SPEECH ACT OF DIRECTIVE UTTERANCES IN
SHERLOCK HOLMES “SCARLET”

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the research is to describe forms and intention of directive utterance. The data source is *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet* novel. This research is descriptive qualitative research. The writer uses documentation as the method of collecting the data in this research. The method of documentation are reading the novel, signing the directive utterance, and gathering the data. The result of the research shows that: First, the writer finds three kinds of directive form, they are: declarative sentence, imperative sentence, and interrogative sentence. The imperative sentences are divided into two categories: imperative sentence ended by exclamatory mark and ended by full stop. Second, the roles of directive utterance are classified into four types: command, requesting, suggestion, and invitation.

Keywords: directive utterance, pragmatic, speech act

ABSTRAK


Kata kunci: kalimat langsung, pramatik, tindak tutur


**A. Introduction**

Communication is closely related to the use of language. Human language is the most exclusive one. It has several elements which are divided in several skills, aspects, and functions or notions. The elements of language skills are listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Language functions or notions are commonly founded in functional texts: transactional and interpersonal texts, and they focus on the usage of language itself, for example, greeting. Language aspects deal with some elements such as phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. This research will be further related to pragmatics.

The listener sometimes does not understand the meaning of the utterances. It is caused of miscommunication between the speaker and the listener. This phenomenon is called pragmatics phenomenon. In the case of two-ways communication, a speaker and a listener are supposed to engage each other. However, sometimes a speaker aims more than s/he stated. This is what we are known as a term pragmatics. Pragmatics concerns on the study of what is implied on someone’s utterance when it is associated to the context or condition surrounding it. O’Grady, *et al* (1997: 271). Furthermore, Dowty, *et al* (1981: 138) states that pragmatics is the study which deals with presupposition, conventional implicature, conversational implicature, and speech act. Considering this definition, it is clear that pragmatics is related to the same aspects, and one of them is speech act.

Speech act is an action performed by the use of an utterance to communicate. In his book entitled *How to Do Things With Words*, John Langshaw Austin (1975) declares speech can be analyzed from the point of view not just of what information it conveys, but of what acts it performs. He, then, proposes three levels of acts which are performed when an utterance is produced. Those three levels are: (1) locutionary act, an act of producing a meaningful linguistic expression (“the utterance of certain noises, the utterance of certain words in a certain constructions, and the utterance of them with a certain
“meaning” in the favorite philosophical sense of that word, i.e. with a certain sense and a certain reference”. Austin, 1962: 94); (2) illocutionary act, an act of utterance with some kind of function mind, such as informing, predicting, begging, requesting, promising, prohibiting, advising, greeting, apologizing, thanking, ordering, commanding, etc; and (3) perlocutionary act, an act performed by means of saying something: convincing, provoking, persuading, etc. Moreover, Searle (1969), in his book entitled *Speech Act: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*, develops Austin’s work by specifying the different classes of illocutionary act, by elaborating the nature of felicity conditions for these classes, and by relating the account of speech act to wider issues in the philosophy of language. He further classifies speech act into five forms of utterance, one of them is directive utterance.

Directive utterance is the type of utterance which is stated in order to get someone to do something. Directive utterance is intended to create certain effects for the listener. This kind of utterance has several functions, such as to command, to request, to suggest, and many more. Regarding its various meanings, understanding a directive utterance comprehensively is very important to avoid misunderstanding between speakers in an either spoken or written communication, such as in daily conversations, short stories, poems, movies, and novels.

In conducting this research, the writer attempts to analyze the use of directive utterances in the one of the most popular detective novels, *Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet*, written by Arthur Conan Doyle. The writer chooses this novel as the main data source because this is a super famous novel, it even has its own fan from all over the world named *Sherlockian*. *Sherlock Holmes* is one of kind old novel which inspire other detective novel. The story is set in London 19th century. Besides, *A Study in Scarlet* is the first serial of Arthur Conan Doyle’s *Sherlock Holmes* novel which introduces Sherlock Holmes as a detective with great deduction skill to the people. This is a must-read novel
which is very entertaining and educating at the same time. It contains knowledge from some fields of study, such as chemistry, physics, history, and politics. The directive utterances studied in this research are those said by Sherlock Holmes as the main character of the novel and those which are in the form of positive, interrogative, and imperative utterances. The directive utterance is chosen regarding of Holmes’s characteristic, which often teases his friends and clients by not telling what he knew and just keep ordering or commanding them without saying his purpose.

The writer acquires some directive utterances from the novel. Here is one of them:

CONTEXT: Sherlock Holmes is a consultant detective who is famous with his deduction ability. His eccentric personality makes him have a very few friends, one of them is Watson, a doctor. One day, Sherlock Holmes got a letter from a police officer of Scotland Yard, Lestrade, who begged his (Holmes’s) help to reveal a mystery of murderer in Brixton Road. Sherlock Holmes and Watson were in their living room discussing whether they go or not to the case scene of the murder in Brixton Road. After long debating, Holmes hustled on his overcoat and decided to go.

(H: Holmes; W: Watson)

H : “Get your hat.”
W : “You wish me to come?”
H : “Yes, if you have nothing better to do.”

Locution : The speaker (Sherlock Holmes) asked (Watson) to get his (Watson’s) hat.
Illocution : The real intention of the speaker stating this utterance is to offer an invitation. Sherlock Holmes receives a letter from Lestrade, a police officer of Scotland Yard, stating that he (Lestrade) needs his (Holmes’s) help to reveal a murder in Brixton Road. After long
debating with Watson, Holmes’s friend and a doctor, whether he (Holmes) should come or not, eventually, Watson’s persuasion can convince him (Holmes) to fulfill the request. As the result, the speaker (Holmes) offers an invitation to Watson to accompany him to go to the case scene in Brixton Road.

Based on the example above, Sherlock Holmes shows that he is an arrogant man. He uses command to invite someone. Sherlock Holmes is a man who never beg someone for any reason. The writer realizes that it is important for us to understand what people say and what they implicate. This case ignites the writer’s interest in studying speech act involved in utterance, especially directive utterance. As the result, the writer holds a research entitled Speech Act of Directive Utterances in Sherlock Holmes “Scarlet”.

B. Research method

The type of this research is the descriptive qualitative. The data of this study are directive utterances in the Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet. The technique of collecting data is documentation. The techniques of analyzing data are to explain the forms and the roles of directive utterances found in Sherlock Holmes novel. The writer refers to the Searle’s and Hymes’ theory.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

This chapter presents two subchapters, namely research finding and discussion. The research finding will answer the problem statements in this study and discussion elaborates some findings obtained with data analysis that contain language forms and directive utterances in the Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet novel.

1. Research Finding

Research finding will answer the problem in this study. It started from the language form and the directive act in Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet novel. The writer found 33 data in this research. The findings are as follows:

a. Linguistic Form
The writer divides this finding into three main linguistic forms: declarative sentence, interrogative sentence, and imperative sentence. The explanation of each component will be presented below clearly:

1) **Declarative Sentence**

   SH/002/dec/sug

   You must not think I am sulky when I do that.

   The datum is in the form of declarative sentence marked by a full stop (.) at the end of the sentence. Moreover, the sentence is begun by a subject then followed by a predicate.

2) **Imperative sentence**

   SH/001/imp/com

   Come over here now!

   The datum is in the form of imperative sentence marked by the simple form of the verb used. However, the sentence is ended by an exclamation mark (!).

3) **Interrogative sentence**

   SH/004/int/req

   Would you mind reading it to me aloud?

   The datum is in the form of interrogative sentence marked by a question mark (?) at the end of the sentence.
The form of this datum is interrogative sentence marked by the question mark (?) in the end of sentence. The subject of this sentence is right after the auxiliaries.

**b. Directive Utterance**

The writer divides data into four main of directive utterances, there are command, request, suggestion, and invitation. The explanation of each component will be discussed clearly in explanation below:

1) **Command**

    SH/001/imp/com

    **Come over here now!**

    a) Setting
    The setting of the datum is in a hospital’s laboratory.

    b) Participants
    Speaker: Sherlock Holmes
    Addressee: Dr. Watson

    c) Ends
    The utterance is uttered to command Watson to follow Holmes to see his experiment and as the result.

    d) Act Sequence
    Sherlock Holmes is doing his experiment.

    e) Key
    The key of the sentence is excited.

    f) Instrumentality
    The instrumentality of the text is formal. The channel of the datum is totally verbal.

    g) Norm
    The norm of the text is impolite.

    h) Genre
    The genre of the datum is friendly chat.
Context: Sherlock Holmes is a consultant detective who is famous with his deduction ability.

Locution: The speaker (Sherlock Holmes) asked (Watson) to come over him.
Illocution: The real intention of the speaker stating this utterance is to give command.

Perlocution: Watson is surprised with Holmes’ experiment, so he (Watson) responds it with praise.

2) Requesting

Would you mind reading it to me aloud?

a) Setting
The setting is on the 4th of March. It happens during breakfast time.

b) Participants
Speaker: Sherlock Holmes
Addressee: Dr. Watson

c) End
The end of this utterance is that Holmes to request Doctor Watson reading the letter.

d) Act Sequence
He explains his method of deduction published in a newspaper.

e) Key
The key of this datum is not interested.

f) Instrumentalities
The channel of the datum is totally verbal. The instrumentality of the text is formal.

g) Norm
The norm of the text is polite.

h) Genre
The datum is in genre serious talk.
Context: One day, Sherlock Holmes gets a letter from the commissionare of Scotland.

Locution: The speaker (Sherlock Holmes) asked Watson to read the letter aloud for him.

Illocution: The real intention of the speaker is to request the addressee.

Perlocution: the perlocution of this datum is Watson ends up taking and reading the letter to his new roommate.

3) Suggestion

You must not think I am sulky when I do that.

a) Setting
   The setting of the datum is in a hospital’s laboratory.

b) Participants
   Speaker: Sherlock Holmes
   Addressee: Dr. Watson

c) End
   The utterance is uttered to give the addressee (Watson) advice.

d) Act Sequence
   Then he explains his habit before they begin to live together.

e) Key
   The key of the sentence is happy.

f) Instrumentality
   The channel of the sentence is verbal. The instrumentality of the text is formal.

g) Norm
   The norm of the text is polite.

h) Genre
   The genre of the datum is friendly advice.

Context: He feels lonely, he looking for roommate.
Locution: Sherlock Holmes asked Watson not to think that he was sulky when he was silent all the time.

Illocution: The real intention of the speaker stating this utterance is to suggest.

Perlocution: Watson is happy with Holmes’ explanation so Watson may deal with such situation in the future.

4) **Invitation**

SH/005/imp/inv

**Come on!**

a) **Setting**
   The setting is at Baker Street 221B on the 4th of March, it happens during breakfast time.

b) **Participants**
   Speaker: Sherlock Holmes
   Addressee: Dr. Watson

c) **End**
   This utterance is uttered in order to invite the hearer (Watson).

d) **Act Sequence**
   Holmes asks Watson to follow him to the scene.

e) **Key**
   The key of this datum is serious because Holmes wants to show his friend how he solves a case and to show his ability to Watson.

f) **Instrumentalities**
   The instrumentality of the text is casual. The channel of the utterance is verbal.

g) **Norm**
   The norm of the text is polite.

h) **Genre**
   The genre of the sentence is serious chat.
Context: Sherlock Holmes and Watson were in their living room discussing whether they go or not to the case scene of the murder in Brixton Road.

Locution: The speaker (Sherlock Holmes) invited Watson to come with him.

Illocution: The datum’s intention is to give invitation.

Perlocution: Watson responds it by confirming.

2. Discussion of the Finding

It deals with some findings obtained from data analysis. The findings are based on the problems statement at Chapter I on Speech act of directive utterance.

The writer finds 10 data from 33 data or 30,3% the declarative sentence. Imperative sentence finds 20 data or 60,6% of 33 data. In other side, there are 3 data or 9,1% of 33 data of the interrogative sentence.

The writer used 33 data of utterances (9 commands, 6 requesting, 14 suggestions, and 4 invitations). Table 3.2 shows that 33 data included into 27,3% commands type, 18,2% requesting type, 42,4% suggestion type, and 12,1% invitation type.

The table above shows the relation of type of sentence and the intention of the directive act. The data is 33 data of 21,2% of the relation between command and imperative sentence. The relation of command and declarative sentence is 6,1%. 9,1% is the relation of requesting and interrogative sentence. The relation between requesting and declarative sentence is 9,1%. The relation between suggestion and declarative sentence is 27,3%. The relation between suggestion and imperative sentence is 15,1%. The relation between invitation and imperative sentence is 12,1%. The most dominant is the relation between suggestion and declarative sentence.
D. Conclusion

Through the analysis, the researcher finds three kinds of linguistic form; they are the declarative sentence, imperative sentence, and interrogative sentence. Directive act is divided into command, requesting, suggestion, and invitation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


