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# EXPLORING DIRECTIVE ILLOCUTIONARY ACTS USED BY MAIN CHARACTERS IN MADAME WEB MOVIE

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Abstrak- Komunikasi memfasilitasi penyampaian pesan dari satu pembicara ke pembicara lain. Melalui bahasa, orang dapat menyampaikan ekspresi mereka dengan makna yang dimaksudkan dan mengonstruksikannya ke dalam tindakan lain ketika mereka berbicara dengan individu lain. Pragmatik, sebuah bidang studi, memungkinkan kita untuk melakukan eksplorasi makna dan konteks dari ekspresi bahasa. Di antara cabang-cabangnya dikenal sebagai tindak tutur, khususnya tindak ilokusi, yang menyoroti tujuan penyampaian makna yang dimaksudkan dalam ujaran. Penelitian ini menyelidiki satu jenis tindak ilokusi yaitu tindak direktif dan bagaimana ujaran tersebut ditempatkan dalam konteksnya dalam film "Madame Web", yang disutradarai oleh S.J. Clarkson. Dengan memanfaatkan teori Searle dan Vandeveken (1985) untuk mengetahui kategori tindak direktif dan teori Halliday & Hassan (1985) untuk menafsirkan konteks situasi dari setiap ujaran, data penelitian ini dikumpulkan melalui metode observasi. Selain itu, penelitian ini menemukan total 24 data dan yang paling dominan adalah tentang perintah, dengan total 10 ujaran.

Kata Kunci: tindak ilokusi direktif, tindak tutur, konteks situasi, madame web

Abstract- Communication facilitates the message transferring from one speaker to another. Through language, people can convey their expressions with the intended meaning and construct them into other actions when they are talking with another individual. Pragmatics, a field of study, allows us to conduct an exploration with the meaning and context of the language expressions. Among its branches is well-known as speech acts, particularly illocutionary acts, which highlight the purpose of intended meaning delivery in utterances. This research investigates one type of illocutionary act which is directive act and how the utterances are situated in their contexts within the movie "Madame Web", directed by S.J. Clarkson. Utilizing Searle and Vandeveken's theory (1985) to find out the directive act categories and Halliday & Hassan's theory (1985) to interpret the context of situation from each utterance, the data of this research are collected through observation method. Moreover, this research found 24 data in total and the most dominant one is about the commanding, totalling 10 utterances.

Keywords: directive illocutionary act, speech, act, context of situation, madame web

### **INTRODUCTION**

Communication cannot be separated from daily life. Communication facilitates the engagement between one and another with the language as the bridge. Through communication, people can inform, persuade, and motivate the messages that are necessary to be transferred. Hence, the extended meaning from the simple expression of the speakers that is constructed by language serves as a mechanism

to carry out other actions (Pratama & Pratiwi, 2024: 143) Communication is the process of transmitting information and common understanding from one person to another (Keyton, 2011 as cited in Pramitha and Utami, 2024). Communication is very necessary to convey human being's feeling and fulfill their needs.

Focusing in the scope of language's utilization, pragmatics allows this research to discern the meaning that conveyed by the speakers' expression. Pragmatics highlights the exploration of language's utilization especially in the relation between the sentences and the contexts where they are applied. According to Yule (1996) as cited in Duniary et.al., (2024:20), pragmatics is the study of meaning that is conveyed by a speaker and perceived by a listener. It means that the listener should analyze what the speaker intends in the conversation when they are speaking. On the other hand, Leech (1983) as cited in Mete and Winarta (2024:193) stated that pragmatics shows the phenomenon of how utterances can deliver their meaning in particular situations. It can be emphasized that pragmatics rules for the forms and meaning which associated with the speaker's intention, context, and circumstance that is usually called as speech acts.

As stated by Isnawati, et.al., (2015:2), speech acts involve performing any actions that are conveyed using spoken sentences. Tarigan (in Nasim and Mariana, 2024) defines speech acts as each utterance that contain particular purposes and objectives. On the other hand, Paltridge (2000: 7) argues that speech acts explore the language users employ speech to fulfill the tasks for recipients including some actions such as making requests, giving orders, and declaring warnings. According to Austin (1983: 236), spoken speech can carry out the practical actions at three distinct levels namely, locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. Moreover, Leech (1983:199) as cited in (Pratama & Pratiwi, 2024) further characterizes these levels by mentioning that locutionary act is the act of saying something literally, illocutionary act is related to the speaker's intentions, and perlocutionary act is the utterance's effect that perceived by the speaker. Because illocutionary act has immerse varieties in the process of utilizing in the speech, therefore, it is an interesting study to conduct a research with the related topic.

According to Searle (1976), illocutionary acts classified illocutionary acts into five categories which covered assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declaractives. Assertives concern with the speaker's utterances based on the real situation. Directives gives an encouragement to take further actions. Commissives shows the future course of action after the speech is delivered. Expressives states the emotional concerns regarding the speaker's condition. Declaratives imposes a sudden change from the spoken speech. Among those categories, directive act is an interesting part to be examined in this research because its frequency often occurs in the real-life situation when the speaker intentionally asks the interlocutors to take action related to the conversation. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) also classified directive acts into directing, requesting, asking, telling, requiring, commanding, ordering, prohibiting, permiting, suggesting, advising, recommending, begging, etc.

Directive acts can be occured in many kinds of literary work especially a movie. The phenomenon of illocutionary acts that is performed in this study is based on the research's exploration in the movie entitled Madame Web. This movie was released on 14th February 2024 under Sony Pictures Entertainment as an American superhero and science-fiction film. The story tells about Cassandra Webb who is known as a paramedic suddenly has some strange powers that are similar to spider's abilities.

In conducting this research, several studies were reviewed. The first study was written by Safitri & Handayani (2024) entitled "Directive Act Use in "Raya and the Last Dragon" Movie". This study aimed to pinpoint the directing speech act shown in the movie. This study applied a qualitative method and library research to conduct the study. The theory was proposed by Kreidler (1998) to figure out the types of directive act. The research resulted 15 data which divided into 6 commanding, 3 requesting, 3 suggesting, and 3 ordering. The difference between this study and the current study can be seen from the theories that applied in the conducted researches. Both are also similar in the types of directive act that analyzed from the data source namely commanding, requesting, suggesting, and ordering.

The second study was written by Hakim & Mubarak (2024) entitled "An Analysis Types of Directive Speech Act Used By The Main Character Utterances In "Captain Lightyear" Movie: Pragmatic Approach". This study focused to analyze the types of directive speech act contained in the movie. In conducting the research, this study applied descriptive qualitative method. Moreover, the observation method was used to collect the research data. This study proposed the theory of directive act from Searle & Vanderveken (1985). The result found 15 data and could be classified into 5 types of directive act which are 8 asking, 3 ordering, 1 advising, 2 requesting, and 1 begging. Both researches share the same theory to analyze the types of directive act. However, they are different in the selected data source for the research analysis.

The third study was written by Pramitha & Utami (2024) entitled "Asking, Commanding, And Telling In "Over The Moon" Movie: A Study Of Directive Illocutionary Act". The purposes of this study were to determine the types of directive act used by the characters and to analyze the context of situation of the utterances. The analysis of the study was conducted through descriptive qualitative method. On the other hand, this study also applied quantitative method to determine the frequency of the directive act that occured in the data. The theory that was proposed in the research was taken from Searle and Vandeveken's theory (1985). The result showed 90 data that could be classified into 38 asking, 27 commanding, and 25 telling. The difference between this study and the current study can be seen from the types of directive act that were focused in the research. The similarity was found in the same theory to analyze the directive act.

The fourth study was written by Ladita & Jazadi (2024) entitled "An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts Used in "The Blind Side" Movie by Michael Lewis". The study aimed to identify the types of directive act used by the characters in the movie as well as to determine the influencing factors of directive act. In conducting the research, this study applied qualitative method and employed descriptive technique. The theory that proposed in this study was taken from Searle & Hymes regarding to the types of directive act. The result provided 155 data which covered 56 commanding, 49 requesting, 6 inviting, 22 prohibiting, and 22 suggesting. The similarity between this study and the current study can be seen from the research method that is used to conduct the research. Both studies also provide the different theories to analyze the research data.

The fifth study was written by Dewi & Prihandini (2024) entitled "Analysis Of Directive Speech Acts On Megan Bernadette's Characters In The Movie Of The Slumber Party". This study aimed to describe the type of directive acts and the meaning of those speech acts in the movie. The research was conducted through descriptive qualitative method. The theory was taken from Yule's theory related to the types of directive act to analyze the main research problem of this study. The result showed 29 data in total which covered 11 commanding, 5 requesting, and 13 advising. Between this study and the current study are similar in the main research problem which is about the types of directive act. On the other hand, the difference is found in the different theory for both researches.

This research focuses on analyzing the types of directive illocutionary act and the context of the situation in the movie entitled "Madame Web". The data were analyzed with theories proposed by Searle & Vanderveken (1985) related to types of illocutionary acts and Halliday and Hasan (1985) about the context of situation. Moreover, the background of the research, it is contextualized by two reasons that lead this research to be examined. First, it deeply builds the insights among people undertaking speech act analysis, especially illocutionary acts. Second, it provides information for students or researchers who have the interest and purpose to conduct further researches in pragmatic study.

## METHOD

This study utilized Searle & Vanderveken's theory (1985) and Halliday and Hassan's theory (1985) as the framework to investigate the types of directive illocutionary act within the movie "Madame Web", directed by S.J. Clarkson and

scripted by Matt Sazama, Burk Sharpless, Claire Parker. The data were collected through observation method following several processes. First, the movie should be watched frequently on Netflix. Second, the directive illocutionary acts in the movie were collected by using note-taking. Last, the collected data were classified into several types of directive illocutionary act which were limited in this study into commanding, requesting, ordering, and advising. The study employed a qualitative approach for the data analysis. At the end, the data were formulated in the form of formal and informal way. The decision to choose this movie as the data source was driven by a lot of sentences which related to the directive illocutionary acts have their intended meanings.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

## 3.1 Results

This section presents the collected data from the movie "Madame Web" which are gathered through two theories namely Searle & Vanderveken's theory (1985) and Halliday & Hassan's theory (1985) according to the research questions that addressed in this study. From the analysis that has been conducted here, it can be presented four types of directive illocutionary act which covered commanding, requesting, ordering, advising as outlined in the table below.

No	Types of Illocutionary	Frequency	Percentage
	Act		
1.	Commanding	10	42%
2.	Ordering	4	17%
3.	Requesting	7	29%
4.	Advising	3	12%
	Total	24	100%

Tabel 1. Types of Directiv	e Acts in "Madame	Web" Movie
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From the table of the data presentation above, this research found 24 utterances that can be divided into 4 types of directive illocutionary act used by the characters in the Madame Web movie. The type of directive illocutionary act with the highest occurence in this analysis is commanding with 10 data and it is similar to 42% from the total data. Besides, requesting follows with 7 data, continued by ordering with 4 data, and advising with 3 data. There are eight data are selected by the researcher to be the examples of each type of directive illocutionary act and present in the discussion below together with the analysis of the context of situation.

## 3.2 Discussion

The selected data that have been chosen above are explained descriptively in this discussion section together with the pictures from the related scenes and dialogues as the evidence of the phenomenon of directive illocutionary act in the movie.

## a. Commanding

Commanding is a form of speech act in which the speaker gives a directive that expresses authority or control, requiring the listener to perform a specific action. Commands are typically direct, authoritative, and leave little room for negotiation or refusal.

## Data 1

your lips."	
Ezekiel Sims	: "Tell me quickly before the paralysis reaches
Ezekiel Sims	: "Is "please" your password?"
(1-1) Woman Agent	: "I can't tell you. Oh, please!"

(Madame Web - 22:04)

Ezekiel Sims was talking to the Woman Agent while he was poisoning her by spreading the spider's venom into her body. Ezekiel was very aggressive person and he wanted everything that he needed at that time must be fulfilled for example he asked for the password to get an access of the agent's technology which was the espionage and surveillance to all streets in New York City. From the utterance that Ezekiel Sims said "*Tell me quickly before the paralysis reaches your lips*." which can be classified as a *directive act* in this case because Ezekiel was giving a command to the lady in order to tell him the password to get the access from their technology. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), this utterance can be considered as *commanding* because the speaker ordered another one to do an action with the domination in which Ezekiel Sims dominated the conversation with Woman Agent because he threatened the lady by injecting the venom into her body.

The utterance that was highlighted in the conversation above "*Tell me quickly before the paralysis reaches your lips*." can be explained through the context of situation analysis. The dialogue was taken in a luxurious private room and it could be Ezekiel Sims' mansion as the field of this conversation. On the other hand, both speakers who were engaged in the dialogue are Ezekiel Sims and Woman Agent where both of them just met in a theater performance and Ezekiel invited the lady to come to his mansion and they have an intimate approach for their conversation. Ezekiel Sims dominated the whole dialogue here and he could be categorized as the main speaker. The mode of the conversation above used a spoken dialogue and delivered through an informal language even though they did not know each other before this meeting, but Ezekiel here was not like someone who wants to honor his interlocutor, therefore, he spoke in a common way with the lady.

#### Data 2

(1-2) Cassandra Webb		: Get up. Get off. Get off. Get up.
Julia Cornwall	: Me?	
Cassandra Webb		: Go, get off! You're gonna die if you stay
here. Get up.		
Martha Franklin		: What? Are you threatening us?
		(Madame Web - 22:04)

Cassandra Webb in this scene encouraged the interlocutors namely Julia Cornwall, Martha Franklin, and Anya Corazon to get off the train because they were chased by Ezekiel Sims. All of them did not notice about the danger and they were confused with Cassandra Webb's announcement. In this scene, she stated the statement "Go, get off! You're gonna die if you stay here. Get up." which was considered as *directive act* because the speaker directed the interlocutors to take an action regarding to what will happen on the train. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), this utterance was also classified as **commanding** as could be

seen when the speaker gave the imperative statement and led the others to get off the train and follow her to get safety.

The utterance that mentioned in the dialogue above "Go, get off! You're gonna die if you stay here. Get up." was supported by the context of situation. The field of the conversation was taken on the train where each speaker wanted to go somewhere else. They did not know about their meeting would be on the train. Moreover, the participants who involved in this dialogue were Cassandra Webb, Anya Corazon, Julia Cornwall, and Martha Franklin because they were at the same location and Cassandra Webb was trying to save them from the dangerous situation. All of them used spoken dialogue in this conversation while it was delivered in the informal method since they were not in a formal meeting and it was necessary to show the formality especially in the dangerous condition. Therefore, Cassandra Webb did not utter the polite expression when she was talking with them.

## b. Requesting

Requesting is a form of speech act in which the speaker asks the listener to perform a specific action, often politely and without imposing direct authority. Unlike commands, requests allow room for the listener to accept or decline based on their willingness or ability.

## Data 3

 (1-3) Martha Franklin : No science seems to stop him, so what good is it? Anya Corazon : What good is science? Julia Cornwall : "Please, don't fight."

(Madame Web - 45:19)

Regarding to their escape from Ezekiel Sims, Cassandra Webb brought the girls by a taxi to somewhere that was not detected by surveillance camera. Martha Franklin and Anya Corazon were arguing about the incident that happened at the train station, both of them were confused with Ezekiel Sims's ability. On the other hand, Julia Cornwall was trying to calm down the situation by uttering "*Please, don't fight*" which can be classified as *directive act* because she politely asked Anya Corazon and Martha Franklin to keep calm and find the solution how to go away from Ezekiel Sims. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), this utterance can be considered as *requesting* because the speaker was asking the interlocutors politely even without imposing them, Julia Cornwall only delivered her statement to Martha Franklin and Anya Corazon in order to stop the argument between both of them.

Julia Cornwall's expression above "*Please, don't fight*." was also supported by context of situation. As the field of conversation, this dialogue was taken in the taxi

when they ran away from Ezekiel Sims's attack in the train station. Julia Cornwall was sitting in the middle between Anya Corazon and Martha Franklin while Cassandra Webb was driving at that time. The participants in this dialogue were Julia Cornwall who acted as the main speaker who uttered the illocutionary act in this case and the interlocutors were Martha Franklin and Anya Corazon. The mode of this conversation was in a spoken dialogue and then it was delivered through an informal language because they have not known each other before this dialogue was started, therefore there was no polite expression was conveyed by each speaker.

#### Data 4

(1–4) Martha Franklin	: See? She didn't see that coming.
Cassandra Webb	: It doesn't work like that.
Julia Cornwall : "You	guys, just give her a chance, please."
	(Madame Web - 49:59)

Julia Cornwall was the speaker who delivered the phenomenon of illocutionary act in this conversation. She asked Martha Franklin and Anya Corazon to pay attention to Cassandra Webb regarding to what was actually happened at that moment. From the conversation above, Julia Cornwall mentioned an utterance that said "You guys, just give her a chance please." which means that she was trying to give her trust to this stranger which was Cassandra Webb because she already saved her from the dangerous situation. The utterance above is also considered as **directive act** because the speaker leads an action through the utterance that has been delivered which was about to stop the silly thing and give the space to Cassandra Webb to explain something. Moreover, Searle and Vanderveken (1985) also believed this utterance as **requesting** because the speaker in this moment was leading other interlocutors to stop their silly things and give an opportunity to another one to speak and find the solution how to make their life was not in dangerous anymore.

The utterance that mentioned in the dialogue above "You guys, just give her a chance please." was supported by the context of situation. The field of the conversation was taken in the nowhere forest that was very far from the city. They even did not know about the exact location in the maps. Moreover, the participants who were engaged in this scene were Julia Cornwall as the main speaker because she delivered the statement of illocutionary act and others were Martha Franklin and Cassandra Webb. All of them used spoken dialogue in this conversation while it was delivered in the informal method since they have known each other because of Ezekiel Sims's chase. Therefore, Julia Cornwall did not utter the polite expression when she was talking with them, but she was more friendly and closer through her utterances to keep the relationship closer with those strangers at the forest.

## c. Ordering

Ordering is a type of directive speech act in which the speaker gives a clear and authoritative instruction to the listener, expecting them to perform a specific action. Ordering is typically more forceful than requesting and implies that the listener is expected to follow the directive without question.

## Data 5

(1-5) Anya Corazon : Come on.

Martha Franklin : "Don't even pretend that you're cooler than Britney."

(Madame Web - 1:04:53)

Martha Franklin as the main speaker in this scene stated that "Don't even pretend that you're cooler than Britney." to Anya Corazon because she asked them to go out from the bar. This statement was classified as **directive act** since the speaker requested the interlocutor to act just like a normal person and do not lead her like older than her. Martha Franklin was like a little bit arrogant in this movie, that's why she did not like anybody asked her to do something. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), this utterance was also related to **ordering** because the speaker performed a request like it did not need any response from the interlocutor since the main speaker already put the authority for her position in the utterance.

Considering the utterance above as a phenomenon of illocutionary act, it was also supported by the context of situation. From the utterance "Don't even pretend that you're cooler than Britney." took a field of conversation at the bar that was very close from the forest. The participants in this scene were Anya Corazon and Martha Franklin. Martha was the main speaker in this dialogue since she has delivered the statement related to the illocutionary act while Anya Corazon was only an interlocutor. The mode of this conversation also used spoken dialogue and delivered through An informal method because both speakers have the same status in this occasion, Anya Corazon was a teen and Martha Franklin was so. Therefore, there was no any formality between both of them in the conversation.

### Data 6

(1-6) Ezekiel Sims

### : "Don't make the same mistake." (Madame Web – 1:13:10)

In this conversation, Ezekiel Sims came to Cassandra Webb's unconsciousness and he was trying to damage her belief to save these girls. Ezekiel Sims used his telepathy ability to communicate with Cassandra Webb and explain the details about her mother also passed away because of him. Ezekiel Sims confidently stated the utterance "*Don't make the same mistake*." which is categorized as *directive act* in this case because the speaker imposed the interlocutor which was Cassandra Webb to stop her plan and tell their location to him. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), this utterance was also considered as *ordering* since the speaker gave the clear instruction to the interlocutor to bring the girls to him and he also forced Cassandra Webb by saying he was the reason of her mother passed away in the past.

The expression of "*Don't make the same mistake*." was supported by context of situation in this conversation. As the speaker, Ezekiel Sims forcibly imposed the interlocutor which was Cassandra Webb to tell their location in order to get the girls from her. The field was taken in the bar just the same like the location where they had dinner, but this scene was happened under Cassandra Webb's unconscious mind. The participants in this dialogue were Ezekiel Sims and Cassandra Webb who engaged in the conversation. Regarding the mode of this conversation, the dialogue was delivered in a spoken one through an informal language because Ezekiel Sims thought that Cassandra Webb was his partner's daughter in the past, therefore he believed that it was not supposed to be a formal talk between both of them.

### d. Advising

Advising is a type of directive speech act where the speaker offers suggestions or recommendations to the listener about what they should do, typically in the listener's best interest. Advising aims to guide the listener towards a beneficial course of action without imposing or requiring immediate compliance.

#### Data 7

(1-7) Cassandra Webb	: "What am I supposed to do with this?"	
Ben Parker	: "Just put it in your pocket and then throw it	
away		
	somewhere else."	
Cassandra Webb	: "Can't even fold it. It's like cardboard."	
	(Madame Web - 09:04)	

Ben Parker who was talking with Cassandra Webb above as the speaker in the conversation where he was giving an advice to her about what she has got from Julia Cornwall. Ben Parker was used to get some presents or rewards from the family whose part of family member has been saved by him from the dangerous situation. The utterance "Just put it in your pocket and then throw it away somewhere else." can be classified as a *directive act* because Ben Parker as the

speaker who was advising his colleague to do something that was just normal after getting a present or reward from the people's family who were saved before. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), this utterance belongs to *advising* because the speaker directly advised Cassandra Webb to take the present and then throw it away outside when the family has gone.

The expression "Just put it in your pocket and then throw it away somewhere else." in the conversation above is supported by the context of situation in which it was uttered by Ben Parker. The utterance took a field of conversation in the hospital where Ben Parker and Cassandra Webb met Julia Cornwall and her family. They were just given a present by Julia Cornwall after saving her step-mother from an accident. The dialogue involved two participants namely Ben Parker as the speaker and Cassandra Webb as the listener. The mode in the conversation above is Ben Parker who is the speaker used a spoken dialogue using informal language because both of them are close friend since they have been working as the metropolitan paramedics for couple of years. Therefore, Ben Parker sometimes advises Cassandra Webb to do something simpler than what she thought.

## Data 8

(1 – 8) Anya Corazon	: "Let's sit at the bar."
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(Madame Web - 58:40)

In this conversation, Anya Corazon invited the other girls, Julia Cornwall and Martha Franklin to have dinner in a bar near the forest. This utterance was delivered when speaker said "*Let's sit at the bar*." which could be categorized as *directive act* because the utterance leads an action from the interlocutor after hearing the sentence. Anya Corazon wanted to have a calming situation to discuss the strategy how to run from Ezekiel Sims's chase. Moreover, Searle and Vandeveken (1985) believed that this utterance is also considered as the expression of *advising* because Anya Corazon was offering the suggestion to the others to have the better place to talk about their further strategy.

The expression of "*Let's sit at the bar*." was supported by context of situation in this conversation. As the speaker, Anya Corazon delivered this utterance at the bar when they went out from the forest. Moreover, the participants in this utterance involved Anya Corazon, Julia Cornwall, and Martha Franklin while Anya Corazon was the main speaker in this scene. The mode of this conversation was delivered in a spoken one through an informal language because the speakers were in the same age and they were also teenagers, therefore they were used to the casual talk like the dialogue above.

#### Conclusion

This study focuses on the types of directive act analysis as well as the context of situation in "Madame Web" movie. Based on the analysis of the data, this research is conducted through the theory that proposed by Searle and Vanderveken (1985) and Halliday and Hassan (1985). The phenomenon of directive act encourages to take further action after the speaker's expression is delivered in the conversation. After analyzing "Madame Web" movie, there are 4 classifications of directive act found in this research which covered commanding with 10 data as the highest occurence in this study, requesting follows with 7 data, continued by ordering with 4 data, and advising with 3 data. On the other hand, the discussion related to the context of situation is also delivered in the analysis of this study. Because, context of situation has a relation with directive act regarding to understand the intended meaning of each utterance. Context of situation has three levels of scope that covered the situation of the text or utterance namely field, mode, and tenor. Each of them is important to understand the reason why the characters convey the directive acts through their utterances.

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