



An Analysis of Directive Acts Found in “The Princess Switch”

Cindy Erika Damanik¹, Ambalegin Ambalegin²

pb191210023@upbatam.ac.id¹

ambalegin@puterabatam.ac.id²

^{1,2}Universitas Putera Batam, Indonesia

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Abstract

The aim of this descriptive qualitative research was to examine the various types of directive uttered by the characters in The Princess Switch movie. The data were collected from the characters' utterances of directive acts in the movie. The theory proposed Searle (1979) was used to analyze the types of directive acts. The observational method and non-participatory technique were employed to obtain the data. In addition, the data were evaluated using the pragmatic identity method and pragmatic competence- in equalizing technique. The results demonstrated that the characters in The Princess Switch movie delivered 20 utterances of directive acts. There were 9 data displayed asking, 3 data displayed requesting, 1 data displayed inviting, 3 data displayed advising, 3 data displayed permitting, and 1 data displayed commanding. The asking type of directive acts was the most common type as the characters in the Princess Switch regularly asking each other questions

Keywords: *directive acts; pragmatics; speech acts*

Introduction

Regarding the use of language, the phenomenon can be found on social media such as WhatsApp, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and so on. This research took the phenomenon from YouTube channel of “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon”. The directive illocutionary acts uttered at the video entitled “Dua Lipa’s Full Tonight Show Interview and 80-year-old Fan Surprise”. It was published on April 13th, 2022. Jimmy hosted the show, and Dua Lipa featured as a guest star. It was the phenomenon of directive acts found on the interview as follows.

Jimmy (S) : “Now I’m doing this every show, so get ready. **Could you show me the move?**”

Dua Lipa (H) : “I’ll do it with you.”

Dua Lipa is a famous English singer and song writer. Dua lipa, a guest, had the opportunity to attend an interview by Jimmy. The utterance was said by Jimmy as the speaker and Dua Lipa as the hearer in 00:06:56 – 00:07:03 minutes. The utterance was performed when the Speaker attempted to make a request with the hearer, who stated that online intimidation caused her a great deal of grief. However, the hearer learned from it, and the hearer began to sing “Don't Start Now” along

with her dancing. Furthermore, the speaker uttered a request to the hearer to show that dance. The hearer did the action as the speaker's utterance. Nevertheless, since it is a request, the action can be refused. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) stated that the type of request can be accepted or refused by the hearer.

The researchers took a phenomena of directive speech act in "The Princess Switch" movie. This movie is an American romantic comedy. The movie directed by Mike Rohl, and released on November 16th, 2018. In this study, the researchers took the utterance of a baker named Stacy from Chicago. The movie portrays Stacy as a baker from Chicago, who met accidentally with the royal princess named Margaret. Surprisingly, Stacy has the similar face as the royal princess. The utterance of Stacy will be stated below.

Stacy (S) : **"Who are you?"**

Margaret (H) : "Lady Margaret Delacourt, Duchess of Montenegro."

The conversation above featured Stacy as the speaker and Margaret as the hearer. The utterance was produced by in 00:10:28 – 00:10:31 minutes. The conversation happened in a prestigious cooking competition in the Kingdom of Belgravia. Stacy (the speaker) coincidentally met Margaret (the Hearer). Both the speaker and hearer were surprised when they noticed how similar their looks were. Then, the Speaker asked a question to the Hearer in . Thus, the type of directive act in utterance above is asking. Ask question means asking the hearer to perform a speech act based on the content of the question (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985).

The researchers observed two previous study to support this research. First, Virginia and Ambalegin (2021) aimed at investigating the types of directive acts in "I Care a Lot" movie. The data was collected from the movie's main character. The reason of this research was interested to be discussed, because this research applied the theory proposed by Searle (1979). The type of asking was frequently produced by the main character. This research was found several types of directive acts namely asking, permitting, ordering, requesting, advising, and inviting were produced in the movie.

The next is Della and Sembiring (2018) aimed at finding out the types of directive acts that used the theory of Searle (1979). The research took the data source from the script by Casper Van Dien in "Sleeping Beauty" movie. Regarding the findings, it featured five types of directive including command, permission, request, question, and prohibition. The most commonly used was command type.

The previous and current research revealed both similarities and differences. Both current and previous research emphasized the same topic and theory. This current research employed the directive acts theory proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985). Moreover, the previous and current research used different data source. The data source for this research derived from "The Princess Switch" movie. As a result, this research aimed at examining the types of directive acts in "The Princess Switch" movie.

Directive acts are used to persuade the addressee to do something. According to Searle (1979), directive acts are the speaker's implicit meaning. The types of "directive" illocutionary acts are asking, ordering, permitting, advising, requesting, inviting, begging, praying, commanding, and entreating (Searle, 1979).

1) Asking: Asking the question is one of the directive acts types. As claimed by Searle & Vanderveken (1985), when a question is uttered, the hearer

performs an action for the speaker; and the speaker determines the form before asking the question. Beside, Searle (1979) stated that question as a type of directives speech act since the speaker wants to get a response from the hearer. Below is an example.

“What is it?” (Lailiyah, 2015)

2) Ordering: Searle & Vanderveken (1985) stated that ordering does not necessarily have the institutional authority of speaker to persuade a hearer to do something. It implies that everyone can implement the kind of ordering in directive speech acts. The following is the example of ordering.

“Raya, you have to listen.” (Hendar et al., 2021)

3) Permitting: This is one of directive acts types that occurs in utterances as grammatical interrogatives that ask permission to do or get something. According to Searle & Vanderveken (1985), permitting is conveyed by a speaker to give someone permission to perform a specific action. Furthermore, the speaker who asks permission expects to be granted permission to carry out the intended action. Below is an example of one of the utterances.

“Can I eat with you?” (Widodo, 2019)

4) Advising: The directive acts type of giving someone advise on the best course of action is advising. Searle & Vanderveken (1985) stated that the purpose of advice is to persuade a listener to do a certain action that the speaker presumes the listener would find interesting. The sentence below shows one of the utterances.

“I think we should have them just in case. But be careful.” (Virginia & Ambalegin, 2021)

5) Requesting: Requesting is might be accepted or refused by the listener Searle & Vanderveken (1985). Furthermore, Searle (1979) defined a request as a directive speech act that occurs when the speaker intends the hearer to perform an action and the speaker perceives the hearer is capable of performing it. Following is the utterance of requesting.

“Please make sure they stay out of the kingdom until we return.” (Yani & Maharani, 2022)

6) Inviting: The speaker uses inviting in directive speech acts to persuade the listener to take action. Inviting is principally directive (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). Additionally, Searle (1979) determined that inviting is the speaker's intention to persuade the hearer to participate in a certain event or to perform an action. One of the examples is mentioned below.

“Aurora? Come here. Sit.” (Biatrik et al., 2020)

7) Begging: This kind of act is used to beg a decent and respectful request. Searle & Vanderveken (1985) determined that the verb "beg" has two meanings. Firstly, begging is a courteous request. Secondly, begging is used to make a modest request of a scrounger, who is perceived to be routinely begging. In both cases, begging is used to convey a deep desire of the speaker to the hearer to do an action. One of the utterances as follow.

“Wait! Please, wait for me.” (Suryanti & Afriana, 2020)

8) Praying: Searle & Vanderveken (1985) said that praying is implemented to make requests of God or other religious entities. In other words, this type is frequently utilized in situations where a speaker is praying. This type is also

used to ask for assistance and express gratitude to God. One of the examples is mentioned below.

"Lord. **I pray this child turn out good.**" (Tesaindra & Mualimin, 2017)

9) Commanding: Its important purpose is to ensure that the hearer follows the instructions. In order to give the instruction, the speaker must have authority over the listener. As defined by Searle & Vanderveken (1985), commanding is performed by a speaker who has the ability to influence the hearer. Furthermore, Searle (1979) argued that commanding occurs when the speaker attempts to persuade the listener to do something. Following is the utterance of commanding.

"**Put it in the right order, do not step on it or you may broke it!**" (Suryandani & Budasi, 2021)

10) Entreating: Entreating is an act of asking for a great desire and showing a strong willingness in the respectful manner (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). The action taken by the hearer is defined as a strong willingness. Below is an example.

"**Linda, call me, I beg of you. I swear I'll never deceive you again. I'll be entirely honest from now on.**" (Husna, 2019)

METHODS

This descriptive qualitative research was undertaken in this research. According to Merriam (2016), qualitative research involves a variety of philosophical perspectives and approaches. The qualitative research refers to an anthropology, sociology, journalism, education, social work, medicine, and law. This research employed the observational method provided by Sudaryanto (2015) to collect the data. The observational method was used by watching the Aftermath movie. Additionally, this research used a non-participatory methodology because the researchers were excluded from the data source. The researchers took several steps for collecting data. First, the researchers watched the movie entitled Aftermath. Second, the researchers re-watched the movie and highlighted the phenomenon. After that, the phenomenon converted into written utterances. Next, the data was categorised by the researchers based on the types of directive acts.

The data was analysed by using pragmatic identity method proposed by Sudaryanto (2015). Furthermore, this research used pragmatic competence- in equalizing technique by Sudaryanto (2015). Besides that, this research applied Searle's (1979) theory to analyze the types of directive acts. The data analysis process is divided into several steps. First, the researchers determined the context of the collected utterances. Second, the researchers examined the various types of directive acts using theory proposed by Searle (1979). Finally, the result showed the types of directive acts performed by characters in the Aftermath movie.

Results And Discussion

Data 1

Stacy (S) : "**When is it?**"

Kevin (H) : "**We'd leave Friday.**" (00:02:07 – 00:02:08)

The utterance was said by Stacy (the speaker) and Kevin (the hearer). It

took place in the cake shop. The conversation performed when the speaker is working at the shop. The hearer and his daughter told the good news to the speaker. After telling the good news, the speaker asked regarding the good news to the hearer when is the international baking competition will be held. Accordingly, the type of directive act performed in the above conversation is asking.

Data 2

Margaret (S) : "I know it's short notice, but **would you join me at the palace for a consultation later on today?**"

Stacy (H) : "A consultation? Wow! I would be so honored." (00:11:42 – 00:11:50)

The utterance was delivered by Lady Margaret (the speaker) to invite Stacy (the hearer) joining a consultation. Both the speaker and the hearer discussed about the wedding cake in the Margaret's house. The speaker invited the hearer to join a consultation because the hearer was a popular baker. Hence, the type of directive act uttered in the above conversation is inviting.

Data 3

Kevin (S) : "**Could you be spontaneous for once in your life?**"

Stacy (H) : "You know I am not good at spontaneous."

The utterance was expressed by Kevin (the speaker) to Stacy (the hearer) at the cake shop. The speaker asked the hearer to join the bake competition. The hearer seemed not interested in joining as the cake shop could not close suddenly before Christmas. The speaker then made a request to the listener to be spontaneous. Thus, requesting is the type of directive act said in the conversation above.

Data 4

Stacy (S) : "**Do I really need to bow or something before I go?**"

Margaret (H) : "It really isn't necessary." (00:12:16 – 00:12:19)

The utterance was delivered by Stacy (the speaker) and Margaret (the hearer) in the house of the hearer. The speaker was discussing a plan with the hearer. After discussing, the speaker asked the question to the hearer. It encouraged the speaker to ask about the tradition to do the curtsy. Thereby, the utterance above belongs to asking type of directive acts.

Data 5

Stacy (S) : "**So, you want me to teach you how to be normal?**"

Margaret (L) : "No. I want to be you. I want to switch places with you." (00:14:45 – 00:14:52)

The utterance was produced by Stacy (the speaker) and Margaret (the hearer) in the room of the palace. The speaker and hearer were talking about the marriage of the hearer. The speaker asked a question to the hearer. The reason for this is that the speaker intended to help the hearer. Hence, the utterance above belongs to the asking since it includes a question.

Data 6

Stacy (S) : "**Is there something I can do for you?**"

Staff (H) : "Yes, I just wanted to say I hope you understand that I wish I could rearrange my schedule. I hate to leave at such short notice." (00:26:45 –

00:26:54)

The utterance was delivered by Stacy (the speaker) around of the door of Margaret's room. Stacy had switched roles to Margaret according to the agreement they made. The hearer came looking for Margaret. Then, the speaker asked a question with the intention of asking if there is anything the speaker can help with. Thereby, the utterance above belongs to asking type of directive act.

Data 7

Edward (S) : **"I thought a nice ride through the countryside would be a fun surprise for you this morning."**

Stacy (H) : "Oh! Isn't it too cold to go riding?" (00:30:08 – 00:30:15)

The conversation happened when Prince Edward (the speaker) gave an engagement present. Edward did not realize that the hearer is actually Stacy disguised as Margaret. The speaker declared to grant the surprise for the hearer. The speaker advised that would be a fun surprise. Thereby, the utterance above belongs to advising type of directive act.

Data 8

Olivia (S) : **"Are you feeling okay?"**

Margaret (H) : "Super." (00:32:23 – 00:32:25)

The utterance was expressed by Olivia (the speaker) to Margaret (the hearer) in the house of the speaker. In the conversation above, the speaker did not know that the hearer is actually Margaret disguised as a Stacy. The speaker asked a question about the feeling of the hearer. This is because the speaker discovered something unusual about the hearer. Thereby, the utterance above belongs to asking type of directive act.

Data 9

Ms. Donatelli (S) : **"May I help you?"**

Mr. De Luca (H) : "The Prince would like to see the Duchess in the Potrait Library." (00:40:26 – 00:40:30)

The conversation occurred when Mr. Deluca was spying on Stacy in front of Margaret's room. Then Ms. Donatelli (the speaker) surprised Mr. Deluca (the hearer) and asked for permission to help the hearer. The hearer then conveyed his intention to inform something. Thereby, the utterance above belongs to permitting type of directive act.

Data 10

Margaret (S) : **"Christmas should be about love."**

Kevin (H) : "I've never seen you so sentimental." (00:41:28 – 00:41:31)

The conversation occurred while Margaret, Kevin, and Olivia were painting art. The first to show the result of painting was Olivia. Both speaker and hearer admired Olivia's painting. Next, Kevin (the hearer) showed the painting's result. Olivia and Margaret mocked it. Furthermore, Margaret (the speaker) showed her painting and she advised them about what should Christmas be. Hence, the utterance above belong to advising type of directive act.

Data 11

Edward (S) : "Speaking of fabulous ideas, they'll be expecting us to have us the first dance."

Stacy (H) : "Oh, dear! I'm not very good at dancing."

Edward (S) : "Well, you know what they say. **Practice makes perfect.**"

(00:51:56 – 00:52:09)

The conversation happened when Stacy was sitting in the gazebo. Edward (the speaker) came to Stacy (the hearer) because speaker had an interesting idea. The speaker invited the hearer to dance for the first time. It turned out that the hearer was not very good at that, so the speaker advised the hearer that practice would make perfect. Hence, the utterance above belongs to the advising type of directive act.

Data 12Margaret (S) : “Well, **keep calm and carry on.**”

Stacy (H) : “You too.” (00:54:11 – 00:54:14)

The conversation occurred when both the speaker and hearer talked on the phone. Margaret (the speaker) admired Kevin. Meanwhile, Stacy (the hearer) admired Edward. When both Margaret and Stacy had conversation, they still switched places that Margaret became Stacy and Stacy became Margaret. The speaker then gave a command to the hearer to continue their plan. Thus, the utterance above belongs to the commanding type of directive act.

Data 13Olivia (S) : “**Can I get the candy cane?**”

Kevin (H) : “Yeah. There you go. Knock yourself out.” (00:59:18 – 00:59:21)

The conversation occurred when Olivia, Kevin, and Margaret were walking on the road. Olivia as the speaker looked at something interesting. Then the speaker asked permission to get that something interesting. Then, Kevin as the hearer allowed the speaker. Thus, the utterance above belongs to the permitting type of directive act.

Data 14Adam (S) : “Excuse me. **Are you Stacy De Novo?**”

Margaret (H) : “Yes. Yes, I am.” (00:59:44 – 00:59:48)

The conversation happened when Kevin, and Margaret were walking on the road. Margaret had switched roles to Stacy. Kevin didn't know that the current person who looked like Stacy was actually Margaret. A reporter from the food insider magazine named Adam Delaney came up to them. Adam as a speaker asked a question to Margaret the hearer. And the hearer answered that she was Stacy De Novo. Accordingly, the utterance above belongs to the asking type of directive act.

Data 15Olivia (S) : “**Can Stacy tuck me in?**”

Kevin (H) : “Sure.” (01:08:05 – 01:08:07)

The utterance was delivered when both speaker and hearer were in the Kevin's house. Olivia (the speaker) asked to hang out with Kevin and Stacy. Kevin refused Olivia and asked her to go to bed. Then, the speaker asked for permission to the hearer. Therefore, the utterance above belongs to the permitting type of directive act.

Data 16Kevin (S) : “**What do you think?**”

Margaret (H) : “It's the most beautiful gift I've ever received. Thank you so much.” (01:14:04 – 01:14:13)

The utterance was delivered when Kevin (the speaker) gave a present to Margaret (the hearer). The present given was a necklace with a pendant containing a photo. Then, the speaker asked a question what the hearer thought about the necklace. Thus, the utterance above belongs to asking type of directive act.

Data 17

Margaret (S) : **"Can we just pretend this never happened?"**

Kevin (H) : "Why?"

Margaret (S) : "Please, you just have to trust me on this." (01:15:08 – 01:15:22)

The utterance was delivered after Margaret (the speaker) and Kevin (the hearer) kissed in the Kevin's house. Kevin expressed feelings to Margaret by kissing her. Margaret realized that this shouldn't have happened. After that, Margaret requested Kevin to pretend it never happened. The reason is because it was Margaret's last day to switch place as Stacy. Thus, the utterance above belongs to request type of directive act.

Data 18

Margaret : **"So, what do we do?"**

Stacy : "Nothing. You go back to being the Duchess, and I hop on a plane back to Chicago as soon as the competition's over." (01:17:23 – 01:17:31)

The utterance was delivered when the time to switch places between Margaret (the speaker) and Stacy (the hearer) was over. Margaret came from Chicago to the place she supposed to be. Then, Margaret asked a question to Stacy about the next plan. Hence, the utterance above belongs to asking the type of directive act.

Data 19

Olivia (S) : **"Is it really you?"**

Stacy (H) : "It's really me." (01:18:31 – 01:18:35)

The conversation occurred when Olivia (the speaker) came to the kitchen and saw Stacy (the hearer) was cooking. The speaker wondered whether the figure she saw was a real Stacy. Then, Olivia openly asked the question in order to know it was Stacy or Margaret. Thereby, the utterance above belongs to asking type of directive act.

Data 20

Kevin (S) : **"Can someone please explain what's going on?"**

Margaret (H) : "This is my fault." (01:28:54 – 01:28:57)

The conversation occurred after Kevin and Stacy were announced as the winner of the baking competition. Because Queen Caroline was unable to present the award ceremony, the Duchess Margaret of Montenegro and the Prince Edward of Belgravia came into the competition. Kevin (the speaker) was very surprised how Stacy could look so similar to Margaret (the hearer). Then, Kevin made a request to someone to tell him what was going on. Thereby, the utterance above belongs to the requesting type of directive act.

Table 1. The types of directive acts performed by the characters in The Princess Switch movie

Asking	<p>“When is it?”</p> <p>“Do I really need to bow or something before I go?”</p> <p>“You want me to teach you how to be normal?”</p> <p>“Is there something I can do for you?”</p> <p>“Are you feeling okay?”</p> <p>“Are you Stacy De Novo??”</p> <p>“What do you think??”</p> <p>“What do we do?”</p> <p>“Is it really you?”</p>	9
Requesting	<p>“Could you be spontaneous for once in your life?”</p> <p>“Can we just pretend this never happened?”</p> <p>“Can someone please explain what’s going on?”</p>	3
Inviting	<p>“Would you join me at the palace for a consultation later on today?”</p>	1
Advising	<p>“I thought a nice ride through the countryside would be a fun surprise for you this morning.”</p> <p>“Christmas should be about love.”</p> <p>“Practice makes perfect.”</p>	3
Permitting	<p>“May I help you?”</p> <p>“Can I get the candy cane?”</p> <p>“Can Stacy tuck me in?”</p>	3
Commanding	<p>“Keep calm and carry on.”</p>	1
Total		20

Conclusion

Directive acts are used to persuade the addressee to do something. To put it another way, a speaker performs directive acts in response to a precise intention that must be carried out. As stated by Searle (1979), directive acts refer to the speaker's implicit meaning. In this research, the characters in *The Princess Switch* expressed several types of directive acts, namely asking, ordering, advising, permitting, commanding, and requesting. The researcher found the most frequently type expressed by characters was asking. The reason for this is that the characters asked a lot of questions. If the speaker wants the hearer to perform action as persuaded, it is difficult to avoid conveying directive acts. Hence, directive acts are particularly important since it is always said by a speaker who intends a hearer to perform action.

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