
CRIME INVESTIGATION IN THE NOVEL “AND THEN WERE NONE” BY AGATHA CHRISTIE (FORENSIC LINGUISTIC STUDIES)

Faizatul Widad, Moh. Zawawi

Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
widadfaizatul34@gmail.com, zawawi@bsa.uin-malang.ac.id

Published: Juni/2023

How to cite:

Widad, F., & Zawawi, M. (2023). Crime Investigation in the Novel “And Then Were None” By Agatha Christie (Forensic Linguistic Studies). *IJFL (International Journal of Forensic Linguistic)*, Vol.4(1). Doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.55637/ijfl.4.1.6665.147-154>

Abstract- The murder case in the novel "And Then Were None" left language evidence, such as an invitation letter for the victim and a confession letter. The Research aimed to discover the ways and the form of crime through a forensic linguistic approach. The type of this Research is qualitative–descriptive. The primary data source used the novel "And Then Were None" by Agatha Christie, while the secondary data sources used articles on forensic linguistics that have been published. Data collection techniques in this Research used reading techniques and note-taking techniques. The different lingual equivalent method was used to analyze the data. Analyzing data on invitation letters shows that utterances contain two perlocutionary speech acts, one illocutionary speech act, and one locutionary speech act. Meanwhile, Research on acknowledgment letters produced five utterances containing assertive speech acts in the "declaring" category and one directive speech act in the "ordering" category. Based on analyzing data, the way of the crime of murder is by inviting the victim to come to an island, while the form of the crime of murder is premeditated murder.

Keywords: Forensic Linguistic, Murder, Speech Act.

I. INTRODUCTION

A novel is a description of imaginary ideas or actual incidents that happened in society. Such as crime incidents that occurred in social life and became to be written by the novel author. "And Then Were None" novel by Agatha Christie was translated into Indonesian, and *Gramedia Pustaka* also published it in 2021. The book tells the story about ten people who are invited by someone they don't know. Because of that invitation, death was waiting for them. The murderer left language evidence like invitation letters for the victims and also confession letters in the novel (Christie, 2021).

From the language evidence, the researcher analyzed this novel using forensic linguistic studies to find out the ways and forms of crimes that the murderer committed. Forensic linguistics is a science from several applied linguistics that is used to determine the profile of criminal offenders, the manner of criminal acts, and the type or form of criminal acts based on the language evidence left by the murderer (Mahsun, 2018). Olsson In (Munirah & Apriyanto, 2020) also said that forensic linguistics also applied to study case investigation.

Forensic linguistic needs linguistic theories like pragmatics, semiotics, psycholinguistics, phonology, etc., to analyze language pieces of evidence (McMenamin, 2002). Shuy told in his book about Arthur Jones's case, who has an assassination plan against his wife and the court judge. Shuy needs Linguistic theories like semantics and phonology to analyze this case, based on audio evidence by Arthur Jones about his assassination plan. Shuy plans his research objectives to uncover the criminal intent and form of the crime (Shuy, 2014)

The Researcher found a study that discusses how to analyze forensic linguistics in criminal cases contained in the Sherlock Holmes novel, namely in *The Man With The Twisted Lips* (1981), *The Boscombe Valley Mystery*, and *A Scandal In Bohemia* (1981) (Boucher & Perkins, 2020). This study concluded that linguistic theory is essential in investigating crime cases with linguistic evidence.

Likewise, for social media crimes, the speech "Bau Ikan Asin" contradicts the ITE Law article 45, paragraph 1. The

defamation law articles 310 and 311 of the Criminal Code. Semantically, the speech "Bau Ikan Asin" has a bad connotation, and From a pragmatic point of view, the address "Bau Ikan Asin" is not suitable to be associated with women (Casim et al., 2019).

In another case, the research that discussed crime in an audio recording is the original or fake audio recording belonging to Gatot Nurmantyo (Saputro, 2019). And the research aimed to describe the results of the analysis of linguistic expressions in memes that may contain cybercrime (Sugiarto & Quratulaini, 2020). Nurdianto and Resticka (2021) said that swear words in terms of semantic and pragmatic analysis. This research indicated that using obscene words has a negative connotation that leads to insults and defamation.

Another research aimed to find out the types of forbidden words used in the internet community and their use that is against the law. This research concluded that the internet community on social media uses prohibited words. This can potentially conflict with the ITE and Criminal Code defamation laws (Rahman, 2019).

Handayani wrote a study that aimed to describe the category of fake news or hoax cases and to analyze the linguistic characteristics of language crime cases, namely "fake news" about the COVID-19 pandemic. This research used the semantic and syntax theory methodology and Halliday's context. The study concluded that there are two categories of fake news status about the COVID-19 pandemic: misleading information and misinformation. Analysis of linguistic characteristics found that there is the use of vocabulary and sentence forms in the text and context analysis on facts and the principal object (Handayani et al., 2021).

Based on several forensic linguistic research above, forensic linguistic investigation requires other linguistic theories to analyze crimes that contain linguistic evidence. Therefore, the researcher used pragmatic theory, namely the theory of speech acts. Speech acts are theories used to express the meaning and function of language according to the context in which the speaker is speaking (Saifudin, 2018). There are also some opinions that these speeches act can

perform an action and give information (Ali, 2020)

The speech acts included locutions, illocutions, perlocutions, assertive, and directive speech acts. Locutionary is articulating speech (language) that is informative or informational and has a specific meaning and purpose. Illocutionary is a speech act that contains an address to the action. What is meant can take various forms, whether it is said implicitly or explicitly.

The perlocutionary is speech that affects the interlocutor. With this effect, make the other person do something from the impact it gets. The result in question is from the speech spoken by the speaker. Assertive speech acts are speeches that speakers associate with reality, and directive speech acts are speeches that contain orders and requests (Magdy Baki, 2022).

The researcher used this theory to reveal the ways of crimes and to reveal the form of a murder committed by the murderer in the novel "Lalu Semuanya Lenyap" (And Then Were None)" by Agatha Christie.

II. METHODS

Type of research in this research used qualitative-descriptive analysis. The reason is that the researcher wants to describe in detail the ways and the form of murder crimes committed by the murderer in the novel "Lalu Semuanya Lenyap (And Then Were None)" by Agatha Christie so that the researcher can predict whether the crime included in criminal or civil law. Data collection techniques in this research used reading techniques and note-taking techniques. The extra lingual equivalent method was used to analyze the data by connecting the sentence utterances in the letter with the context outside the sentence. The researcher used the linguistics approach in this research, namely the forensic linguistic approach and speech acts. The three approaches can assist the researcher in analyzing the formulation of the problem so that it can produce detailed and accurate research results.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The way of crime committed by the murderer

The murderer left language evidence, such as some invitation letters to the victims in the novel. It is analyzed by speech act theory to find the way of crime committed by the murderer. It is illustrated in the following table:

Table 1. Speech Act in Letter Invitation to Mr. Wargrave

Speech Act	Category
Perlocutionary	Inviting
Locutionary	Cheating

In table 1, the researcher found perlocutionary utterances containing the context of "inviting" in the invitation letter from the murderer addressed to Mr. Wargrave. The explanation is as follows:

Perlocutionary

"...harus datang ke Pulau Prajurit...tempat yang sangat menarik..." (Christie, 2021).

"...must come to Warrior Island...the most enchanting place..."

Context: An appeal from the author of the letter to Mr. Wargrave to come to warrior island.

In this statement, the writer of the letter or the murderer invited the victim to come to an island called Warrior Island. The context of "inviting" can be proven in the sentence "must come to Warrior Island..." The sentence contains the context of "inviting" Wargrave to come to warrior island. As for the sentence "the most enchanting place" is an additional sentence to describe warrior island as a very beautiful and interesting island. The depiction of the island as a beautiful and attractive island was intended for Hakim Wargrave to accept the invitation and then come to the warrior island.

These utterances contain perlocutionary speech acts, because they can influence the reader to do what is asked or ordered. As Austin said that perlocutionary speech is a speech that can have an effect on the speech partner (Ekor & Gunn, 2022). The effect Judge Wargrave got from the story contained in the letter was in the form of his arrival on the island of warriors.

Locutionary

"..menjemputmu di Oakbridge..." (Christie, 2021)

"...meet you at in Oakbridge..."

Context: Constance Culmington hinted to judge Wargrave that he would pick him up at Oakbridge station

In that story, the writer of the letter, Constane Culmington, informed him that if Judge Wargrave came to accept his invitation, he would pick him up at Oakbridge station. This can be proven in sentences “pick you up” The sentence provides information that the writer will pick him up at a station called Oakbridge.

Informative utterances are locutionary speech acts. Namely utterances that contain informative messages to the speech partners. The information he wanted to convey was that the letter writer would pick him up at Oakbridge station when Judge Wargrave was coming to Soldier Island.

After arriving at Oakbridge station, the mailman had not come to collect him. These utterances can be said to be deceptive locutionary speech acts when compared with the following data:

“Si sopir berkata kepada Hakim Wargrave sebagai orang tertua dalam kelompok itu, Disini ada dua taksi, Sir” (Christie, 2021)

"The driver said to Judge Wargrave, the oldest man in the group, "There are two cabs here, sir."

Context: The taxi driver informs them that only two cars can take them to Warrior Island.

The utterance contains the meaning of locutionary. That is, the taxi driver provides information that two cars will take them to warrior island. Compared with the data in the letter, the data is a deceptive locutionary utterance because the letter says that he will pick her up at Oakbridge station. But when Judge Wargrave arrived, it turned out that the taxi driver would take him to the soldiers' island.

These utterances contain locutionary speech acts because these utterances contain information for the reader. As Austin said, locutions have information (Ekoro & Gunn, 2022). The information that reached Judge Wargrave was that the mailman would pick him up at the station, but in reality, the taxi driver had picked him up to be taken to Soldier Island.

Table 2. Speech Acts in Letter invitation to Mrs. Vera Claythorne

Speech Act	Category
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Locutionary	Cheating
Illocutionary	Persuading

In table 2, the researcher found locutionary utterances containing the context of "deceiving" and illocutionary having the context of "persuading" in the invitation letter addressed to Vera Claythorne. The explanation is as follows:

Locutionary

“Saya bersedia memberikan gaji seperti yang anda minta” (Christie, 2021)

"I am willing to give salary as you ask."

Context: Una Nancy Owen persuaded Vera Claythorne to come to Warrior Island by promising her a job to be her private secretary.

The utterance is a locutionary speech act because it contains a context in the form of an informative message. It could be proven in the sentence, “I am willing to give salary as you ask.” The meaning of this sentence is the sender of the letter, Una Nancy Owen, provided information that she would give a job to Vera Claythorne if she came to warrior island to fulfill his invitation. However, locutionary speech can contain a misleading context compared with new data. This context is illustrated in the following data:

“Saya sekretaris Mrs. Owen yang baru. Saya rasa Anda mengetahui hal ini”

Mrs. Rogers menjawab,

“Tidak, Miss, saya tidak tahu apa-apa. Hanya sebuah daftar tamu dan kamar-kamar yang mereka tempati.” (Christie, 2021)

"I am the new secretary Mrs. Owen. I think you know this."

Mrs. Rogers answered,

"No, Miss, I don't know anything. Just a list of guests and the rooms they occupy."

Context: Mrs. Rogers did not know that Una Nancy Owen would make Vera Claythorne secretary because Owen had never left her a message. In the end, Vera Claythorne found no job at all.

This utterance describes a locutionary tale because it contains an

informative statement that it turns out that Vera Claythorne did not get the job that had been promised by Mrs. Owen before. It can be proven in the sentence by Mrs. Rogers, "No, Miss, I don't know anything." Mrs. Rogers provided information that she knew nothing about the secretarial work promised by Mrs. Owen to Vera Claythorne. Plus, it turns out that Mrs. Rogers didn't know Mrs. Owen personally ordered him to manage his guests who came to warrior island. It was from then on that Vera Claythorne felt something strange was happening.

These utterances contain locutionary speech acts because they contain information for the reader. As Austin said, locutionary speech is an utterance that states something informative (Egoro & Gunn, 2022). The information that reached Vera Claythorne from this remark was that Mr. Rogers knew nothing about the assignment or position that Una Nancy Owen had promised him.

Illocutionary

"Saya harap Anda dapat mulai bekerja pada tanggal 8 Agustus" (Christie, 2021)

"I hope you can start work on August 8th"

Context: Una Nancy Owen would pay her for the work Vera Claythorne would later do.

Mrs. Owen used these words to persuade Vera to come to fulfill her invitation to the island of warriors. Vera was offered a job as a secretary by Mrs. Owen and was able to start work on August 8th. The utterance is an illocutionary speech act. It is an illocutionary speech act because the phrase is used to do something. This can be proven from the sentence "Saya harap Anda dapat mulai bekerja". The meaning of the sentence is for Vera to do the work upon arrival at warrior island. As illocutionary means, utterances used to perform an action (Egoro & Gunn, 2022).

Table 3. Speech Act in Letter invitation to Miss Brent

Speech Act	Category
Perlocutionary	Persuading

In table 3, the researcher found perlocutionary utterances containing the context of "persuade" in the invitation letter addressed to Miss Brent. The explanation is as follows:

Perlocutionary

"Saya akan senang apabila Anda dapat melewati liburan musim panas ini di pulau prajurit-dengan gratis-sebagai tamu saya" (Christie, 2021)

"I'd love it if you could spend this summer on Warrior Island for free as my guest."

Context: Una Nancy Owen would love it if Miss Brent came to Soldier Island to enjoy a free summer vacation

Mrs. Owen used the above expression in her invitation letter addressed to Miss Brent. Those words conveyed the message that Mrs. Owen would be happy if Miss Brent could come to fulfill her invitation to Soldiers' Island by persuading her that Miss Brent could enjoy a free vacation on Soldiers' Island during the summer.

The utterance is a perlocutionary speech act in the category of persuading. It is included in the perlocutionary category because these utterances can influence the speech partner (Miss Brent) to do what the speaker (Mrs. Owen) asks to persuade Miss Brent to come to the soldier's island. As Austin said, perlocutionary speech influences one to do something (Egoro & Gunn, 2022). While the context of "persuading" can be proven in sentences like "I'd love it if you could spend this summer on Warrior Island for free as my guest." In that sentence, Mrs. Owen includes the word "gratis" to induce Miss Brent to come to Soldiers' Island and spend her summer vacation there for free.

Based on the results of the speech act analysis above, the researcher concludes that the method of crime committed by the murderer is by inviting, persuading, and deceiving. The murderer invited the victims to the island of warriors by sending letters. The letter contains sentences containing the context of deceiving and persuading. The existing data is persuasive by offering free jobs and vacations on the island. And as for deception, the data above illustrates the condition of the soldiers' island is not following what the murderer promised through the letter he sent.

The Form of The Murder Crime

In the novel, the killer leaves a trail of language evidence in the form of a confessed letter after successfully killing nine of his victims. The letter can be

analyzed using speech act theory to find out the context of the utterance so that it can be seen how the murderer committed the form of murder. It is illustrated in the following table:

Table 1. Speech Act in the murderer's confession letter

Speech Act	Category
Assertive speech acts	Declaring
Directive speech acts	Ordering

In table 1, the researcher found assertive speech acts containing the context of "declaring" and directive speech acts having the context of "ordering" in the self-confession letter written by the murderer. The researcher found five data containing assertive speech acts and one data containing directive speech acts. The explanation is as follows:

Assertive speech acts

“ Aku juga senang menciptakan cara-cara yang amat halus untuk melakukan pembunuhan” (Christie, 2021)

“I also enjoy inventing very subtle ways to commit murder.”

Context: Murderers have fun creating ways to commit crimes

In these remarks, the murderer stated that he was pleased when devising subtle ways to commit crimes, including murder. The murderer often enjoys detective stories, thus making it very easy for him to strategize the crimes he will save.

The utterance above is an assertive speech act. That is a speech intended to state something informative. It can be proven in the sentence, “I also enjoy inventing very subtle ways to commit murder,” which contains the context stating that it is straightforward for the murderer to compile and create methods that will be carried out in the process of killing. It is his first step to make a plot killing, where even the timing is well prepared.

This utterance follows what Searle said in (Tursunovich, 2022) Assertive speech acts state what the speaker says. The murderer stated in the letter that he had prepared a method to kill the victims.

“Aku ingin membunuh...Ya, aku ingin membunuh..” (Christie, 2021)
 “I want to kill... Yes, I want to kill”

Context: The murderer had a very great desire to commit murder

In these remarks, the murderer expressed his desire to commit murder and wanted to commit murder. He made his passion after a brief conversation with a doctor who said that murders often go untouched by the law. That's when the intention and determination began to get stronger to commit an unusual murder but a reasonably large-scale killing.

The utterance above is an assertive speech act. That is speech that aims to provide understanding to the speech partner in the form of information to be conveyed. In these words, the murderer seemed to want to provide information that he had committed an unusual murder. The context is illustrated in the sentence "I want to kill," which in the letter is not only stated and written once but two or many times.

Judging from the existing context, the murders that will be carried out are increasingly planned. The plan begins by gathering victims secretly. It is illustrated in the following sentences:

“Diam-diam, Aku mulai mengumpulkan korban” (Christie, 2021)

“Quietly, I started collecting victims”

Context: The murderer began to explain that the initial plan for the murder began by gathering victims secretly.

In these words, the murderer began his plan by gathering victims to be killed secretly. The victims he will destroy are nine people involved in criminal cases but have never been touched by the law. Therefore, the murderer who served as a judge wanted to gather them in a place and then get punishment according to the crimes they had committed.

The utterance above is an assertive speech act. That is a speech that aims to provide information to the speech partner. In this utterance, the offender offers information from the confession letter he wrote to the reader. He noted that in carrying out his murder plan, he devised a plan to gather his victims secretly by seeking information from the many crime cases committed by potential victims. It is proven in the sentence “Quietly, I started collecting victims,” which is in the acknowledgment letter.

This utterance follows what Searle (Tursunovich, 2022) said in that assertive speech acts state what the speaker says. The

murderer stated in the letter that he was looking for the victims in secret so that his crime would be successful.

“Dengan menyusun informasi yang ku dapatkan tentang calon-calon korbanku, Aku bisa membuat umpan yang cocok untuk masing-masing orang”. (Christie, 2021)

“By collating the information I got about my potential victims, I could create a suitable bait for each”

Context: the murderer provided information that the cases collected helped him deliver suitable bait for each victim.

In this speech, the murderer stated that the cases he collected from each victim helped him create suitable bait for each victim. Because they already knew each victim's life and crime background, the murderers prepared a plan carefully and accordingly. None of his plans failed. All the victims arrive on time at warrior island, where the murderer will start his killing spree.

The utterance above is an assertive speech act. Because these utterances contain informative messages that are used to inform the reader that the murderer collected the cases in the victim's life, it has a tremendous impact on strategizing how the murderer will carry out the murder. It is proven in the sentence "I could create a suitable bait for each one," which is in the acknowledgment letter.

This utterance follows what Searle said in (Tursunovich, 2022) that assertive speech acts state what the speaker says. The murderer stated in the letter that the crime victim had previously committed.

“Urutan kematian yang akan terjadi di pulau itu telah ku pikirkan baik-baik” (Christie, 2021)

“I had carefully thought out the sequence of deaths on the island”

Context: The culprit's plan is getting matured and has sequenced the imminent death of Warrior Island.

In this statement, the murderer stated that he had thought carefully about the order of death for the victims. The order is adjusted to the level of mistakes that the victims have made. Those with minor faults will be killed by the murderer first, so they don't have to feel the mental stress that they

will be killed with a very sadistic criminal background.

The utterance above is an assertive speech act, namely a statement that contains the context of "declaring." The context of "stating" aims to provide information about something. Included in the sentence, the murderer wanted to inform the stages of the murder plan he would carry out by killing victims with a mild criminal background. It proves that this murder was not random but a truly well-planned one. This statement is illustrated in the sentence, "I had carefully thought out the sequence of deaths on the island," which is contained in the acknowledgment letter.

This utterance follows what Searle said in (Tursunovich, 2022), that assertive speech acts state what the speaker says. The murderer stated in the letter that he had arranged a murder process that would be carried out on the victim on the island.

Directive speech acts

“Untuk mendapatkan pulau ini, dengan mudah aku menggunakan Morris untuk menutupi jejakku” (Christie, 2021)

"To get to this island, I easily use Morris to cover my tracks."

Context: The murderer ordered Morris to cover up the traces of the murderer regarding the purchase of a soldier's island that would be used as a place to kill.

In this speech, the murderer ordered Morris to cover his tracks in purchasing the soldier's island. The murderer called Morris because Morris was reliable, so the plan that the murderer would carry out could run smoothly without anyone knowing.

The utterance is a directive speech act. A directive speech act is a speech act that contains the context of "ordering." The statement above is a directive speech act because it includes the context. The murderer ordered Morris to cover his tracks and profile himself as a buyer from warrior island so that his assassination plan went smoothly.

Cases of the murder of this kind are acts of criminal law. Criminal law is always related to crime. It conducts a threat, something dangerous, or something related to endangering safety (Anantatur & Asfar, 2021). According to Iriyanto in (Hadi & Fajar, 2022), the crime of murder has two forms, namely, the crime of murder and the corruption of premeditated murder. These two things are different. The difference lies

in the execution time. Killing is made directly when the intention arises. While premeditated murder is not carried out after the choice appears, it is still suspended by various steps. These steps include how the murderer will carry out the murder, and the time interval for the killing, to anticipate if the killing fails (Yanri, 2017).

If this is related to the murder case committed by Judge Wargrave in the murder case contained in the novel, then the murder is included as a premeditated murder. We can know this from some of the statements above, which contain Judge Wargrave's statement regarding his confession to the murder he committed. From the results of the analysis above, the utterances uttered by Judge Wargrave in the letter explain how the murders were carried out with various plans—starting from looking for victims and collecting victims on one island until the murder was carried out with a well-thought-out plan.

IV. CONCLUSION

The murderer used several methods to commit the murder. Based on the analysis of the speech acts in the invitation letter addressed to the victim, the methods used by the murderer are inviting, Cheating, and persuading the victim to come to warrior island. The form of murder, in this case, is premeditated murder. The murderer coherently planned the murder. It is based on the analysis of speech acts in the murderer's self-confession letter, which describes the sequence of the murder plan.

The murder described in the novel "Dan Semua Telah Lenyap" is a case that left language evidence in the form of an invitation letter and a confession letter from the murderer. These two letters can contribute to discovering the murderer's ways and the form of the murder so that this can be seen from the legal realm.

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