

## DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACT IN THE HUNGER GAMES MOVIE

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### *Abstract*

*The research is titled “Directives Speech Act in The Hunger Games Movie” The research aimed to find out and classify the types of directive speech acts used in The Hunger Games Movie and explain the linguistic form 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 and sentences that contain directive speech acts. The technique of collecting data was conducted by collecting the data from The Hunger Games movie, classifying types of directive speech act, and describing the form 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 form of each type of directive speech acts based on the pragmatic contexts. The findings of this study showed that request interrogative is the most dominant type of directive used with a total number 117 utterances or 32,47% in percentage.*

**Keywords:** Pragmatic, Speech Act, Directive speech act

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In communication, every speaker will always utter speeches. Yule (2006) defines speech as actions displayed through a speech. Every speech act spoken by a speaker has meaning. It can be concluded that speech acts are pragmatic elements that involve speakers and speech partners. Searle classifies speech acts into three categories: locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Searle (1979) suggests that speech acts consist of five general classifications based on their functions or illocutionary speech acts: declarations, representatives, expressive, directives, and commissive.

Although speech act theory (Austin, 1962; Searle, 1969) was not designed to examine stretches of talk in social interaction, it provided the foundation for the analysis of social action. Austin proposed a three-way taxonomy of speech acts: (i) a locutionary act refers to the act of saying something meaningful, that is, the act of uttering a fragment or a sentence in the literal sense (referring and predicating); (ii) an illocutionary act is performed by saying something that has a conventional force such as informing, ordering, warning, complaining, requesting, or refusing; and (iii) a perlocutionary act refers to what we achieve, by saying something, such as convincing, persuading, deterring, and even, say, surprising or misleading”.

Austin's main interest was in utterances used to perform actions with words (For example “I pronounce you husband and wife”). For these actions to be accomplished, they must be executed under the appropriate conditions: (i) a conventional procedure and effect; (ii) the appropriate circumstances; (iii) the correct and complete execution of the procedure by all persons; and (iv) certain thoughts and feelings about the realization of the act on the part of persons involved (Austin: 1962). The notion of performative action is fundamental to the analysis of formal and

non-formal institutional interactions because it considers both speaker and hearer co-constructing joint actions in specific sociocultural contexts. Searle's (1976) classification of speech acts classified according to the illocutionary point, psychological state, and the direction of fit (word to world or world to word).

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.

Griffiths (2006) stated that particular words can contribute to identify the kind of speech act being performed: for example, the word *promise* may figure in speech acts of promising and *sorry* may figure in apologies. For instance, when someone says "I promise to make you regret this" is a threat rather than a promise. Or, when someone says "I am sorry to hear that" could be just a form of showing sympathy rather than expressing sincere apology.

In many situations, people use directive utterances. They express directive utterances in a variety of linguistic forms. Directive utterances can take declarative, interrogative, or imperative linguistic forms. Therefore, declarative, and interrogative forms can also be directive expressions in addition to imperative forms.

Films can help with language communication. A film is a form of communication between the maker and the audience. Through the pictures presented, the film conveyed a message to the audience. The film has a multi-function, in addition to being a form of entertainment, Film is also a communication medium to convey the author's message to audiences both explicitly and implicitly.

Therefore, this research is aimed to discuss directive speech acts used in the movie by analyzing the types and the form of directive speech acts. Previous research of directive speech acts mostly discussed the types only, but this research provides a deeper discussion about the types and the form of directive speech acts.

## **2. RESEARCH DESIGN**

This research used a descriptive qualitative method to answer the research questions. According to Creswell (2012), a central phenomenon is the key concept, idea, or process studied in qualitative research. In the qualitative description, the description needs presentations of the facts of everyday language. This research describes the data and the situation, as it is found.

The technique of data collection in this research is a documentary study. Because the data comes in the form of a document or written text. According to Denscombe (2007), emails, website pages, and home pages can all be used to retrieve papers from the internet and handle them similarly to online documents. The data that was collected is words, not numerals which will be presented in the form of a description in the results.

Data is a collection of information obtained from observation, which can be in the form of numbers, symbols, or properties. According to the *Webster New World Dictionary*, the definition of data is things known or assumed, meaning that data is known or assumed. Known means that what has happened is a fact (evidence).

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source of the data referred to in the study is the subject from which the data can be obtained and has clear information about how to take the data and how the data is processed.

The researcher chooses *The Hunger Games* movie as the ground data of the research because it contains many directive speech act utterances. The data of this research are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences that contain directive speech acts. The data was retrieved from a movie entitled *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*. The context of the data is dialogue, while *The Hunger Games* movie and the script of *Hunger Games* are the sources of data. By analyzing the data, it is possible to gain a better understanding of the directive speech act.

Moreover, the technique of data analysis is the way the researcher analyzes the data from *The Hunger Games* movie. To analyze the data, this research used content analysis as the technique of data analysis. The data were directive utterances based on the context. To analyze the data, it must go through some steps. The directive speech act would be classified into several types based on Kreidler's (1998) theory, there are commands, requests, and suggestions. The next step is explaining the form of each type of directive speech acts based on the pragmatic contexts. Next, the relation of the types and the forms are described in detail. The last step is drawing a conclusion from the analysis.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

As the result, the researcher found three types of directive speech act in *The Hunger Games* movie. The researcher also analysed the three types of directive speech based on the form of the directive speech act.

A directive is a speech act in which the speaker urges the hearer or partner to carry out an action, do something, or refrain from doing something according to Searle (1976). This implies that the hearer or partner should fulfill the speaker's wishes or desires. This study identified three different categories of directed speech acts: commands, requests, and suggestions.

**Table 1. Classification of Directive Utterances in the Hunger Games Movie**

No	Type	Form	∑ Data	Percentage
1	Command	Imperative	25	21,36%
		Declarative	31	26,50%
2	Request	Imperative	2	1,70%
		Declarative	6	5,12%
		Interrogative	38	32,47%
3	Suggestion	Imperative	1	0,85%
		Declarative	12	10,25%
		Interrogative	2	1,70%
<b>Total</b>			<b>117</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table shows the types of directive speech act found in the *Hunger Games Movie*. There are command, request, and suggestion with three forms: imperative, declarative, and interrogative. The results of the analysis showed that 117 utterances of directive speech acts are found in the movie. It consists of; 25 for Command Imperative (21,36%), 31 for Command Declarative (26,50%), 1 for Request Imperative (1,70%), 6 for Request Declarative (5,12%), 38 for Request Interrogative (32,47%), 1 for Suggestion Imperative (0,85%), 12 for Suggestion Declarative (10,25%), and 2 for Suggestion Interrogative (1,70%).

The discussion based on this research, the researcher also analyses the type and form in this study based on the contextual meaning of directive speech act in the *Hunger Games* movie. The explanation, as follows:

## 1. Command

### a. Imperative

Command directive speech act is found in the following dialogue:

(03/COM/IM)

Gale: Hey! Hey. You're okay.

Katniss: **Let go!**

Gale: You're okay. You're safe. It's okay. You're here with me.

Gale is Katniss' best friend. Gale and Katniss are out hunting in the forest. On the way hunting, they saw a group of turkeys. Katniss immediately took aim at the turkey and threw her arrows. Katniss hallucinated that she had targeted a man making her panic and scream in fear. The utterance is a command. The utterances in the dialog contain a command for the hearer to do something. The command directive speech act is seen in the utterance "Let go!" This utterance functions to demand. Demand refers to a very strong request for something that somebody needs. Demand can be conveyed with words, such as: "You must...!" "...right now!". The command directive speech act is in the form of an imperative sentence. This sentence is included in the structural variation of the imperative *let + first person pronoun*. Imperatives commonly function as commands, instructions, or orders.

### b. Declarative

Command directive speech act is found in the following dialogue:

(109/COM/DEC)

Peeta: I'm gonna go with them as a guard.

Beetee: No, no, no. **You're staying here to protect me. And the tree.**

Peeta: No, I need to go with her.

The conversation took location in the arena forest section near a big tree. Beetee is an expert in electronics and wiring. Here Peeta wants to go because he does not want to part with Katniss and gives reason to be able to go as their guard. Beetee, who has objections, forbids Peeta to go with Katniss and Johana because Beetee needs someone who can protect him as well as the big tree. The dialog contains the utterance that instructs the hearer to not go. It means forbidding the hearer not to do something or not allowing something. The command directive speech act was seen in the utterance "You're staying here to protect me. And the tree." The purpose of the command directive speech act was to forbid. Forbid expresses ordering somebody not to do

something or to not allow something. A forbidden utterance can be recognized as "I forbid you...", "Don't...", or similar things. The type of directive speech act in the conversation is command and the sentence form is declarative. In this utterance, the speaker gave a clear and simple statement and provided information on why the hearer must remain there.

## 2. Request

### a. Imperative

Request directive speech act form imperative was identified in the following dialogue: (93/REQ/IM)

Katniss: Who is that?

Peeta: A Morphling! **Help me get her!**

The conversation took location in the forest arena. At that time Katniss and Peeta were being attacked by a group of monkeys and there is Morphling who helps them get attacked by the monkey. Morphling is one of the hungry Games participants from District 6.

The utterance contains a request for the hearer to do the speaker's ask. This utterance shows that the speaker asks for help from the hearer, and the hearer acts and immediately assists the speaker. The request directive speech act could be seen in the utterance "Help me get her!" The request directive speech asked for help. Ask refers to requesting something in a normal way. To convey ask we could speak "I ask...", "I want...", and at all. This type of speech is a request. The form of the utterance is imperative because there is an exclamation point at the end of the utterance.

### b. Declarative

Request directive speech act form declarative is identified in the following dialogue: (72/REQ/DEC)

Cinna: **No waving and smiling, this time. I want you to look straight ahead as if the audience and this whole event are beneath you.**

Katniss: That should be easy.

The participants' relationship is Friends. Cinna is Katniss Everdeen's stylist. Katniss and her fellow tributes will head out with their respective partners in each district and show President Snow and the audience. Katniss and Peeta must get on the horse carriage. Before their departure, Cinna, Katniss' stylist, gives her a chip that she will use later. Here, Cinna asks Katniss to push the button when she is ready.

The conversation contains a request for the hearer to do something based on the speaker's wish. The utterance "I want you to look straight ahead as if the audience and this whole event are beneath you." represented the request directive speech act. In this dialog, Cinna wanted Katniss to do something as he wants. The request directive speech act functioned to ask because Cinna asks for something for Katniss to do. Ask can be identified in the following words such as "I ask...", "I want...", or similar things. Ask is typically conveyed by a speaker with lower social status or no authority. The form of the utterance is declarative because it has clear information at the request of the speaker to the hearer.

### c. Interrogative

Request directive speech act is found in the following dialogue:

(16/REQ/IN)

President Snow: You promised

Katniss: **Why don't you just kill me now?**

President Snow: I don't want to kill you. I want us to be friends. But if not friends, then allies.

The conversation took location in one of the rooms in Katniss' house. Here President Snow talks about their agreement with Katniss. President Snow offers Katniss as a friend, if not his friend, then President Snow's enemy. But Katniss asked President Snow to kill her, but President Snow refused.

The utterance contains a request for the hearer to do the speaker's ask. The utterance "Why don't you just kill me now?" represented the request directive speech act. In this dialogue, Katniss asks President Snow to do something as she requested. The request directive speech act serves to request something, Katniss is asking for something in a way that she wants President Snow to fulfill. The form of the utterance is interrogative because this sentence is a question and has a question mark at the end of the sentence.

### 3. Suggestion

#### a. Imperative

In this dialogue, the suggestion directive speech act could be recognized as follows:

(5/SUG/IM)

Katniss: Haymitch.

Haymitch: What are you doing?

Katniss: Cameras are gonna be here in an hour. **If you wanted to be babied, you should've asked Peeta.**

The conversation took place at Haymitch's residence. Here, Katniss visited Haymitch to get ready. However, Katniss looked at Haymitch, who was still asleep, Katniss splashes water to wake Haymitch, shocking him. Katniss suggested Haymitch be taken care of by Peeta.

This conversation is included suggestions on what the hearer wants. The utterance "If you wanted to be babied, you should've asked Peeta." is an example of a suggestion conveyed. It was a suggestion because in this case, Katniss suggested to Haymitch that he be more organized and groomed. Katniss saw Haymitch, disheveled, drunk, and sleeping at the dining table. She suggested it because Peeta and Haymitch were quite close. This utterance is in the form of an imperative because this sentence is included in the if clause + imperative sentence. The sentence pattern of an if clause depends on the purpose of the sentence such as reminder, suggestion, and imperative.

#### b. Declarative

Suggestion directive speech act was noticed in the following datum:

(103/SUG/DEC)

Katniss: They're not gonna make that same mistake again. You know and I know there's only one person walking out of here. And it's gonna be one of us.

Peeta: The Careers are still out there. **We should stick with these guys till midnight.** And if we hear a cannon, we go.

This conversation takes place in the seashore. Katniss and Peeta are discussing who will survive in this Games, as the time has come for them to fight each other in order to survive. Here, Katniss plans to go with Peeta, but Peeta does not want to and suggests that Katniss stay with their team.

The following dialogue is a suggestion directive speech. Suggestion directive speech act is shown in the utterance “We should stick with these guys till midnight.” this suggestion is made to recommend the hearer agree with the suggestion. It was a recommendation because Peeta as the speaker tells the hearer Katniss to listen to the suggestions. This utterance is in the form of a declarative because the statement has a clear opinion and contains information.

c. Interrogative

In this dialogue, the suggestion directive speech act could be recognized as follows: (111/SUG/IN)

Beetee: There are two Careers out there. I need two guards.

Peeta: Finnick can protect you just fine on his own.

Katniss: **Why can't Finnick and Johanna stay with you and Peeta and I'll take the coil?**

Beetee: You all agreed to keep me alive till midnight, correct?

The conversation took location in the forest arena near a big tree. Here, Beta and his team will carry out their plan. Beetee wants Peeta and Finnick to protect him because he is not skilled in fighting. However, Peeta objects and he wishes to accompany Katniss. Katniss suggested that only she and Peeta go, but Beetee refused.

This utterance is intended to suggest the hearer realizes the situation. The suggestion directive speech act is performed by Katniss in the utterance “Why can't Finnick and Johanna stay with you and Peeta and I'll take the coil?” The function of this suggestion directive speech act is to recommend. It was a recommendation because Katniss as the speaker tells the hearer to stay with Finnick and Johanna because she did not trust her team and did not want to part ways with Peeta. This utterance is in the form of an interrogative because the statement is in the form of a question with a suggestion and ends with a question mark.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The results obtained and discussed in this discussion refer to the problem statements. The analysis and discussion in the previous chapter lead to the following conclusions. “*The Hunger Games*” movie contains many interesting and memorable dialogues that can be categorized as directive speech acts. The research focused on finding the types and forms of directive speech acts. The types of directive speech act found in *The Hunger Games* movie were classified into command, request, and suggestion according to Kreidler's (1998) theory. The form of directive speech act found in the Hunger Games was classified into imperative, declarative, and interrogative.

Based on the data analysis, directive speech acts are frequently performed in the movie. It can be seen from the analysis in the previous section that elaborated on the use of the directive speech acts. The results of the analysis showed that 117 utterances of directive speech acts are found in the movie. Based on the findings, the directive speech acts of request in the form of interrogative which is asking are the most dominant type and form used in the movie. The least

utterance type of directive speech act found in the movies is suggestion in the form of imperative. The request was possible to perform since the characters of the movie had different social statuses. The characters who performed the request have a higher, equal, or lower social status whereas the characters who accepted the request have equal social status or lower.

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