



Directive Illocutionary Act in Waves Movie

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Abstract. The objective of this research is to identify the types of directive illocutionary acts and the meaning of the utterances produced by all the characters in the Waves movie. The present study employed a qualitative approach. The data for this study were derived from the Waves movie script, which served as the primary data source. The documentation and observation methods are employed to collect data from the movie script and the movie itself. The method of data analysis employed is qualitative analysis. The data was presented informally. The present study employs two theories to resolve two research problems. The first theory is the types of directive illocutionary acts theory by Bach and Harnish. The second theory is the aspect of speech situation by Leech. The results of the study revealed the presence of 37 directive utterances, covering all six directive types: requestives, questions, requirements, prohibitives, permissives, and advisories. The analysis indicated that the directive type of requirements was the most prevalent.

Keywords: Directive, Illocutionary acts, Waves

1. INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive understanding of the message spoken by the speaker, including the goals, intentions, and context of the message, is essential to avoid misunderstanding and create effective communication. Additionally, the meaning of the utterances spoken by the speaker does not solely depend on a decent sentence that informs the hearer; it can also be intended to make the hearer do something. The speaker is performing an action by saying something that can provoke the hearer to do something. According to Yule (2010, p. 133), the action performed by the utterances is called a speech act in pragmatics. Austin (1962, p. 94) asserts that to say something is to do something, or in saying something, we do something, and even by saying something, we do something. Furthermore, Austin (1962) proposed a taxonomy of speech acts, dividing them into locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. Further to the classification of illocutionary acts, Searle (1979) divided these into five distinct categories: declarations, representatives, expressives, directives, and commissives.

The illocutionary point of a directive consists in the speaker's attempts to get the hearer to do something (Searle, 1979). Directive illocutionary acts are frequently encountered in everyday conversation and even in the dialogue of a movie. This type is frequently encountered because it represents utterances that directly convey the speaker's intention for the hearer to perform a specific action. Furthermore, it is common for the intention of the speaker not to be interpreted or understood fully. An understanding of the speech situation is also crucial in order

to comprehend the speaker's intention. The occurrence of the directive illocutionary act and the context of the situation that supports the understanding can be analyzed through the character's utterances to ensure that any intended meaning is understood. The present study focuses on the analysis of directive illocutionary acts in the film *Waves*. The movie examines the intricacies of human struggle, the emotional depths of grief, and the process of resilience in overcoming hardships. The discourse in this movie frequently conveys an illocutionary force and a directive sentence. A thorough analysis of the utterances is necessary to comprehend the type of directive and the intended meaning.

Following the explanation above, it is essential to investigate the illocutionary force of the speaker's utterance to fully understand the speaker's intention for the hearer in a cinematic work. The issues can arise as: 1) What are the types of directive illocutionary acts used by the characters in the movie *Waves*? 2) What is the intended meaning of the directive utterances produced by the characters in the movie *Waves*?

This article aims to determine the types of directive illocutionary acts used by all the characters in the movie *Waves* to provide a broader range of analysis by analyzing the utterances of all characters in the movie that possess illocutionary force. Moreover, it aims to analyze the intended meaning of the directive utterances produced by the characters in the movie.

2. THEORY

Type of Directive Illocutionary Acts

Bach and Harnish (1979) divided directive illocutionary acts into six categories in their book entitled *Linguistic Communication and Speech Acts*. Those are requestives, questions, requirements, prohibitives, permissives, and advisories. Bach and Harnish (1979) developed Searle's concept of directive and created the category of directive.

Requestives

Requestives denote the speaker's wish for the hearer to perform an action based on the speaker's statements. This type of directive conveys the speaker's desire; that is to say, the utterance is not mandatory for the hearer to follow. Requestives can be represented in the verbs ask, beg, beseech, implore, insist, invite, petition, plead, pray, request, solicit, summon, supplicate, tell, or urge.

Questions

Questions refer to the speaker's request that the hearer provide the speaker with information. This type of directive sentence is intended for the hearer to act by providing particular information. Examples of questions are ask, inquire, interrogate, query, question, and quiz.

Requirements

Requirements refer to the speaker's intention for the hearer to act. The speaker believes that their utterance is a sufficient reason for the hearer to act. Requirements are stronger than requests and are mandatory commands for the hearer, as the speaker has higher authority over the hearer. Examples of requirements are bid, charge, command, demand, dictate, direct, enjoin, instruct, order, prescribe, and require.

Prohibitives

Prohibitives are directive utterances that instruct the hearer to perform a specific action by forbidding another action. It is the type that commands the hearer not to do something. In this type, the speaker also has a higher status than the hearer, and the speaker's utterance is considered mandatory. Prohibitives include enjoin, forbid, prohibit, proscribe, or restrict.

Permissives

Permissives refer to the directive utterances that represent the speaker's intention for the hearer to do something by allowing the action. The speaker believes they have the authority to permit the action. Examples of permissives include agree to, allow, authorize, consent to, exempt, forgive, grant, license, pardon, and sanction.

Advisories

Bach and Harnish assert that the purpose of advisories is to persuade the hearer to accept the speaker's belief as a reason to act. In this type of directive, the speaker believes that the action is beneficial for the hearer. Advisories include admonish, advise, caution, counsel, propose, recommend, suggest, urge, and warn.

Aspect of Speech Situations

According to Leech (1983), since pragmatics deals with meaning based on context, understanding the speech situation is the criterion for understanding the meaning of a sentence. In his book entitled *Principles of Pragmatics*, he divided speech situations into five criteria.

Addressers or Addressees

As stated by Leech (1983), the term "addresser" denotes the individual responsible for delivering the message, while "addressee" signifies the intended receiver. The addresser is known as the speaker, and the addressee is known as the hearer in a conversation.

The Context of an Utterance

Context is any background knowledge assumed to be shared by *s* and *h* and which contributes to *h*'s interpretation of what *s* means by a given utterance (Leech, 1983, p. 13). Context encompasses the social environment, collective understanding, and the actual substance of the message.

The Goal(s) of an Utterance

The goals of an utterance indicate what the speaker aims to accomplish through their words. Understanding the intention behind the utterance is more nuanced, making it more effective first to comprehend the goals and functions of the utterances.

The Utterance as a Form of Act or Activity: A Speech Act

In the concept of utterance as a form of activity or speech acts, utterances are what the speaker says and have the purpose of making the listener do something. Every utterance has its intention and purpose. An utterance as an act or activity is closely related to an illocutionary sentence.

The Utterance as a Product of a Verbal Act

The definition of utterance is a verbal act that is the product of verbal communication. The term is employed to denote any verbal utterances made by human beings. As a verbal act, an utterance does not have to convey any intention or illocutionary force.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

A qualitative approach is employed in this research to analyze the directive illocutionary act. The data source in this study is the movie entitled Waves, which was released in 2019. The data was taken from the movie script. To collect the data, this research used documentation and observation methods, alongside a note-taking technique. The data were analyzed using qualitative analysis. The characters' utterances that contain the directive illocutionary act are selected and classified into several types following Bach and Harnish's classification. Furthermore, the intended meaning of the utterance is analyzed. Additionally, the data is presented using an informal method, as it is presented in a descriptive form.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After analysis, all six types of directives proposed by Bach and Harnish (1979) were identified. The types of directives present in the character's utterances include requests, questions, requirements, prohibitives, permissions, and advisories.

Requestives

Data [4-1] (01:33:52)

Ronald : **Will you say something to me?** Tell me.
(Catherine stood her ground and didn't say a word.)

Based on the speech situation, Ronald is the addresser, and Catherine is the addressee. They have a relationship as a spouse. The conversation took place in their house. They have a son, Tyler, and a daughter, Emily. Tyler killed his ex-girlfriend during a fight a few months ago and is now serving a life sentence, eligible for parole in 30 years. This has affected their family. Catherine is devastated and grieving, and Ronald is worried about her. The utterance in data [4-1], "**Will you say something to me?**" is a directive illocutionary act because it is intended to make the hearer act, in this context, to make Catherine communicate with him. Ronald's utterance is an interrogative, but it does not ascertain the truth or falsity of a statement. Instead, it conveys Ronald's desire for Catherine to talk and tell him what is on her mind, as it starts with the phrase 'will you', which indicates a way of requesting. Therefore, data [4-1] categorized as requestives directive illocutionary acts. The intended meaning of his utterance is to ask Catherine to stop distancing herself and communicate with him, and not just fall into her sadness, as they still need to live their life.

Questions

Data [4-2] (01:50:04)

Emily : **What are you thinking about?**
Luke : The hospital where my dad's at called today.

Emily is the addresser, and Luke is the addressee. They have a relationship as a lover. The conversation occurred in the bathroom as they sat in silence, and the music filled the void. Emily asked Luke what he thought, as he was quiet and distracted. Earlier, Luke got a call from a hospital where his father is hospitalized. They said that his father might not survive much longer. Luke was concerned and uncertain about whether he should visit him. Emily noticed that Luke was preoccupied. Therefore, Emily urged him to tell the truth. Data [4-2] is a directive illocutionary act and is then classified as a questions. Emily's utterance, "**What are you thinking about?**" is a directive because it shows her attempt to make the hearer do something, specifically requesting that the hearer provide information to the speaker. It begins

with the question word ‘what,’ followed by the subject and base verb, indicating an interrogative sentence. It represents directives that seek to gather information from the hearer. Therefore, data [4-2] is classified as questions. The intended meaning of her utterance is encouraging Luke to share his thoughts with her.

Requirements

Data [4-3] (35:04)

Tyler : Should I just drop you off and find park-

Alexis : Drop me off?!

Tyler : I don’t know- I can find parking-

Alexis : There’s parking right here! **Just park here!**

Tyler : Right here?

Alexis is the addresser, and Tyler is the addressee in data [4-3]. They have a relationship as a lover. The conversation took place outside of an abortion clinic. Alexis found out that she is pregnant. They chose to have an abortion because they are still in high school and believe they cannot afford to have a baby right now. Alexis was in an awful mood from the start, adding that they saw protesters against abortion in front of the clinic. Tyler struggled to find a parking spot and suggested dropping Alexis off first. However, Alexis got mad and refused, telling Tyler to park anywhere they found. Data [4-3] above is a directive illocutionary act as those sentences command the hearer to do something or follow the speaker's words. Alexis’s utterance, “**Just park here!**” is a directive, as it commands Tyler to take a certain action. Moreover, it is categorized as requirements following the classification of directives. Alexis’s statement directly commands Tyler to take action, leaving no room for him to refuse. The intended meaning of her utterance is to ensure that Tyler parks his car first, rather than leaving her to enter the clinic alone, because she is scared of getting an abortion. She needs support, and she wants to rely on Tyler.

Prohibitives

Data [4-4] (54:33)

Ronald : What’s going on?

Catherine : Well... Tyler took the keys out of your office and he’s been drinking.

Tyler : This is bullshit.

Ronald : **Don’t talk to your mother that way!**

Ronald is the addresser, and Tyler is the addressee in data [4-4]. They have a relationship as father and son. The conversation took place at their house. Catherine and Tyler are arguing because Tyler wants to sneak out while he is grounded. However, Tyler is trying to meet Alexis at the party out of jealousy, knowing she attended the ball with another man. Catherine caught him, and Ronald came minutes later and asked what had happened. Catherine

explained what happened. Tyler was enraged and stated that Catherine was uttering nonsense. Ronald, known to be too strict with Tyler, got angry at his rude behaviour and told him he could not talk to Catherine like that. Data [4-4] above is directive illocutionary acts, categorized as prohibitives. Ronald's utterance, **"Don't talk to your mother that way!"** is a directive intended to make Tyler do something. However, in this case, it refrains from doing one thing and wants to make him do the opposite. The phrase 'don't,' followed by the main verb, indicates that the utterance is a negative imperative that prohibits someone from doing something. Therefore, data [4-4] is categorized as prohibitives. The intended meaning of his utterance is to remind Tyler to talk politely to his mother, as she has higher authority in the house than Tyler.

Permissives

Data [4-5] (01:43:20)

Luke : We can go again if you want, maybe?

Emily : Yeah, of course. Yeah, it's okay, **you can take your time.**

Emily is the addresser, and Luke is the addressee in data [4-5]. They have a relationship as lovers. The conversation took place in Emily's bathroom. Earlier, Emily and Luke spent the day together. They hung out and drank at one of their friends' houses. After that, they played on an empty golf course, having fun while the water sprinkler was on. Emily looks genuinely happy. After that, they drove to Emily's house to spend the night together. They arrived and headed straight to Emily's room. They began making out, and then Luke asked if Emily wanted to do it again. Emily agreed, but seeing that Luke looked tired, she allowed him to rest for a while. The utterance in data [4-5], **"You can take your time,"** is a directive because it is intended to make Luke do something by allowing him to perform a specific action. She attempted to make Luke rest before continuing their session by allowing him to do so. Emily's utterance consists of the modal 'can' after the subject, indicating that she is permitting Luke to do something. The intended meaning of her utterance is to make Luke know he does not need to rush, that she is fine with doing it slowly, and that she is giving them space to rest before making out again.

Advisories

Data [4-6] (01:55:55)

Doctor : Depends. Everyone is different. It can be rapid, or it can take time... However, this is longer than usual and longer than what we had anticipated. Clearly, he's not ready to go yet. **The best thing you can do is help him feel peace and comfort when he is lucid.**

Luke : Okay.

The Doctor is the addresser, and Luke is the addressee in the data [4-6]. They have a professional relationship as a doctor and a patient's guardian. The conversation occurred in Luke's father's room at the hospital. Luke and Emily successfully drove to Missouri to visit Luke's father. Luke and Emily spend the night there, and they can see how bad Luke's father's condition is. That morning, Luke helps his father, who is throwing blood out. The doctor came into the room and said that his father's condition had worsened. However, Luke's father seems like he is not ready to die yet; he is holding on even though his body is in so much pain. Therefore, the doctor told Luke that he can help his father by making him feel comfortable and at peace. The utterance in data [4-6], **“The best thing you can do is help him feel peace and comfort when he is lucid,”** represents a directive and is categorized as advisories because it aims to make the hearer perform an action by recommending and suggesting to the hearer. The phrase ‘the best thing in the doctor’s sentence is the primary evidence that the sentence is advice. Therefore, data [4-6] is categorized as advisories. The doctor intends to suggest that Luke help his father to feel comfort and peace. The doctor believed that helping Luke’s father feel comfort and peace was the best way for him to find peace and let go of his pain.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusions can be drawn after analyzing the directive type and intended meaning of the utterances. A thorough analysis of the utterances made by all characters in *Waves* reveals the occurrence of all the directive types identified by Bach and Harnish, including requestives, questions, requirements, prohibitives, permissives, and advisories. Of all the directive utterances, requirements are the most prevalent. Following a thorough analysis of the intended meaning, it was determined that the utterance's intended meaning is closely associated with its directive classification. The message that the speaker seeks to convey influences the directive form of the utterance. The present research constitutes an analysis of directive types in film scriptwriting, with a particular focus on the depiction of grief and the process of overcoming it. Consequently, future research on directive speech is recommended to focus on the social context, social dynamics, and the relationship between the speaker and the listener, to identify the directive types most optimally.

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