THE DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACT USED BY THE CHARACTERS IN THE NOVEL “THE LAND OF FIVE TOWERS” (2011): A PRAGMATIC STUDY

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THE ILLOCUTIONARY ACT OF DIRECTIVE UTTERANCES USED BY THE CHARACTERS IN THE NOVEL “THE LAND OF FIVE TOWERS”

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Abstract

Directive utterance is the most common speech act used by people in their daily activities. Directives speech act means the speaker directs a demand to a listener or ask someone doing something. The present paper aims at describing the illocutionary act found in the novel “The Land of Five Towers”. The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative. The data of this study are the utterances used by all the characters containing directive speech act. It is analyzed based on Searle’s theory of speech act. The result shows that there are twelve illocutionary acts of directive utterances used by the characters in the novel. They are requesting, commanding, ordering, suggesting, advising, prohibiting, warning, reminding, reproving, admonishing, urging and inviting. The most common illocutionary act used by the characters is request. The second is suggesting and followed by advising. The least data of illocutionary act is reproving.

Key words: directive speech act, illocutionary act.

1. Introduction

Austin in Cutting (2002: 16) defined speech acts as the actions performed in saying something. He claims that the action performed when an utterance is produced can be analyzed on three different levels, those are: locution, illocution, and perlocution. Locution is ‘what is said’ or the form of the words uttered; the act of saying something is known as the locutionary act. Illocution is ‘what is done in uttering the words’; the function of the words, the specific purpose that the speakers have in mind. Perlocution is the result of the words or ‘what is done by uttering the words’; it is the effect of the utterance on the listener or hearer’s reaction.
In accordance with the levels of speech act above, especially the illocution, Searle (1976) classifies it into the taxonomy of illocutionary acts, those are: assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations. The most common speech act used by people is directives. Directives speech act means the speaker directs a demand to a listener or ask someone doing something.

The directive speech act has been widely examined in pragmatic research. For instance, Qadir and Riloff (2011) in their research entitled “Classifying Sentences as Speech Act in Message Board Posts” analyze the directive speech act which is used in message board posts. Other study investigated directive speech act is Moessner (2010) in his research entitled “Directive Speech Acts: a Cross-generic Diachronic Study”. It investigates directive speech act in a corpus of Early Modern English and Present-day English written text from legal, religious and scientific discourse. Beside those previous studies, Oktoberia (2012) also analyzes the directive speech act used in movie scripts. The findings show that the dominant types of directive speech act in fiction film are command and request. Another research was conducted by Martinez (2011) which aims at describing the linguistic parameters of illocutionary constructions within the scope of the Lexical-Constructional Model. In this work, he explains the semantic and pragmatic base of a number of illocutionary constructions performing the speech acts of requesting and begging. This analysis attempts to reveal the formal differences in the constructions in relation to their illocutionary meaning.

Austin proposed that the concept of speech acts is concerned with the acts that speaker performs through speaking. Speech act is divided into two categories: constative and performative (Levinson, 1983: 229). Constative shows the relation of the speaker to the truth of utterance while performative describes the act that it performs. There are three requirements to fulfill performative conditions: a) the persons and circumstances must be appropriate, b) the act must be executed completely and correctly by all participants, and c) the participants must have the appropriate intentions. He also introduced a threefold distinction among the acts one simultaneously performs when saying something. The three facets of speech act are:
a. Locutionary act (the production of a meaningful linguistic expression),

b. Illocutionary act (the action intended to be performed by a speaker in uttering a linguistic expression, by virtue of the conventional force associated with it, either explicitly or implicitly),

c. Perlocutionary act (the bringing about the consequences or effects on the audience through the uttering of linguistic expression, such as consequences or effects being special to the circumstances of the utterance).

According to Searle (1976), there are just five basic kinds of action that one can perform in speaking, by means of the following five types utterances:

a. Representatives (or assertives) are those kinds of speech act that commit the speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition, and thus carry a truth value. The paradigmatic cases include asserting, claiming, concluding, reporting and stating. Example of representatives: The soldiers are struggling on through the snow.

b. Directives are those kinds of speech act that represent attempts by the speaker to get the addressee to do something. They express the speaker’s desire/wish for the addressee to do something. The paradigmatic cases include advice, commands, orders, questions, and requests. Example of directives: Don’t use my electric shaver.

c. Commissives are those kinds of speech act that commit the speaker to some future course of action. They express the speaker’s intention to do something. The paradigmatic cases include offers, pledges, promises, refusals, and threats: undertake, promise, threaten. Example of commisives: I’ll be back in five minutes.

d. Expressives are those kinds of speech act that express a psychological attitude or state in the speaker such as joy, sorrow, and likes/dislikes. The paradigmatic cases include apologizing, blaming, congratulating, praising, and thanking.

e. Declarations are those kinds of speech act that effect immediate changes in some current state of affairs. Because they tend to rely on elaborate extralinguistic institutions for their successful performance, they may be called institutionalized performatives. The paradigmatic cases include excommunicating, declaring war,

Beside five types above, Searle also proposed about direct and indirect speech act. A direct speech act is used when a speaker wants to communicate the literal meaning and the words conventionally express; there is a direct relationship between the form and the functions, while indirect speech act is used when someone wants to communicate a different meaning from the apparent surface meaning; the form and function are not directly related (Cutting, 2002: 19). The examples of directive speech act are the declarative sentence “I was going to get another one” has the function of a statement or assertion; an interrogative sentence “Do you like tuna and sweet corn ones?” has the function of a question; and imperative sentence “Get me one” has the function of a request or order. The examples of indirect speech act are the declarative form “I was going to get another one “or “You could get me a tuna or sweet corn one” might have the function of a request or order, meaning “Get me one”. Similarly, an interrogative form “Could you get me a tuna and sweet corn one please?” has the function of request or order. Finally, an imperative “Enjoy your bun” functions as a statement meaning “I hope you enjoy your bun”; “Here, take this one” can have the function of an offer, and “Come for a walk with me after lunch” serves as invitation.

In classifying the utterances into the illocutionary above, it needs method which is proposed by Hymes. His method is known as the SPEAKING grid (Hymes, 1974 in Fauziati, 2009: 179). It can be used to discover a local or culturally relative taxonomy of communicative units. The communicative units are: 1) the speech situation—the social occasion in which speech may occur, 2) the speech events—activities, or aspects of activities which are directly governed by rules or norms of the use of speech, and 3) the speech act which can be defined through their illocutionary force. Hymes’ SPEAKING (in Fauziati, 2009: 180) can be described as follows, in which each letter is an abbreviation for a different possible component of communication:

S (Setting and Scene) : Physical circumstances, subjective definition of an occasion.
P (Participants): Speaker/sender/addresser/hearer/receiver/adressee.
E (Ends) : Purposes and goals or outcomes.
A (Act Sequence) : Message form and content.
K (Key) : Tone, manner.
I (Instrumentalities) : Channel (Verbal, non verbal, physical), forms of speech drawn for community repertoire.
N (Norms of interaction): Specific properties attached to speaking interpretation and interpretation of norms within cultural belief system.
G (Genre) : Textual categories.

2. Method
The descriptive qualitative research is used in this study. Descriptive approach means using technique of searching, collecting, classifying, analyzing the data and finally drawing conclusion. This research describes the type and illocutionary act of directive speech act used by the characters in novel 'The Land of Five Towers'.

The data of this study are sentences containing directive speech act used by the characters in the novel “The Land of Five Towers”, while the main data source is the utterances in the novel “The Land of Five Towers” used by the characters containing the type and illocutionary act of directive speech act.

The technique of collecting the data is documentation. The following are procedures of collecting the data: a) reading the novel to understand the story; b) selecting utterances which contain directive speech act; c) coding the data of the research; and d) drawing and finding conclusions.

3. Results
The following section describes about the type and illocutionary act of the directive speech act used by the characters in the novel “The Land of Five Towers”.

a. Request
Request is to express a desire means the act of asking for something or something the speaker asked for, especially as a favor or courtesy (Krisnoni, 2013: 26).
According to Trosborg (in Krisnoni, 2013: 29-30), there are some strategies of request: hint, ability, willingness, permission, suggestory
formulae, wishes, needs, obligation, performatives, imperatives, and elliptical phrases.

The request data can be categorized based on Trosborg’s theory of request, for example:

1) **Strategy 1: Hinting strategy**
   Hinting includes in indirect request, for example:
   “Amak wants to offer her best child for the sake of religion.”
   “This is the first time, Kak.”

2) **Strategy 2: Ability, willingness and permission**
   The utterance that shows ability, willingness, and permission, for instance:
   “Can I think about it tonight?”
   “Would this week’s money order recipients, please to go to secretariat.”
   “Well, may I ask to be taught how to marosok?”

3) **Strategy 3: Suggestory formulae**
   The utterance that shows sugestory formulae, for example:
   “To be safe and relaxed, why don’t we just gather at the mosque?”
   “How about just on the steps?”

4) **Strategy 4: wishes**
   The sentence that shows wishes, for example:
   “This name are expected to soon face the security section”
   “Hopefully you accept this punishment sincerely and it will serve as a life Lesson for you.”

5) **Strategy 5: Desires and Needs**
   The sentence that shows desires and needs, for instance:
   “Come on, Kak, help me out. I’ve been dreaming of rendang for a week.”
   “Ustad, I want to buy qalam for calligraphy in the city because there aren’t here.”

6) **Strategy 6: Obligation**
   The sentence that shows obligation, for example:
“Everyone should head there immediately brothers, thank you for coming.”

7) Strategy 7: Performatives
The sentence that shows performatives, for instance:
“We are assigning you as jasus. Spies”

8) Strategy 8: Imperatives and Elliptical Construction
The sentence that shows imperatives and elliptical construction, for example:
“Get out of here”
“Come on, faster.”

b. Prohibition
Prohibition is the act of keeping out or ruling out to someone intended to benefits the hearer. The sentence that shows prohibition, for example:
“The point is, Amak is not willing to let you enroll in public high school.”

c. Suggestion
Suggestion is the act of recommending someone to be better in doing something. If someone wants others to be better, he/she may use suggestion. So, suggestion gives benefits for the hearer. The sentence that shows suggestion, for instance:
“If you want to be clever, you have to read books like this.”

d. Command
Command is to express a desire means the act of commanding someone to do something. It is usually done because the speaker has more power than the hearer. It is commonly addressed directly to the second person in the forms of direct utterance and in imperative sentence (Wijayanto and Ariatmi, 2013: 185). The sentence that shows command, for example:
“Everyone who went to Surabaya, wait in my office. NOW.”
e. Order
Order is to express a desire means the act of ordering someone to do something. The thing being ordered is the thing that the speaker wants to happen (Wijayanto and Ariatmi, 2013: 185). In doing this act, the speaker has an equal power or high status with the hearer even he/she may have more power and higher status than the hearer. The sentence that shows order, for instance:

“Now, hold your friend’s ear to your left. Quick!”

f. Warning
Warning is the act of giving notice or cautioning someone. It makes the hearer knows that something bad or dangerous will happen to him/her (Wijayanto and Ariatmi, 2013: 192). The example of warning is:

“If you cannot follow the rules, perhaps you do not fit in here.”

g. Advice
Advice is to express a desire means the act of giving someone recommendation. It is done because the speaker wants the hearer to be better in doing something and it gives benefits the hearer. The utterance that shows advice, for example:

“When you see disavowal, change it with your hands, if you can’t, change it with your words, and if you can’t as well, change it with your heart.”

h. Admonish
Admonish is to express a desire means the act of reprimanding or giving a warning. The utterance that shows admonishing, for instance:

“Don’t let him belittle anything, no matter how small.”

i. Reproving
Reproving is the act of reproachful or condemnatory. The utterance that shows reproving, for instance:

“You are now at Madani, there is such thing as a little late. One minute or one hour, late is late.”
j. Reminding

It is the act of reminding someone. The utterances that contains reminding, for instance:

“Remember what we learned about last week, about advice of the most famous Imam Syafi’i and the virtue of travelling?”

k. Urging

Urging is to express desire means the act of influencing someone. The utterance that contains urging, for example:

“Come on, just dig in, we have to eat a lot. Our opponent is not easy.”

l. Inviting

Inviting is to express the act of pleasing or welcoming someone. The utterance that contains inviting, for instance:

“Time is yours Mr. Fikri.”

4. Conclusion

The characters in the novel “The Land of Five Towers” used twelve types of directive speech act: request, prohibition, suggestion, command, order, warning, advice, admonish, reproving, reminding, urging, and inviting. The types which always appeared are request, suggestion, and advice. Request is the most common types which were used by the characters because when they spoke with others they almost asked other to do the act. Second form of utterances which appeared in the novel was suggestion. It’s because the speaker in the novel is Ustad who has high imposition to the hearer/students. The illocutionary act in present study shows that the types of directive speech act has direct and indirect form. The meaning in direct speech act is the same with the form, while in indirect speech act, the form is different with the meaning. The writer could find that there is a different meaning between the sentences in which the speaker speaks with his/her intention in uttering the sentence. He might use request, but actually he was angry with the hearer. In another sentence, he/she might use declarative sentence but he/she order the hearer.
References:


