



CONSTRUCTING CHARACTER AND NARRATIVE STRUCTURE THROUGH ILLOCUTIONARY SPEECH ACTS: A PRAGMATIC STUDY OF MUḤAMMAD FATHĪ ‘ABD AL-‘ĀL'S *AQDĀM ‘ALĀ JISR AL-SHAWK*

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This study examines the functions of illocutionary speech acts employed by the main character, Na‘īm, in the drama script *Aqdām ‘alā Jisr al-Shawk* by Muḥammad Fathī ‘Abd al-‘Āl. This study is significant because utterances in drama not only convey meaning but also represent communicative actions that shape characterization and plot development. The study employed a qualitative approach using a descriptive method. The data consisted of the main character's utterances, which were collected through non-participant observation and analyzed using John Searle's theory of illocutionary speech acts through processes of classification and interpretation. The findings revealed 20 illocutionary speech act functions encompassing representative, expressive, directive, commissive, and declarative categories. Among these, the representative function was the most dominant, particularly the function of stating, which occurred 17 times. This predominance indicates that Na‘īm is constructed as the central character who plays a crucial role in conveying ideas, expressing attitudes, and driving dramatic conflict through speech acts. The findings further demonstrate that illocutionary functions not only shape the dynamics of communication among characters but also contribute to character construction and the narrative structure of the drama. This study enriches literary pragmatics by extending the application of illocutionary speech act theory to modern Arabic drama and provides an analytical foundation for future studies on characterization, dramatic discourse, and communicative meaning in Arabic literary texts.

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INTRODUCTION

Drama is a literary genre in which the story is primarily constructed through dialogue among characters. Unlike narrative literary works, which are predominantly developed through the author's narration, drama presents its plot and interpersonal relationships through spoken interactions (Hairunnisa & Devi, 2020; Wahono et al., 2025). Consequently, language in drama serves not only to convey information but also to represent characters' thoughts, emotions, and communicative actions (Nugraheni et al., 2024). One modern Arabic drama that exemplifies these characteristics is *Aqdām 'alā Jisr al-Shawk* by Muḥammad Fathī 'Abd al-'Āl. The play portrays a range of conflicts through intensive dialogue among its characters. These interactions not only drive the development of the plot but also reflect various communicative intentions underlying each utterance. Such utterances, through which speakers perform particular actions, are referred to as illocutionary speech acts (Searle, 1969). Among the characters, Na'im occupies a central role, as much of the narrative development is shaped by his utterances and interactions with others. His utterances exhibit various illocutionary functions that warrant scholarly investigation because they demonstrate how language is used to express ideas, convey emotions, influence interlocutors, and construct social relationships within the dramatic narrative. Therefore, this play provides an appropriate corpus for speech act analysis from the perspective of Searle's theory, particularly illocutionary speech acts (Searle, 1969).

According to (Searle, 1969), an illocutionary speech act is an action performed by a speaker through a particular utterance, such as ordering, requesting, advising, threatening, praising, or persuading. He classifies illocutionary speech acts into five categories: representatives (or assertives), directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. Representative or assertive speech acts commit the speaker to the truth of a proposition, such as stating facts or making claims (Sari Kencana, 2025). Directive speech acts are intended to get the hearer to perform a particular action in accordance with the speaker's intention (Syafitri, 2019). Expressive speech acts convey the speaker's psychological state or attitude, whereas declarative speech acts bring about changes in an institutional or social reality by establishing a correspondence between the propositional content and the external world. Searle's classification is regarded as comprehensive because it encompasses a wide range of illocutionary functions occurring in human communication. Therefore, Searle's theory of illocutionary speech acts serves as the theoretical framework of this study to identify and analyze the types and functions of illocutionary speech acts found in the selected drama script.

The study of illocutionary speech acts is important because the meaning of an utterance is determined not only by its linguistic structure but also by the context, purpose, and speaker's intention in producing the utterance (Saifudin, 2019). Research on illocutionary speech acts has been conducted across various contexts, including everyday conversations, films, social media, and literary works (Hastuti et al., 2021). Previous study by (Utomo, 2022) investigated directive speech acts in Arabic drama, focusing on their forms and functions. Izzuddin (2021) also examined illocutionary speech acts in *al-Bāb*, a drama script by Ghassan Kanafani, and identified five categories of illocutionary speech acts: representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. Similar findings were reported by (Ahmad & Herdiana, 2022) in their analysis of *Mega-Mega* by Arifin C. Noer. In addition, Sirait (2022) analyzed expressive and directive speech acts in the Korean drama *Geu Hae Urineun* (*Our Beloved Summer*). From the perspective of Arabic literature, Effendi et al. (2025) argued that Arabic literary

works possess rich linguistic and social dimensions that can be explored through various linguistic approaches.

Based on previous studies, research on illocutionary speech acts in modern Arabic drama, particularly *Aqdām ‘alā Jisr al-Shawk* by Muḥammad Fathī ‘Abd al-‘Āl, remains limited, making the present study both necessary and relevant. Moreover, most previous studies have focused on spoken discourse rather than modern Arabic drama scripts as objects of pragmatic analysis (Karundeng, 2021). Yet, drama scripts are characterized by a high density of dialogue that embodies diverse illocutionary functions through interactions among characters. Therefore, drama scripts constitute a relevant object for identifying and analyzing the forms and functions of illocutionary speech acts (Hidayah & Oktavia, 2019). Furthermore, the use of Modern Standard Arabic in drama scripts produces systematically structured discourse that conforms to the linguistic conventions of Arabic, thereby allowing various types of illocutionary speech acts to be realized and examined from a pragmatic perspective.

Building on its novelty, the modern Arabic play *Aqdām ‘alā Jisr al-Shawk* has received limited scholarly attention from a pragmatic perspective, particularly through the lens of illocutionary speech act theory. This study not only identifies the types of illocutionary speech acts employed in the play but also examines the communicative functions of the utterances used by the characters in constructing social interaction. Therefore, this research contributes to the advancement of pragmatic studies in Arabic literature and provides a valuable reference for future research in linguistics and Arabic literary studies. It also offers practical insights into a deeper understanding of utterances in dramatic texts. Each utterance produced by a character functions not merely as a means of conveying information but also as an expression of specific intentions and communicative purposes aimed at eliciting responses or actions from the interlocutor. Accordingly, this study provides readers with a more comprehensive understanding of the dramatic text by examining the meanings of the utterances, the illocutionary functions they perform, and the actions expected by the speaker through those utterances.

METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative methods to describe the forms and functions of illocutionary speech acts in the play *Aqdām ‘alā Jisr al-Shawk* by Muḥammad Fathī ‘Abd al-‘Āl (Moleong, 2017). A qualitative approach was chosen because the study focusing on analyzing the meaning of utterances within the context of dialogue between characters, while a descriptive method was used to systematically describe the data in accordance with the facts found in the play. The research data consists of the utterances of the main character, Na‘īm, obtained from a 65-page play script, which was accessed through Noor Library (Al-‘Āl, 2022). Data collection was conducted using the non-participatory observation (SBLC) technique as proposed by (Mahsun, 2012) technique through several stages, namely intensive reading of the play script, identification of utterances containing illocutionary acts, recording of data along with the context of the utterances, and data validation to ensure the accuracy of the analysis. The collected data were then analyzed using (Searle, 1969) theory of illocutionary speech acts and focuses on analyzing the functions of illocutionary acts expressed by the main character in the drama. The analysis emphasizes how utterances are used to convey intentions, attitudes, emotions, and communicative purposes in various contexts. The analysis process involved organizing the data, data reduction, coding, data presentation, and drawing conclusions to understand the forms and pragmatic functions employed by the main characters in the play’s dialogue.

RESULT

Based on the analysis of the utterances of the main character, Na'im, utterances in the play *Aqdām 'alā Jisr al-Shawk*, a total of 20 illocutionary speech act functions were identified across 78 utterances, as shown in the following table.

Table 1. Illocutionary Speech Act Functions in the Play Script Aqdām 'alā Jisr al-Shawk

No.	Illocutionary Speech Act Function	Frequency	Percentage
1	Stating	17	21.79%
2	Complaining	10	12.82%
3	Requesting	7	8.97%
4	Expressing Readiness	7	8.97%
5	Explaining	6	7.69%
6	Commanding	5	6.41%
7	Praying	4	5.13%
8	Reporting	3	3.85%
9	Questioning	3	3.85%
10	Congratulating	2	2.56%
11	Condemning	2	2.56%
12	Expressing Gratitude	2	2.56%
13	Advising	2	2.56%
14	Suggesting	2	2.56%
15	Concluding	1	1.28%
16	Criticizing	1	1.28%
17	Expressing Anger	1	1.28%
18	Offering	1	1.28%
19	Swearing	1	1.28%
20	Promising	1	1.28%

Due to space limitations, this article focuses on the nine most frequently occurring illocutionary speech act functions, specifically those with more than two occurrences. These functions were selected because they are the most representative of the main character's use of illocutionary speech acts and best illustrate the overall patterns identified in the analysis.

Stating Function

The stating function is a type of representative illocutionary speech act used by speakers to convey facts, information, or opinions that they believe to be true without requiring any specific action from the hearer. Among the 17 instances identified, one representative example of the stating function is presented in the following excerpt.

Excerpt 1. Stating function

نعيم : أنفقتها يا أبي جميعاً

Na'im: "I have spent it all, Father."

This excerpt represents a representative illocutionary speech act with a stating function. Na'im addresses this utterance to his father while explaining how he used the prize money he had received. In a situation that potentially creates tension, Na'im firmly states that all of the money has been spent. The utterance serves as a direct response to his father's question or pressure, as well as an explanation and a form of accountability. The stating function is evident in the phrase "أنفقتها جميعاً" (*I have spent it all*), particularly

through the verb *أَنْفَقْتُهَا* (*I have spent it*). The utterance conveys a factual statement regarding the use of the money, reflects the speaker's honesty and responsibility for his actions, and provides the information required by the hearer. Therefore, this data performs the illocutionary function of stating because it aims to communicate a fact clearly, affirm information, and provide understanding to the hearer.

Complaining Function

The complaining function belongs to the category of expressive illocutionary speech acts, which are used by speakers to express feelings of discomfort, disappointment, or frustration regarding a particular situation or the actions of the hearer. Among the 10 instances identified, one representative example of the complaining function is presented in the following excerpt.

Excerpt 2. Complaining function

نعيم : لقد ضقت ذرعاً بجبروت أبيك وتحكمه وإهاناته

Na'im: "I am fed up with your father's arrogance, tyranny, and insults."

This excerpt is classified as an expressive illocutionary speech act with the function of complaining. The utterance is addressed by Na'im to his younger sister, Sabah, in the television room when he expresses his disappointment and frustration with his father's behavior. The conversational context reflects the speaker's emotional distress resulting from his father's actions, which are perceived as oppressive and humiliating. The complaining function is evident in the utterance "لقد ضقت ذرعاً بجبروت أبيك وتحكمه وإهاناته" (*I am fed up with your father's arrogance, tyranny, and insults*). In particular, the verb *ضقت* (*I am fed up*) clearly expresses the speaker's frustration and dissatisfaction. This function is further reflected in the communicative purpose of the utterance, which is directed toward releasing emotional tension and sharing personal feelings with the hearer. Therefore, this data performs the illocutionary function of complaining because it aims to express the speaker's frustration and dissatisfaction with another person's actions.

Requesting Function

The requesting function belongs to the category of directive illocutionary speech acts, which are used by speakers to ask or expect the hearer to perform or refrain from performing a particular action for the benefit of the speaker. Among the 7 instances identified, one representative example of the requesting function is presented in the following excerpt.

Excerpt 3. Requesting Function

نعيم : يا أبي ألا تكف عن معايرتي

Na'im: "Father, won't you stop mocking me?"

This excerpt is classified as a directive illocutionary speech act with the function of requesting. The utterance is addressed by Na'im to his father when he feels continuously criticized and compared to others. The conversation takes place in an emotional situation in which Na'im experiences psychological pressure as a result of his

father's behavior. The requesting function is evident in the utterance "ألا تكف عن معايرتي" (*Won't you stop mocking me?*), which is not intended as an ordinary question but rather as a request for his father to stop the behavior. This function is further reflected in the communicative purpose of the utterance, which is directed toward persuading the hearer to discontinue a particular action. Therefore, this data performs the illocutionary function of requesting because it aims to ask the hearer to stop an action that is harmful to the speaker.

Expressing Readiness Function

The expressing readiness function belongs to the category of commissive illocutionary speech acts, which are used by speakers to express their willingness or readiness to perform a particular action in the future. Among the 7 instances identified, one representative example of the expressing readiness function is presented in the following excerpt.

Excerpt 4. Expressing Readiness Function

نعيم: نعم من باكر إن شاء الله

Na'im: "Yes, tomorrow morning, God willing"

This excerpt is classified as a commissive illocutionary speech act with the function of expressing readiness. The utterance is addressed by Na'im to Qadri after Qadri informs him that some of their father's letters are with a neighbor and that they plan to visit him the following morning. The conversational context reflects the speaker's agreement and willingness to carry out the proposed plan. The function of expressing readiness is evident in the utterance "نعم، صباح الغد إن شاء الله" (*Yes, tomorrow morning, God willing*), which reflects the speaker's preparedness to undertake a future action according to the agreed plan. This function is further reflected in the communicative purpose of the utterance, which is to confirm the speaker's willingness and ensure that the plan can be carried out. Therefore, this data performs the illocutionary function of expressing readiness because it emphasizes the speaker's commitment to a future course of action.

Explaining Function

The explaining function is a type of representative illocutionary speech act used by speakers to clarify, elaborate on, or provide information about a particular matter that they believe to be true. Among the 6 instances identified, one representative example of the explaining function is presented in the following excerpt.

Excerpt 5. Explaining Function

نعيم: يا أبي ألا تكف عن معايرت نعيم: إنه مخلوط ببذور عين العفريت أو عين الجن ابتلاع مسحوق من هذه الحبيبات التي تسحر الناظرين على سبيل التبرك مع الماء كفيلا أن تحدث أعراضاً كالدوخة والقيء والإسهال والتخثر؛ لاحتوائها على اللكتين والإبرين، فحتى لو شك أحد في الوفاة فالأعراض تتشابه مع كوفيد تماماً، وستنتهي حتماً بالوفاة.

Na'im: "That poison was mixed with the seeds of the devil's eye or the jinn's eye. Swallowing the powder of these alluring seeds with water in search of blessings is enough to cause symptoms such as dizziness, vomiting, diarrhea, and blood clotting, because the seeds contain lectin and abrin. Therefore,

even if someone doubts the cause of death, the symptoms closely resemble those of COVID-19 and will ultimately lead to death."

This excerpt is classified as a representative illocutionary speech act with the function of explaining. The utterance is addressed by Na'im to his younger sister, Sabah, when he provides a detailed explanation of the poison they intend to use to kill their father. Na'im emphasizes that the poison is highly effective, dangerous, and unlikely to arouse suspicion because its symptoms resemble those of COVID-19. The explaining function is evident in the phrase "لاحتوائها على اللكتين والإبرين" (*because the seeds contain lectin and abrin*), which provides a detailed explanation of the poison's composition and its effects. The utterance conveys factual and scientific information and reflects the speaker's effort to ensure that the hearer understands the consequences of the intended action. Therefore, this data performs the illocutionary function of explaining because it provides the hearer with a detailed understanding of the facts, processes, and consequences of a particular action, while ensuring that the speaker's intention is clearly understood.

Commanding Function

The commanding function belongs to the category of directive illocutionary speech acts, which are used by speakers to direct the hearer to perform a particular action. Among the 5 instances identified, one representative example of the commanding function is presented in the following excerpt.

Excerpt 6. Commanding Function

نعيم: اتركيني الآن لعملي.

Na'im: Leave me alone now, I have something to do

This excerpt is classified as a directive illocutionary speech act with the function of commanding. The utterance is addressed by Na'im to his younger sister, Sabah, when she attempts to disturb or interrupt his activity. The conversational context reflects the speaker's firm attitude in maintaining his personal boundaries. The commanding function is evident in the phrase "اتركيني الآن" (*Leave me alone now*), which employs a direct imperative form without any politeness markers, indicating an order for the hearer to immediately stop her action. This function is further reflected in the communicative purpose of the utterance, which is directed toward controlling the hearer's behavior in a direct and immediate manner. Therefore, this data performs the illocutionary function of commanding because it aims to instruct the hearer to stop the interruption and comply with the speaker's wishes.

Praying Function

The praying function belongs to the category of expressive illocutionary speech acts, in which speakers express their hopes or wishes through prayer. Among the 4 instances identified, one representative example of the praying function is presented in the following excerpt.

Excerpt 7. Praying Function

نعيم : حفظك الله يا أخي ووسع عليك

Na'im: "May Allah protect you, my brother, and grant you abundant sustenance."

This excerpt is classified as an expressive illocutionary speech act with the function of praying. The utterance is addressed by Na'im to his younger brother, Qadri, either during a telephone conversation or in a face-to-face interaction. The praying function is evident in the phrase "حفظك الله يا أخي ووسع عليك" (*May Allah protect you, my brother, and grant you abundant sustenance*), which expresses a sincere hope and prayer for the hearer's well-being and prosperity. This function is further reflected in the communicative purpose of the utterance, which is directed toward conveying care, concern, and goodwill to another person. Therefore, this data performs the illocutionary function of praying because it aims to express positive wishes and strengthen the social bond between the speaker and the hearer.

Reporting Function

The reporting function is a representative illocutionary speech act used by speakers to convey factual information or report events that they believe to be true. Among the 3 instances identified, one representative example of the reporting function is presented in the following excerpt.

Excerpt 8. Reporting Function

نعيم : يا أبي قدرتي يتصل للاطمئنان علينا

Na'im: "Father, Qadri called only to check on us."

This excerpt is classified as a representative illocutionary speech act with the function of reporting. The utterance is addressed by Na'im to his father to inform him that his younger brother, Qadri, is calling to ask about their condition and well-being. In this context, the utterance serves as the delivery of factual and timely information, intended to provide an update on the situation so that the hearer does not misunderstand the circumstances or become unnecessarily worried. The reporting function is evident in the factual statement "قدرتي يتصل" (*Qadri is calling*), which reflects the speaker's intention to convey relevant and accurate information. This function is further reflected in the clear and direct transmission of information regarding an ongoing event. Therefore, this data performs the illocutionary function of reporting because it communicates factual information in a direct and informative manner, enabling the hearer to understand the situation accurately.

Questioning Function

The questioning function belongs to the category of directive illocutionary speech acts, which are used by speakers to seek information from the hearer. Among the 3 instances identified, one representative example of the questioning function is presented in the following excerpt.

Excerpt 9. Questioning Function

نعيم: لماذا أنت صامتة؟

Na'im: "Why are you remaining silent?"

This excerpt is classified as a directive illocutionary speech act with the function of questioning. The utterance is addressed by Na'im to his younger sister, Sabah, during a family discussion or conflict when he notices that she remains silent and does not respond. The conversational context indicates the speaker's intention to obtain a response or opinion from the hearer. The questioning function is evident in the utterance "لماذا أنت صامتة؟" (*Why are you remaining silent?*), which directly employs the interrogative word "لماذا" (*why*) to seek an explanation for the hearer's silence. This function is further reflected in the communicative purpose of the utterance, which is to encourage the hearer to speak and express her views regarding the ongoing discussion. Therefore, this data performs the illocutionary function of questioning because it aims to obtain information and a verbal response from the hearer.

DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis, the representative function was the most dominant illocutionary speech act function in the play *Aqdām 'alā Jisr al-Shawk*, accounting for 21.79% of the data. Its predominance indicates that the characters primarily convey information, explain situations, and express their views and beliefs about the circumstances they face. This finding is consistent with the findings of (Izzuddin, 2021; Ahmad & Herdiana, 2022), who likewise identified representative speech acts as the dominant category in dramatic discourse. This predominance can be attributed to the nature of dramatic dialogue, which primarily serves to present facts, explain events, and establish each character's perspective in developing the plot and conflict. In addition, the occurrence of directive functions, such as requesting, advising, suggesting, commanding, and questioning, is aligns with the findings of (Maulani, 2019; Haris Fuadi, 2019; Utomo, 2022), who reported that directive speech acts function to influence the hearer's actions.

Similarly, expressive functions, including complaining, praying, congratulating, expressing gratitude, insulting, and criticizing, are corresponds with the findings of (Sirait, 2022), who demonstrated that expressive speech acts play an important role in conveying the characters' attitudes and emotions. Thus, the predominance of representative speech acts identified in this study provides the basis for character interactions, preceding responses in the form of requests, commands, or emotional expressions. This finding indicates that the pragmatic organization of dialogue is achieved through the interaction of multiple speech act categories rather than through the dominance of a single category. Such interaction enables the dialogue to simultaneously convey propositional meaning, negotiate interpersonal relationships, and sustain the dramatic progression of the narrative, reinforcing recent arguments that speech acts in literary discourse operate as interconnected communicative resources rather than isolated linguistic forms (Zhabotynska & Slyvka, 2020). Overall, this study indicates that illocutionary speech acts play a significant role in constructing social relationships, conflicts, and communicative goals among characters. This finding further reinforces the argument of (Effendi et al., 2025) that linguistic dimensions constitute a fundamental aspect of Arabic literary works.

The distribution of illocutionary speech act functions suggests that each category contributes differently to the construction of dramatic dialogue. Representative speech

acts primarily convey information and viewpoints, providing the communicative foundation upon which subsequent interactions are built, a pattern also observed in pragmatic analyses of literary discourse (Agni et al., 2025). Directive speech acts subsequently move the dialogue forward by encouraging responses or actions from other characters, whereas expressive speech acts reveal the emotional consequences of those interactions and intensify interpersonal conflict. This functional interplay reflects the view that speech acts are not isolated linguistic forms but interconnected communicative actions that shape meaning within discourse (Saifuddin, 2019). Such a pattern suggests that the effectiveness of dramatic dialogue depends not on the frequency of individual speech act categories, but on how these categories interact to construct coherent communicative sequences and advance the narrative (Khalaf & Iraqi, 2022). Consequently, the interaction among representative, directive, and expressive speech acts enables the dialogue to simultaneously convey information, develop conflict, and portray the characters' psychological states.

This study may indicate that Searle's Speech Act Theory continues to provide a robust analytical framework for investigating communicative meaning in literary discourse. This finding is supported by (Farcasel-Jensen, 2021), who argues that speech act analysis links linguistic forms with speakers' intentions and contextual interpretation. The findings of this study further support the research of (Hastuti et al., 2021; Haula et al., 2025) by showing that Searle's classification of illocutionary acts not only identifies the types of speech acts employed by the characters but also explains how language functions to construct characterization, interpersonal relationships, and dramatic conflict (Widiani & Jayadiningrat, 2024; Yanti et al., 2023). Rather than functioning as fixed linguistic categories, representative, directive, expressive, and commissive speech acts are realized through a variety of communicative functions, including stating, explaining, reporting, requesting, complaining, praying, and expressing readiness, thereby illustrating the flexibility of illocutionary force in dramatic discourse. This finding reinforces the argument that the interpretation of literary dialogue depends on the relationship between linguistic expression, communicative intention, and contextual meaning rather than on the literal form of individual utterances (Wijana, 2021).

This study extends the application of Searle's theory to modern Arabic drama and demonstrates its continuing relevance as an analytical framework for pragmatic studies of literary texts. Moreover, the findings contribute to the field of pragmatics by providing empirical evidence of how illocutionary speech acts function in Arabic dramatic discourse, while also enriching modern Arabic literary studies through a systematic explanation of the relationship between language, characterization, and conflict development. Studies (Al-Hindāwī & Saffah, 2019; Khalaf & Iraqi, 2022) have likewise emphasized that integrating pragmatic approaches into literary analysis offers a deeper understanding of communicative meaning and discourse construction in literary texts. Nevertheless, this study is limited to the analysis of the main character's utterances in a single drama script and focuses exclusively on illocutionary speech acts. Future research is therefore encouraged to examine multiple characters, compare different Arabic dramatic works, or integrate speech act theory with other pragmatic frameworks to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of communicative interaction in Arabic literary discourse.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study demonstrate that illocutionary speech acts play an important role in constructing communication patterns and character interactions in the play *Aqdām 'alā Jisr al-Shawk*. The dominance of representative functions indicates that

the characters, particularly Na'im, tend to use language not only to convey information but also to express beliefs, perspectives, and reflections on the conflicts they experience. In addition, the presence of expressive, directive, and commissive functions shows that the characters' utterances are closely related to emotional expression, interpersonal influence, and commitment to future actions. These findings suggest that illocutionary speech acts contribute significantly to revealing the psychological and social dimensions of the characters in Arabic drama. This study contributes to the development of pragmatic studies by providing empirical evidence of how the forms and functions of illocutionary speech acts are realized in Arabic literary discourse, particularly in drama texts. However, this study is limited to the analysis of the utterances of the main character, namely Na'im, in a single drama. Therefore, future studies are recommended to examine the utterances of all characters, compare several Arabic drama texts, or investigate other pragmatic aspects in order to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of language use in Arabic literary works.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors contributed to the conduct of this study. The first author was responsible for data collection and analysis, as well as the drafting of the article. The second and third authors provided theoretical guidance, evaluation, feedback, and suggestions to improve the content of this article. Meanwhile, the last author contributed to the translation review of this article.

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