

**A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF DOCTOR STRANGE’S DIRECTIVE
UTTERANCES IN *DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS*
MOVIE**

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Abstract: This study aims to identify the directive speech act used by Doctor Strange as a main character based on the theory proposed by Yule and to explain how the directives in the movie Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness are applied. This research applied descriptive qualitative study and used the movie as the object. The study used the protagonist’s directive utterances as data. The results showed four types of directive speech acts: commanding, ordering, requesting, and suggesting. The study showed that 50 directive utterances consisted of 16 data of commanding, 17 data of ordering, 12 data of requesting, and 5 data of suggesting. After analyzing 50 data, it was found that ordering was the most dominant type of Doctor Strange’s directive utterances in the movie Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness. It indicated that Doctor Strange had all the power to fight against the enemy and was stronger than others.

Keywords: *directive, movie, pragmatics, speech act*

INTRODUCTION

Directive speech is often used in everyday conversation to order or ask for something. It has many functions for our life such as when we need a help from other people or when we ask friend to do something. Of course, to make them do it, we should say something. A speech act realizes the effort of the speakers, so the speakers could do anything to achieve the goal (Balik and Marta, 2022). Thus, every talk spoken to the listener has its intention. According to (Harley, 2013), there are five types classified as general function performed by speech acts, namely; declaratives, expressive, representatives, directives, and

commissive. Based on these functions, directive speech act not only happened in the real life but it also is reflected in some literary works such as novel, song lyrics, and movie.

Movie is one of the media that represents directive speech act, i.e.: *Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness* Movie. It is an appropriate media learned by both children and adults. It can be enjoyed for all of us by being delivered in various genres such as; action, superhero, science fiction, adventure, and fantasy. One of them is adventure movie. It can make people entertained and happy. This genre is suitable for children and adults because some adventure movies are immersed with attractive scenes.

Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness is an example of attractive adventure movie launched in 2022 (STUDIOS, 2022). It shows an American superhero, as taken from the Marvel Comics Character Doctor Strange the new version. This movie was launched by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. It is produced by Marvel Studios. This movie is the continuation from the previous movie released in 2016. *Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness* movie was beautifully directed by Sam Raimi. It tells the story of Stephen Strange who has a guest from another universe, namely America Chavez. America's presence in the Dr. Strange universe, which is in the main MCU universe, is to ask the superhero for help. The reason is, there is a "demon" who hunts America Chavez in order to get the power to move the multiverse belonging to the girl.

Choosing a topic is the first step of doing research. To have completely original idea is a misconception, because no research is completely original (Pomeransky and Khriplovich 1998). Research is based on the work of others to some extent. This research is inspired by some previous related research. Other motives to conduct a study about directive utterances are from several previous studies. There are three previous studies. First previous research is conducted by (Della, 2018) about “*An Analysis of Directive speech Acts by Searle Theory in Sleeping Beauty Movie Script*”. She focuses on types of directive speech act found in movie script based on Searle’s theory. The second is research by (Wibowo, 2018) entitled “*A Pragmatic Analysis of The Directive Utterances in The Percy Jackson and The Olympians Novel Its translation*”. This study implies the different theory and method used. The third is research entitled “*An Analysis of Speech Act in Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness Movie*”(Jatmiko, et al., 2022). This study used the *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* movie in the type of speech act. Therefore, to understand more deeply about directive speech act, this study intends to analyze the types of directive utterances used

by the main character as a powerful character in the movie. It indicates many kinds of directive utterances produced. In addition, it explains how those directive speech acts are applied.

The result of this research provides some significances for the readers. It can be used as references for further research on pragmatics, especially directive speech act, or other research related to character's utterances in a movie as the object of study. In addition, this study can also help the readers to be able to practice better how to make and utter directive speech acts learning English or in different occasion. They are able to practice better how to make and utter directive speech acts in learning English or in different occasion.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Pragmatics

The way when we say the words, our saying conveys our intended meanings. In order to understand it as the pattern of communication, pragmatics is needed (Sartika and Pranoto, 2021). Besides, (Yule, 2019) stated that the relationship between linguistic forms and the users of those forms learnt in pragmatics. Pragmatics include the one can speak people's intended meanings, assumptions, their aims, and the various actions, such as requesting performed when they speak. This typical study involves the assumptions of what people mean based on certain context (Ratri and Bram, 2022). The hidden meaning of utterances sometimes can make misinterpretation because of its complex meaning and used in many contexts. (Sartika and Pranoto, 2021).

Pragmatics is an interesting study since it learns about how two people who are communicating can make sense to each other linguistically. However, it sometimes frustrating as it requires us to make sense of people and what they have in mind (Yule, 2019). It focuses in the relationship between utterance and speaker. Pragmatics is not just spotlights on sentence which has expressed by the speaker or the composed of author. Pragmatics is one of linguistics branches or the speaker's meaning. The context of the utterance can be seen from the way the delivery, hearer, place, and time of speech.

Directive Speech Act

Speech act is generally defined as actions performed via utterances. It is commonly given specific signs like apology, invitation, promise, request, apology, etc. The term speech act used to describe an action that involves language such as "requesting," "commanding," or "informing." (Yule, 2020). Many linguistics theories make various assumptions about

human language; it is about the combination of ‘sound and meaning’. Language is defined as correct sentences (generative-transformational thinking). Language is as action, which produces ‘speech act’, because ‘speech’ connotes the oral medium of language production. (Yule, 2019). In conclusion, a speaker is performing actions via the utterances produced, like praising, requesting, promising, etc.

“Directive utterances is utterance which is stated by the speaker to get the addressee to do something by ordering, commanding, suggesting, etc.” (Searle in Levinson, 2000). “Directives are those kinds of illocutionary speech act that speaker use to get someone else to do something. They express what speaker wants. They are commands, orders, requests, and suggestions” (Yule, 2005:54). Otherwise, directive are types of speech acts where the speakers request to something to the hearers. Speech act is often used in everyday conversation to order or ask for something and it may not only happen in the real life but it also reflected in some literary works such as novel, song lyrics, and movie.

“Directives are those kinds of illocutionary speech act that speaker use to get someone else to do something. They express what speaker wants. They are commanding, ordering, requesting, and suggesting” (Yule, 2005:57). It is explained as follows.

- a. Commanding is a speech act to gives order or asks from the speaker to hearer to do something. It is utilized to communicate speaker’s feelings, thoughts, and intention. It is used by the people when the speaker needs the listener to do something straight forwardly or by implication for the purpose of the speaker.
- b. Ordering is an utterance aimed at asking to hearer to do something to be done. Ordering utterances contain arrangement, disposition, sequence or to set in some sort of order.
- c. Requesting is similar to ordering but in formal and polite situation. A request is that which is asked for or requested or is to express the need or desire for.
- d. Suggesting is a speech act which the speaker gives suggestion for consideration or recommend to the hearer to follow the suggestion given. Suggestion is to propose as desirable or fitting or delivering consideration.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study uses qualitative descriptive method. A qualitative research offers greater latitude in selecting topics (Anderson, 2012). (Creswell, 2007) proposed that qualitative

research is metaphorically as an intricate fabric composed of various colors, textures, and colors in detail. Like a research, qualitative research is an activity that locates the observer in certain situation.

This study used qualitative research with points to words, pictures showing the result of the research as some explanation and descriptions to illustrate (Utama, et al. 2020). Descriptive research describes a population, situation, or phenomenon that is being studied. It is aimed at answering the how, what, when, where and why, since it is important to understand a proper explanation of what a research problem is about. A qualitative researcher uses distinguished data source to understand the topic studied, such as books, videos of interactions, interview transcripts, verbal reports, etc. The data collected are in words or images providing rich source to code to be analyzed. This study explains the use of directive utterances used by Doctor Strange in *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* movie. Besides, the next activity is analyzing the types of directive speech act and e how the types of directive speech act found applied.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Directive Speech Act of Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness

There are several directive speech acts found in the movie of Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness. They are explained as follows.

Commanding

Command is a speech act to give order or asks from the speaker to the hearer to do something. From the study there are 9 data command type directive utterances in the main character of *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* movie. Here are the findings:

Datum number 03/C/DSIMM

Context: Dr. Strange and America Chavez ran from the monsters. They passed some floating rocks and cliffs. When they jumped over a cliff, they fell and Dr. Strange command America to hold back so they would not fall any further.

Dr. Strange : ***Hold on!***

America : No, No, No!

In the utterances “**Hold on!**” contained directive command type. The utterances stated by Dr. Strange to America. This situation when they fall, Dr. Strange tried to hold on

to break their fall and told America to do the same. America said that she could not hold it but still do it, and it kept them safe until they landed. From his statement “Hold on!” showed that Dr. Strange did directive speech act that is command type.

Datum number 12/C/DSIMM

Context: Kamar-Taj fell down because of Wanda’s attack. Even so, people were still there even though Wanda was still launching her attacks. Seeing that, dr. Strange shouted a command for them to back off and dodge.

Dr. Strange : *Fall Back.*

Everyone : (Runs back from Wanda’s attack)

From the Dr. Strange utterances “**Fall back.**” is the directive utterances command type. This was a dangerous situation, which Kamar-Taj fell down because of Wanda’s attack. Thus, Dr. Strange gave command to everyone to fall back and find shelter. Everyone followed his words to took cover from Wanda’s attack. From the Dr. Strange statement “Fall back.”, it showed that Dr. Strange did directive speech act command type.

Datum number 13/C/DSIMM

Context: In the dangerous situation, when everyone in Kamar-Taj fell back and shelter, Wong was still standing in the battle arena which was starting to crumble. He was stunned to see the place destroyed. Dr. Strange saw him, and quickly revived him by yelling at him to get out of there.

Doctor Strange : *Wong! Get out of here!*

Wong : (run)

The utterances “**Wong! Get out of here!**” contained directive utterances command type. The utterances contained command from Dr. Strange to get out of that place because the situation was getting dangerous. Wong realized and he immediately ran out of there following the others to take cover. From Dr. Strange statement “Wong! Get out of here!”, it showed that Dr. Strange did directive speech act command type.

Datum number 27/C/DSIMM

Context: In this situation, they were in their way to The Book of Vishanti and Wanda chased them. Wanda caught up, and Dr. Strange screamed for them to go and escape from Wanda.

Dr. Strange : *go, go, go!*

America & Christine : (run)

The utterances “**go,go,go!**” contained directive command type. The utterances contained command from Dr. Strange to America and Christine to run and escape from Wanda. America and Christine run first, and Dr. Strange followed them with his eyes on Wanda to guard against her attack. From Dr. Strange statement, it showed that Dr. Strange did directive speech act command type.

Ordering

Order is a speech act which the speaker asks the hearer to do something to be done. This study found 15 ordering type directive utterances in the main character of Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness movie. Here are the data examples:

Datum number 01/C/DSIMM

Context: In this situation, Dr. Strange and America Chavez run from a monster that craved for America’s power. They needed to get The Book of Vishanti to prevent the monster from taking her power.

America : The Book of Vishanti!

Dr.Strange : We can’t let it take your power. ***Get to the book.***

In the utterances “**Get to the book.**” is included in directive ordering type. The utterance contained order from Dr. Strange to America to get The Book of Vishanti (magic book to fight the monster). In this case, Dr. Strange and America run into The Book of Vishanti to get it. From the conversation, especially Dr.Strange statement “Get to the book” showed dr. Strange did directive speech act ordering type.

Datum number 08/O/DSIMM

Context: In this situation, Dr. Strange and Wong asked America who was the person they just saved from an octopus monster. Dr. Strange also asked America to explain what really happened, why did the monster chase her and why did she appear in Dr Strange’s dream.

Dr. Strange : ***You need to explain to me what's going on.*** Why was that octopus trying to eat you?

America : That thing was trying to kidnap me. It's like a henchman who works for a demon. All we knew is that they wanted to take my power for themselves.

In the conversation “**You need to explain to me what’s going on.**” is included in directive utterances order type. The conversation contained order from Dr. Strange to

America. It was their first meeting, but America had appeared in Dr. Strange's dream and were chased by a monster too. America started to explain to Dr. Strange and his friend Wong.

Datum number 14/O/DSIMM

Context: Wanda was successfully trapped in a glass of illusion that Doctor Strange created, but Wanda managed to find her way out through the reflection. Doctor Strange who realized it then told everyone in the room to cover all the glass and water.

Doctor Strange : Reflections. She's using the reflections. **Cover them.**

Everyone : (cover the water, mirror, and every glass in that room)

In this situation, Dr. Strange statement "**Cover them**" is included directive utterances order type. Wanda who was trapped in a glass of illusion successfully found the way to get out of there by using reflection, and Dr. Strange knew it. Dr. Strange ordered everyone to cover all of the glass and water in that room, and they all did it.

Datum number 15/O/DSIMM

Context: Wanda did *dreamwalking* and came to the universe that Dr. Strange and America had visited. All the Avengers were against Wanda. Professor Charles trusted Dr. Strange to take The Book of Vishanti to protect America. Then, Dr. Strange asked Mordo to take him to The Book of Vishanti.

Dr. Strange : **Take me to The Book of Vishanti**, so that we can fight her together.

Mordo : You are in no position to give orders.

In the datum "**Take me to The Book of Vishanti**" showed that Dr. Strange ordered Mordo to take him to The Book of Vishanti. In the first meeting, Dr. Strange acted politely to Mordo, but then Mordo set him and America up. He then ordered Mordo with his superior act, but Mordo refused his order. From the statement "Take me to The Book of Vishanti" showed that Dr. Strange did directive speech act order type.

Datum number 34/ODSIMM

Context: Dr. Strange got The Darkhold after defeated Defender Strange. He would do *dreamwalking* to save America from Wanda and then asked Christine to take care of her body while he did *dreamwalking*.

Dr. Strange : And I can't do any of this without your help. While I'm under, **I need you to protect my body in case they attack me trespassing.**

Christine : Who's they?

In the datum above showed that directive utterances order type. Dr. Strange would do *dreamwalking* to save America from Wanda in the other universe. Dr. Strange ordered Christine to save his body while he was *dreamwalking*, and Christine did it. From there, the statement “**I need you to protect my body in case they attack me trespassing**” showed directive speech act order type.

Requesting

Request is a speech act which the speaker asks to hearer to do something in formal and polite situation. In this study there are 8 requesting type directive utterance from the main character of *Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness* movie. Here the data examples:

Datum number 04/R/DSIMM

Context: In this situation Dr. Strange at the wedding ceremony of his ex. He enjoyed some of liquor at the bar provided at the party. Christine as the bride of the wedding came and ask for the red wine to the bartender. However, Doctor Strange requested to Christine to allow him to serve her red wine.

Christine : Glass of red, please.

Dr. Strange : *Oh, allow me, miss.*

Utterance from Dr. Strange “**Oh, allow me, miss.**” belongs to directive utterance request type. The statement above showed that Dr. Strange ask politely to allow him to serve Christine a glass of red wine, and Christine allowed him.

Datum number 11/R/DSIMM

Context: Dr. Strange encountered Wanda, she was a strong witch. He asked her to come to Kamar-Taj to protect America. Instead, Wanda asked him to take America to her place. It turned out that Wanda was the mastermind behind the monster that attacked America.

Dr. Strange : *Come to Kamar-Taj*, it'll get you back on the lunch book.

Wanda : What if you brought America here?

In this situation, Dr. Strange begged to Wanda to come to Kamar-Taj and help him protect America. In the utterances of begging, Dr. Strange used an offer while request Wanda to come to Kamar-Taj. From Dr. Strange statement “*Come to Kamar-taj*”, it showed that Dr. Strange did directive speech act with request type.

Datum number 16/R/DSIMM

Context: America got pizza without paying for being hungry. Pizza Poppa heard if Amerika did not pay her pizza and Pizza Poppa scolded her. Doctor Strange then asked him to relax.

America : Crap. Maybe it's not free here.

Pizza Poppa : Pizza Poppa always gets paid.

Dr. Strange : *Alright, Pizza Poppa. Relax.* She's just a kid...

The conversation above was taken place during the first meeting between Dr. Strange and Pizza Poppa. In this situation, America did a mistake. Thus, Dr. Strange said politely to Pizza Poppa, who was also older than him to calm down. From the conversation especially “**Alright, Pizza Poppa. Relax.**” Dr. Strange did directive speech act Request type.

Datum number 20/R/DSIMM

Context: Mordo hosted Dr. Strange and America in his universe. Mordo explained about the book The Darkhold, and Dr. Strange enlisted his help to get to it.

Mordo : The Darkhold's antithesis. It can give a sorcerer whatever power they need to vanquish their enemy.

Dr. Strange : *I need your help to get me to it.*

Utterances above from Dr. Strange “**I need your help to get me to it.**” is included in directive utterances request type. These utterances contained request from Dr. Strange to Mordo in polite way because that was their first meeting.

Datum number 25/R/DSIMM

Context: Dr. Strange managed to escape from Mordo who was trying to kill him. He then found America and Christine. He asked Christine to take him to the Waypoint to The Book of Vishanti

Dr. Strange : Xavier said I built waypoint to The Book of vishanti. *Can you take us there?*

The second Christine: How am I supposed to trust you?

In this situation, Dr. Strange was trusted by the superiors in the universe and gained access to the Book of Vishanti. He found Christine and America. He requested it politely. From the statement “**Can you take us there?**”, it was addressed in polite way to Christine, because Dr. Strange knew that the second Christine realized his existence in her universe was a problem. Dr. strange said this to make the second Christine approached him. It means Dr. Strange did directive speech act request type.

Suggesting

Suggestion is a speech act which the speaker gives suggestion for consideration or recommend to the hearer to follow the suggest given. In this study there are 6 suggesting type directive utterance in the main character of *Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness* movie. Here are the data examples:

Datum number 09/Sgst/00:17:45

Context: In this situation, Dr. Strange and his friend, Wong, have known that America was in danger. Wong asked Amerika to come with them to Kamar-Taj for her safety, yet America was unsure about going along because another Doctor Strange was trying to kill her. She wasn't sure whether this Doctor Strange would also betray her or not. However, Doctor Strange suggested America to just trust him.

Wong : Miss Chavez, will you come with us to Kamar-Taj? You'll be safe there.

America : How do I know you won't betray me like he did?

Dr. Strange : *I guess you're just gonna have to trust me.*

The utterance “**I guess you’re just gonna have to trust me.**” belongs to directive suggestion type. As Dr. Strange suggested America to trust him, America then went to Kamar-Taj with him and Wong.

Datum 36/S/DSIMM

Context: America thought that Dr. Strange would take her power because that was the only way to defeat Wanda. In contrast, Dr. Strange approaches America to give her advice. He suggested America to trust herself and her power.

America : You're here to take my power, aren't you? Before Wanda can. It's okay. I understand now.

Dr. Strange : *I've come here to tell you to trust yourself. Trust your power.* That's how we stop her.

In the utterances “**Trust your power**” is included directive utterances suggest type. These contained advices from Dr. Strange to America. From the word “Trust your power” carried out the directive speech act suggest type.

Discussion

This section discusses the result of finding. After analysis, some results were found. From 4 types of directives, ordering type was the most type found with 17 data. Dr. Strange had position to give order to all characters. His words were listened and followed by most

characters. For the directive speech act in the commanding type, there is 1 fewer data than the requesting type. Commanding types consists of 16 data.

Dr. Strange used the directive that was ordering type to make America, Wong, and Christine followed his words. Meanwhile, Dr. Strange often chose directive types of commanding to America Chavez merely to help her and to maintain the balance of the multiverse. Dr. Strange applied the type of directive commanding to Christine because Christine has the key to The Book of Vishanti and she was the one character that stayed with him in the end to help America. The data of directive speech act in the request type consists of 12 data.

Dr. Strange was an arrogant person and had a lot of perspective. He applied the requesting utterances to asking for help politely to several characters he just first met, even though he knew all the characters he met. The discovery of the suggesting type directive in this study is at least 6 data. Directive in requesting type was used by Dr. Strange to the character he just first met like Christine, Mordo, and Defender Strange to ask for help in polite way. Whereas, the commanding and suggesting Dr. Strange used in term of giving warning to America.

The previous study from Della and Sembiring in 2018 entitled “An Analysis of Directive Speech act by Searle Theory in Sleeping Beauty movie script” that used Searle Theory showed that the command type showed the power of the main character toward the other characters. In this study, ordering becomes the most data found that are used to show power, dominance, and arrogance of the main character to direct something to be done.

Meanwhile, the study of Wibowo in 2018 entitled “A Pragmatic Analysis of the Directive Utterances in The Percy Jackson and The Olympians Novel Translation” used descriptive qualitative data. The result described that there is a difference between language form in the original novel and its translation novel. In the study, suggestion is a dominant type of directive speech act found. In this study, that most of the Dr.Strange’s intention was used to ask someone to do something because it was a spoken language or utterances. Besides, the character was more powerful than others. It made him easy to control over the addressee. Ordering and commanding uttered by Dr. Strange showed that he had authority to control over the addressee.

Last, in the study of Jatmiko at all. in 2022 entitled “An Analysis of Speech Act in Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness Movie” showed the most illocutionary act in the movie is directive act because the movie is full of action and war. This reinforces this

research where directive utterances are widely used in certain character, that is Dr. Strange as the main character. In this movie, he was a very powerful and arrogant person. It indicates that there will be many directives uttered. Besides, based on the previous studies above, it will be interesting to conduct research by using a movie as the object that has not been used by previous researches.

Dr. Strange directive utterances shows his behavior, desire, and character even when he chose request utterances to show his superiority to Avengers, and Defender Strange. Even so, he used all the remaining directive types, namely commands, ordering, and suggestions to America, because they were both in a journey and he led the trip. All of them shows his closeness and his trust to America a lot respect her.

However, the result of the analysis shows its contrasts with (Della, 2018) where this study result showed that ordering is dominant type found. From this phenomenon, some facts can be derived as conclusions. Firstly, some types of directive utterances such as requesting, ordering, prohibiting, etc. Secondly, ordering has the highest frequency. Thirdly, the genre of the movie influences the use of directive utterances there.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

Based on finding and discussion above, some conclusions are derived. Directive speech acts are found in Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness, especially in the main character. The main character's directive utterances are more varied than other characters. Based on Yule's theory, this study found 16 data of commanding type, 17 data of ordering, 12 data of requesting, and 5 data of suggesting. Ordering types are most data applied in this study. It shows that the main character did have full of strength to direct his utterances to all of the characters. Ordering itself shows that the speaker direct something to be done to be hearer. Besides, it indicates that Dr. Strange had more power than other characters, so that is why his words were listened and followed by other characters in the movie.

Suggestions

This study focused on the analysis of directive utterances. The result of this research is suggested to provide more understanding in terms of locution, illocution, and perlocution. Analyzing movies will be exciting to conduct, including in reacting and responding directive

speech act based on certain perspectives. Hence, people are not only producing directive utterances, but also creating some interesting literary works by using speech act. This directive speech act study of Doctor Strange in *The Multiverse of Madness* movie can be used for a reference or comparison for the next study. Next researcher may examine the directive utterances in the next sequel of this movie or use other scopes of research like translation, discourse analysis, etc.

Next researchers could further examine more deeply about one of directive speech act's types found from this research. Future research could also analyze the utterances from the next sequel of *The Multiverse of Madness* movie by using translation approach. However, for future research on pragmatics scope like presupposition and implicature could use other objects like newspaper, magazines, speeches, or talks as phenomena to be used as research material. Hopefully, the future research could be more in-depth and qualified to enrich the research on pragmatics and improving reader's comprehension on pragmatics especially pragmatics.

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