

# AN ANALYSIS OF DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACT AS FOUND IN THE MOTHER MOVIE

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## ABSTRACT

The intention of the speaker to produce an effect on the listener through utterance can be called a speech act, and most action movies suggest how they are usually being made, and this one is no exception, where a lot of direct speech can be found. This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method. The purpose of this study is to find the types of directive speech acts found in *The Mother* movie, while also looking for the strategies used in the directive speech act that found in *The Mother* movie. Based on the findings of this study, it has been observed that the characters in the movie generated a total of 50 utterances classified as directive speech acts. The analysis focuses on 30 speech acts, which comprise 7 instances of requesting, 8 instances of suggesting, 8 instances of commanding, and 7 instances of asking. Additionally, this study reveals that there exists a total of 19 direct speech act strategies and 11 indirect speech act strategies. From all the data collected, the writer found that the speech act of request and speech act of suggestions dominates the movie "*The Mother*" (2023). On the other hand, 19 direct strategies are also used often compared to the indirect speech act strategies.

**Keywords :** *Speech act, Directive speech act, Strategies, The Mother*

## INTRODUCTION

Language and communication are inseparable because in communicating, humans need language. However, communication is not only limited to the delivery of language in the form of words but must be accompanied by action and this is called speech acts. Speech acts are the fundamental building blocks of communication in which utterances or discourse spates are seen as social acts that serve social purposes [1]. On the same hand, speech acts are the basic units of communication in which utterance or spates of discourse are viewed as social acts that fulfil social function [2]. Therefore, speech acts in communication are very important because it shows how speakers use language to communicate in everyday social life. Next, a speaker can execute three acts simultaneously when speaking. There are locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts [3].

Moreover, three contexts that impact spoken and written discourse must be considered in order to comprehend speech acts which are situational context, background knowledge context, and co-textual context [3]. Furthermore, Searle expanded on this idea

to create five different categories of speech acts into representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations [3].

A directive is a type of speech act in which the speaker tries to make the listener do something through his/her utterance. The utterance delivered by the speaker will direct the listener to act [4]. In other words, directive represents the speaker's attitude toward the expected behavior of the listener. However, to express the speaker's intention, the utterance he/she delivers becomes the reason for the listener to act. In other words, the directive speech is an expression of what the speaker wants from the listener to do [5].

Regarding the types of directive speech acts, the writer used experts based on the theory of Searle to analyze types of directive speech acts. In this analysis, the writer describes the types of directive speech act that the researcher found in *The Mother* movie, they are requesting, suggesting, commanding, and asking [5]. In addition, speech act strategies are the pragmatic means, representing the speech act

component. Speech act strategy divided into two categories, namely direct and indirect strategies [6].

Direct strategy is the clearest strategy. The speakers clearly state what they desire or want in their utterance, so it is very clear for the listener what the speaker's intention is. Speaker using a direct strategy wants to communicate the literal meaning that the words conventionally express; there is a direct relationship between the form and the function. While, indirect strategies are defined as utterances in which the speaker's meaning and the propositional content are not identical. Thus, direct strategies convey only one meaning or illocutionary force, while indirect strategies convey more than one.

Generally, directive speech acts occur almost in every conversation because the speaker in his/her conversation has a certain intention for the listener. Thus, to know the intention of the speaker, it can be done through the study of directive speech acts. Therefore, this paper aims to analyze the directive speech acts with the subject of research being the conversation that is uttered by the actors in the movie. Movies are a picture of real life, and by analyzing the directive speech acts in the movie, it can also analyze the meaning of the utterance of the directive speech act in the context, hence the knowledge of pragmatism can be understood more deeply.

## METHOD

The type of this research is qualitative. Qualitative research methods are descriptive, including data collected in the form of words or pictures and not numbers. The writer employs a qualitative descriptive method, according to the definition above, because the purpose of this study is to describe types and strategy of directive speech acts found in *The Mother* movie. The writer uses this qualitative method for data collection. According to the definition above, the writer aims to analyze the utterance of a movie which will later be classified according to the type and context and draw conclusions. The writer wanted to describe the phenomenon of kinds of directive speech acts found in *The Mother* movie.

By utilizing the qualitative method in this research of directive speech acts that performed in the Netflix film "The Mother" (2023), the writer found many types and strategies classified according to the framework proposed by Searle [1]. Moreover, Cutting

theory of direct and indirect strategies will be applied in this research [6] . In total, there are 50 directive speech acts found in this movie called "The Mother" (2023), nevertheless, the first finding discussed 30 of speech acts, which are 7 speech act of requesting, 8 speech act of suggestions, 8 speech act of commanding and the last one is 7 speech act of asking. Additionally, this research also found that there are 19 direct speech act strategies and 11 indirect speech act strategies.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Types of Directive Speech Acts

*The Mother* movie actors' conversations were used in this study. *The Mother*, directed by Niki Caro, ran for 117 minutes on May 12, 2023. The film revolves on a female assassin and US army operative. She regrettably gives her teenage daughter, Zoe, to foster parents to protect her from her risky and unpredictable actions. Zoe becomes vulnerable to assassins under certain situations. The mother then teaches her survival skills and takes all necessary precautions to safeguard her. There are four types of directive speech acts, which are requests, suggestions, commands, and asking [3][4]. While the directive speech acts are affected by contexts, in which researcher found this movie used situational contexts and interpersonal relation, the types of direct strategy depend on its politeness or impoliteness. At the same time, the indirect strategy is also affected by figurative language.

Table 1. Types of Speech Acts

No	Dialogue	Types of Speech Acts
1	Agent: "Please restate the names of these two men (showing pictures)".	Asking
2	Cruise: "Stop telling us how to do our job".	Command
3	Cruise: "Look, I get that this is dark, but you don't have to keep quiet. If you tell us, we will protect you"	Suggestion
4	The Mother: "I wanna see her"	Request

The very first type of directive speech acts as a request. The request is the action of asking for something formally and politely. The speaker believes that the hearer is able to perform an action. The suggestion is an idea or plan or input that is mentioned by the speaker to the listener thus the listener can give a thought about it. On the same hand, a commanding act includes the knowledge that the speaker wants the other person being spoken to perform an act as a result of the speech. The last one is asking, where it can be understood as a speaker asking the listener to do something or asking a question to a listener [8].

### Speech Act Strategy

The direct technique is considered to be the most transparent and straightforward approach. The speakers explicitly express their desires or wants in their utterances, making it evident to the listener what the speaker intends for them to accomplish. Furthermore, it is worthy to acknowledge that while making a direct strategy in speech, the speaker could say something politely or impolitely. The polite example of politeness would be saying, "Get me the bag, please", while the impolite example is, "Go get me the bag!". Both are counted as direct strategy, despite the differences in tones and ways of saying.

The speaker employs direct tactics in order to convey the literal meaning that is customarily associated with the words, so establishing a clear and straightforward connection between the linguistic form and its intended function. Therefore, it can be observed that a declarative form, which should not be mistaken for declaration speech acts, such as the sentence "I was going to get another one," serves the purpose of making a statement or assertion. On the other hand, an interrogative form, exemplified by the sentence "Do you like the tuna and sweet corn ones?", functions as a question. Lastly, an imperative form, as demonstrated by the sentence "Get me one," serves the purpose of conveying a request or order.

On the other hand, indirect strategy refers to instances where the speaker's intended meaning and the propositional content of their statements are not congruent. Direct strategies are characterised by conveying a single meaning or illocutionary force, whereas indirect strategies possess the ability to express multiple meanings or illocutionary forces.

The provided instance from this movie is: "Look, I get that this is dark, but you don't have to keep quiet. If you tell us, we will protect you" or "Civilization is built on little things, like saying hello". The recipient, in contrast, would have comprehended the implicit request, while disregarding the explicit inquiry regarding the rationale.

Furthermore, it is worthy to note that indirect strategy often uses figurative language. The use of nonliteral expressions to convey additional meaning in writing or speech is known as figurative language. Metaphors and similes are two examples of figures of speech that illustrate this. Nevertheless, other strategies, like alliteration, can also be employed to convey a concept, meaning, or image.

Table 2. Speech Act Strategies

No	Dialogue	Types of Speech Acts
1	Agent: "Please restate the names of these two men (showing pictures)".	Direct
2	Cruise: "Stop telling us how to do our job".	Direct
3	Cruise: "Look, I get that this is dark, but you don't have to keep quiet. If you tell us, we will protect you"	Indirect
4	Williams: "Gimme the room"	Indirect

In the process of communication, individuals not only generate utterances that consist of grammatical structures, but they also engage in activities through these utterances, which are commonly referred to as speech acts. Speech acts are executed inside real-life language usage scenarios, wherein a set of utterances function in a manner akin to actions. When an individual articulates a series of linguistic units, the speaker frequently aims to elicit specific outcomes through the use of these units. These outcomes could potentially be achieved through alternate means.

The concept of speech act theory involves the analysis of actions that are carried out through verbal expressions. The writer employed Searle's theoretical framework to examine the various

categories of directive speech acts. In this analysis, the writer delineates the several categories of directive speech acts identified by the researcher in *The Mother* film, namely requests, suggestions, commands, and inquiries. Hence, the film employed a substantial quantity of directive speech acts in this regard. From the research, it could be acknowledged that each of the directive speech acts are affected by its contexts in the movie, whereas situational and interpersonal relations are counted to be the biggest factors in the movie "The Mother". On the same hand, the directive speech acts are also separated into two different categories which are direct strategy and indirect strategy. The speech act strategies serve as pragmatic mechanisms that express the speech act component. The strategies themselves are affected by contexts, figurative language, politeness and impoliteness, and etc.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In conclusion, the writer derived several conclusions from the conducted research. The writer reached the conclusion that a speech act is an action carried out by the speaker during the act of uttering a statement. Moreover, this study employed the qualitative content analysis methodology to examine the film "The Mother" (2023) as the primary data source. The study identified a collective of 50 data points, which were classified into four distinct categories of speech acts and two techniques of speech acts. Each analysis is conducted using the film as the primary source and is examined through the lens of relevant theoretical frameworks. The film titled "The Mother" (2023) contains a total of 50 directive speech acts. However, the initial analysis focuses on 30 speech acts, which comprise 7 instances of requesting, 8 instances of suggesting, 8 instances of demanding, and 7 instances of asking. Furthermore, this study reveals that there exists a total of 19 direct speech act strategies and 11 indirect speech act strategies.

Based on the findings of this study, the writer expressed the aspiration that this research would be valuable for future investigations pertaining to the enhancement of research on illocutionary actions, specifically within the context of illocutionary acts in films. Furthermore, in terms of future study, those interested in analysing speech acts have a multitude of options for data sources that can be

examined. These sources encompass various forms of oral communication, including but not limited to speeches delivered in public settings, discourse inside educational institutions, professional environments, and broader societal contexts. This research focused on directive speech acts which are separated into four different categories, while each of the categories is also divided into two different strategies; direct and indirect strategies. The explanation in this study would be very beneficial for future researchers and readers who want to understand the topics in linguistics, as well as learning about Searle and Cutting theories.

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