

# Direct and Indirect Speech Acts in Literary Works as Language Learning Media

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**Abstract.** This paper described the types and function of direct and indirect speech acts found in the novel *On the Far Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George. Several theories, including Yule, Stewart, Vaillette, and Akmajian were utilized to analyze the utterances of the novel's characters. This paper was written using a descriptive qualitative methodology. The utterances spoken in the novel *On the Far Side of the Mountain* is the source of the data examined in this article. According to the analysis results, the novel *On the Far Side of the Mountain* utilized both direct and indirect speech acts when performing the dialogue. The direct speech acts were divided into five categories: direct speech acts in declarative sentences Type as an Assertion (435 utterances), direct speech acts in Imperative sentences Type as a Request (127 utterances), direct speech acts in Interrogative Type as a question (167 utterances), direct speech acts in Declarative Type as a Threat (5 utterances), and direct speech acts in Declarative sentences Type as a Promise (2 utterances). Meanwhile, indirect speech acts are in Declarative Type as an Assertion (2 utterances), indirect speech acts are in Declarative sentences Type as a Request (20 utterances) and Indirect speech acts are in Declarative sentences Type as a question (9 utterances). Direct speech acts in imperative sentence type as a request is the most dominant speech acts found in the novel.

**Keyword:** Direct Speech Acts, Indirect Speech Acts, Speech Acts

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## 1 Introduction

Humans require a means of communication in the form of a good language that can be understood by both the speaker and the hearer to fulfill one of these desires. Kridalaksana [1] mentioned that language is a system of arbitrary sound symbols used by members of social groupings to work together, communicate, and identify themselves. As a result, language plays a critical part in human life. Humans can achieve their desires as social creatures and form relationships with other living

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beings by using language. But, in foreign language or second language learning, this means of communication is needed to be expertise, due to direct and indirect speech acts phenomenon. It is critical to understand the meaning of each remark in order to avoid misunderstandings in communication. Therefore, language study is needed to analyze such phenomenon.

Linguistics is the science that studies language. It has various branches, including phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics [2]. Pragmatics is one of the most significant fields of linguistics since it addresses two general characteristics of linguistics, namely the meaning of language and the context in which it is used. Yule in [3] stated that pragmatics is defined as "invisible" meaning, or the ability to recognize what is meant even when it is not expressed or written. Consequently, in an interaction with an "invisible" meaning, the speaker must rely on assumptions and expectations shared or stated with the hearer, and analyze if these assumptions and expectations convey indication that the meaning of the interaction is not visible. As a result, pragmatics is inextricably linked to the context of language. In other words, it adapts a context of thought regarding the speaker's organization of the topics they intended to discuss to the hearer. It has to do with who is speaking, what is being discussed, where, when, and in what situation [4]. Following the "invisible" description, pragmatic learning also incorporates estimates, implicatures, context, and speech acts. Dealing with speech act in our own language is rather difficult, and it will be more difficult in our second/foreign language. This paper is designed to overview direct and indirect speech act by providing language learning media through literary works.

Analyzing speech acts in natural conversation is needed to master this subject. Literary work was chosen because it consists of fictional dialogue but made as natural as possible. According to Stewart and Vailette [5], some utterances have literal meaning or a direct speech between form and function. An indirect speech act is one that examines the hidden meaning or true intention of a statement. The indirect relationship between the structure and function of speech is being investigated. When someone says "the floor is full of dust," for example, the direct speech act of this sentence declares that the floor is full of dust, while the indirect speech act of this statement is to ask or give instructions that the floor must be cleaned. Wijana [2] stated that Declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentences are used to ask, giving instructions, invites, and requests, respectively. Direct speech acts are when all of these forms of words or utterances perform their roles in a customary manner. Direct speech acts, in simple terms, are speech acts in which sentences or utterances are used in accordance with their usual function. On the other hand, an indirect speech act occurs when the sentence employed no longer serves its intended purpose.

Direct and indirect speech act is not only found in verbal language, but also found in textual language. It is found in text book, literary works and all types of discourses. Therefore, the goal of this study is to identify direct and indirect speech act in a novel. There are conversations and interactions between the characters in the narrative. The characters' utterances in the literary works of the novel *On the Far Side of the Mountain* are the data investigated in this study. Jean Craighead George write this novel, which is first published in 1990. Inside the novel, Sam and Alice are the main characters in the story. There are number of reasons why the writer focused on this phenomenon. Literary works, especially novel has a unique tale as well as a linguistic style. Second, every conversation between the characters is an excellent opportunity for study. In literary works, the culture also mentions and it can assist language learning [6]. In addition, using dialogue in Novel is a good practice and example to learn about foreign language. Learning foreign language, especially English is very beneficial for future reference [7]. Therefore, this article purpose's is to determine the process and describe the functions of direct and indirect speech acts in the novel *On the Far Side of the Mountain*.

## **2 Method**

The data is analyzed descriptively which employs a qualitative strategy. Qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomenon. It aims to assist us to understand the world in which we live and why things are the way are [8]. The social phenomena of relevant and irrelevant statements are described in this study. Because the writer discusses the phenomena, scenario, difficulties that arise in a certain context, and observe the dialogues descriptively, thus this method might be used. This is in accordance with Cresswell [9] which stated that qualitative research is 'interpretive' research, in which you make a personal assessment as to a description that fits the situation or themes that capture the major categories of information. The interpretation that you make for example, differs from the interpretation that someone else makes, this does not mean that your interpretation is better or more accurate; it simply means that you bring your own perspective to your interpretation. Furthermore, the source of data is the dialogue in the novel *On the Far Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George. The data is clauses and sentences.

## **3 Result and Discussion**

### **3.1 Analysis of Direct Speech Acts**

#### **3.1.1 Direct Speech Acts in Declarative Sentences Type as an Assertion**

All utterances have been analyzed obtained from the Novel *On the Far Side of the Mountain* that were uttered by all the characters in the novel were formed in declarative sentence type which has function as an assertion to answer and convey information. Although the utterances are formed in the same sentence type and function, they will have difference topics. In this analysis, the utterances that

are performed in declarative sentence type and have function as assertion will be classified again and the writer will take a few sentences as an example below.

*Declarative Sentences Type as an Assertion about Endangered Birds of Prey*

“1. Artificial insemination. The university has a very successful artificial breeding program for endangered birds of prey.”

The utterance above is produce in declarative sentence type which has function to give an answer or to convey information about endangered birds of prey. The speaker uses the utterance to inform and explain that endangered birds of prey are protected. Based on the sentence type and the function, the utterance is a direct speech act.

*Declarative Sentences Type as an Assertion about The Conversation Officer*

“1. Leon Longbridge is the environmental conversation officer. He just happens to be here today. He has a big territory to cover, so he’s actually in the field. You’re lucky.”

The utterance above is produce in declarative sentence type which has function to give an answer or to convey information about the Conversation Officer. The speaker uses the utterance to inform and explain that the Conversation Officer or Leon Longbridge is the environmental conversation and he is in his office now. Based on the sentence type and the function, the utterance is a direct speech act.

*Declarative Sentences Type as an Assertion about Correspondence School*

“1. She can go to correspondence school.”

The utterance above is produce in declarative sentence type which has function to give an answer or to convey information about their daughter named Alice that is going to get correspondence school if she stays in the mountain. Based on the sentence type and the function, the utterance is a direct speech act.

**3.1.2 Direct Speech Acts in Imperative Sentences Type as a Request**

“1. You are coming back to the city with Sam and the rest of us.”

The utterance above is produce in imperative sentence type which has function as a request for his child. The speaker uses the utterance to request his daughter to pick her things up and back to the city. Based on the sentence type and the function, the utterance is a direct speech act.

**3.1.3 Direct Speech Acts in Interrogative Sentences Type as a Question**

“1. But how if she won’t mate?”

The utterance above is produce in Interrogative sentence type which has function to ask and get an answer from the hearer. The sentence type which has to ask about the bird that is going to live in the university. Based on the sentence type and the function, the utterance is a direct speech act.

#### **3.1.4 Direct Speech Acts in Declarative Sentences Type as a Threat**

“1. You are harassing and taking back to an officer of the law. I can book you for that, and for harboring and endangered species.”

The utterance above is produce in Threat sentence type which has function to intimidates or scares the hearer. The speaker uses the utterance to intimidates the hearer about keeping endangered species and tell or intimidates the boy that he can book him. Based on the sentence type and the function, the utterance is a direct speech act.

#### **3.1.5 Direct Speech Acts in Declarative Sentences Type as a Promise**

“1. I will help you Bando, it would be fun.”

The utterance above is produce in declarative sentence type which has function to a promise or a commitment of the speaker an action that is the speaker, Sam promises to help Bando to make Adirondack Furniture as good as he can do. The speaker also says his promise directly. Based on the sentence type and the function, the utterance is a direct speech act.

### **3.2 Analysis of Indirect Speech Acts**

#### **3.2.1 Indirect Speech Acts in Declarative Sentences Type as an Assertion**

In the novel *On the Far Side of the Mountain* ,there is one character, named Bando uttered one sentence in Declarative sentences Type as an Assertion about Sam. In these utterances, what Bando said is not in accordance with the real meaning. In other words, he was hiding his true intentions and saying it indirectly. Therefore, the hearer must analyze and find out the meaning of the speaker’s utterances to find out the real meaning of the utterances.

##### *Indirect Speech Acts in Declarative Sentences Type as an Assertion about Sam Gribley*

“1. You look like you ate a green persimmon, Sam”

The utterance above is produce in declarative sentence type which has function to convey or inform information. The utterance deixis “a green persimmon” refers about the Sam’s expression that look sad. The speaker says the utterances indirectly and hide the true meaning. In this condition, the hearer must analyze to understand what actually the speaker’s meaning. Based on the sentence type and the function, the utterance is an indirect speech act.

### 3.2.2 Indirect Speech Acts in Declarative sentences Type as a Request

“1. If kids can live on sailboats going around the world and get a good education through correspondence schools, so can Alice”

The utterance above is produce in declarative sentence type which has function to request for her son, Sam and also his husband. The speaker uses the utterances to request her son and his husband indirectly to recognize that her children can stay in the mountain without losing their education and do all the things that they want to do in the mountain. She uses the utterances “if kids can live on sailboats going around the world” to make a request sounds more polite by giving the reason. Based on the sentence type and the function, the utterance is an indirect speech act.

### 3.2.3 Indirect Speech Acts in Interrogative Sentences Type as a Request

“1. Think we have time to go?”

The utterance above is produce in declarative sentence type which has function as a request to his friend, Sam. The word deixis “we” refers to Sam and Bando. The speaker uses the utterances to request his friend indirectly to think again about time to go. He requests about the route that they are going to do. He uses the utterances “We” to make a request sounds more polite. Based on the sentence type and the function, the utterance is an indirect speech act.

### 3.2.4 Table of the Analysis Result of Direct Speech Acts

The result analysis above can be drawn in a table to show the analysis in detail of direct speech acts as below:

**Table 1.** The Analysis Result of Direct Speech Acts

NO	Types of Direct Speech Acts	Function of Direct Speech Acts	Page	Frequency of Occurrence in the novel <i>On the Far Side of the Mountain</i>
A	Direct Speech Acts in Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion	Convey or Inform Information	1 up to 170	435
	1. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Falcon	Convey or Inform Information	6 7 8 9 10 39 40 74 79 90 91 116 122 130	80
	2. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Sam Gribley	Convey or Inform Information	6 35 60 77 79 80 89 109 111 113 120 129 153 167 169	17

3.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Conversation officer	Convey Inform	or	6 26 79 135	8
4.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Endangered Species	Convey Inform	or	6	1
5.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Supermarket	Convey Inform	or	8	1
6.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Alice	Convey Inform	or	15 22 35 56 57 64 65 66 67 68 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 88 89 91 92 93 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 107 108 109 110 115 116 117 118 120 121 123 128 29 138 151 155 159 167 168	142
7.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Dad's tools	Convey Inform	or	16 20 21	3
8.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Staying in the Mountain	Convey Inform	or	14 16 42 115	3
9.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about the plumping	Convey Inform	or	16 17 18	10
10.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about a house	Convey Inform	or	19 20 21 22	6
11.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Delhi	Convey Inform	or	23	1
12.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Gun	Convey Inform	or	29	1
13.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about a Sling	Convey Inform	or	29 40	3
14.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about mistake	Convey Inform	or	32	1

15.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Zella	Convey Inform Information	or	35 37 105 111	5
16.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Adirondack Furniture	Convey Inform Information	or	36 37 40 100	8
17.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Correspondence School	Convey Inform Information	or	38	1
18.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Electricity	Convey Inform Information	or	38 39 58 170 38 39 58 170	9
19.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Bando	Convey Inform Information	or	57 80 89 109 111	7
20.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about a Horse	Convey Inform Information	or	63	1
21.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Waterfalls	Convey Inform Information	or	51 74 81 86 87 94 96 104 115 116 150	11
22.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Crystal (animal)	Convey Inform Information	or	75 76 83 84 85 86 88 89 91 94 97 98 101 102 103 118 119 166 167	49
23.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about June	Convey Inform Information	or	89	1
24.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Genetics	Convey Inform Information	or	89	1
25.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Fair	Convey Inform Information	or	100	1
26.	Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about	Convey Inform Information	or	108 110 114 115	6



	Assertion about 4-H Club					
	27. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Van Rensselaers	Convey Inform Information	or	110 114 115		6
	28. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Livingston Ville	Convey Inform Information	or	113 114		5
	29. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Hanni	Convey Inform Information	or	121		2
	30. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Librarian	Convey Inform Information	or	129		1
	31. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Hacker	Convey Inform Information	or	129 131 132		21
	32. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Food	Convey Inform Information	or	133 134 169		10
	33. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Police Station	Convey Inform Information	or	140		4
	34. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Officer Conklin	Convey Inform Information	or	140 150		2
	35. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about the Basement of Church	Convey Inform Information	or	147		1
	36. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Duck	Convey Inform Information	or	153		1
	37. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Coyote	Convey Inform Information	or	164		1
	38. Declarative Sentence Type as an Assertion about Happy Ending	Convey Inform Information	or	168		3
B	Direct Speech Acts in Imperative	More or Less Politely,		8 14 15 17 19 22 29 36 37 38 40 42 51 58 63 64 65 66 68 71 74		

	Sentences Types as a Request	Elicits actions	77 78 83 87 92 96 100 103 104 105 106 111 113 115 116 118 122 129 130 131 132 133 134 136 140 148 149 151 153 154 155 156 158 160 161 163 165 167 169	127
C	Direct Speech Acts in Interrogative Type as a Question	Elicits Information	6 7 8 14 16 17 19 20 21 25 26 35 36 38 40 42 55 57 58 64 66 67 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 86 88 89 90 96 97 89 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 113 114 115 116 118 119 120 121 122 129 130 131 133 134 135 137 139 140 147 149 150 151 155 156 161 163 164 165 166 168 169 170	167
D	Direct Speech Acts in Declarative Type as a Threat	Intimidates the Hearer	6 10 11	5
E	Direct Speech Acts in Declarative Type as a Promise	Commits the Speaker to an Action	7 36	2
	<b>Total of Direct Speech Acts</b>			<b>736</b>

The result analysis above can be drawn in a table to show the analysis in detail of indirect speech acts as below:

**Table 2.** The Analysis Result of Indirect Speech Acts

No	Types of Direct Speech Acts	Function of Direct Speech Acts	Page	Frequency of Occurrence in the novel <i>On the Far Side of the Mountain</i>
A	Indirect Speech Acts in Declarative Type as an Assertion	Covey or Inform Information	71 164	2
	1. Indirect Speech Acts in Declarative Type as an Assertion about Sam Gribley	Covey or Inform Information	71	1
	2. Indirect Speech Acts in Declarative Type as an Assertion about Human	Covey or Inform Information	164	1

B	Indirect Speech Acts in Declarative Type as a Request	More or Less Politely, Elicits Actions	8 9 15 21 25 32 38 39 76 83 86 90 95 105 109 110 116 118 119 133 135 152 153	20
C	Indirect Speech Acts in Interrogative Type as a Request	More or Less Politely, Elicits Actions	15 19 26 36 39 95 100 109	9
<b>Total of Indirect Speech Acts</b>				<b>56</b>

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Speech acts play a crucial role in language learning as they encompass the fundamental building blocks of effective communication. From simple requests to complex negotiations, speech acts reflect our intentions and shape our interactions [10]. This discussion explores the impact of speech acts in language learning and how they empower learners to develop their communication skills. Furthermore, Speech acts have a significant impact on language learning, empowering learners to develop their communication skills and navigate diverse social and cultural contexts [11]. By integrating speech acts into language learning programs, educators can provide learners with the tools they need to express themselves effectively, build sociocultural competence, and foster authentic language use [12]. Emphasizing speech acts cultivates confident and competent language learners who can engage meaningfully in a globalized world.

The research employed qualitative research in order to know the multimodality of the “To The Bone” Song. This writing is based on representative multimodal analysis research on interpersonal meaning, specifically products connected to movement, music, speech, and image. Specifically, according to Creswell (2014), the qualitative method will examine texts and images just like its data. Typically, it deals with the data analysis completed using different research designs. The qualitative technique needs a clear and comprehensive description of how data are collected and evaluated. As stated, employing a qualitative research paradigm may result in an in-depth investigation of texts and visuals.

The data is taken from the youtube official video clip. It investigates the facial expression, colour, gesture and sound in rendering the message. On the other hand, the main focus of this study is to analyze the 4 modes. They are: Linguistic, color (visual mode), sound (aural mode), facial expression and gesture (gestural mode). There are some considerations because it is important to be investigated. The source of the data is the English Songs that written by Indonesian. It was taken from the youtube official video clip, while the data is the text lyric.

#### 4 Conclusion

The most dominant type of direct speech acts is direct speech acts in declarative sentence type as an assertion and it is divided again into 38 topics. And the most dominant type of direct speech is produced in declarative sentence type as an assertion is direct speech acts in declarative sentence type as an assertion about Alice as Sam's sister. This is occurred because the characters always share their knowledge or information clearly without any hidden motives that must be comprehended by the hearer, this speech act frequently occurs in their utterances. This also occurs in daily life, as social beings frequently speak directly to the hearer. Furthermore, the most dominant type of indirect speech acts is indirect speech acts in declarative sentence type as a request (20 utterances).

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