



AN ANALYSIS OF DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACTS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN “ELEMENTAL” MOVIE

Dharmawan Indra W.¹, Ahmad Nadhif²

¹² IAIN Ponorogo, Indonesia,

¹Dharmaindra01@gmail.com, ²Nadheef@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The purposes of this research are to (1) categorize and explain the types of directive speech acts in the main character's utterances in the movie "Elemental," and (2) describe and explain the dominant type of directive speech acts in the main character's utterances in "Elemental." This research uses a qualitative approach and a content analysis design. Data analysis follows Creswell's theory. The "Elemental" movie script and film serve as the data source for this study. The results reveal that (1) the main character in "Elemental" uses six kinds of directive speech acts. These six types comprise 75 total utterances: command (34 utterances or 45% of the total), suggestion (17 utterances or 23%), request (10 utterances or 13%), advice (5 utterances or 7%), prohibition (4 utterances or 5%), and invitation (5 utterances or 7%). (2) Command is the most dominant type in this research, with 34 instances.

KEYWORDS: *Speech Acts, Directive, “Elemental” Movie*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Language is a social phenomenon. A person can recognize the origin country of their interlocutor, what type of person they are, and many other information just by having an interaction with the person. Language and society are related to each other, people can speak differently in some cases (Holmes, 2013: p. 1). This study is called sociolinguistics. The way that people use language in different social contexts provides information about how language works. Language is essential for humans because it is used to communicate with each other. When there is a conversation, both speaker and listener have to understand each other through utterances to avoid misunderstanding and there is a study that deals with people's meaning based on its social context. The study is called pragmatic. It is one of the branches of linguistics that study meaning (Griffiths, 2006: p. 1). The main goal is to build the person's social identity or just even start a conversation.

Speech acts happen when people use words to communicate, and understanding what is said depends not only on the words but also on different aspects of communication, such as the situation (Desi & Asep, 2020: p. 38). There are five types of speech acts, declaration, representative, expressive, directive, and commissive (Searle, 1969). One kind of speech act that falls within the illocutionary category is the directive speech act. It is used to express what the speaker wants and the listener does an action as a response. There are some kinds of directives such as command, request, invitation, prohibition, advice, and suggestion. The researcher chose directive speech acts to be the focus of the research because there are so many directive speech acts in this life especially in movies. Analyzing speech acts requires the right source, such as movies that use pictures and sound to tell stories.

Elemental movie is a wonderful movie that has a great storyline and unique characters. This

movie is considered one of the best Pixar animated movies that came out in 2023. The main characters inspire people to love their family and not be afraid to tell the truth, because even though the truth hurts, it's better than lying about our feelings. This movie will bring the viewer into a roller coaster of emotions with their storyline. The researcher will examine the directive speech act in each utterance made by the main characters in the Elemental film. The act is selected due to its widespread use as a means of communication in diverse ways.

The researcher aims to determine the categorization of directive speech acts employed in the movie "Elemental" based on the provided explanation. The Elemental movie serves as an educational tool that will encourage mutual understanding and enhance social connection among individuals. Hopefully, this research aims to deepen the reader's comprehension of directive speech act contained in the movie "Elemental". The researcher expects this study to improve the reader's understanding of how movies convey instructions and create opportunities for analyzing the film from different perspectives. Additionally, this research anticipated to provide fresh insights into the potential of movies as a medium for English teaching.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Directive Speech Acts

A directive is an illocutionary act intended to get the conversation partner to perform a particular action through an utterance (Searle, 1969: p. 13). The function of directive speech act is to make the listener do an action as a response. Descriptive often uses imperative the structure of the word. This means that if the speaker wants the listener to perform a special action, the listener or the addressee does what the speaker wants. Directives can be further divided into strong and weak forms. Strong directives, such as commands, convey a higher level of authority and urgency, while weak directives, like suggestions, give the listener more discretion.

2.2 Types Directive Speech Acts

2.2.1 Command

A direct type of directive in which the speaker demands or orders the listener to take a specific action (Austin, 1962). This type of directive speech occurs when the speaker has the authority to command the listener. Its main function is to issue commands, which can be either direct or indirect. The speaker has full control over the listener's actions. This type is also known as imperative and conveys a sense of urgency.

Example :

"Open the window!"

2.2.2 Request

Request is one of the directive speech kind whose illocutionary purpose is to ask or request the listener to do something and believes that the speaker can act (Searle, 1969). Requests typically use respect or polite phrasing to deliver the message. The speaker usually anticipates the listener's willingness to comply, differentiating requests from commands.

Example :

"Could you close the door, please?"

2.2.3 Suggestion

According to Searle (1969) Suggestion is an action that contains utterances about what to do or not to do by the listener in other words, suggestion is a directive speech act that proposes a series of actions to consider. The function of suggestion is to give the listener an opinion about what should they do. A suggestion allows the listener to decide whether to accept or reject the idea presented.



The speaker usually uses tentative language to give a suggestion and does not put pressure on the utterance.

Example :

“I suggest you to drink water before and after sleep.”

2.2.4 Advice

Advice is an action that the speaker offers the listener to do action based on the advisor's knowledge, experience, or perspective (Brown & Levinson, 1987). Usually, the speaker also includes that it is good for the listener. Advice suggests a certain course of action, it is typically delivered in a way that allows the listener to make a decision, often giving the benefit of doing the action to indicate possibility rather than obligation.

Example :

“You have to stop smoking, it is bad for your health”

2.2.5 Invitation

According to Brown & Levinson (1987) An invitation is a directive speech act that conveys a desire for someone's attendance or involvement and urges them to take part in an event or activity. The speaker can make an invitation formally and informally. Invitation typically uses questions or conditional phrases to give the listener an option to accept or decline the invitation.

Example :

“Would you like to come to my farewell party this Monday?”

2.2.6 Prohibition

Prohibitions instruct the listener not to engage in certain actions (Searle, 1969). Prohibitions are primarily used to set limits and enforce rules. Prohibition is used to tell the listener about the inappropriateness or unacceptability of the action. Frequently in situations when strict compliance to regulation is required to preserve norms, order, or safety.

Example :

“Do not use your phone during the meeting.”

2.3 Elemental Movie

Elemental is a 2023 American animated romantic comedy-drama film produced by Pixar Animation Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Pictures. In Element City, fire elements Bernie and Cinder Lumen face challenges as immigrants while raising their daughter, Ember, and running a store called the Fireplace, which represents their heritage. Bernie hopes to pass the store to Ember, but first, she must learn to control her fiery temper. When Ember is left to manage the store, she accidentally causes a plumbing issue, leading to Wade Ripple, a water element inspector, getting involved. Wade's report threatens the store's future, but he takes Ember to meet his supervisor to try and change the decision. As they work together on a bigger plumbing problem, Ember and Wade bond. Ember's glassmaking skills impress Wade's mother, leading to an internship offer, but things get complicated when Wade admits he likes Ember, making her question her family's bias against water elements. Later, when a flooding crisis hits Firetown, Wade sacrifices himself to save Ember, and she uses the Crying Game to bring him back. In the end, with Bernie retired and the Fireplace under new management, Ember and Wade start a new chapter, with Ember pursuing her glassmaking dreams.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

This research applies qualitative research. Statistics or measurements are not used in qualitative research. In this research, the researcher selects a content analysis design. The goal of content analysis is to understand human behavior through the examination and interpretation of recorded material (Donald et al, 2010). The data for this research is in oral form or contained in the utterances of the main characters. The researcher used documentary techniques to collect the data for this research. In this research, the researcher used some techniques in collecting the data. Those are watching the movie, reading the movie script, and highlighting the main character's utterances that contain directive speech act.

The researcher analyzes the data in the steps mentioned below:

First, The researcher categorizes the collected data into codes. In observational studies, coding systems are employed to facilitate counting. Coding is the process of separating a text into its themes and descriptions.

Table 1: Coding of the Main Characters

No.	Main Character	Coding
1.	Ember Lumen	E
2.	Wade Ripple	W

Table 2: Coding of Directive Speech Acts

No.	Directive Act	Coding
1.	Command	Com
2.	Request	Req
3.	Advice	Adv
4.	Suggestion	Sug
5.	Prohibition	Phb
6.	Invite	Inv

Next, the researcher quantifies each finding. The results indicate the percentages of different types of directive speech acts used, organized according to the following pattern:

$$P = \frac{Fx}{N} \times 100\%$$

Note :

P = Percentage

Fx = Data frequency

N = Total data collected

100% = Constant number

Finally, the researcher concludes from the data that is categorized and organized in a table.

4.0 RESEARCH FINDINGS

Data for this study are collected from the film "Elemental" (2023), with the movie script obtained from the internet. The researcher used George Yule's theory of directive speech acts to analyze the gathered data. Through the analysis, six types of directive speech acts were identified:

command, advice, request, suggestion, prohibition, and invitation. There were 75 total data related to 6 types of directive speech acts. The details are in the table below:

Table 3: Types of Directive Speech Acts in The Movie “Elemental”

No	Type of Directive Speech Act	Frequency	Percentage
1	Command	34	45%
2	Suggestion	17	23%
3	Advice	5	7%
4	Request	10	13%
5	Prohibition	4	5%
6	Invite	5	7%
TOTAL		75	100%

4.1 Command

Command is the first type of directive speech act analyzed in the movie “Elemental”. A command is used to tell a person to do what the speaker wants, and the listener has to obey. An exclamation mark (!) is usually used in the sentence. It is also known as imperative.

E/Com

Ember: “Move it!”

The setting was in the middle of the road. The context of the situation is Ember wants to beat her dad’s record for delivering, but when she is on her way, there is a slow driver in front of her blocking the road and slowing Ember down. The illocution of that utterance is that Ember told the truck driver to increase his speed or move away from the road. The directive speech act can be identified through the utterance, “Move it!” said Ember. Based on the utterance, Ember told the truck driver to open the way for her. So, the utterance can be categorized as commanding.

4.2 Request

Request is the second type of directive speech act analyzed in the “Elemental” movie. The purpose of this type is to ask or request the listener to do something and the speaker believes that the listener will act. This type is usually used in polite ways, such as “please”, “could”, “would”, etc. The difference between requesting and commanding is that a request can be accepted or denied.

E/Req

Ember: “Please take all that off.”

The setting is outside of Cyclone Stadium. The context of the situation is when Wade uses merchandise that he bought from a souvenir store and Ember is embarrassed because of how Wade used full merchandise from the hat, shirt, scarf, and gloves. The illocution of that utterance is that Ember doesn’t want to be seen with Wade while he’s using the merchandise. It can also be a command, but since Ember uses the word “please” and doesn’t put coercion in the utterance, so the utterance is categorized as Requesting.

4.3 Suggestion

Suggestion is the third type of directive speech act analyzed in the “Elemental” movie. The purpose of suggestion is to give an opinion about what the addressee should or should not do. A suggestion allows the listener to decide whether to accept or reject the idea presented.

W/Sug

Wade: “Maybe after dinner, we play The Crying Game?”

The setting was inside Wade’s house. The context of the situation is when Wade suggests to everyone in the room what should they do after dinner, which is the crying game. The illocution of that utterance is that Wade thought that the crying game should be their next agenda. Based on the utterance, Wade suggests his family and Ember to play the crying game after dinner. So, the utterance can be categorized as Suggesting, because Ember is a fire girl and fire elements do not usually express their feelings to a stranger so she can reject the suggestion from Wade or she can accept it.

4.4 Advice

Advice is the fourth type of directive speech act analyzed in the “Elemental” movie. The purpose of this type is to give advice or information about what the listener should do and usually the speaker also includes that it is good for them. The difference between giving advice and commanding is the speaker can only give information about what should the speaker do and not force it.

W/Adv

Wade: “You’re going to need a pair of boots!”

The setting was in front of Wade’s house. The context of the situation is when Wade wants to take Ember to see the Vivisteria flower, but the flower is under the water so as a water girl, Ember has to stay inside of a bubble made from a cloud to stay dry. The illocution of that utterance is that Wade advised Ember to put on her boots to keep her safe. Based on the utterance, Wade advised Ember to put on her boots so her feet wouldn’t burn the bubble. So, the utterance can be categorized as Advising.

4.5 Invitation

Invitation is a type of directive speech act that invites the audience to take part in a particular event or activity. It conveys a welcoming tone, hoping the listener to participate in an activity. Typically, when someone wants to give an invitation, they do it without coercion, allowing the recipient to decide whether or not to accept.

W/Inv

Wade: “You, want to come up and wait for the call together?”

The setting was in front of Wade’s house. The context of the situation is that Wade informed Ember that Gale would call him to give clarity about what is going to happen next about the ticket. Based on the utterance, Wade directly invites Ember to join the activity. It suggests a shared experience, encouraging the listener to accept the offer to spend time together. This directive speech act conveys the speaker’s desire for social interaction while also providing context (the family dinner) that makes the invitation more appealing. So, the utterance can be categorized as an



invitation.

4.6 Prohibition

Prohibition is a type of directive speech act that conveys an explicit restriction on the listener's actions. It uses imperative language to tell the listener not to engage in a particular action. For instance, "Do not enter" that utterance makes it very clear that entering the place is prohibited. Prohibitions serve to provide limits and guide behavior by outlining what is unacceptable.

E/Phb

Ember: "No! You can't shut us down!"

The setting was in the basement of her family's shop. The context of the situation is when Wade as the city inspector wants to shut down Ember's shop because of many things that are not up to standard. The illocution of that utterance is that Ember told Wade not to write her a ticket. Based on the utterance, It states clearly that shutting down is forbidden and that it should never happen. This is a direct instruction meant to stop Wade from writing a ticket and shutting down the shop. So, the utterance can be categorized as prohibition.

5.0 CONCLUSION

There are six types of directive speech acts in the main character's utterances in "Elemental" movie, there are: command, advice, request, suggestion, prohibition, and invitation. Wade and Ember as the main characters in the movie "Elemental" collectively deliver 75 utterances classified as directive speech acts. Command has 34 data (45%), 17 utterances (23%) classified as suggestion, 10 utterances (13%) classified as request, 4 utterances (5%) classified as prohibition, 5 utterances (7%) classified as advice, and 5 utterances (7%) classified as invitation. Command is the dominant type of directive speech act in "Elemental" movie with 34 utterances (45%).

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