

## **DIRECTIVES SPEECH ACT IN THE UTTERANCES OF CHARACTERS IN THE MOVIE ENTITLED *WISH DRAGON***

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### ***Abstract***

*The research is entitled “Directives Speech Act in The Utterances of Characters in The Movie Entitled Wish Dragon” The research aimed to find out and classify the types of directive speech acts used by the characters in the movie of Wish Dragon and to explain the functions of each type of directive speech act based on the contexts. The method applied was the descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research were in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that contain directive speech acts. The technique of collecting data was conducted by collecting the data from the Wish Dragon movie, classifying types of directives speech act, and the last, describing the function of each type of directive speech act. Furthermore, the technique of data analysis was based on Kreidler's (1998) classification of directive speech acts. The types are commands, requests, and suggestions. The next step was explaining the functions of each type of directive speech acts based on the pragmatic contexts. There were three types of directives speech acts used by the characters in the movie of Wish Dragon, such as command, request, and suggestion. The command functioned to demand, to direct, to order, and to forbid. The request functioned to ask, to beseech, and to entreat. The suggestion functioned to recommend, to advise, to counsel, to caution, and to warn. The most dominant type of directive speech act used by the characters was the directive speech act command. It could be influenced by the social status between one and another character. Some character who conveyed the command has higher social status or authority.*

**Keywords:** Pragmatic, speech act, directive speech act, directive function

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

One of the fundamental components of human interaction is language. Language is portrayed as a tool to communicate feelings, desires, and interactions. According to Qamar & Djanggih (2017), language is words that are used as a tool for the human to assert or depict willing, feelings, thought, experiences, especially in the relationship with another human. In addition, Chaer (2012) also described the detail of language in the form of system, symbol, sound, arbitrary, meaningful, conventional, unique, universal, productive, variety, dynamic, humanity, used as a social interaction tool, and functioned as the speaker's identity. This proves that language as a communication or interaction tool has a crucial role in human life as a social being. Humans must have at least one language that can be understood by others to ensure that each individual can deliver messages effectively. Discussing the language in scientific study is termed linguistics. It is concerned with the analysis of linguistic features, one of which is the study of meaning. In linguistics, semantics and pragmatics are two branches of the study of meaning.

They each have a different perspective. Semantics, in general, is the study of meaning. Pragmatics, on the other hand, is the study of meaning that deals with context and situation. Furthermore, pragmatics is the study of the meaning of utterances. Pragmatics was concerned with the meaning conveyed by the speaker to the hearer. Then, to express the utterances, people are concerned not only with grammatical structures and words but also with performances of all those utterances. Speech acts are actions performed through utterances that are commonly defined with more specific labels such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise, or request. The action of producing an utterance includes three related speech acts: locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act (Yule 1996). Speech acts are classified into five types of general functions performed: declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives (Yule 1996). In conclusion, a speech act is an utterance that contains a meaning or intention spoken by the speaker for the hearer to take action or to do something. The speech act is also used to express the speaker's emotions, feelings, and thoughts. A directive is a speech act in which the speaker attempts to persuade the hearer or partner to perform an act or do something (or not to do something), implying that they do what the speaker desires or wants. According to Kreidler (1998), three types of directive utterances are commands, requests, and suggestions. A command is only effective if the speaker has some level of control over the addressee's actions. The functions are to charge, to direct, to order, to demand (positive), and to forbid (negative). A request expresses the speaker's desire for the addressee to do or refrain from doing something. The functions are to ask, to beseech, and to entreat. Suggestions are assertions we make to other people to express our thoughts on what they should or should not do. The functions are to advise, to counsel, to recommend (positive) and to caution, to warn (negative). The research discussed the directives speech act utterances in the movie entitled *Wish Dragon* written by Chris Appelhans and Xiaocao Liu (dialogue writer) and directed by Chris Appelhans. The plot revolves around a determined teen Din who longs to reconnect with his childhood best friend when he meets a wish-granting dragon who demonstrates the magic of possibilities to him. The goal of the research is to provide the readers with a thorough understanding and explanation of the directive speech act. Perhaps, the research gives theoretical contribution in the field of linguistics and pragmatics. Specifically, the findings could give insights concerning the directive speech act.

Previous research has done by some researchers. It discussed various aspects of directive speech acts. Prakasa (2017) discussed the context of the situation and classified the illocutionary acts used in the *Titanic* movie. The results of this study indicated the four types of illocutionary acts found in the movie entitled *Titanic*. They were assertives, directives, commissives, and expressives. Declarations were not found since the story and the setting of the movie did not include the environment in which declarations could exist. The other study conducted by Ramayanti and Marlina (2018) described the types of speech acts produced by the characters in an animated Western movie entitled *Tangled*. The study found four illocutionary acts such as directives, representatives, expressives, and commissives. This study showed that directives were a predominant speech act. The other study described the types of directive illocutionary acts and analyzed the directive illocutionary forces used by characters in the movie entitled *The Boss Baby*. The study classified six types of directive illocutionary acts; requesting, ordering, suggesting, warning, adjuring, and forbidding (Rahmadanni 2018). To fill the research gap, This study does not only discuss and classify the types of directives speech act but also explains the

function of each type of directive speech act found in the movie entitled *Wish Dragon*. To this extent, this study contributes deeper insights into the use of directive speech acts in the movie.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is qualitative research that uses a descriptive method. The data that was collected is words, not numerals then presented in the form of a description in the results. The data was retrieved from a movie entitled *Wish Dragon* in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that contain directive speech acts. The steps to collect the data are watching and understanding the *Wish Dragon* movie, reading the movie script, collecting the data of directives speech act in the utterances of the characters in *Wish Dragon* movie, classifying types of directives speech act, and recognizing the function of each type of directive speech act. The technique which is used to analyze this matter is classified the directive speech act into several types based on Kreidler's (1998) theory. Furthermore, the functions of each type of directive speech act are explained based on the pragmatic contexts.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Types and functions of Directives Speech Act

A directive is a speech act in which the speaker attempts to persuade the hearer or partner to perform an act or do something or not to do something (Searle 1976), implying that they do what the speaker desires or wants. The following types of directive speech acts were discovered in this research: command, request, and suggesting. Each type of directive speech act was discussed in detail in the following parts. Table 1 provides a description.

TABLE 1. Types and Functions of Directive Speech Act

No.	Type	Function	Total
1	Command	Demand	11
2		Direct	21
3		Order	42
4		Forbid	12
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>86</b>
5	Request	Ask	10
6		Beseech	17
7		Entreat	6
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>33</b>
8	Suggestion	Recommend	8
9		Advice	10
10		Counsel	6
11		Caution	2
12		Warn	3
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>29</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>148</b>

TABLE 1 described the types of directive speech acts based on Kreidler's (1998) theory. There are command, request, and suggestion with twelve functions namely demand, direct, order, forbid, ask, beseech, entreat, recommend, advice, counsel, caution, and warn.

### 3.1.1 Command

A command is only effective if the speaker has some level of control over the addressee's actions (Kreidler 1998). Command directive speech act was found in the following dialogue:

Din: Hey Mom, if you could wish for anything, what would it be?

Mrs. Song: Din, why are you asking silly questions? **Eat.**

Din: Okay, but seriously, Mom,

The relationship between the participants is mom and son. The conversation took place in the Din's house while having breakfast. The conversation shows that Mrs. Song ordered Din to eat. In this case, the order is intended to force the hearer to do something. The felicitous condition was fulfilled since the speaker has a higher social status than the hearer. In the form of a positive imperative, the command directive speech act is used to order. A command can be recognized in the form "You must..", "I charge/command/direct/order/tell you to keep silence", "I demand that you (should) keep silence." or they're imperative sentences (Kreidler 1998).

### 3.1.2 Request

A request expresses the speaker's desire for the addressee to do or refrain from doing something (Kreidler 1998). To perform a request, It could be expressed such as "I appeal..", "I beg..", "I ask..", "please..", "I want.." and many more like this. The request directive speech act occurred in the following conversation:

Mr. Wang: Li Na! Aren't you supposed to be at—

Li Na: - I'm sorry, Dad. **We really need to talk.**

Mr. Wang: Of course.

Mr. Wang: I'm just on a very important call.

Li Na:- Dad. Please.

This scene is happening in Mr. Wang's office. Mr. Wang and Li Na have a relationship as a father and a daughter. Based on the dialog Li Na wanted to speak to her father about Din. This is the other example of a request. The utterance includes a request for the hearer to fulfill the speaker's desperation. The request directive speech act could be found in the utterance "Dad. We really need to talk." The request directive speech functioned to entreat because Li Na said "really need" and pled to her father to talk. It means that Li Na tries very hard to persuade his Father to talk with her. This utterance is in the form of a positive imperative. An entreat is a request made urgently and fervently to someone to do something. As a result, the entreat is reserved for emergency or urgent situations. "I really..", "Just..", "I begging.." and other expressions can be used to express entreat. Entreat appears to be similar to beseech, but what distinguishes it from the entreat is that it can be used by people of all social statuses, both low and high social statuses depending on the situation.

### 3.1.3 Suggestion

Suggestions are assertions we make to other people to express our thoughts on what they should or should not do (Kreidler 1998). To give a suggestion we could say “I advise you..”, “I challenge you to..”, “I dare you to..”, “I propose that you..”, “I suggest that you..”, “I encourage you to..”, “I would discourage you from..”, I (would) remind you to..” (Kreidler 1998). The use of the suggestion directive speech act could be seen in the conversation as follows:

Mrs. Song: But you’re older now.

Mrs. Song: And, well,

Mrs. Song: **you have to be realistic.**

Mrs. Song: Din.

Din: (go outside in rage)

It seems the participants have a serious conversation in the house. The relationship between participants is mother and child. In this situation, Mrs. Song, Din’s mother, told Din to be realistic with his condition. This utterance is intended to suggest the hearer realize the situation. The suggestion directive speech act is performed by Mrs. Song in the utterance “you have to be realistic.” The function of this suggestion directive speech act is to counsel in the form of a positive imperative. A counsel is only effective if the speaker has a position, experience, or higher social status because the assessment of the speaker must be accepted by the hearer. Furthermore, counsel frequently is used for serious and deeper conversation.

### 3.2 Discussion

The research found and classified the directive speech acts into command, request, and suggestion. Furthermore, the functions of each type of directive speech act were also discussed in this research. The most dominant type of directive speech act used by the characters was a command because the characters have different social statuses. To this extent, the speakers have the authority upon the hearers so that the contexts meet the felicitous condition of conducting a command. In other words, those who give the command must have a higher social status or power to control the hearers. On the contrary, those who receive the command must have a lower social status than the speakers. In this movie, there was a different status between one character to the other figure such as parent and child, boss and assistant, teacher and students, master and genie, also the elder to younger. It proved that command was possible to perform since the speakers have a higher level of control over the actions of the hearers. While the least used type of directive speech act was a suggestion. It is caused by the different social statuses too. According to Kreidler (1998), the felicity condition of suggestion with the speaker's assessment must be accepted by the hearer. It means that people who accept the suggestion are commonly looked at the speaker's level or ability so that people who give the suggestion must have more experience and higher social status to suggest the addressee. Moreover, the other factor is related to the topic, mostly the topics in this movie are commands.

### 4. CONCLUSION

The research focused on finding the types and functions of the directive speech acts. The types of directive speech acts found in the movie of *Wish Dragon* were classified into command, request, and suggestion. The command functioned to demand, to direct, to order, and to forbid. The request functioned to ask, to beseech, and to entreat. The suggestion functioned to recommend, to advise, to counsel, to caution, and to warn. The research identified the command

to direct as a dominant type of directive speech act used in the movie. The command was possible to perform since the characters of the movie had different social statuses. The characters who performed the command have a higher social status or authority whereas the characters who accepted the command have a lower social status. The differences of social status occurred in the conversations between mother and son, boss and assistant, teacher and students, master and genie, also the elder to younger. The research is expected to give a theoretical contribution in the field of linguistics and pragmatics. Specifically, the findings contribute insights concerning the directive speech act. For English learners, this research may help to improve their understanding of the types of directive speech acts. Perhaps, this research might inspire other researchers to conduct further research regarding speech acts and explore more types of directive speech acts from a pragmatics perspective. Furthermore, this study might encourage other researchers to conduct further research about other types of speech acts used in the movie.

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