

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Communication is an essential human activity that takes place in everyday life. According to Davis (1981, as cited in Ojel, 2023), communication can be defined as the transfer of information and understanding from one person to another. It is a fundamental process that allows people to share thoughts, feelings, and knowledge, thereby building relationships and facilitating cooperation in both personal and professional settings. Communication occurs in two primary forms: verbal and non-verbal. Verbal communication makes use of words, either spoken directly through face-to-face conversation or written through various media such as letters, emails, and social media platforms. On the other hand, non-verbal communication involves the use of non-linguistic cues such as facial expressions, body movement, eye contact, and hand gestures. As noted by Anjani (2021), verbal communication is generally easier to convey and understand because the listener can more directly interpret the message based on the words used. However, non-verbal communication often plays a critical role in reinforcing or modifying the meaning of verbal messages.

In the process of communication, a speaker utters a message with the intention of informing the listener, hoping that the listener will accurately grasp the meaning being conveyed. However, despite these intentions, communication does not always proceed smoothly. Listeners may misinterpret the speaker's message, leading to misunderstandings. One major reason for miscommunication is the role of context. The meaning of an utterance is not fixed but often depends on the situation in which it is spoken, the relationship between the speaker and listener, cultural factors, and other contextual clues. This dynamic aspect of meaning is explored in the field of pragmatics, which studies how people use language in real-life situations and how meaning is influenced by context (Tango et al., 2023).

Pragmatics highlights the fact that language is not merely a set of words and grammar rules but also a tool for performing actions such as making requests, giving orders, or offering apologies, which are known as speech acts. For example, when someone says, "*Can you pass the cigarette?*" they are not merely asking about ability but making a polite request. The listener's ability to correctly interpret this utterance depends on understanding the social and

situational context, not just the literal meaning of the words. Therefore, effective communication requires more than just the correct use of language; it also demands sensitivity to context, shared knowledge between the speaker and listener, and an awareness of cultural norms and expectations. By understanding both the verbal and non-verbal dimensions of communication and the role of pragmatics, individuals can improve their ability to convey and interpret messages accurately, thereby reducing the risk of misunderstandings.

One important category within pragmatic studies is directive utterance, which are speech acts intended to get the listener to do something. The directive utterances rely heavily on context for their meaning and effectiveness. For example, a simple statement like “*Close the window*” functions as a directive when spoken by someone with authority or expectation to make such a request. Miscommunication can arise if the listener misinterprets the speaker’s intention or if the social context is not clear. Thus, understanding directive utterances requires not only recognizing the words used but also interpreting the speaker’s goal, the relationship between speaker and listener, and the situational context. By applying pragmatic principles to the study of directives, communicators can enhance their ability to deliver clear, effective messages and respond appropriately.

Directive utterances play a crucial role in film dialogues, especially in action and espionage genres, where characters frequently issue commands, requests, and warnings to achieve their goals. *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One* (2023) offers a rich source of such utterances. The main character, Ethan Hunt, serves as a leader of the Impossible Mission Force (IMF) team. His language is marked by urgency, authority, and context-sensitive strategies that reflect the high-stakes environment of espionage. This research aims to conduct a pragmatic analysis of directive utterances used by Ethan Hunt in *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One* (2023). By examining selected utterances from the movie script, I classified the types of directives employed and analyzed their pragmatic functions based on the context of interaction.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

According to the background, the problem identified in this research concerns the utterances of the main character, Ethan Hunt, in *Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One* (2023) and how these utterances express his intentions, particularly in directing and informing his crew. Ethan Hunt, as a leader of the IMF team in the movie script, uses a variety

of directive utterances such as commands, requests, asking, suggestions, and warnings throughout the film, each to influence the behaviour and decision-making of his team.

Language serves not only as a means of communication but also as a medium for action. In the field of pragmatics, language use is examined in relation to the intentions of speakers and the effects on listeners. According to the theory of speech acts proposed by John L. Austin (1962) and developed by John Searle (1969), utterances can perform various functions, one of which is directive — an attempt by the speaker to get the hearer to act. Directive utterances include commands, requests, suggestions, and warnings, among others.

In real-life interactions and fictional dialogues, such as movies, directive utterances reflect power relations, urgency, and interpersonal dynamics. In the movie *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One* (2023), the main character, Ethan Hunt, frequently uses directive utterances to lead his team, issue instructions, and make critical decisions during high-stakes missions. His directives often illustrate the balance between authority, teamwork, and politeness, depending on the situation and the relationship between characters.

Analyzing directive utterances in this film provides valuable insights into how language is used to influence others' behavior and manage social relationships within specific contexts. From a pragmatic perspective, understanding these utterances involves examining illocutionary force, contextual meaning, and politeness strategies employed by the speaker. Moreover, since movies reflect aspects of real communication, this study can contribute to understanding how directive language functions in leadership and cooperation settings. Therefore, the study of directive utterances as used by Ethan Hunt in *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One* is significant for exploring how pragmatic principles operate within cinematic dialogue and how language performs action in narrative contexts.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

This research is limited to the analysis of directive utterances spoken by the main character, Ethan Hunt, in the movie script *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One* (2023). The analysis focuses only on the types and intentions of directive utterances based on Charles W. Kreidler's (1998) theory of speech acts. Other aspects of pragmatics, such as locutionary and perlocutionary acts, politeness strategies, or conversational implicatures, are not discussed in this research.

Furthermore, the study is limited to the movie script only, not the visual or audio components of the film. Therefore, non-verbal communication elements such as tone, gesture, or facial expression are not analyzed. The data analyzed consist of selected utterances that best represent directive speech acts found in the script, and only those spoken by the main character are considered.

Through these limitations, this research aims to maintain focus and depth in analyzing how directive utterances are used by Ethan Hunt to express commands, requests, suggestions, and warnings within the movie script. And I also only analyzed 26 data from all the directive utterances I found in the *Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning (2023) Movie Script*, because of the limited time I have.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The formulations of the problem in this research are:

1. What are the directive utterances used by the main character, using Charles W. Kreidler's theory in *Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One (2023) Movie script*?
2. What are the intentions of employing directive utterances used by the main character in *Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One (2023) Movie script*?

1.5 Objective of the research

1. To identify and classify the types of directive utterances used by the main character, Ethan Hunt, in *Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One (2023) movie script*, based on Charles W. Kreidler's theory of directive intentions.
2. To analyze the pragmatic functions and intentions behind each directive utterance produced by Ethan Hunt within the context of the film's dialogues.
3. To examine how the use of directive utterances reflects the main character's leadership style, authority, and interaction with other characters in high-stakes communication situations.
4. To explore the relationship between language, context, and speaker intention in expressing directive utterances within cinematic discourse,

thereby contributing to the broader understanding of pragmatics in film studies.

1.6 Benefit of the Research

Theoretically, this research is expected to expand readers' knowledge and understanding of directive utterance theory as applied to the main character in the *Mission Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One* (2023) Movie script. It aims to serve as a useful example, demonstrating that utterances can carry various intentions and should not be hastily interpreted. Through the pragmatic analysis of directive utterances in this movie script, readers are encouraged to recognize the complexity behind spoken language and avoid drawing quick conclusions.

1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research

The framework of this term paper, entitled *PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF MAIN CHARACTER'S DIRECTIVE UTTERANCES IN MISSION IMPOSSIBLE – DEAD RECKONING PART ONE (2023) MOVIE SCRIPT*. The systematic organization of this research is structured into five chapters as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter consists of the phases of the research layout, such as the background of the research, problem identification, problem limitation, problem formulation, research objectives, benefits, and the systematic presentation of the research.

Chapter 2: Theoretical Framework

This chapter consists of relevant theories by several experts that correspond with the research topic. These theories are used as fundamental to analyze the research data, such as follows: “Directive Utterance”, “Intentions”, and “Pragmatic”.

Chapter 3: Research Method

This chapter consists of Time and Location, qualitative method, research object, data, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

**Chapter 4: PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER'S
DIRECTIVE UTTERANCES IN *MISSION IMPOSSIBLE –
DEAD RECKONING PART ONE (2023)* MOVIE SCRIPT**

This chapter presents the data analysis, elaboration, and discussion on the topic of this research.

Chapter 5: Conclusion

It consists of an evaluation of the previous chapter and the implications of the evaluated result.

