

## **Convincing and Cheating Act in *Catch Me if You Can* Movie Script by Steven Spielberg**

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### **Abstract**

This study aims at revealing the perlocutionary act that is used in the movie "Catch Me if You Can". This study follows the perlocutionary act which is proposed by J.L. Austin. The writer applies a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the study. The data collection technique of this study includes downloading, watching, classifying, and coding the data. To analyze the collected data the writer applies several techniques such as identifying the data, describing the data, categorizing the data, analyzing, and concluding the data. The result of this study is that there are 7 data (38%) of convincing acts and 13 data (72%) of cheating acts. The cheating pact is the most dominant act found in the movie and mostly is done by Frank the main character as the speaker that exists when Frank William Abagnale pretends to be a pilot under the name of Frank Taylor. Frank goes around the aviation company as a co-pilot to be able to cash the fraudulent checks. The bank and the aviation company end up believing in Frank and cash the checks for him. Frank does the cheating pact of perlocutionary act to make other people do what he wants them to do.

**Keywords:** *cheating act, convincing act, movie script, perlocutionary act*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Language is a framework that comprises the turn of events, obtaining, support and utilization of complex frameworks of correspondence, especially the human capacity to do as such, and a language is a particular case of such a framework. In correspondence, language has a significant job since it is utilized to convey data, thoughts, emotions, and wants of what speakers need in conveying language to the audience or to clarify what the speakers need the audience to accomplish something in conveying language. The purpose of communication itself is informative which means an appeal to the mind that is accomplished through language (Berlo 1963: 8). In communication, there will be a speaker and listener, and each other has their own way to express their own mind. In this communication, the use of the utterances cannot be denied. When the speaker utters something the listener will fully understand if they hear it while they look at the speaker's expression or body language. Therefore, it is not impossible that there will be a miscommunication between the speaker and the listener. People use language to send or pass on their motivations, messages or data.

Message and data can appear from the structure of language, or by understanding the characteristic importance of its statement arrangement. In communication sometimes people get difficult in interpreting the message. Leech (1983: 1) holds that someone cannot understand rightly about the feature of language itself, if he or she does not know how the language is used in communication.

In general, the function of language as a communication tool can even be seen as the primary function of language. According to Finocchiaro & Brumfit (1983: 65-66), there are five functions of language: (1) personal function is the function of the language for clarifying or arranging one's ideas, expressing feelings, communicating moral, intellectual, and social concerns. (2) Interpersonal is function of language for enabling us to establish and maintain desirable social and working relationships, it consists of greetings and leave-taking (3) directive function is attempting to influence the actions of others accepting or refusing direction, (4) referential function is talking or reporting about things actions events or people in the environment in the past or in the future, it consist of making request and making suggestion, (5) imaginative function is expanding ideas offered by others or by a listening or reading passage likes creating rhymes poetry and solving problem.

According to Austin (1955: 94) “there are three things we do when we use language in communication”. He distinguishes three degrees of activity past the demonstration of expression in correspondence, those are: the demonstration of saying something, what one does in saying it and what one does by saying it. He at that point characterizes these into the 'Locutionary', 'Illocutionary', and 'Perlocutionary' act. In this study, the writer only uses the Perlocutionary act to analyze the “*Catch Me If You Can*” movie. This decision is because the Perlocutionary act is the action of addressee or addressee of the utterances which is worth to be analyzed individually. The perlocutionary act may seem easy however, it requires the writer to have high focus because meaning related context and action have to be analyzed specifically. In fact, there are twelve kinds of perlocutionary acts that can bring complication to the study, thus the writer chooses only the perlocutionary act to be the focus theory of the study. The perlocutionary act itself is a topic with twelve branches of other acts.

The writer has done observation and finds two types of perlocutionary acts are most dominant in the movie “*Catch Me if You Can*”. The two most dominant are the cheating pact and the convincing act. Both of these are part of the perlocutionary act. The writer focuses on the

most dominant perlocution that is done by the main character of the movie, this is why there are only two types of perlocutionary acts that will be analyzed in the study. As seen in the movie and the movie script the main character's utterances deal mostly with convincing and cheating acts.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this study, the writer used a descriptive qualitative method. The writer used a descriptive qualitative method to classify and analyze the utterances. Qualitative research was concerned with meaning as they appeared to, or were achieved by persons in lived social situations (Sherman & Webb: 1988). Meanwhile, Bogdan and Biklen (1982) state that qualitative research was descriptive in which the data was collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. Taylor (2010 p.4) said that the qualitative method was a method that produces descriptive data in the form oral or written and people behavior that can be observed.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The perlocutionary act is the act that is carried out by a speaker when making an utterance causes in certain effect on the hearer and others. Perlocutionary act is called the act of affecting something. Perlocutionary act is the act by which the illocutionary produces a certain effect in or exerts a certain influence of addressee. Perlocutionary act is the expected effect of the speaker to the hearer with an utterance from the speaker. This part of discussions focuses only on how the main character of Catch Me if You Can movie uses a perlocutionary act in the form of convincing and cheating. It can be seen from the movie script that there are perlocutionary acts which are convincing and cheating acts that is explained as below. Convincing is an act of getting to believe that achieved by the response of the speaker, and Cheating is behaving dishonestly to gain disadvantages or certain aims of the speaker.

### **Convincing Act**

Mr. Abagnale : Well, because one day, you'll want something from these people...a house, a car.  
They have all the money. There's Checks there, Frank which means, from this day  
on... you're in their little club.  
Frank : **I'm in their little club.**

In this situation Frank's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and his father opens a paycheck under his son's name

Frank Abagnale Jr. Frank does not understand why despite the fact that his father has been turned down their loan, his father opens a paycheck. His father explains to Frank that the bank is like a club for people who have the money. They can take money from the people and cash the money to get cars and houses. This seems to be unclear but Frank ends up trusting this once again. This can be the background of why Frank has the idea of checking fraudulent crime. The idea that his father told him shapes the mindset. Frank is convinced that he is in the club of people with money without doing jobs. The writer found this conversation to be a convincing act because Frank has very convincing feelings for his father about the money club thing. This one is restricted to a convincing act because his father only wants to assert the rich people's opinion in Frank's personality not because he wants to turn him into a bad man. Frank is not yet a fraudulent check villain when they are having this conversation with his father. Frank with big eyes and heart is so happy to have the paycheck with \$25 in and to be the part of the little club.

### **Convincing Act**

Frank : Uh, excuse me. I'm sure you hear this all the time but you have the most beautiful eyes I have ever seen.  
A lady : **Yeah, I do get that all the time. How would you like it?**

Next data is a conversation between Frank and a lady who works as a customer service in a bank. Frank is well dressed as a normal pilot and aims to cash the fraud check he makes by himself. He then goes to the bank and the lady he talks to pays more attention to the check. Frank here gets a little nervous if the lady can tell that the check is fraudulent. So Frank aims a compliment to the lady to assure her she does not have to look at the check because Frank acts just like any other pilot and compliments her beautiful eyes. As she is assured, she starts to cash the check for Frank. This is the way Frank cashes checks at the bank. He gets away well. Because most of the bank tellers are women and they like to be complimented. In the movie *Catch Me if You Can*, the woman's image is easy to convince.

The writer puts this data as the convincing act, because Frank is not talking about his fake identity. He talks to the lady and wants to cash some money. He is afraid the lady can tell the check is a fraudulent one so he puts strategy to compliment the girl so she does not pay more attention to the check because in fact she is beautiful and she agrees that many people say that she has beautiful eyes and most people she met at work some of them must be pilot like Frank. Because Frank dresses like a pilot and acts like a pilot, talks like a pilot she is more

interested to talk to the pilot because there is no way a pilot will give a fraudulent check. This data can be proven as convincing because the lady said that she did often hear it from other people.

### **Convincing Act**

Frank : You think the FBI are the only ones on this guy? I mean, come on. Come on, he's dabbling in government checks here. We've been following a paper trail on this guy for months now. Hey, you mind taking that gun out of my face? Please. Really. I mean, it makes me nervous.

Carl : Let me see some credentials.

Frank : Yeah, sure. Take my whole wallet. You want my gun, too? Come over here. Take my gun. Hey, hey, look, just do me a favor. Take a look outside. Look. Look out the window. My partner's walking him to the car as we speak... Look. Old guy almost pissed in his pants when I came through the door. He jumped right through the window onto the hood of my car. Hey, Murph? - Yeah? Call the LAPD again. I don't want people walking through my crime scene.

Carl : **'I didn't expect the secret service to do this.'**

The context for this conversation is that Carl finds out where the secret place the famous money Fraud makes all his check fraud done. It is at a hotel room and Carl is planning to make a good arrest on Frank. However, Frank, who already guessed the situation, soon pretends to be a secret service to trick Carl. Carl is a smart man who is very precise and careful. But, Frank is too. Thus Frank tries to assure Carl by his steady and brave appearance from the bathroom, he speaks and acts with no fear as if he has done nothing but the right thing. He then tells Carl that he has a friend outside who arrests the guy they are looking for. But actually, Murph is his friend who has no idea what is happening, so he returns to Carl's call, while he is helping an old man who also knows Frank. The old man is blind so Murph needs to guide him very carefully into the car which seems as if he is arresting someone. Carl, who is asked to see Murph and the blind man outside the hotel in the car, suddenly believes Frank. Frank is pretty clever here because he shows very good body language of an officer like Carl. He then attains Carl's belief. Carl says that he has no idea about the inclusion of secret service on the chasing mission. The writer concludes this as the convincing act because Carl is convicted by the evidence Frank showed him. The way he utters the narrative is very convincing that Carl remains trusting Frank and lets Frank go. This data can be proven convincing because Carl finally let Frank out of the room to bring evidence, and followed Frank's orders to stay in the room to wait for Frank's colleague.

### **Cheating Act**

Frank : Hello. I'm Frank Black from Murrow High school and I have an appointment with Mr. Morgan.  
A receptionist : **<sup>2</sup>You're the young man who's writing the article for the school paper.**  
Frank : Yes, ma'am, that's me.

Here in data six is the other time Frank deceives other people. Here he deceives a receptionist. Frank under covers himself as Frank Black from a High School. He dressed and talked like a high school student. The receptionist lets him in to do the interview under the name of Frank Black who has the appointment to interview a pilot. Here, he has the intention to learn how to be a pilot because he is inspired by a pilot image he saw at the airport. He wants to learn how to be a pilot and how to get into the flight industry. Of course, the pilot he is interviewing has no idea about the fake Frank Black he is playing.

The writer finds this as a cheating act because Frank deceives the receptionist and gets a fake identity to go in as a legal visitor in the office to interview a pilot. The lady is very welcoming and says to Frank as if they've been waiting for this guy named Frank Black. This data can be proven to be cheating because Frank clearly falsified his identity as a student and made the receptionist trust him with the appearance of a student.

### **Cheating Act**

A teacher : They sent for me. They said they needed a sub for Roberta. I came all the way from-from Dixon.  
Frank : **Well, uh, I always sub for Roberta. Excuse me, why aren't you reading?**  
A teacher : I'll never come back to-to Bellarmine Jefferson again! You tell them not to call me! What do they think? It's easy for a woman my age and all the money that it costs to tradeThe data is about Frank deceives other people who are not his classmates in French lessons but a sub-teacher for French lessons who comes all the way from Dixon. Frank tells the lady that he always substitutes Roberta in French lessons, and he is very assured that the lady trusts him and goes home with tears in his eyes. The teacher does not come to teach then but to go back again. The teacher believes what Frank says and curses that she will never go back to the high school again.

The writer considers the data as a cheating act. This is because Frank pretends to be the teacher and he tells the real sub-teacher that he always subs for Roberta makes the listeners that the school is the one that fools her, she is very angry not to Frank but to the school because she sacrifices a lot to go to the high school for nothing. Here the lady trusts Frank who pretends to be the sub-teacher.

### **Cheating Act**

- Frank : Hi. I'm a copilot based out of San Francisco. I flew a flight into New York last night but the problem is I'm headed out to, uh, Paris in three hours.
- Purchasing : How can we help you?
- Frank : I sent my uniform to be cleaned through the hotel and I... I guess they must have lost it.
- Purchasing : **They lose a uniform, which happens all the time. Go down to the Well-Built Uniform Company at Ninth and Broadway. They're our uniform supplier. I'll tell Mr. Rosen you're coming.**

Data seven is about Frank once again deceiving people, but this time he is dealing with a flight company called Pan American. It is a company he is going to work for. Frank pretends to be a co – pilot and calls for a Purchasing side to be able to get pilot uniforms. This works well, Pan Am trusts the call that Frank makes through a public telephone. He then talks to the Purchasing side and gets to go get the suit to the uniform supplier. This data is recognized as a cheating act because the company trusts what Frank says. Frank is then talking to the purchasing side and the purchasing side says it is very common for a pilot to lose their dress in the laundry hotel service, this always happens to a pilot. So the lady from the purchasing finds Frank's reason logical and acceptable. But she trusts Frank just like that so this is categorized as cheating because Frank does not lose any pilot suit as he is not a pilot. He is only a teenager. The purchasing calls the uniform supplier to tell about Frank's need for a suit. But this happens because she thinks she was talking to a pilot. This data was proven to be cheating after it was proven that Frank's identity that he used as a co-pilot was fake and had expired 3 years ago.

## CONCLUSIONS

The perlocutionary act itself is a topic with twelve branches of other acts. The writer has done observation and finds two types of perlocutionary acts are most dominant in the movie *Catch Me if You Can*. The two most dominant are the cheating pact and the convincing act. Both of these are part of the perlocutionary act. The writer focuses on the most dominant perlocution that is done by the main character of the movie, this is why there are only two types of perlocutionary acts that were analyzed in the study. As seen in the movie and the movie script the main character's utterances deal mostly with convincing and cheating acts.

According to the analysis, the writer concludes that the most dominant type of perlocutionary

act that is done in the movie especially by the main characters and other characters that catch up with the main character Frank is the cheating pact. The cheating act done in the movie script of *Catch Me if You Can* is 67,65%. Compared to the convincing act which is another type of perlocutionary act that is done in the movie there is only 32,35% of convincing act found. It is a huge comparison of the result of the data.

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