

DIRECTIVE ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS OF JAMES CORDEN'S UTTERANCES "THE HOST"

Wulan Angelia Sembiring¹

Universitas Putera Batam (UPB), Batam, Indonesia
pb161210105@upbatam.ac.id

Ambalegin, Ambalegin²

Universitas Putera Batam (UPB), Batam, Indonesia
Ambalegin@puterabatam.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This descriptive qualitative research explored one of speech acts phenomena. The researchers took directive acts types as the object of this research. Utterances of directive acts that the host produced were used as the data source. The directive acts types were analyzed by employing Searle and Vanderveken (1985)'s theory regarding types of directive acts. Observational method was adopted to analyze data and it also used non-participatory technique collection. The data were analyzed through pragmatic identity method and competence in equalizing technique by Sudaryanto (2015). It discovered that there had 18 utterances of directive acts in James Corden's utterances. There were eight of command, six of request, prohibition and question had two data. The type of permission was not uttered by the host and guests. The dominant type was command because the host was the host, which means he owned higher degree compared to the guests.

Keywords: directive acts, utterances, the host

1. INTRODUCTION

Humans are never disconnected from communication in their daily lives. It is because communication is essential for people's survival and humans are social beings. When people communicate, people should include a partner or listener who can understand and respond to what is being talked. It is critical when people want communication to flow easily. While communicating, it is critical to understand how the speech acts (speakers) employ the language we use to talk to others (listener). Arani and Tefl (2012) believed

that students take different strategies and tools use to do the exploration that is in accordance with their speaking ability, age, and events that create the context of utterance. It describes that there is a word choices that a student uses when the student is communication to a teacher there was a word choice used by a student as a speaker to talk to a listener.

When people start to establish a discussion, people can show speech acts. Speech act is indeed beneficial for speaker and interlocutor in communicating. (Yule

as cited in Schneider, 2012) argued that speech acts is action that a speaker shows via utterance. Speaker expresses something through what she or he says, which is known as an utterance. The utterance can be used in communication in which there is a speaker and a listener. This occurs because the primary purpose of the speaking act is the utterance or dialogue. The meaning of speech acts is a kind of verbal communication and it is a branch of pragmatics. This study was first discovered by Austin (1962), who declared that locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary acts belong to speech acts types. Austin (as cited in Suhardianto, 2018) added that illocutionary act refers to the act that is done by saying utterances.

All aspects of illocutionary speech act are the phenomena of pragmatics. Characters' statements in movies, talk shows, and other media reflect the phenomenon. The researchers concentrated on directive acts. Directives are components of speech acts used by speakers to persuade the listener to accomplish an action (Searle 1979). Furthermore, irective acts focuses on the act that wants someone to carry out an action. Question Command, Request, Permission and Prohibition are the directive acts types (Searle as cited in Della & Sembiring, 2018).

The researchers found directive acts in social media specifically Channel News Asia broadcasted on 4th October 2017. It had Anggun C. Sasmi as the guest of the interview. The phenomenon of directive acts in the interview is as below.

The First host : **"...How have you seen the music industry change throughout your career?"**

Anggun C. Sasmi : "Well, you know all the different platforms like You Tube, and I think now that, there are a lot more competitions as well..."

Anggun is Indonesian, who has been a famous international artist. In the interview, she became the guest and she was interviewed by two hosts of the interview. The question that is written in bold has the term of "asking" and it is a direct question. The host (speaker) asked Anggun as the listener directly and the question asked by the speaker was answered by the hearer.

Directive acts phenomena were also discovered on the Late Late Show Talk show. This CBS talk program is hosted by James Corden and the most well-known in the United States. The Late Late Show premiered in America in 2014. In the conversation below, James Corden Adella had a talk.

James Corden : "I mean, what I like is that you are coming to me for this advice".

Adella : "Ha..Ha..Ha. Yeah!!".

James Corden : **"Would you mind if we listen to some music??"**

Adella : "Yeah, of course right".

The utterance above was said by a speaker named James and Adella as the listener in James' car. They were singing and listening to music from the radio in the car. The speaker's utterance involves a request. The intended meaning of the utterance appears after the speaker asked a question. It has a type of directive acts called as request. Request is said by a speaker who wants the listener to take or stop from accomplishing something (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). In the utterance, the speaker requested the listener to accomplish something by saying the utterance above. The speaker wanted the listener to some music and the listener responded the utterance by accepting to listener.

Some research have investigated directive acts. Della and Sembiring (2018) explored the type of directive speech acts in the utterances. It used the the theory of

Searle (1997) to examine the data. "Sleeping Beauty" movie was taken as the data source of their research. The result discovered that question command, permission, request, and prohibition appeared as the directive speech acts types in the movie.

Nisa (2017) examined the directive acts types and politeness strategies. It took on one of the shows on TV One entitled Satu Jam Lebih Dekat talk show as the data source. The researcher used the theory by Searle's directive acts and Brown and Levinson's politeness strategy. The findings found out that to want, to hope, to obligate, to request, to warn, to invite were used by the speakers. For the politeness strategies, the speakers showed positive and negative politeness, off record, and bald on record. The politeness of directive acts assisted to make the talk show became effective. It was influenced by several factors such as directive acts types and politeness strategy.

Previous and present research used the same theory from Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The theory was employed to analyze directive acts types in the data source. In reference to the previous research, this present research and the previous research have the difference in data source. This research used the "The late Late Show with James Corden" talk show as the data source and concerned on the directive acts types.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Directive Acts

Directive utterance refers to an utterance that is said to have someone to do something. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) believed that directive acts is known as a classification of illocutionary acts that an interlocutor should do. Command, ask, order, request, beg, plead, pray, entreat, invite, permit, and advise

belong to verbs that relate to directive acts. (Searle, 1979 p. 14). In brief, Searle (as cited in Della & Sembiring, 2018) claimed that there are five directive acts types, namely request, permission, prohibition, command, and question.

2.1.1 Types of Directive Acts

a. Commanding

This type refers to the utterance made by a speaker to ask an interlocutor to do something in accordance with the speaker's desire. In this category, the speaker usually has authority over the hearer, thus the hearer must obey the speaker's command. Kreidler (2013 p.189) agreed that command can be effective in the situation that has a speaker whose degree is higher to control over the interlocutor. The example is as follows. **"Will! Will! Stop! Stop!"** (Lailiyah, 2015)

b. Requesting

Searle and Vanderveken (1985 p.198) claimed that request is a directive acts that is possible for rejections of refusal. Furthermore, Yule (1996) agreed that request is about what a speaker wants the hearer to stop doing or do. Type of request does not imply that the speaker has power over the person to whom it is intended. One of the example is from Lailiyah (2015), **" I would like this one, please"**.

c. Permission

Permission appears to be grammatical interrogatives used to request permission to do a certain action. Permission is performed when a speaker grants permission to a listener. The utterance that shows permission is as follows. **"I ask for your permission to go to the battle taking up arms against you, mother"** (Mualimin, 2018).

d. Prohibition

When a speaker prohibits or forbids, it refers to propositional negation of ordering. Searle and Vanderveken (1985 p.198) agreed that a speaker uses this type if the speaker forbids or does not let the listener to do a certain action. It was also agreed by Bach and Harnish (1983 p.49) as the experts said forbidding are beneficial requirement that says the interlocutor is not allowed to do a certain thing. One of the utterances is **“No Entry! No, smoking You don’t have to come with me”** (Lailiyah, 2015)

e. Question

Question is applied when a speaker asks question to a listener. It mentions that whenever a speaker intends to get an answer of a question, this type is conveyed. Answer that a listener says is in line with the question asked by a speaker. One of the utterances of question is as follows. **“Do you know the way to the Palace Hotel?”** (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985, p. 117). Another example is from a research examined by Sembiring and Ambalegin (2019), **“What are you waiting for? Go on!”**

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The researchers of this present research employed the descriptive qualitative method. The qualitative method that the researchers used is in accordance with the phenomena that this research concerned on. According to Creswell (2013), qualitative research is adopted to explore focus groups, observation, document, and interview. The reason this research used the descriptive because the analysis was done by using words. Observational method and non-participatory technique by Sudaryanto (2015) were used to collect data. The researchers did the data collection by converting the utterances

into script, taking utterances that have directive acts phenomena. In the last, the researchers highlighted utterances that involved the phenomena.

Pragmatic identity method and pragmatic competence- in equalizing by Sudaryanto (2015) were adopted to analyze data. The researcher examined the data by equalizing and classifying the data by using the theory. In analyzing data, the researchers revealed the context of highlighted utterances. Then, the context was matched to discover the meaning related to the theory that the researchers used. In the final, the highlighted utterances were analyzed to explore the directive acts type in the data source.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Result

There were 18 utterances of directive acts found in “The Late Late Show with James Corden”. From 19 utterances, it consists of four types that were command, request, order, and question. The type of permission was not found in the talk show. Below is the table that shows the total data of each type.

Table. 1 Directive Acts in “Late Late Show with James Corden” Talk Show

No	Type	Frequency
1.	Command	8
2.	Request	6
3.	Prohibition	2
4.	Question	2
Total data		18

4.2 Discussion

Data 1

James : “... **Just have a drive around!!** “Hallo?? From the outside. All right see you in the minute”

Adella : “Helloo??”

James : “Oh yeah... Thank you for this” I appreciated!!! “It’s going to be fun” (0:01- 0:36)

The speaker named James used the utterance to ask Adella to do an action by commanding her. Because Adella had not arrived yet, James was waiting for her in his car. James called Adella to see where she was waiting for him. Adella appeared as a guest on the show. James and Adella were having a phone discussion. James instructed her to turn around her car. Then, the listener responded the command by performing action. Therefore, the speaker had degree to control the hearer of the utterance.

Data 2

James : "It's more manageable"

Adella : "Yeahhh!!!"

James : "I mean, what I like is that you are coming to me for this advice". **"Do you mind if we listen to music??"**

Adella : "Of course, right!!!" (0:36-1:07)

The speaker produced the utterance to request the listener to listen to music. The speaker asked the listener to listen to the music. In terms of **request**, the speaker's utterance shows directive acts. The speaker's statement is classified as directive since the speaker's purpose to the listener is to persuade the listener to do an action. The listener reacted to the speaker's request in the context by saying "of course," and the listener showed the action. The listener agreed to the speaker's wishes and both of them sang together.

Data 3

James : "So you are going to stand behind this glass...!"

Jenny: "Oh my Goodness!!!" [00:00]-[00:25]

James : "At you, **your job is to try not to flinch!!!**" (0:30-0:33)

Lisa : "I think Jenny".

The speaker used the utterance above to command the listener. He wanted to

the listener to not flinch their eyes during the games. In the utterance, the speaker instructed the speaker to not blink their eyes because it was her job. At that time, the hearer answered to the speaker's command by doing the action. The speaker desired that the members act out the roles of the game that was being played. The speaker also had degree over the listener's action. Thus, the speaker categorized directive acts in term of **command**.

Data 4

James Corden : "I think it is only fitting that you and Jisso go first!!"

Jenny: "Oh my God".

James Corden : "If you go, take your place first behind the glass". **"Go take your place!!"** (0:45-0:54)

In the speaker's utterance, the phenomenon of directive acts in terms of command appears. The speaker expressed to the listener his desire to do something. The speaker instructed the listener to take a seat behind the glass. In the context, the hearer responded to the speaker's command by demonstrating the action with go stand behind the glass. In terms of **command**, the speaker's utterance is classified as are classified as directive acts.

Data 5

James Corden : "Okey, **"you stand over here, all right!!"** How you feeling girls, goods?"

Jenny: "Yes"!!! we feeling good".

Jisso : "I am good".

James Corden : "So, Okay. A lemon and an apple are in..."

Jisso and Jenny : "Yeah we got it" (1:14-1:37)

The speaker used the utterance to command the listener because the speaker wanted her to stand behind the glass. Through the utterance, it clearly shows that the speaker performed

command. The speaker conveyed his desire for listener to do a particular action. The speaker **command** the listener to do something by his utterance and the listener responded by standing behind the glass. Based on the context, the speaker had degree to control over the listener to take the action because he was the host of the talk show.

Data 6

James : Really? Does that make you feel more confident jenny?

Jenny : No."

"Oh my God!!"

James : "**Let's have a look at a replay!!**"

Jenny: "That was, that not nice"(1:42-2:04)

The speaker directed the audience to gaze behind the scenes at Jenny and Jiso. The highlighted statements of the speaker undoubtedly contain the directive phenomenon that is **command**. The speaker expressed his wish for the listener to take action. By his utterance, the speaker commanded the listeners to do anything. And the listener responded by looking at Jenny and Jiso on the screen. Since the speaker was the host of the program, he had authority over the listener's action.

Data 7

James : "Wow. That was a big".

Jenny : "I mean, we are having a fun conversation".

James : "...Next up lissa and Rose, "**go take your place behind the glass!**" (2:04-2:40)

The next two players are Lissa and Rose. In the utterance, the speaker wanted them to take be in the places behind the glass. By his utterance, the speaker commanded the listener to do something. The context demonstrates that they responded to the speaker's request by doing action. Because the speaker had

authority to command the listener as the program's host, it indicates that a phenomenon directive acts in terms of **command** presents in the utterance.

Data 8

Jenny and Rose : "No at all."

James : "Really???"

Rose : "Like L.A is sunshine and happiness. (Laughing). No, fruit smashing in our faces."

James : "Will you be thinking of this..."

Rose : "Oh. I hope.

James : "Let see a replay!!" Oh that was a huge flinch" (3:30-3:54)

The speaker delivered orders to the audience as a hearer, as well as the black pink member who had been watching them from the beginning. Lisa and Rose did not win this game. The reason is that they blinked as well. By his utterance, the speaker wanted the listener to take an action. The context shows that they responded to the speaker's request by doing action. As the speaker has the authority to influence the listener, it has a phenomenon directive acts in terms of **command**.

Data 9

Jenny : "Have you ever tried this?".

James : "Have I tried it". "I may have been behind the glass".

Jenny : "Do you want too?".

James : "Do I flinch? So, let's find out girls". "You take the pick of the fruit, just take them hold back" (4:06-4:20)

The speaker commanded the listener to take the fruit and place it in a box that is near them. The listener put a lot of fruits in the box because she was still shocked. The speaker ordered the listener to accomplish action. The speaker commanded them for just put the fruits into a box near them. It is seen by the context that they responded to what the

speaker's desire by doing an action. The speaker had the degree to command the listener because the speaker was the host. Thus, the directive acts of **command** appears in the utterance.

Data 10

Jiso : "More more more ??".

James : "Now, make sure it is punished all the way down, Just push it all the way down to the buttom!! Okay!"

Jiso : "Yeah, of course, I can do it". (4:31-4:37)

The speaker directed the black pink member to ensure that all of the fruits had been put to the box. By his utterance, the speaker influenced the listener to do an action. He instructed the listener to ensure that all of the fruits were placed in the box. It is seen by the context that the hearer did as commanded by doing the action. In the utterance, the speaker had the degree to **command** the listener considering the speaker is as host. In short, it shows the phenomenon of command.

Data 11

James : "Do you mind if we listen to some music?". (0:01-0:13)

Selena : "Oh okay..."

James : "Let's see who we have got here"

In the utterance, the speaker asked the listener to do an action. It specifically shows the directive acts of **request**. The speaker used the utterance to request the listener to do as requested. Based on the context, the speaker wanted the listener to listen to music when the speaker and the listener talked. The speaker uttered the utterance with the aim of making the speaker to do an action. Then, the speaker reacted to the request by answering the question. In short, the utterance shows request because the speaker said the utterance to make the listener to do an action for him.

Data 12

James : "Hello? "Can we get a number?"
What do you want?"

Selena : "Number seven".

James : "Number seven with like a medium fries and a medium coke..."

Mcd : "Okay, I'll make it first".

James : "Thank you so much" (5:35- 5:54)

The speaker wanted the listener to give them number seven. The speaker's utterance has the directive acts of **request**. In the utterance, the speaker did the phenomenon of directive acts seeing that the speaker had the desire to make the listener to do as ordered. The listener answered the request by accepting and showing an action. In other words, the listener accepted the speaker's desired and the listener made their order.

Data 13

James : "I'm very, very well. I'm in the car with selena gomez

Mcd : "(screaming) oh my god. Oh my god, is that really selena gomez ??

James : "yes of course, thank you so much. Is that a normal reaction?"

Selena : "yeah, of course, I think so." (05:57-06:18)

The speaker requested the audience to assist him in getting to work. The phenomenon of directive acts that is **question** was used by the speaker. The speaker asked the audience to do an action that was considered would provide a reaction to the speaker. It was seen by the hearer's response "of course," and the listener replied to the speaker's desire by saying the answer in context. As a result, the speaker's utterances are classified as sorts of directive "question."

Data 14

James : "Thank you so much for helping me gets to work today..."

Petter : I got you man.

James : **“Do you mind if we listen to some of music? Let’s see what we have got”**

Petter : “Singing James!! Singing James!!”
(0:01-0:15)

The speaker said the utterance with the aim of persuading the listener. The speaker wanted the listener to listen to some music. In making the listener to do the action, the speaker said by requesting the listener to listen to the music. Based on the context, it shows that the speaker showed the phenomenon of **request**. The reason is that the speaker intended to have the listener to do as desired by the speaker. The listener responded the desire by showing an action to show that the listener accepted to listen to some music and he wanted to have the speaker to sing as well.

Data 15

James : **Listen, can you help me to get to work?**

Sia : of course .I would love to. I’ am really good at directions. (00:00-00:15)

The speaker requested the audience to assist him in getting to work. The phenomenon of directive acts that is **question** appears in the speaker's utterance. The speaker asked the audience to do an action that was considered could provide a reaction to the speaker. It was seen by the listener’s response and the hearer replied to the speaker's desire by displaying the answer in context. Therefore, the utterance that was uttered by the speaker shows the phenomenon of question.

Data 16

James : all right. I am right in the car. No. it is not the direction. No .. no, **turn around!!**. Wait there! I will come and get you in. Oh my God.

Sia : “okay okay”

James : **“Are you okay?** Hang on!

Sia : “Yeah great.”

The speaker order Sia to turn her body around. Seeing that the listener closed her eyes by covering it with her hair, she was unable to see the road clearly. The speaker order the listener to carry out an action. The speaker instructed the listener to ensure the listener to follow the speaker’s intention. The listener then waited until the speaker approached her. For this reason, it is clear that **command** was used because the speaker commanded the listener.

Data 17

James : “Thanks for this”.

Sia : “listen anytime”

James: “Such a really I saw you”

Sia : “yaya , I got you covered”.

James : **“Do you mind if we listen to some music??”**

Sia : “Sounds great James!”(01:09-01:19)

The speaker asked the listener to listen to the music. In the utterance, it shows that the speaker used **request**. The speaker's utterance is classified as directive since the speaker aimed at persuading the listener. The hearer reacted to the speaker's request in the context by saying and the hearer demonstrated the action. The listener agreed to the speaker's wishes and they began singing together.

Data 18

James : “The traffic today was terrible.”

Lady gaga : “Yeah, I know.”

James : **“Do you mind if we listen to some music?”**

Lady Gaga : “Now”. Let’s join!”

James : “will that be okay? Shall we see?”

Lady Gaga : “yeah” (0:32- 0:35)

The speaker wanted the listener to listen to music and it makes the utterance shows the type of **request**. In the utterance, the speaker had the intention to get the listener to listen. Then, the listener answered by saying “now”, which means she wanted to do as requested. The utterance that the speaker was used to make the listener to listen music and the speaker wanted them to sing together.

5. CONCLUSION

This research explored directive acts in “The Late Late Show” talk show. The researchers found that the directive acts as one in which the speaker desired the listeners to carry out the actions through their utterances. As a result, James (the speaker) mostly employed command utterances. It was influenced by his occupation as the host of the program. James also had the degree to control over the guests in the talk show. It was found that four types of directive were found in James Corden's utterances on “The Late Late Show”. These were command, question, request, and prohibition. There had no types of permission was not found because the speaker did not have any intentions to ask for permission.

REFERENCES

- Arani, S. S., & Tefl, M. A. (2012). *A study of directive speech acts used by Iranian nursery school children: The impact of context on children's linguistic choices*. 1(5), 3–9. <https://doi.org/10.7575/ijalel.v.1n.5p.163>
- Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to Do Things With Words*. Oxford University Press.
- Bach, K., & Harnish, R. M. (1983). Linguistic communication and speech acts. In *Language* (Vol. 59, Issue 3). <https://doi.org/10.2307/413908>
- Creswell J. W. (2013). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method* (p. 273).
- Della, F., & Sembiring, B. (2018). An analysis of directive speech acts by Searle theory in “Sleeping Beauty” movie script. *Journal of English Education and Teaching*, 2(1), 22–27. <https://doi.org/10.33369/jeet.2.1.22-27>
- Kreidler, C. W. (2013). *Introducing English semantics, second edition*. In *Introducing English Semantics, Second Edition*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315886428>
- Lailiyah, S. (2015). *Directive speech act of the main characters In Divergent movie*. 5(1), 59–76.
- Mualimin. (2018). *Directive speech acts in Lanang Setiawan's poems*. 2, 42–48.
- Nisa, K. (2017). Tuturan ambiguitas dalam wacana humor Waktu Indonesia Bercanda: Kajian Pragmasemantik. *PRASASTI: Journal of Linguistics*, 2(2), 300. <https://doi.org/10.20961/prasasti.v2i2.8394>
- Saddhono, K. (2016). *The form and function of local language in directive speech act at a university*. 10(May), 37–42. <https://doi.org/10.21512/lc.v10i1.848>
- Schneider, K. P. (2012). Pragmatics. In *areal features of the anglophone world* (pp. 463–486). <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315760483-11>
- Searle. (1979). *Studies in the theory of speech acts*. <https://doi.org/10.1213/01.ane.0000250225.96165.4b>
- Searle, J. R., & Vanderveken, D. (1985). *Foundations of illocutionary logic*. Cambridge University Press.
- Sembiring, W. A., & Ambalegin, A. (2019). Illocutionary acts on Aladdin movie 2019. *Jurnal Basis*, 6(2), 277–284.

<https://doi.org/10.33884/basisupb.v6i2.1419>

Sudaryanto, S. (2015). *Metode dan aneka teknik analisis bahasa*. Duta Wacana University Press.

Suhardianto. (2014). Illocutionary speech act as found in the Play of Charles

Dicken's Oliver Twist. *JURNAL BASIS UPB*, 1(2).
<https://ejournal.upbatam.ac.id/index.php/basis/article/view/315>