



Impositive speech act in assassin's creed: Renaissance

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Abstract

In English, studies on various forms and functions of speech acts have been carried out by some previous researchers. However, specific studies on impositive speech acts are still limited. The purpose of this research was to find out the forms and functions of impositive speech acts that exist in the forms and functions of the directive, assertive, expressive, commissive, and declarative speech act in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance*. The researcher used three main theories as indicators of impositive speech acts, namely cost-benefit (Leech), face-threatening act (Levinson), and verb (Lee). To analyse the data, the researcher was assisted by three raters to analyse the impositive speech acts through a focus group discussion. Furthermore, all data will be analyzed through four stages, namely domain analysis, taxonomy, componential, and cultural theme analysis. The results showed that the use of speech acts in directive form was the most widely used. At last, the function of the impositive speech act was to command.

Keywords: impositive; speech act; illocution; utterance; novel

1. Introduction

As part of oral communication, speech acts are always used in everyday conversation. One of the speech acts that are commonly used is the impositive speech act. However, not many people are aware that these impositive utterances burden the hearer or only benefit the speaker. An impositive speech act is an utterance that burdens the hearer to do something or is morally burdened (Leech 1983; Brown and Levinson 1987; Lee 1974). Furthermore, the impositive speech will be seen through power, social distance, and rating of imposition as a redressive action aimed at the speech partner. Related to its use, impositive speech acts are not only found in directive speech acts but also in other speech acts such as assertive, commissive, expressive, and declarative (Blum-Kulka, House, and Kasper 1989; Haverkate 1984; Leech 1983; Reiter 2000; Trosborg 2004). The other four categories of speech acts are assertive, commissive, expressive, and declarative.

1.1. Literature review

Research related to TTI on several types of speech acts has been investigated by (Haverkate 1984). However, this study only examines the TTI of the three categories of speech acts proposed by Searle

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(1969), namely: directive, assertive, and commissive. Furthermore, there is no explanation of how TTI is associated with the use of politeness according to the speaker's status. Furthermore, the theory of politeness has also been carried out by (Yaqubi, Saeed, and Khaksari 2016; Borovina 2017; Guo 2002; Martínez Flor 2012; 2005). However, they limit their research only to the types of speech acts of inviting, asking, blaming, and advising and have not used literary works as the object of research. Meanwhile, Brown and Levinson (1987) & Lee (1974) show that there are three main characteristics of how TTI is used, namely: the use of the word's "order", "request" and "equal status" from speakers and speech partners. However, they did not specify how the elements in "ordering" and "asking" were used in terms of the equal status of the speaker and the interlocutor so that the aspect of equality of orders or requests has not yet been explained in detail.

According to experts, TTI itself can be seen from several indicators. The researcher highlights the theory of cost-benefit (Leech, 1983), use of verbs (Lee, 1974), and face-threatening act or abbreviated FTA (Brown & Levinson, 1987). Based on Brown & Levinson (1987) explains that TTI appears as a result of face threats that occur through several motives that burden the relationship between the speaker and the speech partner, namely; (a) the desire to threaten the face of the interlocutor, (b) the desire to make the speech more efficient and show the speech in a state of urgency, and (c) the desire to maintain the speaker's face in front of the speech partner and mitigation only occurs if (b) is greater than (c). Meanwhile, in Leech (1984) it is illustrated by the scale of benefit and cost in an utterance that is seen from the burden and benefit between the speaker and the hearer. For example, you will peel those potatoes which burdens the interlocutor. Furthermore, Lee (1974) gives examples of TTI in verb groups, for example, admonish, advise, appeal, ask, beg, suggest, and submit. Finally, the three indicators in these theories can serve as a reference for identifying the form and function of TTI in this research by involving the context and purpose of using TTI.

Based on previous research, the researcher tried to dig for further information about the impositive speech acts. Apart from being seen from the various forms of speech acts, of course, there will be various functions of each of these speech acts such as commanding, which is a part of the directive speech act, stating is a part of the directive, and refusing is a part of the commissive. The novel chosen for this research is *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance* written by Oliver Bowden, Christie Golden, Matthew Kirby, and Gordon Doherty. This novel is the first novel in the *Assassin's Creed* series which tells the story of Ezio Auditore's struggle to take revenge from criminal collusion that sacrificed the lives of his father, brother, and sister.

1.2. Research questions

Based on the preliminary rationale above, this study attempts to reveal and describe the form and function of TTI in the military field in the form of directive, assertive, commissive, expressive, and declarative speech in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance*. The details of the problem formulation that have been formulated by researchers are as follows:

1. What is the form and function of TTI in directive, assertive, commissive, expressive, and declarative speech in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance*?

2. Method

This research attempts to describe the form and function of impositive speech acts in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance* with a pragmatic approach. All data in this research are in the form of speech acts in the form of directive, assertive, commissive, expressive, and declarative speech acts. Furthermore, the function of speech acts is adjusted to the form of the speech such as commanding,

stating, and mocking. To obtain a comprehensive understanding of impositive speech acts, the data were analyzed using three speech act theories that have a cost-benefit aspect between speakers and interlocutor (Leech, 1984), which contain groups of verbs with positive power in line with Lee's theory (1984), and speech that arises as a result of face threats that occur through several motives that burden the relationship between the speaker and the speech partner (Brown and Levinson, 1987). In this research, data analysis was carried out by reading, listening, and recording the TTI in the novel Assassin's Creed: Reinassance. The novel has a theme of war that involves many characters in it so that it has the potential to use impositive speech acts (Haverkate 1984; 1990). The steps taken by researchers to get in-depth information from the experts are Focus Group Discussions (FGD). That is done to ensure the validity of the research data.

3. Results

The Results section presents the study's findings. Results should be clear and concise. After the implementation of Focus Group Discussion which involved experts in the field of linguistics, the researchers attempted to describe in detail the forms and functions of impositive speech acts in the directive, assertive and commissive, expressive, and declarative speech in the novel Assassin's Creed: Renaissance. Table 1 shows all forms and functions of impositive speech acts.

Table 1. Forms and functions of impositive speech acts

No	Form	Function	Number of data	Percentage
1	Directive	Command	144	34,3%
		Forbid	25	5,9%
		Challenge	1	0,2%
		Request	62	14,7%
		Advise	17	4,05%
		Ask	30	7,14%
		Refuse	1	0,2%
		Begging	2	0,4%
Total			280	66,8 %
2	Expressive	Criticize	6	1,5%
		Mock	28	6,7%
		Showing anger	28	6,7%
		Accusing	4	0,9%
		Expressing anger	3	0,8%
		Expressing fear	1	0,2%
		Expressing frustration	2	0,4%
		Expressing disappointment	2	0,4%
		Blame	4	0,9%
		Curse	6	1,5%
		Protest	1	0,2%
		Underestimating	3	0,8%
Total			88	21%
3.	Assertive	Declare:	14	3,34%
Total			14	3,34%
4.	commissive	Threatening	26	6,3%
		Promise	4	0,9%
		Refuse	4	0,9%
Total			34	8,1%
	Declarative	Declaration	1	0,23%

5.			
Total		1	0,23%
TOTAL AMOUNT OF DATA		419	100%

In the table 1, it can be seen that from 419 data, there are 280 (66, 8%) data belongs to Directive speech acts which consists of eight functions of impositive speech acts, namely, 144 (34.4%) order, 25 (5.9%) forbid, 1 (0.2%) challenge, 62 (14.7%) request, 17 (4.05%) advised, 30 (17.4 %) ask, 1 (0.2%) refuse and 2 (0.4%) begging. Then, Expressive speech acts which totalled 88 (21%) data consisting of twelve functions of impositive speech acts, namely, criticizing 6 (1.5%), mocking 28 (6.7%), showing anger 28 (6.7%), accusing 4 (0.9%), expressing anger 3 (0.8%), expressing fear 1 (0.2%), expressed frustration 2 (0.4%), expressed disappointment 2 (0.2%), blaming 4 (0.9%), cursing 6 (1.5%), protesting 1 (0, 2%) and underestimating 2 (0.8%). Further, the use of Assertive speech act are 14 (3.34%) data which only in the function of stating 14 (3, 34%). Furthermore, the use of Commissive 34 (8.1%) which consists of eight functions of impositive speech acts, namely, threatened 26 (6.3%), promised 4 (0.9%) and refused 4 (0.9%). Finally, the use of Declarative speech act with total only 1(0.2%) data with the function declarative.

The use of the directive speech acts in the novel Assassin's Creed: Renaissance is divided into eight functions, namely, order, forbid, challenge, ask, advise, ask, refuse and plead as described in the following table.

Table 2. Use of the directive speech in the novel Assassin's Creed: Renaissance

No	Function	Frequency	Percentage
1	Command	144	34,3%
2	forbid	25	5,9%
3	Challenging	1	0,2%
4	Request for	62	14,7%
5	Advise	17	4.05%
6	Ask	30	7,14%
7	Refuse	1	0,2%
8	Begging	2	0,4%
Total		280	66,8 %

The table above shows that the use of the *directive* speech act in the commanding function is 144 (34.3%). Next, in the forbid function with totaled 25 (5.9%), challenge 1 (0.2%) and request 62 (14.7%). Furthermore, in the advising function, there are 17 (4.05%), asking 30 (7.14%) and refusing 1 (0.2%). Finally, the request function is 2 (0.4%). The following is a review of functional directive speech according to the number of frequencies.

Example of Directive speech act with the command function

001	<i>Silence my friends!</i>
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On data 001, *Silence my friends!* is a form of *directive* speech acts which has a commanding function. The utterance represents an order from someone who has *power* more than the speech partner. This results in the speech partner being burdened to follow the speaker's orders.

Example of Directive speech acts with the forbidding function

002	<i>Enough of your nonsense, grullo</i>
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In data 002, **Enough of your nonsense, grullo** is a form of directive speech that has a forbidding function. The utterance represents the forbidding given by speakers who have power over their interlocutors.

Example of Directive speech acts with the challenge function

006	<i>Let's see if you fight as well as you gabble!</i>
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On data 006, **Let's see if you fight as well as you gabble!** Is a form of directive speech acts that has a challenge function. The utterance represents the challenge of speakers to their interlocutors.

Example of Directive speech act with the request function

018	<i>Time to go home, little brother</i>
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In data 018, speech *Time to go home, little brother* is a form of directive speech acts that has a request function. The utterance represents request of speakers to their interlocutors.

Example of Directive speech act with the advising function

016	<i>You've made quite a mess of yourself this time, young man. Can't you people think of anything better to do than go around beating each other up?</i>
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In data 016, speech *You've made quite a mess of yourself this time, young man. Can't you people think of anything better to do than go around beating each other up?* Is a form of directive speech act that has an advising function. The utterance represents the advising given by speakers to their interlocutors.

Example of Directive speech act with ask function

051	<i>Have you delivered the documents?</i>
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On data 051, speech *Have you delivered the documents?* is a form of directive speech that has the function of asking. The utterance represents a question given by the speaker to the speech partner to complete a job.

Example of Directive speech act with the refuse function

097	No
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On data 097, **No!** is a form of directive speech acts that has refuse function. The utterance represents refusal of speakers to their interlocutors.

Example of Directive speech acts with the begging function

389	<i>Stop running away, please!</i>
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On data 389, speech ***Stop running away, please!*** Is a form of directive speech that has a begging function. The utterance represents the begging of speakers to their interlocutors.

Table 3. Use of the directive speech in the novel Assassin's Creed: Renaissance

No	Function	Frequency	Percentage
1	Criticize	6	1,5%
2	Mock	28	6,7%
3	Showing anger	28	6,7%
4	Accusing	4	0,9%
5	Expressing anger	3	0,8%
6	Expressing fear	1	0,2%
7	Expressing frustration	2	0,4%
8	Expressing disappointment	2	0,4%
9	Blame	4	0,9%
10	Damn	6	1,5%
11	Protest	1	0,2%
12	Underestimating	3	0,8%
Total		280	66,8 %

The table above shows that the use of Expressive speech acts in the criticize function is 6 (1.5%). Next, the mocking function is 28 (6.7%), showing anger 28 (6.7%), accusing 4 (0.9%), expressing anger (0.8), and expressing fear 1 (0.2%). Furthermore, in the functions of expressing frustration 2 (0.4%), expressing disappointment 2 (0.4%), blaming 4 (0.9%), cursing 6 (1.5%), and protesting 1 (0.2 %). Finally, the underestimate function is 3 (0.8%). The following is a review of directive speech act functions according to the number of frequencies.

Examples of expressive speech acts with criticize function

005	<i>that's quite enough from you, Ezio, you little prick!</i>
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On data 005, ***that's quite enough from you, Ezio, you little prick!*** Is an expressive form of speech that has the function of criticize. The utterance represents the criticize of speakers to their interlocutors.

Examples of expressive speech acts with mocking function

030	<i>Is that the best you can do?</i>
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On data 030, ***Is that the best you can do?*** Is an expressive speech form that has a mocking function. The utterance represents the mocking from speakers to their interlocutors.

Example of expressive speech acts with showing anger function

040	<i>Do you think me blind and deaf, my son?</i>
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On data 040, ***Do you think me blind and deaf, my son?*** Is an expressive form of speech that has the function of showing anger. The utterance represents the anger of speakers to their interlocutors.

Examples of expressive speech acts with accusing function

419

| your kind betrayed us

In data 419, ***your kind betrayed us*** is an expressive form of speech acts that has the function of accusing. The utterance represents the accusation of speakers to their interlocutors.

Forms and functions of impositive in assertive speech acts

The use of the *assertive* speech in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance* only exists in one function, namely declaring. Further description is given in the following table.

Table 4. Use of the directive speech in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance*

No	Function	Frequency	Percentage
1	Declare:	14	3,34%
Total		14	3,34 %

The table above shows that the use of *Expressive* speech in the function is 6 (1.5%). The following is a review of assertive speech acts functional according to the number of frequencies.

Examples of expressive speech acts with criticize function

027

| I'm not sure you're getting the message

In data 027, ***I'm not sure you're getting the message*** is a form of assertive speech that has the function of stating. The utterance represents a statement from the speaker that burdens the hearer.

Forms and functions of impositive in commissive speech acts.

The use of the *commissive* speech acts in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance* is divided into three categories, namely; threaten, promise, and refuse. Further description is given in the following table.

Table 5. Use of the directive speech in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance*

No	Function	Frequency	Percentage
1	Threatening	26	6,3%
2	Promise	4	0,9%
3	Refuse	4	0,9%
Total		34	8,1%

The table above shows that the use of *commissive* speech acts in the threatening function is 6 (1.5%). Next, the promised function is 4 (0.9%) and refusing is 4 (0.9%). The following is a review of functional commissive speech according to the number of frequencies.

Examples of expressive speech acts with threatening function

031

| Shut your mouth or by God I'll kill you!

In data 031, ***Shut your mouth or by God I'll kill you!*** Is a form of commissive speech that has a threatening function. The utterance represents a threatening from the speaker to the hearer.

Examples of expressive speech acts with promise function

249	<i>I will put you on your knees</i>
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In data 249, ***I will put you on your Knees*** is a form of commissive speech that has a promise function. The utterance represents a promise from the speaker to the hearer.

Examples of expressive speech with rejection function

102	<i>But just now, I cannot stay</i>
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In data 102, ***But just now, I cannot stay*** is a form of commissive speech which has the function of rejecting. The utterance represents a rejection from the speaker to the hearer.

Forms and functions of impositive in declarative speech acts

Use of the *declarative* speech in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance* only exists in one function, namely declaring. Further description is given in the following table.

Table 6. Use of the directive speech in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance*

No	Function	Frequency	Percentage
1	Declaration	1	0,2%
Total		1	0,2 %

The table above shows that the use of *Declarative* speech in the declaration function is 6 (1.5%). The following is a review of the declarative utterances.

Example 1

088	<i>I hereby sentence you all to death, the sentence to be carried out immediately!</i>
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In data 088, ***I hereby sentence you all to death, the sentence to be carried out immediately!*** Is a form of declarative speech that has a declaration function. The utterance represents it.

4. Discussion

This study shows how the concept of impositive speech acts is applied to all forms of speech acts in the novel *Assassin's Creed: Renaissance*. The research question investigates the form and function of impositive speech acts which are divided into the directive, assertive, commissive, expressive, and declarative speech acts. Furthermore, in the function of the speech acts, the researcher found different functions with the most kinds of functions found in expressive speech acts. Many previous studies have reviewed impositive speech acts which only focused on one form and function of impositive speech acts. Most of these studies discuss impositive speech acts in directive speech only.

The research on impositive speech acts in directive speech acts mostly examines the functions of commanding, requesting, inviting, and how the speech can be refined. Research on impositive speech acts with the function of asking has been carried out by (Borovina, 2017; Lee-Wong, 1994; Pluszczyk, 2017; Martínez Flor, 2012; 2005; Haddad, 2019). This study limits its study to only one function of the impositive speech act which should not be limited to the asking functions on speech acts. In contrast to this study, the researcher tries to find the functions of impositive speech acts that exist in

the directive form such as prohibiting, ordering, rejecting which will threaten the interlocutor. Besides, this research also tries to find the function of impositive speech acts in other forms of speech acts such as criticize, mocking, and underestimating in expressive speech acts.

The findings in this research of impositive speech acts are more dominant in the form and function of directive speech acts. It can be seen by the dominance of directive speech acts of 66% with eight functions such as commanding, forbidding, challenging, advising, asking, refusing, and begging. Furthermore, the function of commanding speech acts is mostly found not only in directive speech acts but in the whole function of speech acts. In contrast to previous studies such as Culpeper & Archer (2008) examined the impositive speech acts with the use of indirective speech between speakers in role-playing texts in 1640-1760. This study uses a corpus of data as a research methodology by looking at sociopragmatic records and the function of the social context at that time. The results of the study showed that the text of the drama at that time, of 73% used impositive speech. This research is still studying the utterances of asking and commanding especially by looking at the scale of its indirectness. Not only that, Yaqubi et al., (2016) only examines the impositive speech acts by looking at offering and inviting utterances in 10 Iranian films. This study uses the theory proposed by (Leech, 1983). The result of this research shows that impositive speech in the form of a cost-benefit scale can explain the politeness implicatures that appear in performing speech acts as seen on the directness-indirectness scale. Next, Borovina (2017) examines how Command language learners in Croatia use the impositive speech acts using requesting speech. Data were taken using the Discourse Completion Test (DCT) which contained 10 school-related activities. The results of this research indicate that there is a modification of the use of the impositive in asking speech acts by using the word "please" and the past tense or modals. Not much different from previous research, this impositive speech acts research also only discusses asking speech.

In contrast to previous research, the advantages of this research are the researcher not only looks the impositive speech acts in one form of speech act. Besides, this research seeks into at the various functions of impositive speech acts used in the directive, assertive, expressive, commissive, and declarative speech acts. Overall, this study seeks to see a broader perspective on impositive speech acts using three theories, namely cost-benefit, face-threatening acts, and verbs. The weakness in this research is the difficulty in finding impositive speech acts in declarative speech acts. This happens because directive speech is usually spoken by someone who has the authority or has power over many people. Thus, further researchers can try to find sources of research on declarative speech acts.

5. Conclusions

This research reveals the use of impositive speech acts in all forms of speech acts such as directive, assertive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. By using three theoretical approaches, the researcher found that the most widely used impositive speech acts were directive speech acts with a commanding function. As a novel that has a military theme, *Assassin's Creed novels: Renaissance* has a lot of utterances that burden the interlocutor such as commanding and condescending. Next, the impositive speech acts occurs because of the difference in power between speakers. Impositive speech is usually done by speakers who have more power over the interlocutor. Conversely, if the speaker has lower power than the speech partner, then the speaker usually tries to refine the speech. Not only power, social distance between speakers and interlocutors can also lead to impositive speech acts. For example, a general can give orders to his troops to do so. Finally, affect distance or emotional closeness between the speaker and the hearer can occur because of the distance between them. Thus, this research can provide knowledge to speakers to be more careful about the speech used, especially regarding impositive speech acts. In everyday communication, we can smooth out impositive speech so as not to burden the interlocutor.

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