

## IMPERATIVE SENTENCES IN AMERICAN SERIAL TV GREY'S ANATOMY SEASON 17

Sabika Qotrunnada Agustina<sup>1</sup>, Tenny Sudjatnika<sup>2</sup>, Ice Sariyati<sup>3</sup>

UIN Sunan Gunung Djati

Bandung, Indonesia

[gotrunnadasabika@gmail.com](mailto:gotrunnadasabika@gmail.com)

[tennysudjatnika@uinsgd.ac.id](mailto:tennysudjatnika@uinsgd.ac.id)

[ice@uinsgd.ac.id](mailto:ice@uinsgd.ac.id)

### ABSTRACT

*This study focused on analyzing the imperative sentences types and how does it affect the interlocutor that found in the American serial tv Grey's Anatomy episode 1 of season 17, namely All Tomorrow's Parties. The researcher uses documentation as data. Meanwhile for the research design, the researcher uses document analysis. For the result of this study, there are three parts of imperative sentence in Grey's Anatomy episode 1 of season 17. They are imperative as command form, imperative as request form, and imperative as suggestion form. Each type of imperative sentence has 2 patterns, namely positive pattern and negative pattern. For imperative as request form, the researcher cannot find any negative pattern. After calculating all the data, the researcher found that imperative as command form is the dominant type of imperative sentences in Grey's Anatomy. 57,5% of the dialogue appear as command. Meanwhile 17,5% of the dialogue appear as request. It is the least used type of imperative sentences in Grey's Anatomy episode 1 of season 17. And 25% of the dialogue appear as suggestion. At least a quarter of the dialogue are the imperative as suggestion form.*

**Keyword:** *imperative, speech act, pragmatics, serial tv, directive.*

### INTRODUCTION

Human are social creatures who need each other. Therefore, humans will always need communication with others. In communication, it takes several supporting components, one of the components is language so that communication is easier to do in order to be able to interact with other people. This is why language can never be

apart from human life. According to Pit Corder "We can communicate with other people just because they share with us a set of 'agreed' ways of behaving. Language in this sense is the possession of a social group, an indispensable set of rules which permits its member to relate to each other in order to interact with each other, to cooperate with each other; it is a social

institution". (Alwasilah, A. Chaedar 1985:14)

There are two different ways to communicate with other people, it is formal and informal way. The formal way usually used in formal forum such in education field and work environment. Whereas the informal way uses in a more relaxed environment such as hangout with friends and family. There are many types of informal communication in language. However, the researcher will investigate more about Imperative sentences that included in speech act area, in the light of the fact that for almost 4 years the covid-19 pandemic obligated people to obey the regulation called "Social Distancing". It is a protocol that was obliged when the outbreak spread throughout the world. Based on Merriam-Webster dictionary, social distancing is "The practice of maintaining a greater than usual physical distance (such as six feet or more) from the people or avoiding direct contact with people or objects in public places during the outbreak of a contagious disease in order to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection"

The researcher chooses this topic because currently, the digital era is at its peak. Everything is done in digital ways such as communicate with someone far

away and other non-essential activities. Moreover in 2022, the digital world is intensively developing Neal Stephenson's old concept which was raised in 1992 through his science fiction novel entitled Snow Crash, namely Metaverse. It allows us to do various activities such as shopping, working, studying, playing games and streaming movies in several Video on Demand platforms. Digital era makes things easier in the light of the fact that it is been almost 4 years since Covid-19 spread all over the world. Especially in Indonesia, the people spend most of their times on the internet whether it's doing their homework or watching movies. This cannot be separated from the impact of work from home (WFH) policy and home study. According to We are Social and Hootsuite recorded internet users in Indonesia as many as 202.6 million people as of January 2021. While active mobile networks reached 345.3 million, or 125.6% of the total population (Bayu, 2021). People are flocking to subscribe to the Video on Demand platform to enjoy different shows.

According to data from a McKinsey survey of 1,034 respondents in Indonesia, 43% of respondents appear to be increasingly using online streaming. The number of new online streaming users launched at the end of 2020 is also

increasing by 6%. And 67% of all respondent plan to continue using the estimates after the pandemic has been suppressed. This estimate is proof that the use of streaming platforms is becoming increasingly important in the midst of a pandemic where circumstances force people to stay home. (Chriswied et al., 2021)

The researcher also subscribes to Disney+ Hotstar to fill in spare time. On this platform, there is one American TV series that has consistently won various awards since 2005 until now, namely Grey's Anatomy season 17. It is an American medical drama television series aired on ABC on March 27, 2005 as a replacement to the mid-season. This series focuses on the lives of residents, attendings, and general surgical interns who grow to become skilled doctors by balancing personal relationships and professional. The title is a reference to Grey's Anatomy season 17, a classic human anatomy textbook first published in London in 1858 and written by Henry Gray.

In this series, the dialogues among casts are mostly used informal way of communication. Because of the role gives the casts such authority to other casts and allow them to communicate in most efficient way in order to do their job precise

and accurate. The casts frequently give orders and asking to do something to other casts because their job allowed them to do so. As Dixon (1957:76) states that "Imperative is a phrase marked as please, sorry, could you, would you, can you and will you.". It turns out that imperative is a kind of command, instruction, or action to a speaking interlocutor or partner and the speaker should have the authority to command the interlocutor. Hornby (1975:193) stated "Imperative can be propagated in a variety of ways, including commands, prohibitions, invitations, requests."

Therefore, the researcher will be analyzed what is the dominant type and function of imperative sentences in the manner of John Searle theory. Searle (1999:51) states that "The act of speaking can be categorized into general categories." They are declarative, representative, expressive, directive, interrogative, and commissive. One of them is a directive statement. According to Kreidler (1998: 189), "A directive expression is one in which the speaker intends or refrains from performing an action by the recipient." There are three types of directive declarations: commands, requests, and suggestions.

Besides the imperative sentence types, the researcher analyzes about how does the imperative sentences affect the interlocutor according to particular aspect that could be found spoken by casts of Grey's Anatomy season 17. Kreidler (1998: 190) states that "A command is valid only if the speaker has control over the recipient's behavior." Command expressions come in three forms: declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentences. The linguistic form consists of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. In fact, commands are imperative stereotyped usages and are often regarded as semantically core usages. From this point of view, we tend to think that the imperative imposes obligations on the recipient based on linguistic customs. However, this is not true given that orders are used with less directive power in pleas, warnings, requests and etc. Common to the use of directives is that they are all attempts by the speaker to get the receiver to do something (Searle 1975). For example, we have a record of how this happened. The use of the command can then be interpreted as an attempt to get the recipient to do something in a situation where the speaker has authority over the recipient. "Authority" means that the recipient is obliged to follow the speaker wants. Seen this way, such directives can only cause obligations in non-linguistic situations.

## METHOD

It embraces methods/methodology and findings/results. Methods/Methodology section explains in concise how you develop your research method to resolve the issue you bring

In conducting research, we should include research design. Research design is the strategy to integrate the different components of research projects in cohesive and coherence way. The function of a research design is to ensure that the evidence concluded enables us to answer the question as clearly as possible. In this research, the writer used qualitative approach because this study focuses on the analysis or interpretation of the written material in context. The method that used in this research is a qualitative method. Based on Shank (2002), qualitative research is "a form of systematic empirical inquiry into meaning". This research will describe the analysis of the certain imperative sentences form that occurs in American serial TV, Grey's Anatomy season 17.

In order to makes this study reaches its goal, the researcher used Qualitative research by Document Analysis. The technique of Document analysis is particularly important in this research. According to Corbin & Strauss (2008) "Document analysis requires that data be

examined and interpreted in order to elicit meaning, gain understanding, and develop empirical knowledge.” (See also Rapley, 2007)

In the light of the fact that this study was applied Qualitative method, the researcher become the key instrument for collecting and analyzing the data. In order to collect data, here are some explanations point of what will the researcher researches the study:

- a. Finding and collect the utterances of what the casts said on episode 1 of season 17. Researcher found data in the online streaming platform namely Disney+ Hotstar on <https://www.hotstar.com/id/tv/greys-anatomy/14823> and the Grey’s Anatomy fandom website on <https://greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/greysanatomywiki>.
- b. Compiling the data of dialogue in episode 1.
- c. Analyzing the difference of all the type along with the effect to the interlocutor that found in Grey’s Anatomy season 17 episode 1.
- d. Organize all the imperative utterances of casts only then categorized them into which type of imperative as table below,

Imperative Sentences	Frequency
Imperative as Command	
Imperative as Request	
Imperative as Suggestion	

- e. Calculate the percentage of data that has been collected with the following formula,

$$\frac{x}{y} \times 100\%$$

x = The frequency of imperative type

y = The total amount of imperative sentence

## DISCUSSION

Serials are series of ongoing TV programs that occur based on a continuation plot of TV program. A series is distinct from a traditional episodic TV program as it usually follows a main story across the entire TV episode or the entire series. In this study, the researcher will classify the imperative sentences of Grey’s Anatomy’s casts. Like the rest of the world, Seattle has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and Gray Sloan Memorial Hospital quickly became the city's largest COVID-19 treatment center. All surgeons are forced to quickly adapt to the new reality, where normal functioning and hierarchy no longer apply and staying away from family and friends to ensure their safety. While working in the new COVID

intensive care unit, Meredith falls ill and blacks out as her close friends and colleagues try to figure out how to treat her, learn about the course of the disease and the changing patterns they follow every day. Bailey takes steps to turn the hospital into a COVID treatment center. When her divorced mother is hospitalized with COVID-19 and soon succumbs to the disease, she has to grieve alone. Because of the excessive data, the researcher will collect the data only from episode 1 of season 17, namely **“All Tomorrow’s Parties”**

According to Kreidler (1998: 189), "A directive expression is one in which the speaker intends or refrains from performing an action by the recipient. There are three types of imperative speech: commands, requests, and suggestions.”.

#### 1. Imperative as Command form

Command expressions are expressions spoken by speakers to tell someone to do the right thing according to the speaker's wishes. Kreidler (1998: 190) states that "A command is valid only if the speaker has control over the recipient's behavior." The researcher found 23 command form of 40 data in Grey's Anatomy season 17 episode 1. In the light

of excessive data, the researcher will describe 2 data of command as follows,

#### Data 1

Cast : dr. Miranda Bailey

Position : General surgeon and Chief of Surgery

Utterance : You be careful out there.  
(at 02:24)

The expression *“You be careful out there”* is classified as imperative as command because it's caused an action which implemented by the listener as here is her husband, Ben warren. The command above categorizes as positive command as well because it not followed by negative word namely **“No”**, **“Not”**, and **“Don't”**. The command occurred when her husband go back to work after meet with Miranda and she orders her husband to be careful. The effect of her command to the interlocutor, her husband, makes her husband obey her word and command his wife to be careful too when working.

#### Data 2

Cast : dr. Miranda Bailey

Position : General surgeon and Chief of Surgery

Utterance : Helm Take this. Call the police immediately. Her family needs to know their little girl is still alive. Go, go! (at 18:16)

The expression "*Helm Take this. Call the police immediately. Her family needs to know their little girl is still alive. Go, go!*" is classified as imperative as command because it's caused an action which implemented by the listener as here the resident, dr. Helm. The command above categorizes as positive command as well because it not followed by negative word namely "**No**", "**Not**", and "**Don't**". The command occurred when dr. Bailey hear the story of Erin Banks, one of dr. Andrew deLuca's patient. She is the victim of human trafficking that successfully escaping from the culprit. The effect of her command to the interlocutor, dr. Helm, makes dr. Helm immediately call the police on her command.

## 2. Imperative as Request form

According to Searle (1969) request is "A directive speech act whose illocutionary purpose is to get the interlocutor do something in circumstances in which it's not obvious that he/she will perform the action in the normal course of events.". The researcher found 7 request form of 40 data in Grey's Anatomy season

17 episode 1. In the light of excessive data, the researcher will describe 2 data of request as follows,

### Data 1

Cast : dr. Teddy Altman

Position : Co-Head of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Utterance : Can you please make sure this gets up to the COVID floor - with Enna Ravera? (07:13)

The expression "*Can you please make sure this gets up to the COVID floor - with Enna Ravera?*" is classified as imperative as request because the speaker here, Teddy asks the interlocutor to make sure the data she holds gets up to the Covid floor. The speaker also uses the word "can you" with question mark in the end. The request above categorizes as positive request as well because it not followed by negative word namely "**No**", "**Not**", and "**Don't**". the request occurs when dr. Altman need to make sure her patient data gets to covid floor and asking the one who is in charge of the duty, dr. Karen. The effect of her request makes the interlocutor, dr. Karen, agree and order dr. Altman to leave the data on her desk.

## Data 2

Cast : dr. Owen Hunt

Position : Head of Trauma

Utterance : Uh, hey, Karen, uh, could I get an update for Ike Donerson? He's a friend of a friend. (07:20)

The expression *"Uh, hey, Karen, uh, could I get an update for Ike Donerson? He's a friend of a friend."* is classified as imperative as request because the speaker here, dr. Hunt, asks the interlocutor an update about one of patient in Grey Sloan Hospital, Ike Donerson. The speaker also uses the word "can you" with question mark in the end. The request above categorizes as positive request as well because it not followed by negative word namely "No", "Not", and "Don't". the request occurs when dr. hunt need an update about one of patient in Grey Sloan Hospital, Ike Donerson, because he's a friend of dr. Hunt's friend and asking the one who is in charge of the duty, dr. Karen. The effect of her request makes the interlocutor, dr. Karen, agree to check on Ike Donerson.

## 3. Imperative as Suggestion form

Suggestion is an instructions or solutions, how to do it, etc. It also a way of instructing other people to do something according to the speaker's intent. The meaning of the suggestion can be expressed with declarative and imperative sentences. Flor (2005: 174-175) explains that the suggestion classification is characterized by the use of auxiliary verbs with the modal "should" and "need". The researcher found 10 suggestion form of 40 data in Grey's Anatomy season 17 episode 1. In the light of excessive data, the researcher will describe 2 data of suggestion as follows,

### Data 1

Cast : dr. Richard Webber

Position : Residency Program Director and Chief Medical Officer

Utterance : You can send me off with a resident. You know, I'd love to say hello to DeLuca. (at 03:07)

The expression *"You can send me off with a resident. You know, I'd love to say hello to DeLuca."* is classified as imperative as suggestion because the speaker here, dr. Hunt, suggest the interlocutor to send dr. Webber with a resident. The suggestion above categorizes as positive suggestion as



well because it not followed by negative word namely “No”, “Not”, and “Don’t”. the suggest occurs when dr. Webber suggest dr. Bailey to send him with a resident because he wants to help in the hospital. The effect of her request makes the interlocutor, dr. Bailey, doesn’t agree because dr. Webber just went through rehab after getting surgery due to cobalt poisoning and dr. Bailey worried because dr. Webber is at high risk for covid.

**Data 2**

Cast : dr. Meredith Gray  
 Position : Head of General Surgery  
 Utterance : So, Andrew's in the on-call room on 3. He didn't even want to come in today, but I didn't think he should be alone, so... (at 03:16)

The expression “*So, Andrew's in the on-call room on 3. He didn't even want to come in today, but I didn't think he should be alone, so...*” is classified as imperative as suggestion because the speaker here, dr. Grey, suggest the interlocutor to accompany dr. deLuca. The suggestion above categorizes as negative suggestion as well because it followed by negative word namely “No”, “Not”, and “Don’t”. the suggest occurs when dr. Grey suggest his sister, dr. Carina deLuca to accompany him.

The effect of her request makes the interlocutor, dr. Carina, agree but angry because her brother dr. deLuca went through depression that always come after the mania he suffers after operating dr. Webber due to cobalt poisoning and dr. Carina worries about her brother condition.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the research findings and discussion, there are some conclusions drawn. The researcher concluded there are three parts of imperative sentence in Grey's Anatomy episode 1 of season 17. They are imperative as command form, imperative as request form, and imperative as suggestion form. Each type of imperative sentence has 2 patterns, namely positive pattern and negative pattern. For imperative as request form, the researcher cannot find any negative pattern. The result of this study is drawn in table below,

Imperative Sentences	Frequency
Imperative as Command	23
Imperative as Request	7
Imperative as Suggestion	10

a. Imperative as Command

$$\frac{23}{40} \times 100\% = 57,5\%$$

Based on the calculation above, imperative as command form is the dominant type of imperative sentences in Grey’s Anatomy

episode 1 of season 17. Most of the casts used command as their communication ways.

b. Imperative as Request

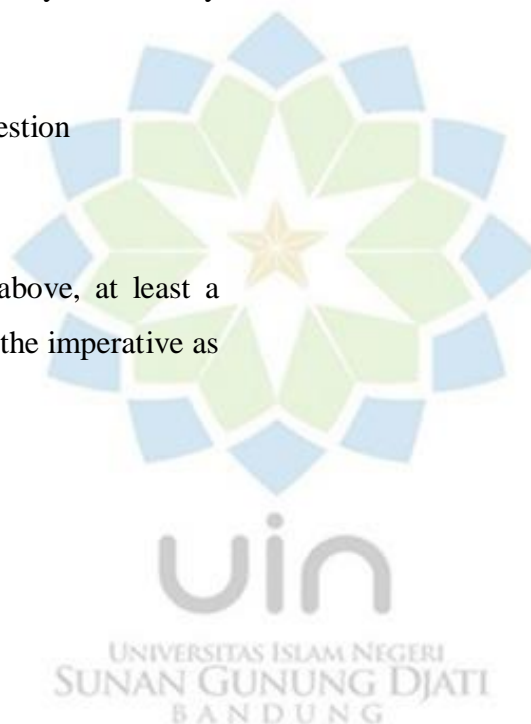
$$\frac{7}{40} \times 100\% = 17,5\%$$

Based on the calculation above, imperative as request is the least used type of imperative sentences in Grey's Anatomy episode 1 of season 17.

c. Imperative as Suggestion

$$\frac{10}{40} \times 100\% = 25\%$$

Based on the calculation above, at least a quarter of the dialogue are the imperative as suggestion form.



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