



## AN ANALYSIS OF INTERPERSONAL MEANINGS REALIZATION OF INSTAGRAM CAPTION

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### Abstract

Sometimes the writer's intent (speech function) did not match with mood, it can be happen because they exchanged their message through indirect illocutionary act. This exchange meaning phenomenon could be seen in Social Media, such as Instagram. In Instagram, the user write the message or feeling through Caption. This research want to know how the interpersonal meanings are realized when the writer exchange their message through indirect illocutionary act in students' instagram caption. The writer analysed 17 Instagram caption from students in the same University. In this research, the analyses are based on the theory of Functional Grammar and Speech Function proposed by Halliday (1994) and supported with Illocutionary Acts theory proposed by Searle (1979) and Yule (1996). The method that used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. This research showed that based on the roles of Illocutionary acts, giving directive like command, recommend, and request and also giving expressive like lament and congratulate can be identified as Indirect Illocutionary Acts in Declarative Mood.

**Keywords:** Interpersonal Meanings, Instagram Caption.

### INTRODUCTION

People need a language to make communication with others people, it can be express their feelings or experience and also to share messages. Istiningdias et al (2014) reported that in language, people can understand some purposes by exchanging messages which expressed in spoken or written forms of language in many different ways. In language, written and spoken forms are related into grammar. Functional grammar is one of the way to analyse the meaning of language. Halliday (1985) said that grammar is semantic and functional is the way language used. Halliday (1985) also

stated that there are three types of meanings, there are experimental, interpersonal and textual. Interpersonal meaning expressed the Mood of the clause, it can be a statement, a question, or a request and by the speech roles of speaker and hearer, which normally alternate between participants in a conversation, Halliday (1985).

Sometimes, people not always show their message directly, they may show through the diction of the word used in communication, especially in written. Istiningdias et al (2017) reported that in the system of communication, not all people can realize how meanings built up

with words, mood and illocutionary act, it can be said as exchange meanings phenomenon. This phenomenon could be seen in utterance which published in social media. Istiningdias et al (2017) reported that exchange meanings phenomenon could be seen in the social media online such as quotes in twitter from Disney film's characters.

Today social media became a part of human being's life. One of the most popular social media is Instagram. Rainie, Brenner, and Purcell (2012) reported that photos and videos have become the key social currencies online Shafie, Yaacob, & Singh (2016) also reported that Instagram is one of popular forms of Social Network Sites with a high rate in tertiary students. Because of the outstanding of Instagram, students may share their messages in some utterance with other people. So exchange meanings phenomenon also could be seen in instagram.

Caption is some sentences for clarifying the instagram photos. Amirudin and Triyono (2018) reported that people not only share their photos, some photos would be given with text called caption as the information of the situations, and it can be their feeling or emotion. It can be conclude that in caption there is a messages of the writer. In caption, the writer may use the kind of mood types which have speech function and associated with an illocutionary act. Gerot & Wignell (1994) stated that each mood type is basically associated with an illocutionary act: declarative used to express a statement, interrogative used to express a question, imperative used to express a directive such as command and request, and the exclamative used to express an exclamation.

To prove the originality of this study, the writer will show previous study that has been done. Istiningdias et al. (2014) observed *Illocutionary Acts in Declarative Mood: A Functional*

*Grammar Approach*. This research investigated the kinds of illocutionary acts roles can be identified in Declarative Mood. This research using Functional Grammar Approach. The object of this research is Disney Words in Twitter. The method in this research is descriptive qualitative research. The result of this research shows that based on the roles of illocutionary acts, making statement or giving statement or giving information can be identified as Direct Illocutionary acts in declarative mood and giving direction such as getting someone to do something or stop doing something, giving advice, and giving warning, and also giving exclamation such as expressing emotion can be identified as Indirect Illocutionary acts in declarative mood. The similarity between this researches is both Istiningdias et al's research and this research analyse data based on Functional Grammar. The difference is the object of the study that being used. Istiningdias et al's research uses Disney Words in Twitter but this study uses caption on instagram. There is still lack research investigating the illocutionary act in declarative mood viewed from Istiningdias et al (2017) because the writers did not analyse deeply why the sentences called as directive function, warning function and advising function.

Sometimes the writer's intent (speech function) do not match with mood, it can be happened because they exchange their message through indirect illocutionary act. It is in line with Dwiniasih (2018) claimed that different interpretation would vary to each researcher, hearer or reader based on the situation and utterance received, especially if we analyse written text. While Downing and Locke (2006) said that declarative mood sometimes shows indirect illocutionary act with giving directive or expressing exclamation.

**METHOD**

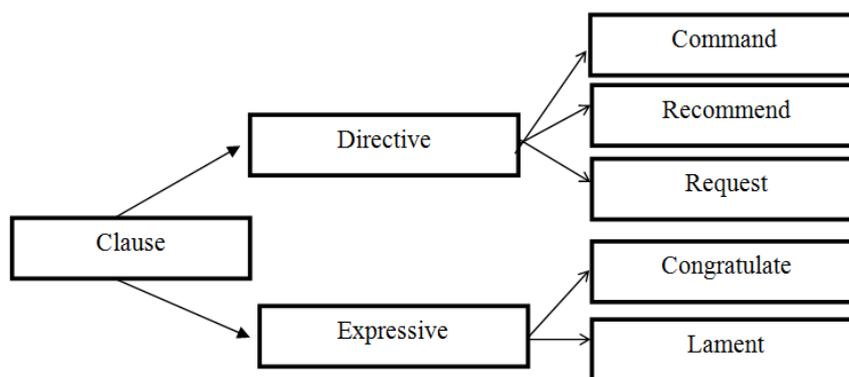
The data of this research are 17 declarative mood clauses in 11 students' instagram caption. To conduct the technique of data collection, the users used several techniques, first, chose English Captions (social media text), the writer chose 17 instagram photos which have English captions and declarative mood type, produced by English education students of one University during 2016-2019. Second, the writer collected the pictures (photograph). The writer used screenshot as the instrument in this research. The screenshot would be students' instgram posts (photos) which have English caption and declarative mood type. After collected the data, the caption in screenshot will be carried out.

The writer did some steps: Fisrt, Analysed the Declarative mood structure (Subject + Finite/ Subject + Finite + Residue) of each caption by using Halliday's theory. Second, analysed the speech function of each captions by using Halliday's theory. Third, analysed the context of the photo of each caption. Last, analysed indirect illocutionary acts of each captions by using Searle's and Yule's theory.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

From those the data collection, the writer found 17 data containing the realization of interpersonal meaning when the writer exchanged their intent/message through directive and exclamative as kinds of Illocutionary Act. The findings describe in this diagram below:

**Diagram 1 Research Findings**



Downing and Locke in Deterding & Poedjosoedarmo (2001) said that declarative mood sometimes shows indirect illocutionary act by giving directive or expressing exclamation, so the writer showed the analysis both of those below:

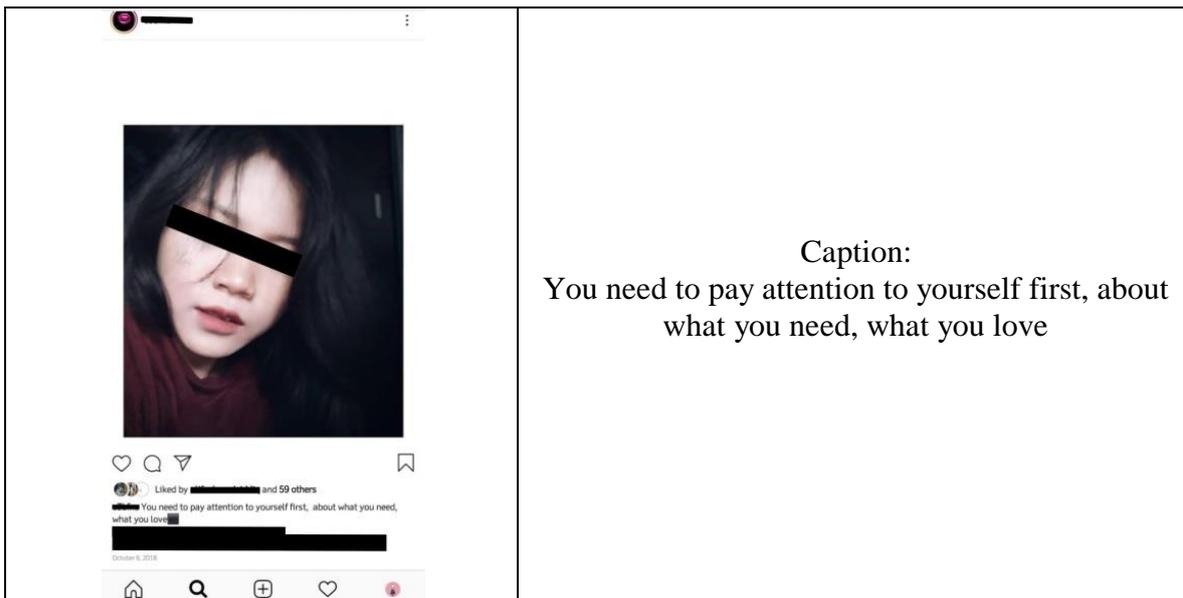
**Directive Type in Declarative Mood**

Directive type has many functions, like commanding, advising, suggesting, and

warning. Here the writer explains more detail about each function in different students' instagram caption:

a) Command

As seen in following data, one of the students from one of University exchange her meaning through indirect illocotinary act (Directive) with commanding function.



The writer of the caption wrote this caption on October 6, 2018. The writer found the word you as *subject*, the word need as *finite*, and to pay attention as *predicator* and the words to yourself first,

about what you need, what you love is *circumstantial adjunct*, *predicator* and *circumstantial adjunct* is part of *residue*. According to the analysis, this caption indicates as *declarative mood*.

You	Need	to pay attention	to yourself first, about what you need, what you love
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Circumstantial Adjunct
Mood		Residue	

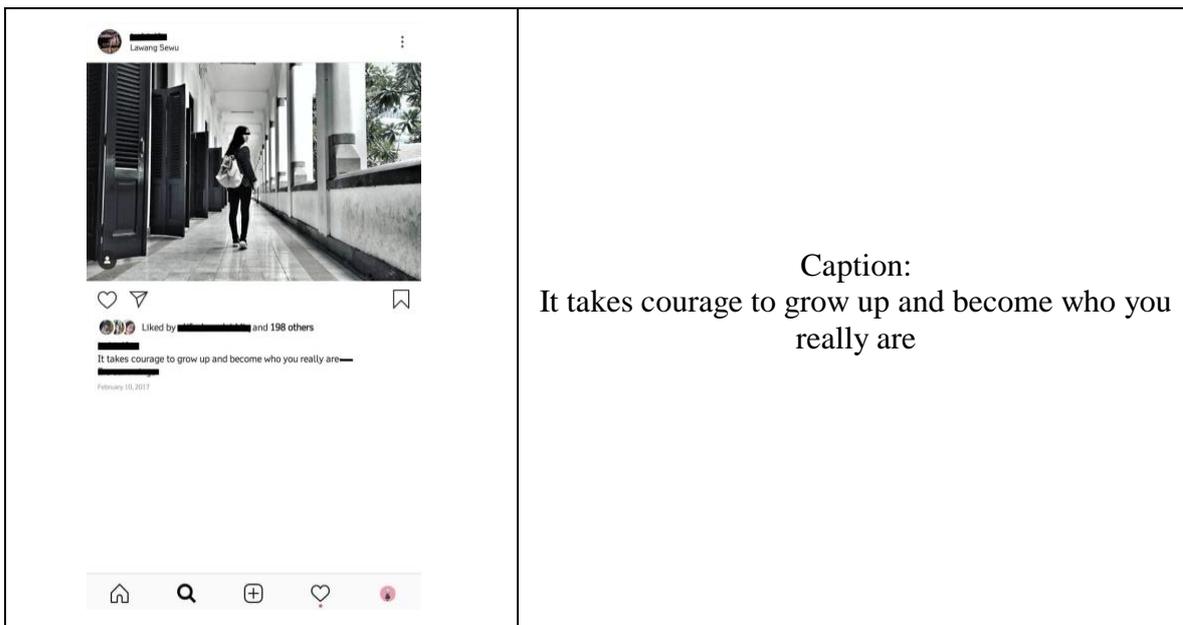
However rather than giving information, the writer of this caption is demanding goods and services. In this caption, the participant who must perform the goods you is refer to what you need, what you love, and pay attention to yourself first is the service which must be performed.

According to the context of her photo, the writer of this caption showed a picture of her face with a simple smile in a black background. The writer of this caption used Directive Illocutionary act by saying “you need to pay attention to yourself first, about what you need, what you love”. Directive speech act consist of the fact that they are attempts by the speaker to the hearer to do something, Searle (1979). At this time, the function of the caption above is **command** because the writer give intention to the addressee to do something, Leech (1990). According

to the photo, there are no one other people on her photo, except her. It can be assumed that the word “you” is refer to her followers. Besides being used as the singular pronoun, the word “you” also used for referring to people in general. So the writer of the caption command her followers that they should pay attention to their self first, about what they need and what they love.

The clause of Declarative mood revealed that giving command seem likely to identify Directive type. In clause “pay attention to yourself first”, the process of pay attention gives an indirect illocutionary act as clauses. In line with Downing and Locke, this clause is likely to be an alternative demanding service for meaning making choice and categorize as Indirect Illocutionary Act in Declarative Mood.

b) Recommend



Caption:  
It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are

The caption is written on February 8, 2017 by anonymised. The writer found the word *it* as *subject*, the word *takes* as *finite*, the word *courage* as complement

and the words *to grow up and become who you really are* is circumstantial adjunct, complement and circumstantial adjunct is part of *residue*.

It	takes	courage	to grow up and become who you really are
Subject	Finite	Complement	Circumstantial Adjunct
Mood		Residue	

This caption indicates as declarative mood. Rather than giving information, the writer of this caption is demanding goods and services. Downing and Locke (2006) reported that declarative mood sometimes shows indirect illocutionary act with giving directive or expressing exclamation. The participant who must perform the goods *it* is refer to *takes courage*, and *to grow up and become who you really are* is the service which must be performed.

According to the context of her photo, the writer of this caption showed a picture of herself in one of the part of Lawang Sewu, this was clearly shown at the location of her photo. She is standing alone. The place where she standing is

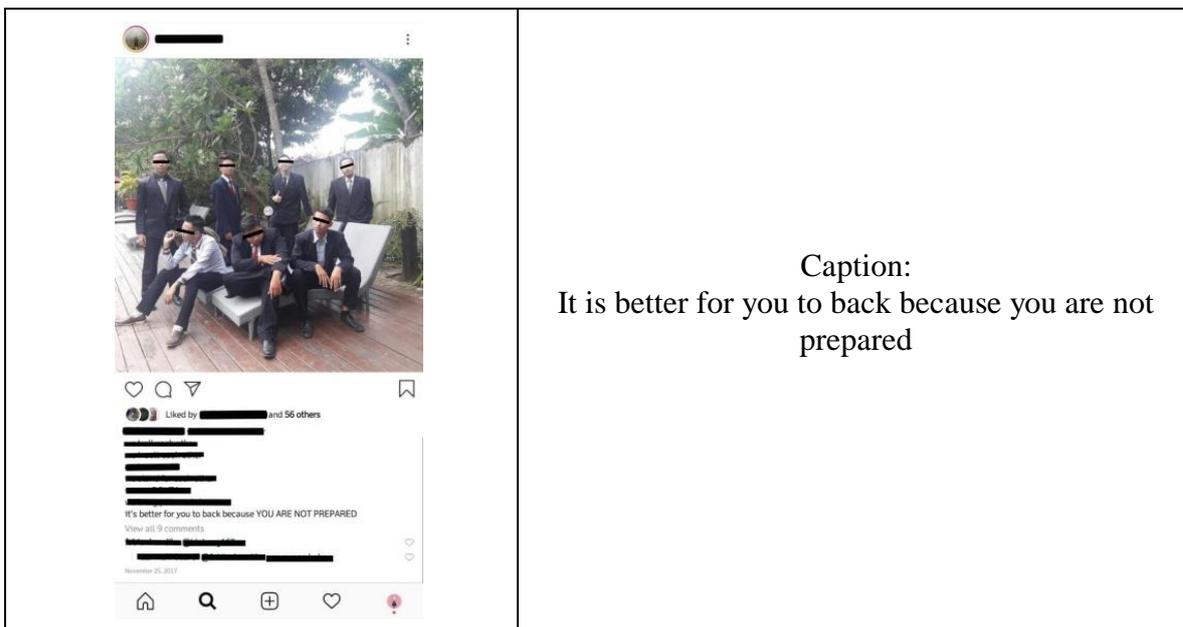
very quiet, it can be seen from the photo that no one other people in her photo. In this data, the writer of this caption used Directive Illocutionary act by saying “*it takes courage to grow up and become who you really are*”. Searle (1979) stated that directive speech act consist of the fact that they are attempts by the speaker to the hearer to do something. At this time, the function of the caption above is **recommend** because the writer believe that the addressee will be good to do something, Leech (1990).According to the photo, there are no one other people on her photo, except her. It can be assumed that the word “you” is refer to her followers. Besides being used as the singular pronoun, the word “you” also

used for referring to people in general. So the writer of the caption want to her followers know when they want to grow up and become who they really are, they should show their courage.

The clause of Declarative mood revealed that is giving recommend seem likely to identify Directive type. In clause “to

grow up and become who you really are” gives an indirect illocutionary act as clauses. In line with Downing and Locke, this clause is likely to be an alternative demanding service for meaning making choice and categorize as Indirect Illocutionary Act in Declarative Mood.

c) Request



Caption:  
 It is better for you to back because you are not prepared

The caption is written on November 25, 2017 by anonymised. In this caption, the word *it* as *subject*, the word *is* as *finite*, and the words *better for you to back*

*because you are not prepared* as circumstantial adjunct, it is part of *residue*, so it is indicates as Declarative mood.

It	Is	better for you to back because you are not prepared
Subject	Finite	Circumstantial Adjunct
Mood		Residue

Rather than giving information, the writer of caption is demanding goods and services. The participant who must perform the goods *it* is refer to *better*, and *to back because you are not prepared* is the service which must be performed. According to the context of the photo, the writer of the caption showed the moment with 7 boys including his self. They are

used formal suits, it can be assumed that they are in the same events.

In this data, the writer of this caption used Directive Illocutionary act by saying “*It is better for you to back because you are not prepared.*” Searle (as cited in Lisnani et al., 2017) stated that directive speech act consist of the fact that they are attempts by the speaker to the hearer to do something. At this time, the function of the caption above is **request** because

the writer wish the addressee to do something.

The writer put the word “you” in his caption. According to the photo, there are 6 boys. It can be assumed that the word “you” is refer to 6 boys on his photo. Besides being used as the singular pronoun, the word “you” also used for referring to people in general. So the writer of this caption request to the six boys of his photo to back because they are not prepared.

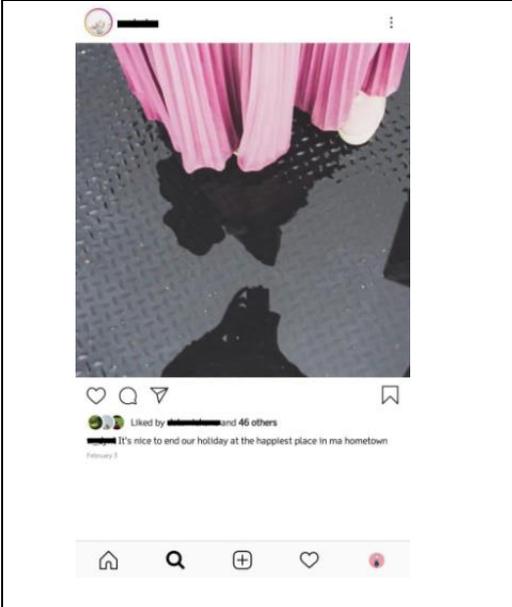
The clause of Declarative mood revealed that giving request seems likely to identify Directive type. In clause “to back

because you are not prepared”, the process of *back* gives an indirect illocutionary act as clauses. In line with Downing and Locke, this clause is likely to be an alternative demanding service for meaning making choice and categorize as Indirect Illocutionary Act in Declarative Mood.

**Expressive Type in Declarative Mood**

Expressive type has many functions such as congratulating and lamenting. The writer explains more detail about each function in different students’ instagram caption below:

**a) Congratulate**

	<p>Caption: It is nice to end our holiday at the happiest place in my hometown</p>
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The caption is written on February 3, 2019 by anonymised. The writer found the word *It* as *subject*, the word *is* as *finite*, and the words *nice to end our*

*holiday at the happiest place in my hometown* as *circumstantial adjunct* or it is called as *residue*. The caption above indicates as *declarative mood*.

It	Is	nice to end our holiday at the happiest place in my hometown
Subject	Finite	Circumstantial Adjunct
Mood		Residue

Rather than giving information, the writer of caption is demanding goods and services. Downing and Locke (2006)

reported that declarative mood sometimes shows indirect illocutionary act by giving directive or expressing exclamation. The

participant who must perform the goods It is refer to nice, and to end our holiday at the happiest place in my hometown is the service which must be performed.

According to the context of her photo, the writer of the caption showed two people in the photo. It can be seen that the skirt and shoes of one of the people is showed, but another one is only showed the body shadow. Both of them are standing on the floor.

In this data, the writer of this caption used Expressive Illocutionary act by saying “It is nice to end our holiday at the happiest place in my hometown”. Yule (1996) said that when performing expressive act, the speaker wake the words to fit the worlds or feelings. At this time, the function of the caption above is **congratulate** because

the writer pleasure at something. According to the context, the writer of the caption want show to her followers that she feel nice to end the holiday with the person on her photo at the happiest place in her hometown. It can be assumed that the floor where they are standing is her best place in her hometown.

The clause of Declarative mood revealed that giving congratulate seem likely to identify Expressive type. In clause “nice to end our holiday at the happiest place in my hometown”, the process of nice gives an indirect illocutionary act as clauses. In line with Downing and Locke, this clause is likely to be an alternative demanding service for meaning making choice and categorize as Indirect Illocutionary Act in Declarative Mood.

**b) Lament**

	<p>Caption: It was always hard to pin you down</p>
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The caption is written on October 23, 2018 by anonymised. The writer found the word It as *subject*, the word was as *finite*, and the words always hard to pin

you down as circumstantial adjunct or it called as *residue*. It can be concluded that this is declarative mood

It	was	always hard to pin you down
Subject	Finite	Circumstantial Adjunct
Mood		Residue

Rather than giving information, the writer of caption is demanding goods and services. The participant who must perform the goods *It* is refer to *always hard*, and *to pin you down* is the service that must be performed.

According to the context of her photo, the writer of the caption showed her photo with close her mouth using her hand and there are no one other people in her photo.

In this data, the writer of this caption used Expressive Illocutionary act by saying “*It was always hard to pin you down*”. Yule (1996) said that when performing expressive act, the speaker wake the words to fit the worlds or feelings. At this time, the function of the caption above is **lament** because the writer sorrow over something. According to the context, it can be assumed that she disguise who are the people that always make her hard to pin him down because there are no one people on her photo, but she still want to show to her followers that she feel hard to pin someone down.

The clause of Declarative mood revealed that is giving lament seem likely to identify Expressive type. In clause “*hard to pin you down*”, the process of *hard* gives an indirect illocutionary. In line with Downing and Locke, this clause is likely to be an alternative demanding service for meaning making choice and categorize as Indirect Illocutionary Act in Declarative Mood.

## DISCUSSION

Exchange meaning phenomenon could be seen in students’ instagram caption. From the 17 captions which analysed in this research, the writer of the caption who used declarative mood in their utterance used directive and expressive as the kinds of Illocutionary Acts. This is line with Downing and Locke (2006) statement, they said that declarative mood sometimes shows indirect illocutionary

act with giving directive or expressing exclamation.

In directive, the writer of the caption used command, recommend, and request as the function of the captions. The writer of the caption used command function because the writer gives intention to the addressee to do something. The writer of the caption used recommend function because the writer believes that the addressee will be good to do something. The writer of the caption used request function because the writer wishes the addressee to do something

In expressive, the writer of the caption used congratulates and lament as the function of the captions. The writer of the caption used congratulates function because the writer pleasure at something. The writer of the caption used lament function because the writer sorrow over something

## CONCLUSION

This research is aimed to know the interpersonal meanings are realized when the writer exchange their intent/message through indirect illocutionary acts in students’ instagram caption. Based on the result of data analysis and discussion in previous chapter, the writer drew conclusion that there were two types of Indirect Illocutionary Acts found in students’ Instagram caption of the one of University where the writers of the caption used declarative mood type in their caption.

Directive and Expressive are the kinds of Indirect Illocutionary Acts that found in this research. The writer found 10 data of captions as Directives, the function used by the writers of the caption are command, recommend, and request, and in Expressive, there are 7 data of captions. The function used by the writers of the caption is congratulate and lament. The writer conclude that sometimes the clause which have declarative mood type not only has a

function as statement, but also have another functions such as directive and expressive and it is called as Indirect Illocutionary Acts. This line with Downing and Locke's statement (2006) that sometimes declarative mood shows Indirect Illocutionary Act with giving directive or expressing exclamation.

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