



An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts Found In “The Expendable 2” Movie

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Abstract

This study aims to identify the different types of directive speech acts in The Expendables 2 movie, focusing on the main character, Barney Ross. The data were analyzed using theory from Searle and Vandervaken (1985). This study used qualitatively to gather and interpret data from the movie's conversations. The study uses an observation method to collect data. This involves watching the movie and examining the script to identify various types of directive speech acts. The process involves reading and note-taking to analyze these acts, uncovering four types of directive speech acts: commands, requests, advice, and questions. Out of 37 instances identified, there were 32 (86.49%) commands, 2 (5.41%) requests, 2 (5.41%) pieces of advice, and 1 (2.70%) question. The findings show that commands are the most prevalent type of directive speech act in the movie.

Keywords: *Expendable 2 Movie; Directive; Speech act movie*

Introduction

Given its basic role as a medium of contact and communication, language is essential to the human experience. People use it every day to use speech acts to communicate their objectives and to express their emotions to others. As stated by Yule (1996:47), speech acts are actions performed through vocal expressions. Examples of these acts include apologies, complaints, compliments, invites, pledges, and requests. Given its basic role as a medium of contact and communication, language is essential to the human experience. People use it every day to use speech acts to communicate their objectives and to express their emotions to others. According to Yule (1996:47), speech acts are actions performed through vocal expressions. Examples of these acts include apologies, complaints, compliments, invites, pledges, and requests.

Pragmatics is the study of how meaning is conveyed through a speaker's use of context and interpreted by a listener, as defined by Yule (1996). Language is a sophisticated communication system employed by humans, significantly impacting more than just the transmission of information, and consisting of spoken, written, or signed words and symbols. This system enables people to express thoughts, emotions, and information. According to speech act theory, language has functions beyond just literal meanings. Leech (1983:6) notes that pragmatics involves analyzing meaning in relation to the context of a speech event. It examines how meaning in communication is influenced by elements such as sound, vocabulary, and grammar.

Yule (1996) states that speech acts are fundamental to pragmatics, much like phonemes, morphemes, words, phrases, clauses, and sentences are central to structural linguistics. They are essential for examining other pragmatic concepts such as presuppositions, the cooperative principle, and the principle of politeness. Grasping speech acts involves understanding how language is utilized by both speakers and listeners.

An illocutionary act refers to the action that a speaker performs through their utterance, reflecting their intention behind it. According to Yule (1996:6), it goes beyond merely producing the utterance (locutionary act) to include the purpose or function behind it, such as stating something, issuing a command, making a promise, or posing a question. Illocutionary act emphasizes what the speaker aims to achieve with their utterance. Yule (1996:53) further classifies speech acts into five general functions directive, representative, expressive, declarative, and commissive within broad classification systems.

Directive illocutionary acts are those where the speaker aims to prompt the listener to carry out a particular action. These acts are part of speech act theory, which examines how language operates beyond merely conveying information. Examples include requests, commands, suggestions, and invitations. The speaker's goal is to affect the listener's behavior or elicit a specific response. According to Yule (1996:53), a directive illocutionary act involves the speaker attempting to make the listener perform a particular action or behavior. Directives are one of the five types of illocutionary acts, aiming to prompt someone to take a specific action (Searle 1979:13). According to Searle (1979), the five types of directives are orders, commands, requests, advice, and recommendations.

Hornby (2016) defines a movie as a series of moving images with sound that tells a story, usually presented in cinemas or theaters. The term "movie" encompasses the moving images themselves, the artistic medium, and the film industry as a whole. Movies are produced either by recording real-world scenes with a camera or by creating images through animation methods or special effects.

Significantly, slang is not limited to everyday conversation but is also frequently used in creative media like films. Previous research has also explored the use of slang within this context.

The Expendable 2 (2010) is an action movie directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone. The movie features a group of elite mercenaries who undertake high-risk missions. Some of the notable features and elements of the movie include: Ensemble Cast, the movie features a star-studded cast of legendary action movie characters, including Jason Statham, Jet Li, Dolph Lundgren, Randy Couture, Terry Crews, and Mickey Rourke, with brief appearances by Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger High-Octane Action.

The movie features intense, explosive action sequences, featuring shootouts, close-quarters combat, and large-scale explosions nostalgia for 80s and 90s Action Movies: "The Expendable 2 movie" pays homage to the action movies of the 1980s and 1990s, with over-the-top action sequences, over-the-top action, high-octane dialogue, and larger-than-life scenes Characters. "The Expendables 2 movie" uses a large amount of practical effects and stunt work to enhance the realism and impact of the action scenes. Themes of Brotherhood and Loyalty: The movie emphasizes themes of friendship and loyalty among the team members, showcasing their bond and willingness to risk their lives for each other. The movie features a variety of antagonists, including corrupt military officers and ruthless drug lords, who add layers of complexity to the heroes' mission.

The research on directive speech acts in The Expendables 2 movie is motivated by the frequent use of these acts throughout the movie. It aims to uncover the underlying meaning that the speaker intends to convey, both explicitly and implicitly.

The initial study, conducted by Nisa and Abduh (2022), is titled "Directive Speech Acts Analysis in Teacher and Student Interaction during Thematic Learning in Elementary School." This study examined the use of directive speech acts by teachers in thematic learning within elementary schools, as well as the strategies employed by both teachers and students during this process. It addressed three key issues: the significance of directive speech acts in elementary education for advancing the study of pragmatics in this context, the need to analyze the types of directive speech acts used by teachers in thematic learning, and the need to describe the strategies employed by teachers and students in this setting. The main findings focused on the forms and strategies of directive speech acts utilized by teachers during thematic learning in elementary schools.

The second study, authored by Rizki, Syamsurrijal, and Suktiningsih (2023), is titled "An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts by the Main Character in the Short movie Ke Jogja." The primary objective of this study to identify the types of directive speech acts used by the main character in the short film "Ke Jogja" and analyze the speech acts performed by the main character towards their

interlocutor (conversation partner) in the film. The study centers on two main aspects: first, identifying the types of directive speech acts used by the main character in the short film *Ke Jogja*, and second, analyzing the speech acts the main character directs towards their conversation partner in the film. The important problem as it helps understand the communication dynamics and intentions of the main character. This study aims to identification of directive speech act types, the predominance of "telling" speech acts, the main character's communicative purpose, and the potential practical applications of such research for both film analysis and real-world interactions.

The final previous study, conducted by Suryanti and Afriana (2020), is titled "An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts in the Cinderella Movie." Its main objective was to analyze the types of directive speech acts employed by the characters in the movie *Cinderella*. The directive speech act classes discussed are command, beg, advise, and request. The researchers used a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the directive speech acts found in the dialogues of the "Cinderella" movie.

While previous studies have explored directive speech acts in educational contexts (Nisa & Abduh, 2022) and cinematic settings (Rizki et al., 2023; Suryanti & Afriana, 2020), this study identifies a gap in analyzing directive speech acts in high-intensity action movies like *The Expendables 2*. This genre offers a unique context where directives play a pivotal role in advancing the plot and establishing authority. By focusing on Barney Ross, the central character, this research aims to bridge the gap by analyzing how directive speech acts contribute to character development and narrative progression.

Method

The data source for this study is *The Expendables 2* (2010). This movie was selected for its frequent use of directive speech acts and its iconic ensemble cast. The study employs a descriptive qualitative approach based on Searle and Vanderveken's (1985) framework. Data Collection: The data were collected through an observation method, involving repeated viewings of the movie and analysis of its script. Note-taking was employed to identify and document instances of directive speech acts. Data Analysis, The analysis followed these steps: Categorization: Identifying four types of directives—commands, requests, advice, and questions. Coding: Assigning codes to each instance based on the directive type. Validation: Cross-referencing coded data with the script to ensure accuracy. Resolution of Ambiguities: Ambiguous cases were discussed with peers to reach a consensus. The reliability of the findings was ensured through meticulous data triangulation and validation.

Results

The findings reveal 37 instances of directive speech acts in *The Expendables 2*, categorized as follows:

Table 1. Types of Directive Speech Act Found in *The Expendable Movie*

No	Type Of Directive Speech Acts	Frequency	Percentage
.	Command	32	86,49%
.	Request	2	5,41%
.	Advise	2	5,41%
.	Ask	1	2,70%
.	Total	37	100,00%

Discussion

Commands dominate the movie's dialogue, reflecting the characters' reliance on authority and urgency during high-stakes situations. According to the table, there are 37 instances of directive speech acts in the movie *The Expendables 2*. The most frequent type observed in this study was commands, which appeared 32 times. The second highest data requested, which appears 2 times, is the same number as the word advise appears 2 times. The lowest data from this research are the questions that arise only 1 time. The majority of data comes from commands because the characters frequently use their authority to direct others. As a result, instances of asking or advising others are quite rare in the movie.

1. Command

A kind of directive given by someone in a position of authority to the listener, as described by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:198)

Data 1

Trench: Cut me loose... Frankenstein.

Barney: Don't get nuts, Gunner.

The Expendables 2. 2010, .07.00

In the scene described, Trench is being held captive by a group of armed men who dominate the city, enslave the townspeople, and torture them. Barney, acting as a mercenary, swiftly enters the area where Trench is imprisoned. Before reaching the location where Trench is confined, Barney encounters a blockade of troops guarding him, leading to a fierce battle. Meanwhile, the leader of the armed group does not know that Barney will enter the city where his headquarters is located; he takes Trench hostage and tortures him. Barney arrives just in time before Trench's head is hit with an iron, and Barney and his troops immediately kill the person who tortured Trench.

The statement above is included in the direction and is classified as an order, because when Barney and his troops began to enter the room where Trench was being held, Barney firmly directed his troops to do something through his words. It can be seen from his words that Barney clearly ordered his troops to attack immediately before Trench was killed. The statement above is categorized as a command, delivered through a directive speech act with no grounds for refusal, as indicated by the tense circumstances unfolding simultaneously in one building.

Data 2

Lee Christmas : you believe they changed our landing permit until tomorrow?
Barney : Yeah, but it's okay. I'll get home a little earlier. Fifteen seconds.
Hale Caesar : Opening' the hatch!
Lee Christmas : Yang, get Moneybags home safely.

The Expendables 2. 2010, .15.03

In this scene, Barney instructs his troops to fire at the enemy soldiers blocking the door to where Trench is held, leading to a fierce battle with significant loss of life and bloodshed between Barney's forces and the enemies. Barney's troops are so clever and agile in war. Barney and his friends have managed to save Trench and the Chinese billionaire. They are on the same plane to China, after arriving at the top of China, Hale Caesar tells Barney to "open the hatch" where Yin Yang will jump together using the Chinese billionaire's parachute.

Before Yin Yang jumps, he says goodbye to Barney and his friends. Barney tells Yin Yang to smile to be photographed. The above statement is classified as an order, when Barney makes a statement; the speaker directs his troops to shoot first in a firm manner, which means that here Barney is statement has suggestions to control his troops. The order is conveyed using a directive speech act without any rejection, a tense situation occurs in a short period of time.

2. Request

A request is a type of directive illocutionary act that permits the possibility of refusal, as noted by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:199).

Data 3

Barney: Don't get nuts, Gunner. Do it.

Barney: Where's your team?

Trench: Waiting.

The Expendables 2. 2010, 07.05

In this tense scene, Barney directs Trench to approach his friend Hale Caesar to request a gun. Hale Caesar, momentarily disoriented, reveals that he only possesses one gun and momentarily falters in his response. Despite this, he quickly remembers a spare weapon concealed on his back. Barney then clarifies, "So, it's on your back," indicating that Hale Caesar should retrieve the gun from its hidden spot. Hale Caesar, still processing the situation, apologizes and hands over the spare gun, saying, "Who, sorry, I forgot; this is the gun for you."

Following this exchange, Trench urgently asks about the safest route to escape. Barney, without hesitation, points to the left. Meanwhile, Yin Yang chimes in, emphasizing the urgency with a warning: "Get out quickly before the conditions become unstable." This dialogue is a prime example of directive speech acts, where Barney's instructions and commands are clear and authoritative. Barney not only directs Trench to obtain the gun but also ensures the team knows to evacuate promptly, reflecting his decisive leadership in a critical moment.

Data 4

Maggie chan : Calm down, boys. I can get them to talk with much less effort.

Lee Christmas : What's she gonna do, give him a pedicure?

Barney : It's a little sick.

Barney : I need you to hotwire that truck and go back to the plane and get the weapons.

The Expendables 2. 2010, 48.42

In this scene Barney and Lee Christmas enter a kv crowded with star gangs, Barney asks the service if the service can speak English? The service is silent because he saw the leader of the Star gang come to Barney and Lee's Christmas event. The leader of the Star gang shouted "hey" in a loud tone, prompting Barney and Lee Christmas to quickly turn around and attack him and his men until they were unconscious. Maggie Chan arrived with a small box of surgical tools, and

Barney asked her to collect a small sample of blood and skin from the Star gang leader for analysis. Following this, Barney and Maggie Chan departed together for a city in the USA.

Lee Christmas prepared a box of weapons and put it in the car which would later be used to fight with Barney and his friends. They all gathered in the middle of the USA and spent the night at a restaurant called Rays Pizza. The above statement is included in the directive speech act, including orders. When Barney made a statement, the speaker directed Lee Christmas in a subtle way to turn around and hit the leader of the Star gang. Barney's statement has a suggestion to beat.

3. Advise

The next type of directive speech act is "advice." This involves the speaker providing guidance to the listener, suggesting that they should take a specific action, as described by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:198).

Data 5

Trench : Let's get you out of here, pal.

Lee Christmas : Hey, look. I hate to break up the bromance.

The Expendables 2. 2010, 07.28

In the scene, Barney Ross and his team are on a mission in an isolated location. They are investigating a location that appears to be a weapons storage. During the mission, the team realizes that the location is actually a trap set by their enemies. The situation becomes tense when they face an unexpected threat, and there are dramatic moments that show the team's skills and courage. The emphasis on team action and strategy is key in this scene, in addition to investigating the location of the weapons storage, Barney and his friends also aim to save Trench. Barney and his friends managed to defeat the leader of the armed group, Trench who was tied to a chair with his head covered in a sarong Barney lifted his hood, surprising Trench to see him with his friend. Barney asked Trench what led to his capture and inquired about his friend's whereabouts. Trench explained that he had rescued a Chinese billionaire and that his friend was waiting.

Barney said wow our goals are the same and i managed to save you Trench. Barney let's get out of here, man. Trench and his troops headed to the field where their plane was parked but encountered another blockade of armed forces. Barney succeeded in defeating all the enemy troops and then crossed the river by boat to reach their plane. The above statement includes advice delivered using the form of directive speech acts and is classified as advice, because when Trench makes a

statement, the speaker directs his friend to get out in a firm way to do so. It can be seen from Trench's statement telling his friend to get out. The words "let's get you out here, pal" show that he wants his friend to get out quickly before new problems come. Without any rejection, friends immediately follow the directions given

Ask

The term "ask" has two primary functions. First, it means to pose a question, and second, it involves requesting that someone perform a specific action. Asking questions has a directive element because it seeks to elicit a particular response from the listener, as noted by Searle and Vanderveken (1985:198).

Data 6

Lee Christmas : Who's this bozo?

Church : This is a secure air wave. Do you read?

Lee Christmas: What's this about?

Church : What's taking so long, Barney Ross? This should have been a walk in the park for you guys.

The Expendables 2. 2010, 43.27

In this scene, Barney and his team are on their journey, meticulously exploring ruins and the nearby forest while staying alert for potential dangers. They are quickly taken by surprise when a group of armed men, led by the villain Jean Vilain, ambushes them. This confrontation leads to a tense standoff and results in the death of one of Barney's team members. Lee Christmas contacts Church, Barney's superior, informing him of the situation. Lee informs Church that one of his friends, Billy, has been killed by their enemies and that they must proceed with their mission. This development propels the plot forward, as Barney's team seeks revenge.

Vilain escapes with the device Barney was tasked to retrieve, shifting their mission from a search to a pursuit and rescue operation. The scene likely depicts the team investigating the crash site, proceeding with caution, and discovering early signs of an ambush. The interaction between Lee Christmas and Church involves directive speech acts, with Lee directly asking about the airwave. When Lee asks, "Who's this bozo?" and Church responds, "This is a secure air wave. Do you read?" it shows that Lee is seeking information about the communication channel, indicating that his statement is a request for clarification.

Conclusion

This study underscores the centrality of directive speech acts in shaping the narrative and character interactions in *The Expendables 2*. Commands, as the most prevalent type, reflect the urgency and authority characteristic of the action genre. These findings contribute to pragmatics research by illustrating how context and genre influence speech act usage. The table above shows that 37 data found in the movie are related to directive speech acts. Directive Speech Acts in Context: This analysis reveals that directive speech acts, commands, requests, suggestions, and questions are very important in shaping the dynamics of communication in the narrative of "The Expendable 2 movie". These speech acts not only advance the storyline, but also define relationships and assert authority among characters. The study of directive speech acts in "The Expendable 2 movie" not only enriches our understanding of linguistic pragmatics in movie, but also underlines the dynamic interaction between language, context, and action in cinematic storytelling.

Future research can further explore how different genres and cultural contexts affect the manifestation and interpretation of speech acts in various forms of media. Of all the data found in the movie, the highest data from this study was obtained from commands that appeared 32 times (86,49% of occurrences). The second data is a request that is the same amount as advising, the data that appears 2 times 5,41% of occurrences. The lowest data from this data is questions, the data that appears 1 time 2,70% of occurrences. The majority of data comes from commands because the characters in the movie frequently use their authority to direct their subordinates.

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