AN ANALYSIS OF REQUEST SPEECH ACT IN *THE MAN FROM TORONTO* MOVIE

Agustinus Deni[1], Christina Maya Iriana Sari[2]

[1] Prodi Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya

deniagustinus991@gmail.com

[2] Prodi Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya

iriana.sari@ukwms.ac.id

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the strategies and functions of request speech acts used in the movie entitled The Man From Toronto. A request speech act is a directive speech act whose purpose is to instruct the listener to do something. This study used a descriptive qualitative method. All data in this study were taken from conversations between characters that contained speech acts in the form of requests and transcribed into text form. Then, the collected data is classified based on the request strategy and functions. Based on the results of the study, there were seven out of eight request strategies in this study. The performative request strategy was not found in this study. The seven strategies found in this research are hints (26 data), abilities/willingness/permissions (6 data), suggestory formulae (5 data), wishes (4 data), desires/needs (6 data), obligation statements (4 data), and imperatives (25 data). The most dominant strategy of request is hints strategy. Hints are needed because there are differences in social status including power and distance among the characters in the movie. The lack of use of the wishes strategy and statement of obligation is caused by the requester who prefers to use the imperative strategy where it is considered very easy and the request will be more easily understood by the listener. The four functions of request found in this research are request for information, request for action, request for goods, and request for permissions. The most dominant function is the request for action that is conducted by the characters whose social status is higher than the addressee.

Keywords: Speech act, Request, Request Strategies, Request Functions, Movie

INTRODUCTION

The study of pragmatics focuses on how language users match appropriate contexts for sentences. The study of deixis, implicatures, presuppositions, speech acts, and some facets of discourse structure are known as pragmatics (Levinson, 1983). The study of speech acts is one of the studies that is widely used in movie, one of which is *The Man From Toronto*.

The context-dependent facets of language structure as well as usage and comprehension norms that have little or no relation to the linguistic structure are included in pragmatics. According to Levinson (1983), the study of pragmatics focuses on grammar writing-related facets of the link between language and context. The study of linguistic principles that cannot be demonstrated to affect grammar would be excluded in this case. Pragmatics also covers concepts of language understanding and usage that are unrelated to or barely related to linguistic structures. The study of pragmatics examines how language and context interact, which is essential in explaining language understanding. Pragmatics is the study of aspects of the use of

meaning and language, which depend on the speaker, receiver, and other features of the speech context.

Conversation is interaction using language that is carried out by two or more individuals under certain conditions. According to Gumperz (1982), conversation is a form of cooperative activity in the form of communicative interaction. Hoey (1983, p.1) explains that conversation is a form of discourse that involves two or more actors who contribute to each other. In the conversation, there are speech acts. Every conversation requires a contribution. The contribution needed in a conversation speech act is to respond to each other what is discussed by the two people. Tarigan (2015) wrote that directive speech acts are intended to give some effect through the actions of the listener, for example requesting. According to Austin (1962), a directive speech act causes several effects through the actions of the listener, for requesting. Directive speech acts are utterances from the speaker who tries to ask the speech partner to do an action or not to do an action.

Request is a directive speech act whose illocutionary purpose is to make the listener do something. By making a request, the speaker believes that the listener is capable of taking action. Requesting speech acts can be found in conversation. Conversations in movies can be good examples of speech acts. As a result, speech acts are used to reveal the main character's desires through utterances. This fact is one of the reasons that make speech acts attractive to researchers. The request is a directive speech act whose purpose is to tell the listener to do something. This study is aimed to analyze request strategies in *The Man from Toronto*. Besides that, the functions of requests are discussed in this research as well.

The request perspective can be emphasized, either projecting toward the speaker. Trosborg (1995) states that a request is an illocutionary act whereby a speaker (the requester) conveys to the listener (the requestee) that she wants the person (requestee) being asked to perform an action which is in the interest of the speaker"). The act may be a request for goods, for information, for action, and for permission. Variations of direct forms of making requests are called request strategies.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research was qualitative descriptive because the data were analyzed in the form of words, phrases, and sentences descriptively. Bhandari (2020) states "descriptive qualitative research involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data in order to understand ideas, viewpoints, or experiences". To better understand ideas, opinions, or experiences, descriptive qualitative research entails gathering and analyzing non-numerical data that deals with descriptions. This research used descriptive qualitative which focused on request speech act because the result was the description of particular phenomena.

Data is information retrieved and collected by the researcher from relevant sources as a research problem. According to Kristanto (201), data is a description of things and events that we face. This means that data is something that researchers find and write down as a study that can be analyzed or researched and is relevant to the research problem being faced.

The data of this research are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences of conversation request speech acts. Data sources are taken from conversations in The Man from Toronto Movie (2022). The data collection method is document analysis techniques. Some of the steps taken by the researcher when collecting data: Watching *The Man from Toronto* movie, transcribing the conversation of the characters in *The Man from Toronto* movie that contain request speech act,

identifying words, phrases, or sentences contain request speech act, classifying the strategies of request speech acts, coding the data of request speech act.

The following code was provided by the researcher based on the request types and strategies: Hints (HTS), Questioning/statement of speaker's of hearer's ability/willingness /permission (AWP), Suggestory formulae (SF), Wishes (WIS), Statement of speaker's desires/Needs (DON), Statement of obligation (OBS), Performatives (PVS), Imperatives elliptical phrases (IEP). Four Function of request speech act: Request for Action (RA), Request for Goods (RG), Request for Information (RI), and Request for Permission (RP)

Data analysis is an important step in conducting research because each research must be real and relevant to everything in social life. Furthermore, the data analyzed were clarified and grouped into requests based on Trosborg's theory (1995).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
The Strategies of Request in *The Man from Toronto* Movie
The strategies of request speech act refer to the specific approaches used to make requests in communication. There are seven strategies of request speech act found in this research: hints, ability/willingness permission, suggestory formulae, wishes, desires/needs, obligation statement, and imperatives.

Table 1. Strategies of Request

No	Strategies	Total
1	Hints	26
2	Questioning/Statement of Hearer's Ability/Willingness/Permission	7
3	Suggestory formulae	5
4	Wishes	4
5	Statement of speaker's desires/needs	6
6	Obligation statement	4
7	Imperatives	25
	Total	**77**

1. Hints

Hints strategy aims to improve the user experience and reduce the potential for errors or ambiguity in request generation. Hints strategies of request speech act are found in the following dialogue:
(29/HTS/RI)

Teddy   : You're gonna listen. **I love eyes. I would hate for your eyes to be next on my activity list. I don't wanna do this. I don't like none of this. I don't like nasty stuff**.
The man   :(Scared)
The participant in the conversation is Teddy and the Man. Teddy as the requester is the

interrogator while the Man as the requestee is the messenger. The conversation is about Teddy who is interrogating the man to find out the information about the safe box code. It takes place in the basement of the house. Teddy interrogates the Man fiercely. The Man is tied to a chair and very scared because he is surrounded by many mafias. Teddy wants to know the safe boxes code by interrogating the man to refill the code, Therefore Teddy performs the request in utterances "**I love eyes. I would hate for your eyes to be next on my activity list. I don't wanna do this. I don't like none of this. I don't like nasty stuff**." By performing this request Teddy wants the man immediately to refill the code. By uttering something that indicates violent action towards the man, Teddy wants the man as the requestee to give the information, which is the safe boxes code. This request is performed using a hint strategy. He implicitly states that it would be better for the man to refill safe boxes code rather than getting violence from the mafia. Hints strategies of request could also be seen in the following dialogue:

2. Questioning/Statement of Hearer's Ability/Willingness/Permission

Questioning/statement of hearer ability/willingness/permissions strategy is used to ensure that a request is submitted to a party that does have the ability, willingness, or permission needed to fulfill the request. The request for ability strategies speech act is described in the following example:
(75/AWP/RG)

Teddy   : **Can you see that?** (Give the bill to Toronto)
Toronto   : Oh God. Low toner.

The conversation took place in Toronto's restaurant. Participants in this conversation are Teddy and Toronto. Teddy as the requester is the customer of the restaurant and Toronto as the listener is the owner. Both of them are friends. Teddy requested Toronto whether he could see the bill because it is not clear by saying *can you see that?*. Unfortunately, Toronto was not able to see the bill either.

3. Suggestory Formulae

Suggestory formulae strategy that is the speaker wants to requesting something by giving a suggestion. Suggestory formulae strategy were identified in the following dialogue:
(12/SF/RG)

Lori   : You think maybe we could start with some light bulbs and toner?
Teddy   : Okay, all right. I'll get the bulbs and toner.

The participants in the conversation are Lori and Teddy. Lori as the wife is the requester while Teddy as the husband is the requestee. This conversation takes place inside Teddy's house. At this point, the lamp and toner in Teddy's house are damaged and must be replaced. Lori suggests Teddy buy the lamp and toner. The suggestory formula is that the requester requests by discouraging his interests as the beneficiary. We can see the suggestory formulae strategy when Lori requests Teddy "You think maybe we could start with some light bulbs and toner? ".

4. Wishes

The Wishes strategy helps create more positive and respectful communication between the requester and the recipient of the request. The request for wishes strategies speech act is identified in the following dialogue:

(25/WIS/RA)

Teddy   **: I hope you understand what I'm saying. Last I checked, communication is key to understanding.**

The Man   : (Scared)

The participants in the conversation are Teddy and the Man. Teddy as the requester is the interrogator while the Man as the requestee is the messenger. The context in this scene is Teddy interrogating the Man in the basement. The man is a subordinate of a mafia. Teddy requests using the wishes request strategy. This can be seen by Teddy's utterances *I hope you understand what I'm saying. Last I checked, communication is key to understanding*. The utterances are identified as a wish strategy request. Teddy hopes that the Man understands his condition which is being investigated by Teddy. Because Teddy does not want to take the path of violence that will make the Man hurt. In the context of a request strategy, "hope" refers to expressing a wish or preference when making a request. This involves conveying what the requester wants to achieve.

Teddy can express his objectives more clearly and improve his chances and increase the likelihood of getting a positive response by including wishes in his demands. This adds a personal touch and shows that Teddy has a specific wish or goal in his request. By expressing his wish, Teddy provides additional context and emphasizes the importance of the request.

5. Statement of Speaker's Desires/Needs

Statement of Speaker's Desires/Needs helps clarify the motivation and reasons behind the request by conveying the desire or need clearly to the party receiving the request. The request for Statement of Speaker's Desires/Needs strategy speech act is identified in the following dialogue:

(62/DON/RP)

Teddy   : **I need you to go back to being the killer** you are and to understand that we are in trouble! He's here.

Toronto   : Who?

The participants in this conversation are Toronto and Teddy. The relationship between Teddy and Toronto is friends that are working together. This conversation takes place in a restaurant. The topic of this incident happens during lunch time. Teddy sees an assassin targeting their lives. We can see the desires/needs request strategy that occurs in this conversation when Teddy asks the following "**I need you to go back to being the killer".** This request is made by Teddy to keep them both safe from the assassin.

6. Statement of Obligation

Obligation strategy statements are used to emphasize obligations or responsibilities to listeners. The request for Statement of obligation strategy speech act is identified in the following dialogue:

(23/OBS/RA)

The Guy   : **We have work to do. You're not leaving until it's done.**
Teddy   : We... We got work to do. Oh. Uh...

The participants in this conversation are The Guy and Teddy. The relationship between The Guy and Teddy is strangers. The Guy as the requester is a mafia while Teddy as the requestee is the protagonist. This request takes place inside the house. The context is that the Guy thinks that Teddy is Toronto who is previously requested to carry out a mission. The Guy tells his request as follows. "We have work to do. You're not leaving until it's done". The Guy requests Teddy to interrogate a prisoner who is captured by the Guy's mafia group. Teddy requests The Man to tell him the code to the Man's safe. The Guy's request cannot be refused by Teddy because it is mandatory and must be done. The request utterance by the Guy is a request with a strategies obligation statement.

7. Imperatives

Imperatives conveyed in order utterances tend to be more direct, and do not accommodate more complex social nuances. The request for imperatives strategy speech act is identified in the following dialogue:

(09/IEP/RA)

Teddy   : **Okay, listen**, that's the past. Why talk about the past? I wanna focus on the present.
Lori   : Hmmm….

The participants in this conversation are Teddy and Lori. Teddy as the requester is the husband while Lori as the requestee is Teddy's wife. The conversation tells about Teddy's mess that happened in the past. It takes place in the room. Teddy asked Lori politely. Lori responds to Teddy's request while lying on the bed smiling. Teddy wants Lori not to bring up the embarrassing past events anymore and they have focus on their future life. The request expressed by Teddy is an utterances of a direct request. Teddy makes this request by saying "Okay, listen, that's past time. Why talk about the past? I want to focus on the present.". We can see that the utter "listen" is the request express directly by Teddy to Lory.

By making this request, Teddy wants Lori to really understand Teddy's wishes right away. When Teddy expresses a "listen" indicating a subtle action towards Lori, Teddy wants Lori as the recipient of the request to think about the future and this Request is made using an imperative strategy. He Implicitly states that it is better to discuss the future and improve his attitude than having to talk about things useless.

The Function of Request in *The Man From Toronto Movie*.

The functions of request speech acts can refer to an approach in the form of a very specific or directed request. This approach allows the user to invoke certain functions in order to get the desired result. The goal is to optimize the use and handling of the function of requests to suit the

requester's needs. There are four functions of request, namely: request for information, request for action, request for goods and request for permissions.

1. Requests for Information

This request for information aims to gain understanding or clarity regarding a topic, situation, or other thing that is needed. The request for information is identified in the following dialogue:

(33/DON/RI)
Teddy   :   **Say it!**
The Man   :   Okay, I'll tell you! 4-4-5-0-8 12-53-C.
The participants in the conversation are Teddy and The Man. Teddy as the requester is the interrogator while the Man as the requestee is the messenger. The conversation is about Teddy who is interrogating the man to find out the information about the safe box code. It takes place in the basement of the house. Teddy interrogates The Man fiercely. The Man is tied to a chair and very scared because he is surrounded by mafias. Teddy wants to know the safe boxes code by interrogating the man to refill the code, Therefore Teddy performs the request in utterances **"Say it"** By performing this request Teddy wants the man to give information immediately about the code. By saying something that indicates request for information towards The Man, Teddy wants the man as the requestee to give the information, which is the safe boxes code. This request is performed using request for information.

2. Request for Goods

Request for goods involves submitting a request goods or products are made when someone wants to obtain certain goods from other parties based on the needs requested. The request for goods is identified in the following dialogue:

(77/DON/RG)
Toronto   :   **I want Debora back**. (Car)
Teddy   :   The chassis was cut in half. The engine practically evaporated. She's gone.
The participants in the conversation are Teddy and Toronto. The relationship between Teddy and Toronto is as friends. The conversation takes place in a restaurant owned by Toronto. Toronto as the owner of the restaurant is the requester while Teddy as the customer is the requestee. The context is that Teddy borrows Toronto's car to pick up his wife. Toronto asks Teddy to return the car immediately by saying "I want Debora back". Unfortunately, Teddy cannot return the car because it is crushed by a train. Debora is a nickname of Toronto's car. The request contains a request for goods because Toronto asks for goods or objects in the form of cars.

3. Request for Action

This action request is related to an application to perform a specific action, task, or activity. The request for action is identified in the following dialogue:

(44/OBS/RA)
Teddy   : **If I have to do this, then I want you guys to do something for me**.
Lawrance   : Okay
The participants in the conversation are Teddy and Lawrence. Teddy as the requester is a victim of misunderstanding while Lawrance as the requestee is a FBI agent. The conversation is about

Teddy asking for a reward for what he's going to do to help an FBI agent. The conversation takes place outside. Teddy is surrounded by two FBI agents, Lawrence, and Davis. Teddy works with FBI agent to uncover and to arrest a colonel who defects from the military but in condition that the FBI agent must repay for his services. Teddy performs the request function in the utterance "If I have to do this, then I want you guys to do something for me.". By making this request, Teddy wants a reciprocal relationship to occur between the two parties between the FBI agent and Teddy.

4. Request for Permissions

Requests for permission are used when someone needs permission, approval or authorization from another party to do something related to a request to get access, privileges or permission to carry out certain activities or actions. The request for permissions is identified in the following dialogue:

(38/WIS/RP)
Teddy   : Look, I'm not the Man from Toronto, okay? **So please guys, let me go.**
Lawrance   : We're well aware, Mr. Jackson.

The participants in this conversation are Teddy and Lawrence. Teddy as the requester is a victim of misunderstanding while Lawrance as the requestee is an FBI agent. The conversation is about Teddy asking for a reward for what he's going to do to help an FBI agent. The conversation takes place outside. The context is that Teddy tries to convince an FBI agent, Lawrence, that he is not The Man from Toronto. Teddy asks with a pitiful face in hoping that Lawrance would let him go. Teddy sits in a chair terrified because he just had a gunfight and now, he has to deal with the FBI. Teddy goes back and forth with the FBI agent, as for the request function that says "Look, I'm not the Man from Toronto, okay? **So please guys, let me go".** The request indicates that Teddy is scared, and he begs the FBI agent to let him go. The FBI agent knows that Teddy is not The Man from Toronto.

4. CONCLUSION

     There are seven out of eight strategies found in this study based on the strategies of Trosborg (1995). The seven strategies are hints, questioning/statement of hearer's abilities/willingness/permissions, suggestory formulae, wishes, statement of speaker's desires/needs, statements of obligation, and imperatives. The most dominant data in this study are the hints strategy. However, performative strategies are not found in this study.

     The hint strategy can be used to start the process of negotiation or persuasion with other parties. Giving instructions or hints can be the first step in inviting other people to consider or comply with your request from the requester. Hints strategy often emphasizes flexibility in communication. By giving instructions or cues, the requester provides space for the requestee to interpret and adjust their actions according to the requester's wishes without feeling bound by rigid instructions. In some cases, hint strategy may not be clear enough. Therefore, it is important to consider the context of the communication and choose the most appropriate strategy to achieve the objectives of the request.

     Concerning the functions of requests, there are four functions found in this research. The functions are classified into requests for information, requests for goods, requests for actions, and requests for permissions. The most dominant request function found in this study is a request for

action. The request for action is conducted by the characters whose social status is higher than the addressee. Furthermore, the most dominant request for action is found in the imperatives strategy. The dominant use of requests for action is also caused by the genre of *The Man From Toronto* movie which is an action, adventure, and crime movie. So, there are a lot of conflict scenes or emergencies. Therefore, the function of request for action predominates to achieving goals or solving problems. Meanwhile, the lack of use of requests for permissions is caused by the requester preferring to use direct requests since the characters are peer acquaintances.

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