

ABSTRACT

The study objectives to identify the types of illocutionary speech acts used by Spencer White in *Heartbreak High* season 2 (2024) and analyzes how these speech acts reflect his character development throughout the series. This study applied a qualitative method by using Searle's (1979) theory of illocutionary speech acts and Forster's (1927) concept of round character. The data consisted of fifty-four utterances produced by Spencer White across eight episodes, which contains a total of seventy-six illocutionary speech acts. The findings demonstrate that Spencer White employs four types of illocutionary speech acts: assertive, expressive, directive, and commissive, with assertive speech acts being the most dominant. The analysis also reveals that Spencer's speech acts progressively shift from expressing criticism, mockery, and self-priority perspectives to convey appreciation, responsibility, apology, and commitment to change. Even though Spencer's development includes moments of reversal, the overall pattern demonstrates a complex personality and capability of surprising the audience that fulfills Forster's (1927) concept of a round character. The conclusion of this study is illocutionary speech acts not merely reveal Spencer White's communicative intentions but also reflect his character development throughout the series. The results show that pragmatic analysis has a contribution in understanding characterization in cinematic narrative.

Keywords: pragmatics; illocutionary speech acts; character development; Spencer White; *Heartbreak High*; round character.