Deontic Modality in The Invisible Man Movie (A Systemic Functional Linguistics Perspective)

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Abstract

This research discusses the aspects of action and speech that are contained in *The Invisible Man* movie based on the theory of Jespersen and Palmer (2007) in the sub-categories commissive, directive, and volitive. The objective of this research is to describe deontic modality in three sub-categories commissive, directive and volitive in *The Invisible Man* movie. This research used the descriptive qualitative method. The sources of data of this research are audio visual as primary data and written utterances from screenshotting and transcribing as secondary data. The data is *The Invisible Man* movie. Data collection was carried out by searching and downloading movies, watching movies, screenshotting, classifying and coding. Data were analyzed by presenting, describing, interpreting and concluding data to answer research questions from this research. The results show that there are 18 data that are included in the sub-categories commissive, directive, and volitive. Deontic modality appears because it is made by several characters in the movie that make promises and threats (commissive), make requests, order others to do something, give suggestions, carry out obligations (directive), and hope for something (volitive). The researcher found that the characters in The Invisible Man movie adopt deontic modality aspects that focus on the sub-categories commissive, directive, and volitive modality because many scenes show how aspects of the three sub-categories are used by characters in an effort to overcome existing problems. These three sub-categories are related to each other, the existence of a commissive that will lead to the directive to volitive.

Keywords: ***commissive, deontic modality, directive, movie, volitive***

INTRODUCTION

Modality is the idea expressed by modals that are concerned with the opinion and attitude of the speaker. According to Portner (2008), modality is the linguistic phenomenon whereby grammar allows one to say things about. When speakers use modality to influence or change situations according to standards and expectations by giving (or refusing) permission, making promises, expressing wishes, etc. Then, it is a deontic modality.

Deontic modality is a linguistic modality that indicates how the world ought to be according to certain norms, expectations, speaker desires, etc. Griffiths (2006) said that deontic modality chiefly depends on modal verbs such as, *can, must, have to, ought to, could have done* etc. to express the meanings. Deontic modality expresses three sub-categories that are commissive, directive, and volitive. Commissive is a promise to do something or commitment of some sort. In deontic modality, there are types of commissives, namely promise, threat, etc. Then, the directive is a word that has the purpose of telling you to do something, whereas in the deontic modality directive there are commands, requests, etc. The last is volitive, which is something that expresses the speaker's attitude of hope and wish concerning the proposition expressed by the utterance. These three things must be often said and heard when communicating with someone, especially in a relationship. Both relationships in real life and relationships depicted in a literary work such as in a movie.

The Invisible Man is a movie that reflects the three sub-categories of deontic modality commissive, directive, and volitive found in the utterances of the characters in the movie. This movie is a science fiction horror movie that was released on February 4, 2018. It is directed by Khian Barlett, written by Joseph Henson, and produced by Theatrical Art International. With a horror theme, this movie was able to steal the attention of movie lovers, as proven by its commercial success, grossing $145 million worldwide with a budget of $7 million.

This research focuses on analyzing the deontic modality in movies. In this research, the researcher only focuses on the utterances of the characters in *The invisible Man* movie which contains the three subcategories of deontic modality commissive, directive, and volitive using Jespersen and Palmer (2007) as grand theory.

This research is very important to answer research questions related to deontic modality by looking at the utterances spoken by the characters in the movie. This research is complementary research that has been previously researched but uses a different focus in terms of the type of deontic modality to be analyzed and also uses different research data collection methods which will later answer things that have not been answered in previous studies, and make this research as complementary research.

The rationale of this research, the first because in *The Invisible Man* movie the aspect of deontic modality is very prominent in commissive, directive, and volitive, so it needs to be investigated more deeply. The second reason is because researchers want to explore these three aspects and also the intentions of the characters in this movie. The third reason is deontic modality which researchers focus on types of commissive, directive, and volitive deontic modalities that have never been used in previous studies.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative research to describe data analysis in the form of information from the narrative. This is related to the characteristics of the research in discussing the usage of deontic modality in *The Invisible Man* movie, along with its types based on Jespersen and Palmer theory (2007). Qualitative research is used to understand people's beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behavior, and interactions. Qualitative research generates non-numerical data (e.g., text, video, or audio) to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences (Pathak, Jena, & Kalra, 2013). Therefore, the researcher used a qualitative approach because the model of the data and research question are descriptive.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researcher presents the research results on how deontic modality is used in *The Invisible Man* movie. This is based on Jespersen and Palmer's theory, where the researcher describes the findings which will then explain the meaning of the findings as in the points below.

Deontic Modality in *The Invisible Man* Movie in Terms of Commissive, Directive and Volitive Modality

The purpose of this section is to present the results and discuss the findings of researchers regarding deontic modality in the commissive, directive, and volitive modality sub-categories. It aims to answer the research question in chapter I. Based on the research, the researcher identifies and classifies three sub-categories of deontic modality namely commissive, directive, and volitive modality in the movie. Researchers present data in the form of dialogue fragments from The *Invisible Man* movie to simplify the research process.

Commissive Deontic Modality

Data 1

Griffin : ***I will get that license back.***
Griffin's son : *No, you won't.*

The scene above is a flashback from Griffin's past when he was still with his wife and his son. Griffin gives advice to his son who will be going to middle school. He reminded his son not to drink and drive, because he had done that and as a result his driving license was taken.

The dialog above also contains an element of deontic modality in sub-category commissive modality. Deontic modality in the sub-category commissive modality is proven in the sentence *"I will get that license back"*. In these sentences Griffin promised his son that he would get back his driving license which had been revoked due to his drunken driving. The sentence is included in the commissive modality, namely promise.

Data 2

Griffin : *You see what you made me do?*
Tristan : ***I'm gonna kill you.***
Griffin : *The choice of who lives or dies is not up to us*

Griffin is furious with Faith for still keeping in touch with Tristan. He felt that Faith had played him. He said that all this mess happened because of Faith. If Faith could choose either of us definitively, none of this would be happening. He also contacted Tristan to come to his lab but used Faith's phone. Tristan then approached Faith because he was worried that something bad would happen to her. Tristan, who just arrived, immediately gets punched in the face. Griffin tells Tristan that this is what he wanted from the start, to reject his work and to take Faith away from him. Griffin, who was getting out of control, then beat Tristan until he fell down. Tristan can't repay Griffin because Griffin is invisible.

The dialog above also contains an element of deontic modality in sub-category commissive modality that is threat. *"I'm gonna kill you"* is a threatening sentence that Tristan said to Griffin. He was furious because Griffin kept hitting him and he couldn't hit him back

because Griffin was invisible. Because there is a threatening sentence in the dialog above, the data is included in the sub-category commissive modality.

Directive Deontic Modality

Data 3

Faith	: *Griffin, holy shit.*
Griffin	: *The experiment.*
Faith	: *You tried the experiment on yourself? What the hell would you do that?*
Griffin	: ***I have to finish.***

In the data above, Faith, who was looking for Griffin, was surprised by someone who suddenly appeared with a scary face. What surprised Faith even more was that this person was Griffin. Griffin tried the experiment on himself. However, because the experiment was not too perfect, it actually made Griffin's face crumble.

The dialog above also contains an element of deontic modality in sub-category directive modality that is obligation. In the dialog above griffin said *"i have to finish"* which means he told Faith that he had to finish the experiment. This sentence includes an obligation because it uses the modal auxiliary 'have to', which means what Griffin says is a must.

Data 4

Faith	: *Hello.*
Griffin	: *Miss Shipley, I suppose.*
Faith	: ***You can call me Faith.***

Griffin is a professor who is conducting an experiment in a theater room that is being used as a lab. Griffin created an experiment to make him invisible to avenge his son's death. Then, a woman named Faith Anne Shipley, Theoretical Physicist, PhD from university, fellow at Oxford with the focus on absorption came, who wanted to apply to be Griffin's assistant based on Tristan's recommendation. Because it was the first meeting, Griffin greeted and called Faith by her family name, but Faith asked Griffin not to call her that.

The dialog above contains an element of deontic modality in sub-category directive modality, this is because in the dialog Faith said *"You can call me Faith"* to Griffin, this indicates that Faith requested and gave Griffin permission to call her just Faith, not Shipley, which was her last name, so that they would not be too formal and could get closer. Another

reason is because the sentence above uses the modal verb 'can' where the modal verb is also used to make a request or ask for permission.

Volitive Deontic Modality

Data 5

Griffin	: ***Let's hope someone can appreciate my vintage.***
Griffin	: *I consider myself to be a bit of a disaster.*

Faith told Griffin that he was talking in his sleep about someone named Kathryn. Then Griffin explained that it was his ex-wife who had been haunting him from time to time. When Faith asked if his ex-wife had died, Griffin said that she was still alive and that made Griffin always dream of his ex-wife because he had a very big sense of regret towards her. Similar to Griffin, Faith also has a difficult love story, she has a complicated relationship with her fiancé and in the past she always had men who were unfaithful. Griffin also told Faith that he had many faults but cheating was not one of them. Griffin finds it very difficult at this time to imagine himself with someone else because he feels that he was not a good husband in the past, but he still hopes that he can meet someone who can appreciate and accept his past.

The dialog above also contains an element of deontic modality in sub-category volitive modality that is hope. This is because in the dialogue above we can see that the sentence *"Let's hope someone can appreciate my vintage"* uttered by griffin illustrates the meaning that he hopes that in the future there will be someone who can accept him and his past. The next reason why the sentence above is included in the deontic modality category is because Griffin when expressing what he expected he used the word hope, where hope is an aspect of volitive modality.

Data 6

Faith	: *What are you doing?*
Griffin	: *Thinking. I want to document my findings for the purpose of publishing them before I'm left with no time.*
Griffin	: ***It's my hope that you will see that the work continues even after I'm…***

Griffin thought that with his current condition he would not be able to live much longer. So he thought of a way to document his findings so they could be published. Griffin thought it was quite a difficult thing considering that his discovery was about invisibility and the object was himself. Another reason Griffin wanted to document his findings was that he wanted Faith to see the experiment continue even without him.

The dialog above also contains an element of deontic modality in sub-category volitive modality. Sentences that are included in the sub-category volitive modality *"It's my hope that you will see that the work continues even after I'm…"* because in that sentence the griffin expresses his hope to Faith and hope is one of the aspects of volitive modality.

Based on the findings above, The researcher uses deontic modality theory which includes three sub-categories, namely commissive, directive and volitive modality. The researcher found eighteen data covering three sub-categories of commissive, directive and volitive. This research aims to answer the research objective to describe the deontic modality used in the movie *The Invisible Man* using the theory of Jespersen and Palmer (2007).

As a result of the findings above, the researcher found that the characters in *The Invisible Man* movie adopt deontic modality aspects that focus on the sub-categories commissive, directive, and volitive modality because many scenes show how aspects of the three sub-categories are used by characters in an effort to overcome existing problems. These three sub-categories are related to each other, the existence of a commissive that will lead to the directive to volitive.

Commissive modality consists of the promise aspect, where a person often makes promises to other people with the aim of gaining other people's trust and making other people happy. People who make promises believe that what they promise they will be able to fulfill in the future. In addition, there is also a threat aspect, where a threat is an attempt made by someone who has the potential to endanger the safety of others. Someone usually gives threats to others because they feel threatened and also because they ask for something but are not fulfilled. Requests are related to the sub-category directive modality because in the directive modality there is an aspect of request, where a request is a situation where

someone asks something from another person in the form of goods or services. Request is also closely related to the sub-category volitive modality because in volitive there are aspects of hope and desire. When someone makes a request it must be because of their wish or hope for something and in a request there is also hope for someone to get something he asked for. In the movie *The Invisible man* which has been researched by the researcher, the researcher sees that the three sub-categories commissive, directive, and volitive are interrelated.

The findings above are also related to Chrisman's opinion about metanormative, where Chrisman argues that metanormative is about how humans should act for a reason that allows other people to act according to the wishes of certain parties. As in the findings above, the main character of the movie *The Invisible Man*, namely Griffin, tries to become invisible because he wants to take revenge for the death of his son and also because every time he sees himself he always imagines his son. Becoming invisible was the course of action that Griffin chose to solve his problems. Then the metanormative theory also explains that some sentences describe things in our environment and all sentences are a means of expressing our thoughts. In the movie *The Invisible Man*, researchers see many sentences related to things that exist in our environment. Like, the character Tristan who always wants to have whatever Griffin has and makes various efforts to get it even if he uses bad methods. We often encounter things like that in our lives, where people are sometimes too jealous of what other people have. In addition, to express what we think sentences are the best means. For example, when we want to express a wish or want something, it would be better to express it in a sentence so that other people know what we want. It's the same as when we want to make other people believe in us, we can express it for example with a promise sentence.

The Findings above also shows how Griffin succeeded in completing what was his goal but besides that he also had to accept the fact that he had to lose something to achieve this. The situation experienced by Griffin in the movie *The invisible Man* is closely related to Ough and truth conditions which are situations where what happens must be in accordance with what we expect. In addition, these conditions are also related to deontic modality and the

origins of ethics, where our attitude and behavior towards what happens may not be in accordance with our expectations.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the theory of deontic modality by Jespersen and Palmer (2007), the researcher analyzed elements of deontic modality in sub-categories commissive, directive, volitive modality, then the researcher made conclusions on the use of deontic modality sub-categories commissive, directive, and volitive modality in the movie *The Invisible Man*. In the *The Invisible Man* movie, the researcher found that the theories in this research are related to each other in forming meaning in the form of utterances that contain deontic modality in the sub-categories commissive, directive, and volitive modality.

In the findings in the movie *The Invisible Man* above on the sub-category commissive modality, the researcher found quite a lot of promise aspects expressed by the characters, especially by the main character, Griffin. Then, for the threat aspect, the researcher did not find many utterances containing that aspect. The threatening sentences found by the researcher were carried out by Griffin who threatened his former student, Steven, for not wanting to admit that he had killed his son and another threatening sentence said by Tristan to Griffin. Furthermore, there is also the aspect of vowing. However, in *The Invisible Man* movie, the researcher does not find this aspect. For the sub-category directive modality, the researcher found many utterances containing these elements, such as obligation, request, command, and suggested. As for the sub-category volitive modality, the authors only found an aspect of hope.

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