

# AN ANALYSIS OF DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACTS IN *THE DANISH GIRL*

**Emilika**

Universitas Kristen Indonesia

e-mail: *emilikha17@gmail.com*

## ***Abstract***

*In every communication, there is an implied speech uttered by speakers to convey information related to feelings and thoughts, so that other people can understand what the speakers need. Therefore, the utterances spoken by a person or speaker have meaning or intent to be conveyed to the listener. This paper aims to analyze the types of directive speech acts and the meaning of directive speech acts uttered by Einar Wegener and Gerda Wegener in the film *The Danish Girl*. This research is descriptive qualitative method. The object of this research is the utterances containing the directive speech acts in *The Danish Girl* film. The method of data collection was observation by implementing note taking technique. All data were analyzed by applying the theory of Searle (2002). The results showed that the types of directive speech acts found in this study are questioning, requesting, commanding, suggesting, forbidding, permitting, encouraging, and wishing. There are 91 questionings, 31 requestings, 24 commandings, 17 suggestings, 12 forbiddings, 5 permissings, 6 encouragings, and 4 wishings. The dominant meaning of directive speech act found in this study is asking which is included in the category of directive speech act of questioning.*

**Keywords:** Directive acts, *The Danish Girl*, Speech Act

## **I. INTRODUCTION (10%)**

In the reality of life, misunderstandings often occur between the speaker and the hearer in communicating because the hearer cannot interpret what is meant and desired by the speaker according to the context of the conversation. In addition, speech acts are only used as a means to convey the intent of the speaker without knowing what type of speech act is. Therefore, researchers are very interested in conducting research on directive speech acts, so that in speech acts there are no more misunderstandings between the speaker and the hearer.

A speech act is a discourse act in which the speaker's intention is known to the listener in the form of a sentence. According to Austin (1962), speech acts are an utterance that produces an action or saying something and doing something (Suci Rahayu 2017, p. 9-

10). So, there is an action in every utterance. Therefore, speech acts very importantly so that we understand what messages are found in every utterance in communication or conversation..

According to Austin's theory, speech acts can be divided into three types: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, perlocutionary acts. Locutionary act is the basic act of utterance or producing a meaningful linguistic expression. It means a locutionary acts are an act to produce meaningful and understandable utterances by the hearer. Illocutionary acts are a complete speech act by the speaker to the hearer doing something based on the utterance. In other words, the illocutionary act is the intended meaning in utterances (an act in saying something). Perlocutionary acts are the effect or the reaction of the hearer after hearing the utterance of the speaker. The effects may be actions, thoughts, or feelings (Hutajulu, F. S. L., & Herman, H. 2019, p.31).

In addition, in communication, the speaker must also use language well or interpret the meaning of utterance well, so that the listener can understand the meaning of the words. For further explaining, let's see an example of the utterances taken from *The Danish Girl* (01'28'59")

*"This is not my body, Professor. Please take it away".* Said Einar Wegener

That utterance above was uttered by Einar Wegener when he wanted to have genital surgery. He asked Professor Warnekros to help him. The type of this utterance is requesting and the meaning of this utterance is begging because Einar begged Professor to take away his body or his vitals. As we know, request is a speech that asks a person to do something in a polite manner, which is conveyed in English by the preposition "*please*

“. This film is very interesting to analyze because there are variations of utterance directive speech acts. Regarding to that explanation, the writer would like to analyzed the the types of the directive acts found in *The Danish Girl* film and the meanings of those directive acts.

## **II. THEORETICAL BASIS (15 %)**

### **2.1. Speech Act**

Speech acts are part of pragmatics, namely speech spoken by a speaker to convey the intent and purpose to the hearer. Speech act theory was first proposed by J.L Austin (1962) and later developed by John Searle in 1969. Speech acts are a performative language theory, according to Austin (1962), in which saying something is equivalent to

doing something. In a similar vein, according to Austin (in Tsui, 1994:4), the term "speech act" refers to the process of speaking. It means, when the speaker says something through a speech act there is an action that must be done. Moreover, through speech act, there is an implied meaning that the speaker wants to convey to the listener.

According to Yule (1996), speech acts are defined as acts of communication or actions performed via utterances. Speech acts are commonly referred to as utterances (Yule, 1996:47). Parker's (1986:14) stated that every speech act utterance constitutes some kind of fact. In other words, a speech act is an utterance that produces action. Through speech acts, the speaker wants to convey to the listener the meaning of the speech. Austin claims that there are three different categories of speech acts in Levinson (1983: 236).

There are three types of utterances: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. Here are some descriptions and illustrations of the three categories of speech acts. *The act of saying something*" is one of the first locutionary acts, according to Austin (1962:94-107). According to Levinson (in Cahyono, 1995:224), locutionary acts are the utterance of words or sentences with certain meanings and desires. It means locutionary acts are when someone says an utterance or statement there is an intention to be conveyed. For example, "*It's very hot here!*", the meaning of the locution is related to "the air temperature in that place is very hot".

Second, illocutionary acts are "The act of doing something". According to Wijana (1996:18-19), illocutionary acts are speech acts that contain the intent and function of the power of speech. It means, there is an action taken from the utterance. So, when the speaker says an utterance, and also performs acts. For example, "*It's very hot in here!*", the illocutionary meaning can be (request) to turn on the air conditioner, or if the sentence is repeated, it may imply (complaint). The last, perlocutionary acts are "The act of affecting someone".

Levinson in Cahyono (1995:224) says that the perlocutionary acts are the effect produced by the listener because of the utterance of a sentence and the effect is related to the speech situation. It means perlocutionary acts are the consequences or effects that appear on the speech partner after hearing an utterance. For example, "*it's hot here*", based on a certain context (hot air, being in a room where the air conditioner is turned off). Then the result that will be obtained is that the air conditioner will be turned on or not ignored at all by the hearer.

## 2.2. Directive Illocutionary Acts

Yule (1996) defines a directive as an illocutionary act that aids the speaker in resolving a problem by requiring the recipient to take some action. According to Searle (Levinson, 1983:241), the directive is an utterance used by a speaker to compel a listener to do something. The directive illocutionary act enables the speaker to coerce the listener into acting in accordance with the speaker's wishes.

The following words are included in the directive illocutionary act, Vanderveken in Devitasari (2018:30) states: *direct, demand, ask, question, ask, investigate, ask, support, deter, request, bid, appeal, welcome, assemble, convene, ask, petition, importune, beseech, summon, implore, demand, tell, educate, request, require, guarantee, request, order, direct, recommend, urge, entreat*. Six different types of directive illocutionary acts are classified by Bach and Harnish (1979: 47–49) as *requestives, questions, requirements, prohibitives, permissives, and advisories*. Then, according to Searle (2002) there are eight kinds of directive illocutionary acts namely, *commanding, requesting, suggesting, forbidding, questioning, permitting, encouraging, and wishing*. The following is an explanation of the eight directive illocutionary acts according to Searle.

### 1. Commanding

Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p. 51) define commanding as giving someone instructions by invoking a power or function that obligates the speaker to no longer offer the option of refuse. In other words, a command is a statement that gives the listener the go-ahead to carry out whatever it is that the speaker wants them to do with absolute authority.

This kind of directive illocutionary act consists of: *charge, command, demand, dictate, instruct, order, prescribe, and require* (Allan, 1986, p. 199). For example, a boss in the office, commands the office boy to clean the office. "Clean my office". This is an example of a commanding directive sentence consist of a instruct

### 2. Requesting

A request, according to Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p. 198), is a directive illocution that offers the option of refuse. Ask, beg, implore, insist, invite, petition, plead, pray, solicit, summon, tell, and urge are all forms of requesting (Allan, 1986, p. 199). In a different word, a request is

a speech that asks someone to do something in a polite manner. In English, the word "please" is used to express this. This request does not rule out the possibility of refusal. For example, "Could you be taking my book, please?" This is an example of a request directive sentence consist of ask.

### 3. Suggesting

According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p. 66), this suggests typically stating something that is appropriate for him or her. Admonish, advise, caution, recommend, advise, endorse, suggest, urge, and warn are some suggested performatives (Allan, 1986, p. 199).

### 4. Forbidding

Forbid and prohibit were described by Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p. 198) as the propositional negation of ordering. It is customary to use "no" in official and general occasions. For instance, "No Entry!" While it is customary to use "don't" on exceptional or casual occasions. Enjoin, forbid, prohibit, proscribe, and restrict are examples of prohibiting performatives (Allan, 1986, p. 199). In different words, forbidding an utterance uttered using the speaker to prohibit the hearer from doing something by using instructing the hearer no longer to do it. for example: "No cheating on exams!". This is an example of a directive sentence forbidding consisting of prohibiting.

### 5. Questioning

In the Searle classification, a question is also a sort of directed utterance because it has historically been attempted to elicit an answer from the listener by the speaker. According to Quirk (1972: ), "the major element in question is used to specify the lack of questions about the unknown information."386), "and the asker frequently requests the listener to verbally convey this information at a certain point."

"Do you know how to get to the Palace motel?" for example. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p. 117), it would generally be improper to respond with "yes" or "no," as the speaker is requesting more than just your information; he wants you to provide the location of the motel. The speaker does this by challenging the listener/addressee to consider the

proposition. The verbs ask, inquiry, query, question, and quiz are examples of questioning performatives (Allan, 1986, p. 199).

6. Permitting

Permitting or allowing is a component of the type of directive speech act that is typically employed by the utterance to grant someone permission or consent to perform a task. Searle and Vanderveken (1985:112) stated that permit is the denegation of forbidding or prohibit. Permitting performatives include: agree to, allow, authorize, bless, consent to, dismiss, excuse, exempt, forgive, grant leave or permission, license, pardon, permit, release, and sanction (Allan, 1986, p. 199). In different words, permitting is an utterance used to give permission or approval to someone to do or not do something.

7. Encouraging

Searle and Vanderveken (1985, p. 112) said that encouraging is an illocutionary function used by the speaker to provide the listener support or braveness to do something

8. Wishing

When someone wishes, they are hoping for the best for the future. The act of praying alludes to a subsequent action. The speaker prays that the hearer will do or keep from doing something (Vanderveken, 1990). for instance, *"I hope this baby turns out fine"*

### **III. RESEARCH METHOD (10%)**

Research methods are the strategies, processes or techniques utilized in the collection of data or evidence for analysis in order to uncover new information or create better understanding of a topic. This type of trhis research is qualitative descriptive method. A qualitative descriptive in Lambert (2012) is a study that has comprehensive summarization, in everyday terms of specific events experienced by individuals or groups of individual. The steps begun with identifying the problem, collecting data, analyzing data and reporting the result.

The object of this research were all the directive utterances taken from *The Danish Girl* which is the 119:32-minute long. In collecting the data, the researcher implemented

the observational method with note taking technique. All data found were analyzed by using the speech act (directives) by Searle in order to get the types of directives and the meaning of the speech acts.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher explained the results and discussion of the data obtained from *The Danish Girl*. Based on the analysis, there were 190 of directive acts which consist of 91 questionings, 31 of requestings, 24 of commandings, 17 suggestings, 12 forbiddings, 5 permissings, 6 encouragings, and 4 wishings.

##### 4.1. Questioning

###### Datum 1

Gerda: "*Do you know what time it is?*" (00"02"58)

The utterance was spoken by Gerda when Einar was sleeping in the room and Gerda opened the curtains of the bedroom window. Then, Gerda pulled the blanket covering Einar's face and Einar woke up. The type of this utterance is questioning. It can be seen in the word "*do*" which is usually used to start an interrogative sentence. From the utterance, Gerda asked Einar what time it was. Meanwhile, the meaning of the utterance above is "asking". Because, through the utterance Gerda wanted to get answers or information from Einar.

###### Datum 8

Gerda: "*Actually what happened between you and Sandhal last night?*"  
(00"35"08).

The utterance above occurred when Gerda was angry and approached Einar who was painting. The type of this utterance is questioning and the meaning of this utterance is asking because Gerda asked what happened about Einar and Sandal because Gerda wanted to know Einar's explanation.

###### Datum 10

Gerda: "*What happened to the man? Was the operation successful?*"  
(01"23"29).

The utterance above occurs when Gerda, Einar and Professor Warnekros are in the Restaurant. Einar is in consultation regarding his having multiple personalities

and believing that he is a woman. Later, Professor Warnekros informed that there was another man who was just like Einar. The type of this utterance is questioning. It can be seen in the word "**what**" and "**was**" which is usually used to start an interrogative sentence. Meanwhile, the meaning of this utterance is to ask. Because, after hearing Professor Warnekros' story regarding a man who wanted to do sex surgery. She asked a question and wanted to hear the answer and explanation from Professor Warnekros regarding the man.

#### 4.2. Requesting

##### Datum 11

*Gerda: "Could you please not speak to Rasmussen about me again?"*

*(00"09"23).*

The utterance above occurs when Gerda comes home from work, in a bad mood and Einar is painting. The type of this utterance is requesting. It can be seen in the word by the modifier "please" usually used to start a request which is usually used when asking someone to do something. Meanwhile, the meaning of this utterance is to insist. Because with insist, Gerda requests Einar not to interfere with her work again

##### Datum 13

*Einar: "I need you to believe me. You of all people to understand". (00"46"12).*

The utterance above occurs when Einar tries to explain to Gerda that he only loves her, but Gerda didn't believe it. The type of this utterance is requesting. Because, Einar request Gerda to believe if he really loves Gerda. Meanwhile, the meaning of this utterance is implore. Because, Einar implored Einar to believe him.

##### Datum 15

*Gerda: "I've a new dealer coming over later. I'd like you to meet him".*

*("01"00"33")*

The utterance above occurred when Gerda had just come home to meet Hans and Einar was painting. Then, Gerda asked Einar to meet a new dealer, Hans. The type of this utterance is requesting and the meaning of this utterance is to ask. Because, Gerda asked Einar to meet Hans.

#### 4.3. Commanding

##### Datum 21

*Gerda: "Head up!" (00"05"42)*

The utterance above occurred while Gerda was painting Fønnesbech. The meaning of this utterance is a command, and its type is commanding. Because, when Fønnesbech lowered his head, Gerda ordered him to head up.

##### Datum 22

*Gerda: "Close your eyes. This is hard on someone else..." (00"23"27").*

The utterance above happened while Gerda was doing Einar's makeup and wants to put on some eyeliner. This is a commanding utterance, and its meaning reveals the directive speech act of command because the speaker intends for the listener to take action regarding his utterance.

#### 4.4. Suggesting

##### Datum 29

*Gerda: "Just relax. The sooner I start. The sooner I finish". (00"12"19)*

The utterance above occurred when Gerda asked Einar to help model for her painting. The type of this utterance is suggesting and the meaning of this utterance is advised. Because, when Einar was feeling awkward and refused to not wear a female dress Gerda advised his to just relax so they could finish quickly.

##### Datum 30

*Einar: "You should go you enjoy it". (00"22"15").*

The utterance above happened when Gerda told Einar that Ulla asked Gerda for coffee to ask about Artist' Ball, but Gerda refused the invitation. The type of this utterance is suggesting and the meaning of this utterance is suggested. Because there is an intention where Einar suggested to Gerda to do something. It can be seen in the word "you should go you enjoy it" which can be categorized as suggesting.

#### 4.5. Forbidding

##### Datum 37

*Einar: "No Gerda, I'm not putting it on" (00"12"09).*

The utterance above occurs when Gerda tells Einar that she needs a dress, but Einar thinks that Gerda asked her to wear the dress. The type of this utterance is forbidding and the meaning of this utterance is forbid. Because, it can be seen from Einar's utterance that he forbade Gerda to paint her without a dress and does not want to wear it.

Datum 38

*Einar: "No, no. Leave it on." (00"15"25")*

The utterance above occurred when Einar was lying in bed watching Gerda open her new slip and Einar forbid her to open it. The type of this utterance is forbidding and the meaning of this utterance is forbid. Because of the utterance spoken by Einar, he forbids Gerda not to open her new slip and Gerda complied with the prohibition by not opening her new slip.

**4.6. Permitting**

Datum 42

*Einar: "I'll do it. It's fine". (00"10"34")*

The utterance above happened when Gerda asked Einar for help. The type of this utterance is permitting and the meaning of the utterance shows the directive speech act of "agree to" because Einar agreed to help Gerda it can be seen in the word "*I'll do it. It's fine*" which can be categorized as permitting.

Datum 43

*Einar: "That's okay. I've finished" (00"14"39").*

The utterance above occurs while Einar is painting and Gerda interrupts him. The type of this utterance is permitting and the meaning of this utterance shows the directive speech act "permit". Because Einar allowed Gerda to disturb him and tell him that he has finished.

#### 4.7. Encouraging

##### Datum 46

*Einar: "Oh, come on. Be kind. At least he agreed to see your work".  
(00"02"21").*

The utterance above occurred when Einar and Gerda were on their way home. The type of this utterance is encouraging and the meaning of this utterance shows if Einar supported Gerda so that she would show her work.

##### Datum 47

*Gerda: "I'm sure it will be over very quickly..." ("00"49"19").*

The utterance above occurs when Gerda accompanies Einar to check her genitals and Einar is very afraid to do it. The type of this utterance is encouraging and the meaning of this utterance shows Gerda gave braveness to Einar so he can be checked.

#### 4.8. Wishing

##### Datum 48

*Einar: "Good luck..." (00"07"45)*

The utterance above happened when Gerda was about to go to work.. The type of this utterance is wishing and the meaning of this utterance shows the directive speech act of wish. The word "**good luck**" uttered by Einar a hope given to Gerda, it became a prayer for Gerda's work to be successful.

## V. CLOSING

The directive speech act is a speech act that is intended to ensure that the recipient does something or acts in the manner intended by the speaker. In this study, the researcher found that Einar Wegener and Gerda Wegener as the main character in *The Danish Girl* used types of directive speech acts by questioning, requesting, commanding, suggesting, forbidding, permitting, encouraging, and wishing through their utterances. Of the 190 directives uttered by Einar Wegener and Gerda Wegener, it can be concluded that there are 91 questionings, 31 requestings, 24 commandings, 17 suggestings, 12 forbiddings, 5 permittingd, 6 encouragings, and 4 wishings. The dominant meaning of directive speech act in this study is asking which is included in the category of directive speech act of questioning

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Assola, M. (2017). An analysis of directive speech acts used on Friday sermon at al-Fitrah mosque of Walisongo State Islamic University Semarang (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Walisongo).
- Haikal, M. (2021). The Use of Directive Speech Acts in The Hunger Games Movie (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Ar-raniry).
- Humaniora, Sarjana. "The Analysis of Speech Act of President Joko Widodo at APEC Forum." PhD diss., STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, 2016.
- Jarasch, J., Jamai, I., Gümüs, K., & Modul, V. I. I. I. (2014). Speech Act Theory. Language and Society.
- Jarasch, J., Jamai, I., Gümüs, K., & Modul, V. I. I. I. (2014). Speech Act Theory. Language and Society.
- Lailiyah, S. (2015). Directive speech act of the main characters in Divergent movie. Journal. Situbondo. Universitas Abdurachman Saleh.
- Lee, S., & Afriana, A. (2020). AN ANALYSIS OF DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACTS IN "CINDERELLA" MOVIE. SCIENTIA JOURNAL: Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa, 2(1).
- Muhartoyo, M., & Kristani, K. (2013). Directive Speech Act in The Movie "Sleeping Beauty". Humaniora, 4(2), 949-966.
- Muhartoyo, M., & Kristani, K. (2013). Directive Speech Act in The Movie "Sleeping Beauty". Humaniora, 4(2), 949-966.
- Nindiyasari, O. (2013). An Analysis of Directive Illocutionary Act of Luther Character in the Novel "Skipping Christmas" Translated into "Absen Natal" (Doctoral dissertation, Dian Nuswantoro University).

- Nisak, N. A. K. (2016). Directive Speech Acts on Translated Text Of Surah An-Nisa'in Qur'an (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya).
- PRADITYA, I. M. D. J., Artini, L. P., & Putra, I. N. A. J. (2014). An analysis of speech acts in the conversation between Habibie and Ainun in the film entitled Habibie and Ainun 2012. *Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Indonesia*, 2(1).
- Puri, A. D. (2015). Directive speech acts showing leadership style used by Miranda Priestly in the devil wears prada movie. Unpublished bachelor thesis). Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta.
- Putri, B. Y. D., Suastini, N. W., & Maharani, P. D. (2021). Directive Illocutionary Act In The Movie Maleficent 2 Mistress of Evil. *ELYSIAN JOURNAL: English Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies*, 1(1), 31-40.
- Searle, J. R. (1976). A classification of illocutionary acts<sup>1</sup>. *Language in society*, 5(1), 1-23.
- Watiningsih, I. (2011). An Analysis Of Directive Speech Acts Employed By The Main Characters In The Movie "Oliver Twist (2005)"(A Pragmatics Study).
- Winarti, D., Wijana, I. D. P., Poedjosoedarmo, S., & Ahimsa-Putra, H. S. (2015). Variations of directive speech act in tembang dolanan. Gadjah Mada University.
- Yuniati, A. (2018). Directive speech acts in the movie" The Message" by Moustapha Akkad (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Walisongo Semarang).
- ZULAIHA, A. (2015). Directive Acts Used by The Main Characters in The Movie Script "Around the World In 80 Days" by Frank Coraci.