# Perlocutionary Act in *Black Panther* Movie Script

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**Abstract**

This study tries to find out the use of perlocutionary acts in *Black Panther* movie script, that is, how the characters' utterances have some particular effects on other characters. The objective of this study is to describe the type of perlocutionary act which is used in *Black Panther* movie script. This study uses a qualitative descriptive design. The results show that the four types of perlocutionary act which is used in *Black Panther* movie script can be concluded based on the speakers' communicative act purpose that can be either understood completely or can also be misunderstood by the interlocutor. The four types of perlocutionary act, based on Qiang's theory, consist of the first type, that is, the intention of the one who speaks was entirely comprehended by the interlocutors), the second type, that is, the intention of the speaker is not comprehended completely by the interlocutor, the third type, that is, the hearers that tell lies to the speakers or the hearers intentionally hide something from the speakers, and the fourth type, that is, the intention of speaker that is not comprehended by the interlocutors, but because of the participation of others in the interaction.

**Keywords:** ***communication, comprehension, interlocutor, perlocutionary act, utterance***

## INTRODUCTION

A language is a communication instrument made by human beings in a system of sound which stems from the human speech organs. Likewise, the language indicates a dexterity of people to communicate with one another by using emblems and signs with movement or body language. In other words, researchers can utilize language to interact, from interaction there are utterances or speech, even the motion or action (Mey, 2001). Based on Gee's (2005) views language can be used for a plenty of functions that are providing and obtaining information to sustain the functioning of social activities as well as identities relating to human society, and to sustain people's relationship in cultures, social groups, institutions, and so forth. Moreover, the sentence and also sentences produce concepts (notion, suggestion and so forth) that are said by somebody to the interlocutor. In a nutshell, language has lots of functions in interaction to sustain social relationships among people in their surroundings. The speech acts as well as speech events constitute two indications which come about in a single process, i.e., the

communicative process (Kasher, 1984). In daily life, it cannot be disjoined from speech events, since human speech is able to impart information to interlocutors and can be comprehended by one another. The speech acts possess numerous types, one of them is focusing on the essence of relationship encompasses locution, illocution, as well as perlocution of speech acts. Perlocutionary speech acts represent the ones which bring about the effect and also consequences, that results or consequences through somebody to the interlocutor, according to the conditions and circumstances of a sentence (Austin, 1962). The writer infers that a pragmatic, speech act as well as its kinds or aspect represent a component of language or mode and uttering and performing in interaction with one another. In this study, the writer focuses on the use of perlocutionary acts. In this study the writer attempts to investigate how the perlocutionary act is used in a movie entitled *Black Panther*. The reason why the writer chooses *Black Panther* movie is because in the preliminary study it is found some perlocutionary acts used in this movie. These perlocutionary acts show how the characters' utterances have some particular effects on other characters, especially the utterances related to the local culture of Wakanda and the advanced technology. The interesting thing related to *Black Panther* movie is the use of perlocutionary effects that have special social and psychological effects on the characters which also affects how the characters behave in the movie.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive design. Qualitative descriptive research is a detailed summary of events in the daily terms of the events (Dey, 1993). In conducting qualitative descriptive studies the researcher has to be close to the data and superficial words and happenings. Qualitative descriptive study constitutes the method of selection when straight elaboration of a phenomenon is wanted. The description of data investigated in this study is the use of perlocutionary act in *Black Panther* movie script. The reason why the writer uses qualitative descriptive type is because the data are qualitative, that is, in the form of words, phrases, and utterances found in *Black Panther* movie script and also because the writer wants to know more about the use of perlocutionary act in this movie using qualitative analysis.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### The Types of Perlocutionary Act In Black Panther Movie Script

The types of perlocutionary act in Black Panther movie script consists of four types. Each type can be described in the following data analysis.

**Data 1 :**

> N'Jobu : *How is home ?*
> T'Chaka : ***Not so good****. Baby brother. There has been an attack.*

This dialog between N'Jobu, T'Chaka younger brother, and T'Chaka, the king of Wakanda, takes place when N'Jobu works secretly in Oakland, California and then T'Chaka came to visit N'Jobu to tell N'Jobu that Wakanda has been attacked by Ulysses Klaue to steal vibranium in Wakanda. When N'Jobu asked T'Chaka about the situation happening in Wakanda, T'Chaka said that the situation in Wakanda is not so good because Wakanda has been attacked by Ulysses Klaue to steal the vibranium. T'Chaka's reply indicates that N'Jobu question is completely understood by T'Chaka, and this reflects the first type of perlocutionary act, that is, the intention of N'Jobu was entirely comprehended by T'Chaka and they function conforming to this purpose, that signifies speakers' perlocutionary act are produced.

**Data 2 :**

> Shuri : *I'm here for the EMP beads. I've developed an update.*
> T'Challa : ***Update ? No. It worked perfectly.***
> Shuri : *How many times do I have to teach you ? Just because something works doesn't mean that it cannot be improved.*

The conversation between T'Challa and his younger sister Shuri happened when all the members of Wakanda kingdom gather together to prepare the enthronization or the ceremony of installing a new monarch, that is, T'Challa as the new king of Wakanda, substituting the late his father, T'Chaka. In this dialog, T'Challa seems to have a misunderstanding with what Shuri means, that is, the EMP beads can still be improved, whether it still works perfectly or not, while T'Challa thinks that the EMP beads have worked perfectly. This situation belongs to the second type of perlocutionary act because T'Challa does not comprehend the intention of the ideas of Shuri, that is, the EMP beads can still be improved.

**Data 3 :**

Erik Stevens : *Let me take it off your hands for you.*
Museum Attendant : ***These items aren't for sale****.*

The dialog between Erik Stevens and the museum attendant in London happened when Ulysses Klaue is trying so hard to steal the Wakanda artifact in the museum with the help of Erik Stevens. In the conversation, Erik Stevens said that he will take the Wakanda artifact and the museum attendant misunderstands that Erik Stevens wants to buy the artifact. Based on the dialog, it can be seen that the museum attendant is applying the second type of perlocutionary act because she does not realize that Erik Stevens actually wants to steal all those Wakanda artifacts, while the museum attendant thinks that Erik Stevens wants to buy them.

**Data 4 :**

Ramonda : *Son. We have entertained this charlatan for too long. Reject his request.*
Erik Stevens (N'Jadaka) : *I ain't requesting nothing. Ask who I am.*
Shuri : **You're Erik Stevens. an American black operative. A mercenary nicknamed Killmonger. That's who you are.**

The dialog between Ramonda , T'Challa's mother, Erik Stevens or N'Jadaka, the son of N'Jobu or T'Challa's uncle, and Shuri, T'Challa's younger sister, happened when Erik Stevens (claimed himself as N'Jadaka) came to visit Wakanda bringing the dead body of Ulysses Klaue (a black market weapon merchant who stole Vibranium from Wakanda), to be shown to Wakanda people. Then, after that Erik Stevens said that he actually wanted to seize the throne from T'Challa by means of a traditional fight. In this dialog, Ramonda does not know the real identity of Erik Stevens. That is why Ramonda told T'Challa to reject Erik Stevens' request. When Erik Stevens asked who he was, then suddenly Shuri said that Erik Stevens is an American black operative. A mercenary nicknamed Killmonger. Thus, from this dialog, it can be seen that Shuri has performed perlocutionary act in the fourth type, that is, the identity of Erik Stevens is not comprehended by Ramonda, and because of the participation of Shuri in the interaction, Shuri's intended perlocutionary act becomes true.

**Data 5 :**

Monarchy advisor ; *Who are you* ?
Erik Stevens : *I am N'Jadaka, son of Prince N'Jobu.I found my daddywith Panther claws*

*in his chest !You ain't the son of a king. You a son of a murderer.*
Ramonda : *You're lying ! Lies !*

W'Kabi : ***I'm afraid not, Queen Mother***.
Ramonda : *The descendant of N'Jobu.*

The dialog shows that when Erik Stevens (N'Jadaka) came to visit Wakanda he was asked about his identity and N'Jadaka said that he was the son of Prince N'Jobu or N'Jadaka is T'Challa' cousin. When N'Jadaka said that T'Challa was not the son of a king but the son of a murderer suddenly Ramonda or T'Challa's mother rejected N'Jadaka's claim and said that N'Jadaka is lying. However, Ramonda's rejection is denied by W'Kabi, T'Challa's friend and simultaneously Okoye's sweetheart. W'Kabi justifies that it is true that T'Challa's father (T'Chaka) has killed his own brother N'Jobu because N'Jobu tried to kill Zuri and then it forced T'Chaka to kill N'Jobu before N'Jobu tried to kill Zuri. So, from the dialog it could be seen that when W'Kabi said "*I'm afraid not, Queen Mother*"it shows that W'Kabi has performed perlocutionary act for the fourth type becauseN'Jadaka's utterance that T'Challa is the son of a murderer is not completely understood or totally unknown by Ramonda, and then N'Jadaka's statement is justified by W'Kabi who knows exactly the fact that T'Challa's father (T'Chaka) has killed N'Jobu after being told by N'Jadaka (Erik Stevens).

**Data 6 :**

N'Jobu : *Why are you here ?*
T'Chaka : *Because I want you to look me in the eyes and tell me why you betrayed Wakanda*.
N'Jobu : ***I did no such thing***.

The dialog between N'Jobu, T'Chaka's younger brother and T'Chaka, the king of Wakanda, happened when T'Chaka came to visit N'Jobu who worked secretly in Oakland, California. T'Chaka knows that N'Jobu helped Ulysses Klaue, a black market weapon merchant, to steal Vibranium from Wakanda. Although N'Jobu tried to deny it, he could not do anything when Zuri (incognito as James, N'Jobu counterpart in Oakland) confirmed that N'Jobu had actually helped Ulysses Klaue to steal Vibranium from Wakanda. When T'Chaka said "…*why did you betray Wakanda ?* and N'Jobu denied it, saying "*I did no such thing"*actually N'Jobu has performed perlocutionary act in the third type, that is, when N'Jobu told a lie that he did not betray Wakanda by helping Ulysses Klaue to steal Vibranium from Wakanda.

**Data 7 :**

> Erik Stevens *: I ain't worried about no brand. Check these out. Each one is for a kill.* Ulysses Klaue : *You can scar yourself as much as you'd like.* ***To them, you'll just be an outsider****.* ***You're crazy to think that you can walk in there. To think I saw you as some crazy American.***

The conversation between Erik Stevens and Ulysses Klaue above happened after Erik Stevens set Ulysses Klaue freewhen Ulysses Klaue was being interrogated by Everett K. Ross, a CIA agent. After setting Ulysses Klaue free, Erik Stevens killed Ulysses Klaue. Before Ulysses Klaue died, he said to Erik Stevens that Erik is just an outsider to Wakanda people, Erik is crazy to think that he can walk in Wakanda, and Erik is said to be a crazy American. However, without Ulysses Klaue's knowledge, he does not realize that Erik Stevens is actually a man from Wakanda. Even, Erik has shown his Wakanda's mark in his mouth but it does not make Ulysses Klaue realize that, as a matter of fact, Erik Stevens is a real man from Wakanda, not a crazy American.So, from Ulysses Klaue's response, it can be seen that Ulysses Klaue has performed perlocutionary act in the second type because Ulysses Klaue does not really know and does not really realize that Erik Stevens is actually a man from Wakanda and not an American man.

**Data 8 :**

> T'Chaka : *What is wrong with my son ?*
> T'Challa : *I am not ready.*
> T'Chaka : *Have you not prepared to be king your whole life ? Have you not trained and studied, been by my side?*
> T'Challa : **That is not what I am talking about. I am not ready to be without you.**

The dialog between T'Challa and his late father, T'Chaka, happened when T'Challa met his father somewhere in a forest, although T'Challa only met his father's spirit. In this dialog, T'Chaka asked what had happened to his son (T'Challa), and T'Challa said that he is not ready to be the king of Wakanda. Then T'Chaka thought that so far T'Challa has prepared himself to be the king of Wakanda. However, T'Challa's utterance is misunderstood by his father, T'Chaka where T'Chaka thought that T'Challa is fully ready to be the king of Wakanda, while T'Chaka said that he is not completely ready to be the king of Wakanda unless his father accompanies him during his reign as the king of Wakanda. Thus, from this dialog, it can be seen that when

T'Challa said "*That is not what I am talking about. I am not ready to be without you",* actually he has performed a perlocutionary act of the second type because T'Chaka does not completely know the reasons why T'Challa said that he is not ready to be the king of Wakanda.

**Data 9 :**

> T'Challa : *What would you have Wakanda do about it ?*
> Nakia : ***Share what we have. We could provide aid and access to technology and refuge to those who need it****. Other countries do it, we could do it better.*

The conversation between T'Challa and Nakia (T'Challa ex-girlfriend) happened after T'Challa had won the fight with M'Baku, the chief of Jabari tribe. This dialogue was taking place in Wakanda, surrounded by Wakanda people. When T'Challa asked Nakia what Wakanda should do to other people outside of Wakanda, Nakia said that Wakanda should share what Wakanda has. Wakanda could provide aid and access to technology and refuge to those who need it. Then, from Nakia's replies, it could be seen that Nakia has performed a perlocutionary act in the first type because T'Challa's question "*What would you have Wakanda do about it ?"* has been completely understood by Nakia, saying that Wakanda should share what they have to other people outside of Wakanda.

**Data 10 :**

> Ulysses Klaue : *What do you actually know about Wakanda ?*
> Everett K. Ross : ***Um...Shepherds, textiles, cool outfits****.*
> Ulysses Klaue : *It's all a front. Explorers searched for it for centuries*

The conversation between Ulysses Klaue, a black market weapon merchant, being wanted by T'Challa because Ulysses Klaue has stolen Vibranium from Wakanda, and Everett K. Ross, a CIA agent, happened when Ulysses Klaue was being interrogated by Everett K. Ross after Klaue was caught by T'Challa in Busan South Korea. In this dialog, Ulysses Klaue is trying to reveal the real secret of Wakanda's existence.So far, people all over the world think that Wakanda is an underdeveloped region, but in fact, Wakanda is a super sophisticated country supported by super advanced technology. When Ulysses Klaue asked agent Ross "*What do you actually know about Wakanda ?*" and then agent Ross replied "*Shepherds, textiles, cool outfits*", actually Everett K. Ross is performing perlocutionary act in the second type because agent Ross completely misunderstands the existence of Wakanda, saying that Wakanda is just a region in

Africa with typical shepherds, textiles and cool outfits. In other words, agent Ross completely misunderstands Ulysses Klaue's question.

**Data 11 :**

Okoye : *How do we justify bringing him into our borders?*
Nakia : ***He took a bullet for me.***
Okoye : *That was his choice.*
Nakia : *So now we are just supposed to let him die ?*
Okoye : **Let us consider that we heal him.**

The dialog between Okoye, the commander of Dora Milaje or special troops from Wakanda, and Nakia, T'Challa's ex-girlfriend, happened when they are discussing whether Everett K. Ross will be sent back to USA after he saved Nakia's soul and makes him injured in an attack by Erik Stevens in Busan South Korea. In the conversation, Okoye asked why they justify bringing Everett K. Ross intoWakandaand then Nakia said agent Ross took a bullet for her. Then, Okoye said that it was agent Ross' choice. However, Nakia then asked "*So now we are just supposed to let him die?*" Okoye replied "*Let us consider that we heal him*".So, from this dialog, it can be seen that both Nakia and Okoye are performing a perlocutionary act in the first type because Okoye and Nakia's questions are completely understood by each other.

**Data 12 :**

**T'Challa :** ***Thank you. You saved me. You saved my family. Our nation.***
Nakia : **There's nothing to thank me for. It is our duty to …It was my duty to fight for what I love.**

The dialog between T'Challa, the king of Wakanda, and Nakia, T'Challa's ex-girlfriend, happened when T'Challa and all of his troops have successfully defeated Erik Stevens and W'Kabi's troops. The victory of T'Challa in defeating Erik Stevens is also supported by M'Baku and Jabari tribe where it was Jabari tribe that healed T'Challa after being defeated by Erik Stevens beforehand, and then Jabari tribe helped T'Challa and his troops to defeat Erik Stevens and W'Kabi. In the dialog above, when T'Challa said "*Thank you. You saved me. You saved my family. Our nation*", and then replied by Nakia, saying that "*There's nothing to thank me for. It is our duty to …It was my duty to fight for what I love*", it can be seen that Nakia has performed a perlocutionary act in the first type because T'Challa's special thanks are completely understood by Nakia Saying that there is nothing to thank her for.

Based on the finding above, it can be seen that the types of perlocutionary act, based on Qiang (2013) theory, the speakers' communicative act purpose can be either understood completely or can also be misunderstood by the interlocutor. The misunderstanding feedback of the interlocutors could be seen as either not realizing or not understanding the speakers' utterances, the interlocutors intentionally telling lies or intentionally not wanting to cooperate with the hearers, or the utterances' meaning is clarified by the third speaker.

The finding above also shows the main characteristic of perlocutionary acts, that is, the situation between the speakers' wishes and the interlocutors' responses. Sometimes a gap is found between the speakers' witch and the hearers' feedbacks, either caused by complete misunderstanding of the interlocutors (second type) or caused by intentionally telling lies to the speakers (third type).Thus, the one who speaks and interlocutor in the conversation are supposed to adapt communicative strategy and ways so as to make the communication proceed in a smooth manner (Qiang, 2013).

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the finding above, the types of perlocutionary act used in Black Panther movie script can be concluded based on the speakers' communicative act purpose that can be either understood completely or can also be misunderstood by the interlocutor. The misunderstanding feedback of the interlocutors could be seen either in not realizing or not understanding the speakers' utterances, the interlocutors intentionally tell lies or intentionally do not want to cooperate with the hearers, or the utterances' meaning is clarified by the third speaker.

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