ABSTRACT

This thesis investigates illocutionary acts performed by Oprah Winfrey in her interview with Julia Roberts and Maria Shriver. The interview with Julia Roberts was reported in *O, The Oprah Magazine* edition of December 2003, whereas the interview with Maria Shriver was reported in the June 2008 issue of the *O, The Oprah Magazine*. Since the interviews were at different times and different places, they are analyzed separately to find details about the types of illocutionary acts and the possible intended meanings in Oprah’s utterances. The finding illocutionary acts were categorized into types of including representatives, directives, expressives, commissives, and declaratives. The classifications were used to analyze data. The analysis based on context how Oprah performed the illocutionary acts, including the topics of their conversation. For different professions of the interviewees, it was found that the dominant type of illocutionary acts conducted by Oprah to both of them were different. The research finding indicates that even though it is an interview, the speaker may have intended meaning while producing utterances because it is involved in spoken language.

Keywords: speech acts, illocutionary acts, interviews, actress, politician