

## Directive Speech Act Analysis in the Utterances Expressed in the Pixels (2015) Movie

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### ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to identify the various forms of directive speech acts in the movie Pixels (2015) by applying Searle's theory of speech act. The researchers employed a qualitative method to analyze the movie's conversation for directive speech acts. The investigation focused on the different acts of directive speech acts presented in the movie. The data for the research were obtained through non-participatory observation of the movie's conversation dialogue. Each statement in the dialogue was found to contain a distinct form of directive speech act. The researchers used an identity method to analyze the data and identified 15 instances of directive speech acts, which were classified into different acts including asking (5 instances), permitting (3 instances), requesting (4 instances), begging (2 instances), and commanding (1 instance).

**Keywords:** Directive acts, Illocutionary acts, Speech acts, Pragmatics

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the modern world, communication is playing a huge impact on humanity. Through language, people communicate their thoughts, beliefs, and emotions to one another. Language is frequently employed in society with many different meanings and settings. Language is also a group of words, each of which has an underlying meaning and connection to a certain idea. Humans use language in all aspects of existence. Consequently, the most crucial aspect of human life is language. In daily life, language has a crucial purpose, which is to facilitate

communication. Language has a significant importance as a technique of learning within the context of language itself, in addition to being a medium of communication and social interaction. Individuals don't always communicate their intentions properly, which causes the listener to understand things incorrectly. As a result, the study of "speech act" researches action displays produced through utterances (Yule, 1996). There are three types of acts, those are Locutionary, Illocutionary, and also Perlocutionary. The five categories

employed by Searle (1979) to categorize illocutionary speech are declarative, assertive, directive, commissive, and expressive speech.

Here is a representation of a typical speech act phenomenon.

Marla (S): "Excuse me, Your Honor. May I speak?"

Judge (L): "Go ahead, Miss Grayson." (Virginia & Ambalegin, 2021)

Marla, the speaker, made a request for permission during a courtroom conversation with the judge. Marla was determined to dispel any misinformation. The act of permitting, as defined by Searle & Vanderveken (1985), is when a speaker asks for permission to carry out a particular action. The statement is a permitting-type command act as a result. The modal verb "may" at the start of the sentence acts as a request for permission.

The previous conversation is considered as a directive act. According to Searle (1969) directive speech acts are a type of speech act that involves asking someone to do something or giving them instructions to follow. In other words, the speaker is trying to direct the listener's behavior in some way. Directive acts also appeared on the data source found by the researcher from Pixels (2015) movie:

Will Cooper (S): Wow Sam. How are you so good at this? You've never even played it before.

Sam Brenner: I don't know  
(0:03:00-0:03:03)

The context of the utterance above was Sam Brenner playing in a new open arcade and Will Cooper was watching how his friend played and Cooper was amazed, making him ask Brenner "How

are you so good at this? You've never even played it before." The dialogue described above is an example of a directive speech act of asking because the speaker asked the listener a question in order to get an answer. Directive speech acts are those, according to Yule (1996), "speech acts that attempt to make the hearer do something or refrain from doing something."

The researchers gathered a variety of information from authors who had written on subjects connected to the research subject that were similar to their own. As references and benchmarks, these sources will be discussed and examined. The first research is by (Virginia & Ambalegin, 2021) entitled Directive acts uttered by the main character in I care a lot movie. The objective of the research is to investigate the various types of directives acts that the I Care a Lot movie's lead character uses. The information was gathered via directive statements made by Marla, the main character. The type of directive acts theory developed by Searle was utilized for analyzing it. The observational approach and non-participatory technique were used to get the data. The main character in the movie I Care a Lot uttered 15 directive acts, according to the results.

The second research is by Yardha & Ambalegin (2022) entitled Directive Speech Act in Cruella 2021 Movie. The objective of this study was to identify and categorize the various types of directive speech acts present in the 2021 movie "Cruella". To achieve this goal, the researchers employed Searle's theory of speech acts and utilized a qualitative research approach. The

study analyzed 15 instances of directive speech acts, which were further classified into five categories: commands (3 data), requests (3 data), permissions (3 data), prohibitions (3 data), and questions (3 data).

In conclusion, it was the goal of this investigation to learn more about the directive speech act in *Pixels* (2015) movie by Herlihy & Dowling (2015). Based on the two previous researches above, there are differences and similarities that the researchers found. The similarities between this research and the previous research are the researchers used Searle theory of directive speech act to analyze their research of directive acts. While the difference is the data source that the researcher uses is different from the previous research. As a result of the two studies mentioned above, researchers are interested in learning more about how speakers use directive speech acts to communicate with listeners in movies like *Pixels* (2015).

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Searle (1969), directed speech acts can be classified into nine types: asking, permitting, requesting, begging, commanding.

### a. Asking

The kind of directive behavior that raises a question. It is presented by a speaker to a listener in order to obtain the response. The explanation for this is that when someone asks a question, they want an answer. J. R. Searle & Vanderveken (1985) assert that asking is a directive form of communication used to seek information through the use of questions. It is worth noting that questions have consistently been

recognized as directive acts. Below is an example of one of the utterances.

**"Who's absent today?"** (Suryandani & Budasi, 2021)

### b. Permitting

According to J. R. Searle & Vanderveken (1985), permitting refers to the act of giving permission, which communicates the speaker's assurance and desire to the listener, leading them to feel that the speaker's remark serves as sufficient justification for them to do particular things. The approval of permission requests is the main goal of providing permissions. As shown below, one of the utterances

**"If I let you go on your own, you promise to stay in the neighborhood?"** (Sari & Mubarak, 2020)

### c. Requesting

A directive act of communication known as "requesting" is making a respectful and precise demand for the listener to carry out a certain action. By giving reasons or justifications for the request, the speaker hopes to convince the listener to comply with the request. Furthermore, the speaker makes the supposition that the listener is capable of and willing to comply with the requested action J. R. Searle & Vanderveken (1985). Below is an utterance of requesting.

**"Would you mind if we listen to some music?"** (Sembiring & Ambalegin, 2022)

### d. Begging

J. R. Searle & Vanderveken (1985) describe begging as a directive form of communication used to make a polite request. Begging involves making a humble request that conveys a strong desire for something. Essentially, when a speaker begs, they are requesting that the listener take a particular action.

Below is a representation of one of the begging utterances.

**"Millie, please, please wake up from your standing coma. Look, I know this world just a game to you and you can come and go, but, to me, this place, these people, that's all I have."** (Tango et al., 2022)

#### **e. Commanding**

(J. R. Searle & Vanderveken, 1985) defined commanding as a directing act of communication that is used to offer the listener a clear order or direction. The speaker gains control of the listeners and demands quick, complete obedience with the directive. Below is an example of a commanding utterance.

**"Well, don't just stand there! Get in and get him out!"** (Yardha & Ambalegin, 2022)..

### **3. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this study, the researchers employed qualitative research to analyze the use of directive speech acts. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research is an appropriate method for studying social or human issues and understanding the meanings that individuals or groups assign to them. Specifically, the study aimed to examine various types of directive speech acts in the movie *Pixels* (2015), using dialogue quotations as the primary data source. Data collection was carried out using a non-participatory observation method, which involves observing and recording the context of the data without engaging in conversation with the speakers, as explained by Sugiyono (2013).

For this study, the researchers utilized a multi-step method of data

collection which involved watching the movie, transcribing the dialogue, marking the conversation spoken by the actors, and classifying the utterances into different forms of directive speech acts. The data was then analyzed using the categorization method. This intuitive and systematic process is based on the research purpose, orientation, and information, as explained by Sugiyono (2013). The researchers began by understanding the theory, collecting data related to the directed speech act in the utterances, and then analyzing the data to identify the types according to the theory. The data analysis steps included seeking and recording the actor or speaker's words in the form of a directive speech act, organizing information on the various forms of directive speech acts used in the movie *Pixels* (2015), describing the significance of the directive speech acts, and drawing conclusions from the data analysis.

### **4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

For the purpose of evaluating directed speech acts, the film *Pixels* (2015) is used as a data source. These findings and discussions are based on the information gathered for the directed speaking act in the movie *Pixels* (2015).

#### **3.1 Asking**

**Data 1** (0:03:00-0:03:03)

Will Cooper: Wow Sam. How are you so good at this? You've never even played it before.

Sam Brenner: I don't know

The utterance was delivered by Cooper after looking at Brenner's skill when playing the game. Cooper asks Brenner how did he get so good when it is actually their first time playing the game. Brenner responded to Cooper's question with a simple response of he did not know why he is so good at it.

**Data 2 (0:04:30-0:04:32)**

Sam Brenner : Who are you talking to?

Ludlow Lamonsoff: Nobody!

The utterance was delivered by Brenner when asking who is the boy talking to when no one is actually there. Ludlow tried to appear normal and responded with "Nobody!" claiming that he was not actually talking to someone before.

**Data 3 (0:04:33-0:04:41)**

Will Cooper: You're Ludlow Lamonsoff, the Wonder Kid, right?

Ludlow Lamonsoff: Who told you that? The government? 'Cause I'm this close to figuring out the secret of the Bermuda Triangle.

The utterance was delivered by Cooper when he tried to confirm that the boy whom they were talking to is the Wonder Kid. Ludlow replied to their question with a serious response of how they know his identity, and asked if the government was the one who leaked his private information to them.

**Data 4 (0:11:46-0:11:49)**

Matty Van Patten: Do you have to say that every time you show up at a house?

Sam Brenner: If I wanna get paid, yes.

The utterance was delivered by Matty to Brenner when he was curious and asked Brenner why he had to do the protocol speech of the company and Brenner responded that if he wants to get paid by the company, he needs to repeat the same speech every time he visits a customer's house.

**Data 5 (0:15:58-0:16:05)**

Sam Brenner : Wanna talk about it?

Violet: No. Yes.

The utterance was delivered by Brenner when he saw Violet is crying in her closet and he tried to comfort her by becoming her ears and listen to what happened to her while also asking if she wanted to talk about her problem with him to make her less sad.

**3.2 Permitting**

**Data 6 (0:22:41-0:22:45)**

Sam Brenner: Can I sit in your chair?

Will Cooper: No, you can't, and everything's recorded.

The utterance was delivered by Brenner when he was asking for his friend permission to sit in the president chair and Cooper responded that Brenner is not allowed to sit in the president chair because everything that happens in the room is being recorded.

**Data 7 (0:32:11-0:32:15)**

Ludlow Lamonsoff: This is clearly not a quarter. This is far more valuable. May I keep this?

Will Cooper: Put it back on the desk.

The utterance was delivered by Ludlow when he was trying to explain the situation of what happened while picking up something from the president desk and asked Cooper permission to keep the item to himself and Cooper response with a serious intonation to put what Ludlow take to the original place of the item on the desk.

**Data 8 (0:51:17-0:51:)**

Corporal Hill: Sir, may I have the honor of pouring you a frosty?

Will Cooper: The President can't be seen drinking during times of crisis. So nobody look!

The utterance was delivered by Corporal Hill asking the president permission to have the honor pouring a glass of celebration drink and Cooper responded the Corporal with a serious look of the president will not drink a glass of beer at a crisis situation.

**3.3 Requesting**

**Data 9 (0:13:44-0:13:53)**

Sergeant Dylan: Colonel Devereux. You need to see this, sir.

Colonel Devereux: We're under attack.

The utterance was delivered by Sergeant Dylan requesting the Colonel to look at what he saw because he has something he needs to show to Colonel Devereux. After



checking what Sergeant Dylan requested the Colonel to look at he realized that their army is under attack by an unknown object.

**Data 10** (0:19:27-0:19:30)

Will Cooper: Can you get to the White House right now?

Sam Brenner: I'll be there in 15.

The utterance was delivered by Will Cooper when he was calling Brenner requesting him to go to the White House at the moment because there is something urgent. Brenner who's currently in a discussion with Violet answers Cooper's call and agrees to the request and will be there in 15 minutes.

**Data 11** (0:32:35-0:32:48)

Ludlow Lamonsoff: If you could get your guys from NSA to clean up the signal, then we can pinpoint exactly where the attack is gonna be, and maybe even which game they're gonna use to attack us.

Will Cooper: I can't authorize a military response based on a video that looks like it was made by a couple high school kids.

The utterance was delivered by Ludlow when he was requesting Cooper to send the special force to decipher the message from the alien in order to know where and what kind of game that will happen at the next invasion. Cooper as the president can order the military because of a random video with an untrustworthy source just because his old friend is requesting him to do so.

**Data 12** (0:47:43-0:47:52)

Sam Brenner: Hey, Ludlow! Grab a light canon! Get out here now! I need your help!  
Ludlow Lamonsoff: Me? No! Look at me! I look delicious! They'll gobble me up like space dim sum!

The utterance was delivered by Brenner requesting help from Ludlow to get a light cannon and help him beat the alien at stage 2 of the game. Hearing what Brenner said Ludlow did not want to participate and help Brenner in the game versus the alien

because he was afraid that he would be eaten alive.

### 3.4 Begging

**Data 13** (0:26:50-0:26:59)

Ludlow Lamonsoff: No, Brenner! No, Brenner, no, no, no! Stop! It's me! It's Ludlow! It's Ludlow.

Sam Brenner: Ludlow Lamonsoff, the Wonder Kid?

Ludlow Lamonsoff: Yeah.

The utterance was delivered by Ludlow when he was begging Brenner to notify him with a baseball bat that Brenner held in his hand, and tried to calm down Brenner by telling his name that he is Ludlow, Brenner old friend. After that Brenner wants to confirm something and he asks are you the Wonder Kid, Ludlow Lamonsoff. Brenner then puts the baseball bat down because he knows the other person is not a random creepy stranger.

**Data 14** (1:06:07-1:06:12)

Violet: Damn it, Brenner. I have a son who I'd like to see grow up.

Sam Brenner: Three. You'll see your boy grow up.

The utterance was delivered by Violet towards Brenner when Brenner was doing something that is not on the plan when facing the huge Pac Man, he was driving backward when he was supposed to turn his car forward when he was being chased by the huge Pac Man. Violet begging Brenner to not try anything stupid because she still wants to see her own son grow up.

### 3.5 Commanding

**Data 15** (0:41:49-0:41:55)

Corporal Hill: Clear the area! The lot of ya, come on! Move it! I said, move it!

Soccer Player: What's all this then, mate?

The utterance was delivered by Corporal Hill commanding the people who played the soccer on the field to back off because the field will be the place where the next alien attack will occur. Corporal Hill wants everyone in the field to go away immediately. A soccer player approaches

the military and asks what is happening and wants to get an explanation.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Directive speech acts are a type of speech act that are intended to influence or direct the behavior of the listener. They can take the form of commanding, begging, requesting, permitting, or asking, and are often used in everyday communication to achieve a desired outcome. The researchers of this article utilized Searle's theory to examine various types of directive acts. Their analysis focused on the movie *Pixels* (2015), and drew upon 15 sources of data to identify and classify different types of directive acts. Specifically, the researchers identified 5 data of asking, 3 data of permitting, 4 data of requesting, 2 data of begging, and 1 data of commanding. The most common types of directive act identified by researchers and included in this article was asking.

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