

**THE USE OF SPEECH ACTS IN OSCAR WILDE'S  
"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST"**

**THESIS**

presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the completion of Strata I Program  
of the English Department  
specialized in Linguistics



by:  
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SEMARANG  
2007**

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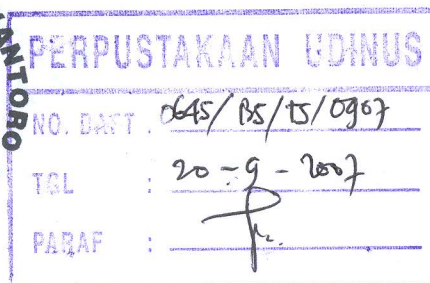
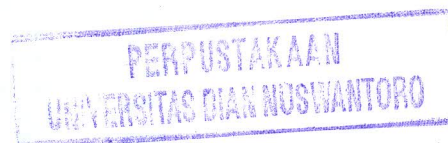
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**PAGE OF APPROVAL**

This thesis has been approved by Board Examiners, Strata 1 Study Program of English Language, Faculty of Languages and Letters, Dian Nuswantoro University on August 22, 2007.

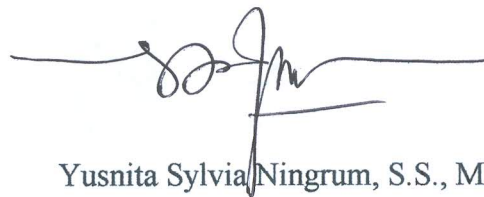
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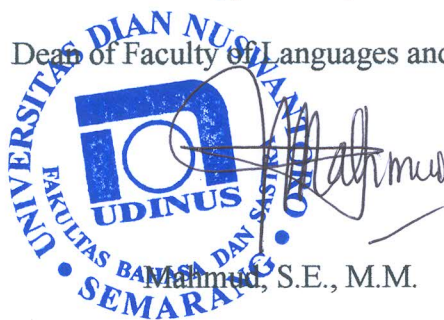
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## ABSTRACT

The study was about the use of speech acts in a drama text entitled *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde. The problems of the study are (1) how the speech act are used in a drama text, (2) why the speech acts in a drama text are used by the characters, (3) what speech acts verbs are the most commonly used by the characters in a drama text. The purpose of the study are to describe the use of speech acts used by the characters in a drama text, to find out the reason why the characters use the speech act in a drama text and to find out the most commonly speech acts verbs used by the characters in a drama text.

This is a qualitative study. The data cover all utterances from Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. There are one hundred and eighteen utterances. They are representative, directive, commissive, expressive, declaration speech acts. In conducting the research, the researcher read the drama text of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, identified the data (the utterances containing Searle's speech acts classification) in every scene, act and page in a drama text. Then the researcher classified the data into five categories based on the types of speech acts by Searle and the researcher simplified the data that contain the speech acts would be analyzed.

The results of the study show that there are one hundred and eighteen data or utterances containing speech acts. They are classified into thirty two representatives speech acts, like insist, assert, deny, state, tell, guess, remind, describe, inform, believe. Fifty directive speech acts, like request, ask, urge, beg, order, propose, advise, suggest, question. Nine commissive speech acts, like offer and promise. Twenty expressive speech acts, like praise, regret, fear, condole, thank, apologize, greet. And seven declaration speech acts, like approve, bless, speculate, call, curse.

The conclusions of the study are (1) the five types of speech acts from Searle are employed in Oscar Wilde's drama text entitled *The Importance of Being Earnest*, (2) the most commonly appears in the drama text was directive speech acts and the least appears was declaration speech acts.

After drawing the conclusions, the researcher gives some suggestion to the readers that there are many other types of speech acts from other experts that need to be explored and analyzed. And also for the linguistic fields to their students, so that the students will apply it in their field study for their own's sake.