

## **An analysis of directive speech act found in “M3GAN” movie (2023)**

I Gusti Ayu Intan Triana Putri\*, Ida Ayu Mela Tustiawati

*<sup>1,2</sup>Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar, Indonesia*

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#### **Author's Correspondence\*:**

I Gusti Ayu Intan Triana Putri

Universitas Mahasaraswati  
Denpasar, Indonesia

*Intantriaana@gmail.com*



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### **ABSTRACT**

The objective of this research is to examine the various forms of directive expressions in the 2023 film “Horror Megan,” The researchers employed Yule’s theory of speech acts for this investigation. A qualitative approach was utilized by the researchers to scrutinize the directive expressions present in the movie. During the analysis process, distinct categories of directive speech acts were identified. A total of 39 instances of directive speech acts were collected in this study. These instances were further classified into four subcategories: asking (17 instances), ordering (14 instances), requesting (5 instances), and suggesting (3 instance). Furthermore, the researchers provided insights into the underlying purposes of each type of directive speech act throughout the narrative. In this study only found four types of directive illocutionary act, they are asking, ordering, requesting and suggesting. Among all the data collected from the movie, the predominant form observed in this study was Asking, which was the most prevalent.

**Keywords :** Directive; Speech act; Horror; Movie; Pragmatic

## INTRODUCTION

Humans are inherently social beings who rely on communication tools to interact and connect with each other, one of which is language. Language plays a critical role in human social life, facilitating communication and social interactions. Each language functions as a crucial communication tool for individuals to express desires, ideas, opinions, and intentions through communication. According to Br Barus & Rudiansyah (2021), language is an arbitrary system of sound symbols utilized by members of a social group to collaborate, communicate, and self-identify. And according to Devitt & Hanley (2006) in Rohmahwati & Yuliasri (2017); Noermanzah (2019) explains that language is a message conveyed in the form of expression as a means of communication in specific situations during various activities. Hence, language can be interpreted as a communication tool.

Communication is an essential aspect of every individual's life as it is utilized in daily routines to convey information and desires, enabling us to stay connected with one another. As stated by Agus (2016), communication is an activity where someone conveys a message through a specific medium to others, and after receiving the message, they provide a response to the sender. Meanwhile, according to Arni Muhammad (2005) in Dewi et al. (2020), communication is defined as "The exchange of verbal and non-verbal messages between the sender and the receiver to influence behavior." Consequently, communication influences and prompts changes in behavior based on the speaker's intention. Throughout ongoing communication, it leads to the occurrence of speech acts with the goal of eliciting a response, expression, or action.

According to Leoni Sumarsono, and Paina Partama (2010) in Bramono & Rahman (2012), speech acts are part of the speech event, and speech events are part of the speech act situation. Speech acts are linguistic expressions occurring within social contexts, aiming to prompt specific reactions and prevent misunderstandings. The principal purpose of speech acts is to establish authentic meanings, facilitating effective daily communication. Through interaction, the goal is to ensure message comprehension and suitable responses, thereby averting misconceptions. According to Yule (1996) in Hidayat (2016), the speech act itself is classified into three parts, (1) locutionary act is an utterance that produces meaning to be expressed (2) illocutionary act is an act performed through communication (3) perlocutionary act is an act influenced by the speaker's speech. Illocution has been studied by the philosopher Austin and developed by the philosopher Searle. Searle (2011) classifies the types of illocutionary acts into five; representatives, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Moreover, this study focuses on one type of illocutionary act that is often used, namely Directives. Directives is an utterance that is used to make the listener do something according to what we say. Kreidler (2013) explained directive is a condition in which the speaker tries to make the interlocutors do some acts or to avoid them to do something through an utterance. Hasler-Barker (2018), Additionally, a stated directive represents a type of speech act where the speaker's intention is to influence someone else's actions, aligning reality with their words. In simpler terms, the speaker aims to shape the situation according to their desires.

Multiple research works were used as comparative references in this study's analysis. The first research was taken from thesis by (Devi, 2021) entitled "An Analysis of Directive Illocutionary Acts On "Imperfect" Movie". This study aims know the types of directive illocutionary acts in Imperfect Movie and the function of the directive illocutionary acts in the Imperfect Movie. This research used theory from Hasler-Barker (2018), and to analyze the data, the researcher used descriptive analysis and the method from (Moleong, 2018). The results of study there are six types of directive illocutionary acts found in the Imperfect movie dialog with the number of a sentence: requests 26 sentences, question 7 sentences, requirements 43 sentences, prohibition 8 sentences, permissions 3 sentences, and advisories 30 sentences. This research has similarities with previous research, both of these studies focused on analyzing the types of directive speech acts found in movies, but this research only used (Yule, 1996) while previous research used Allan (1986) and Yule (1996).

Second research was conducted by Agustini (2021) in her thesis entitled "An Analysis of Illocutionary Act found In Johnny English Strikes Again Movie". The purpose of this study to identify and analyze the types and the meaning of illocutionary act from Jhonny English

Strikes Again. To address the research problem, this study employs a combination of qualitative and quantitative method for conducting the analysis. which are; 1) The types of illocutionary act found in Jhonny English Strikes Again, 2) The meaning of the illocutionary act found in Jhonny English Stikes Again. The data included utterances from the conversation by the characters contain illocutionary act in the movie. The theory was applied for this study was types of illocutionary act by Yule (1996). Same with the study from Saputri, Suastini and Saputri et al. (2021) entitled "Ilocutionary Actions in Melati and Isabel Wijsen's Ted Talk". In her studies she also focuses on all types of illocutionary acts. In this study it was stated that the most common type of assertive illocutionary act was found, seen in 50 utterances or (78.13%). The commissive consists of eight utterances (12.50%), four directive utterances (6.25%), and two expressive utterances (3.13%). In Melati and Isabel Wijsen's speech, declarative action is not found because declarative action occurs in certain circumstances. In addition, only three illocutionary roles were found included in this study. The difference between these two studies is the data source and also the method used where this study uses the theory from (Searle, 2011) and to identify the types of illocutionary follow-up using the theory from Leech (1983), whereas previous research used the theory from Yule (1996) the type of meaning put forward by Leech (1981) and supported by the situational context theory by Halliday and Hasan (1989) as a supporting theory.

The fourth research was extracted from a journal authored by Ismani et al. (2022) entitled "Speech Act Analysis on the Main Character's Utterance in UP Movie" The aim of this study was to examine the categories of speech acts and classify illocutionary acts present in the dialogues in "UP" Movie. Employing a qualitative approach, the research utilized theories from (Searle, 2011) to find and analysis the types of speech act in The Up Movie. The result of study that there are 93 data: (35) asking, (11) request, (24) order, (7) forbid, (11) suggest, and (5) warn. From the 93 data, the research found ask was dominant type applied from the main character utterance in UP Movie. Ismani and Effendi Journal has similarity and difference with this study. The similarities between this study and previous study written by Ismani and Effendi are used Descriptive qualitative method. The difference between this study and previous study, this study used the conversation all of character in the movie but in the previous study used the conversations of the main character.

The fifth research was carried out based on a article authored by Sukmawati (2022) entitled "An Analysis of Illocutionary Acts in The Sing Movie" The focus of this study was to determine the predominant categories of illocutionary acts within the movie. "Sing" movie. The research used descriptive qualitative method. the object of this study was the utterances of Buster Moon in the "Sing" movie. Based on Searle's theory (1979), there were five illocutionary acts used by Buster Moon, namely assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. From these results, the writers can conclude that the directive was the most dominant illocutionary act used by Buster Moon. The similarity between this study and the previous study are used movie as the data source and used the same theory proposed by Searle for the illocutionary act. The difference between this research and previous research is that the previous research used two methods, namely using documentation research methods and descriptive qualitative methods, while in this study only used one method, namely the descriptive qualitative method.

Movie is the data used in this study. Movie is an entertainment environment because the movie community usually displays an interesting image or video for many people to watch. According to Arsyad (2011) Movie (also known as film) is a collection of several images that are in one frame, where frame by frame is projected mechanically through a projector lens so that the image can be seen on the screen. come alive. The main objective of this research is to identify the various forms of illocutionary acts in the film "M3GAN" using the theoretical framework of Yule (1996). This research is important for two main reasons. First, this research offers comprehensive insights for future researchers exploring speech act analysis, especially illocutionary acts. Second, it provides additional perspectives for readers and students who are interested in pragmatics.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The data for this study were extracted from the conversations of all the characters featured in the 2023 movie "M3GAN," directed by Gerad Johnstone. The film's storyline revolves around Gemma, unexpectedly becoming the guardian of her 8-year-old niece, Cady, despite feeling unprepared for the role of a parent. Managing workplace pressures, Gemma ingeniously aligns her M3GAN prototype with Cady, aiming to tackle both challenges. This study employed a descriptive qualitative methodology. According to Sugiyono (2016), qualitative descriptive method is a research approach based on post-positivist philosophy used to investigate natural object conditions. This research also utilizes and draws upon the theoretical framework of Yule (1996) to describe various forms of directive illocutionary acts. The data collection process includes several stages: searching for online film sources, watching and observing "M3GAN" comprehensively, reviewing the script, and finally selecting utterances containing directive illocutionary acts.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section provides an analysis of the findings of this study which are divided into 4 types. There is also a table section to show the number of utterances contained in the M3GAN Movie (2023).

**Table 1. Types of Directive Speech Act Found in M3GAN Movie**

No	Types of Directive Speech Acts	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
1	Asking	17	43,6%
2	Ordering	14	35,9%
3	Requesting	5	12,8%
4	Suggesting	3	7,7%
	Total (N)	39	100%

The table above shows that there were 39 data that appeared in the movie regarding directive speech acts. The highest data in this study was obtained by asking, which appeared 17 times (43,6%) occurrences. The second highest data is ordering, which appeared 14 times (36,9%) occurrences. Meanwhile the lowest data in this research are requesting and suggesting, which appeared only 5 times (12,8%) and 3 times (7,7%) occurrences. Most of the data obtained in this research is asking questions because in this film the characters often use asking sentences to ask the listener to do something according to what the speaker said.

### A. Asking

The highest data in this research was obtained from "asking," which appeared 17 times. Asking is an action carried out by an individual by presenting a request, with the hope that the listener will undertake an action in accordance with what the speaker has requested. Examples of asking can be explained below:

#### Data 1

Mom: I thought we were gonna limit screen time a maximum of 30 minutes.

Dad: What are you telling me for? I didn't give it to her.

Mom: Cady, *can you turn it down, please?*

The utterance used by the character in the dialogue above shows that she is carrying out a directive illocutionary act (asking). In the conversation above, the mother asked Cady to turn off her iPad because she already has other toys but she is still playing with her iPad. It can be seen from the conversation that the mother wants Candy to stop playing with her iPad and start playing with her dolls. The utterance used by the character in the dialogue above shows that she is carrying out a directive illocutionary act (asking). In the conversation above, the mother asked Cady to turn off her iPad because she already has other toys but she is still playing with her iPad. It can be seen from the conversation that the mother wants Candy to stop playing with her iPad and start playing with her dolls.

### Data 2

Gemma: *Celia, can you make sure your dog stays within your property's area?*

Celia: I've just invested 80 dollars in a shock collar.

From the data above, the context of the situation that occurred at the yard when the neighbor's dog tried to enter Gemma's yard. and Gemma wasn't comfortable with that and asked her neighbors to keep the dog out of the yard, by saying "*Celia, can you make sure your dog stays within your property's area?*". from that sentence is an example of directive speech act asking.

### Data 3

Cady: Aren't you gonna read me a story?

Gemma: What's that?

Cady: *Mom used to read me a story before bedtime.*

The utterance used by candy in the dialogue above shows that she asking her aunt to telling her a story before she go to bed, because before dead her mom always tell her a story that way she telling her aunt by saying that dialogue to purpose her aunt want to read a story for her. By saying "*Mom used to read me a story before bedtime.*" that have indirect meaning of "asking".

## B. Ordering

The second highest data is ordering, which appeared 14 times. A request can be interpreted as an action that expresses the speaker's desire for the listener to do. In request of the speaker does not control the actions of the interlocutor. The examples of request are explained below

### Data 4

Gemma: What is this? Did you draw a picture?

Cady: I'm currently in the process of working on it.

Gemma: *Tell me*

Based on the situation above, the conversation between Gemma and Cady takes place at night, where Cady approaches Gemma in her workspace. She approaches Gemma with the intention of presenting her drawing results. Upon viewing Cady's artwork, Gemma attempts to inquire and instructs Cady to explain the meaning of the drawing she created. By saying "*Tell me,*" Gemma tries to prompt Cady to explain it. This falls under the category of a directive speech act of ordering.

### Data 5

Gemma: Cady, you should correctly utilize the toilet and then flush it. This is not a challenging action.

Megan: *Cady, flush the toilet, wash your hands, and roll up your sleeves. Well done!*

From the data above, the context of the situation that occurred in the toilet when Cady forgot to flush the toilet and Gemma had command her to do it but she tried to avoid to do it, so Megan ordered Cady to do so by saying "*Cady flushed the toilet. wash your hands. roll up your sleeves. well done!*", After hearing Megan order, she immediately did what Megan was told. In the sentence uttered by Megan it means "Ordering" which has the aim of making the listener carry out the order requested or uttered by the speaker, this is the one of types of directive speech act.

### Data 6

Brandon: What on earth is that?

Cady: She's a robot.

Brandon: Are you serious? Is she yours? Does she talk? *Make her say something.*

In the above situation, the conversation between Cady and Brandon occurs while they are both attempting to find roasted chestnuts together. Unexpectedly, Megan appears in front of them, catching them off guard. This piques Brandon's curiosity, leading him to inquire from Cady about who Megan is. Cady explains to Brandon that Megan is a robot. Intrigued, Brandon instructs Cady to make Megan speak, using the ordering sentence "*Make her say something.*" In the sentence uttered by Brandon, there's a command with the intention to

prompt an action from the listener, and this also falls under the category of a directive speech act.

### C. Requesting

The lowest data from this research is requesting, which appeared only 5 times. Requesting is an act of demand someone hoping they will do what is requested. The example of requesting is explained down below:

#### Data 7

David: Gem, what on earth is this, for heaven's sake?

Gemma: David, *if you could just grant me a moment to clarify...*

In the above situation, Gemma is in the process of developing her new project, Megan. However, at that moment, the project is not yet perfect and there are still many things she needs to improve. Simultaneously, David, who is one of the bosses at the company where Gemma works, arrives to assess Gemma's work. Since the project Gemma is developing is not yet complete, David feels disappointed with Gemma's progress. In this situation, Gemma attempts to request more time to explain everything to David by saying the phrase "*If you could just grant me a moment to clarify.*" She hopes that after saying this sentence, David will grant her time to provide an explanation. The sentence uttered by Gemma falls under the category of a directive speech act requesting.

#### Data 8

Gemma: *Could you please spare me a single minute?* This transition has been challenging for both of us. If you ever want to discuss any of those matters...

Cady: I already did talk about it.

Gemma: Yeah, but M3gan's not a person, Cady. She's a toy.

In the above situation, the conversation occurs between Gemma and Cady, where Gemma tries to request some time from Cady by saying "*Could you please spare me a single minute?*" Gemma is requesting time from Cady to explain that Megan is just a robot and nothing more. However, in this situation, Cady seems to be avoiding the conversation about this topic, but Gemma persists in patiently providing an explanation to Cady. The sentence uttered by Gemma is part of a directive speech act requesting. In this sentence, the intention is for the listener to provide what is being requested by the speaker.

### D. Suggesting

The second lowest data from this research is suggestion, which appeared only 3 times. Suggestion can be interpreted as an action taken to give or offer what we think about something interlocutors should or should not do. The example of suggestion is explained down below:

#### Data 9

Dad: We shouldn't stay in the middle of the road.

Mom: *We'll wait until the road is clear, then find a spot to pull over and wait for a snowplow to clear the way.*

Dad: Certainly, how much time will that require?

Dad: Yeah, how long is that gonna take?

In the situation of the conversation above, it takes place while they are driving a car during the snowy season. The car they are driving experiences a flat tire while on the road, causing the car to not function properly. In this situation, the mother suggests finding a safe place to pull over and wait for a snowplow truck to clear the road. The sentence "*We'll wait until the road is clear, then find a spot to pull over and wait for a snowplow to clear the way,*" represents a Suggesting speech act expressed by the mother. This is one example of a directive speech act found in the M3gan movie.

#### Data 10

Gemma: We used \$100,000 from the company budget on a product that he didn't request.

Tess: Yeah but gem, *at the moment it's important for you to focus on Cady.*

In the conversation above between Gemma and Tess, the situation unfolds with Gemma being overly preoccupied with her work and busy developing her new project. We During their conversation, Tess tries to offer advice to Gemma by saying the sentence “*At the moment it's important for you to focus on Cady.*” In this sentence, a speech act of giving advice is evident. Tess's intention in uttering this sentence is to suggest to Gemma that she should concentrate more on Cady. At that time, Cady had recently lost her parents, so Tess hopes that Gemma can prioritize Cady over her work.

## CONCLUSION

This study is concerned about directive speech acts and focused on analyzing utterances containing directive speech acts in the movie M3GAN. In this study only found four types of directive illocutionary act, they are asking, ordering, requesting and suggesting. Among all the data collected from the movie, the predominant form observed in this study was Asking, which was the most prevalent. 17 times (43,6%) occurrences. The second highest data was ordering, which appeared 14 times (35,9%) occurrences. The lowest data from this research was requesting and suggesting which appeared only 5 times (12,8%) and 3 times (7,7%) occurrences. The majority of the data is acquired through asking and ordering expressions, as the characters frequently make inquiries or issue commands. Consequently, the instances of requesting or suggesting are relatively limited within this movie.

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