

## DIRECTIVES ILLOCUTIONARY AND PERLOCUTIONARY ACTS FOUND IN *THE GIRL WHO FELL BENEATH THE SEA* NOVEL BY AXIE OH

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### Abstract:

This research aims to identify the types of directives illocutionary acts by Searle and perlocutionary acts by Austin, that occurred in the novel *The Girl who Fell Beneath the Sea* by Axie Oh. The data for this research were obtained using a descriptive-qualitative method. The data of this study are taken from 291 utterances that featured directives illocutionary acts. The result of this research showed seven out of eleven types of directives illocutionary acts were found; asking (184), begging (11), commanding (8), demanding (29), ordering (36), requesting (8), and warning (15). Furthermore, the researcher also found that after receiving directives illocutionary acts from the speaker, there were successful and unsuccessful perlocutionary acts from the interlocutor.

### Keywords:

Directives  
illocutionary acts;  
perlocutionary acts;  
Novel



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## INTRODUCTION

Communicating with one another is a simple type of social interaction. But misunderstanding can occur when the hearer is unfamiliar with the term used in communication, the speaker and hearer have different factors that cause the hearer to be unaware or misunderstand the speaker's intention to communicate. According to (Yule, 1996, p. 3), pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning as communication by a speaker (or writer) and its interpretation by a listener (or reader). As a result, it is mainly concerned in determining what people mean by their utterances and what the words or phrases in those utterances may mean on their own.

One of pragmatics elements which is correlated with communication is known with the term speech acts. Austin (1962) defined speech acts as action performed when an utterance is delivered (Cutting, 2002, p. 16). Furthermore, (Austin, 1962, pp. 102-103) in his book called "*How to do Things with Words*" dived deeper on speech acts theory and roughly distinguished three types of acts which are known as the locutionary, the illocutionary, and the perlocutionary. Speech acts happens when speakers uttered an utterance and how the hearer or the interlocutor perceive the intention. To avoid

miscommunication or misunderstanding, Illocutionary acts is needed to help the hearer interprets the intended meaning better.

American philosopher, John R. Searle, developed this theory further. According to (Searle, 1979, pp. 26-30), Illocutionary acts are classified into five types namely, assertive, commissives, expressives declaratives, and directives. The attempts done in this type of acts are advising, asking, bidding, ordering, commanding, requesting, begging, etc. More often than not, illocutionary acts will elicit a perlocutionary acts. Eliciting an answer can be said as one of the purposes of asking a question and 'eliciting an answer' is what known as perlocutionary acts (Searle, 1979, p. 47). Perlocutionary acts is the result of the effect of understanding an utterance.

Based on Searle (1979), these are the types of directives illocutionary acts and each definition referring to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary – 9th Edition (Hornby, 2015).

a. Advising

Advising is a form of action to tell someone what you think they should do in certain situation. For example, "We advise you not to drink the suspicious liquid." The utterance is uttered by the speaker in order to tell the curious hearer to not drink the liquid, for they do not know if it is dangerous or not.

b. Asking

Asking is a form of action to say or write something in the form of a question, in order to get information. For example, "Why are you so jumpy today?" This question is being made with the purpose of discovering the hearer's problem. The hearer, on the other hand, can evade this question by giving a short response or if the reader does not mind, he/she will give a decent or lengthy explanation.

c. Begging

Begging has two distinct uses. To beg is a form of action to make a polite request, as in "I beg your pardon". The other use is to ask for something in an anxious or urgent way because the speaker want or need something very much. For example, "Please spare me, your Majesty! I have sinned!" This utterance is uttered by a maid who was found guilty and given the death penalty by the ruler. The action of the maid is begging to the ruler to spare her life.

d. Bidding

Bidding is an action form by offering to pay a certain price for something. For example, she bid \$1,000 for a single necklace. This action happens in an auction where the bidder bid \$1,000 for a necklace. The bidder will get the necklace if there is no other bidder to bid higher than hers.

e. Commanding

Commanding is an action formed to give an order to someone. It implies a pre-determined hierarchy and the speaker often holds absolute control over the hearer's response or actions when commanding. For example, the army officer commanded his

men “Load your gun. Fire!” This command is given by the army officer who is in a higher position than the troops to load the gun and fire the target

f. Demanding

Demanding is an action formed to ask for something very firmly, whether asking for objects or even answers. For example, a customer is unsatisfied with the quality of a product and went straight to the seller “I demand a refund.” The utterance is uttered by a disappointed customer to the seller and demand for her money to be given back.

g. Forbidding

Forbidding is an action order someone not to do something. In this case, once the utterance is produced, the speaker expects the hearer to obey it. It is similar to command but this act is uttered specifically to tell the hearer that he/she must not do something. For example, the strict mother forbids her daughter having a boyfriend until her daughter is at least 25 years old.

h. Ordering

Ordering is an action formed to give instruction to someone by someone who have position or authority. Order and command are similar; order is a more general word whereas command is slightly stronger. Order can be given by almost anyone, but it is commonly executed in age order (older to younger). For example, “Dana, move the picture a little more to the left.” The utterance is uttered by a teacher to a student at school festivals. The teacher instructed Dana to move the picture slightly to the left.

i. Recommending

Recommending is an action formed to tell someone something good or useful or is suitable for that particular something. When recommendation is uttered by the speaker, the hearer can freely choose to follow the recommendation or not. For example, “You should read the newest novel from Colleen Hoover. I totally recommend it!” The utterance is uttered by the speaker to recommend the newest novel from Colleen Hoover to the hearer.

j. Requesting

Requesting is an action formed to ask someone to do something in a polite manner. When the utterance is produced, the hearer may decline the request if it's not possible for them to do it. For example, “Can you please delivery this book to Marvey tomorrow?” The utterance is uttered by the speaker in order to ask the hearer if he/she can deliver a certain book to Marvey by tomorrow.

k. Warning

Warning is an action formed with the intention of making somebody aware of something. It is often used to alert the hearer on specific danger or bad consequences if he/she dares to do something. For example, “Watch your step, the floor is slippery.” The utterance is uttered by the speaker in order to alert the hearer of the slippery floor hence the hearer falls.

## METHOD

In conducting the research, the researcher used descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. This method relies on words rather than numbers to further describe the data. Thus, this research uses the qualitative method to describe and analyze in depth of the types of directives illocutionary acts and whether or not the perlocutionary acts are successful. The main source for this study's findings is the narration and dialogue context found in Axie Oh's novel *The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea*.

In this research, the source of data is taken from an English novel entitled *The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea* by Axie Oh. The data were collected from the narration and dialogues that featured illocutionary and perlocutionary acts based on John. R. Searle's and John L. Austin's theory.

The procedure taken to collect the data are; reading and understanding the novel *The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea* by Axie Oh, finding and underlining the dialogues and/or narrations containing the types of directives illocutionary acts from the novel, and typing the findings into a table in Microsoft Word.

The procedure taken to analyze the data are; classifying the data into types of directives illocutionary acts based on John L. Searle's theory, determining whether the perlocutionary acts are successful or unsuccessful after receiving directives illocutionary acts based on John L. Austin's theory, interpreting the data and give a brief explanation, and drawing a conclusion based on the data analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table below shows the data of types of directives illocutionary acts occurred in the novel *The Girl who Fell Beneath the Sea* by Axie Oh according theory proposed by Searle (1976). In the novel *The Girl who Fell Beneath the Sea*, the researcher found 291 data that have the features of directives illocutionary act types.

**Table 1** Types of Directives Illocutionary Acts

NO	Types of Directives Illocutionary Acts	Frequency
1	Advising	-
2	Asking	184
3	Begging	11
4	Bidding	-
5	Commanding	8
6	Demanding	229
7	Forbidding	-
8	Ordering	36
9	Recommending	-
10	Requesting	8
11	Warning	15
Total		291

Source: Types of Directives Illocutionary Acts used in *The Girl who Fell Beneath the Sea* Novel

From the table above, it can be seen that the data are classified into eleven types of directives illocutionary acts. From the total of 291 data, seven out of eleven types were found, which are; asking 184 times, begging 11 times, commanding 8 times, demanding 29 times, ordering 36 times, requesting 9 times, and warning 15 times.

Table 2 shows the data of successful and unsuccessful perlocutionary acts from dialogues and narration that occurred in the novel *The Girl who Fell Beneath the Sea* by Axie Oh according to Austin's (1962) theory. According to Nadeak & Dyah Sunggingwati (2017) in the previous research, the term 'successful' was used when the anticipated perlocutionary acts were performed and the term 'unsuccessful' were used when the anticipated perlocutionary acts did not take place.

**Table 2** Types of Perlocutionary Acts

NO	Types of Perlocutionary Acts	Frequency
1	Successful	182
2	Unsuccessful	109
Total		291

Source: Types of Perlocutionary Acts used in *The Girl who Fell Beneath the Sea* Novel

From the table above, from 291 data, successful perlocutionary acts occurred 182 times and unsuccessful perlocutionary acts occurred 109 times. Perlocutionary acts that were successful and unsuccessful are mostly found in asking types. Successful perlocutionary acts typically took place in exchange for brief verbal responses from the interlocutor. This situation mostly occurred when the interlocutor answered curtly or directly to avoid further confusion. While unsuccessful perlocutionary acts took place when the other person would not respond. This situation mostly occurred when the interlocutor is unable to respond or purposely decides not to. The detailed analysis of the two tables above will be discussed in the following with its directives illocutionary and perlocutionary acts:

### Asking

#### *Data 1*

His low voice is muffled beneath the cloth mask.

***“Are you a bride or are you a bird?”***

I lick my lips, tasting salt. “Are you a friend or are you a foe?” (p.24)

This utterance belongs to asking types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were one of the masked figures as the speaker and Mina as the hearer. One of the masked figures as the speaker asked Mina as the hearer about her identity in implicit way. Mina as the interlocutor failed to fulfil the expected answer by firing a question herself. Hence, in this case, it shows the unsuccessful perlocutionary acts.

#### *Data 2*

***“Do you enjoy the taste of wine-spirits?”***

“I’ve never had the opportunity to find out,” I say, taking the seat opposite him. (p.173)

This utterance belongs to asking types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Lord Yu as the speaker and Mina as the hearer. As the host of the house, Lord Yu offers a drink for Mina and asked her preference subtly while waiting for her answer. Mina as the interlocutor answer the question verbally and give Lord Yu the information he needs. Hence, it shows the successful perlocutionary acts.

### Begging

#### *Data 3*

**“No, please stop!”** I lurch forward.

The snake raises its tail once more. (p.197)

This utterance belongs to begging types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Mina as the speaker and Sea Snake as the hearer. Mina begs the Sea Snake to stop attacking the children. The Sea Snake as the interlocutor raised its tail once more after ignoring the plea. Hence, it shows the unsuccessful perlocutionary acts.

#### *Data 4*

**“He loved you, Mina. And I loved him as a true friend. I have a new life here, one that I plan on keeping for as long as I can, but I will help you—for you and for your brother. You can trust me.”**

This time, she holds out her hand, and I take it.

This utterance belongs to begging types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Nari as the speaker and Mina as the hearer. Nari was trying to convince Mina to believe her word as a defense from the accusation by Dai. Mina as the interlocutor fulfilled the expected action by accepting Nari's extended hand. Hence, it shows the successful perlocutionary acts.

#### **Commanding**

##### *Data 5*

**“Tell the others to keep their eyes open. I wouldn’t put it past Crane or Tiger to stir up trouble tonight.”**

She bows, stepping backward. “Yes, my lord.” (p.74)

This utterance belongs to commanding types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Kirin as the speaker and a servant as the hearer. Kirin received an information about rumors circulating among the guests that the Sea God’s power was waning as well as Lord Shin’s. As one of Lord Shin’s followers and one with power, he issued a command to his servant. The servant, as the interlocutor fulfilled the expected action by making bowing gesture and responding verbally. Hence, it shows the successful perlocutionary acts.

##### *Data 6*

**“I am the Sea God. And you are my bride. Come with me now, as you said you would. As you promised.”**

I look to Shin, and to the dragon, looming behind him. If I refuse the Sea God, will the dragon strike in anger? Silently it watches me, waiting.

This utterance belongs to commanding types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Sea God as the speaker and Mina as the hearer. With authoritative tone, the Sea God to show their power difference and command Mina to fulfil her promise. Mina as the interlocutor failed to fulfil the expected action due to her silence. Hence, it shows the unsuccessful perlocutionary acts.

#### **Demanding**

##### *Data 7*

“No, that’s not what she’s saying!” Mask cackles. “I knew your bloodline was inferior!”

**“Take it back, Mask! Say you’re sorry.”**

I lean upward on my knees and wave my hands, trying to keep the two of them focused. (p.49)

This utterance belongs to demanding types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Dai as the speaker and Mask as the hearer. Mask was mocking Dai of his inferior bloodline as he foolishly attempts to guess what Mina was mouthing since she was mute at the moment. In the data, after Dai's dialogue, a narration continued to show Mina's action, this implies that Mask ignored Dai's demand and did not apologize. Hence, in this case, it shows the unsuccessful perlocutionary acts.

#### **Data 8**

I rush to the prow of the boat and leap onto the edge. **"Take me instead!"** I whip out my knife and make a deep slash across my palm, raising it up high above my head. "I will be the Sea God's bride. I pledge my life to him!"

My words are met with utter stillness from the dragon. (p.7)

This utterance belongs to demanding types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Mina as the speaker and an ancient dragon as the hearer. When Mina spotted the dragon approaching Shim Cheong to take her as a sacrifice, she slashed deeply into her palm to divert the dragon's attention away from Shim Cheong. The ancient dragon as the interlocutor did not fulfill the expected action. Hence, it shows the unsuccessful perlocutionary acts.

#### **Ordering**

##### **Data 9**

"Of course, I can't hear her!" Mask says, exasperated.

"Her voice is a magpie, after all. I'm just using my wits. What do you think a human girl like her, caught alone in an alley in the middle of the Sea God's city, would ask? Who are you? What are you? Why are you here? What do you want? I've answered all of these questions. **Nod, girl, if I'm right in answering at least the one you asked.**"

I nod. (p.48)

This utterance belongs to ordering types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Mask as the speaker and Mina as the hearer. Mask almost losing her patience due to Dai's antics and thus, order Mina to nod to prove her point. Mina as the interlocutor fulfilled the expected action with a nod. Hence, it shows the successful perlocutionary acts.

##### **Data 10**

**"Speak your offenses," he says, "now that I can see you clearly."**

He's so close to me, I feel my cheeks releasing a telltale blush. I grit my teeth and lift my chin. "You are the real thief here." (p.79)

This utterance belongs to ordering types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Shin as the speaker and Mina as the hearer. Shin approach Mina and told her to repeat what she said before since he now can see her clearly to read her lips. Mina as the interlocutor compelled and spoke her offense albeit shortly. Hence, it shows the successful perlocutionary acts.

#### **Requesting**

##### **Data 11**

**"Can I come with you? I would speak to a scholar, or Lord Yu himself, about the Sea God. Perhaps someone has knowledge of his past."**

Shin looks hesitant, so Namgi says, "With Kirin, you, and myself, Mina will be safe."

Shin nods reluctantly, and I hurry off to the pavilion to change my dress. (p.166)

This utterance belongs to requesting types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Mina as the speaker and Shin as the hearer. Kirin and Namgi received a missive that was sent from Lord Yu to Shin when he was away. Mina who was also present, wish to come with him as well since the Crane House was known as home to the greatest scholars who've ever lived. Shin as the interlocutor compelled to the request by nodding. Hence, it shows the successful perlocutionary acts.

#### **Data 12**

When Shin turns away, I wince at my careless words. After all, he has claimed that he has no soul.

But when he glances back, his expression isn't pained but thoughtful. **“Walk with me?”** We head around the bridge toward the far side of the lake, where most of the house activity is located.

This utterance belongs to requesting types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Shin as the speaker and Mina as the hearer. Mina hits a sore topic with her careless word and Shin diverts the topic as to not ruined the mood further. Mina as the interlocutor compelled to the request and walk around the bridge with Shin. Hence, it shows the successful perlocutionary acts.

#### **Warning**

#### **Data 13**

**“Look out!”** she screams.

A huge sea snake erupts from between the buildings to our right. Its tail whips out, knocking me to one side, Dai and Miki to the other. (p.196)

This utterance belongs to warning types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were Mask as the speaker whereas Mina and Dai as the hearer. Mina's party were ambushed by thieves who wants to steal her soul and assassins to kill her once her soul was taken. When all of the sudden, Mask scream to warn Mina and Dai of a new opponents. Mina and Dai as the interlocutor weren't able to avoid to the attack and be safe. Hence, in this case, it shows the unsuccessful perlocutionary acts.

#### **Data 14**

The goddess, impatient, snaps her fingers, and I blink away the image. **“I won't grant the wish unless I'm paid.”**

My throat feels dry, and I have to swallow saliva to speak. “I have a knife. It belonged to my great-great-grandmother. It's all I have.” (p.137)

This utterance belongs to warning types of directives illocutionary acts. The participants from the conversation were the Goddess of Women and Children as the speaker whereas Mina and Shin as the hearer. The Goddess uses a solemn, stern tone to remind Mina that her tolerance is wearing thin because her prior demand went unfulfilled. Mina as the interlocutor finally responded and give her offer of the payment to the Goddess. Hence, in this case, it shows the successful perlocutionary acts.

## **CONCLUSION**

The researcher draws in two conclusions. The first conclusion is based on the result of the previous chapter, From the total of 291 data, seven out of eleven types were found, which are, asking 184 times, begging 11 times, commanding 8 times, demanding 29 times, ordering 36 times, requesting 9 times, and warning 15 times.



The second conclusion is when the interlocutors respond to all the directive illocutionary acts in this dialogue and narration with perlocutionary acts. There are two types of perlocutionary acts that appear in this novel: successful and unsuccessful. Successful perlocutionary acts occurred 182 times and unsuccessful perlocutionary acts occurred 109 times. According to this research, successful perlocutionary acts happened more frequently than unsuccessful ones. Successful perlocutionary acts typically took place in exchange for verbal responses or gestures from the interlocutor. This situation mostly occurred when the interlocutor answered by giving the expected action. While unsuccessful perlocutionary acts took place when the interlocutor would not respond. This situation mostly occurred when the interlocutor is unable to respond or purposely decides not to.

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