

REQUEST STRATEGIES IN LITTLE BIG SHOTS UK

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Abstract

This study examined the speech act of request appeared in a television show, Little Big Shots UK. It was a descriptive qualitative study, which the data were utterances in the form of sentences, clauses or words in Little Big Shots UK. The data were collected through the observation and non-participatory technique and analyzed by using the pragmatic identity analysis. The objective of this study was to find out the types of request strategies applied by the speakers in the Little Big Shots UK using the theory of Trosborg (1995). From the collected data, researcher found 37 data of requesting speech act, which 13 (35,1%) data categorized as direct request (2 data using necessity/obligation strategy; 2 data using performative strategy; and 9 data using imperative strategy), 12 (32,4%) data categorized as hearer-oriented condition (8 data using ability/willingness strategy; 4 using suggestory formulae strategy), 11 (29,7%) data categorized as speaker-based condition (9 data using wishes/desire strategy; 2 data using needs/demands strategy), and 1 (2,7%) data categorized as indirect (mild hint strategy).

Keywords: Directive speech act, request, speech act

INTRODUCTION

In realizing desires, people tend to regulating, suggesting, warning, influencing, or even forcing people around them. In this case, people have many ways to convey what they want by the utterances. For example, in situation where someone expresses his/her desire not to meet during his/her recess time, he/she can use several ways such as some utterances below.

- (1) "I cannot. It's my break time"
- (2) "Well, I have to take a lunch"
- (3) "Would you come after my break time?"

The utterances above show people naturally have some ways in controlling others according to what they want. People do not always convey his/her wish directly like (1), but it could be in the form of hinting like (2), or in the form of question (3). Each utterance above shows

the level of directness in making a request or called as strategies in making request.

As cited in Rachmasari (2013), Trosborg stated that requesting is the part of directive speech act that the speaker uses to make the hearer to do something. Trosborg (as cited in Susilo, 2015) classified into 4 categories divided into 8 strategies of request strategies, each strategy shows the level of directness.

1) Indirect request, the utterance is categorized as indirect request if speaker does not want to state his/her intention explicitly (hinting strategy). In this case, speaker can ignore whole act of desire (mild hint) or the speaker's desire can be partially mentioned (strong hint). Examples: "It's hot in here" (mild hint), "I'm freezing at here, please turn off the AC for me!" (strong hint).

2) Hearer-oriented condition/conventionally indirect, this term used in the condition when the hearer

roles as the controller. This categorization divided into 2 strategies, 1) questioning hearer ability/willingness, which when the speaker asks for hearer ability or willingness. In this case, the hearer must deduce that question regarding his/her ability/willingness to do the specific action as what the speaker ask. Example: “Would you like to drive me home?”, 2) Suggestory formulae, which the speaker more urges the hearer to be cooperative in doing what he/she asks. Example: “Why don’t you come and sit with me here?”.

3) Speaker-based condition, the speaker focuses on her/his own desire rather than inquiring hearer-oriented condition. This categorization divided into 2 strategies, 1) wishes/desire, which the speaker statement that expressed related to her/his intention politely. Example: “I would like to come to your house”, 2) need/demands, it is the speaker declaration that expressed related to her/his intention bluntly. Example: “I need your paper”.

4) Direct request, speaker explicitly say what her/his desire. Direct request categorization divided into 3 strategies, 1) necessity/obligation, it is when the speaker pushes the hearer to do what he/she wants based on speaker’s authority. Example: “You ought to go to school tomorrow”, 2) performative, it is when the speaker’s intention directly requested, usually use the words like “I ask you”, “I request you”, “I command you”, and etc), 3) imperative, it is directly said in making a request, command, warning, or advice. Example: “Open the gate!”.

In order to support this research, some related topic of requesting studies cited in this article. The first previews study is Sari (2017) which explored request strategies by the characters in *Pride and Prejudice* novel using theory of Kulka, House, and Kasper theory. The second is “The Speech Act of Request in the ESL Classroom” by Thuruvan & Yunus (2017)

which identified the types of request strategies employed by the participants in making requests and explore the factors influencing their choice of strategies based on Blum-Kulka and Olshstain’s CCSARP framework and Brown and Levinson’s politeness theory. The third is “Speech Act of Requests Found in Different Rating Films” by Amelia & Firdaus (2018) which identified the forms of strategies and functions, and the relations between the uses of strategies based on Trosborg’s theory and functions of requests in English are found in several films with different ratings based on Tsui’s Theory. Knowing that requesting is available in some different fields, researcher interested to find out the request strategies in the different aspect—in broadcasting media. Therefore, this research was made to identify the types of request strategies appear in a television show, *Little Big Shots UK* using the theory of Trosborg.

METHODS

This research used descriptive qualitative approach and had done through non-participant observation method. According to Kothari (as cited in Ratnasari & Edel, 2017) qualitative research concerned with qualitative phenomenon which involved the quality of variety, while Sudaryanto (as cited in Ambalegin & Arianto, 2018) stated that non-participant observation is a method where the researcher does not involved in the conversation or dialog, the researcher only as observer of the conversation. It means that, this research refers to natural phenomena on particular field which the writer rolled as observer or did not involve in the dialogue. In conducting the research, researcher used three steps: 1) Data providing, 2) Data analysis, and 3) Presenting the result. The data were taken from the utterances appeared through the

observation done by watching some different episodes of *Little Big Shots UK* on YouTube. The data in this research were the utterances in the form of words, phrases, and sentences which indicate the requesting speech act. They were analyzed based on the request strategy categorization purposed by Trosborg by using the pragmatics identity analysis. It means that the data was identified by considering the situation and context during the conversation. Then the results or data findings was presented in the number form.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

From the observation had done, it was identified 37 utterances indicated the requesting speech act in *Little Big Shots UK*. Thirteen (35,1%) data were categorized as direct request, twelve data (32,4%) were categorized as hear-oriented condition, eleven data (29,7%) were categorized as speaker-based condition, and a (2,7%) data was categorized as

indirect/hinting request.

DISCUSSIONS

Data 1

Dawn: “Wonderful. **Should we have a little look at you in action?**”

The first data was a utterance uttered by the presenter, Dawn. In this situation, Dawn as a speaker asked the audiences to look at the widescreen behind her. This utterance categorized as speaker-based condition request, which the speaker uttered the needs/demands strategy in delivering request politely. In this case, the speaker urged the hearer to focus on her intention not bluntly, by asking question.

Data 2

Dawn: “**Could you give me any singing tips?**”

The second data was a utterance uttered by the presenter to the guest star. In this case, Dawn as a speaker already knew the guest star ability (singing), so the hearer knew what should he/she does. It showed the hearer-oriented condition, which the hearer must deduce that question regarding his/her (hearer) ability/willingness to do the specific action as what the speaker ask.

Data 3

Shappire: “Right? Okay. **So we take two fingers and we push the jigs up like that. And there you go, brrrrrrr.**”

The third data was a utterance said by the Saphire/guest star to the presenter. In this dialogue, presenter asked for some singing tips to the guest star, then Shappire directly said to the hearer to do what he/she wants based on her/his authority as interviewee. This data was categorized as direct request based on necessity/obligation strategy.

Data 4

Dawn: “Now I'm let to believe that you can copy of the popstars, is that true?”

Shappire: “Yeah.”

Table 1. Categorization of requesting strategies in the *Little Big Shots UK*

Categories	Strategies	Amount of Data
Indirect request	Str. 1 Hinting	1
Hearer-based condition	Str. 2 Ability/Willingness	8
	Str. 3 Suggestory Formulae	4
Speaker-based condition	Str. 4 Wishes/Desire	9
	Str. 5 Needs/Demands	2
Direct request	Str. 6 Necessity/Obligation	2
	Str. 7 Performative	2
	Str. 8 Imperative	9
Total		37

Dawn: **“Go on!”**

The fourth data showed Dawn as the speaker gave command to the hearer to imitate the pop stars. This data categorized as a direct request, using the imperative strategy in it was directly said to make a request/command.

Data 5

Dawn: **“Is there anymore?”**

The fifth data was a utterance uttered by the presenter to the guest star. It showed the hearer-oriented condition, which the hearer must conclude that question regarding his/her (hearer) ability/willingness to do the specific action as what the speaker ask. In this case, Dawn as a speaker already knew the guest star ability (impersonating pop stars), so the hearer knew what should he/she does.

Data 6

Dawn: **“Should we be doing that?**

I’ve never met a kungfu warrior before so I don’t really know what to do.”

The sixth data was a utterance said by the presenter to the shaolin expert. In this situation, Dawn asked for the guest star to bowing like shaolin usually do. This utterance was categorized as hearer-oriented condition using the ability/willingness strategy, which the hearer must conclude that question regarding his/her (hearer) ability/willingness to bowing like a shaolin usually do.

Data 7

Dawn : **“Can you pull off a little bit scary kungfu face?”**

The seventh data was a utterance uttered by the presenter to the shaolin expert. In this situation, Dawn asked for the guest star to show his scary kungfu face. This utterance was categorized as hearer-oriented condition using the ability/willingness strategy, which the hearer must conclude that question regarding his/her (hearer)

ability/willingness to express the scary kungfu face.

Data 8

Dawn: **“Are these the weapon or something that you’ve got in here?”**

The eighth data utterance said by the presenter to show her desire to take a look at the things she wanted to see. This utterance was categorized as speaker-based using the wishes/desire strategy, which the speaker declaration that expressed related to her/his intention.

Data 9

Junayde: **“Yeah. First, I’d like you to see this .”**

The ninth data showed that Junayde (as the speaker) made a request to Dawn (as a hearer). Here, the speaker had a necessity to do by the hearer. The speaker asked the hearer to follow what the speaker demanded (to see the thing that speaker brought), it was known that the speaker controlled the situation. It was identified the requesting speech act uttered by the speaker in the conversation above categorized as a speaker-based condition using the needs/demands strategy.

Data 10

Dawn: **“Okay, I’d like to see what you’ve got in there.”**

The tenth data was a utterance said by the presenter to the shaolin expert. In this situation, the speaker said the utterance based on her desire to see what the hearer brought. This data categorized as speaker-based condition using wishes/desire strategy, which the speaker statement that expressed related to her/his intention politely.

Data 11

Dawn: **“Uh, careful! Oh my goodness, wow how impressive is that.”**

The eleventh data showed Dawn as a speaker gave command to the hearer to be careful when opening a kind of sword.

This utterance was categorized as a direct request, using the imperative strategy which the speaker directly said to the hearer in order to make a request/command.

Data 12

Junayde: "Now, its noise if you may could this. **You wanna try?**"

The twelfth data showed Junayde as a speaker offered the hearer to try the weapon that speaker brought. It was a speaker-based condition using the wishes/desire strategy, which the speaker declaration that expressed related to her/his intention politely.

Data 13

Junayde: "**You need to go straight.**"

The thirteenth data was a utterance said by the guest star/Junayde to the presenter. In this dialogue, presenter tried a warrior tools in a wrong way, then Junayde directly said to the hearer to do what he/she wants based on her/his authority as a shaolin. This data was categorized as direct request based on necessity/obligation strategy.

Data 14

Junayde: "**Oh, I bought some other weapon.**"

Dawn: "Did you? Can I have a look?"

The fourteenth data showed Junayde as a speaker indirectly uttered what he wanted. It was categorized as indirect request, which speaker does not want to state his/her intention explicitly (hinting strategy). In this case, speaker ignore whole act of desire (mild hint). So the hearer had desire to see the other weapon he brought.

Data 15

Dawn: "Did you? **Can I have a look?**"

The fifteenth data Dawn as a speaker wished that she could have a look on the weapons that shaolin brought. It is

categorized as speaker based condition using wishes/desire strategy which the speaker's declaration that expressed related to her/his intention politely.

Data 16

Junayde: "So, I'd try this one."

Dawn: "Right, okay."

Junayde: "So it comes like this, and this. **Try it!**"

The sixteenth data showed Junayde as the speaker gave command to the hearer to try the shaolin weapon. This utterance was categorized as a direct request, using the imperative strategy it was directly said to make a request/command.

Data 17

Junayde: "Okay one more time, **poke!**"

The seventeenth data showed Junayde as the speaker gave command to the hearer to poke the things that hearer bought. This utterance was categorized as a direct request, using the imperative strategy it was directly said to make a request/command.

Data 18

Dawn : "This is painful."

Junayde: "Okay. Alright, I"

Dawn: "**Yeah, you show me!**"

The eighteenth data showed Dawn as the speaker gave command to the hearer to show her how actually the shaolin's weapon works. This utterance was categorized as a direct request, using the imperative strategy it was directly said to make a request/command.

Data 19

Junayde: "This just spinning, you know, **just spin it!**"

The nineteenth data showed Junayde as the speaker gave command to the hearer to spin the shaolin weapons. This utterance was categorized as a direct request, using the imperative strategy it was directly said to make a request/command.

Data 20

Dawn: "I like this little guy, bring me lots of presents. **Oh, hang on!**"

The twentieth data showed Dawn as the speaker gave command to the hearer to be careful of the weapon that hearer bring. This utterance was categorized as a direct request, using the imperative strategy it was directly said to make a request/command.

Data 21

Junayde: "**I want you to try open it.**"

The twenty-first data Junayde wished for hearer to open the weapon he brought. It was categorized as speaker-based condition using wishes/desire strategy which the speaker's declaration that expressed related to her/his intention politely.

Data 22

Dawn: "I think we gonna need a translator actually, yeah. So, **could somebody come and help us, please, someone that can speak the lingo?**"

The twenty-second data was categorized as speaker-based condition using wishes/desire strategy which the speaker's declaration that expressed related to her/his intention politely. In this situation, Dawn wished for someone who can help her in different language.

Data 23

Dawn: "I really want to see your video. **So, can we look at that right now please?**"

The twenty-third data was categorized as speaker based condition using wishes/desire strategy, which the speaker's declaration that expressed related to her/his intention politely. In this situation, Dawn direct the hearer to the wide screen right behind her.

Data 24

Dawn: "**Can you copy any dance step?**"

Yandrei: "Yes."

The twenty-fourth data was categorized as hearer-oriented condition for hearer's ability using willingness strategy. In this case, the hearer must deduce that question regarding his/her ability to do the specific action as what the speaker ask (copying the dancing step).

Data 25

Dawn: "**Alright, try this!**"

The twenty-fifth data showed Dawn as the speaker gave command to the hearer to do what she practiced. This utterance was categorized as a direct request, using the imperative strategy it was directly said to make a request/command.

Data 26

Dawn: "Wow, you look amazing. **Come and sit down.**"

The twenty-sixth data was categorized as hearer-oriented condition, using suggestory formulae strategy, which the speaker more urges the hearer to be cooperative in doing what he/she asks.

Data 27

Dawn: "**Can you turn around so I can take a look at back.**"

The twenty-seventh data was categorized as speaker-based condition using wishes/desire strategy, which the speaker's declaration that expressed related to her/his intention politely. In this situation, Dawn direct the hearer to turn back and so she got what she wanted.

Data 28

Dawn: "I don't even really know how to say this kind of dancing, **will you help me with the pronunciation please.**"

The twenty-eighth data was categorized as hearer-oriented condition for hearer's ability using willingness strategy. In this case, the hearer must deduce that question regarding his/her ability to do the specific action as what the speaker ask (help her in pronounced the word).

Data 29

Dawn: “Disgusted? **I want to see that.**”

The twenty-ninth data was categorized as the direct request using performative strategy, it is when the speaker’s intention directly requested. In this situation, the speaker wanted the hearer to do the disgusted dance directly.

Data 30

Dawn: “**Come and sit at here.**”

The thirtieth data was categorized as hearer-oriented condition, using suggestory formulae strategy, which the speaker more urges the hearer to be cooperative in doing what he/she asks.

Data 31

Dawn: “Oh my goodness, oh my goodness, nice to meet you. **Come and sit down.**”

The thirty first data was categorized as hearer-oriented condition, using suggestory formulae strategy, which the speaker more urges the hearer to be cooperative in doing what he/she asks.

Data 32

Dawn: “**We’re going to need a little big translator please.**”

The thirty second data was categorized as speaker based condition using wishes/desire strategy which the speaker’s declaration that expressed related to her/his intention politely. In this situation, Dawn wished for someone who can help her in different language.

Data 33

Dawn: “Hi Kai, **will you ask Evnika, how long she’s been boxing for?**”

The thirty-third data was categorized as hearer-oriented condition for hearer’s ability using willingness strategy. In this case, the hearer must deduce that question regarding his/her ability to do the specific action as what the speaker ask (interpret her question to the guest, in different language).

Data 34

Dawn: “So, Evnika we’ve got a clip of you in action. **Have a look at this!**”

The thirty-fourth data showed Dawn as the speaker gave command to the hearer to have a look at the widescreen. This utterance was categorized as a direct request, using the imperative strategy it was directly said to make a request/command.

Data 35

Dawn: “Why, I mean all day of they had could big dancing family then?”

Kai: “Well, it’s kind of”

Dawn: “**You might after actually ask her.**”

The thirty-fifth data was categorized as the direct request using performative strategy, it is when the speaker’s intention directly requested. Here the speaker wanted the interpreter (Kai) answer her question after he actually ask the interviewee.

Data 36

Dawn : “I’ve never done any boxing before. But, **I know this is special way to stand, would you show me?**”

The thirty-sixth data was categorized as hearer oriented condition using questioning hearer’s ability/willingness strategy, which when the speaker asks for hearer’s ability or willingness. In this case, the hearer must deduce that question regarding his/her ability to do the specific action as what the speaker ask (teaching the speaker boxing).

Data 37

Dawn : “Hi Akash, **come and sit down.**”

The thirty-seventh data was categorized as hearer-oriented condition, using suggestory formulae strategy, which the speaker more urges the hearer to be cooperative in doing what he/she asks.

CONCLUSION

From the discussions above, it was found types of request strategy within 4 categorization proposed by Troborg's in the Little Big Shots UK. There were 37 data of request speech act found, which 13 (35,1%) data categorized as direct request (2 data using necessity/obligation strategy; 2 data using performative strategy; and 9 data using imperative strategy), 12 (32,4%) data categorized as hearer-oriented condition (8 data using ability/willingness strategy; 4 using suggestory formulae strategy), 11 (29,7%) data categorized as speaker-based condition (9 data using wishes/desire strategy; 2 data using needs/demands strategy), and 1 (2,7%) data categorized as indirect/mild hinting request.

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