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## Directive Speech Act Found in Renee Carlino “Swear on This Life”

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### Abstract

Directive speech acts are regularly used in daily basis conversation between human. This study used descriptive qualitative studies to discover the types of directive speech acts in Renee Carlino’s “Swear on This Life”. Data collection utilized observational non-participatory technique that took utterances found in the novel. The utterances are analyzed using Searle & Vanderveken (1985) theory of illocutionary acts. The data utilized pragmatic identity method along with pragmatic competence as a comparison to Sudaryanto, (2015). The conclusion of this study proved that there are 20 utterances indicating directive speech acts found in Renee Carlino’s “Swear on This life”. There are 5 data showing requesting, 3 data showing ordering, 6 data showing forbidding, 3 data showing warning, 3 data showing permitting. Forbidding is shown as the most frequently found as the characters have different opinion on each other’s action.

**Keywords:** Directive Speech Acts, Illocutionary Acts, Pragmatics

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Human’s opinion and thoughts are transmitted to others though the use of language Patel and Jain (2017). Communication between human is done with language to create interaction day to day. Language is not limited to verbal communication but also non-verbal is used on daily basis. Pragmatics refers to the study regarding the correlation between language and the context (Levinson, 1983). Pragmatics studies the most suitable response to be in a certain situation for communication, context is different for each person as it is subjective. Conversation is to achieve understanding between the speaker and listener. In order to achieve that understanding, non-verbal communication is used other than using verbal communication with the right context.

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Speech act is an action done by the speaker with words and utterances (Yule, n.d.). Action is not only limited to physically activity but can be done by using utterances. Searle (1979) stated that speech act consists of five categories which is; Representative, Directive, Commissive, Expressive, Declarative. In this paper, the researcher will focus on Directive Speech Act on Renee Carlino “Swear on This Life”. The researcher will analyze utterance which indicate directive speech act such as; “*Just give me a sec. I’m gonna step outside.*” (Carlino, 2016, p. 180). This quotation before is found in the novel on page 180, when Emiline calls Jase on the phone at the Holiday Inn before going to his Nashville book signing. This utterance is said by Jase while stepping out of the room. This utterance is found as directive speech act as Jase requests some time as he is stepping out of the room for the conversation.

Swear on this life is a romance fiction novel written by Renee Carlino published in 2016 by Atria Books. The novel is USA Today bestselling book that tells the story of Emiline finding her childhood story in a bestselling debut novel from a mysterious author named J. Colby who turns out to be her childhood friend. There are several previous researches concerning speech acts. Sembiring & Ambalegin, (2019) researched regarding illocutionary acts found in Aladdin movie 2019. The data analyzed using the theory of illocutionary acts proposed by Searle. The result of the research found 30 utterances containing illocutionary acts, the most frequent found types of illocutionary acts is directive because of the character’s utterance containing direct way.

Next, Nainggolan & Arifin (2020) studies the illocutionary acts found in the “Matrix” movie. The research utilizes Searle’s theory of illocutionary acts along with Hasan and Halliday’s context study. A total of 113 data were analyzed on the research which resulted in directives as the most frequently found and commissive as the least found. As the background of the research explained above, the main purpose of this paper are;

1. To identify directive speech acts in Renee Carlino’s “Swear on This Life”.
2. To categorized directive speech acts in Renee Carlino’s “Swear on This Life”.

With all the considerations above, the researcher takes interest in analyzing and identifying the directive speech acts found in Renee Carlino’s “Swear on This Life.

Birner (2013) stated that pragmatics refers to the literal meaning of words. In general, pragmatics is the study of relation between meaning of uttered words and the perception of the spoken utterances. As stated by Levinson (1983), pragmatics studies the perception for the listener which refers to finding the meaning in between the line of the utterances as it can be perceived differently by different listener with different context. Despite the exact same utterances can be taken with different context with different listener. Speech act refers to a part of pragmatics which analyzes action that performs using words and

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utterances (Yule, n.d.). Action is not limited to physical activities but can be performed using words and utterances. According to Searle (1979), illocutionary acts are divided into five categories of assertives, directives, commissives, expressives and declarations. This research focuses on the directives speech acts. Referring to Searle (1976) and Ilie & Norrick (2018), directive speech acts refers to directing others to perform an action. Yule (1996) added that directive speech acts specifies the speaker to make someone else do something. Directive speech acts are found as in requesting, ordering, forbidding, warning, and permitting.

First, requesting is the type of directives speech acts that ask something from the interlocutor. It is spoken by the speaker to the interlocutor which involves an action to be done. According Searle & Vanderveken (1985), requesting is a directive speech acts that spoken in a polite manners which also allows the possibility of refusal from the interlocutor. Second, ordering is the type of directives speech acts that order an action to be done by the interlocutor. It is spoken by the speaker in order to get an action done by the interlocutor. According Searle & Vanderveken (1985), ordering is a directive speech acts that has a higher degree of strength than telling as it involves a greater power in authority between the speaker and the interlocutor.

Third, forbidding is the type of directives speech acts that differ from order as it is spoken to deny an action. It is spoken by the speaker toward the interlocutor which denies the action done by the interlocutor. According Searle & Vanderveken (1985), forbidding is a directive speech acts that is the opposite of ordering that deny an action done by the interlocutor. Fourth, warning is the type of directives speech acts that involves an aftermath if a certain action is not done. It is spoken by the speaker toward the interlocutor which reminds the interlocutor of the current situation and an aftermath might happen is a certain action is not done. According Searle & Vanderveken (1985), warning is a directive speech acts that can be done in an assertive or directive sense. Fifth, permitting is the type of directives speech acts that give authority or permission for an action to be done. It is spoken by the speaker to the interlocutor to grant an action for happening. According Searle & Vanderveken (1985), permitting is a directive speech acts that grant someone the permission to perform an action.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

This study is carried out using descriptive qualitative studies. Qualitative research is utilized with the purpose of analyzing the phenomena happening in the society. Qualitative data commonly concludes in words as it is arranged into a range of continuation with immerse descriptive (Creswell, 2014). Stake (2010) stated that this research indicates a series of phenomena and the surrounding which refers to the

human mind. The data source found has the indication of directive speech. In this study, observation method is used as a data collection method. Non-participatory technique is used as the researcher did not take part in the making of the data source (Sudaryanto, 2015). In data collection, the researcher starts with reading Renee Carlino's "Swear on This Life" novel. Next the researcher processed to highlight the utterances and words that indicate directive speech acts that serve as a data source to be analyzed.

In order to process the data for this research, pragmatic identity method is used. The method is utilized due to the data source originated from a fictional character. The technique in this study also included pragmatic competence used hand in hand with the theory of Sudaryanto (2015). Searle theory of illocutionary acts is used to analyze data found in this research. In analyzing the data, the researcher first understand the spoken utterances found in the novel. Next, the utterances found are identified using Searle theory. Lastly, the conclusion of this study will indicate the types of directive speech acts found in Renee Carlino's "Swear on This Life".

### 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Findings

This study finds that directive speech acts appears on Renee Carlino's "Swear on This Life". There are 20 directive speech acts found in the novel. The types of directive speech acts found are requesting, ordering, forbidding, ordering and permitting. The result of directive speech acts are shown in table 1.

Table 1. The Types of Directive Speech Acts Uttered by the Characters in Renee Carlino's "Swear on This Life"

No	Types of Directive Speech Acts	Frequency
1	Requesting	5
2	Ordering	3
3	Forbidding	6
4	Warning	3
5	Permitting	3
	Total	20

#### 3.2 Discussion

##### DATA 1

Emerson: "You. **Now . . . give her a big smile**, just like that. Really lay on the charm, okay? I know you can do it—I've seen you in action." (Carlino, 2016, p. 111)

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The quotation was spoken by Emerson (the speaker) to Jackson (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared at the parking lot of a library where Mrs. Keller and Sophia is waiting for them. The speaker requests that the interlocutor give Mrs. Keller a big smile hoping that she would accept him. The utterance is found as **requesting** that refers to type of directive speech acts

**DATA 2**

Emerson: "Wait a second. **I want you to meet Jackson.**" (Carlino, 2016, p. 111)

She passed us and didn't look back.

The quotation was spoken by Emerson (the speaker) to Mrs. Keller (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in front of the library with Sophia and Jackson. The speaker requests for a little time from the interlocutor to meet Jackson, and then is refuted by the interlocutor. The utterance is found as **requesting** that refers to type of directive speech acts.

**DATA 3**

Emerson: "**Look at me**, Jackson." (Carlino, 2016, p. 126)

The quotation before was spoken by Emerson (the speaker) to Jackson (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in their fort. The speaker requests the interlocutor to look at her. The utterance is found as **requesting** that refers to type of directive speech acts.

**DATA 4**

Cara: "There're, like, ten more chapters, Em. **I think you should give it a chance.** I think it'll be healing for you." (Carlino, 2016, p. 134)

The quotation initiated by Cara (the speaker) to Emiline (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in their living room. The speaker asks the interlocutor to give the book a chance and the book will be beneficial to the interlocutor. The utterance is found as **requesting** that refers to directive speech acts.

**DATA 5**

He reached for my hand. "**Stay, please,**" he said with sweet, drunk puppy-dog eyes. (Carlino, 2016, p. 186)

The quotation told by Jason (the speaker) to Emiline (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in the hotel that Jason is staying. The speaker is asking the interlocutor to stay after the interlocutor says that she should leave the place. The utterance is found as **requesting** that refers to directive speech acts.

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#### DATA 6

Mr. Keller: “Kids, **go finish your chores and let me have a word with Emerson.**” (Carlino, 2016, p. 84)

The quotation was spoken by Mr. Keller (the speaker) to the foster children (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in a foster home own by Mr and Mrs. Keller. The speaker orders the foster children to finish their chores so that he can talk to Emerson. This utterance is found as **ordering** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### DATA 7

As we made our way to the library steps, Mrs. Keller grabbed Sophia’s hand and pulled her along. She didn’t stop or make eye contact with me.

Mrs. Keller: “**Come along**, Emerson. We have some work to do.” (Carlino, 2016, p. 111)

The quotation before was initiated by Mrs. Keller (the speaker) to Emerson (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in front of the library with Sophia and Jackson. The speaker told the interlocutor to leave the place as an order as the speaker holds a higher position than the interlocutor as her foster parent. The utterance is found as **ordering** that refers to type of directive speech acts.

#### DATA 8

Emiline: “Professor?”

He looked up. “Emiline. **Come in.**” (Carlino, 2016, p. 169)

The quotation before was uttered by Professor James (the speaker) to Emiline (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in UCSD where Emiline is studying. The speaker tells the interlocutor to enter the room as he is a lecturer in the campus which holds a higher position than the interlocutor. The utterance is found as **ordering** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### DATA 9

Emerson: “Jackson Fisher, **will you stop that right now?!**” (Carlino, 2016, p. 70)

The quotation was articulated by Emerson (the speaker) to Jackson (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in front of the bus station where Emerson and Jackson just arrived home from school. The speaker forbids the interlocutor for going any further as he keeps teasing her. The utterance is found as **forbidding** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### DATA 10

Jackson: “**Don’t talk to him**, okay?” Jackson said as he parked the truck. (Carlino, 2016, p. 125)

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The quotation was told by Jackson (the speaker) to Emerson (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in Carter's egg ranch. The speaker forbids the interlocutor to talk to Cal junior as they walk pass him. The utterance is found as **forbidding** that refers to type of directive speech acts.

#### **DATA 11**

Emiline: "You should still go to the book event. He deserves readers who love and support him. He's a fucking bestselling published author, after all. **But please don't mention me to him.**" (Carlino, 2016, p. 135)

The quotation was communicated by Emiline (the speaker) to Cara (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in their living room. The speaker forbids the interlocutor from talking about her in front Jason's book event. The utterance is found as **forbidding** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### **DATA 12**

Emiline: "**Please don't tell Trevor anything.** I have a lot to think about. I told him I was going to Ohio because I needed a break." (Carlino, 2016, p. 135)

The quotation was done by Emiline (the speaker) to Cara (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in Cara's car on the way to the airport. The speaker forbids the interlocutor to tell Trevor anything regarding her decision to find her dad. The utterance is found as **forbidding** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### **DATA 13**

Jason: "**Don't cry.**" He wiped the tears from my face. "You know me, I was trying to be valiant." (Carlino, 2016, p. 154)

The quotation was told by Jason (the speaker) to Emiline (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in the restaurant where Emiline and Jason are having dinner. The speaker sees that the interlocutor starts crying forbid her to cry in the middle of their conversation. The utterance is found as **forbidding** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### **DATA 14**

Jason: "I'll walk you home."

Emiline: "**That's not necessary.**" (Carlino, 2016, p. 156)

The quotation before was spoken by Emerson (the speaker) to Jackson (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in the restaurant where Emiline and Jason are having dinner. The speaker denies the

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interlocutor's offer to send her home. The utterance is found as **forbidding** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### **DATA 15**

Jackson: "Yeah. I'll be here when you get back. **Don't leave any evidence.**" (Carlino, 2016, p. 127)

The quotation initiated by Jackson (the speaker) to Emerson (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in their fort. The speaker warns the interlocutor to not leave any evidence that she has been to his house or they might get into trouble. The utterance is found as **warning** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### **DATA 16**

Jackson: "No! You can't. **They'll send you away.**" (Carlino, 2016, p. 127)

The quotation communicated by Jackson (the speaker) to Emerson (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in their fort after Jackson admits that he has been selling weeds to the kids at school for Cal junior. The speaker warns Emerson that if she tells anyone about this matter, she will be sent away. This utterance is found as **warning** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### **DATA 17**

Jackson: "I'll give you a minute. Just hurry. **My mom will be home in an hour.**" (Carlino, 2016, p. 128)

The quotation before was spoken by Jackson (the speaker) to Emerson (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in Jackson's house. The speaker warns the interlocutor that his mother will be home in an hour so the interlocutor should hurry up. The utterance is found as **warning** that refers to type of directive speech acts.

#### **DATA 18**

Emiline: "**You should still go to the book event.** He deserves readers who love and support him. He's a fucking bestselling published author, after all. But please don't mention me to him." (Carlino, 2016, p. 135)

The quotation was told by Emiline (the speaker) to Cara (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in their living room. The speaker allows the interlocutor to go to the book event. The utterance is found as **permitting** that refers to directive speech acts.



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#### DATA 19

I walked in and stood across from his desk as he peered up at me over his bifocals. “Can I talk to you?” I asked. Professor James: “**Sure. Have a seat.**” (Carlino, 2016, p. 169)

The quotation before was spoken by Professor James (the speaker) to Emiline (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in UCSD where Emiline is studying. The speaker allows the interlocutor to have a conversation. The utterance is found as **permitting** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### DATA 20

Emiline: I gave him a weak smile. “**Sure.**” (Carlino, 2016, p. 96)

The quotation was initiated by Emiline (the speaker) to Trevor (the interlocutor). The utterance appeared in Emiline’s apartment. The speaker agrees to the interlocutor’s invitation to watch the game with him. The utterance is found as **permitting** that refers to directive speech acts.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Directive speech acts are established in different situation portraying action from the characters. Directive speech acts are discovered in the utterances found in Renee Carlino’s “Swear on This Life”. The types of directive speech acts discovered includes 5 requesting, 3 ordering, 6 forbidding, 3 warning and 3 permitting. Forbidding is the most frequently found directive speech acts as the characters have different opinions and actions contradicting one and another. Directive speech acts refers to the action itself. Forbidding refers to the action of not allowing a certain action from happening that is done by another. Directive speech acts is uttered as an action and also a direction from the speaker.

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