

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

This study aims to analyze the speech act of command found in the grocery store challenges of *Impractical Jokers*. The data were collected using a theme-based sampling approach, focusing on all grocery store challenge segments identified in Seasons 1 and 2 of the show. Rather than selecting episodes sequentially, this approach allows for a more consistent analysis of command utterances within a recurring interactional setting. The study seeks to identify the types of commands used by the Jokers and to examine the grammatical forms through which these commands are realized. By applying speech act theory as proposed by Austin (1962) and further developed by Searle (1969), this research investigates how directive illocutionary force operates in spontaneous and task-driven interactions within a public entertainment context.

The findings show that all 47 identified command utterances fall under the category of direct commands. There were no indirect commands found in the dataset. This indicates that the Jokers consistently employ explicit directive strategies when instructing either fellow cast members or civilians during grocery store challenges. The absence of indirect commands suggests that the communicative environment of the challenges prioritizes clarity, immediacy, and efficiency over indirectness or inferential expression. In this context, directive intention is expressed overtly, and immediate action is generally expected from the hearer.

In terms of grammatical realization, imperative structures dominate the dataset. Out of 47 command utterances, the majority are expressed in imperative form, while a smaller number appear in interrogative structures, and one is realized in declarative form but

functions as a direct command. The dominance of imperative forms demonstrates that base verb constructions without explicit subjects serve as the primary linguistic strategy for conveying directive force in the selected challenges. Meanwhile, interrogative forms such as *Can you open this box for me?* tend to occur in interactions with civilians, indicating a structural adjustment that aligns with social expectations in public settings. The presence of a declarative command further confirms that grammatical form alone does not determine speech act classification; instead, illocutionary force and contextual intention play a decisive role.

Overall, the findings reinforce the theoretical claim that the essence of a speech act lies in its illocutionary force rather than merely its grammatical structure. Although imperative forms dominate, interrogative and declarative constructions can also function as direct commands when supported by clear intention and situational context. The grocery store challenges illustrate how linguistic realization adapts to situational demands while maintaining directive force. In spontaneous and task-oriented public interactions, efficiency and clarity emerge as the primary factors shaping the use of command speech acts.

The findings of this study contribute to the broader discussion of speech act theory, particularly in understanding how directive illocutionary force operates in spontaneous public interactions. By demonstrating that all 47 identified command utterances function as direct directives, this study provides empirical support for Austin's (1962) argument that the essence of a speech act lies in its illocutionary force rather than its surface grammatical structure. The analysis shows that imperative, interrogative, and declarative forms can all perform directive functions when supported by clear intention and contextual cues. This reinforces Searle's (1969) classification of directives as speech acts intended to make the hearer perform an action, regardless of syntactic form.

Furthermore, the distribution of grammatical forms dominated by imperative structures with only limited occurrences of interrogative and declarative realizations, highlights the role of situational context in shaping linguistic choices. In the grocery store challenges, where actions must be performed quickly and under performance pressure, linguistic efficiency becomes central. Imperative constructions are favored because they provide direct, unambiguous instructions that require minimal processing. This finding extends pragmatic research by showing that in task-driven and time-sensitive interactions, communicative efficiency may take precedence over indirectness, politeness strategies, or mitigation.

In addition to its theoretical contribution, this study offers practical implications for media and communication studies. The findings demonstrate how language is used strategically in reality television to create immediacy, maintain interactional flow, and sustain audience engagement. The dominance of direct commands reflects how entertainment formats that rely on spontaneity and real-time performance tend to favor clear and action-oriented language. This insight may be useful for researchers examining discourse in reality shows, improvised communication, or performance-based interaction.

Moreover, this study highlights the importance of pragmatic awareness in everyday communication. The presence of interrogative and declarative commands, particularly in interactions with civilians, suggests that speakers adjust their grammatical choices in response to social context and interpersonal relations. Even within a humorous and performative setting, there is sensitivity to public norms, which influences how directive force is expressed. This observation contributes to a broader understanding of how speakers balance clarity, urgency, and social appropriateness when performing directive speech acts in real-life situations.

4.2 Limitations of the Study

Despite its contributions, this study has several limitations that should be acknowledged. First, the scope of the data is restricted to grocery store challenges in Impractical Jokers Seasons 1 and 2. Although this theme-based selection ensures consistency in interactional settings and task structure, the findings cannot be generalized to other types of challenges within the show, such as those set in parks, offices, or social environments with different interactional dynamics. Different settings may produce different distributions of command types and grammatical forms.

Second, the dataset consists of 47 command utterances. While this number is sufficient for qualitative analysis and allows for in-depth examination of speech act realization, it remains relatively limited in representing the full range of directive strategies used across the entire series. A larger dataset may reveal additional variation, including potential occurrences of indirect commands or a broader distribution of declarative and interrogative forms.

Third, this study focuses primarily on the verbal realization of command speech acts and does not incorporate a detailed multimodal analysis. Elements such as intonation, gesture, facial expression, and audience reaction may also contribute to how directive force is conveyed and interpreted. The absence of multimodal analysis may limit the depth of interpretation regarding how commands are performed and perceived in a performative media context.

Finally, this study does not treat humor as a central analytical variable. Although the data are situated within a comedic and performative setting, humor is considered primarily as contextual background rather than as an object of analysis. Future studies may integrate

speech act theory with humor theory to explore how comedic intention interacts with directive force and influences audience reception.

4.3 Suggestions for Future Research

Based on the limitations identified in this study, several directions can be proposed for future research. First, future researchers are encouraged to expand the scope of data beyond grocery store challenges by including a wider range of interactional settings within *Impractical Jokers*, such as parks, restaurants, or workplace environments. Comparing different settings may reveal how situational context influences the realization of command speech acts, particularly in terms of the distribution of imperative, interrogative, and declarative forms. A broader dataset may also help determine whether the absence of indirect commands observed in this study is specific to grocery-based tasks or characteristic of the show more generally.

Second, future studies may investigate the potential emergence of indirect commands in different communicative environments, either within reality television or in other forms of spontaneous public interaction. While this study found that all commands function as direct directives, it remains possible that indirect strategies appear in contexts with lower time pressure or different social dynamics.

Finally, future research may benefit from integrating speech act theory with humor studies to explore the relationship between directive intention and comedic effect. Since the data in this study are situated within a performative and humorous context, examining how humor shapes or modifies directive force could offer valuable interdisciplinary insights. Such an approach may contribute to a deeper understanding of how language operates in entertainment-based discourse, particularly in balancing clarity, social norms, and audience engagement.