

Discover Command Utterance in Missing (2023) Movie: Directive Illocutionary Act

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze command in directive illocutionary acts and the types and intentions of the command depending on the context found in the movie entitled Missing (2023). This qualitative quantitative research applies the theory proposed by Searle & Vanderveken (1985) for data analysis. In presenting the data, this study used formal and informal methods. The result shows that the amount of command in directive illocutionary act is 63 utterances with the details: utterance by June 17 (27%), Dad 13 (21%), Mom 12 (19%), Police 7 (11%), Veena 3 (5%), US Embassy 3 (5%), Javi 3 (5%), Kevin 2 (3%), Girl 1 (2%), Gomes 1 (2%), 911 Dispatcher 1 (2%). June as the main character becomes a person with the most frequently utters Command Directive Illocutionary Act in this movie.

INTRODUCTION

The behavior that people engage in the most frequently during interactions is communication. Any exchange of information is frequently carried out by two people or a few more. According to VanPatten (2016), p. 2, communication is seen as the process of exchanging meaning between two or more people. This conversation includes an expression and a meaning interpretation in addition to the utterances that were uttered. lacking language performing as an intermediary for communication, no substance can be expressed. The process of verbal and written expression that a nation or region's citizens use for communication (Oxford Dictionary, 2023). Clark (1996) states that language is a crucial component of social interaction, there is an additional element of coordination between what speakers aim to say and what their audience interprets that intention to be — between speaker intent and audience interpretation.

The exchange of information can result in several possibilities, both literal and figurative. Regarding abstract and contextual meaning, Thomas' 1995 book *Meaning in Interaction* makes this argument. Thomas (1995) explains in his book that “contextual meaning (also called utterance meaning) by assigning sense and/or reference to a word, phrase or sentence.” Meanwhile “Abstract meaning is concerned with what a word, phrase, sentence, etc. could mean (for example, the dictionary meanings of words or

phrases).” According to the context meaning, observing a factor involves additionally considering the "context of the situation" that existed at the time the information exchange took place. The three main elements of context, according to Halliday (1989), are Field (the location of social action), Tenor (the participants in the communication process), and Mode (the language used or the expectations of the participants in that situation).

This communication falls under the general classification of speech acts in linguistics. Behaviors that are carried out through utterance are typically referred to as speech acts as written in a book entitled *Pragmatics* (Yule, 1996, p. 47). There are 3 types of speech acts Locutionary, Illocutionary, and Perlocutionary. A speech act is an action like "promising" that a speaker engages in with an utterance, whether it be a direct speech act or an indirect speech act (Yule, 2017). In this study, the focus will be on dissecting one of the speech acts, namely Illocutionary Act, specifically on one kind of Directive Illocutionary Act, which is Command Directive Illocutionary Act. The command directive illocutionary point here is how the speaker tries to persuade the listener to act in a certain way. According to Searle & Vanderveken (1985), p. 201 a command is an order made to the listener by the speaker, and in its execution, the speaker typically has more power than the listener.

Movies have been utilized as a data source in this research according to the sources given as references. Movies are things that are significantly related to that, considering the communication that is done not only using words but also expressions and interpretations. A movie, as defined by the online Oxford Dictionary (2023), is a group of sound-accompanied moving images that tell a story and are viewed in a theater, on television, or through other forms of media. Furthermore, such a dramatic definition. An American thriller and mystery movie that was written and directed by Nicholas D. Jhonson and Will Merrick entitled *Missing (2023)* chose to be the data source.

A movie entitled *Missing (2023)* runs for approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes. The main character of this movie is a young woman who makes numerous attempts to use newly developed technology to unravel the mystery surrounding her mother's mysterious disappearance. Everyone can converse more easily due to the technology that is now being developed. The presence of this technology makes it easier for the characters to carry out commands that involve cleaners serving as detectives and the involvement of the embassy, FBI, and police officers, which contributes to the numerous command directive illocutionary acts observed in this movie. Of course, this movie is considerably more fascinating to analyze considering the thriller elements and modern visualization.

Based on the existing phenomena, there are several things discussed or focused on in this research. The formulated problems are based on the phenomena which consist of two numbers: 1) What number of command directive illocutionary acts occur in *Missing (2023)* Movie? 2) How is the meaning of command directives illocutionary act uttered by the characters of *Missing (2023)* Movie?

METHOD AND THEORY

This research uses qualitative quantitative method also known as mixed method. According to Creswell (2012), “Mixed methods designs are procedures for collecting, analyzing, and mixing both quantitative and qualitative data in a single study or a multiphase series of studies.” The observation method is applied to collect the data completed with the procedures of watching the movie and taking notes on the utterances

delivered by the characters. Specific steps that have been taken are divided into several steps. Begins with downloading the movie and watching the movie several times. In addition, finding out the utterance that may be considered as Command Directives Illocutionary Act and taking notes of the finding. Furthermore, classifying the data of the movie script using a theory that was proposed by Searle & Vanderveken (1985).

The findings of this research are presented in formal and informal methods. The formal method is to present the data in table form and the informal method is to describe sentences. This study refers to several previous research investigations to analyze the data based on the theory. The first study, referred to *Directive Illocutionary Act Used in Secret Society of Second-Born Royals Movie* (2020), was conducted by Suryani (2022). Compared to this study, which emphasized only one type of Directive Illocutionary Act: Command, the research conducted by the previous researcher focused on all types of Directive Illocutionary Act. This study also used the theory of Vanderveken (1985).

Afterward, *The Command Directive Illocutionary Act was Found in "Hobbs & Shaw" Movie*, according to research done by Jayantha (2022). According to the title, this study only examines one specific type of directive illocutionary act, namely the command directive illocutionary act. However, the previous research utilizes a different theory compared with this study, which utilizes the theory from Searle & Vanderveken (1985) instead of the theory used the previous research by Kreidler (1998).

Furthermore, the theory advanced by Searle & Vanderveken (1985) is also used in research that has a theory equivalent to this research. *Directive Illocutionary Act: The Command Occurs in the Character of Jungle Cruise Movie* is the title of a study conducted by Putri (2022). The subject matter of previous investigation is comparable to the research that was carried out to support the data in it. The current research is focused on the command type of directive illocutionary act.

Afterwards, the study *Directive Illocutionary Acts Found in the Films 21 and 22 Jump Street* (Putra, 2022). This research method previously collected information by applying a descriptive qualitative method, yet it possesses a different focus. Thus, the information's findings generated only serve as a description of the data that have been analyzed. Nevertheless, due to the current research used a mixed methodology (quantitative and qualitative), it will be more straightforward to break down the results of the analysis because the data will be analyzed using both numbers and descriptions.

In addition, Puranjani (2022) conducted research with the title implemented as *Directive Illocutionary Acts of the Characters' Utterances in "The Desperate Hour" Movie*. This research focuses on all types of directive illocutionary acts. Only Searle's theory is used in the theory in this previous research. This applies the theory advanced by Searle & Vanderveken (1985) in comparison to the research under consideration. The differences go beyond theory and research priorities. However, this research also presents its findings in an alternative way. While this study used both formal and informal methods, the results will be presented in a table and in descriptive form, unlike the previous study, which only used the narrative method to explain the results.

Subsequently, using the YouTube Hitam Putih talk show as the data source, previous studies by Endriani (2022) examined three categories of illocutionary acts: assertive, directive, and expressive. Rahayuni (2022) focuses more on the Directive type of illocutionary act than additional investigations are undertaken. Additionally, this study favors using movies as a source of data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The most recent movie produced by Nicholas D. Johnson and Will Merrick, named *Missing (2023)*, analyses one sort of directive illocutionary conduct and focuses on data sources in this study. Focusing on one type provides more significant results regarding the findings of the data obtained. Command directive illocutionary acts are more common in the movie *Missing (2023)* than in other types. Identifying command directive illocutionary acts is the primary focus of this research. This study identified 63 command directive illocutionary acts in the *Missing (2023)* movie with the following details:

Table 1. Command Directive Illocutionary Act Found in Missing (2023)

No	Character	Frequency	%
1	June	17	27%
2	Dad	13	21%
3	Mom	12	19%
4	Police	7	11%
5	Veena	3	5%
6	US Embassy	3	5%
7	Javi	3	5%
8	Kevin	2	3%
9	Girl	1	2%
10	Gomes	1	2%
11	911 Dispatcher	1	2%
Total		63	100%

The findings from the Command Directive Illocutionary Acts contained 63 utterances, which is known from the table above. All 63 of the collected utterances are made by characters in the movie; not all of them are said by the actors who play the primary characters in the film. In the movie *Missing (2023)*, the movie's main character, June, only makes mention 17 times (27%), Dad 13 (21%), Mom 12 (19%), Police 7 (11%), Veena 3 (5%), US Embassy 3 (5%), Javi 3 (5%), Kevin 2 (3%), Girl 1 (2%), Gomes 1 (2%), and 911 Dispatcher 1 (2%). In total, 63 Command Directive Illocutionary Acts utterances were found when the detected utterances were added up.

Command Directive Illocutionary Act

According to Searle & Vanderveken (1985), Command Directive Illocutionary Acts happen when someone (speaker) has a larger and stronger degree of influence on the hearer to do something. Searle (1979) states that commands also be represented as downward arrows. For instance, speaker A wants hearer B to do something, and speaker A says, "Shut the lamp off!". A further example is stated in Yule's (2010) books, that "a variety of circus animals go Up, Down and Rollover in response to spoken commands". Another example can be seen in the data source below.

Data 1.

June : "I need you to go to this hotel and ask for their security footage."

June : "I'm trying to find someone."

(00:25:52)

Losing her mother was none of her plans. Before, her mom told her to pick up her mom and mom's boyfriend at LAX on Monday. As a teenager who searching for freedom, she of course refused to pick them up at first. But she still came to the LAX to pick them up. Unfortunately, her mom and mom's boyfriend did not exist for several hours, and she decided to go home. Hours by hours passed, but her mom did not give any confirmation about her existence. She tried to figure out what happened to her mom. By utilizing existing technology, she seeks out a cleaner as a spy in the hotel where her mom and mom's boyfriend are staying. Before the hotel destroyed the CCTV footage, she commanded a cleaner under the name of Javi to request the footage from the hotel's management. Javi follows June's instructions after she uses the imperative language **"I need you to go to this hotel and ask for their security footage."**

Data 2.

Dad : **"Give me the camera!"**

(1:26:51)

In this situation, June, who is still a kid, is playing with her father in her room. They had been talking about an ancient camera that his father had fixed. The camera that her father fixed is operated by June. June's mother entered the room while the recording was still going on and questioned the possibility that the camera could work. Afterward, June's mother requested that the camera be properly taken care of. When Grace Alen (the mother) is holding the camera, record. Dad's nose has started bleeding all of a sudden. The mother was concerned about the father's condition. Questions posed by the mother anger the father, who suffers from unstable emotions. June was asked to play hide-and-seek by Dad. The father then questioned the mother's "Are you okay?" query after June had left the room. However, the cameras were still recording at that point, and the father believed that his wife was purposefully compiling evidence to show that he was mentally unstable. Father commanded Mother in his statement, stating **"Give me the camera!"** The father's utterance is part of the Command directive illocutionary act because he makes a statement aimed at persuading the listener to follow the speaker's instructions. June's father commands his wife to give him the camera that grips by his wife to him by saying **"Give me the camera!"**

Data 3.

Mom : **"Clear your voicemail in case I need to leave a message!"**

(00:09:04)

In this instance, the mother's instructions were not spoken to her child directly, instead using the IMessage application's chat feature. The mother left June alone at her house because she wanted to take a vacation with her new boyfriend. Due to June's tendency to put her ego above her feelings as she starts to grow up, the mother-daughter connection is not desirable. So, June didn't want to listen to her mother's orders, who asked June to delete her cell phone voicemail which was full because it had never been maintained. By saying **"Clear your voicemail in case I need to leave a message!"** Directly is a command sentence.

Data 4.

Police : **"Police! Open the door!"**

(1:28:35)

According to the utterance above, that utter by the policeman. It indicates a command directive illocutionary act as the following situation: In this case, this scene was a flashback from where the dad wants little June and mom to get together after mom and little June go away. Dad begs the mom by phone to confirm that he has cleaned up everything and hasn't done anything worse again. Mom already knows that it's hard to change someone's character. She trying so hard to find a way to run away from him. Based on research that the mother was looking for to ensure her husband could serve an additional period in jail, she called a police officer and reported the father's drug use. The police didn't arrive at the father's house until he was finally talking to the mother through the phone. By shouting, "**Police! Open the door!**" the police coerced June's father towards fulfilling this. "**Police! Open the door!**" is an unquestionable command. The Command Directive Illocutionary Act includes it. Additionally, the police confirmed that he was a member of the state police with guns.

Data 5.

Veena : "**Pulling up now.**"

(00:10:13)

At that moment, Mom and Kevin are already on their way for a vacation in Colombia when the situation occurs. Veena, a friend of June's, is invited to a party that June is facilitating. Without June's mother's knowing, Veena and June organized the party to take place at June's house. However, Mom let June know that she had invited Heather, a friend of Mom's, to check on her while June was at home. Heather had arrived to check on June and deliver some dinner when Veena had finished her shopping and was heading to June's home to get ready for the party. Veena calls June and states, "**Pulling up now!**" June opens the door right away, but she holds back because Heather has arrived, so Veena refuses to come in first. There is an effect that results from Veena's utterance of "**Pulling up now!**" that instructed June to open the door, so the phrase is part of a command directive illocutionary act.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis it can be concluded that the type of directive illocutionary act namely command existed in both written and spoken in the data source Missing 2023. In particular, the main characters Nicholas D. Johnson and Will Merrick use it more frequently. Through the aid of current technology, the main character can now more easily locate his mother remotely, with the help of several state officials of Indeed. This is made possible by the mother of the main character going missing, and it makes it easier for the main character to carry out this. With the following data. utterance by June 17 (27%), Dad 13 (21%), Mom 12 (19%), Police 7 (11%), Veena 3 (5%), US Embassy 3 (5%), Javi 3 (5%), Kevin 2 (3%), Girl 1 (2%), Gomes 1 (2%), and 911 Dispatcher 1 (2%). Future research is expected to cover more topics related to commands and other directive illocutionary acts so that readers are able to understand. Related studies can also be further developed not only by using movies as a data source but also by conducting field research at community centre's or schools.

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