



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

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BY:

VINA FEBRIANA
NPM : 1910014211001

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FACULTY HUMANITIES
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LEMBARAN PENGESAHAN

Dinyatakan lulus setelah dipertahankan di depan Tim Penguji
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Judul Skripsi : An Analysis of Directive Speech Act as Found in *The Mother* Movie
Nama Mahasiswa : Vina Febriana
NPM : 1910014211001
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Ilmu Budaya

Padang, 6 Maret 2024

Tim Penguji

1. Dr. Yusrita Yanti M.Hum
2. Dra. Nova Rina, M.Hum.
3. Diana Chitra Hasan, M.Hum., M.Ed., Ph.D.

Tanda Tangan

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Diketahui oleh:

Dekan Fakultas Ilmu Budaya

Ketua Program Studi Sastra Inggris

Diana Chitra Hasan, M.Hum., M.Ed., Ph.D.

Dra. Nova Rina, M.Hum.



LEMBARAN PERSETUJUAN

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Fakultas : Ilmu Budaya

Disetujui Oleh:
Pembimbing

Dr. Yusrita Yanti M.Hum



Dean, Faculty of Cultural Studies

Diana Chitra Hasan, M.Hum., M.Ed., Ph.D.

Head of English Literature Program

Dra. Nova Rina, M.Hum.

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Vina Febriana¹, Yusrita Yanti²

¹Student of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University

E-mail: 01vinafebriana@gmail.com

²Lecturer of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University

E-mail: yusrita.yanti@bunghatta.ac.id

ABSTRACT

"The Mother" is a movie about deadly attackers, in which the mother, who is an assassin emerges from hiding to save her daughter, whom she abandoned earlier in life. Most of action movie suggest how they usually being made, and this one is no exception, where a lot of directive speech act can be found. This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method. This research uses the theory of Searle (1976) and Cutting (2021). 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. Furthermore, 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). While on the other hand, 19 direct strategies also used often compared to the indirect speech act strategies.

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

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

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. According to Strauss and Feiz (2014), speech acts are the fundamental building blocks of communication in which utterances or discourse spates are seen as social acts that serve social purposes. On the same hand, speech act according to Austin (1962) the basics units of communication in which utterance or spates of discourse are viewed as social acts that fulfil social function. Therefore, speech acts in communication are very important because it perform how speakers use language to communicate in everyday social life.

Next, Austin (1962) stated that a speaker can perform three acts simultaneously in producing an utterance. They are locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. A locutionary act is an act of using words to form sentences. The type of function that the speaker intends to accomplish in saying the utterance is called an illocutionary act. Additionally, the speaker says the utterance with a function, she/he also intends the utterance to affect the hearer. The act that may have an effect or consequences of locutionary and illocutionary acts on the hearer is perlocutionary.

Furthermore, Austin's study of speech acts was later developed by Searle. According to Searle (1976), speech act study in communication depends not only on recognizing the meaning of words in an utterance but also recognizing what speakers mean by their utterance. In depth, speech acts have three types, Searle

(1976) explained the types of speech acts that have an important role in communication are illocutionary acts. Illocutionary act claim as a crucial component because it deals with the activity the speaker takes to produce an utterance. The illocutionary act demonstrates how the entire remark should be interpreted in the context of the dialogue. It is directly connected to the speaker's intentions as they are being expressed through speech. The explanation illustrates that the illocutionary act is said to have an important role in a speech act because the speaker's utterance produces an activity that is expressed through their utterance and this activity will affect the listener to perform an act.

Moreover, Searle (1976) classified Illocutionary acts into five main categories namely assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaratives. Of the five types of illocutionary acts, directive are illocutionary acts that can force, persuade or threaten the listener to perform an action through the speaker's utterance. This act was possible due to the function of directives speech act itself which is the attempts of the speaker to get the hearer to do something. The speaker expresses what they want directly to the hearer. Thus, the hearer takes an action based on what the speakers utter.

In the context of directive speech acts, Searle and Vanderven (1985) classifies directive speech acts into several types, namely request, order, forbid, suggest, dare, invite, advise, beg, and warn. All types of directive speech acts have no other purpose than to make the listener perform an action, but the form of speech acts is different. Some are based on threats, persuading, commanding and so on depending on the context of the conversation. Based on the explanation, it can be

interpreted that in communication, people also have the power to make others act, and this can be done through directive speech act.

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 is the conversation that uttered by the actors in the movie. The reason for this analyzing because movies is 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 directive speech act in the context, hence the knowledge of pragmatic can be understood more deeply.

As known, new movies always released every month, and based on preliminary observation, the writer found the latest movie that release on May 23, 2023 is *The Mother* movie. *The Mother* movie began airing on Netflix and this movie tells the story of a mother who is a hitman trying to protect her daughter from being kidnapped by the gangsters. The film primarily centres around a female assassin who also serves as an operative in the United States army. Due to the dangerous and unpredictable nature of her activities, she is compelled to regretfully entrust her teenage daughter, Zoe, to foster parents in order to ensure her safety. Subsequently, specific circumstances arise in which Zoe becomes susceptible to threats posed by individuals with intentions of assassination. Subsequently, the maternal figure assumes responsibility for her offspring, imparting essential skills for survival and employing every available measure to ensure her daughter's safety. The primary protagonist of the film is the renowned individual, Jennifer Lopez,

while the director responsible for its creation is Niki Caro. The film in question can be categorised within the categories of thriller or action.

Based on the initial observations conducted in the aforementioned film, the authors have identified a substantial number of directed speech acts expressed by the actors. Based on the first findings, it is posited by the author that there are a total of 50 instances of directive speech acts said by the actors in *The Mother* film. The selection of this particular film as the primary subject of investigation is based on its recent release in the current year, coupled with its compelling narrative. Moreover, the authors additionally discovered that this film has garnered a multitude of reviews. Hence, the author expresses a keen interest in performing additional study to investigate the directed speech actions uttered by the characters in the film "The Mother." Through the examination of directive speech acts within this film, it is anticipated that the outcomes of this research can offer insights into the interpretation of the meaning and contextual nuances associated with directive speech actions.

1.2 Research Questions

The writer formulates the research questions as follow:

1. What are the types of directive speech acts found in *The Mother* movie?
2. What are the strategies used in the directive speech act that found in *The Mother* movie?

1.3 Purposes of the Research

Based on the background of the problem, the purposes of the research are:

1. To describe types of directive speech acts found in *The Mother* movie.
2. To find out the strategy used in the directive speech act that found in *The Mother* movie.

1.4 Limitations of the Problem

The focus of this research is on analyzing directive speech acts uttered by the actors in *The Mother* movie. The writer limits the study to analyzing types of directive speech act that can be found in the conversation of the actors of *The Mother* movie, and then the strategy use in the directive speech acts that found in *The Mother* movie.

1.5 Significance of the Research

The significance of this research hopefully can increase knowledge and the understanding of the readers on pragmatics regarded to directive speech act. The findings of this research are expected can help readers to identify and understand the types of speech acts in conversations, especially in movie conversations. By knowing the types of direct speech acts, readers can also know the most type of Directive Speech Acts that often uttered by the speakers. Besides, the finding of this research also can give information to the reader in understanding the strategy of communication that use in directive speech act in the conversation, especially in movie conversation.