

The used of Speech Acts in Tarot Prophecies

ABSTRACT

Divination has been found to influence the decisions and actions of humans in one way or another (Temcharoenkit & Johnson, 2021; Suttithum, 2015; Blackmore & Seebold, 2001). The tarot cards are one of the popular divination tools used by fortunetellers to tell prophecies that can impact people's lives. Interestingly, these prophecies contain the linguistic elements called speech acts or the language that renders prophecies effectively communicable. This study, therefore, aims to investigate how speech acts are used in the 22 major arcana of the tarot prophecies, specifically those described in the book "Advance Tarot: An In-Depth Guide to Practical and Intuitive Tarot Reading" written by Paul Fenton-Smith (2021). It explores the frequency of using different types of speech acts in the prophecies and the possible reasons for using them. The researcher employs Searle's (1969) speech act theory, particularly the illocutionary, or the action of expressing the speaker/ writer's purpose which is crucial to language and communication, to analyze the tarot prophecies in the Rider Waite-Smith system created by Arthur Edward Waite and Pamela Colman Smith since 1909. The results indicate that "representative" is the most used type of speech act for describing, predicting, and

asserting. The second most frequency is "directive" for giving suggestions to the receiver. In contrast, "commissive," "expressive," and "declaration" are not found in the prophecies. This means describing the information and circumstances in the prophecies might be most related to the receiver's feelings or situations and could influence their emotions, actions, or decisions. The findings of this study are expected to inform readers about the types of speech acts used in the 22 major arcana in the tarot prophecies. In addition, since the linguistic analysis of prophecies has been limited, this research could contribute to the database of future research in this area of speech acts in prophecies.