upper-class because people in London still saw homosexuality as a grave sin that must be punished. His own dread of social judgment leads him to lack assertiveness when dealing with the general public.

### **3.2. Brave to Express Thoughts and Feelings Directly**

Clive Durham is portrayed as a person who has the bravery to express his thought and feelings directly to other characters by making a statement that he believes is the right one, stating his opinion, and giving warning to other characters when they make him feel annoyed or placed him in difficult situation. Here is the example of the utterance that indicate his bravery to express his thoughts and feelings:

**Datum 21 – (0:46:43 – 0:47:30)**

Maurice Hall : “Where have you been?  
You all right? Clive?”

Clive Durham : “Yes, thank you, Maurice.  
I’m fine. **Please,**  
**don't nanny me.”**

In datum 21, it can be seen that Clive Durham give warning directly to Maurice Hall because he feels annoyed. Thus, by seeing how he gives warning as can be seen in datum 21, it can be concluded that Clive Durham has the bravery to express his feelings directly.

### **3.3. Behave Politely and Considerately**

Clive Durham knows how to behave politely and considerately because he shows an act of asking someone to do something by delivering request in a polite manner. Here is the example of the utterance that indicate his action:

**Datum 43 – (1:11:14 – 1:11:47)**

Clive Durham : “**Can't you come down to Pendersleigh next**

**week?** It's short notice, I know, but later everything's gonna be chaotic.”

Maurice Hall : “I am afraid I cannot do that very well. Hill’s

getting married, too. Things are more or less busy here. And after that, Chapman’s marrying Ada.”

According to datum 43, Clive Durham delivers requests indirectly to Maurice Hall. By delivering requests, whether directly or indirectly, Clive Durham is the typical of person who knows how to behave politely and considerately.

### **3.4. Honest in Expressing Feelings**

Clive Durham is the kind of person who is honest in expressing his feelings. It can be seen from how he shows his thanks to other characters who have helped him, how he shows his responsibility for the mistakes he has made by apologizing to other characters, how he delivers anger, the way he dislikes something that he thinks is wrong, how he feels discomfort about things that bother him, and how he conveyed his disbelief at a situation that he has never predicted. Here is the example that indicates his characterization:

**Datum 5 – (0:14:50 – 0:15:09)**

Maurice Hall: “My mother never makes a row about anything.”

Clive Durham: **“I’m disgusted with mine. I despise her character.**

There. I've told you something no one else in the world knows.”

According to datum 5, it can be clearly seen that Clive Durham is the typical of person who is honest in expressing his feelings. By telling Maurice Hall that he despises her mother who has control over his life, Clive Durham shows the act of expressing *dislike* which is classified into expressive speech acts.

#### **4 Conclusion**

Based on the research results, characterization of a character can be analyzed through the utterances performed in a movie using illocutionary acts analysis. After identifying and analyzing the utterances performed by Clive Durham in *Maurice* (1987) movie, it can be concluded that Clive Durham is portrayed as a person who is assertive in defending and standing up for himself, but he lacks of assertiveness when dealing with the public because of his dread of social judgments. In addition, Clive Durham is also portrayed as a person who has the bravery to express his thoughts and feelings directly, knows how to behave politely and considerately, and is honest in expressing his feelings. Furthermore, with the present study, the researchers hope that the pragmatics approach and a study of speech acts can be used to analyze the characterization of characters in a literary work by focusing on utterances delivered by the character.

#### **References**

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