

Directive acts uttered by main character in I care a lot movie

Fanny Virginia¹, Ambalegin²

Universitas Putera Batam (UPB), Batam, Indonesia^{1,2}

Email: pb181210003@upbatam.ac.id¹

Email: Ambalegin@puterabatam.ac.id²

Abstract – This descriptive qualitative research essentially aimed at exploring the types of directive acts uttered by the main character in I Care a Lot movie. The data were taken from utterances of directive acts uttered by Marla as the main character. It was analyzed by applying the types of directive acts theory carried out by Searle (1979). The method of collecting the data was the observational method and non-participatory technique. Furthermore, pragmatic identity method and pragmatic competence- in equalizing were conducted to analyze the data. The results revealed that there were 15 utterances of directive acts uttered by the main character in I Care a Lot movie. There were 5 data showed asking, 4 data showed ordering, 3 data showed permitting, 1 data showed advising, 1 data showed requesting, and 1 data showed inviting. The type of asking became the commonly produced type because the main character frequently asked questions to other characters in I Care a Lot movie.

Keywords: directive acts, illocutionary acts, pragmatics

1. Introduction

The essential functions of language create good relationships with language users. As language users, people never omit language from utterances. Language has the advantage of delivering all things the speaker desires to convey. On the other hand, language cannot entirely assist a speaker and a listener in getting rid of the ineffectiveness if a speaker and listener do not contribute to the avoidance of misunderstanding. A speaker and a listener should want to achieve the goal of speaking by knowing the intended meaning as the crucial thing of an utterance. In particular, the intended meaning can be revealed by understanding directive acts. The explanation for this is that a directive act is linked to the performance of an act that makes a listener takes an action. In other words, comprehending directive acts helps the speaker and listener to avoid misunderstanding in asking and doing a particular action.

The phenomena of directive act truly exist in society. Directive acts exist when the speaker persuades the listener to accomplish a particular action. In addition, the phenomenon of directive acts was found in online learning. The learning implements an online platform to conduct the learning process. It specifically happened when a lecturer requested the students. The following is the utterance of the directive act.

Lecturer (S)	:“I think we can start our class for this evening. Before starting, as usual I want to check your attendance. So, everyone please activate the camera ”
Students (L)	:“Okay, sir.”

The utterances were produced in the English Poetry class. It involved a lecturer (the speaker) and students (the listeners). The speaker uttered the utterance to request the listeners to activate the camera. By activating the camera, the lecturer could see students who were paying attention. It is also because the speaker would check the attendances. However, the action is possible to be refused because it is a request. Accordingly, the type of directive act of the utterance is requested. As claimed by Searle & Vanderveken (1985), the type of request might be declined or granted.

Directive acts are uttered because of the inclusion of intention. Undoubtedly, Searle (1979) emphasized that directive acts refer to the intended thing that is uttered by the speaker. It indicates that the action is expected to be done by a speaker because the speaker wants the listener to get the action done. Directive acts are intended to make someone do an action (Yule,1996). Furthermore, there are several types of directive acts. Those are asking, ordering, permitting, advising, requesting, inviting, begging, praying, commanding, and entreating (Searle, 1979; cf. Wajdi, 2018).

- (1) Asking: The type of directive act that involves question. It is delivered by a speaker to a listener to get the answer. The reason is that when a speaker utters a question, the speaker desires to get a response. As stated by Searle & Vanderveken (1985), directive acts of asking is used to enquire a question. Furthermore, the question has always been directive. Thus, the type of asking is uttered to ask a question. One of the utterances is shown below.
“**So, where're you from?**” (Sembiring & Ambalegin, 2019)
- (2) Ordering: As stated by Searle & Vanderveken (1985), ordering does not need the power of a speaker for influencing a listener to do a thing. It indicates that everyone can perform the type of ordering in utterance. Also, ordering is an order that someone gives to persuade the listener to do an action (Martinez, 2013). A speaker who utters an order wants the hearer to do the desired action. An utterance of ordering as follows.
“**Listen to these words. Now bring it down hard!**” (Paelongan, Natsir & Ariani 2019)
- (3) Permitting: This type of directive act presents in utterance that includes permission. As argued by Searle & Vanderveken (1985), permitting is used by a speaker to get a permission to do a particular action. Additionally, a speaker who asks permission expects to be allowed to take the intended action. The utterance is uttered by a speaker as the one who needs the permission. One of the utterances as displayed below.
“**I ask for your permission to go to the battle taking up arms against you, Mother!**” (Mualimin,2018)
- (4) Advising: This type of directive act relates to the act of giving direction and advice that a speaker takes. According to Searle & Vanderveken (1985), advising is functioned to make listener does the action that a speaker assumes a listener is interested in. Additionally, a speaker produces the type of advising to ask the listener to do the desired action. One of the utterances is displayed below.
“**You shall also respect the customs and taboos that occurred in our village**” (Pamungkas & Utanto, 2018)
- (5) Requesting: This type of directive act functions to ask for help. Requesting might be declined or granted (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). Besides, Yule (1996) claimed that requesting involves action

that can be rejected by a listener. Based on the definition, it demonstrates that the type of requesting is used by a speaker to ask for help. One of the utterances as follows.

“Gentlemen, **we need to start getting ready so if you will all follow me please.**” (Perez & Hernandez, 2021)

- (6) Inviting; The type of directive act performed by a speaker (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). Inviting is specifically an utterance used to formally and politely invites a listener. The performance contains requests for a listener to get a desired action or visit a location. An utterance of inviting is displayed below.

“**Let us give applause to make this event become more awesome.**” (Faridah, 2020)

- (7) Begging: The directive act of begging is used to make a pleasant and polite request. Begging refers to a humble request that indicates a strong willingness (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). In other words, the utterance of begging is always uttered in which a speaker wants a listener to do the action. One of the utterances of begging is displayed below.

“Girls, **can you bring me something to drink ... pretty pleaseeee**” (Perez & Hernandez, 2021)

- (8) Praying: The directive act of praying is performed to entreat God or other religious figures (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). To put it another way, this type is widely used in contexts when a speaker prays. This type is uttered to ask for help and say thanks to God. Below is an utterance of praying.

“**Please read hamdallah together**” (Sari, 2018)

- (9) Commanding: Its primary purpose is to ensure that the listener does as instructed. As emphasized by (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985), commanding is done by a speaker who has the ability to dominate the listener. One of the utterances of commanding is shown below.

“**Don’t steal my belongings**” (Rafiu & Osho, 2021)

- (10) Entreating: Asking for a request seriously and expressing a significant willingness is referred to the type of entreating (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). The significant willingness is the action that is desired to be taken by the listener. An utterance of entreating is displayed below.

“Therefore, I, Anang Syahrani, **apologize to you all.**” (Faridah, 2020)

Directive acts are inextricably linked to communication. A speaker performs directive acts if the speaker wants the listener to do something. The performance of directive act depends on the situation where and to whom the speaker talks. Directive acts are also uttered by characters in movie as the representation of the real conversation including sounds and moving pictures. In a movie, characters need the role of language to convey their thoughts. Characters produce utterances based on context and can perform directive acts.

This research took *ICare a Lot* movie as the data source. It was selected because the phenomena of directive acts were uttered by the main character. Moreover, this movie is an American dark comedy-thriller that had its world premiere at the Toronto International. This movie was released on February 19th, 2021 and directed by Blakeson (2020). The movie portrays Marla Grayson as a legal guardian who exploits and takes advantage of the elderly. As the main character, Marla Grayson won the Best Comedy/Musical Actress for her performance. Furthermore, one of the directive acts utterances of Marla as follows.

Marla (S) : “Excuse me, Your Honor. **May I speak?**”
Judge (L) : “Go ahead, Miss Grayson.” (00:03:52 - 00:03:54)

The utterance involved the conversation between Marla (the speaker) and a judge (the listener) in a court. The utterance was used by the speaker to ask for permission. It is because the speaker intended to clarify everything that was not true. As pointed out by Searle & Vanderveken (1985), permitting is used by a speaker to get permission to do a particular action. For that reason, the utterance performs a directive act and the type of the directive acts is permitting. Regarding the utterance above, it has the modal verb “may”. It appears at the beginning and functions to ask for permission.

In this study, the researchers took two related research to be comparison and reference. Firstly, Biatrik, Natsir & Kuncara (2020) found out the types of directive acts and functions of language uttered in “Maleficent” movie. It took the data from the “Maleficent” movie script. Also, the theories that were applied in the research were the speech act proposed by Searle (1979) and the function of language proposed by Jakobson (1960). The results revealed the type of commanding as a frequently performed type.

Next, Fitria (2019) elaborated the types and the most uttered type of directive acts that were uttered in “Koi Mil Gaya” movie. The researcher took data from *the* utterances of the movie. Theory that was used was directive acts theorized by Searle (1979). The findings showed that commanding as

the frequently uttered act. Also, it was found three types of directive acts including request, suggestion, and command were performed in the movie.

Both previous research and this present research proposed the same directive acts theory theorized by Searle (1979). Also, the previous research and this present research discussed the same topic, but different data sources. The data source of this present research is *I Care a Lot* movie. It was taken to investigate the types of directive acts uttered by the main character. In short, this research particularly aimed at investigating the types of directive acts uttered by the main character in *I Care a Lot* movie.

2. Method

This research conducted the descriptive qualitative research. According to Creswell (2013), qualitative research is applied to get the specific and complete understanding of the phenomena in society. Furthermore, the directive acts utterances of the main character were taken as the data source. In collecting data, this research conducted an observational method proposed by Sudaryanto (2015). The observational method was done by watching *I Care a Lot* movie. In addition, this research applied non-participatory technique as the technique of collecting data as the researchers did not involve in the data source. For the steps of collecting data, there are three steps. Firstly, the researchers watched the movie of Blakeson (2020) entitled *I Care a Lot*. Secondly, the researchers downloaded the movie script. Then, at the same time, the researchers watched the movie and read the script. Lastly, the researchers highlighted the utterances of directive acts.

This research implemented pragmatic identity method theorized by Sudaryanto (2015) as the method of analyzing data. Also, the technique was pragmatic competence- in equalizing of Sudaryanto (2015). It infers that the technique of analyzing the data is by equalizing the data source with the theory. The theory of Searle (1979) was applied to analyze the types of directive acts. There are three steps of analyzing the data. Firstly, the researchers found out the context of the highlighted utterances. Secondly, the researchers analyzed the types of directive acts by applying the theory of Searle (1979). Finally, the finding revealed what types of directive acts uttered by main character in *I Care a Lot* movie.

3. Results and Discussion

This research revealed that directive acts appeared in the movie. There were 15 directive acts utterances uttered by the main character in the movie. The types of directive acts uttered by the main character were asking, ordering, permitting, advising, requesting, and inviting. The total of directive acts is shown in table 1.

Table 1 The Types of Directive Acts Uttered by the Main Character in *I Care a Lot* Movie

Types		Total
Asking	“What’s the good news?”	5
	”That’s your name, correct?”	
	”When did you last see Jennifer?”	
	“Is that a threat?”	
	“Who do you work for?”	
Ordering	“Don’t tease me. Give me the details.”	4
	”Take a seat, get to the point.”	
	“Tell me who you are.”	
	“Take her arthritis and pain meds down to minimum, push her physical exercise to grade four level.”	
Permitting	“May I speak with you for a minute?”	3
	“May I show you this?”	
	“May I?”	
Advising	You have to come with me.”	1
	“I think we should have them just in case. But be careful.”	
Requesting	“You mind holding on to it, keep it in your safe?”	1
Inviting	You have to come with me.”	1
Total		15

Data 1

Marla (S) :” **So, what’s the good news?**”
Sam (L) :”Well, due to Alan’s tragic departure, we now have a vacancy.” (00:09:35- 00:09:39)

The utterance was uttered by Marla (the speaker) and Sam (the listener). It took place in the office room of the speaker. The dialogue was delivered specifically through a mobile phone. After the speaker finished brewing coffee, the conversation began. The speaker asked regarding the good news with the listener who was sitting in his office room. The speaker inquired because the listener informed the speaker that the listener had news. As a result, **asking** is the type of directive act in utterance above.

Data 2

Marla (S) :”**That’s your name, correct?** Jennifer Peterson. Your date of birth, security number, and this address.”
Ms. Peterson (L) :” Oh, my goodness. Have I done something wrong?” (17:01-17:07)

The utterance was delivered by Marla (the speaker) after Ms. Peterson (the listener) had worn the reading glasses. Both the speaker and the listener stood in front of the house of the listener. The utterance was said precisely when the speaker showed the paper to the listener and inquired for the personal information of the listener. Furthermore, the speaker intended to ask the question because the listener seemed confused by the arrival of the speaker. Hence, the type of directive act utterance above is **asking**.

Data 3

Marla (S) :”Hmm. **When did you last see Jennifer?**”
Mr. Ericson (L) :”Not long ago.” (00:37:49 - 00:37:52)

The utterance was uttered in the office room of Marla (the speaker). The speaker and Mr. Ericson (the listener) talked about Miss Jennifer Peterson. The reason is that the listener is a lawyer who represents Miss Peterson. The speaker, on the other hand, was curious about the listener. It prompted the speaker to ask about the last time the listener met Miss Peterson. Accordingly, the type of directive act utterance above is **asking**.

Data 4

Mr. Ericson : “Well, I can think of two reasons. One, it is the right thing to do, but I doubt that means anything to you. And two, because she has very powerful... friends who can make life uncomfortable for you, extremely unpleasant and uncomfortable.”
Marla (S) :”**Is that a threat?**”
Mr. Ericson (L) :” No. No, that’s just data for you to... collate.” (00:39:49 - 00:40:20)

The utterance was uttered by Marla (the speaker) to Sam (the listener). It has the speaker and the listener in their own office rooms. The dialogue was specifically delivered through a mobile phone. It began after the speaker finished brewing coffee. With one hand holding a glass of coffee, the speaker asked a question. The question is related to the good news that needed the listener to answer. The speaker asked the question because the listener recently mentioned that the listener had good news. As a result, **asking** is the type of directive act in utterance above.

Data 5

Marla (S) : “**Who do you work for?**”
Mr. Dean (L) :”Jennifer Peterson.”
Marla :”Liar.”
Mr. Dean : “Excuse me?” (00:40:56 - 00:40:59)

The utterance was conveyed by Marla (the speaker) and Mr. Dean (the listener) in the office room. The listener came to the office room to discuss Miss Peterson. The utterance was uttered by the speaker because the speaker asked about who the listener assisted. The question was asked because the listener is a lawyer. Thereby, the type of utterance above is **asking** because it included a question.

Data 6

Marla (S) :”**Don’t tease me. Give me the details.**”
Dr. Karen (L) :”Come on, Marl. I can’t just give you a cherry for free. I need something in return. You hold stock in Golden Light Cares Homes, right?” (00:11:36 - 00:11:45)

Marla (the speaker) ordered Dr. Karen (the listener) to give the detailed information. It took place in a doctor's room owned by the listener. The speaker spoke and sat in front of the listener. This

dialogue was intended to be uttered because the listener hid something from the speaker. It made the speaker become curious and ordered the listener to detail the information regarding the elderly that the listener just mentioned. Therefore, ordering is the type of directive act performed in the utterance above.

Data 7

Marla (S) : "Take a seat, get to the point."
Mr. Dean (L) : "I'm a lawyer."
Marla : "I don't need a lawyer." (00:37:15 - 00:37:18)

The utterances took place in the office room of Marla (the speaker). The speaker asked the utterance on purpose since the speaker ordered Mr. Dean (the listener) to sit and get straight to the point. Also, the speaker delivered the utterance because the speaker had never met the listener. However, the listener pretended to know the speaker extremely well. As a result, the type of directive act of utterance above is **ordering**.

Data 8

Marla (S) : "Tell me who you are."
Ms. Peterson (L) : "Oh, you're a robber."
Marla : "No, I'm your guardian." (00:47:01 - 00:47:05)

The utterance was conveyed by Marla (the speaker) when the speaker visited Ms. Peterson (the listener) in her room. Then, both the speaker and listener talked and sat on the sofa. During the conversation, the speaker ordered the listener to tell her about herself. The reason for this is that the speaker discovered something dubious about the listener. As a result, the type of directive act utterance displayed above is **ordering**.

Data 9

Marla (S) : "Sam, I want you to adjust Jennifer Peterson's routine."
Sam (L) : "Shoot."
Marla : "Take her arthritis and pain meds down to minimum, push her physical exercise to grade four level."
Sam : "Marla..." (00:48:27 - 00:48:36)

The utterance was ordered by Marla (the speaker) when the speaker was angrily entering the office room of Sam (the listener). The utterance was said on purpose because the speaker ordered the listener to torture Miss Peterson. The orders were reducing the dosage of medicine and making Miss Peterson tired. Accordingly, the speaker uttered the directive act of **ordering**.

Data 10

Marla (S) : "Miss Peterson? My name is Marla Grayson. I work with Dr. Karen Amos, your physician. **May I speak with you for a minute?** Good morning. Miss Peterson. I'm sorry to disturb you so early." (00:16:13 - 00:16:28)
Ms. Peterson (L) : "You're a doctor?"

The utterance above was uttered by Marla (the speaker) who stood around the door of a Ms. Peterson (the listener)'s house. The speaker also brought a document of the court order. Additionally, the dialogue was begun by the speaker who introduced herself and asked for permission to talk. Then, the listener approached the speaker and the document was handed over to the listener. Thereby, the type of directive act utterance above is **permitting**.

Data 11

Marla (S) : "No, ma'am. **May I show you this?**"
Ms. Peterson (L) : "Oh, I'm gonna need my reading glasses. I'll be right back... You know, I'm not sure what this is." (00:16:29 - 00:16:53)

When Marla (the speaker) gave a document, the utterance was uttered. It was declared by granting permission before handing over the document to Ms. Peterson (the listener). The document was then handed to the listener, but the listener could not see anything. It led the listener to go inside and grab reading glasses. Thereby, the type of the directive act utterance above is **permitting** because the speaker used the utterance to ask for permission.

Data 12

Marla (S) : "Judge, **may I?** Fiona Jacobs is your witness."
Mr. Ericson (L) : "Yes. She's the employee, yes." (00:51:26 - 00:51:48)

This utterance took place in a court. Before Marla (the speaker) uttered an utterance of permission, Mr. Ericson (the listener) gave a paper to a judge regarding the lies of the speaker. The

speaker then discussed Fiona, who worked for the listener. Therefore, the type of utterance is permitting because the speaker asked permission. For this reason, the utterance above uttered the directive act of **permitting**.

Data 13

Marla (S) : **"I think we should have them just in case. But be careful."**
Fran (L) : "Okay. See you back at the place?"
Marla : "Yeah. Okay." (1:11:25 - 1:11:32)

The utterance was said when Marla (the speaker) was walking and Fran (the listener) was driving. The conversation began with the listener's question regarding a passport. The speaker then advised the listener to bring the passport, whether or not it will be used. For the type of directive act, the utterance above is **advising**. It is because the utterance is uttered to advise the listener.

Data 14

Marla (S) : **"You mind holding on to it, keep it in your safe?"**
Moirra (L) : "Is it trouble?" (1:10:28 - 1:10:44)
Marla : "Oh, no. No, I have some errands to run. I don't want it in my purse all day. Thanks. Fran says hello. Oh, she told me to ask after your brother Mikey."

The utterance was conveyed in a jewelry store of Moira (the listener). It had Marla as the speaker who talked to the listener about a stone. Further, utterance was intentionally said because the speaker needed the listener to keep the stone. Then, the listener curiously asked about the stone that the speaker requested to be kept. In reference to the request uttered by the speaker, the type of utterance above is **requesting**.

Data 15

Marla (S) : "Well, ma'am... **You have to come with me.**"
Ms. Peterson (L): "I am not going anywhere." (00:17:59 - 00:18:07)

The utterance was uttered in front of the house of the speaker. Marla (the speaker) used the utterance to invite Ms. Peterson (the listener). The speaker wanted the listener to go with the speaker. The action was needed to be done because it was a court order. It might also have a positive impact on the listener's health. Furthermore, the speaker invited the listener because the speaker had given a document and informed the listener about what the listener had to do. Therefore, the type of directive act utterance above is **inviting**.

4. Conclusion

Directive acts always appear in utterances to persuade someone to perform the required action. In other words, a speaker utters directive acts because of a specific intention that needs to be done. Moreover, the main character in *I Care a Lot* movie uttered six types of directive acts, including asking, ordering, permitting, advising, requesting, and inviting. The main character uttered the type of asking as the commonly uttered type. The reason is that there were a lot of questions that the main character uttered to other characters. Indeed, it is impossible to not utter directive acts if the speaker wants the listener to do as required. It is influenced by the purpose of directive acts as the performance that can make the listener takes action. Understanding directive acts indeed assists a speaker understands and performing proper directive acts. The reason is that each type of directive act represents a dissimilar intention. Accordingly, directive acts are very crucial because it is always uttered by a speaker who wants a listener to accomplish something.

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