



**AN ANALYSIS OF DIRECTIVE ILLOCUTIONARY ACT OF  
LUTHER CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL “SKIPPING  
CHRISTMAS” TRANSLATED INTO “ABSEN NATAL”**

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By:

Ovina Nindyasari  
Raden Arief Nugroho

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DIAN NUSWANTORO UNIVERSITY  
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# AN ANALYSIS OF DIRECTIVE ILLOCUTIONARY ACT OF LUTHER CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL “SKIPPING CHRISTMAS” TRANSLATED INTO “ABSEN NATAL”

**Ovina Nindyasari, Raden Arief Nugroho**  
*English Department, Dian Nuswantoro University*

## ABSTRACT

*This thesis is entitled An Analysis of Directive Illocutionary Act of Luther Character in The Novel “Skipping Christmas” written by John Grisham translated into “Absen Natal”. The researcher analyzes Luther Krank because he is the main character in the novel “Skipping Christmas”. This study is aimed to analyze the translation of illocutionary act of the main character and the type of illocutionary act found in the main character. The design of this research was a descriptive qualitative. The unit of analysis in research was utterances of Luther character. The techniques of data analysis were categorizing the novel into classification speech act, tabulating data the novel in target language, looking for the translation pattern, and drawing the conclusion. The result of this analysis shows that there are 6 types of directive illocutionary act found. There are asking, commanding, ordering, suggesting, requesting and forbidding. Based on the data, there are 24 directive illocutionary acts utterances found in this novel. The type which has the most occurrences is asking. It has 11 occurrences or 45,8% from total utterances. From the translation patterns of directive illocutionary acts, there are suggesting to suggesting has 3 utterances, asking to asking which has 11 utterances, forbidding to forbidding has 1 utterance, commanding to commanding has 2 utterances, ordering to ordering has 4 utterances and requesting to requesting has 2 utterances. All directive illocutionary act are having the same structure and meaning from source language to target language. The translator has no difficulties in translating especially Luther character utterances.*

**Keywords :** *Directive illocutionary act, speech act, translation*

*Penelitian ini berjudul Analisis Directive Illocutionary Act dari Luther dalam Novel "Skipping Christmas" yang ditulis oleh John Grisham yang diterjemahkan menjadi "Absen Natal". Peneliti menganalisis Luther Krank karena Luther Krank adalah tokoh utama dalam novel "Skipping Christmas". Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis penerjemahan illocutionary act dari tokoh utama dan jenis illocutionary act dari tokoh utama. Penelitian ini berjenis deskriptif kualitatif. Unit analisis dalam penelitian ini adalah ucapan-ucapan karakter Luther. Teknik analisis data yang dipergunakan adalah mengklasifikasikan speech act dalam novel, tabulasi data bahasa sasaran dari novel, mencari pola penerjemahan, dan mengambil kesimpulan. Berdasarkan hasil analisis, ditemukan 6 jenis directive illocutionary act. Yaitu asking, commanding, ordering, suggesting, requesting dan forbidding. Berdasarkan data penelitian, terdapat 24 kalimat yang mengandung directive illocutionary acts dalam novel ini. Jenis yang paling sering muncul adalah asking yaitu 11 kejadian atau 45,8 % dari total kalimat. Berdasarkan pola penerjemahan directive illocutionary acts, ada suggesting to suggesting yaitu 3 kalimat, asking to asking yaitu 11 kalimat, forbidding to forbidding yaitu 1 kalimat, commanding to commanding yaitu 2 kalimat, ordering to ordering yaitu 4 kalimat dan requesting to requesting yaitu 2 kalimat. Semua directive illocutionary acts memiliki struktur dan makna yang sama dari bahasa sumber ke bahasa sasaran. Penerjemah tidak memiliki kesulitan dalam menerjemahkan khususnya kalimat dari Luther.*

**Kata Kunci :** *Directive illocutionary act, speech act, penerjemahan*

## INTRODUCTION

Translation is basically a change of form. When people speak of the form of language, they are referring to the actual words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraph, which are spoken or written. These forms are referred to as the surface of a language. It is the structural part of language which is actually seen in printed version or heard in speech. In translation, the form of the source language (SL) is replaced by the form of receptor target language (TL).

Translating speech acts includes real-life interactions and requires not only knowledge of the language but also appropriate use of that language within a given culture. (Searle, 1969:16) states that “this action is generally made possible by and conducted in accordance with certain rules for the use of linguistics element.”

Speech act is an utterance that serves a function in communication. A speech act might contain just one word, as in "Sorry!" to perform an apology, or several words or sentences: "I'm sorry I forgot your birthday. I just let it slip my mind." Every speech act can be distinguished by three things (Austin, 1962:14): Firstly, the utterances can be called the locutionary act. Locutionary act is what is said' the form of uttered; the act of saying something, for example: If someone says 'Knock the door!' the locutionary act is the realization of the speaker's utterance. Secondly, speaker's intention toward hearer's is called the illocutionary act, for example: The utterance “ I swear to give it back next time ” is used to perform the illocutionary act of promising. Last, the message that the hearers gets, his interpretation of what the speaker says, is the perlocutionary act, for example: The utterance “ there is something in your shoulder! ” may cause the listener to get panic and to look on his shoulder.

The reason why the researcher uses illocutionary act, because the illocutionary act carried out by a speaker meaning of an utterance is the act viewed in term of the utterance's significance within a conventional system of social interaction. An illocutionary act refers to type of function the speaker intends to fulfill, or the type of action the speaker intends to accomplish in the course of producing utterance.

In this research, the researcher only focuses on the Illocutionary point. It is the characteristic that emphasizes of each type of speech act. For instance, the characteristic that emphasizes an assertion is to describe how things are; the characteristic point of a promise is to commit one self to a future course of action. In this research, the researcher observes the use of directive illocutionary acts. Directive illocutionary act is attempted by the speakers to get the hearers to do something, for example: asking, commanding, requesting, ordering, forbidding, advising, suggesting. Asking is the call for an answer to or about (ask her about it, ask him his name, just asking). Commanding is to be direct with the authority, (give order to). Requesting is the act of asking for something (came at his request. It is not assertion).

Ordering gives an authoritative direction or instruction to do something. Forbidding is to tell (someone) not to do something. Advising is to give (someone) a recommendation about what should be done. Suggesting is to offer for consideration or action, propose (suggest things for someone to do).

The researcher uses “Skipping Christmas” translated into “Absen Natal” novel. Novel is a branch of fiction that is developed late in history, but a relish for stories seems to be as old as recorded humanity. The human love stories mostly two reasons: the readiness to comfort and entertain oneself with fantasy, and the curiosity and desire for insight about reality. According to Koesnosoebroto (1988:28), “novel is a piece of literary work that can be enjoyed and understood in its totality; not separated from the other”.

The researcher selects the novel “Skipping Christmas” translated into “Absen Natal” by John Grisham, as the data of this study because the novel can give a message to purpose translator, researcher and reader. According to Haryati Sulistyorini (2007:2-5) in her thesis entitled, *Perbedaan Persepsi Antara Luther Krank dan Vic Frohmeyer Terhadap Tradisi Natal dalam Novel Skipping Christmas* is a kind of novel which contains a popular phenomenon that tells us a lot about the tradition, culture, and an American institution life.

The researcher analyzes Luther Krank because he is the main character in the novel “Skipping Christmas”. Based on the reasons above the researcher finds an urgency to analyze or research the directive illocutionary act found in Luther character utterance in the novel. Luther Krank character in the novel *Skipping Christmas* is the husband of Nora Krank and the father of Blair Krank. Luther is very stubborn, but loves his family dearly. As the story comes to the end his soft side comes out of him.

From background of study above, the researcher can make a general research problem. The general research problem will be specified into the following research question:

1. How are the illocutionary act of Luther character translated into the target language (TL) form?
2. What type of Illocutionary act was found in Luther character ?

Speech act is an action such as making a statement, giving orders, asking questions, making appointments. According to (Searle, 1969:16) “this action is generally made possible by and conducted in accordance with certain rules for the use of linguistic elements”. There are two types of speech act :

1. Direct Speech Act

It is a conventional speech act that means as what is being talked; that is, declarative sentence functions to tell something, interrogative sentence functions to ask something, and imperative sentence functions to order or command (Wijana, 1996:30).

## 2. Indirect Speech Act

It is speech act that indirectly contains other intention. A command for example, can be an utterance in declarative sentence or interrogative sentence so that who is governed does not feel himself governed.

From this it also follows that ‘the illocutionary speech act is communicatively successful only if the speaker’s illocutionary intention is recognized by the hearer. These intentions are essentially communicative because the fulfillment of illocutionary intentions consists in hearer’s understanding. Not only are such intentions reflexive. Their (speaker and hearer) fulfillment consists in their (speaker and hearer) recognition (Bach and Harnish, 1979: 15).

The objective of this act is to make the hearers do something. The examples are *asking, commanding, requesting, ordering, forbidding, advising, suggesting*; for example: “*I’m thirsty, Give me a cup of water, please!*” The sentence means that the speaker wants the hearer to do something that is getting the drink for the speakers. The sentence indicates a request from speakers to hearers to get the water.

From all categories, the researcher focuses on the Directives Illocutionary Act, because this act helps speakers to make hearers to do something in which is an accordance to his or her will. Directive Illocutionary Act is an Illocutionary Act that makes hearers to do something. Directives Illocutionary Act expresses what the speaker wants, they are *asking, commanding, requesting, ordering, forbidding, advising, suggesting* (Vanderveken, 1990:189).

1. *Asking* calls for an answer to or about (ask her about it, ask him his name, just asking). “Ask” has two distinct directives uses. One can ask someone to do something or ask him / her question (e.g. “ask whether”, “ask why”, “ask whom”), for example: “Where are we going?” The word **where** shows the act of asking.
2. *Commanding* requires authority or at least pretends institutionalized power. Thus, to give an order is to demand of the hearer that he does something while invoking a position of authority or of power over him (special mode of achievement), while a command is just to give an order from a position of authority, for example: “Fly the plane!” The phrase **fly the plane** shows the act of commanding.
3. *Requesting* is often taken to be the paradigmatic directive, but on account of this special mode of achievement is not the primitive, for example: “Could you tell her Archer’s here? and I’ve got the story she wants.” The phrase **could you** shows the act requesting.
4. *Ordering* gives an authoritative direction or instruction to do something, for example: “Can’t it wait?”. The phrase **can’t it** shows the act ordering.
5. *Forbidding* is the propositional negation of ordering. Thus to forbid a hearer to do something is just to order him not to do it, for example: “Do not try to

talk if you're not dead, it's only because you're hit in the lung not the heart". The phrase *Do not try* shows the act of forbidding.

6. *Advising* gives (someone) a recommendation about what should be done, for example : "Good, here's the deal." The words *good* shows the act advising.
7. *Suggesting* in the directive sense, to suggest is just to make a weak attempt to get someone to do something, for example: "How if you put the quiz coupon in an empty space?". The phrase *how if* shows the act of suggesting.

## **METHOD**

### **Research Design**

The design of this research was a descriptive qualitative. The data were described systematically to get an accurate and factual result. In this research, the researcher identified and described the kinds of directive illocutionary acts which occurred in the utterances in novel "Skipping Christmas" translated into "Absen Natal" by John Grisham. The purpose of descriptive research was "to describe systematically the facts and characteristics of a given population or area of interest, factually, and accurately" (Isaac and Michael, 1981:46). One of the characteristics of descriptive research was that it was used in the literal sense of describing situations or events. The data analysis in this research used qualitative data analysis. Qualitative data analysis means that "all data that are analyzed in the form of utterances and words, not in the form of number" (Wilkinson, 2000:7).

### **Unit of Analysis**

Luther's utterances were considered as the focus of this research. The unit of analysis of this research was in the form of utterances found in the novel "Skipping Christmas" Translated into "Absen Natal" by John Grisham. Moreover, the researcher classified the directive illocutionary act of Luther character in the novel "Skipping Christmas".

### **Source of Data**

The source of data in this research was taken from novel Skipping Christmas written by John Grisham with A Division of Random House, Inc (New York in November 2001) and translated by Budiyanto T. Pramono with PT. Gramedia Pustaka Utama (Jakarta in January 2003).

## Technique of Data Collection

The method used in preparing the data related to the subject of this research was documentation method because the researcher used the novel to collect the data. Nawawi (1991: 95) states that the documentation method was “a method of collecting data conducted by classifying the written materials related to the problem of the study used for obtaining the data by some variables such as magazine and books as the data”.

## Technique of Data Analysis

The techniques of data analysis were following these steps: categorizing the novel into speech act classification, tabulating the data (coding and grouping data), looking for the translation pattern, drawing the conclusion.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

There are 49 utterances containing directive illocutionary acts. Those are : asking (22), commanding (4), ordering (8), suggesting (6), requesting (6), forbidding (2).

The occurrences and types of directive illocutionary act found in John Ghrisham “Skipping Christmas” novel can be seen on table 1 below:

**Table 1**  
**Directive Illocutionary Act of Luther Character in the Novel “Skipping Christmas”.**

No.	SL			TL		
	Kind of Directive Illocutionary Act	Occurrence	Percentage (%)	Kind of Directive Illocutionary Act	Occurrence	Percentage (%)
1.	Asking	11	45,8	Asking	11	45,8
2.	Commanding	2	8,3	Commanding	2	8,3
3.	Ordering	4	16,7	Ordering	4	16,7
4.	Suggesting	3	12,5	Suggesting	3	12,5
5.	Requesting	3	12,5	Requesting	3	12,5
6.	Forbidding	1	4,2	Forbidding	1	4,2
	<b>Total</b>	24	100	<b>Total</b>	24	100

Table 1 reveals that the source language contains 11 (45,8%) directive illocutionary acts which are included into asking. It can be said that asking has a high occurrence of usage in this novel.

The next is commanding; there are 2 (8,3%) commandings which are found in this novel. Furthermore, the researcher finds 4 (16,7%) directive illocutionary acts which are included in ordering. Suggesting has got 3 (12,5% ) occurrences. Requesting gets 3 (12,5%) occurrences. The last, Forbidding has only 1 (4,2%).

The directive illocutionary acts in the target language have got the same occurrences as in the source language.

In the analysis, researcher finds some types of directive illocutionary act in the novel “Skipping Christmas” by John Ghrisham, and how the directive illocutionary act are translated into Indonesian.

**Table 2**  
**Translation Pattern of Directive Illocutionary Act**

SL	TL	Appendix No.
Suggesting	Suggesting	1,14,23
Asking	Asking	2,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,20,21
Forbidding	Forbidding	3
Commanding	Commanding	9,18
Ordering	Ordering	13,16,17,19
Requesting	Requesting	15,22,24

From the table above, it can be seen that “asking” is the dominant directive illocutionary act used by Luther character in the novel “Skipping Christmas”.

### **Analysis of the Study Directive Illocutionary Act**

#### **Suggesting into suggesting**

Suggesting in the directive sense, to suggest is just to make a weak attempt to get someone to do something, for example: “How if you put the quiz coupon in an empty space?”. The phrase how if shows the act of suggesting (Vanderveken, 1990:189). Suggesting is characterized by the use of directive sentence.

#### **Asking into asking**

Asking calls for an answer to or about (ask her about it, ask him his name, just asking). “Ask” has two distinct directives uses. One can ask someone to do something or ask him / her question (e.g. “ask whether”, “ask why”, “ask whom”), for

example: “Where are we going?” The word *where* shows the act of asking (Vanderveken, 1990:189). Asking is characterized by the use of interrogative sentence.

### **Forbidding into forbidding**

*Forbidding* is the propositional negation of ordering. Thus, to forbid a hearer to do something is just to order him not to do it, for example: “Do not try to talk if you’re not dead, it’s only because you’re hit in the lung not the heart.” The phrase *Do not try* shows the act of forbidding (Vanderveken, 1990:189).

### **Commanding into commanding**

Commanding requires authority or at least pretends institutionalized power. Thus, to give an order is to demand of the hearer that he does something while invoking a position of authority or of power over him (special mode of achievement), while a command is just to give an order from a position of authority, for example: “Fly the plane!” The phrase *fly the plane* shows the act of commanding (Vanderveken, 1990:189). Commanding is characterized by the use of imperative sentence.

### **Ordering into ordering**

Ordering gives an authoritative direction or instruction to do something, for example : “Can’t it wait?”. The phrase *can’t it* shows the act ordering (Vanderveken, 1990:189).

The characteristics of ordering are imperative sentence and interrogative sentence. The speaker still gives hearer an offer to do something. It is not a compulsory to the hearer. Ordering is characterized by the use of authoritative direction sentence.

### **Requesting into requesting**

*Requesting* is often taken to be the paradigmatic directive, but on account of this special mode of achievement is not the primitive, for example: “Could you tell her Archer’s here? and I’ve got the story she wants.” The phrase *could you* shows the act requesting (Vanderveken, 1990:189). Requesting is characterized by the use of paradigmatic directive sentence.

## CONCLUSION

Directive illocutionary act is a kind of speech act that is used by the speaker to get someone else to do something. It helps the speaker try to change the situation. The Directive illocutionary acts of "Skipping Christmas" novel source language utterances are asking (11 utterances), commanding (2 utterances), ordering (4 utterances), suggesting (3 utterances), requesting (3 utterances) and forbidding (1). The Directive illocutionary acts of Skipping Christmas novel target language utterances are asking (11 utterances), commanding (2 utterances), ordering (4 utterances), suggesting (3 utterances), requesting (3 utterances) and forbidding (1 utterance). After being analyzed, almost all utterances are translated literally.

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