



**AN ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ACT OF COMMANDING  
AS FOUND IN *AMERICAN HISTORY X* MOVIE**

**THESIS**

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**Abstract**

The research studies speech of commanding in the American History X movie. The study is focused on speech act of commanding and Politeness strategy. The aim is to analyze the speech act of commanding and politeness strategies used. Some theories used in analyzing the data are Searle (1969), Brown and Levinson (1987), and Bonvillain (2003). The writer found four types the politeness strategies used, they are bald on record, positive politeness, negative politeness and bald off record.

Keywords: speech act, commanding, Politeness strategy.

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## TABLE OF CONTENT

### CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background of the Problem.....	1
1.2	Identification of the Problem.....	4
1.3	Limitation of the Problem .....	4
1.4	Formulation of the Problem .....	4
1.5	The Purpose of the Problem.....	5
1.6	Significance of the Research .....	5

### CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORITICAL

#### FRAMEWORK

2.1	Review of Related Literature .....	7
2.1.1	Speech Act.....	7
2.1.2	The Form of Speech Act .....	10
2.1.3	Context .....	11
2.1.4	Previous Studies .....	12
2.2	Theoretical Framework.....	12
2.2.1	Speech Act of Commanding .....	12
2.2.2	PolitenessStrategy.....	13

### CHAPTER III METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

3.1	Source of Data .....	15
3.2	Techniqueof Collecting Data .....	15

3.3	Technique of Analyzing Data .....	16
3.4	Technique of Representing Data Analysis .....	16

**CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

4.1	Speech Act of Command .....	18
4.2	Types of Politeness Strategy.....	31
4.2.1.	Bald on Record.....	31
4.2.2	Positive Politeness.....	31
4.2.3	Negative Politeness .....	34
4.3	Discussion .....	38

**CHAPTER V CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

5.1	Conclusions .....	40
5.2	Suggestions .....	40

**BIBLIOGRAPY**

**APPENDIX**

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Problem

The term of speech act refers to the fact that through speaking a person accomplishes goals (Bonvillain, 2003: 92). In speech act, people do things with words (Austin, 1962: 236). Austin classifies speech act based of their purpose and effect that is locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary act. Locution is what the speakers say; the illocutionary is the speaker's want or the meaning, and the perlocutionis the effect of the illocutionary to the addresser. Furthermore Searle (1969) there are five macro classes of speech, there are representatives, directives, commissives, declaration, and expressive.

Directives are the utterance where has a purpose to the addresser to do something; for example, command, offer, invite, ask, order, request, beg, permit, dare, challenge. Commanding is an utterance uttered by the speaker for asking the hearer to do something based on speakers. In commanding, the speaker usually has the authority toward the hearer so that the hearer has to obey the speaker's command. The authority of the speaker usually will be ignored when it is in the emergency situation. In a similar vein Chaka in Agustina (2011) states that the speaker commands has the right and duty on command. The receiver of command has the responsibility and or obligation to carry out the command. An order utterance is when someone forces to ask the hearer to do something but the speaker doesn't have an authority. In request utterance, The speaker asks the hearer to do something without forcing. While, The command utterance is the speaker

ask the hearer to do something by giving a forcing. In commanding utterance, the speaker has an authority.

According to Holmes (1992: 261) “command belongs to directive speech which is generally expressed in imperative form. Directive is linguistic utterance intended to get someone to do something.” In this research the writer focus on analyze of the commanding utterance that found in America Story X movie. There are some examples to support the theory:

1) Please sit down. (Searle, 1974: 265)

From the example (1), the actual uttering of the sentence “please sit down” along with its particular meaning is a locutionary act. The command to sit down is called illocutionary act. The result of someone sit down on chair is perlocutionary act.

Furthermore, from the explained speech act above, the writer interested to analyze speech act of commanding. Speech act of commanding is kind of function speech act that is directive. The commanding can be seen in student communication, lecturer communication and so on. Speech act of commanding not only happen in daily activities but also in novel, poetry, comic and movie. This research studies speech act of commanding in movie, Movie is one media that is used by people to share information, entertainment and also as media for learning. It has a uniqueness way to explore. It is not always talk about writing and academic stuff that usually make learning process becomes boring. As a media for learning, movie has a great opportunity to explore it has graphic,

pictures, visual, verbal and non-verbal and other things that related to stimulate people curiosity to explore it.

In this research the writer found that speech of commanding are conducted from the *American History X* movie. *American History X* is one of the movies that have great rating and something to learn for. It talks about racial conflict in America about white and black. It was written by David McKenna. The movie tells the story of two Venice, Los Angeles brothers who become involved in the neo-Nazi movement.

In this movie there are some points that interesting to analyze, the utterance – commanding, context – social context and how they interact each other. The conversation in this movie is rich of expression and utterance. For further understanding about speech act of commanding and how the writer analyze the data let see for the example below:

(2).Teacher: *Shut the door.*(American History X)

Danny: (close the door)

00:08:09,480 --> 00:08:12,190

In this example in the utterance was happened between teacher and Danny. Here the speaker commands the hearer to shut the door. This data is containing as direct literal speech act of command, because the speaker directly command to shut the door. Shut the door is literal speech act of command while the speaker really means what the word he said. But, there is interesting data here, where the writer found that the speaker used the word “shut” to command close the door.



## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

After analyzing some movie there are many problems that the writer found in analysis speech act of commanding, such as in America History X movie. In the American History X movie the writer found also; order, suggestion, request, and command speech act. But in this research the writer only focus on analyze speech act of commanding that is found in American History X. Speech act of Command is effective only if the speaker has some degree of control over action of the addressee or in other word in conveying the command . The speaker in authority expresses a wish toward the hirer (Kreidler;(1998:189) ). It means that both of speakers must have different position so that one can give command because to another.If the position is same,there will be no command because the meaning that is conveyed can be accepted by each other.

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

After identification the problem, then the writer defines and limits the problems that will be analyzed in this research. The writer limits an analysis of speech act of command in *American History X* and only focus on analyzing the speech act of commanding and the Politeness strategy used by the speaker in commanding.

## **1.4. Formulation of the Problem**

In this research, the writer formulates the problems into questions,as follow:

1. What are the Speech acts of commanding uttered by the speaker in the movie *America History X*?

2. What are the Politeness strategies used by the speaker in commanding in the movie *American History X*?

### **1.5.The Purposes of the Research**

In this research,the writer wants to find the indication of the speech act commanding that found the in the *American history X* movie.Nevertheless in this research,the writer focuses on the speech act command and politeness strategy.

Base on explanation above,the main purpose of the research is:

1. To find and analyze the speech act of commanding uttered by the speaker in the movie *America History X*
2. To find and analyze the Politeness strategies that is used by the speaker in commanding in the movie *America History X*.

### **1.6.Significance of the Research**

The significance of this research is the writer expects that the result of this research will give contribution to linguistics fields, especially for pragmatic approach that focus on analysis of speech act of commanding. The writer also hopes that the result of this research can enrich our knowledge about speech act of commanding. And this research can help the student in understanding and analyzing speech act of command.