



**EXPLORING DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACTS USED  
BY BETH HARMON TO SHOW HER  
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE MOVIE *THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT***

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements**

**For S-1 Degree Majoring Linguistics Studies in the English**

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

I honestly declare this thesis is written by myself without using other researchers' works. All references as well as the data from other various works found, have been acknowledged and properly cited.

**Semarang, 28th August 2025.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hanifa', written in a cursive style.

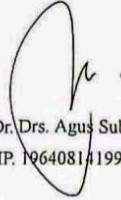
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EXPLORING DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACTS USED BY BETH HARMON  
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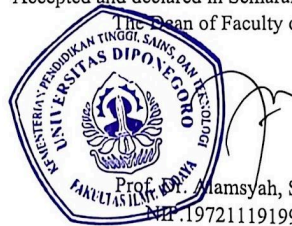
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## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*"It's not about being the best, it's about being better than you were yesterday."*

— *The Queen's Gambit* (2020)

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents, with all my love and gratitude, for their constant support, prayers, and endless patience. Their help truly kept me going as I worked on this thesis. I would like to thank my lecturers, my friends, and everyone else who helped me out and shared their knowledge during difficult times. I am dedicating this thesis to myself, as a reminder to always keep pushing, learning, and growing, just like Beth Harmon, who never stopped getting better at her own game of life.

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**Semarang, 28th August 2025.**



**Hanifa Meutia Rani**

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## ABSTRACT

*The Queen's Gambit* tells the story of Beth Harmon, a young chess prodigy who rises to fame while struggling with addiction, loneliness, and the challenge of finding her place in the world. Beyond her chess skills, the way Beth speaks plays an important role in showing who she is and how she relates to others. One striking aspect of her speech is her use of direct instructions, which reflect her personality, emotions, and the power dynamics in her relationships. This study explores how Beth uses directive speech acts, such as giving orders, making requests, or offering suggestions, across three stages of her life: childhood, teenage years, and adulthood. Using Searle's Speech Act Theory, the research analyzes what kinds of directives she employs and what they reveal about her character. The findings show that Beth's use of directives matures with her, becoming more confident and strategic as she grows older.

Keywords: directive speech acts, Beth Harmon, *The Queen's Gambit*, speech act theory,