

# THE EXPRESSIONS OF REQUEST FOUND IN *NANNY MC PHEE AND THE BIG BANG* MOVIE BY SUSANNA WHITE: PRAGMATICS ANALYSIS

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## ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini menganalisis ungkapan permintaan di film Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang oleh Susanna White dilihat dari teori pragmatik. Penelitian difokuskan pada praxmalinguistik dari ungkapan permintaan, maksud dari ungkapan permintaan, dan strategi permintaan di film tersebut. Objek penelitian ini adalah ungkapan permintaan yang digunakan di film Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang oleh Susanna White. Data berupa kalimat yang mengandung ungkapan permintaan pada film tersebut. Ada 118 data yang dianalisis. Metode pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan pengamatan, yakni menonton film, mencatat semua ungkapan permintaan, dan menulis kembali kalimat-kalimat yang mengandung permintaan pada film tersebut. Untuk analisis data digunakan descriptive interpretive. Hasil penelitian menemukan hal-hal berikut: (1) praxmalinguistik dari ungkapan permintaan adalah internal modification; Syntactic Downgrader (Question and Past Tense/Negotiation), Lexical/ Phrasal Downgrader (Politeness Marker, Hesitator), and external modification; preparators (preparing the speech act) dan (2) strategi pada ungkapan permintaan adalah mood derivable, performative, obligation statement, want statement, suggestory, quire preparatory, and hint.*

**Kata Kunci:** ungkapan permintaan, praxmalinguistik, dan ilokusi (maksud).

## ABSTRACT

*This study is aimed at analyzing request expressions found in Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang movie by Susanna White, focusing on the praxmalinguistics for request expressions, the illocution of request expression, and the request strategy in this movie. The data of this research are sentences containing request expressions found in the movie. The researcher finds 118 request expressions in the movie. The method of collecting the data in this research are watching the original Movie, note taking all the request expression in the movie, and re-typing all the sentences containing request expression in the movie. The writer uses descriptive interpretive to analyze the data of request expression in the movie. The techniques of analysis are finding out request expressions in the movie, identifying the praxmalinguistics of request expressions used in the movie, clarifying the intention of request expression used by the speakers in utterances in the movie and describing request strategies used in the movie. The result of the study ara as follows:*

(1) the pragmalinguistics of the request are internal modification; Syntactic Downgrader (Question and Past Tense/Negotiation), Lexical/ Phrasal Downgrader (Politeness Marker, Hesitator), and external modification; preparators (preparing the speech act) and (2) request strategies of these findings are mood derivable, performative, obligation statement, want statement, suggestory, quire preparatory, and hint.

**Keywords :** Request expression, pragmalinguistics, and illocution of request.

## INTRODUCTION

People interact in social life using language. With communication, they understand each other very well. Actually, the communication is not only spoken or written, but also action.

In attempting to express themselves, people do not only produce utterances containing grammatical structure and words, they perform action via those utterance. "The speech act or acts performed in the utterance of a sentence are in general a function of the meaning of the sentence" (Searle, 1968: 18). Then according to Jule in Fauziati (2009: 173) "speech act is commonly given more specific labels, such as apology, complaint, compliment, invitation, promise or request, and request".

According to Zhang, et al. (2008: 3) "A request is to ask someone to do/ not do something or to express the need or desire for something". The purpose of request is to get hearer to do something. In most cases, the intention of speaker making a request is to require the addressee to perform some kind of action which is of benefit to the speaker at the cost of the addressee.

The writer is interested in analyzing the pragmalinguistic, illocution and the request strategy in the form of research entitled: *The Expressions of Request found in Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang Movie by Susanna White: Pragmatics Analysis*. The researcher chooses this study because she wants to enrich the discussion of request expressions viewed by pragmatic theory. This research tries to investigate the following aspects: (1) the pragmalinguistics for request expressions used in the movie; (2) the illocution of request utterance expressed by the speaker, and (3) the request strategies used.

Theories used in this research from Trosborg (1994), Watts (2003), and Brown and Levinson. According to Trosborg (1994), the pragmalinguistics of request has two parts. They are Internal Modification and External Modification. "The speech act or acts performed in the utterance of a sentence are in general a function of the meaning of the sentence" (Searle, 1968: 18). Three distinct kinds of acts are; (1) the uttering words (morpheme, sentence) = performing *utterance act*. (2) Referring and predicating = performing *propositional acts*. (3) stating, questioning, commanding, promising, etc = performing *illocutionary acts* (Searle, 1968: 24)

The variations of direct and indirect forms for making a request have been called request strategies. They are mood derivable, performative, hedged performatives, obligation statement, want statement, suggestory, quire preparatory, and hint strategy.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The data of this research are sentences containing request expressions found in *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* movie by *Susanna White*. The researcher finds 118 request expressions in *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* movie by *Susanna White*. And the data source used in this research is taken from *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* movie by *Susanna White*.

In collecting the data, the researcher uses documentation as the method of collecting the data in this research through the following steps: (1) watching the original Movie *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* movie by *Sussana White*; (2) note taking all the request expression in *Nanny McPhee and Big Bang* movie by *Sussana White*; and (3) re-typing all the sentences containing request expression in the movie.

The writer uses descriptive interpretative to analyze the data of request expression in the movie through the following stages: (1) finding out the request expressions in the movie; (2) identifying the pragmalinguistics of request expressions used in the movie; (3) clarifying the illocution of request expression used by the speakers in utterances in the movie; and (4) describing the request strategies used in the movie.

## RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The research question relates to pragmalinguistics for request expressions, the illocution of request utterance expressed by the speakers, and the request strategies used in the movie. The explanation of each component will be discussed below:

### 1. Pragmalinguistics for Request

According to Trosborg (1994), the pragmalinguistics of request has two parts: the internal modification and the external modification.

Internal modification contents many parts: the syntactic downgraders, lexical/ phrase downgraders, and upgraders.

### 2. Syntactic Downgraders

Various syntactic devices can be used to make the request more polite. A common feature of syntactic downgraders lies in their ability to distance the request reality.

#### a. Question

A question is often more polite than a statement. Below is the example of question found in the data. It happens in a conversation between Phil and Megsie in Mrs. Green's house.

Phil : **Can someone help me with these, please?**

Megsie: You don't deserve any help, you completely wicked person.

Phil : Please, I'm begging you, Megsie.

The example is in bold. The participant makes the request more polite because he uses a question when produces the request expression. The participant not only uses a question in his request but he adds 'please' there, so it make more polite too. And it is usually make the hearer/ requestee

can not refuse what speaker's request. In question above the participant uses the auxiliary in beginning the request in a question. The researcher found these expressions of request in question in 6 data.

### b. Past Tense/ Negation

The inclusion of the past tense or negation is further downtones the expectations to the fulfillment of the request. Take a look for example below. This conversation occurs between Nanny McPhee and Vincent in the family room. When Vincent wants to go to bed, Nanny McPhee expresses her request to Vincent.

Nanny McPhee : **Vincent, would you please put those**  
back where they belong?  
Vincent : Ooh! (Vincent gasping). Thank you Nanny McPhee.  
Nanny McPhee : You're welcome.

From the example in bold above, the researcher concludes that to get the polite the request expression uses past tense. Past tense here is formed by auxiliary verb. The participant uses 'would you' in this request. In *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* movie, the participants produce the expression of request in polite. So not only the participant uses past tense, she also uses attention gather and she adds 'please' there. In the result will be more polite. Actually the participant (Nanny McPhee) is older than Vincent but Nanny McPhee uses polite request because to give example for Vincent, how is say polite to other. The researcher found past tense used by the participants in 12 data.

### c. Lexical/ Phrasal Downgrader

At the lexical/phrasal level a number of devices are available which lower the requester's expectations to the fulfillment or the outcome of the request. The markers subjected to analysis in the present study are detailed below:

**Politeness Marker:** In order to signal politeness the requester can add the marker *please* the requester shows deference to the requestee and pleads for cooperative behavior. Below is example. It happens in a conversation between Mrs. Green and Megsie. Megsie tries to prevent her mother for waiting Norman before she signs the letter. It shown by Megsie, she uses dominant word 'please' in her request.

Megsie : **Mum, *please*, wait.**  
Mrs. Green : That's enough, Megsie. Phil, find a pen.

The researcher found request utterance in statement in the bold part. The participant uses the politeness marker 'please' in request expression. The italic word used to get polite the speaker to the hearer. These words are used by Megsie. This polite request is produced by Megsie because the hearer is Megsie's mother. The participant knows how requests with older person than her. This is a word which is dominant used to make polite in request expression. The researcher found the same words by the participants of this movie in 33 data.

**Hesitator:** The hesitation signal reveals the requester's doubt as to the appropriateness of him/her request. Example: This request is produced by Simon. He wants Nanny McPhee helps his problem with his father and Mrs. Quickly.

Simon : **We need you to, erm... I...we... need you to help us get rid of this woman, Mrs. Quickly.**

Simon is as participant in the movie. He uses the hesisator because in producing the request to Nanny McPhee, he is not certain his request will be accepted by Nanny McPhee. It shows the participant doubt when produce this request. There is only one data of hesisator in the movie.

**External Modification:** Generally, a request must be well prepared and well supported. To express politeness, the requester can make use of *disarmers* and flattering statements referred to as sweeteners.

Preparators have preparing the content, preparing the speech act, checking on the availability, and getting a pre-commitment. But the researcher only found the data in preparing the speech act.

In preparing the Speech Act the requester can let the requestee know that he/she is to anticipate a request. Take a look at the example. It happens in a terrible condition when Phil forced Mrs. Green to sign the letter. When Mrs. Green will sign, Megsie remembers about NannyMcPhee and she calls Nanny to help her.

Megsie : **Please, Nanny McPhee, we need you.**

This request is directly show that the requester really needs the hearer's help. Beside it, the speaker also uses 'please' to make polite too in her request. The researcher found 5 data of preparing the speech act from this movie.

The researcher found many utterances of request in this movie. But not all of data follow the pragmatics form are like in internal and external modification. In data, the researcher found the speakers are not produce impolite. It may be the speaker produces a request in an emergency condition or may be the speaker is not want keep the hearer's face.

### 3. Request Strategies

The variations of direct and indirect forms for making a request have been called request strategies. Request strategies include several strategies (Blum-Kulka in Debu, 2011). The further explanation will be discussed below:

#### a. Mood Derivable Strategy

It is the utterances in which the grammatical mood of the verb signals illocutionary force. The following are examples of request to ask someone to do something: It happens in a conversation is between Mrs. Green and Megsie. Megsie try to prevent her mother for waiting Norman before she signs the letter.

Megsie : **Mum, please, wait.**

Mrs. Green : That's enough, Megsie. Phil, find a pen.

Based on the data the researcher finds request expression, the expression is "Mum, please, wait." it shows Megsie requests to her mother (Mrs. Green). This request is shown by Megsie. The request strategy is Mood derivable. "Mum, please, wait." It is an expression in which the grammatical mood of the verb signals illocutionary force. The researcher found similarities in these 59 data.

## b. Performative Strategy

In this strategy, the speakers use utterances in which the illocutionary force is explicitly named. The following are examples of request is to ask someone to do something: Norman and Cyril come to the war office. They meet Cyril's father to make sure that Norman's father still alive.

- Cyril : **Sir, we need you to find out what's happened to Norman's father.** To Uncle Rory.  
Norman : We got a telegram saying...  
Cyril's father : Yes?  
Norman : he was killed in action. But I know it's wrong. I know he's alive.

Based on the data above, the researcher finds request expression. The expression is "Sir, we need you to find out what's happened to Norman's father". It shows Cyril requests to his father. The request strategy is Performative strategy. "Sir, we need you to find out what's happened to Norman's father" is utterances in which the illocutionary force is explicitly named. The researcher found 3 data of performative strategy in this movie.

## c. Obligation Statement Strategy

In this strategy, the speakers use expressions which state the obligation of the hearer to carry out the act. The following are example: This conversation occurs between Cyril, Celia, Megsie, and Nanny McPhee. After several minutes, the children still fight and hurt each other, the Nanny McPhee strikes her stick on the floor. Suddenly, they can not control to hurt themselves.

- Cyril : Stop us, please.  
Celia : Please.  
Meggie : Please.  
Nanny McPhee : **On one condition that you apologize for hurting each other and promise to stop fighting.**

The request strategy is Obligation statement. It is expressions which state the obligation of the hearer to carry out the act. The researcher found 8 data in the movie.

## d. Want Statement Strategy

This category covers statements of speakers needs, demands, wishes and desires. The following are example below. The bomb fell down in Mrs. Green's field. The children try to turn off the device. Megsie climbs up the bomb using the ladder. She wants to cut the wire. Mrs. Green worries with the children, so she request to Nanny McPhee to stop them.

- Mrs.Green : **Nanny McPhee, please, help me stop them.**  
Nanny McPhee : Somehow, I doubt that will be possible.

Based on the data above the researcher finds request expression, the expression is "Nanny McPhee, please, help me stop them." It shows Mrs. Green requests to Nanny McPhee. The request is produced by Mrs. Green. The function of this request is Mrs. Green appeals to Nanny McPhee to stop the children who want to turn off the bomb. The request strategy is Want Statement Strategy. "Nanny McPhee, please, help me stop them" is utterances which state the speaker's desire that the hearer carries out the act. The researcher found 13 data in the movie.



### e. Suggestory Strategy

In this strategy, the speakers use utterances which contain a suggestion to do X. The following is the example: In the evening, Mrs. Green arrives home. Suddenly, someone knocks the door. Then she opens the door. She is shocked when she looks at Nanny McPhee. She does not want the Nanny meets her children, but the Nanny still do it.

Nanny McPhee : May I come in?  
Mrs. Green : Must you? I mean, yes. Yes, of course, you must. Tea?  
Nanny McPhee : Perhaps later. Let me introduce myself to the children.  
Mrs. Green : No, wait.  
Nanny McPhee : **Why don't you put the kettle on?** I shan't be moment.

The request strategy is Suggestory formulae Strategy. This strategy is expression which contains a suggestion to do something. Here, Nanny McPhee suggests go the kitchen and put the kettle on. The researcher only found one example in *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* movie.

### f. Quire Preparatory Strategy

In this strategy, the speakers use utterances that contain reference to preparatory conditions as conventionalized in any specific language. Take a look at example: Nanny McPhee, Norman and Cyril go to London to get real information about Norman's father in the War Office. On the way, they get traffic jam. Then the Nanny shows her request to Norman.

Nanny McPhee : **Norman, could you please turn** that little red wheel all the way, clockwise?  
Then Norman turns that little red wheel all the way.  
Nanny McPhee : Right, thank you.

Based on the data above the researcher finds request expression, the expression is "Norman, could you please turn that little red wheel all the way, clockwise?" it shows Nanny McPhee requests to Norman. The request strategy is Quire preparatory Strategy. "Norman, could you please turn that little red wheel all the way, clockwise?" is expression containing reference to the preparatory conditions as conventionalized in any specific language. This strategy is polite.

### g. Hint Strategy

In this strategy, the speakers use utterances containing partial reference to object of element needed for the implementation of the act. The following is example of request is to ask someone to do something. It happens in a conversation between Mrs. Green and Megsie. Megsie tries to prevent her mother for waiting Norman before she signs the letter. But her mother ignores her request not to signing the letter.

Megsie : Mum, please, don't. It's our farm. **Don't sign it.**

Based on the data above the researcher finds request expression, the expression is "Mum, please, don't. It's our farm. "Don't sign it" shows Megsie requests to her mother (Mrs. Green). The request is shown by Megsie. Megsie prevents her mother for waiting Norman before she signs the letter. The request strategy is Hint. "Mum, please, don't. It's our farm. Don't sign it" is utterances containing partial reference to object of element needed for the implementation of the act. The researcher found 16 data in this movie.

## CONCLUSION

The description of Request expressions in *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* movie can be summerized as follows:

### (1) Pragmalinguistics for request

The researcher finds the participant of this movie produce the request expression used internal modification; Syntactic Downgrader (Question and Past Tense/ Negotion), Lexical/ Phrasal Downgrader (Politeness Marker, Hesitator), and external modification; preparators (preparing the speech act). In *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* movie, the researcher found pragmalinguistics of request according to Trosborg.

### (2) The Request Strategy

Request strategies based on Blum-Kulka in Debu. From the data in *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang*, the researcher found seven strategies. They are mood derivable, performative, obligation statement, want statement, suggestory, quire preparatory, and hint. The researcher can not find the Hedged Preparatory.

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