



## Exploring Directive Illocutionary Acts in “Avatar: the Way of Water” Movie

**Made Fitria Regita Cahyani<sup>1</sup>, Ida Ayu Gita Putri Ardiantari<sup>2</sup>**

English Study Program Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati Denpasar University,  
Jl. Kamboja No. 11A Denpasar –Bali, 80233<sup>1</sup>

Japanese Study Program Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati Denpasar University,  
Jl. Kamboja No. 11A Denpasar – Bali, 80233<sup>2</sup>

Correspondence Email: [fitriaregitac@gmail.com](mailto:fitriaregitac@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup> [idaayupugitaa@unmas.ac.id](mailto:idaayupugitaa@unmas.ac.id)<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

This article is entitled An Analysis of Directive Illocutionary Acts in “Avatar: the Way of Water” movie. The purpose of this study was to find out the directive speech acts that used in “Avatar: the Way of Water” movie. The methods that used in this study were descriptive qualitative and quantitative. Directive illocutionary acts presented in the movie were analyzed and described based on theory by Searle (1979) on types of illocutionary acts and by Yule (1996) on types of directive illocutionary acts. The subject of this study was the script of the dialog among all the characters. The result of this study showed that the types of directive illocutionary acts such as Command, Order, Request, and Suggestion. The total data that found were 153 data which are: Command (88 utterances), Request (11 utterances), Order (44 utterances), and Suggestion (10 utterances). Command was the type that most often used in this movie because it showed the strength of all characters and suggestion was the lowest.

**Keywords:** *illocutionary act, directive illocutionary act, movie*

### Abstrak

Artikel ini berjudul Analisis Tindak Ilokusi Direktif dalam Film “Avatar: Jalan Air”. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui tindak tutur direktif yang digunakan dalam film “Avatar: the Way of Water”. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Tindak ilokusi direktif yang disajikan dalam film dianalisis dan dideskripsikan berdasarkan teori Searle (1979) mengenai jenis-jenis tindak ilokusi dan Yule (1996) mengenai jenis-jenis tindak ilokusi direktif. Subyek penelitian ini adalah naskah dialog antar tokoh. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa jenis tindak ilokusi direktif seperti Perintah, Pesan, Permintaan, dan Saran. Total data yang ditemukan sebanyak 153 data yaitu: Perintah (88 ucapan), Permintaan (11 ucapan), Pesan (44 ucapan), dan Saran (10 ucapan). Perintah merupakan tipe yang paling sering digunakan dalam film ini karena menunjukkan kekuatan seluruh karakter dan sugesti paling rendah.

**Kata kunci:** *tindak ilokusi, tindak ilokusi direktif, film*

## **Introduction**

According to West and Lynn (2007: 05), communication is a way to express our mind, feelings, emotions, and ideas. There are varieties of ways that can help people to create good communication; one of them is using appropriate speech acts. Speech act is the study of meaning and function of an utterance. It is used to clarify what the speaker does. According to Austin (1962: 98), there are 3 types of speech acts such as: locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary. According to Austin (1962: 98), illocutionary act is the act that performed by the utterances of people to express feeling with a particular meaning. According to Searle (1979), there are five types of Illocutionary, they are assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. Assertive is types illocutionary act based on what the speaker believe include fact, question, conclusion, and descriptions. Directive is the way speaker say something to ask hearer to do something so that is means the speaker wants hearer do what speaker wants include command, order, request, and suggestion. Commissive is type of illocutionary act that commit the speaker in varying degree to some future course of action. Expressive is express psychological state in the sincerity condition of the speaker include pleasure, pain, joy, sorrow, like, dislike. Declarative is what speaker say that change the propositional content and reality of the listener.

When making good communication, people should know the directive illocutionary act by using in giving commands, orders, requests, and suggestion to make hearer to do something (Yule, 1996). Directive illocutionary act is usually used in the movie. Movies are the visual of communication using moving images and sound to tell the stories. It can express someone's feeling, thought, and meaning sense. Every movie has script and specific purpose of the movie. The important things in the movie are the conversation or dialogue between the characters so the viewer's easy to understand the stories. Thus it could make more interesting to watch.

To show the novelty, 5 literatures had reviewed to find out the similarities and differences between the previous studies and this current study. First, an article entitled *An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts by Searle Theory in "Sleeping Beauty" Movie Script* by Fara Della and Barnabas Sembiring (2018). The similarity between this study and the current study was the most used of the types of directive which is command. The differences between this study and the current study were the theory that used to find out the types of directive speech acts. Second, an article entitled *An Analysis Of Directive Speech Act Found In "Koi Mil Gaya" Movie* by Tira Nur Fitria (2019). The difference between this study and the current study was the purpose of the study. The purpose of this study was to find out which types of directive that was most used in the movie while the purpose of the current study was to find out the types of directive in the movie. Third, an article entitled *An Analysis of Types of Illocutionary Acts in "Tangled" movie* by Ramayanti & Marline (2018). The similarity between this study and the current study was the method that used which is qualitative and quantitative methods. The difference between this study and the current study was the focus of research. Fourth, an article entitled *An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts Produced by Teacher in Elf Classroom* by Suryadani (2021). The differences between this study and the current study were the data source and the theory. Fifth, an article entitled *Analysis of Command, Order and Request Directive Speech Act Found in Frozen 2 Movie* by Yani (2022). The difference between this study and the current study was

the theory that used. The similarity between this study and the current study was the most used of the types of directive which is command.

The data source of this study was taken from Avatar: the Way of Water movie. This movie released on 14 December 2022 with 3 hours 12 minutes for the duration. This study aimed to analyze directive illocutionary acts which are expressed by all of the characters in this movie. This movie is the second episode of Avatar movie which the first movie tells about Jake as the ex-army of America who's lost his ability to walk replaced his older brother to do science research in Pandora planet where all of the Avatar live. While carried out the mission for being Avatar, Jake fell in love with one of the avatar and forgot the mission and end up refuse to back to earth. The first movie end up Jake killed the human and choose to stay in Pandora as Avatar. In the second movie which is the data source of this study, tells about Jake and his Avatar family survive from Human who came back to Pandora again. James Cameron as the producer and director of these movie said that these movie succeed replaced Titanic movie as the most watched movie directed by him.

## **Method**

Qualitative and quantitative were the methods that used in this study. The qualitative method used in this study to find out directive speech act in the dialogue of Avatar: the Way of Water movie and describing the type of directive illocutionary acts, as well as the function. The quantitative method used in this study to calculation the data in the form of table and show the percentage of directive illocutionary act in the form of numbers. This movie was published in 2022 on December 14th directed by James Cameron. The reason choosing this movie because the data source supports analysis about types of directive illocutionary acts. Note taking technique was used while collecting the data. These data were collected by identify the directive illocutionary acts. There were four steps while collecting the data in this study, first downloading the film and the script, second watching and listening the movie, third taking note of the dialogue that contain directive illocutionary, fourth classifying the data that contain the directive illocutionary acts found in Avatar: the Way of Water movie by adding in the table and numbers.

## **Result and Discussion**

### **Result**

The result showed that there were 153 utterances of directive illocutionary acts found in *Avatar: the Way of Water* movie. The result of this study were presented in the table to find out the data and percentage of types of directive illocutionary acts in *Avatar: the Way of Water* movie

**Table 1. Data Findings of Directive Illocutionary Acts**

No	Directive Illocutionary acts	Data	Percentage
1	Command	88	57,5%
2	Request	11	7,2%
3	Order	44	28,8%
4	Suggestion	10	6,5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>153</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Discussion

The discussion below is presented the types of directive illocutionary acts found in *Avatar: the Way of Water* movie. The analysis of data was shown the dialogue between the characters in the movie. Each data followed by an analysis of the utterances directly. The analysis was done in four parts based on the types of directive illocutionary acts. There are four types of directive illocutionary acts according Yule (1996) and every part of types of directive illocutionary acts followed with 2 - 3 examples of utterances.

### 1. Types of Directive Speech Acts

#### a. Command

##### First Dialogue

Jake : “Ground team, **let’s go**”

(Avatar: The Way of Water 2022: 00.12.54)

The situation while Jake uttered this utterances is when human from planet Earth attack avatar in planet Pandora. Jake as their *Toruk Makto* or the leader, lead all of the troops to against human that using helicopter. There is a train that brought something dangerous that they have to stop. Jake that fly with theikran (kind of bird in Pandora) saw the situation on the ground and command the troops that are on the ground to do their job to handle the train down there.

Jake uttered this utterances by speaking with throat microphone that the all avatar’s troops has. After Jake spoke the utterances in throat microphone that are connected to all of the troops, the ground team carry out their duties to stop and destroy the train.

### Second Dialogue

- Jake : “**Go** apologize to aonung.”  
Lo’ak : “What?”  
Jake : “He’s the chiefs son. Do you understand? I don’t care how you do it. **Just go make peace. Just go.**”  
Lo’ak : \*loaks walks away\*

(Avatar: The Way of Water 2022: 01.14.15)

The situation here was about Lo’ak and Aonung had a fight. Jake was mad because he and his family was stay in sea people territory. Jake just felt reluctant if his son disturb especially had a fight with the chiefs son. Jake gave Lo’ak command to apologize to Aonung although that was not Lo’aks fault.

### Third Dialogue

- Scoresby : “**Hold back full!**”  
Crew : “Back full, aye.”

(Avatar: The Way of Water 2022: 01.59.25)

The situation here while in the middle of the sea, there is Scoresby the guy who hunt the tulkun (whale) for his research. Scoresby met Quaritch and agreed to assemble and hunt together to pull out Jake’s attention. The situation where they already got the tulkun, they stabbed the tulkun with anchor and pull back until the tulkun stop moving but tulkun stronger than them. Here Scoresby command his crew that are drive the boat to hold back full the boat in order to stop tulkun’s movement.

### Fourth dialogue

- Jake : “**You stay with your brother.**”  
Lo’ak : “Dad, I want to go with you.”  
Jake : “You’ve done enough.”

(Avatar: The Way of Water 2022: 02.36.27)

The utterance above uttered by Jake to Lo'ak. The situation here was about Jake and his family was in the war with sky people (human). The human army fight and hunt all of the avatars especially Jake's family. The situation before was about Lo'ak, Netayam, and Spider try to rescue their sisters which are Kiriand Tuk that are being held hostage by Quaritch. In the middle of the rescue while Lo'ak, Netayam, and Spider try to avoid the army that shoot the gun by jump into water, Netayam got shoot in the back of his heart. They swam until Lo'ak saw Netayam stay still and drawing in the water. Lo'ak swam approached Netayam and hold him and brought him up. Lo'ak saw Jake standing in the rock and ask for help. Netayam condition was bad, hard to breath and blood always come out. Jake was panic seeing his son bleeding. Neytiri saw her family down there and landed to approach them. Neytiri shocked and crying while holding her son. Netayam could not survive and died in Neytiri's hand. Everyone that watching was crying because of Netayam death. Jake and Neytiri was very mad and ready to revenge although they were still in the sadness. Both Jake and Neytiri ready to fight the enemies. Jake gave a command to Lo'ak to stay with Netayam and protect the dead body. Lo'ak was rejected first but end up he stay still with his brother.

## 2. Request

### First Dialogue

Tuk : "You're too fast! **Wait for us, please.**"

Tsireya : "Just breath, breath."

(Avatar: The Way of Water 2022: 01.00.35)

The utterances above uttered by Tuk (Jake's daughter). After the war with sky people (human), Jake leaving his people and moving to another place in Pandora in order to protect the forest clans. Jake thought if he and his family moving, human will not come again to the forest and hurt avatar there. Jake and his family moving to the sea which is far from the forest hopes that human will not find him again. Jake and his family was accepted by sea clans. Because Jake and his family was born as forest clans, they look like monkeys. The sea clans has some different looks than forest clans, if the forest clans look like monkeys, the sea clans look like fish. They has fin tails like fishes and also hand like a duck finger almost like a mermaid. Jake's children learn how to swim and breathe under water. For Tuk as the youngest children of Jake, it is difficult to follow Tsireya's (one of sea clan's child) way of swimming which is too fast. Tsireya approached Tuk and hold her hand so Tuk will not left behind.

### Second Dialogue

Spider : “What’s that? **What are they doing’?**”

Ian : “Those are echolocation sensors. How they navigate. They have to hold them out of the water, or they’ll go deaf.”

(Avatar: The Way of Water 2022: 01.56.44)

The utterances uttered by Spider (the human kid) who was very close with Jake’s family. Spider’s parents is the scientist and died right after spider was born. Quaritch adopted him but he was killed by Neytiri in the first movie. After that Spider taken care by Jake’s friend in Pandora. Because Quaritch came back, he took Spider with him. This scene shows that Spider was in the ship of the scientist while watching Quaritch and Scoresby hunt the tulkun. Spider saw the crew of scientist throw a bomb into the water and his utterances means he wants the scientist to explain to him.

### 3. Order

#### First Dialogue

Jake : “**Son, you listen to me very carefully. You pull back right now. Do not make a sound. You get the hell out of there. Move! You copy?**”

Lo’ak : “Yes, Sir. Moving out.”

(Avatar: The Way of Water 2022: 00.31.29)

The utterances above uttered by Jake after his son, Lo’ak reported they saw some avatar guys but looks strange. Lo’ak was not alone there, he was with his sister and Jake found out this could not be underestimated. Jake uttered this utterances by using throat microphone that are connected with all of his troops including his family also. After He uttered this utterances, Lo’ak carried out what his father said.

#### Second Dialogue

Jake : “**I need you kids, on your best behavior. I meant it. Learn fast. Pull your weight. Don’t cause trouble. You got it?**”

Lo’ak : “Yes, sir.”

(Avatar: The Way of Water 2022: 00.57.03)

Jake uttered this utterances to all of his children. After war with the human and met Colonel Quaritch that turns out to be avatar, Jake found that will be more

dangerous for forest avatar if he and his family stay there more longer. He decided to move and now he and his family stayed far from the forest which is in sea clans. Sea clans accepted them and Jake just need his kids to behave and not cause the trouble.

#### **4. Suggestion**

##### First Dialogue

Netayam : “Dad! **I know a quick way!**”

(Avatar: The Way of Water 2022: 00.31.40)

The utterances above uttered by Netayam which is Jake’s son. Previous situation where Lo’ak (Netayam’s brother) reported by the throat microphone that there is some guys look like avatars but wearing army clothes and carry guns. Lo’ak reported to Jake while Jake flew in the air with his wife and Netayam. They all are heard Lo’ak’s report and rushed towards Lo’ak’s position. Netayam suggested Jake to use quick way to go there and Jake followed him.

##### Second Dialogue

Colonel Quaritch : “That you Mrs Sully? I recognize your calling cards. **Why don’t you come out Mrs. Sully?** You and I, we got some unfinished business.

Neytiri : “Demon! I will kill you as many times as I have to!”

(Avatar: The Way of Water 2022: 00.39.10)

The utterances above uttered by Colonel Quaritch. Quaritch was killed by Neytiri (Jake’s wife) at the end of the first movie. While Quaritch’s human body was killed in the first movie, his consciousness is reborn in an Avatar, known as a recombinant and he’s back in this second movie to get revenge. In this situation, after her children reported that they spotted the strange avatars, Neytiri went to the place where Quaritch and his troops and attacked them. This utterances above uttered by Quaritch after he almost got killed again by Neytiri. Both of them hiding in the back of trees. Quaritch that felt challenged uttered this utterances and Neytiri heard that felt so mad and come out from her hiding.



## Conclusion

This study discussed about directive illocutionary acts found in “Avatar: The Way of Water” movie. Directive illocutionary acts is the way speaker say something to make hearer to do something. The utterances found in this movie including command, request, order, and suggestion are directive illocutionary acts. This study found that the types of directive illocutionary acts that mostly found in Avatar with 88 utterances was “command”. The total data found in this movie were 153 data which are: Command (88 utterances) with a percentage of 57,5% , Request (11 utterances) with a percentage of 7,2% , Order (44 utterances) with a percentage of 28,8%, Suggestion (10 utterances) with a percentage of 6,5%. The characters in this movie dominantly used command directive illocutionary act than the other types and it can be proven by the data that were analysed above. The genre of this movie which is action, also influences the reason why “command” type of directive illocutionary acts is the most common type that found in this movie.

## Reference

- Austin, J. (1975). *How to Do Things with Words*. Oxford: University Press.
- Della, F., & Sembiring, B. (2018). An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts By Searle Theory in “Sleeping Beauty” Movie Script. *Journal of English Education and Teaching*.  
<https://doi.org/10.33369/jeet.2.1.22-27>
- Fitria, T. N. (2019, October 22). An analysis of Directive Speech Act found in ‘Koi Mil Gaya’ movie.  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3814247](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3814247)
- Rahmawati, L. E., Hidayat, N., & Kurniawan, A. (2021). Impoliteness of directive speech acts in online Indonesian language learning. *Journal of Pragmatics Research*, 3(2), 97–107.  
<https://doi.org/10.18326/jopr.v3i2.97-107>
- Ramayanti. (2018). An Analysis of Types of Illocutionary Acts in "Tangled" movie. *English Language & Literature*, Vol.7, No.1.
- Searle, J. (1979). *Expression and Meaning studies in the Theory of Speech Act*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Searle, J. R. (1968). Austin on Locutionary and Illocutionary Acts. *London: Duke University Press*, volume.77, No.4, pp.405-424 (20 pages).
- Sesanti, D. A., Prastikawati, E. F., & Setyorini, A. (2021). Illocutionary acts on Anies Baswedan’s speech in Mayoral Meeting Cities against COVID-19 Global Summit 2020. *SALEE*, 2(2), 105–118. <https://doi.org/10.35961/salee.v2i02.251>
- Suryandani, P. D., & Budasi, I. G. (2021). An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts Produced By Teachers in Efl Classroom. *Journal of English Language and Culture*, 12(1).  
<https://doi.org/10.30813/jelc.v12i1.2823>
- Suryani, N. L. A. (2023, January 6). Directive Illocutionary Act used in Secret Society of Second-Born Royals Movie (2020).  
<http://conference.fib.unsoed.ac.id/ojs/index.php/kokadoma/article/view/127>

Web-Atmos. (n.d.). Avatar.The.Way.of.Water.2022 subtitle.

Yani, N. K. W., & Maharani, P. D. (2022). Analysis of command, order and request directive speech act found in frozen 2 movie. *Traverse*, 3(1), 31–41. <https://doi.org/10.22334/traverse.v3i1.53>

Yule, G. (1996). *Pragmatics*. New York: Oxford University Press.