



Directive Illocutionary Acts in a Child's Utterances in the Sea Beast Movie 2022

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Abstract

Children's language is unique and has its own characteristics. It's unique because the utterance children produce has hidden meanings that are not understood. In this line, when a child asks something, it does not mean that the child is asking, but it could be that the meaning of the utterance is requesting something. This research was intended to discover the types and function in a child's utterances that were found in the movie. It was descriptive qualitative research. The data in this study was in the form of an utterance used by a child in *The Sea Beast*. The illocutionary acts theory was used to answer the questions of this research. It includes the theory proposed by Searle (1976). Based on the analysis, the researcher found a directive illocutionary acts as one of characteristics of a child language. It is found the act function to express what the speaker wants such as requesting, asking, begging, commanding, advising, warning, inviting, and suggesting. As well as asking act is most commonly found in this function.

Keywords: *a child's utterances, directive, illocutionary acts*

Introduction

The Sea Beast is a film that tells the story of hunting sea monsters. In the film, the audience is taught to protect marine animals, where every living thing has its own place of life. The film also teaches audience that if humans maintain marine life, then the sea will maintain human life. In this case it has to do with reciprocal relations, if we take care of nature, then nature will take care of us. In addition, in this film there is one little girl named Maisie Brumble who is about 10 years old. This child has a brave nature in exposing a lie about the occurrence of a war between sea monsters and humans. As one of the main characters, she has a unique way of realizing her dream of becoming a sailor and hero who can help the

community kill the monsters bothering the surrounding community, but their perception has been wrong.

The character of Maisie Brumble portrays how children communicate and express their feeling. The character also emphasize that children have irresistible curiosity as Jirout and Evans (2023) stated in their paper that the nature of children is they like to explore new things and tend to ask a lot of questions to seek answers for their curiosity. In the film, Maisie Brumble uses various types of speech to comment on situations or to ask the adult characters to do something for her benefit. Nonetheless, sometimes the adults around her have difficulty understanding what she means and also have difficulty making her understand what they are trying to convey.

Therefore, the researchers use directive illocutionary acts to analyze the meaning behind Masie Brumble's utterances. Conveying a sentence is not just informing but there is a meaning for an action that must be done. Speech act involves actions performed by individuals verbally. (Brahmanda, et al, 2023) Directive illocutionary acts is a study of pragmatics. As a linguistics study that studies an utterance. The relationship between the context of the language and the intent of the speech through the situation of the speaker when the speech is spoken. In pragmatics, context plays a very important role in interpreting an utterance.

It is generated from the speaker's meaning, then the context that appears in the speech relates to the speaker and the speech environment. In this line, sentences that are not grammatically correct can be understood if the speaker and the hearer are already in the same context. Wodak's interdisciplinary framework offers a critical lens for understanding how context shapes the interpretation of speech, making it particularly relevant for analyzing the directive illocutionary acts in *The Sea Beast*. This approach allows for a nuanced exploration of how contextual factors influence the intent and reception of speech acts within the movie's narrative framework.

To encourage this research, the researcher considered three journals which focused on directive illocutionary act as well as illocutionary act. Puja Maharani and Zia Hisni Mubarak (2023) described the existence of illocutionary acts and its types used in "Searching" movie. Yella Dezas Perdani (2023) described the investigation of illocutionary acts uttered by the characters in *Brave* movie. Irene Trivena Lelet, et al, (2023) described the illocutionary acts performed by the main character in *Divergent* movie by Neil Burer 2014.

Although many researchers have researched illocutionary acts, there is still little research on the topic of illocution in children's utterances, even though adults often feel confused about what children convey in their words. The reason of this research was interested to study because Children's speech sometimes makes adults misunderstand the meaning of the speech. On the other hand, when people

watch a movie, people will have a variety of interpretations. Then this becomes an interesting topic to be discussed.

Furthermore, the character of the child in the film is an interesting object to be examined, although research on a child's utterances is rarely studied. Therefore, researchers raised this study. In this line, the speech acts of a child are so unique because they have a way of expressing a language that is different from adults. Like when a child asks a question, they're actually requesting for something. It means that there is a meaning in the speech spoken.

Moreover, a child's curiosity is so strong. They are always curious about something they don't know. As a theory by Stouffer in Scholastic said that children are naturally curious about what life was like for their parents and grandparents. Furthermore, a child has the characteristic of speaking by saying things as they are or not made up, in other words, they say things honestly. The child feels talk sufficiently comfortable to talk freely (Matthew Saxton: 2017 p.24). Then, researchers are interested in examining a child's utterances by analyzing a directive illocutionary act using Searle's theory of the intent of speech.

Method

This research focused on the illocutionary act used in a child's utterances in *The Sea Beast* which was aimed to discover and illustrate the directive illocutionary in a child's utterances in *The Sea Beast*. This study used dialogue and acts data, thus using descriptive qualitative analysis research methods to find out the pragmatics and the critical discourse analysis perspective in the *Sea Beast* movie. Qualitative researchers develop concepts, insights, and understandings from pattern in the data rather than collecting data to assess preconceived models, hypotheses, or theories (Bogdan and Taylor, p. 8).

Descriptive qualitative method was used in this study because it analyzes what people says via their utterance. According to Bogdan and Taylor descriptive qualitative research was a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written words of people or observed behavior. It illustrates, analyzed, and explain the phenomenon which occur behind the data. The subject research of this study was the used of an utterance in a child's utterances in *The Sea Beast* movie 2022 and the object of this study was utterance which was focused on one type of illocutionary act that is directive illocutionary act

The method of collecting data in this research used an understanding where watching, listening and observing method to collect the data. This method is to provide the data by analyzing data to identify and interpreting into data source. Furthermore, the researcher has some procedures in analyzing data as follow: First collecting data, second interpreting the data, third observing the context and the

last, drawing conclusion based on the result of the research. In conducting the study, the researchers used Searle's theory of illocutionary act.

Findings

In this chapter, the writer present data gathered from the movie "The Sea Beast 2022." Theories are applied to answer the research questions: Searle's theory (1976) is utilize to investigate the type and various function of illocutionary acts. Directive illocutionary is a kind of speech act which make someone do something because they utterance. According to Searle (2005:13) the fact that the speaker is attempting to persuade the listener to take some action demonstrates the illocutionary purpose of this category. The findings are analyzed by explaining the data from utterance analysis. It divided into 8 categories function of directive illocutionary from Searle's (1976) classification. Overall, the findings can be classified within table 1.

Table 1 Function Of Illocutionary Act Found

Speech Act Classification	Quantity	Percentage (%)
Requesting	15	20,83%
Asking	24	29,63%
Begging	3	5,00%
Commanding	8	12,31%
Advising	1	1,72%
Warning	3	5,00%
Inviting	1	1,72%
Suggesting	2	3,39%
TOTAL	57	100%

Data 1 (Requesting in the form of asking)



00:02:06,166 <> 00:02:07,541

Child 1: I', Captain Crow. Smelly old beast!

Maisie: Hey. **Who is reading this story?**

Guard: Oh, my word. What's this?

This conversation happened in the orphanage the night before the children went to bed. Maisie reads a sea monster fairy tale to her friends. When Maisie read the fairy tale with full expression, suddenly her friend shouted and joined in the conversation, making the other friends noisy. Until making the guards enter their

room. This condition makes Maisie says that utterance. In this situation the speaker is Maisie and the hearer are her friend.

The utterance above is categorized as directive illocutionary act. This utterance indirectly means requesting the children to do something that is kept silent. It relates to what the speaker wants. According to Searle (2005:13) the fact that the speaker is attempting to persuade the listener to take some action demonstrates the illocutionary purpose of this category. Additionally, the speaker makes an effort to fit the words into the world by utilizing a command. Intention to bring about certain results by an action by the hearer is another definition of directive given by Leech (1996:105-107). In this statement, the action was given by the hearer. The action for the hearer was shown that they have to keep silent.

Data 2 (Requesting)

01:32:31,541 <> 01:32:40,291

Maisie: **You've to believe me, please! Then, help me to stop them.**

Sarah: I've been fighting them beasts all my life, and I've seen things that will never go away. This ship is all I know.

Maisie is asleep in her room at Inevitable ship. Sarah came to Maisie's room to bring a drink. When Maisie woke up, Maisie tried to make Sarah believe what Maisie experienced with the sea monster. Hoping Sarah can help Red and stop everything. But Sarah is a loyal person, Sarah can't do that. Then Sarah left Maisie in her room. It expresses what the speaker wants. It can be seen from the statement, "You've to believe me, please!". In this situation, the speaker tries to make the hearer believe what she says so that the hearer can help the speaker.

Then the utterance above is categorized as a directive illocutionary act because it expresses what the speaker desires. The utterance makes someone do something. In this line, the hearer can't do anything because she is a loyal person to Captain Crow. But, because here the speaker gives that statement the hearer believes about that but she can't do anything. As theory by Searle (2005:13), this speech act has the purpose to persuade the hearer to take some action.

Data 3 (Asking)

00:22:43,625 <> 00:22:46,875

Maisie: **Is it true you done that four in two days?**

Jacob: Don't believe everything you hear, lass. Four in two days? It was five.

This utterance happened when Maisie intends to enter the place where the hunters are celebrating. Maisie accidentally meets Jacob who is sitting and drinking at the hunters' celebration party. Maisie interviews Jacob about the heroic deeds he has done during his time as a hunter. The questions that crossed Maisie's mind were asked directly to Jacob to make sure what was in the story was true. In this case, the speaker is Maisie and the hearer are Jacob. The utterance above shows the directive illocutionary act because it expresses what the speaker desires. It makes the hearer do something.

In this line, the hearer must answer the question from the speaker. The speaker wants to know if what the hearer did is true and if the hearer was a great hunter because he killed four monsters in two days. As Yule (1996:53) stated that directive is those kinds of speech acts a speaker uses to get someone else to do something. Furthermore, John Searle (1976:42) in which the speaker tries to make the addressee act. In Maisie's utterances above, Maisie asked Jacob if he had killed four monsters in two days, such a short time for a captain to kill that many monsters. In this statement, the action was given by the hearer. The action for the hearer was shown that he has to answer the question from the speaker. Based on the explanation, this conversation includes the action for the hearer of information question.

Data 4 (Begging)

00:52:02,291 <> 00:52:06,583

Jacob: I won't make any promises.

Maisie: **Jacob. Promise.**

Jacob: All right.

This conversation happened when Jacob says to Maisie that he will complete his mission to kill Red. In this situation, Maisie asks Jacob to promise not to hurt Red to death. Through that utterance, Maisie expresses what she wants. The speaker is Maisie and the hearer are Jacob. The data above show the directive illocutionary act because it has the function of begging. The word, "Promise" express begging. This utterance occurs when the hearer says that he will complete his mission to kill Red Bluster, after escorting Maisie back to the orphanage.

Through that utterance, the speaker expresses what the speaker wants. That is not to hurt the monster. Although in the utterance above there is a word, "Promise", the meaning of speech is not promise, but the meaning is begging. On the other hand, the function of begging can be seen from the situation that led the speaker to begging to the hearer through that utterance. As theory by Cutting (2002:17) added that directive is a category cover acts in which the word is aimed at making the hearer do something. In this case by saying, "Jacob. Promise" the speaker was sure that the hearer wouldn't do that (hurt Red to the point of losing his life).

Data 5 (Commanding)

00:56:26,291 <> 00:56:27,750

Maisie: **Look at this face!**

Jacob: You and I have different idea of cute.

In the mysterious island, Maisie found a very cute little monster. Jacob was very surprised by what Maisie did at that time, because all this time the monsters were enemies to him. Then Jacob does not allow Maisie to make the little sea monster be a pet. With slow footsteps, Jacob walked up to Maisie. Because for Jacob, it is a monster that cannot be kept. This condition makes Maisie say that utterance so that Jacob allows her to keep the little sea monster. In this case, the speaker is Maisie and the hearer are Jacob.

The speaker through that utterance commands the hearer by saying, "Look at this face". It expresses what the speaker wants. That is look at this cute monster and worthy of being a pet. It is not evil and does not attack humans. So, through that utterance, the speaker wants the hearer to allow the speaker to keep it because the animal is so adorable. The act that expresses what the speaker wants is a directive illocutionary act because it has the function of commanding. Directive illocutionary is a speech act that makes the hearer do something. In this case, the hearer will see what the speaker has to say. So indeed, what the speaker said is true and makes the hearer permit to make him a pet.

Data 6 (Advising)

00:25:04,375 <> 00:25:07,041

Maisie: **Monster hunters are supposed to be herois.**

Jacob: And here's me saving you.

This situation occurred when Jacob takes Maisie out of a party attended by hunters. Then Maisie gave a message through her speech containing advice that a hunter should like to help. The meaning of this remark was that Jacob should help Maisie to join his crew and meet with Captain Crow to talk. In this case, the speaker is Maisie and the hearer are Jacob. The utterance above is categorized as a directive illocutionary act. Because the statement is advised in which there is a purpose to express what the speaker wants, which is to allow the speaker to join his crew. It means that he should have a hero demeanor, not only in hunting sea monsters, but also helping people Then it is called a directive illocutionary act. As Searle (1975:12) directive utterance expresses what the speaker wants to do to the listen.

Data 7 (Warning)

00:48:32,500 <> 00:48:34,458

Jacob: Whoa. Whoa!

Maisie: **You could've killed me.**

Jacob: Whaa.. I could have killed you?

This utterance happened when Maisie manages to thwart Jacob's action to kill Red. When Jacob was about to try to kill Red, Maisie immediately cut the rope connected to Jacob. In this situation, Maisie is on top of a tree and Jacob is on the seafront. After the rope was cut, Jacob fell and the action failed. Even though the rope was not cut by Maisie, but the water rose inland because Red went to the forest. In this case the speaker is Maisie and the hearer is Jacob. The utterance occurs by Maisie. Through this utterance, Maisie warns Jacob that what he just did almost killed Maisie. The utterance above shows a directive illocutionary act. It expresses what the speaker wants. It makes the hearer do something. The hearer had to stop the action because what the hearer was doing endangered the speaker. In this case, the strap tied to the speaker is tied to the hearer as well. So that if something happens, both of them are dragged along. As theory by Searle (1975:13) directive utterances express what the speaker wants to do to the listener.

Data 8 (Inviting)

01:44:34,458 <> 01:44:38,750

Queen: General!

Maisie: **Let it ends. Let it ends!**

People: Listen to her! Let the beast go! Listen to the child!

This conversation happens when Maisie has exposed all the lies of the king and queen and told how this war began. After everything was delivered, Maisie invited everyone to stop this war. The speaker through that utterance invites all people to stop to hunt down sea monsters and end the war. The speaker in this line is Maisie and the hearer are all citizens as well as kings and queens. The statement, "Let it ends" which was said twice in a loud tone of voice by the speaker, means that the speaker invited everyone to end the war.

It expresses what the speaker wants. It makes the hearer do something. After the speaker says that utterance, the hearer asks the royal authorities to release Red and listen to the speaker. Then through that utterance, the speaker managed to

make the citizens of the kingdom listen to what she had to say. It makes the hearer do something. Furthermore, the data above is categorized as a directive illocutionary act. It has the function of inviting.

Data 9 (Suggesting)

01:06:16,583 <> 01:06:19,916

Jacob: She ain't no pet. Just don't let your guard down, all right?

Maisie: **You can relax Captain. She's a friend.**

Jacob: Yeah, right. Till she gets hungry.

The conversation happened after Maisie shows her the direction to Red. Blue, who is silent on the ship, is suddenly thrown by Jacob into the water because Jacob still can't accept that Blue is a good little monster. For him, Blue is a dangerous monster through that utterance, Maisie gives advice to calm down because Blue will not hurt anyone. Blue is a friend. In this line, the speaker is Maisie and the hearer is Jacob. The utterance "You can relax Captain" means suggesting for the hearer. In this case, the hearer feels worried about a monster blue.

He worries about Blue who will suddenly eat them when he is hungry. Through that utterance, the speaker suggests to the hearer that she's a friend so the speaker wants the hearer to relax and don't worry about it. The verb "can" indicate that the utterance is intended to suggest an act. It expresses the wants the speaker desires. Then the utterance above is categorized as a directive illocutionary act of suggesting. It makes someone do something. As theory by Searle (2005:13), the directive illocutionary act has the purpose to persuade the hearer to take some actions.

Discussion

Directive illocutionary acts are often used by children to ask questions, request something and find information. Children have such a great curiosity; they are more critical of what is around them. Therefore, directive illocutionary is most commonly found in children's utterances, because they are curious about everything, whatever they want to know they will ask. But sometimes as parents,

it's a little hard to understand what they want.

They use language different from that used by adults as a form of politeness, as in the word, "please". In previous studies that generally analyzed adult speech, their language was more structured and more contextual. Terms like slang are more visible in adult language. It can be seen the difference between both. Children's language is sometimes more difficult to understand and uses more polite verbs. According to the result analysis, there are act function such as, requesting, asking, begging, commanding, advising, warning, inviting, and suggesting. Each of the act is act function that express what the speaker wants. It's called directive illocutionary act.

Conclusion

Based on study and discussion above, there are eight types of directive illocutionary acts function conducted by a child's utterances such as, requesting, asking, begging, command, advising, warning, inviting and suggesting. The act of asking is most frequently found in a child's utterances. It relates to the characteristic of the child's language who is always curious about something she does not know, as Stouffer in Scholastic stated that children are naturally curious about what life was like for their parents and grandparents. On the other hand, a child uses directives to ask something they don't know, to find information and to request something.

They use different language than adults, such as the word, "please" as a form of politeness. This research using pragmatics approach and only focused on directive illocutionary acts. The future researcher can also observe other a child's utterances in a different object as well as other types of illocutionary acts.

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