



An Analysis of Types of Directive Acts Found in “The School for Good and Evil” Movie

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Abstract

This study has purpose to find the types of directive acts that performed by the characters in “The School for Good and Evil” movie. This research is descriptive qualitative research. This research used a theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985). This study used observational and a non-participatory technique of data collection. This research also used referential identity method and the pragmatic competence technique in equalizing in analysing the data. There are some steps in the process of collecting the data. Firstly, the researchers watched the data source which is “The School for Good and Evil” movie. Secondly, the researchers downloaded the script of the movie. The researchers then watched the movie and read the script in the exact same time. Finally, the researchers marked the utterances that showed the directive acts. The result showed that there were 17 data of directive acts performed by the characters in “The School for Good and Evil” movie. There were 8 data of asking type, 1 data of permitting type, 2 data of ordering type, 1 data of requesting type, 1 data of commanding type, 2 data of inviting type, and 2 data of advising type. Eventually, “The School for Good and Evil” movie characters most frequently use the asking type of directive acts.

Keywords : Analysis, Directive, Movie

Introduction

Language is an important element that encourages humans to be able to communicate with each other. In the absence of language, human will find it difficult to communicate. Communication is used to convey certain intentions of a person to others through language whether directly or indirectly. The study that has to do with context is called pragmatics. The study of pragmatics serves as the foundation for an explanation of how language interpretation is influenced by context. This study related to the contextual meaning behind an utterance or the meaning created at the time the utterance is uttered. The study of meaning as it is conveyed by a speaker and received by a listener is known as pragmatics. This way of communicating in the pragmatics view is known as speech acts. One of the types of speech acts is directive acts. An action that persuades a listener to take action is referred to as a directive act.

Directive acts are real phenomena in society. When the speaker utters something to make the listener do an action according to speaker’s intention, that marks the existence of directive acts. Furthermore, the phenomena of directive acts are widely found in social

media. The researcher found the phenomenon of directive acts in one of the contents in TalkSport YouTube channel entitled "WORLD CUP FINAL PREVIEW Tim Vickery previews Argentina versus France in the 2022 FIFA World Cup final!". Tony said, "Uh Tim I wanted to ask you because I was at the game against Italy in the Summer, where Argentina played and uh European Champions against the South American Champions and the forward line was Martinez Di Maria and Lionel Messi. Now obviously McAllister's come in and Alvarez that's made it, uh was **was that in the plan or was that just because of coincidence?**". Referring to the question Tim replied, "McAllister's come in because Lochi also was injured and that that's been a big loss to him, because Lochi also know he didn't come off at Tottenham but he was a supply line for Messi and they've had to look around for that. Alvarez has been a change that they've made you know that the military people will say no plan ever survives first contact with the enemy."

The dialogue above is a conversation taken from a podcast in YouTube which discusses about a trending topic in 2022, specifically about the World Cup. The conversation above contains utterances that involved the communication between a speaker and a listener in 00:02:45-00:03:25 minutes. In this conversation, the speaker asked a question related to one moment that happen in a football event when he was in Italy. The speaker asked if the incident had happened intentionally. Referring to the question, the listener gave an answer of what really happened to the speaker at that time. Since the listener responded by giving an answer to the speaker's questions, this conversation can be categorized as a phenomenon of directive acts. Hence, the speaker wished the hearer to do something. The question is uttered by the speaker to the hearer in order to receive an answer. As Searle and Vanderveken (1985) have noted, directive question acts are used to ask a question. Asking is a type of directive acts that involves the form of question. By delivering the question, the speaker intends the listener to do something or to do an action. Incidentally, the question was always directive. This is how the type of asking to ask a question is uttered. So that is why **asking** type comes as the result of the conversation above.

Literature Review

Directive Acts

Directive act is one of the type of speech act in which the speaker intends the hearer to do something by saying something. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) stated that directive act is the action carried out by speaker to hearer through utterances to make the hearer do something. The directive point is the attempt to persuade hearer to perform an action. In utterances containing the directive act, the speaker makes an effort to persuade the hearer to do something. This means that the speaker expects the listener to complete the speaker's intention, so the action is expected to be performed by the listener. Acts of directives are designed to induce someone to take action (Yule, 1996). There are also different types in directive acts. Those are asking, request, ordering, commanding, permitting, inviting, entreating, begging, and praying.

- 1) **Asking:** The type of directive acts in the form of question. The speaker's aim is clearly stated to the listener by the questions asked, which intends to persuade the listener to respond. The speaker wants the listener to give an answer so the speaker tries to get an answer by asking a question.
"Where is she? I have to see her." (Tiwa et al., 2022)
- 2) **Ordering:** According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985) the type of directive acts that functions as order. Speaker does not need the authority to give an order to hearer. Everyone is able to make an order.
"Take a seat, get to the point." (Virginia & Ambalegin, 2021)

- 3) **Permitting:** This kind of directive act takes the form of an utterance that involving a permission. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), a speaker uses the permission to ask for approval to carry out a particular action. A speaker who asks for permission also anticipates getting it in order to perform the requested activity. The speaker who needs permission to speak makes the permission.
"I ask for your permission to go to the battle taking up arms against you Mother!" (Mualimin,2018)
- 4) **Advising:** This type of directive act refers to a speaker's act of giving direction and advice. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) stated that advice is used to persuade a hearer to perform an action that the speaker believes the hearer is interested in. Furthermore, a speaker generates the form of advice that asks the listener to take the required action.
"Mom, if I can get out and socialize, you can, too." (Hastuti et al., 2021)
- 5) **Requesting:** A type of directive act is used to solicit assistance. Requests may be denied or granted (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). Furthermore, (Yule, 1996) stated that requesting involves action that a hearer can decline. According to the definition, the type of requesting is used by a speaker to ask for help.
"Eddie, the suit you gotta take it off". (Shelviana & Mulatsih, 2022)
- 6) **Inviting:** The type of directive act that is performed by speaker (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). A certain word or phrase is used to professionally and formally invite a listener. The act of inviting makes the audience do something or go somewhere.
"Come join us this weekend!" (Dewi et al., 2021)
- 7) **Command:** The type of directive acts that has a purpose to make sure that the listener does as speaker instructed. As stated by (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985), commanding is the ability of speaker to give a command with knowing that they have the ability to dominate the listener.
"Stand up! I'll help you." (Putra, 2022)
- 8) **Entreating:** The performance of speaker in asking for something to the listener with sincere request to make the listener do something really important is known as entreating (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985).
"We really need to talk" (Giovani & Widiana, 2022)
- 9) **Begging:** The act of showing polite demand, which demonstrates a strong willingness, is known as begging. Begging is act performed through utterance by speaker in a nice and respectful way, hoping to get something (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). The utterance of begging is always uttered when a speaker wants the request to be granted.
"Please, ma'am, could you lend us the girls for a little while? We'll be very careful of them" (Fitriyah, 2022)
- 10) **Praying:** Praying is a type of directive act that is done to appeal eligious authorities (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). In another way, this type is widely used in contexts when a speaker prays. This type is uttered to ask for help and say thanks to God.
"Hopefully the god blessed us" (Suadnyani, 2020)

Communication and directive acts are strongly intertwined. When a speaker wants the audience to take action, they utilize directive acts. The circumstance and the audience to whom the speaker is speaking dictate how a directed act should be carried out. Characters in the movie also act as representations of actual conversations, complete with sounds and visuals. Language has a crucial part in helping characters in a movie express their thoughts.

Depending on the situation, characters are able to create directed actions and utterances. This research took "The School for Good and Evil" movie from Netflix as the data

source. The reason the researchers took this movie as the data source is because there are some utterances from the movie that are related with the topic of the research about directive acts. This movie is Netflix fantasy movie that released in 2022. One of the utterances that indicates directive illocutionary act is on the below.

Sophie (S) : **“Just give him this and tell how good I am. Ohh and don’t be weird. You know what I mean, don’t talk about your cat.”**

Agatha (L) : “Fine.”

The utterance was uttered by Sophie of the Gavaldon (Sophia Anne Caruso) as the speaker to Agatha of the Gavaldon (Sofia Wylie) as the listener. This conversation took place in a canteen inside of the school. To reach the speaker’s purpose, the speaker ordered the hearer to do the intended action which to give a letter to a man named Tedros. This is categorized as ordering type because the speaker ordered someone else to do something that the speaker intended. Therefore, the **ordering** type comes as the result of these utterances.

People must be able to interpret the meaning of the utterances in order for them to communicate a message. People can typically tell when an utterance refers to an activity in ordinary discourse. Speech acts are actions that speakers carry out through their words (Yule, 2014). Declarative, representational, expressive, directive, and commissive speech acts are the five categories under which speech acts are categorized (Yule, 1996).

The researchers used two previous studies to support this research. The first previous study is from Virginia and Ambalegin (2021) which purposed to reveal the types of directive acts in “I care a lot” movie. The findings of this research showed that there were 15 utterances of directive acts uttered by the main character in the movie “I Care a Lot”. There were 5 statements that were asking, 4 statements that were ordering, 3 statements that were permitting, 1 statement that were advising, 1 statement showed requesting, and 1 statement that were inviting. The most common type created by the main character in the “I Care a Lot movie” is the asking type, as the main character regularly ask other characters.

The second previous study was taken from Dwi Indrayani et al., (2022) which purposely to identify the types of directive acts that was frequently appeared in the Little Women (2019) movie. This research employed the descriptive qualitative method. The results of this research showed that there are five types of directive speech acts performed by the characters in the film. There were 105 expressions of command, 8 expressions of permit, 20 expressions of request, 40 expressions of prohibition, 257 expressions of asking. From the five types of directive act, the most dominant type used is the asking type. It shows the most data, which is 257 data.

The present and previous research showed the differences and similarities. The previous research used a different data source from this present research. The movie entitled “The School for Good and Evil” was taken to be the data source of this research. The present and previous research analyzed the same topic. The topic was directive speech acts as one of pragmatics discussions. Directive acts theory from Searle and Vanderveken (1985) was applied to analyze the utterances. For the aim, this research aimed at investigating the directive speech acts types in “The School for Good and Evil” movie.

Research Method

This research used descriptive qualitative research methods. emphasized that qualitative research is used to gain a deeper and comprehensive understanding of social phenomena. Furthermore, the main character's directive acts and utterances were used as the data source. This study used observational method for the data collection proposed by Sudaryanto (2015). The observational method was

carried out by watching the movie ““The School for Good and Evil””. This research involved a non-participatory method of data collection because the researchers were not involved in the data source. There are some steps in the process of collecting the data. Firstly, the researchers watched the data source which is “The School for Good and Evil” movie. Secondly, the researchers downloaded the script of the movie. The researchers then watched the film and read the script in the same time. Finally, the researchers marked the utterances that showed the directive acts.

This research employed referential identity method proposed by Sudaryanto (2015) as the method in analysing the data. This research was using the pragmatic competence technique in equalizing by Sudaryanto (2015). The technique to analyze the data is to equalize the data source to the theory. The theory from Searle and Vanderveken (1985) was used to analyze the types of directive acts. The data is analyzed in three steps. First, the researchers determined the context of the highlighted utterances. Second, the researchers analyzed the types of policy acts using the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985). Finally, the results revealed the types of directive actions taken by the characters in the film “The School for Good and Evil”.

Result and Discussion

In the movie “The School for Good and Evil” there were several types of directive acts. The research result is presented in the table below.

Result

Table 1. The Types of Directive Acts Performed by the Characters in “The School for Good and Evil” Movie

No	Types of Directive Acts	Frequency
1	Asking	8
2	Ordering	2
3	Permitting	1
4	Requesting	1
5	Commanding	1
6	Inviting	2
7	Advising	2
Total		17

Discussion

a. Asking

Data 1

Agatha (S) : “Any ghost stories?”

Mrs. Deauville (L) : “Yes, if you interested in looking ones.” (00:10:49-00:10:51)

The conversation above is taken when Agatha and Sophie were in the book store. The speaker utterance “Any ghost stories?” is considered as the asking type. The speaker

asked the listener regarding the book about horror story because she was looking for it. The speaker asked because she wanted to get an information about books that contain horror stories. Therefore, the utterance above can be concluded as **asking** type because the speaker asked a question to the listener and the listener response to the speaker's question.

Data 2

Sophie (S) : **"You okay?"**
Agatha (L) : "Yeah, yeah I'm fine" (00:10:18 -00:10:20)

The utterance above was conveyed by Sophie as the speaker to Agatha the listener. This conversation took place in a market in the city of Gavaldon when Sophie saw a drunk man pointing out a knife at her best friend, Agatha. After hitting the man with a pot, the speaker was worried for her best friend after what happened. Furthermore, the speaker asked a question regarding Agatha's condition. Therefore, the utterance above can be concluded as **asking** type because the speaker deliver a form of question to the listener and in turn the listener replied by giving an answer.

Data 3

Sophie (S) : **"Who's S.G. E?"**
Mrs. Deauville (L) : "Not who, what. "The School for Good and Evil"?" (00:11:27-00:11:32)

The conversation above was conveyed inside of a book store near the market in Gavaldon city. When Sophie was looking for a fairy-tale book, Mrs. Deauville (the listener) showed a mysterious book to Sophie (the speaker). In the front of the book, there is an abbreviation of S.G.E. Because the listener was curious about it, she expressed her curiosity by asking a question. Consequently, the conversation above can be determined as **asking** type because the speaker uttered a question to the listener because she had an intention of getting an answer to her question and the listener also fulfilled the speaker's intention by giving an answer.

Data 4

Sophie (S) : **"What happened to her?"**
Mrs. Deauville (L) : "No one knows." (00:12:11 -00:12:16)

The utterance above was uttered by Sophie as the speaker to Mrs. Deauville the listener in Gavaldon book store. The speaker asked a question to the listener after Mrs. Deauville tell a story about a girl named Leonora who is being kidnapped by the School of Good and Evil. The speaker was curious about what happened to the girl that the listener previously talked about. Furthermore, the speaker delivered a question to the listener. Therefore, it can be concluded that the conversation above is **asking** type.

Data 5

Agatha (S) : **"How do you know my name?"**
Prof. Doyey (L) : "Because I've been expecting you." (00:23:58 -00:24:02)

The conversation above was delivered by Agatha as the speaker and Professor Dovey as the listener. This conversation took place inside of bathroom in The School for Good. The speaker was surprised to hear that the listener knows her name even she is not introduced herself. The speaker wondered how the listener knew her name. In order to achieved her intention, the speaker uttered a question to the listener. Therefore, the conversation above can be concluded as **asking** type because the speaker's intention was accomplished through the listener's answer.

Data 6

Sophie (S) : **"There's no boys in the School for Good?"**
Hort (L) : "Ugh there's plenty. And get ready to be nauseous." (00:28:02-00:28:07)

The conversation above was delivered by Sophie as the speaker to Hort the listener.

This conversation took place in a hall of the School for Good. The agenda at that time was a gathering party to welcome new students from both schools. Before the event started, the speaker looked around and then she realized that there were not any men in the School for God. The speaker was curious why there were no men in the school for good. Then the speaker asked her friend about it. Therefore, it can be concluded that the conversation above is **asking** type because the speaker uttered a question.

Data 7

Sophie (S) : **"Wait, where are we going?"**

Agatha (L) : "To get you out of here." (00:12:35-00:12:38)

The conversation above was delivered between Sophie as the speaker and Agatha as the listener. This conversation took place outside of the school. The speaker was pulled by the listener to go to the school master's room. The speaker who is confused about what is going on and why suddenly the listener pulled her then asks where the listener will take her. The speaker delivered a question in order to get an answer to where she will be taken. Therefore, the conversation above can be categorized as **asking** type because the speaker performed a question to the listener.

Data 8

Prof. Dovey (S) : **"Have you seen Rafal before? Here?"** (01:39:03- 01:39:14)

Agatha (L) : "Yeah. In the tower of blood I told the school master about, and Sophie saw him in her classroom. So did Lady Lesso." (01:39:03-01:39:14)

The conversation above was delivered by Professor Dovey as the speaker to Agatha as the listener. This conversation took place in one of a room inside the school. The speaker was very surprised at what she had just heard from the listener. The curious speaker then asked about the information he had just received to the listener. To achieved her intention, the speaker gave a question to the listener. Therefore, it can be concluded that the conversation above is **asking** type because the speaker involves a question in the dialogue.

b. Permitting

Data 9

Gregor (S) : **"Do you mind if I sit with you?"**

Agatha (L) : "No." (00:51:22-00:51:25)

This conversation took place inside of the canteen in the school. The conversation above was uttered by the speaker, Gregor to the listener, Agatha. The speaker approaching the listener while she was alone. The speaker asked for permission to sit in front of the listener by saying "Do you mind if I sit with you?". The listener responded to that question by letting the speaker to sit in front of her. Therefore, it can be categorized as **permitting** type because the speaker asked for permission to the listener to do his intended action.

c. Ordering

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985) the type of directive acts that functions as order. Speaker does not need the authority to give an order to hearer. Therefore, everyone is able to make an order.

Data 10

Sophie (S) : **"Just give him this and tell how good I am. Ohh and don't be weird. You know what I mean, don't talk about your cat."**

Agatha (L) : "Fine." (00:53:30-00:53:44)

The utterance was uttered by Sophie of the Gavaldon (Sophia Anne Caruso) as the

speaker to Agatha of the Gavaldon (Sofia Wylie) as the listener. This conversation took place in a canteen inside of the school. To reach the speaker's purpose, the speaker ordered the hearer to do the intended action which to give a letter to a man named Tedros. This is categorized as ordering type because the speaker ordered someone else to do something that the speaker intended. Therefore, the **ordering** type comes as the result of these utterances.

Data 11

Sophie (S) : **"Don't break the door down!"**
Step mom (L) : "Oh I will if you're not out in 5 minutes, and no spending an hour on your hair." (00:05:11-00:05:17)

The conversation above was delivered in the beginning of the movie between Sophie (the speaker) and her step mother (the listener). This conversation took place inside of the speaker's house. While the speaker is dreaming, she could hear that the voice inside her dream is changing into a woman voice. Turns out, it was her mother calling her to wake up. The speaker who heard his mother knock on the door of her room loudly ordered the listener not to do that again or the door would be broken. The listener who heard this, stopped her banging. However, the listener said that if the speaker does not come out immediately, the listener will break down the door of her room. An order can be given by anyone and can be for anyone. Therefore, it can be concluded that the conversation above is **ordering** type.

d. Requesting

Data 12

Sophie (S) : **"Aggie no. Please let me go!"**
Agatha (L) : "No way. I'm never letting you go!" (00:16:31-00:16:35)

The conversation above was delivered by Sophie as the speaker to Agatha as the listener. This conversation took place inside of the forest in Gavaldon when the speaker tried to leave Gavaldon. At that moment, the speaker is pulled by a terrible creature who listens to her plea for admission to "The School for Good and Evil". The listener, as a best friend, did not remain silent watching her friend being carried by the terrible creature. The speaker who sees the listener trying to restrain her asks the listener to let the speaker go because she feels that this is indeed her destiny. Unfortunately, the listener declined the speaker's request. A request can be declined or can be granted. Therefore, the conversation above can be concluded as **request** type because the speaker asked the listener to do something.

e. Commanding

Data 13

Prof. Anemone (S) : **"So show me your smile if you don't want to fail!"**
Agatha (L) : "My ... smile?"
Prof. Anemone (S) : "Mm-hmm" (00:49:56-00:50:04)

The conversation above was delivered by Professor Anemone as the speaker and Agatha as the listener. This conversation took place inside of a classroom in the school for good. While the class is proceeding, the speaker as the teacher in the beautification class commanded the listener to show her smile if the listener does not want to fail in her class. The listener who heard the command then did as the speaker intends. A command is usually given by a person who has a higher position than the person who is being commanded. Therefore, the conversation above can be concluded as a **commanding** type because the speaker whose positioning as a teacher gave a command to her student.

f. Inviting

Data 14

Agatha (S) : **"Come with me to save Sophie.** That's how we'll save the school. Evers and Nevers. Please."
Tedros (L) : "Okay. Go to her. I'll be there as soon as I can. I promise you."
(02:02:33-02:02:45)

The conversation above was delivered between Agatha as the speaker and Tedros as the listener. This conversation took place in the hall of the school for evil. The speaker asked the listener to come with her to save her friend Sophie who was being affected by an evil wizard named Rafal. The speaker asked the listener to go to the school master's office where Sophie was taken. The listener agreed to follow the listener but he told her to go first and he promised to be there as soon as possible. Therefore, it can be concluded that the conversation above is **inviting** type because the speaker asked the listener to visit a location with her.

Data 15

Rafal (S) : **"Will you join me?"**
Sophie (L) : "Yes." (02:03:20-02:03:28)

The conversation above was delivered by rafal as the speaker and Sophie as the listener. The conversation above was taken in the school master's office and happened in near the end of the movie. The speaker asked the listener to join him to his partner in crime. The listener who was affected by the speaker's words and seduction finally agreed to the invitation. Therefore, it can be categorized as **inviting** type because the speaker uttered an invitation to invites the listener.

g. Advising

Data 16

Girl 1(S) : **"You have to get a boy to ask you or you fail."**
Agatha (L) : "Wait, you mean they kick you out?" (00:47:49-00:47:56)

The conversation above was delivered by girl 1 & 2 as the speakers and Agatha as the listener in the beauty class. This conversation happened before the beauty class in the School for Good started. The speakers gave an advice to the listener that if she does not want to fail, then she should get a partner for the upcoming party that will be held by the school. The speakers also said that three times failed then the listener would be expelled and even turned into another object. The speakers give an advice for the listener in order to persuade

the listener to find a partner and to be careful not to fail. Therefore, it can be concluded that the conversation above is include as **advising** type.

Data 17

- Agatha (S) : **“After what happened to his father, Tedros isn't going to fall for someone just because she's hot. You need to prove to him that you're Good in front of everybody, in a way no one can deny.”**
- Sophie (L) : “Fine” (01:25:55-01:26:14)

The conversation above was delivered by Agatha as the speaker to Sophie as the listener. This conversation took place inside of the School for Good. The speaker advised the listener that if she wants the person she likes to like her back, then she must prove that she is a good person because that man will not like her just because of how she looks. Furthermore, the speaker persuades the listener to prove that she is good in front of everybody. Therefore, the utterance above can be concluded as **advising** type because the speaker give an advice to the listener.

Conclusion

Directive act is a type of speech act that is widely found in various media, one of which is in movie. Directive acts are used by the speaker to make the listener perform an action or respond according to his intention. Moreover, in “The School for Good and Evil” movie, there are found several types of directive acts expressed by characters in the movie. The types that appear in the movie are asking, ordering, permitting, inviting, commanding, advising, and requesting. The asking type is the type that most shown by the characters in this movie. This is because there are many questions raised by characters in this movie. Directive speech acts cannot be separated from everyday life. It is hard for a speaker to avoid using directive acts if they want the listener to act in the way they wished. This is related to the purpose of the directive acts as an utterance that can make the listener to carry out an action. In order to properly perform directive acts, a speaker must understand about the directive acts itself. The reason is because the types of directive acts differ in each use. Therefore, the existence of directive acts is very important for the speaker in order to make the listener do something as requested.

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