



**ANALYZING DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACTS IN *DESPICABLE ME* (2010) AND *DESPICABLE ME 2* (2013) MOVIES TO EXPLORE GRU'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for S-1 Degree Majoring Linguistics in the English Department  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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## PRONOUNCEMENT

I honestly state that this thesis is written by myself without taking any works from other researchers in any university, in diploma degree, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree. I also ascertain that I do not take any material from other works except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 16 April 2026



Rafida Zukhrufi Shahbak



## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*There is no fear for you today, nor will you grieve.*

**~ QS. Az-Zukhruf: 68**

*Cause someday I'll be everything to somebody else.*

**~ Olivia Rodrigo**



*This thesis is dedicated to*

*My beloved dad, mom,*

*and those whom I love the most.*

**APPROVAL**

**ANALYZING DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACTS IN *DESPICABLE ME* (2010)  
AND *DESPICABLE ME 2* (2013) MOVIES TO EXPLORE GRU'S  
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This thesis certainly still needs improvement, as I realize it is far from perfect. Therefore, any recommendations or suggestions are always welcome and appreciated.

Semarang, 16 April 2026



Rafida Zukhrufi Shahbak

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Definition
CO	Command
OR	Order
TE	Tell
FO	Forbid
WA	Warn
SU	Suggest
AD	Advise
RE	Request
AS	Ask



## ABSTRACT

Directive speech act is one of the speech acts that are usually used to ask someone to do something. This study focuses on the types of directive speech acts and the factors underlying the development of Gru's character in the films *Despicable Me* and *Despicable Me 2*. The main objectives of this study are (1) to identify the types of Gru's directive speech acts that appear in *Despicable Me* and *Despicable Me 2*, (2) to analyze the factors influencing differences in the use of Gru's directive speech acts, and (3) to explain Gru's character development in both movies. This study was conducted by watching both films and collecting data on Gru's directive speech acts, then classified and analyzed using relevant theories. The results reveal that all types of directive speech acts experienced increases or decreases, with the highest increase in Advise (4.7%) and the highest decrease in Tell (5.4%). These differences were influenced by power relations and social distance, resulting in several Gru's character developments from both films. This study contributes to the understanding of how the use of directive speech acts can reflect characterization and the development of educational strategies in pragmatic teaching.

**Keywords:** *Despicable Me*; *Despicable Me 2*; directive speech act; type; factor; character development.