



**THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY BY THEO
FABER IN PURSUIT OF ALICIA BERENSON TO
SPEAK: A DIRECTIVE SPEECH ACTS ANALYSIS OF
THE SILENT PATIENT (2019)**

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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2026

PRONOUNCEMENT

I honestly declare that this thesis is my own original work. It has not been submitted for any other degree or diploma at any university. I also confirm that I have not used any material from other sources except those explicitly cited in the references.

Semarang, 01 April 2026

Puspa Indah Taman Hati

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

You can gather up the anger within you and the anger you see in other people, and turn it into something flowery and shining, so that your youth can shine like a flower.

Kim Namjoon, RM of BTS

To be, or not to be, that is the question.

William Shakespeare

*This thesis is dedicated to
My beloved mama and papa,
Also, those whom I love the most.*

APPROVAL

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Written by:

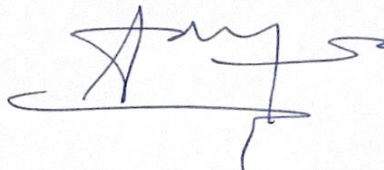
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I am aware that this thesis still has many weaknesses. Because of this, I welcome any feedback and suggestions for its improvement. I hope this study provides helpful information for anyone interested in directive speech acts or similar topics.

Semarang, 01 April 2026

Puspa Indah Taman Hati

ABSTRACT

This study discusses the directive speech acts used by Theo Faber in *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. The study specifically examined the directives used by Theo to make Alicia Berenson respond verbally, since the story narrates her refusal to speak. This study is qualitative descriptive and to examine the data, Speech Act Theory and Communication Accommodation Theory were applied in order to determine the directive utterances serving as language actions and as communication strategies in therapy sessions. The data included thirty-seven utterances spoken by Theo Faber to Alicia Berenson and upon the analysis, seven types of directive speech acts were found. The findings conclude that Theo Faber changes his communication strategy based on the situation; he uses convergence strategies to make Alicia feel more comfortable and trusted, and he uses divergence strategies to show authority and create psychological pressure. The findings suggest that breaking silence in communication does not happen instantly but it requires adjustment in the way of speaking carefully based on the patient's psychological condition.

Keywords: communication strategies; breaking the silence; directive speech acts; pragmatics; therapeutic discourse