

## Directive Speech Acts in the Fisherman and His Soul: A Pragmatic study

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### ABSTRACT

A short story, as any literary text, demands professional linguistic input to be aesthetic and to deliver the writer's message or belief. It consists of many utterances that express information or perform actions. These utterances are called speech acts. In this pragmatic study, the researcher aims at investigating the various types of directive speech acts in the short story "the fisherman and his soul" written by Oscar Wild. It hypothesizes that different types of directive speech acts are used in this short story. The method of the study is a descriptive and qualitative. The data of the study are lines of the short story "the fisherman and his soul". Finally, the study arrived at some conclusions that validate its hypothesis.

**Key words:** pragmatics, speech act, directives, utterances, fisherman, soul.

التوجيهات في الصياد وروحه: دراسة تداولية

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المديرية العامة للتربية في محافظة ذي قار

### الملخص

القصة القصيرة كإي نص أدبي تحتاج إلى تدخلات لغوية احترافية من أجل جمالية النص ولإيصال رسالة الكاتب أو اعتقاده. تتكون الدراسة من العديد من التعبيرات الكلامية التي توضح المعلومات أو تؤدي الأفعال. هذه التعبيرات تسمى فعل الكلام. في هذه الدراسة التداولية، الباحث يهدف إلى إيجاد الأنواع المختلفة للتوجيهات في القصة القصيرة "الصياد وروحه" للكاتب أوسكار وايلد. تفترض هذه الدراسة أن هناك العديد من أنواع التوجيهات مستخدمة في هذه القصة

القصيرة. طريقة البحث هي وصفية نوعية. بيانات الدراسة هي اسطر من القصة القصيرة "الصيد وروحه". اخيرا توصلت الدراسة الى بعض استنتاجات تثبت صحة الفرضية. الكلمات المفتاحية: التداولية، فعل الكلام، التوجيهات، تعابير كلامية، الصيد، الروح.

## Introduction

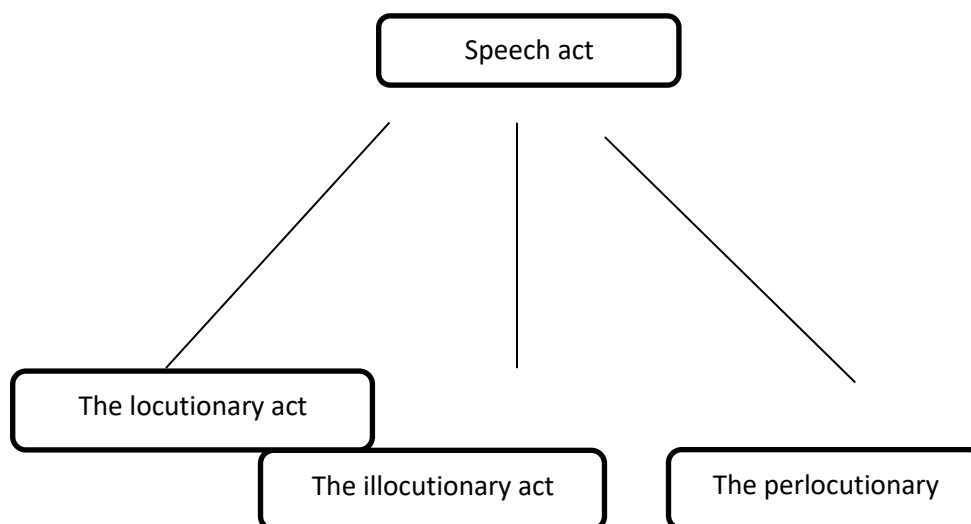
Pragmatics is an important branch of linguistics. It studies the relation between language and context which is embedded ( encoded) in the structure of language (Levinson, 1983: 9). Birner (2013: 11) differentiates between the study of the language use in context (pragmatics) and the study of literal meaning (semantics). Furthermore, Crystal (2008: 79) mentions that pragmatics studies language from the users' point of view, especially of the choice they make, the restrictions they encounter in using language in social interaction and the effect their use of language has on other participants in communication.

## Speech act

This term is borrowed from the philosopher J.L. Austin's work (1911– 60), it refers to a theory that analyses the role of utterances in relation to the speaker's and hearer's behaviour in interpersonal communication. Moreover, it is explained with the reference to the speakers' intention while speaking and the effects they achieve on listeners. The verbs which are used to indicate the speech act intended by the speaker are sometimes known as performative verbs (Crystal, 2008: 446). According to Austin in (1962). Speech act is a term in which the utterances have performative functions and it is divided into three main categories which are locutionary act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act.

1. The locutionary act is the fundamental linguistic act of conveying some meaning. It is the act of saying something with a specific meaning and reference (Birner, 2013: 113–114).

2. The illocutionary act is what you intend to do by means of saying it. In other words, it is the performance of an act in saying something, such as the act of, inviting, stating, requesting and so on( *ibid*).
3. Perlocutionary act is achieved by means of speech act. It is an effect on the person being addressed (*ibid*).



Extending Austin's work(1962), Searle (1979:12–17) and Yule (1996: 53–54) classify illocutionary acts into five types: expressives, declaratives, representatives, directives and commissives:

1. Expressives are speech acts that express speakers' feeling (psychological states) such as pleasure, pain, joy, dislike or sorrow, as in "I am really sorry." (Yule,1996: 53–54).
2. Declaratives are acts that a speaker perform when he has a special institutional role in a specific context such as "I now pronounce you husband and wife."(*ibid*).
3. Representatives are acts which determine what a speaker believes to be the case or not, as in " It is a warm sunny day".
4. Directives refers to acts which a speaker uses to get a listener(a hearer) to do something. They can be positive or negative, such as "Don't touch that."(*ibid*).

5. Commissives are acts which a speaker uses to commit himself or herself to some future function. They are intention, threats, promises, pledges and refusal, for example, "I will be back." (ibid).

### **Directives**

Regarding Searle (1979, 1969), directives are verbal acts through which the speaker attempts to get the hearer to act (Busse, 2008: 88). Black says that directives are utterances that give orders which means directives effect on hearers to perform actions (Setiawan and others, 2023: 2073). Directives comprises various types of speech acts that range from categorical order to humble supplications and from straightforward instructions to tentative suggestions. This diversity could be related to the differences in the degree of prototypically of the number of directives. The prototypical directives are order, request and advice. They form unequivocal attempts to get the hearer to do something. The less prototypical instances are suggestion, challenges and proposals (Risselada, 2019: 45– 46). Furthermore, Briton (2000: 303) states that the action must be future and voluntary since it is impossible to ask someone to do something in the past or out of human will. Jucker and Taavitsainen (2008: 88) state that directives embrace many illocutionary acts such as requesting, commending, ordering, permitting, prohibiting, begging, pleading, supplicating, inviting, recommending, requiring, warning, demanding, dismissing, instructing, forbidding, advice and asking. Risselada (2019: 45–46) shows two aspects associates with directives:

1. The relation between the content of the directive and the participants' interest (speakers and hearers)
2. The extent to which the speaker leaves the hearer an option of non-compliance.

### **Felicity conditions**

Felicity conditions are the criteria that have to be satisfied to make a successful speech acts. They are:

1. Preparatory condition is a condition in which a hearer has the ability to perform the action.
2. Sincerity condition refers to a condition through which a speaker wants a hearer to do an action.
3. Propositional content is a condition in which a speaker predicates a hearer's future action.
4. Essential condition is a condition in which a speaker commits a hearer to do an action (Schmidt and Kess, 1986:59).

### **Method of Analysis**

This study is descriptive and qualitative. It analyses the data and shows the types of directives used in the short story "the fisherman and his soul" written by Oscar Wilde. This study is descriptive because it focuses on relationships, opinion, processes, effects and trends that are developing in this short story (Singh and Bajpai, 2008:203). It is qualitative because it focuses on interpretation and provides a thorough idea of the context, environmental inundations and deep understanding of the story. This study uses the work of Jucker and Taavitsainen (2008: 88) for the pragmatic analysis of directives in "the fisherman and his soul".

### **Data Description and Analysis**

The analysis of the directive speech acts which are performed by the characters in the short story "the fisherman and his soul" into 15 categories of directive speech acts is below:

#### **Data 1:**

#### **"Please, please don't take me away"**

This excerpt is stated by the mermaid when she is in the fisherman's net. She is afraid and starts pleading him not to take her away. This is an act of pleading.

**Data 2:**

**"You can go if you make a promise.**

This line is mentioned by the fisherman. The fisherman tells the mermaid that she can go if she does the condition(making a promise). The previous speech refers to the speech act of permitting.

**data 3:**

**" When I call you, you must come to me."**

The speaker is the fisherman. He states that the mermaid must come when he calls her. Requiring is the speech act which expressed in this excerpt.

**Data 4:**

**"You must come to me and sing"**

The fisherman says that he needs the mermaid's songs to catch fish. So he tells the mermaid to come and sing when he (the fisherman) calls her. This is requiring speech act.

**Data 5:**

**"little mermaid, I love you. Take me as your husband"**

The fisherman speaks to the mermaid in this line. He expresses his feeling toward her and he tells her about his wish to be his wife so this utterance is a speech act of requesting.

**Data 6:**

**"No, you have a man' soul. Send away your soul, and I will love you"**

The little mermaid states that people, live in the sea, don't have a soul and the fisherman has a soul so the fisherman must send his soul away in order to be with her. Demanding is the act which is expressed in this line.

**Data 7:**

**"of course I will send it away!"**

Committing the action of sending the fisherman' s soul is understood from the excerpt. This speech is said by the fisherman to

the mermaid after telling him that if he wants to marry her , he has to send his soul away.

**Data 8:**

**"But how can I send my soul away"**

The fisherman asks the mermaid about the right way to send his soul away. He tells her that he doesn't know how to send his soul. This is an act of asking.

**Data 9:**

**"Tell me how to do it."**

This act of requesting is made by the fisherman. He asks the little mermaid about the way of sending a soul to marry her.

**Data 10:**

**"Tell me how to send my soul away"**

This excerpt is said by the fisherman to the priest when the fisherman is in love mermaid and he can't marry her because he has a soul and people, live in the sea, don't have a soul so he asks the priest about the right way to get rid of his own soul because it sands in the way of marrying the mermaid. This is an act of requesting.

**Data11:**

**"stupid man!Your soul was given to you by God"**

In this line, the priest admonishes the fisherman for victimizing his soul which is given to him by God. He tells the fisherman that a soul is the most important thing you have, it is as gold and jewels of kings.

**Data 12:**

**" it is the most important thing that you have."**

This line speaks about giving advice. The priest advises the fisherman not to send his soul ( the fisherman' s soul) away and he adds that the importance of the fisherman's soul equals gold and jewels of kings.

**Data 13:**

**"Go away! Go away!"**

This excerpt is said by the priest in his conversation with the fisherman when the fisherman asks him how he can send his soul away. The priest dismisses the fisherman and he tells him that his soul costs more than gold and jewels. This is a speech act of dismissing.

**Data14:**

**"Sell us your body and become a slave"**

In this line, the market-sellers demand the fisherman to sell them his body and become a slave. This speech occurs when the fisherman goes to sell his soul in the market. The market-sellers tell him that they aren't interest in his soul and they care only for his body so the fisherman can sell it and became a slave.

**Data 15:**

**"but do not talk about your soul"**

When the fisherman goes to sell his soul in the market, the market-sellers forbids the fisherman from talking about his soul. Instead the market-sellers tell the fisherman to sell his body and become a slave since they tell him that his body is worth more than his soul and they are not interested in his soul.

**Data 16:**

**"Five pieces of gold, and my net , my house and my boat. But tell me how I can lose my soul."**

In this line, the speaker( the fisherman) asks the witch about how to lose his soul to marry the mermaid and in return he gives her 5 pieces of gold, his net, house and boat. This is a requesting speech act.

**Data 17:**

**"You must dance with me, pretty boy."**

This speech is stated by the witch. The witch tells the fisherman to dance with her to help him. This is an act of demanding.



**Data 18:****"Come tonight"**

The speaker, in this line, is the witch. She tells the fisherman to come at night to dance and know the secret of sending a soul. This speech act is ordering.

**Data 19:****"Stand near the tree on the top of the mountain and wait for me."**

This line is said by the witch. She instructs the fisherman to do things at specific place and time to help him. This is an act of instruction.

**Data 20:****"Faster! Faster!"**

These words are spoken by the witch. She orders the fisherman to dance faster to tell him the secret.

**Data 21:****"Take your hand off me!"**

The witch demands the fisherman to leave her to fly away after he calls out God's name. This line is a speech act of demanding.

**Data 22:****"First, you must tell me the secret."**

The fisherman, in this line, demands the witch to tell him how to send his soul away in order to leave her and marry the mermaid.

**Data 23:****" if you don't keep your promise, I will kill you"**

This excerpt is said by the fisherman. It is a warning speech act. In this excerpt, the fisherman warns the witch if she doesn't tell him the secret, he will kill her.

**Data 24:**

**"Cut your shadow away from your feet and order your soul to leave you."**

The witch gives the fisherman the instructions to send his soul away. She tells him to cut his shadow and to order his soul to leave. This is an act of instructing.

**Data 25:**

**"Do not send me away from you!"**

The fisherman's soul pleads the fisherman not to send it alone. The soul wants to live with the fisherman. Pleading is the act which is expressed in this excerpt.

**Data 26:**

**"How have I hurt you?"**

The fisherman's soul speaks with the fisherman. it asks the fisherman if it hurts him. This is an act of asking.

**Data 27:**

**"if I must go away, don't send me without heart"**

This is a request made by the fisherman's soul. The soul tells the fisherman that if it is obliged to go, send the heart with.

**Data 28:**

**"So do not wait – go!"**

Ordering is the obvious speech act expressed by this line. This speech is spoken by the fisherman, the fisherman orders his soul to leave because he doesn't need it anymore.

**Data29:**

**"I do not need you."**

In this line, the fisherman dismisses his soul because he doesn't need it. This is an act of dismissing.

**Data 30:**

**"come nearer. I want to tell you about the wonderful things that I have seen"**

This excerpt is said by the soul. The soul tells the fisherman to come nearer to tell him about the wonderful things it sees. This is an act of requesting.

**Data 31:**

**"How will we meet? "**

In this line, the fisherman asks his soul about the way in which the soul meets him. Asking is the act which is expressed in this speech.

**Data 32:**

**"Will you follow me into the deepest part of the sea?"**

This speech act of requesting is mentioned by the fisherman. The fisherman asks his soul if they meet in the deepest part of the sea.

**Data 33:**

**"But do what you like"**

This speech expresses permission. The fisherman permits his soul to do things which it likes to do. For example, meeting him.

**Data 34:**

**"Take me as your soul again and you will be wiser than all wise men"**

This speech is mentioned by the soul. It tells the fisherman to take it as his soul again. The line refers to an act of requesting.

**Data 35:**

**"Why can't we hurt you"**

This is a speech act of asking. The king asks the soul why the soldiers can't hurt it.

**Data 36:**

**"Please leave here tonight"**

This excerpt is an act of requesting. The king tells the soul to leave the place(the city)because in the present of the fisherman's soul , the king is not the leader of the city anymore.

**Data 37:****"Come with me and take it"**

This speech is spoken by the fisherman's soul. The soul orders the fisherman to come and take the ring. This is an act of ordering.

**Data 38:**

**"come nearer.** I want to tell you about the wonderful things that I have seen"

This is the speech of fisherman's soul. The soul tells the fisherman to come nearer to tell about the wonderful things that the soul met. This is an act of requesting.

**Data 39:****"Take that cup and hide it."**

An act of instructing is expressed in this excerpt. The soul tells the fisherman to take the cup and hide it.

**Data 40:****"Why do you tell me to take that cup?"**

The fisherman asks his soul to tell him about the cause behind asking him to take the cup. This is asking speech act.

**Data 41:****"Hit that child"**

The fisherman's soul orders the fisherman to hit the child when the fisherman sees the child with a pot of water.

**Data 42:****"Why do you tell me to hit that child"**

This speech is mentioned by the fisherman. The speaker (the fisherman) asks about the cause behind hitting the child. This is an act of asking.

**Data 43:****"Aren't we all brothers? Didn't one God make us all"**

In this excerpt, the man asks about being brothers and he says that all creatures made by God so he invites the fisherman to his house

**Data 44:**

**"Come with me to my house."**

This speech is said by the man when he sees the fisherman sat dawn and rest in the street. The man tells the fisherman to come to his house and rest. This is an act of requesting.

**Data 45:**

**"Go to the man's room."**

In this line, the soul orders the fisherman to go to the man's room, steal his gold and get rid of. Ordering is the act expressed by the soul's speech.

**Data 46:**

**'Kill him and take his gold. We need it.'**

The soul's speech in this excerpt is an act of ordering. In this line, the soul orders the fisherman to kill the man and take his gold.

**Data 47:**

**"Kill him!"**

This is an order mentioned by the soul when the fisherman is in the man's house. The soul gives the fisherman an order to kill the man.

**Data 48:**

**"You must keep me with you forever"**

This excerpt shows the soul's demanding to be with the fisherman again and forever.

**Data 49:**

**" Come with me to that city."**

The soul tells the fisherman to come with to the city to see the Samaras girls dance. This is a requesting act.

**Data 50:**

**"let's go and help those people"**

This speech refers to invitation. The soul invites the fisherman to go and help people with it.

**data 51:****"let me into your heart and then I can be part of you again"**

The soul speaks with the fisherman in this excerpt. It tells him that he should give it the chance to come inside his heart again. This is a requesting speech act.

**Data 52:****"If you stay here, it will kill you. "**

In this line, the soul warns the fisherman from the black waves. This is an act of warning. The soul tells the fisherman to leave the place because of the black waves hurried in to the land but the fisherman refuses to leave his love again.

**Data 53:****"Come away. "**

This excerpt is said by the soul. It is an ordering speech act. The soul states the line to save the fisherman's life. It asks him to leave the place before the black waves come, but he refuses and accepts his end.

Table 1: Summary of directive speech act occurrences

No.	Types of directive speech acts	Frequency	Percentage
1	Requesting	13	24.52%
2	Ordering	9	16.98%
3	Asking	7	13.20%
4	Demanding	6	11.32%
5	Instructing	3	5.66%
6	Requiring	2	3.77%
7	Dismissing	2	3.77%
8	Pleading	2	3.77%
9	Warning	2	3.77%

10	Permitting	2	3.77%
11	Forbidding	1	1.88%
12	Committing	1	1.88%
13	Admonishing	1	1.88%
14	Inviting	1	1.88%
15	Advising	1	1.88%
Total		53	100%

## Conclusion

The researcher analyzed and discussed the types of directive speech acts performed by the characters in the short story "The fisherman and his soul". The researcher discovered that the requesting speech acts are used more than other directives which shows speaker's intention to get something. Furthermore, the characters perform fifteen types of speech acts, including: ordering, requesting, permitting, pleading, requiring, dismissing, demanding, warning, instructing, inviting, admonishing, committing advising, asking and forbidding.

Hopefully, the paper will help future researchers to enrich their knowledge about directive speech acts and to study these acts in political texts.

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