



Vol 09 No. 01 (2025) page 237-244

p-ISSN 2548-8201 | e-ISSN 2580-0469

<https://ummaspul.e-journal.id/maspuljr/>

# The Function of Directive Speech Acts in Pepi Al-Bayqunie's Novel *Calabai*

Isnaeni

Universitas Negeri Makassar

Email: [isnaeni@unm.ac.id](mailto:isnaeni@unm.ac.id)

Submitted: 12/01/2025

Accepted: 22/02/2025

Received: 01/03/2025

## Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan fungsi tindakan ucapan perintah yang terdapat dalam novel *Calabai* karya Pepi Al-Bayqunie. Tindakan bahasa perintah adalah jenis ucapan yang bertujuan untuk membuat mitra bicara melakukan suatu tindakan, seperti memerintah, memberi nasihat, meminta, melarang, dan sebagainya. Novel *Calabai* dipilih karena mengandung banyak dialog yang menggambarkan dinamika sosial dan budaya karakternya, terutama dalam konteks kehidupan bissu di Sulawesi Selatan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan pragmatik dengan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Data diperoleh dari ucapan karakter dalam novel yang mengandung tindakan ucapan direktif, kemudian dianalisis berdasarkan teori tindakan ucapan Searle (1976) dan fungsi ilokusi menurut Leech (1993). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tindakan ucapan direktif dalam novel *Calabai* memiliki berbagai fungsi, termasuk fungsi kompetitif (perintah, permintaan, teguran), fungsi menyenangkan (salam, hiburan), dan fungsi kooperatif (nasihat, advokasi). Fungsi-fungsi ini mencerminkan hubungan sosial, nilai-nilai budaya, dan konflik batin karakter, terutama dalam menghadapi norma-norma sosial dan agama. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan tindakan ucapan direktif dalam karya sastra tidak hanya bersifat komunikatif, tetapi juga sarat dengan makna sosial dan budaya.

**Kata kunci:** tindakan ucapan, direktif, fungsi ilokusi, pragmatik, novel *Calabai*

## Abstract

This study aims to describe the function of directive speech acts contained in the novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie. Directive speech act is a type of speech that aims to make speech partners perform an action, such as commanding, advising, requesting, prohibiting, and so on. The novel *Calabai* was chosen because it contains many dialogs that represent the social and cultural dynamics of its characters, especially in the context of the lives of bissu in South Sulawesi. This research uses pragmatics approach with qualitative descriptive method. The data were obtained from the speech of the characters in the novel containing directive speech acts, then analyzed based on Searle's (1976) speech act theory and the illocutionary function according to Leech (1993). The results show that directive speech acts in *Calabai* novel have various functions, including competitive functions (commanding, requesting, reprimanding), pleasant functions (greeting, entertaining), and cooperative functions (advising, advocating). These functions reflect the social relations, cultural values, and inner conflicts of the characters, especially in dealing with social and religious norms. This research shows that the use of directive speech acts in literary works is not only communicative, but also full of social and cultural meanings.

**Keywords:** speech act, directive, illocutionary function, pragmatics, *Calabai* novel

## Introduction

Language is the main human communication tool used in oral and written form. These two varieties give birth to speech act symptoms because speech does not only convey information, but also contains certain intentions.

In literary works, especially novels, speech acts become an important element that reflects the dynamics of communication between characters. One type of speech act that is interesting to analyze is directive speech act, which is a speech act that aims to influence speech partners to perform an action.

The novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie, which is based on the true story of a *bissu* named Saidi, is full of dialog that reflects the social, cultural, and psychological conditions of the characters. In this novel, many directive speeches are found in various forms such as commanding, advising, pleading, and forbidding. These utterances not only have pragmatic value, but also reflect power relations, cultural values, and the characters' inner conflicts.

Based on this, this article aims to examine the function of directive speech acts in the novel *Calabai*. The analysis will refer to Leech's classification of speech act functions, which divides directive functions into competitive, pleasing, cooperating, and opposing functions. Thus, this study is expected to reveal the communication dynamics of the characters in the novel as well as the social and cultural meanings contained therein.

## Research Method

This research is a descriptive qualitative research with a pragmatic approach. This approach is used to analyze directive speech acts in the dialogue between characters in the novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie based on the context of the situation and the speaker's intention. The main focus of this research is to identify and

explain the function of directive speech acts that appear in the characters' speech.

The data in this study are dialog quotations of the characters in the novel *Calabai* that contain directive speech acts. The primary data source is the text of the first printed edition of *Calabai* novel in 2016. The data were collected using reading and note-taking techniques, namely by reading the entire content of the novel, noting the parts that contain directive speech, and classifying the types and functions of the speech.

Data analysis was conducted using Searle's (1976) theory of speech acts, especially the classification of directive speech acts, as well as Leech's (1993) theory of speech act functions. The directive utterances were analyzed to reveal the speakers' intentions and categorized into four illocutionary functions, namely: competitive, pleasing, cooperating, and opposing. Furthermore, the analysis was conducted by paying attention to the context of the speech, the relationship between the characters, and the cultural setting surrounding the speech event.

To maintain the validity of the data, this study uses theoretical triangulation techniques, namely by examining the data through several relevant pragmatic perspectives and paying attention to the socio-cultural context in the novel. The results of the analysis are presented descriptively by quoting relevant dialogs as supporting evidence.

## Results and Discussion

### Results

Based on the analysis, the function of directive speech acts is closely related to the reason, intention, and purpose of the speaker using speech. Directive speech acts in the novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie. The functions can be described as follows:

1. Competitive function is a speech act function that competes with social goals because it has a negative nature. This

function reduces the harmony between speakers and speech partners. As for the competitive function found in the novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie, for directive speech acts, three types are found, namely commanding, requesting, and criticizing. The following describes the three forms of directive speech acts that contain the competitive function.

- a. Commanding can mean managing or telling others to do something. Based on the analysis, the directive speech acts for the form of commanding in the novel titled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie consists of 9 data.
  - b. Asking is saying words to be given or get something. Asking can also mean asking respectfully, begging, or asking for permission. Based on the analysis, the directive speech acts for the form of asking in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie consist of 7 data.
  - c. Criticizing can mean giving criticism or response, which may be accompanied by a description and consideration of good and bad against a work, opinion, or other thing. In other words, criticizing is the process of assessing, reviewing, and evaluating something, both positive and negative. Based on the analysis, the directive speech acts for the form of criticizing in the novel titled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie consists of 4 data.
2. The function of pleasing is the function of speech acts that cause a happy effect for the perpetrators of speech acts, especially on speech partners. The function found in the novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie for directive speech acts found one type, namely inviting. Here is the description:
    - a. Inviting can mean asking (inviting, ordering, and so on) to participate (come and so on). In addition, inviting can also mean challenging (fighting and so on) or arousing the heart to do something. Based on the analysis, the directive speech acts for the form of inviting in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie consists of 8 data.
  3. The function of cooperating is a speech act function that does not care about social goals because it does not really involve politeness. As for the function of cooperating found in the novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie, for directive speech acts four types are found, namely ordering, begging, advising, and recommending. The following is the description:
    - a. Ordering has two main meanings: to give a message (advice, instructions, etc.) or to order (request) that something be sent, provided, or made. Based on the analysis, the directive speech acts for the form of ordering in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie consist of 8 data.
    - b. Begging can mean asking respectfully. This shows that "begging" is a more polite and respectful form of request compared to "asking". Based on the analysis, the directive speech acts for the form of begging in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie consist of 6 data.
    - c. Advising can mean giving advice, namely giving good teachings or lessons, good advice (instructions, warnings, admonitions). The word advise shows the action of delivering advice to others. Based on the analysis, the directive

speech acts for the form of advising in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie consist of 11 data.

- d. Recommending can mean giving advice or approving something. It also means giving support or endorsement to someone or something, which can be through a letter or official statement. Based on the analysis, the directive speech acts for the form of recommending in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie consist of 10 data.
4. The challenging function is a speech act function that is contrary to the social purpose. The competitive function found in the novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie for directive speech acts is found in two types, namely reprimanding and prohibiting. The following is the description:
- a. Reprimand has several meanings, namely to invite conversation (ask, etc.) or greet. In addition, reprimand can also mean to reproach or criticize, warn or advise, or disturb (about demons or ghosts). Based on the analysis, the directive speech acts for the form of reprimanding in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie consist of 3 data.
  - b. Prohibiting is trying to make something not allowed or prohibited. This means making something not allowed to be done or allowed. Based on the analysis, the directive speech acts for the form of forbidding in the novel titled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie consists of 3 data.

## Discussion

Data analysis on the function of directive speech acts using Cummings' theory based on illocutionary functions, namely competitive, pleasant, cooperative, and conflicting functions.

### 1) Ordering

One of the directive speech acts for the form of ordering in the novel entitled *Calabai Karya Pepi Al-Bayqunie* is:

*"Sebaiknya Wina tinggal di rumah Puang Malolo Ma'rang," seru Puang Matoa. (Data 114)*

Directive speech act of ordering	Function of cooperation
----------------------------------	-------------------------

The form of directive speech acts as in data 114 contains the function of cooperation because it expects approval from the speech partners for the proposal offered. This speech act uses the maxim of quantity.

Based on the data classification and analysis, data 114 shows the function of cooperation because the speech act expects cooperation from the speech partners to be obeyed.

### 2) Advising

One of the directive speech acts for the form of advising in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie is:

*"Sarapanlah dulu," kata Ibu memecah keheningan. Tak ada yang menyahut. Ibu menarik napas dan berkata lagi, "Kesedihan tidak boleh diperlihatkan di depan makanan!". (Data 19)*

Directive speech act of advising	Function of cooperation
----------------------------------	-------------------------

The form of directive speech acts to advise contains the function of cooperating because the content of the utterance expects a reciprocal relationship from the speech partner in the form of an obligation to carry out. Data 8 shows the function of speech that

obliges speech partners to carry out the content of the speech. Even the speaker memorizes his speech as a form of requiring cooperation. This speech uses maxim of manner because the delivery is straightforward and very clear.

Based on data classification and analysis, data 8 shows the function of cooperating because the utterance expects cooperation from speech partners to follow the intention.

### 3) Commanding

One of the directive speech acts for the form of commanding in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie is:

*“Lela, bikin air panas,” ujar Puang Ma’rang setengah berteriak kepada perempuan muda, yang tadi menyapu di halaman, sambil menghempaskan tubuhnya di sandaran kursi yang sudah mulai usang. (Data 70)*

Directive speech act of commanding	Competitive function
------------------------------------	----------------------

The form of directive speech acts to command has a competitive function. The speaker expresses the commanding speech so that the speech partner gives something. The speech in data 70 creates a sense of disharmony even though the level is small. The speaker gave an order to the speech partner to immediately take drinking water to be served to the guests. This speech uses the maxim of quality because it is expressed in moderation.

Based on the classification and analysis, data 70 shows a competitive function. The function of directive speech acts in this data is a competitive form because the speech reduces the level of harmony between speakers and speech partners based on their respective levels.

### 4) Begging

One of the directive speech acts for the form of begging in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie is:

*Lalu, Pak dahlan menyela, “Tolong saya, Puang. Saya sudah berusaha sekuat tenaga untuk mengubah dia jadi laki-laki, tetapi tidak bisa. Saya minta tolong agar dia dididik menjadi bisu. Biar Asnawi berguna bagi orang-orang sekitarnya.” (Data 107)*

Directive speech act of begging	Function of cooperation
---------------------------------	-------------------------

The form of directive speech acts to beg contains the function of cooperating. The utterance is used to ask respectfully, expecting strongly. Data 107 reveals that the utterance is used with the hope of cooperation by the speech partner so that his son, who is a boy with a female soul, is guided to become a bisu. This speech uses the maxim of quality because it is expressed on the basis of empirical truth.

Based on the classification and analysis, data 107 shows the function of cooperation and psychological meaning in the form of directive speech acts to request. The function of directive speech acts in this data is a form of cooperation because the purpose of the speech expects a reciprocal response from speech partners.

### 5) Recommending

One of the directive speech acts for the form of recommending in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie is:

*“Hapus air matamu,” sergah Ayah, “itu bisa membuat anak-anakmu celaka!” (Data 23)*

Directive speech act of recommending	Function of cooperation
--------------------------------------	-------------------------

The form of the directive speech act of recommending contains the function of cooperating. Speech is used to give

recommendations, suggestions, advice that must be implemented immediately.

The speaker in data 23 recommends speech partners not to cry over the departure of a child. The suggestion must be done immediately by the speech partners because their children will be harmed if it is not implemented. This speech uses the maxim of manner because the content of the speech is very clear and does not require further explanation.

Based on the data classification and analysis, data 23 shows a cooperative function because the speech requires real action from the speech partners. Otherwise, the purpose of communication will not be fulfilled.

#### 6) Reprimanding

One of the directive speech acts for the form of reprimanding in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie is:

*“Apa yang kamu bikin di kamar Ibu?”  
Saidi teragap, tapi ia menyembunyikan keterkejutannya. “Baring-paring....” (Data 7)*

Directive speech act of reprimanding	Function of opposition
--------------------------------------	------------------------

The function of the directive speech act to reprimand is opposition. The use of reprimanding speech can show the opposite of the speech partner.

Data 7 shows that the speaker reprimands the speaking partner who is not in the right place. Because the name of the speech partner is mentioned with emphasis, the speech partner feels it as an insult. This speech uses the maxim of relevance because it is spoken based on the speaker's condition.

#### 7) Forbidding

One of the directive speech acts for the form of forbidding in the novel entitled *Calabai* Karya Pepi Al-Bayqunie is:

*Puang Matoa Ma’rang masih menahan Puang Saidi walaupun tamu-tamu tadi sudah pulang. Dengan pelan ia berkata, “Jangan pulang dulu, Saidi. Ada tamu yang ingin saya pertemukan denganmu.” (Data 161)*

Directive speech act of forbidding	Function of opposing
------------------------------------	----------------------

The function of the directive speech act of prohibiting is the function of opposition because it is used to order the speech partner not to do something.

Data 161 shows a prohibitory speech act that causes opposition to the speech partner. The speech partner who intends to go home is detained by the speaker. This speech uses the maxim of method because the information contained in it does not cause dual meaning.

Based on data classification and analysis, data 161 shows the function of opposition because the speech is able to create differences between speakers and speech partners.

#### 8) Inviting

One of the directive speech acts for the form of inviting in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie is:

*“Sudahlah,” kata Daeng Maddenring. “Mari kita angkat barang-barang ke dalam.” (Data 53)*

Directive speech act of inviting	Fun function
----------------------------------	--------------

The form of the directive speech act of inviting shows a pleasant function because invitations are usually to give pleasure to speech partners. Data 53 also shows the same function, namely the function of *convivial*. The speech is able to create a sense of pleasure in the speaker because it reaches the destination. The speaker uses the maxim of manner because it is expressed quite clearly.

Based on the classification and data analysis, data 53 shows the function of fun

because the speech is able to create a sense of pleasure in the hearts of speech partners.

#### 9) Request

One of the directive speech acts for the form of request in the novel entitled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie is:

*“Jika kamu bersedia,” kata Daeng Maddenring, “kamu saya angkat jadi anak.”*  
(Data 55)

Directive speech act of request	Competitive function
------------------------------------	-------------------------

The form of directive speech acts to request contains a competitive function because in the speech there is a sense of reducing the level of harmony between the speaker and the speech partner. Data 55 shows the existence of a competitive function because the speaker expresses a speech that is not expected by the speech partner. This causes a bad feeling on the side of the speech partner. The speaker uses the maxim of quantity. This is concluded because the content of the speech is in the form of information that is not excessive.

Based on data classification and analysis, data 55 shows a competitive function because the speech is used to ask for something to the speech partner.

#### 10) Criticizing

One of the directive speech acts to criticizing in the novel titled *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie is:

*“Pantas lelaki itu enggan meminta maaf, Puang,” gumam Saidi seperti berkata pada dirinya sendiri. “Apakah dia bisa mengenali Puang Matoa?”*

*“Saya tidak tahu, Nak. Waktu itu saya masih muda.”*

*“Tapi, mengapa Puang tenang-tenang saja dihina seperti itu?”* (Data 104)

Directive speech act of criticizing	Competitive function
--	-------------------------

The form of directive speech acts criticizing contains a competitive meaning because the speech will affect the harmony of speech.

Data 104 shows that the speaker uses a question sentence to criticize the attitude of the speech partner who chooses to be calm even though he is insulted. This speech uses the maxim of manner because the speech expressed expresses the meaning clearly.

Based on the data classification and analysis, data 104 shows a competitive function because the speech is used to criticize the speech partner.

### Conclusion

The result of the overall analysis illustrates the function of directive speech acts in *Calabai* novel is dominated by collaborative function which consists of ordering, advising, pleading, and recommending. The dominance of the collaborative function shows that the speech acts in the novel tend to require a response back from the speaker.

Under the collaborative function, *Calabai* novel also uses some competitive functions. This is found in the form of commanding, requesting, and criticizing. This competitive function shows that there is a case of competition in the novel. The form of directive speech acts that show conflicting functions are found in the form of reprimanding and prohibiting. The conflicting function shows that there are different ways of looking at a problem in the novel *Calabai*.

In addition, another function, namely the fun function, is found in the form of inviting. This function shows that in the novel *Calabai* there is a purpose of speech to please the speakers. Based on the data and description above, it can be concluded that the form of speech acts in the novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie aims as a function of

cooperation, competition, opposition, and fun.

## Reference

Al-Bayqunie, P. (2016). *Calabai (Women in Men's Bodies)*. South Tangerang: Javanica.

[ejurnal.ung.ac.id+5sanampanbook.id+5journal.fib.uho.ac.id+5](http://ejurnal.ung.ac.id+5sanampanbook.id+5journal.fib.uho.ac.id+5)

Leech, G. N. (1983). *Principles of Pragmatics*. London: Longman.

[reddit.com+7en.wikipedia.org+7benjamins.com+7](http://reddit.com+7en.wikipedia.org+7benjamins.com+7)

Leech, G. N. (1993). *The Pragmatics of Politeness*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Searle, J. R. (1969). *Speech Acts: An Essay in the Philosophy of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

[en.wikipedia.org+2en.wikipedia.org+2en.wikipedia.org+2en.wikipedia.org+2](http://en.wikipedia.org+2en.wikipedia.org+2en.wikipedia.org+2en.wikipedia.org+2)

Searle, J. R., & Vanderveken, D. (1985). *Foundations of Illocutionary Logic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to Do Things with Words*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Grice, H. P. (1975). Logic and conversation. In P. Cole & J. L. Morgan (Eds.), *Syntax and semantics, vol. 3: Speech acts* (pp. 41-58). New York: Academic Press.

Burhan, F. (2024). Literary anthropology analysis in the novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie. *Canon: Journal of Language and Literature Research*, 2(3), 190-199.

[en.wikipedia.org+1researchgate.net+1cambridge.org+7en.wikipedia.org+7en.wikipedia.org+7benjamins.com](http://en.wikipedia.org+1researchgate.net+1cambridge.org+7en.wikipedia.org+7en.wikipedia.org+7benjamins.com)

Purwaningsih. (-). Transgender in the novel *Calabai* by Pepi Al-Bayqunie: An identity study. *Aksara*, 29(2), 183-196.