

## INDIRECT SPEECH ACTS OF QUESTIONING IN GONE GIRL MOVIE SCRIPT: A STUDY OF PRAGMATICS

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### **Abstract**

The research entitled “Indirect Speech Acts of Questioning in Gone Girl Movie Script: A Study of Pragmatics” analyses kinds of speech acts that is used to convey question. However, this research only focuses on indirect speech acts that speaker used to convey their question. In the research, the writer uses the theory of Speech acts and speech event in Pragmatics and The Study of Language written by George Yule (1996, 2010). Yule reveals that based on the relationship between grammatical structure and the communicative function, sentence can be direct and indirect. Moreover, it also influences by context where the conversation takes place. The research uses descriptive method. The writer collected the data found in Gone Girl movie script and then analyzed the sentences that has a function to make question. After doing the analyses, it can be concluded that to convey their questions, people do not only use interrogative sentence, but also declarative sentence. This is called as indirect speech acts. Indirect speech acts happens when there is an indirect relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function.

**Keywords:** indirect speech acts, speech acts, question

### **Abstrak**

*Penelitian yang berjudul “ Indirect Speech Acts of Questioning in Gone Girl Movie Script: A Study of Pragmatics” menganalisis jenis kalimat yang digunakan untuk mengungkapkan pertanyaan. Namun, penelitian ini hanya fokus pada tindak tutur secara tidak langsung yang penutur gunakan dalam mengungkapkan pertanyaannya. Dalam penelitian ini penulis menggunakan teori tentang speech acts and event dalam buku Pragmatics dan The Study to Language yang ditulis oleh George Yule (1996,2010). Dalam bukunya, Yule mengemukakan bahwa berdasarkan hubungannya antara struktur gramatikal dan fungsi komunikatifnya, kalimat dapat dibedakan menjadi langsung dan tidak langsung. Selain itu, konteks dimana percakapan terjadi juga berpengaruh dalam tindak tutur langsung dan tidak langsung. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif. Penulis*

*mengumpulkan data yang ditemukan dalam Gone Girl Movie script untuk kemudian dianalisis kalimat yang memiliki fungsi komunikatif sebagai pertanyaan. Setelah dilakukan analisis, dapat disimpulkan bahwa untuk mengemukakan pertanyaan, orang-orang tidak hanya menggunakan kalimat tanya, namun juga kalimat deklaratif. Hal ini disebut dengan tindak tutur tidak langsung. Tindak tutur tidak langsung terjadi ketika ada hubungan tidak langsung antara struktur gramatikal dan fungsi komunikatifnya.*

**Kata kunci:** *pertanyaan, tindak tutur, tindak tutur tidak langsung*

## **Introduction**

People produce an utterance to convey their ideas, requests, commands, complaints, promise, and question. In usage, utterances are divided into three main categories: declarative, interrogative, and imperative. Each of those utterances has its own communicative function.

According to Yule (1996:54) there are three general functions of utterances, they are statement, question, and command or request. If there is no violation, based on the grammatical structure of the sentence, declarative has a function to make a statement or give information, interrogative sentence to make a question, and imperative sentence to make command or request. However, there are some sentences which are the structure has an indirect relationship with the function. It is called indirect speech acts.

Speech acts based on Yule (1996:54) are divided into two categories: direct and indirect speech acts. Direct speech acts happens when there are direct relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function. On the other hand, indirect speech acts happens when there are an indirect relationship between a grammatical structure and its communicative function.

Direct and indirect speech acts also happen in the daily life. For example, when someone said "Could you pass the salt?" it does not really mean as a question. In fact, this sentence has function to make a request or command. That is, we are using a syntactic structure associated with the function of a question but in this case with the function of request or command. This is called indirect speech acts.

In this research, the writer only found declarative sentence as indirect speech acts that is used to convey questioning. Thus, this research entitles "Indirect Speech Acts of Questioning in Gone Girl Movie Script: A Study of Pragmatics".

## Data Source

The data used in this research is taken from Gone Girl movie script. The data found analyzed based on its communicative function of questioning. There is only declarative sentence that is used to convey question as indirect speech act. There is no imperative sentence which is used to convey question.

## Research Method

This research is qualitative research. Bogdan and Taylor (1992: 21-22):

*“Penelitian kualitatif adalah salah satu prosedur penilaian yang menghasilkan data deskriptif berupa ucapan atau tulisan dan perilaku orang-orang yang diamati. Pendekatan kualitatif diharapkan mampu menghasilkan uraian yang mendalam tentang ucapan, tulisan dan atau perilaku yang dapat diamati dari suatu individu, kelompok, masyarakat dan atau organisasi tertentu dalam suatu setting konteks tertentu yang dikaji dari sudut pandang yang utuh, komprehensif, dan holistik.”*

Notifying Bogdan and Taylor statement, this current research is qualified as qualitative research. This research also uses descriptive analysis method. Sukmadinata (2006:72) states that:

*“ penelitian deskriptif adalah suatu bentuk penelitian yang ditujukan untuk mendeskripsikan fenomena-fenomena yang ada, baik fenomena alamiah maupun fenomena buatan manusia. Fenomena itu bias berupa bentuk, aktivitas, karakteristik, perubahan, hubungan, kesamaan, dan perbedaan antara fenomena yang satu dengan fenomena lainnya.”*

Considering to Sukmadinata’s theory, this research analyzes the data by describing them with pragmatics approaches. The theoretical approach is used in order to get the answer scientifically about indirect speech acts in communicative function of questioning. In conclusion, the research applies a descriptive qualitative method.

## Theoretical Review

### 1. Speech Acts

Yule (2010:133) stated that people used the term speech acts to describe action such as “requesting”, “commanding”, “questioning”, or “informing”. We

can define a speech acts as the action performed by the speaker with an utterance. People do not only produce utterances containing grammatical structures and words, they perform action through those utterances.

Yule (1996:47) states:

If you work in a situation where a boss has a great deal of power, then the boss's utterance of the expression in [1] is more than just a statement.

[1] *You're fired.*

The utterance in [1] can be used to perform of ending your employment. However, the actions performed by utterances do not have to be as dramatic or as unpleasant as in [1]. The action can be quiet pleasant, as in the compliment performed in [2a], the acknowledgement of thanks in [2b] or the expression of surprise in [2c]:

[2] a. *You're delicious*

b. *You're welcome*

c. *You're crazy!*

Furthermore, based on the relation between grammatical structure and the communicative function, Yule classified the sentence into two categories. They are direct and indirect speech acts. Direct speech acts happens when there are a direct relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function. On the other hand, indirect speech acts happens when there is an indirect relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function.

### **1.1 Types of Speech acts: Indirect Speech Acts**

Yule (1996:54) classified speech acts based on the relationship between sentence grammatical structure and the communicative function into two categories; direct and indirect speech acts. Grammatical structure based on Yule (1996:54) they are declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentence. Each of those sentences has its own function. If there is no violation, declarative sentence has function as giving information, interrogative sentence as a question, and imperative sentence as a command or request. Thus, speech acts can be classified based on its relationship between grammatical structure and the communicative function into direct and indirect speech acts. However, this research only focuses on indirect speech acts of questioning.

#### **1.1.1 Indirect Speech Acts**

Indirect speech acts happens whenever there is an indirect relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function. An indirect speech acts is used to communicate a same meaning as literal meaning, but it also

means something more as well; the structure and the function are not directly related. Thus, the speaker uses declarative as question or command/request, imperative as statement or question, interrogative as statement or command/request. For example, when someone said “*Could you pass the salt?*” it does not mean that the speaker asks about hearer ability to pass that salt, even it is an interrogative sentence. Hence, the intention of that sentence is the speaker gives a command/request to hearer to give the salt to speaker. Such as Yule’s example in the work:

- [22] a. *Move out the way!*  
 b. *Do you have to stand in front of the TV?*  
 c. *You’re standing in the front of the TV.*  
 d. *You’d make a better door than a window.* (1996:55)

All the sentences in [22] have the same basic function. The function is to give a command or asking someone to not standing in front of the TV. The speaker uses different types of sentence, even the intention just the same. In [22a] the speaker uses imperative sentence to give a command. Thus, the example [22a] represents a direct speech acts. The interrogative sentence in [22b] is not being used only as a question, but it is an indirect speech acts. The declarative sentence in [22c] and [22d] are also indirect requests or commands.

Based on the example above, this research concerns with the sentences that are used to convey questions. Since this research only focuses on indirect speech acts of questioning, the interrogative sentence does not include in analysis. It is because interrogative sentence has direct relationship with communicative function of questioning.

## 2. Speech Event

Yule (1996:57) states “*A speech event is an activity in which participants interact via language in some conventional way to arrive at some outcome*”. A speech event also can be defined by a united set of components throughout same purpose of communication, same topic, same participant, and same language variety (generally).

Moreover, indirect speech acts also has relation with context and participant in the conversation. Both context and participant in a conversation are important to analyze why the speaker uses that sentence to convey their question.

## 3. Context

Context concerns with time and place. Without context, it will be hard to find out or analyze the meaning or intention of an utterance. Context also makes

hearer become easier in understanding the speaker's intention. Context also may influence the sentence or utterance. It is not only about where the conversation take place, but it is also about who the speaker is, who the hearer is, when the conversation is, and under what circumstances.

Context according Leech (1981:94-98):

1. Situational Context

Non-linguistic context refers to factors abstracted from the physical environment and cultural settings in which speech occurs frequently. This includes people, time, place and even entire cultural background.

2. Cultural context

Cultural context is an abstract way of social activities. Culture consists of all the shared elements of human society. It includes not only material things such as city, organizations, and school, but also non-material things as ideas, customs, and patterns of family, relationship and language.

**4. Participant**

According to Holmes (1992:12) in a certain social context there will be a certain social factor related to the participant who is involved in a certain conversation. It concerns the speaker who is talking to whom.

**Findings and Discussion**

This section discusses the data based on the relation between the grammatical structure of a sentence and its communicative function, and it is classified into indirect speech acts. The data found are also analyzed based on context, whether it is cultural or situational context. On the other hand, the data appear in one context only. They do not occur at the same time. The data found is only declarative sentence. It is because there is no imperative sentence which is used to convey question.

**Data 1**

Situational Context	It was the night when Amy has conversation with some bloggers and reporters concern with her mother's book. In the middle of the conversation, Nick came and joins with them. He was pretending as a journalist. He also asked some questions to Amy, even those questions are not the real questions. Nick just wanted to safe Amy from those reporters and bloggers. It is because Amy already asked to Nick about that.
Conversation	Nick cuts in, blocks the journalist.

	<p>NICK: I have a few questions.  AMY: Ah, it's you.  NICK: I am here in a strictly journalistic capacity.</p> <p>He elaborately sets out pad, pen. AMY prepares to be amused.</p> <p>NICK (CONT'D): Amy, you've had the pleasure of dating Nick Dunne for how long?  AMY: Two magical years.  <b>NICK: Is it true that during the course of your relationship, you have performed such gracious gestures as (checking notes) not correcting Nick when he pronounced quinoa as kwin-o-a</b>  AMY: An understandable mistake.  NICK: He also thought it was a fish.  AMY: He thinks Velveeta is a cheese.  NICK: Touche.  AMY: I think it's pronounced tow—chay.</p>
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#### Analysis:

Grammatical structure in the sentence *Is it true during the course of your relationship, you have performed such gracious as (checking notes) not correcting Nick when he pronounced quinoa as kwin-o-a* is declarative sentence. In common usage, declarative sentence is used to make a statement or giving information. However, in the conversation above, the communicative function is not statement or giving information, but it has communicative function of questioning.

Based on the speech event above, the conversation takes place in bar. It was the night when Marybeth, Amy's mother, held a party to launching her book about Amazing Amy. Amy met with some reporters and bloggers, as her dad requesting for. However, in the middle of conversation with the reporters and the bloggers, Nick came and pretends like he is a reporter. It is because he wanted to make the bloggers and reporters stop asking Amy about that book. However, Nick did not use interrogative sentence to ask Amy. Even the structure is interrogative sentence, but there is no question mark in the end of the sentence.

The grammatical structure is declarative sentence. However, the speaker's intention is to make a question, not giving information. Even the speaker uses declarative sentence to convey his question, the hearer still gets the message

conveyed. It is because the hearer knows that the speaker wants to ask her not giving information. It is based on the context where the conversation happens.

Thus, the indirect speech acts from the sentence *Is it true during the course of your relationship, you have performed such gracious as (checking notes) not correcting Nick when he pronounced quinoa as kwin-o-a* is an indirect speech acts. It is because there is an indirect relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function. The structure is declarative sentence but the communicative function is questioning.

**Data 2**

<p>Situational Context</p>	<p>The conversation between detective Boney and Nick takes place in Nick’s office. Boney was searching for the next clue from Nick’s wife, Amy. When they were in the Nick’s office, Boney found a red lacy in a file drawer and then she put it in the evidence bag. Since his wife is missing, Nick asking for help to find his wife. Every anniversary, Amy and Nick always “play” treasure hunt. Amy always wrote some clues to bring Nick into his gift.</p>
<p>Conversation</p>	<p>He picks up a pair of SCISSORS that sit next to a MATCHING STAPLER and opens it. Boney reads over his shoulder. INSERT on note:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Hey, handsome man—let’s go undercover. You be the spy and I’ll * be his lover. Let’s head on over to the little brown house. We’ll play hot, doting husband and sweet loving spouse.</p> <p>BONEY’s POV as she pokes around, looks in his file drawer. Unlike Amy’s, it has but one file: BOOK IDEAS. The file is empty. On the shelves: the usual Modern Male Canon suspects: Franzen, Lethem, Chabon, Eggers. BONEY’s eyes hit the wall.</p> <p>BONEY (CONT’D): These yours?          BONEY holds a red lacy thong on the end of a pencil.          BONEY (CONT’D): They were on your thermostat.</p> <p>NICK looks STUNNED. There’s a long, painful silence.</p> <p>NICK: <b>You read the clue.</b>          BONEY: Randy professor and naughty student! My ex</p>



	<p>and I just swapped cards.</p> <p>BONEY slips the undies into an evidence bag. Nick stares, almost mesmerized. Boney nods toward the CLUE.</p> <p>BONEY (CONT'D): Where next? Where's the little brown house?</p> <p>NICK: No idea.</p> <p>This is an obvious stonewall. Boney plucks the CLUE from him.</p> <p>BONEY: I'll make you a copy.</p>
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#### Analysis:

Grammatical structure in the sentence *You read the clue* is declarative sentence. In common usage, declarative sentence is used to make a statement or giving information. However, in the conversation above, the communicative function of that sentence is not a statement or giving information, but it is questioning.

Based on the speech event, the conversation between Nick and Boney takes place in Nick's office. Boney is trying to find the next clue from Amy. However, when Boney search that clue, she found a lacy in the file drawer. After that, she put it on the evidence bag. Nick feels so shame when Boney found that lacy in his office. That is why, he uses declarative sentence to ask Boney.

The grammatical structure is declarative sentence. However, the speaker's intention is to make a question not giving information. Even the speaker uses declarative sentence to convey his question, the hearer still gets the message conveyed. It is because the hearer knows that the speaker wants to ask her not giving information. It is based on the context where the conversation happens.

Thus, the indirect speech acts from the sentence *You read the clue* is an indirect speech acts. It is because there is an indirect relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function. The structure is declarative sentence but the communicative function is questioning.

#### Data 3

Cultural Context	The conversation between Nick and Margo takes place in Nick's house. Nick is still worrying about his missing wife. Margo also worrying about her twin brother. She asked about his condition. However,
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	<p>Margo feels like Nick is hiding something from her. She feels like Nick did not tell her everything about Nick and Amy’s problem.</p>
<p>Conversation</p>	<p>Nick bangs in. Drops his handful of AMY FLIERS. Go TURNS OFF the TV, grabs a beer for him. Both beers are in hand- crocheted cozies.          GO: How’re you doing?           He gives a shrug.           GO (CONT’D): How’s Marybeth?          NICK: She’s freaked out.          GO: And you?           He waits her out.          GO (CONT’D) (gently) :Hey. Have you told me everything?          NICK : Of course.          GO : <b>Everything.</b>          NICK : Why would you even say that?          GO: Ever since you walked into the Bar, the morning Amy went missing.. .you feel.. .off.          NICK : I am off. (long pause) (MORE)          NICK (CONT’D): Go, everyone is studying me, everyone is projecting their shit onto me. All I want right now is to sit with you and drink a beer and not be judged. Can we please just do that?          GO: Of course.           They drink in silence. Go examines the hand—crocheted yarn cozie on her beer.</p>

Analysis:

Grammatical structure in the sentence *Everything* is declarative sentence. In common usage, declarative sentence is used to make a statement or giving information. However, in the conversation above, the communicative function of that sentence is not a statement or giving information, but it is questioning.

Based on the speech event, the conversation above takes place in Nick’s house. Margo is worrying about her twin brother. Since his wife is missing, Nick looks like someone who desperate. However, Margo thinks that Nick is hiding

something from her. She feels like Nick did not tell her everything. Thus, when Margo said *Everything* it means that she wanted to make sure that Nick already tell her everything. That sentence supposed to be a question whether Nick already tell her everything or not.

The grammatical structure is declarative sentence. However, the speaker's intention is to make a question not giving information. Even the speaker uses declarative sentence to convey his question, the hearer still gets the message conveyed. It is because the hearer knows that the speaker wants to ask her not giving information. It is based on the context where the conversation happens.

Thus, the indirect speech acts from the sentence *Everything* is an indirect speech act. It is because there is an indirect relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function. The structure is declarative sentence but the communicative function is questioning.

#### Data 4

Situational Context	The conversation between Nick and Amy takes place in foyer of their house. Amy and Nick just got in fight because they had different opinion about having a child. Amy wanted to have child, but Nick did not want to have a child. Nick thought that Amy just wanted to save their marriage by having a child. Nick wanted to go out with his friends, but Amy holds him and started to talk about having a child. Amy did that because she wanted to make Nick stay with her at home. However, instead of stay at home, Nick got angry and left Amy alone at home.
Conversation	INT. FOYER - NIGHT  Amy blocks his exit out the front door. A dark moment.  NICK: We could have had this fight four hours ago. AMY: I didn't know it was going to be a fight. NICK: You really want to be the couple who has kids to save our marriage? AMY: Save? NICK: Reignite,. jump-start, whatever works for you. AMY: <b>You said save.</b>

	<p>He goes to leave. She puts a hand on the door.</p> <p>AMY (CONT'D): You're really just going to walk out now? You are such a coward.</p> <p>He grabs her, hard, pushes her from the door.</p>
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**Analysis:**

Grammatical structure in the sentence *You said save* is declarative sentence. In common usage, declarative sentence is used to make a statement or giving information. However, in the conversation above, the communicative function of that sentence is not a statement or giving information, but it is questioning.

Based on the speech event, the conversation above takes place in foyer of their house. Amy and Nick just got in fight because they had different opinion about having a child. Amy wanted to have child, but Nick did not want to have a child. Nick thought that Amy just wanted to save their marriage by having a child. Nick wanted to go out with his friends, but Amy holds him and started to talk about having a child. Amy did that because she wanted to make Nick stay with her at home. However, instead of stay at home, Nick got angry and left Amy alone at home.

The grammatical structure is declarative sentence. However, the speaker's intention is to make a question not giving information. Even the speaker uses declarative sentence to convey his question, the hearer still gets the message conveyed. It is because the hearer knows that the speaker wants to ask her not giving information. It is based on the context where the conversation happens.

Thus, the indirect speech acts from the sentence *You said save* is an indirect speech acts. It is because there is an indirect relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function. The structure is declarative sentence but the communicative function is questioning.

**Data 5**

Situational Context	<p>The conversation between Go and Nick takes place in Go's house. Go got angry to Nick because she just saw Nick had kissed his lover while his wife is missing. Go angry to Nick because Nick never told Go that he had a lover. Moreover, his lover is his own student. Go was really worried when she knew that her twin brother's wife was missing, but then she just saw his</p>
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	brother kissed his lover in front of her eye and that makes Go very angry to Nick.
Conversation	<p>TITLE CARD: JULY 8, 2012 THREE DAYS GONE</p> <p>GO (CONT'D): You fucking asshole. You liar. You fucking lied to my fucking face. NICK: Go. I'm sorry, I— GO: How old is she? NICK: Twenty. GO: How long?</p> <p>Pause.</p> <p>NICK: A year. Little over. GO: <b>You've been lying to me for over a year.</b> NICK: If I told you, you'd convince me to stop. And I didn't want to stop. GO: God, it's so fucking small. You're a liar and a cheat. Just like Dad.</p> <p>Nick flinches. Go sees the punch land and deflates a bit, sits down at the kitchen table.</p>

#### Analysis:

Grammatical structure in the sentence *You've been lying to me for over a year* is declarative sentence. In common usage, declarative sentence is used to make a statement or giving information. However, in the conversation above, the communicative function of that sentence is not a statement or giving information, but it is questioning.

Based on the speech event, the conversation between Go and Nick takes place in Go's house. Go got angry to Nick because she just saw Nick had kissed his lover while his wife is missing. Go angry to Nick because Nick never told Go that he had a lover. Moreover, his lover is his own student. Go was really worried when she knew that her twin brother's wife was missing, but then she just saw his brother kissed his lover in front of her eye and that makes Go very angry to Nick.

The grammatical structure is declarative sentence. However, the speaker's intention is to make a question not giving information. Even the speaker uses declarative sentence to convey his question, the hearer still gets the message conveyed. It is because the hearer knows that the speaker wants to ask her not giving information. It is based on the context where the conversation happens.

Thus, the indirect speech acts from the sentence *You've been lying to me for over a year* is an indirect speech acts. It is because there is an indirect relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function. The structure is declarative sentence but the communicative function is questioning.

## Conclusion

After analyzing the data found, the writer draws some conclusions. There are two types of speech acts identified based on the relationship between grammatical structure and the communicative function. They are direct speech acts and indirect speech acts. However, this research only focuses on indirect speech acts of questioning. Thus, the writer only analyzed the sentence which is used to convey question.

The indirect speech acts consists declarative sentence. Declarative sentence classified as indirect speech acts because there is an indirect relationship between grammatical structure and its communicative function. The grammatical structure is declarative sentence but the communicative function is questioning.

In addition, this research also found the factor triggers hearers; understanding. The factors are speech event and context. Speech event helps the hearer to understand what the speakers' intention in making the sentence. Thus, when the speaker makes a question through an indirect speech acts, the hearer still get the message that contain on the sentence.

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