

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

This study examines George Milton's use of directive speech acts in the 1939 movie "Of Mice and Men," demonstrating how harsh instructions can be used to show care for a vulnerable person by examining what the speaker says from the perspectives of pragmatics and the characterization theory.

In the movie, George uses harsh directive speech acts to keep Lennie out of trouble. Out of 37 directive speech acts showing care that George produces, requirements are the most dominant type, making up nearly half of the total data, followed by requests. In contrast, softer directives like questions, prohibitives, and permissives each account for less than 20%. Interestingly, George does not use advisories at all when giving Lennie instructions.

Although his instructions sound dictatorial, George uses them to keep Lennie safe. Through characterization theory, this study finds that George's caring attitude, realized with a short-tempered nature, is shown through his use of direct requirements and direct prohibitives. He avoids indirect forms because he only uses them when he wants to be gentle while still ensuring Lennie understands his instructions. Furthermore, this study proves that George's harsh directive speech acts are not signs of hatred but a result of his exhaustion and his effort to survive in a difficult world of the Great Depression. Additionally, these direct speech acts are a manifestation of his responsibility and care for Lennie. It would be beneficial for future study to explore how language is used to care for characters with disabilities in other literary works.