



**THE SPEECH FUNCTIONS ANALYSIS IN UTTERANCES  
USED BY ALEX HITCHES AND SARA MENDES IN “HITCH”  
MOVIE**

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# THE SPEECH FUNCTIONS ANALYSIS IN UTTERANCES USED BY ALEX HITCHES AND SARA MENDES IN “HITCH” MOVIE

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## ABSTRACT

*Conversation is a process of changes two variables; they are speech role and commodity exchange. The combination between them is called speech function. This study aims at describing the kinds of speech functions and interpersonal roles created by Alex and Sara in “Hitch” movie. The result of this study show that only 10 kinds of speech functions that Alex and Sara produced in “Hitch” movie. They are statement, answer, question, acknowledgement, contradiction, command, offer, disclaimer, rejection, and acceptance. The interpersonal role from the highest speech functions produced by Alex is “statement” with 50 moves because Alex is dating consultant so he always gave statement to his client. The highest speech function produced by Sara is “statement” with 57 moves because Sara is an out spoken person so she produced more statement. But Sara also produced “question” with 49 moves because she is a gossip columnist so she used question to interview.*

**Key words:** *Conversation, Movie, Move, Speech Function, Utterance*

Percakapan adalah proses perubahan dua variabel , yaitu peran berbicara dan perpindahan peran . Kombinasi diantara keduanya disebut fungsi ujaran . Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendiskripsikan jenis-jenis fungsi ujaran dan peran pribadi yang dibuat oleh Alex dan Sara di film " Hitch " . Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa hanya ada 10 macam fungsi ujaran yang Alex dan Sara buat di film " Hitch “ yaitu adalah pernyataan , jawaban, pertanyaan , pengakuan , penyangkalan , perintah , menawarkan , sangkalan , penolakan , dan penerimaan . Peran pribadi dapat dilihat dari fungsi ujaran yang paling banyak dihasilkan oleh Alex adalah " pernyataan " dengan 50 ujaran karena Alex seorang konsultan sehingga ia selalu memberi pernyataan kepada kliennya . Sedangkan ujaran yang banyak dihasilkan Sara adalah " pernyataan " dengan 57 ujaran karena Sara adalah seorang yang suka berteman sehingga dia menghasilkan banyak ujaran “pernyataan”. Tapi Sara juga menghasilkan ujaran " pertanyaan " dengan 49 ujaran karena dia adalah wartawan jadi dia menggunakan pertanyaan untuk wawancara .

Kata kunci : Percakapan , Film , Ujaran , Fungsi Ujaran , Ucapan

## INTRODUCTION

Every people need a language to communicate each other. With a communication medium, people can interact and cooperate with other people. Communication is done to convey idea, like statement, question, offer, commands. In communication, we make use sentences or to be precise, utterances and the way someone make use of these utterances is called speaking. There are two forms of communication. It is written and spoken media. Written media consist of novel, drama, magazine, short story and newspaper. And the spoken media include; debate, dialogue, conversation, interview. Language can form as a dialogue that becomes a very important matter in communicating and interacting with others. A dialogue can take place in one place, and there must be a contact between two participants; those are speaker (S) and hearer (H).

Talking about dialogue is related with speech functions. Halliday (1984:11) suggest that dialogue is “a process of exchange” involving two variables:

1. A commodity to be exchanged: either information or good and service.
2. Roles associated with exchange relations: either giving or demanding.

In the discourse structure patterns, the speech functions choices is a key resource for negotiating degrees of familiarity. If participants wish to explore their interpersonal relations, they must choose speech functions which keep the conversational going and his frequently means that intimate relations involve interact ants reacting to each other in confronting, rather than supporting moves.

The most fundamental types of role, which lies behind all the more specific to recognize are just two: giving and demanding. The speaker is either giving something to the listener (a piece of information, for example) or he is demanding something from him. These elementary categories already involve complex notions: giving means ‘inviting to receive’, and demanding means ‘inviting to give’. Typically, therefore, an ‘act’ of speaking is something that might more appropriately be called an ‘interact’: it is an exchange, in which giving implies receiving and demanding implies giving in response.

Halliday (1994: 69), states that “there are four primary forms of movement types of speech functions; those are offer (The speaker gives the hearer some goods or some services and the speaker inherently inviting the hearer to receive those goods and service), statement (The speaker gives information to hearer, and invites the hearer to receive that information), command (The speaker demands the hearer some goods or some services and the hearer and thereby invited to give that service or provide the goods), and question (A question is a linguistic expression used to make a request for information. Questions are normally *put or asked* using interrogative sentences). Speech functions have 2 responses; they are supporting and confronting responses. Supporting responses provide consensus and agreement. For example, acknowledge a statement, answer a question, acceptance an offer, and compliance a command, those are supporting moves. Confronting responses enact disagreement or non-compliance. For example, disclaiming knowledge rather than acknowledging, declining to answer a question or refusing an offer than enact (verbally) some degree of confrontation.

In a conversation, the exchange process structure and speech functions are very related to each other. It realizes the role relationship of the speakers to each other. There is also a correlation between the structure of a responding move and the different structure of an initiating move. By looking at who makes what kinds of moves in initiating speech function and identifying the role which played by the speakers, we can explain the attitudes toward in the interaction, and it is called interpersonal role relationship.

This study analyzes kinds of speech function and interpersonal roles are created by Alex Hitches and Sara Mendes in “Hitch” movie.

## **METHOD**

### **Research Design**

This study used qualitative data method. Qualitative research methods are used to collect and analyze data that cannot be represented by numbers. This thesis aimed to explain the different practices of data collection and analysis found in qualitative research and to outline when it is appropriate to use descriptive methods. It is hoped that the reader will gain confidence in the critical appraisal of published research that uses qualitative methods. This study also uses descriptive research method. “Descriptive method is the method whose the purpose of which is to describe systematically, factually and accurately” (Isaac and Michael, 1987: 18). Descriptive research is used in the literal sense of describing situation and events. By using descriptive method, the data are analyzed by describing the categories of discourse structure pattern, identifying types of speech functions, and interpersonal roles played by Alex Hitches and Sara Mendes in a casual conversation based on Halliday (1994).

### **Data**

The corpus of data of this study was a conversation the main characters between Alex Hitches and Sara Mendes in “Hitch” movie. This movie’s duration approximately 118 minutes. A conversation that used as the data when Alex talked with Sara.

### **Unit of Analysis**

The data to be analyzed relate to the speech functions. Units of analysis in this research focuses on moves produced by Alex Hitches and Sara Mendes in “Hitch” movie.

The study used purposive sampling. According to Arikunto in *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktik* (2006: 139-140) stated that “Purposive sampling is done by taking a subject based upon particular purpose”. This technique is performed for a variety of consideration, such as reason for the limitations of time, effort and money. Although this way is allowed, the researcher could determine the sample based on specific goals. So the researcher only put 10 % of sampling from all the data that researcher found. (Karl L. Wuensch, 2011 in website [core.ecu.edu/psyc/.../Research-3-Sampling.docx](http://core.ecu.edu/psyc/.../Research-3-Sampling.docx))

### Data Collection

The data of this study was collected by script the movie. The script was done by downloading from internet. The script lasted for approximately 118 minutes.

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data of this study, the casual conversation among Alex Hitches and Sara Mendes in the movie, are segmented into utterances and moves . In the movie dialogue, the utterances present the turns and move of the speakers or character in the “Hitch” movie.

Table 1 below shows the number of speech functions which are described in some excerpts of the main characters’ turns and moves between Alex Hitches and Sara Mendes , they are based on the context of the conversation in the movie.

**Table 1 The total of Speech Functions Types in a Movie Dialogue between Alex Hitches and Sara Mendes as a Main Character.**

Initiating speech function	Responding speech functions	
	Supporting	Confronting
Offer 7	Acceptance 3	Rejection 1
Command 2	Compliance -	Refusal -
Statement 107	Acknowledgement 30	Contradiction 16
Question 89	Answer 35	Disclaimer 15
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	

The types of speech functions are classified into four basic moves of speech functions (Statement, Question, Offer, and Command). These alternative responses of four basic speech functions can be broadly differentiated as either supporting or confronting. Supporting consists of *acceptance*, *compliance*, *acknowledgement* and *answer* and confronting consists of *rejection*, *refusal*, *contradiction*, *disclaimer*.

The overall number of speech functions produced by Alex Hitches and Sara Mendes in “ Hitch” movie can be presented in the following tables.

**Table 2. Summary of Speech Functions used by Alex Hitches and Sara Mendes in “Hitch” movie.**

Utterances	Speakers		Total
	Alex	Sara	

Number of turns	120	120	240
Number of moves	278	218	496
Speech Functions	Speakers		Total
	Alex	Sara	
Statement	59	48	107
Question	40	49	89
Offer	5	2	7
Command	-	2	2
Acknowledgement	18	12	30
Contradiction	13	3	16
Answer	26	9	35
Disclaimer	9	6	15
Acceptance	-	3	3
Rejection	-	1	1
Compliance	-	-	-
Refusal	-	-	-
<b>Total of Speech Function</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>248</b>

Table 2 shows the various categories of speech functions as classified by Halliday (1994: 69) used by the main characters in the movie. It also shows the number of turns and moves produced by the main characters between Alex and Sara in their conversation. Table 1 also depicts that the main characters use various speech functions in their conversation. In 240 turns and 496 moves, the speakers use eleven speech functions based on Halliday's theory. They produced 305 numbers of speech functions.

The main characters, they are Alex and Sara produce the speech functions such as statement 107 moves, acknowledgement 30 moves, contradiction 16 moves, offer 7 moves, command 2 moves, disclaimer 15 moves, answer 35 moves, question 89 moves, rejection 1 moves, compliance 0 moves, acceptance 3 moves and refusal 0 moves. On the other hand, in the conversation, none of the speakers who produces the speech function move „compliance and refusal“ because all of the speakers maybe respectful to each other, so that they are always ready to help or give the goods or services which are asked or commanded by the other speakers to each other.

In the conversation, besides producing the turns, the main characters, Alex and Sara also produce 496 moves. Alex gets 278 moves and Sara gets 218 moves. It describes that Alex is the dominant speaker who makes more moves.

## 1. The Analysis of Speech Function in “ Hitch” movie

### Statement

There are 107 statements in the conversation transcript. Alex makes 50 statements and Sara makes 57 statements. It indicates that the speaker who produces the highest number of speech function “statement” is Sara. She is the dominant speaker who plays the role as the giver by giving some information. On

the other hand, the speaker who produced the smallest number of speech function "statement" is Alex. It happens because he prefers to be the hearer or responder about the information which is given by the other speakers.

Excerpt 1:

<i>Speech Function</i>	<i>Turn/moves</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Utterances</i>
Statement	17	Alex	(i) Gossip never sleeps.
Contradiction	18	Sara	(i) No till about : 4 a.m

Excerpt 1 shows that speech function 'statement' which is used by the speakers Alex is giving information to Sara. The utterance "Gossip never sleeps" in turn 17 it means that Alex gives information to Sara. He thinks gossip never sleeps, so Sarah always busy about her jobs, every time and every day she always asked for information and news. On the other hand, Sara gives a confronting response by contradiction Alex's statement. She says "No till about : 4 a.m", it means she worked until 4 a.m, after that she had a free time.

### **Question**

There are 89 questions in the conversation transcript. Alex makes 40 questions and Sara makes 49 questions. It indicates that the speaker who produces the highest number of speech functions "question" is Sara. She is the dominant speaker who plays the role as the demander, while Alex plays as responder or giver. On the other hand, the speaker who produces the smallest number of speech function „question" is Alex. In the conversation, it happens because of his personality. Alex attempts to be speechless and he prefers to be responder.

Excerpt 2:

<i>Speech Function</i>	<i>Turn/moves</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Utterances</i>
Question	1/b	Alex	(i) How was the meeting?
Answer	2	Sara	(i) Well, there was a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Excerpt 2 shows that speech function 'question' which is used by Alex is demanding information from Sara. The utterance "How was the meeting?" in turn 1/b means that Alex asks Sara about her meeting. In other words, it describes that Alex invites Sara to give some responding information. She gives supporting responses to Alex by answering his question. She says her meeting from a beginning, a middle, until an end was good.

### **Answer**

There are 35 answer in the conversation transcript. Alex makes 26 answer and Sara makes 9 answer. It indicates that the speaker who produces the highest number of speech function "answer" is Alex. He is the dominant speaker who plays the role as a good responder in answering the question. questions about many problems which are asked by the other speakers. On the other hand, the speaker who produces the smallest number of „answer" is Sara. In the conversation, it happens because Sara attempts to give less information which is demanded by the other speakers. Maybe, she was just getting a little question in conversation.

Excerpt 3:

<i>Speech Function</i>	<i>Turn/moves</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Utterances</i>
Question	26	Sara	(i) This conversation's over as soon as you tell me when and where ?
Answer	27	Alex	(i) 7:00 a.m., North Cove Marina.

Excerpt 3 shows that speech function 'answer' which is used by Alex is giving information to Sara. The utterance 'This conversation's over as you tell me when and where?' in turn 26 means that Sara gives question to Alex. And in turn 27, Alex answers the question from Sara. He says that she must meet him at 7:00 a.m., in North Cove Marina.

### **Offer**

In the conversation, "offer" is a kind of basic speech function move which is initiated only by the speaker. They produce 7 moves: Alex gets 5 moves and Anna 2 moves. It shows that the one who produces the highest number in producing the speech function move 'offer' is Alex. It indicates that Alex is the dominant speaker who has role as giving goods or service to the other speakers. On the other hand, the speaker who produces the smallest number of 'offer' is Sara. In the conversation, it happens because of her personality. Maybe, she does not like doing an offering to the other speaker, or in their opinion there is nothing something which could be offered to the other speakers.

Excerpt 4:

<i>Speech Function</i>	<i>Turn/moves</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Utterances</i>
Offer	33/b	Alex	(i) But you might need these.
Acceptance	34/a	Sara	(i) All right

Excerpt 4 shows that the speaker is giving goods and service to the hearer by using the speech function 'offer'. The utterance "But you might need these?" in turn 33/b means that Alex offers Sara to wearing glasses that Alex bring. It describes that Alex is giving or providing goods and service and she invites Sara to receive that goods and service. In the conversation, Sara gives supporting response by acceptance William's offers. She says "All right", because she very likes when Alex put on glasses.

### **Command**

As a speech function, command has the purpose to demand goods and services in a conversation. We can say that command function is to ask someone to do something. The commodity exchange in a command is good and services. In the conversation transcript, the researcher finds 2 commands as speech functions. Alex makes 0 command and Sara makes 2 command. It indicates that the speaker who produces the highest number of speech functions "command" is Sara.

Excerpt 5:

<i>Speech Function</i>	<i>Turn/moves</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Utterances</i>
Command	173	Sara	(i) Now, this is nifty.

Excerpt 5 shows that speech function ‘command’ which is used by Sara is demanding service from the other speakers. The utterance “Now, this is nifty” in turn 173 means that Sara asks to someone especially, Alex. It describes that Sara invites Alex to do something or provide that service. There is no one who gives response to Sara’s command.

### **Acknowledgement**

Acknowledgement is the supporting response of speech function ‘statement’. The number of acknowledgement which is produced by main characters is 30 moves. Alex gets 18 moves and Anna 12 moves. It shows that Alex produces the highest number of acknowledgement. On the other hand, the speakers who has that smallest number in producing speech function response ‘acknowledgement’ is Sara. It happens because she only prefers to receive the information without giving many responses.

Excerpt 6:

<i>Speech Function</i>	<i>Turn/moves</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Utterances</i>
Statement	100	Sara	(i) Uncle Hitch
Acknowledgement	101	Alex	(i) Thank You

Excerpt 6 shows that speech function response ‘acknowledgement’ which is used by the speaker Alex is receiving information from Sara. The utterances “Thank you.” in turn 101 means that Alex agrees with Sara call him uncle. He agrees to the information by acknowledging the Sara’s statement.

### **Contradiction**

Contradiction is the confronting response of speech function move ‘statement’ There are two main characters in their conversation who produce 16 speech function: they are Alex 13 moves, and Sara 3 moves. It can be indicated that the one who produces the highest number of speech function is Alex.

Excerpt 7:

<i>Speech Function</i>	<i>Turn/moves</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Utterances</i>
Statement	46/b	Sara	(iii) Then we’ll both be Sitting ducks.
Contradiction	47	Alex	(i) I didn’t break it. (ii) It just died.

Excerpt 7 shows that the speaker gives the hearer some responding information by using the confronting speech function response ‘contradiction’. The speech function response ‘contradiction’ which is used Alex. The utterance ‘I didn’t break it. It just died’. In turn 47 mean that Alex didn’t agree with Sara’s statement. Alex thinks he didn’t break the chair.

### **Disclaimer**

Disclaimer is the confronting response of speech function „question“. In the conversation, two speakers produce 15 moves: Alex 9 moves and Sara 6 moves. It shows that the one who has the highest number in producing the speech function move „disclaimer“ is Alex.

Excerpt 8:

<i>Speech Function</i>	<i>Turn/moves</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Utterances</i>
Question	15	Alex	(ii) and I was wondering if you'd mind taking it down for dinner Friday night. Over
Disclaimer	16	Sara	(i) I can't. I have a couple of parties.

Excerpt 8 shows that the speaker gives the hearer some responding information by using the confronting speech function response „disclaimer“. In utterance “I can't. I have a couple of parties.” it means that Sara disclaims Alex's question. In the conversation, Alex wants Sara to answer his question about go to dinner Friday night. But, Sara can't because she have a couple of parties. When a speaker gives a question, a hearer should answer the question by giving some information based on speaker's want.

### **Acceptance**

Acceptance is the supporting response of speech function ‘offer’. In the conversation, one speaker produce 3 move: Sara produce 3 moves, and Alex 0 move. The person who has the leads number in producing speech function move „offer“ is Sara. It indicates that Sara is the dominant speaker who has role as receiver the goods or services from the other speakers.

Excerpt 9:

<i>Speech Function</i>	<i>Turn/moves</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Utterances</i>
Offer	33/b	Alex	(vi) But you might need these
Acceptance	34/a	Sara	(i) All right.

Excerpt 9 shows that the speaker gives the hearer some responding goods and services by using the supporting speech function response ‘acceptance’. The utterance “All right” mean that Sara accepts Alex's offers to wearing glasses that Alex gave because the weather looks hot and Sara look beautiful when wearing glasses.

### **Rejection**

Rejection is the confronting response of speech function ‘offer’. In the conversation, two speakers only produce 1 moves: William produce 0 move, and Anna 1 moves. The one who produce the highest number of speech function „rejection“ is Sara. On the other hand, the one who produces the smallest number or not produce of the speech function response „rejection“ is Alex.

Excerpt 10:

<i>Speech Function</i>	<i>Turn/moves</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Utterances</i>
Offer	164	Alex	(i) Here, let me pour that for you
Rejection	165	Sara	(i) No, that's okay

Excerpt 10 shows that the speaker gives the hearer some responding information by using the confronting speech function response ‘rejection’. In utterance “No, that's okay” in turn 165 means that Sara rejects the offering of William to pour the Spanish wine.

### **Compliance**

On the contrary, in the conversation there is none of the speakers who produce the speech function ‘compliance’. Compliance is the supporting response of command. It describes that no one of the speakers“ who has the role as the non-receiver of commanding goods or services.

### **Refusal**

On the contrary, in the conversation there is none of the speakers who produce the speech function ‘refusal’. Refusal is the confronting response of command. It describes that no one of the speakers“ who has the role as the non-receiver of commanding goods or services.

## **2. The Analysis of Interpersonal Roles in “ Hitch” movie**

The interpersonal roles that created by Alex from the highest speech function is speech function “statement” with 50 moves because Alex is a professional dating consultant so he always gave statement such as solution to his client. The highest speech function produced by Sara is “statement” with 57 moves because Sara is a out spoken person so she produced more statement. But Sara also produced “question” with 49 moves because she is a gossip columnist so she used question to interview Alex and the other person.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the data analysis speech function and interpersonal roles in the “Hitch” movie, the following conclusion can be drawn.

1. The researcher found 10 kinds of speech function that Alex and Sara produced in “Hitch” movie. They are statement (107 moves), answer (35 moves), question (89 moves), acknowledgement (30 moves), contradiction (16 moves), command (2 moves), offer (7 moves), disclaimer (15 moves), rejection (1 move), acceptance (3 moves) and there is no refusal and compliance.
2. The interpersonal roles that created by Alex from the highest speech function is speech function “statement” with 50 moves because Alex is a professional dating consultant so he always gave statement such as solution to his client. The highest speech function produced by Sara is “statement” with 57 moves because Sara is a out spoken person so she produced more statement. But Sara also produced “question” with 49 moves because she is a gossip columnist so she used question to interview Alex and the other person.

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