



## The Apologizing Utterances of the Characters in “Failure to Launch” Movie

Arumtyas Puspitaning Padmasari<sup>1\*</sup>, Nensy Megawati Simanjuntak<sup>2</sup>  
University Dr. Soetomo Surabaya

**Corresponding Author:** Arumtyas Puspitaning Padmasari  
[arumtyas.puspita@unitomo.ac.id](mailto:arumtyas.puspita@unitomo.ac.id)

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### ABSTRACT

Communication is essential in expressing the desires of humans, as their lives are intertwined with it. Producing speech acts is what happens when we interact with others. This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze qualitative data. The movie "Failure to Launch" is where the data comes from. This study used data collection techniques such as observing, analyzing visuals, and researching in libraries to find literature sources. Based on the findings and analysis, the researcher observed 9 instances of apologizing speech in 6 scenes from the movie "Failure to Launch". The characters in the movie use apology statements to convey their emotions. The emotions depicted include feelings of apology, compassion, remorse (guilt), and condolences.

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## INTRODUCTION

The human's life cannot be separated from communication because it is very important in expressing what they want. The social activity of conversation involves two or more participants who engage in talking about something (Stenstrom, 1994, p.189). Besides, the conversation also has language in order to help the speaker and the reader. Language is used everyday by everybody in whatever transaction so that it can be defined as communication between human beings. Therefore, language is crucial for human interaction and socialization, among other things and it plays a significant role in people's lives as a means of connecting with one another (Pike, L. Kenneth.1993).

The words spoken by people have the power to influence others as they communicate in language. The spoken words reveal many feelings such happy, disappointed, angry, or misunderstand. The use of language is crucial in shaping positive or negative relationships during human interactions. People occasionally struggle with communication because they are unable to understand what others are saying through their words or utterances, which can cause people to misunderstand or misinterpret others. When we communicate with others, we produce speech acts.

The speech act utterance is a unit in communication that includes both propositional meaning and illocutionary act (Searle, 1969). Then, the speech act type divides into a locutionary, an illocutionary, and a perlocutionary act. In addition, the form of speech act itself is apology, complaint, compliment, request, promise, order, advice, and excuse. However, Levinson (1983, p.236) quotes Austin's theory that the locutionary acts occur when a sentence is spoken with specific meaning and designation. The Illocutionary acts involve declaring a statement, proposal, commitment, and more when speaking a sentence due to the inherent power linked to it. Then, the perlocutionary act occurs when the audience is affected by the utterance of a sentence, with these effects being specific to the situation in which it is spoken. The speech acts' function is for identifying the intended meaning of utterances.

This research reason in analyzing this research is giving better knowledge to the readers about speech acts especially type of illocutionary acts that is apologizing. Researcher thinks that investigating or analyzing the apologizing utterances is worth to be done because it leads someone to know and understand the purpose of apology. According to Leech (1983), apologizing is being classified as a convivial speech act to help achieving the aim of fostering harmony within a relationship. Therefore, this research data is taken from of the all-characters utterance in the conversation in "Failure to Launch" movie.

The movie characters are including Al, Sue, Tripp, Paula, Demo, Ace and Kit. The film revolves around a 35-year-old man who resides with his parents and has no desire to leave their cozy lifestyle. The man's name is Tripp. Tripp mother does not want to see her son everyday without having any activities. Moreover, this movie is typically of a bright and breezy romantic comedy.

The research seeks to address the issue of speech acts utilized in the dialogue of the main characters in "Failure to launch" movie. In order to do

research on the problem as mentioned above, the research question based on the problem are formulated as follow:

1. What are the functions of apologizing utterances that find in “Failure to Launch” conversation?
2. How many of apologizing utterances that find in the whole conversations in “Failure to Launch” movie?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### *Speech Acts*

In order to analyze the apologizing utterances in the movie, we use theory from Searle (1976). Based on Searle, speech acts’ utterance is a functional unit of spoken language that has both the propositional meaning and the illocutionary act. Illocutionary acts itself mean an act performed in saying something. Then, illocutionary acts are divided into:

- a) representatives (asserting and concluding);
- b) directives (requesting and questioning);
- c) commissive (promising, threatening, and offering);
- d) expressive (thanking, apologizing, welcoming, and congratulating), and
- e) declarations (excommunicating, declaring war, christening, and firing from employment).

According to the explanation above, speech act utterance from the “Failure to Launch” aims to describe function in the movie conversation and also the numbers of apologizing utterances used by the movie characters. The speech act theory can be depicted as follow:

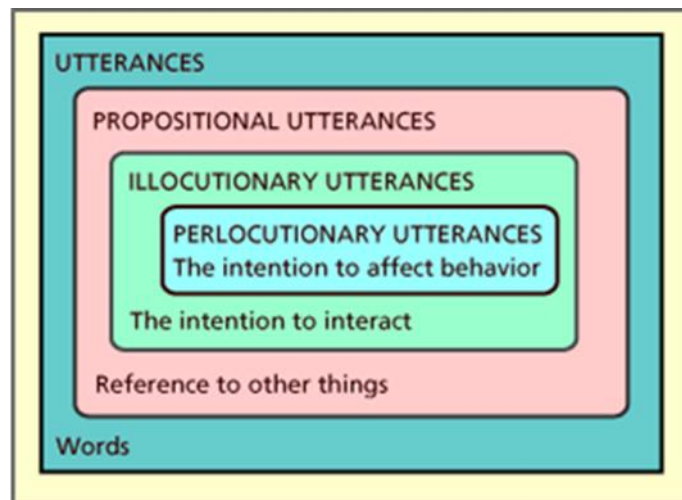


Figure 1. “A Classification of Speech Acts” Language in Society

Then, the category of speech act theory can be illustrated as follow:

Category	Action	Example
Representatives	Tell how things are	Concluding
Directives	Encourage action	Requesting
Commissives	Commit speaker to action	Promising
Expressives	Express psychological state	Thanking
Declarations	Change the state of affairs	Christening

**Figure 2. Speech Acts Categories**

### *Illocutionary Acts*

Illocutionary is a part of expressions that shows a certain power conventionally (Austin,1962:108). It has a specific purpose for the speakers to express something in their mind. However, this research is focusing in apologizing that has used for making an apology. That utterances describe into regret (guilty), sorry, condolence, and sympathy.

### *Movie "Failure to Launch"*

Movie is a media for giving entertainment with pictures and audios. It is a 3D media. This research has used "Failure to Launch" movie because it has may lesson to the researcher for understanding human thought. Moreover, the movie is very funny and easy to be understand. The movie has forward storyline. The movie has an American family culture that only has a spoiled child.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research approach has used descriptive qualitative approach for utilizing qualitative data. This involves data collection into words, phrases, and sentences in the movie conversation used by the movie characters (Sugiyono, 2010). The data source is a movie entitled "Failure to Launch". The movie duration is about 1 hour 37 minutes. It is from America and has been published in March 10, 2006. The genre is about romantic comedy. It is produced by Tom Dey. The movie characters mention as Matthew McConaughey, Sarah Jessica Parker, Zooey Deschanel, Justin Bartha, Bradley Cooper, Terry Bradshaw, and Kathy Bates.

The research data is 9 apologizing utterances taken from 6 fragments that are chosen randomly. The utterances are coming from the movie characters conversation. They are Albert (father), Sue (mother), Tripp, Paula, Ace, Demo and Kit as the characters. This research utilized data collection methods such as observation, visual analysis, and library research to search for literature references. For the observation, the researchers were watching the movie and finding some apologizing utterances, then those utterances were written into 6 fragments. Next is doing visual analysis through comparing the utterances with the theory and other references based on library research study.

This research analysis has used several steps such as watching the movie, selecting the scenes, choosing the conversations that mostly can determine as interesting utterances, rewriting the conversations and analysing the utterances, and discussing the utterances based on the criteria of the theory. Then, the

research data validation techniques are carried out by triangulating sources to prove the extent of the accuracy and accuracy of research data. The triangulating sources explore the truth of certain information by using various data sources such as speech act theory, illocutionary acts, and utterances in the movie "Failure to Launch".

## **RESULT**

The researchers had analysed the data based on certain scenes found in "Failure to Launch" movie where the illocutionary acts occurred. The findings are 6 fragments of apologizing utterances from all characters. The researchers present the description of context for each fragment to give a clear understanding about the story and then to find out the apologizing utterances. The data can be seen below:

### **Fragment 1**

The setting : In the Gym centre  
The Participants : Demo, Ace, and Tripp  
The Event : Tripp tells his friends that he has dumped by Melissa  
Demo : so, you dumped Melissa?  
Tripp : Well, technically, she dumped me  
Ace : What happened?  
Tripp : It was last night. We were in a restaurant. She sees this elderly couple and they're holding hands, and then she decides to hold my hand. So, she smiles at me. Next thing I know she gives me "the look".  
Demo : **Dude, I'm so sorry.**  
Tripp : No, harm, no foul, though. I was just time for her to meet the parents.

### **Fragment 2**

The setting : In the Japanese Restaurant  
The Participants : Tripp and Paula  
The Event : Tripp invites Paula to have dinner as the first date.  
Tripp : All right, T-S-R-double-P going in to get a little squid.  
Paula : Do you need me to help you with that?  
Tripp : I got it. I got it. Look at this, look at this, look at this.  
Paula : I admire the confidence  
Tripp : Thank you. I am fairly... ambidextrous. Oh, shit. **I'm sorry! Excuse me.** Squid's a little bit greasy tonight.  
Paula : **Sorry. Yeah.**

### **Fragment 3**

The setting : In the air soft gun field  
The Participants : Demo, Tripp, Ace, and Paula  
The Event : Tripp and his friends ask Paula to join with them for playing air soft gun together.

Demo : Well, this is exactly what she needs. Good choice.  
Tripp : There she is. Hey, Paula.  
Paula : Hi  
Tripp : Paula, these are my good friends, Demo and Ace. Guys, Paula.  
Paula : Hi, it's nice to meet you.  
Ace : **I'm so sorry for your loss.**  
Demo : Come on, don't.  
Paula : Thank you.

#### Fragment 4

The setting : In Tripp's house (kitchen)  
The Participants : Paula, Tripp, Albert (father) and Sue (mother)  
The Event : Tripp brings Paula to his house. At that time, Tripp's parents want to have dinner. So, they invite Paula to have dinner together.

Mom : Would you like to stay for dinner?  
Paula : Oh! Wow. I'd love to. Thank you.  
Tripp : Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Why?  
Paula : Well, it smells good, and I'm really hungry. Aren't you?  
Tripp : Yeah, I'm hungry. But my mom here, she's cooking dinner like she does most nights. Right here, where I live, with them in the same house I grew up in.

Paula : That's nice.  
Pop : I'm gonna go mow the lawn.  
Mom : Well, we're about to sit down...  
Pap : Might mow the neighbor's, too.

Paula : Is this really, okay? Cause I don't want to intrude on family time?  
Mom : Oh, it's fine. I'll set another place.  
Paula : Okay, thanks.  
Tripp : I'm gonna go help Dad.  
Paula : Is there...is there anything I can do to help? **Listen, I am so sorry. I had no idea that he was going to bring me over here.** But you are doing great.

#### Fragment 5

The setting : In Paula's house  
The Participants : Paula and Kit  
The Events : Paula fails in doing her job to make Tripp moves out. So, she decides to go back to her hometown

Paula : Hay. Listen, I went through all the CDs, but if you end up with some of mine or I end up with some of yours, let's just call it even, okay?

Kit : Okay, sure.

Paula : I know. I do, too. So...so let's just get it over with, then.

Kit : Okay, look, I knew I'm not, so I'm just gonna say it. **I'm sorry** that I pointed out to you that you fell in love with a client and that made you crazy and turn into a total bitch.

Paula : Wow. That must've been really hard for you to say.

Kit : I thought it was going to be, but I just kind of breezed right through it.

Paula : Well, thanks. **And I'm sorry** that I pointed out that you haven't had a real relationship for the last five years because I'm the only person who can tolerate your bizarre and violent mood swings.

Kit : Oh, thank you.

### Fragment 6

The setting : Phillip's house

The Participants : Tripp, Kit, Demo, and Tripp

The Event : Kit brings Paula to Phillip's house. When they come in, Kit locks the door and lets Paula alone inside the house. Tripp's friends want Paula and Tripp finished their problem.

Paula : Wow! This is fantastic!

Kit : Yeah, it's pretty great.

Paula : Wow.

Kit : Go, go, go, go!

Paula : Hey! Kit! What are you...oh, hi, fellas.

Tripp : [Trapped in the closet and tied in the chair]

Paula : **Sorry. I tried to do it fast so it wouldn't hurt.**

Tripp : You were concerned about hurting me?  
That's a refreshing change of pace.

Paula : Is this how it's gonna be? Cause your note says, "*Hi, we need to talk*".

Tripp : Yeah, I wrote that right after I tied my self to the chair and covered my mouth with duct tape.

Paula : So, you don't want to talk.

Tripp : To you? I'll pass.

Paula : This is ridiculous, not to mention juvenile we can't just sit here and not say anything. All right, fine. I'll start. I think you're being a jackass.

Tripp : I think those pants make you look fat, but in a sexy...

Paula : **Tripp, I apologize. My job was manipulative and deceitful.**  
But the second that I found out about Amy, I was gonna end it. But I never got the chance, because you found out first. Sorry, sorry.

Tripp : Apology accepted.

Paula : Thank you. Come on. You don't want to say anything?

## DISCUSSION

Based on the finding above, the apologizing analysis are mention from some data from fragment 1 until 6. Data of **fragment 1**, it can be concluded that Demo feels sympathy for hearing Tripp's story. Demo never realizes that Tripp would be dumped by Melissa. Actually, Demo knows that Tripp always dumps his girlfriend. It can be seen from Demo's utterance: "Dude, I'm so sorry". From **fragment 2**, Tripp's utterance: "I'm sorry! Excuse me", it can be concluded that Tripp feels guilty or regret because he throws the squid accidentally to the Japanese couple. Then, Tripp's apologize has also supported by Paula's utterance "Sorry. Yeah" in order to convince Tripp's apologize.

Then, **fragment 3** mentions that Ace's utterance: "I'm so sorry for your loss". It can be concluded that Ace says 'condolence' for the death of Paula's dog. Besides, Ace aims to reduce Paula's Sadness and he wants to entertain Paula. For **fragment 4**, the data show that Paula's utterance, it shows her regret to Tripp's mom. She does not have any intention and purpose to tell her agreement with Tripp's parents.

Other data in **fragment 5** explain that Kit's utterance: "I'm sorry that...", it can be concluded that Kit regrets for her thought about Paula because she has already accused Paula as the unprofessional counsellor. Then from Paula's utterance "and I'm sorry that..." it can be concluded that Paula also regrets because she has already accused Kit as an intolerant friend. In fact, Paula can tolerate Kit's attitudes but Kit cannot do the same things. The last data is **fragment 6** that describes that Paula's utterance: "Sorry. I tried to do it fast so it wouldn't hurt". It can be concluded that Paula feels, sorry to hurt Tripp's mouth. She opens the duct tape fastly because she wants to start the conversation early. Then from Paula's utterance: "Tripp, I apologize. My job was manipulative and deceitful." It can be concluded that Paula regrets about what has already happened to Tripp. She has already lied to Tripp because of her job. Besides, Tripp's know that Paula dates with other guys. However, Paula doesn't have any purpose to hurt Tripp's feeling.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

From the finding and discussion above, the researcher finds that there are 9 apologizing utterances taken from 6 fragments in "Failure to Launch". The apologizing utterances are used by the movie characters to express their feelings. The feelings described are composed of expressing sorry, sympathy, regret (guilty) and condolence. Feeling sorry is purposing as showing politeness of refusing something, regretting or sorrowing over an unfortunate situation, disagreeing something which has taken away the emotional burden. Feeling sympathy is purposing as giving compassion, supporting, and understanding to someone who is going through a difficult time or experiencing loss. Feeling regret (guilty) is purposing as helping to avoid repeating mistakes and encouraging to make better decisions in the future. Feeling condolence is purposing as showing an ability to acknowledge the pain and sadness experienced which has been experienced by someone.

The "Failure to Launch" movie characters have used apologizing utterances to show their abilities in expressing sympathy and empathy to others. Besides, they

also use the apologizing to gather the other expression after the discussion or conversation ended. The movie characters do not want any misunderstanding in their topic discussion or conversation. Therefore, the apologizing utterances can create and help someone for building good relationship or friendship in any situation that involves discussion or conversation. Moreover, the apologizing utterance enables the offender to salvage a bit of moral integrity as a human being.

### **ADVANCED RESEARCH**

This research is still full of shortcomings, so this research still needs to be developed further. This research only finds problems that arise in the dialog of the movie "Failure to Launch". The movie has some data that can still be used as an object of research using another point of view. Furthermore, the movie has a comedy genre that is able to enlighten the research process.

The researcher hopes that this research can acknowledge the readers about apologizing expression and utterance. Those expression and utterance are belonging to illocutionary acts in pragmatic field. The researcher hopes that the readers understand with the apologizing function and intention in every conversation to reduce misunderstanding between others. It is hoped that this study can serve as a point of reference for future research at a higher level carried out by other researchers.

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