

Analysis of Imperative Sentences in the Chinese and Indonesian Translations of the Digital Comic *Who Made Me a Princess* by Spoon

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ABSTRACT

Keywords:
Prohibitions;
Speech Acts;
Webtoon; Who
Made Me a
Princess

This study aims to describe the forms of imperative sentences found in character dialogues and to analyze the factors underlying their use in the Chinese version and Indonesian translation of Spoon's digital comic *Who Made Me a Princess*. The study employs a qualitative descriptive method, with data consisting of utterances containing imperative sentences in the Chinese dialogues and their Indonesian translations. Data were collected using observation and note-taking techniques and analyzed using Wijana's (1996) speech act theory to identify imperative sentence forms and Mizutani and Mizutani's (1987) theory to examine factors influencing politeness in their use. The analysis identified 23 imperative sentences, consisting of 19 direct

imperatives and 4 indirect imperatives. The findings indicate that direct imperative forms are more frequently used in interactions between characters, particularly when commands need to be conveyed firmly and clearly. In addition, four factors were identified as underlying the use of imperative forms: the degree of familiarity between the speaker and addressee, age differences, social relationships between the characters, and gender. These factors influence the choice of speech forms and the level of politeness in communication among the characters in Spoon's digital comic *Who Made Me a Princess*.

INTRODUCTION

Language is the primary means by which humans convey ideas, feelings, and specific intentions in the process of communication. In digital literature, particularly digital comics (webtoons), language serves not only to convey information but also as a medium for developing characters, plotlines, conflicts, and relationships between characters through dialogue. Dialogue in webtoons contains various speech acts that reflect the speaker's communicative intent, such as commanding, prohibiting, requesting, inviting, or suggesting. Therefore, translating dialogue in webtoons requires not only lexical equivalence but also the ability to preserve the pragmatic functions, social relationships between characters, and the level of politeness inherent in the utterances. The quality of a translation is measured not only by semantic equivalence but also by the target text's ability to preserve the source text's communicative functions (functional-pragmatic equivalence) (House, 2015). This view is reinforced by Baker (2018) who states that translation must take into account contextual meaning and interpersonal relationships between speakers so that the message conveyed can be accurately understood by readers of the target language.

One type of speech act that frequently appears in webtoon dialogues is the imperative sentence, or directive speech act. Directive speech acts are utterances intended to prompt the addressee to perform an action in accordance with the speaker's will (Searle, 1979). Imperative sentences can take the form of commands, prohibitions, requests, invitations, or suggestions, and their use is heavily influenced by the communicative context, social relationships, age, status, and the level of familiarity between the speaker and the addressee. Therefore, translating imperative sentences cannot be done literally; instead, pragmatic aspects must be considered to ensure that illocutionary force, politeness level, and communicative intent are preserved in the target language. In this study, imperative sentence forms were analyzed using Wijana's (1996) speech act theory, while the factors influencing the use of politeness levels were analyzed using the theory of Mizutani and Mizutani (1987).

With the advancement of digital technology, webtoons have become a form of digital literature with a massive readership across various countries. Unlike conventional print comics, webtoons combine verbal and visual elements (multimodal), so that the meaning of dialogue is conveyed not only through language but also through character expressions, illustrations, and visual context. Comics are a form of visual language that conveys meaning through a combination of text and images (Cohn, 2013). These multimodal characteristics make webtoons an intriguing subject for study in the fields of linguistics, pragmatics, and translation studies, as translators are required to preserve both verbal meaning and communicative functions supported by the visual context. Furthermore, the increasing international distribution of webtoons has led to a growing demand for high-quality translations (Hanum & Kurniawan, 2023).

Among the various webtoon titles, *Who Made Me a Princess* by Spoon was selected as the subject of this study because it possesses characteristics relevant to the study of pragmatics and translation. This digital comic has been officially translated into various languages, including Chinese and Indonesian, thus providing bilingual data that can be directly compared. Furthermore, the story in *Who Made Me a Princess* features interactions between characters with diverse social backgrounds, ages, and social statuses, such as an emperor, a royal princess, nobles, servants, and a nanny. These differences in social relationships result in variations in the use of imperative sentences with varying levels of politeness, making it a representative corpus for examining how imperative sentence forms are translated and how pragmatic factors influence their translation.

Several previous studies have examined directive speech acts and webtoons from various perspectives. (Widodo et al., 2022) analyzed directive speech acts in Indonesian literary works; however, their study focused solely on the forms and functions of speech acts without addressing translation aspects. Hanum & Kurniawan (2023) examined webtoons as a form of digital adaptation, but did not highlight linguistic aspects or the translation of dialogue. Meanwhile investigated linguistic politeness in digital media, while (Fisyara & Qura, 2024) discussed directive speech acts in podcasts. These studies indicate that research on directive speech acts has been extensive, but most still focus on linguistic forms or general politeness strategies. To date, research specifically examining the translation of imperative sentences in webtoon dialogues by linking imperative sentence forms to the pragmatic factors influencing their use remains relatively limited. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the forms of imperative sentences and the factors underlying their use in Chinese dialogues, along with their Indonesian translations, in the digital comic *Who Made Me a Princess* by Spoon. This study is expected to contribute to the development of research in pragmatics, translation, and digital literature, particularly regarding the translation of speech acts in digital comics.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive method because it aims to describe the forms of imperative sentences and the factors underlying their use in the digital comic *Who Made Me a Princess* by Spoon. A qualitative approach was chosen because this study focuses on interpreting the meaning of language based on the context of speech, the relationships between characters, and the pragmatic aspects contained in the dialogue.

The research data consisted of dialogues containing imperative sentences in both the Chinese and Indonesian versions of the digital comic *Who Made Me a Princess* by Spoon, which was officially published on the Webtoon platform. The data was collected from episodes one through one hundred twenty-five. From all the episodes analyzed, 23 imperative sentences were identified, comprising 19 direct imperative sentences and 4 indirect imperative sentences, which were used as research data.

Data collection was conducted using the “read and note-taking” technique. The researcher carefully read all the dialogues in the episodes under study, then identified utterances containing imperative sentences in Chinese along with their equivalents in Indonesian. Next, each data point was recorded, classified based on the form of the imperative sentence, and coded according to the episode number to facilitate the analysis process (Sudaryanto, 2015).

Data analysis was conducted in several stages: data reduction, data classification, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Imperative sentences were analyzed using the speech act theory (Wijana, 1996) to identify both direct and indirect imperative sentences. Furthermore, the factors influencing the use of imperative sentences were analyzed using the theory of Mizutani and Mizutani (1987), which includes the social relationship between the speaker and the addressee, the level of familiarity, age, gender, and the situational context that influences the level of politeness in communication (Mizutani & Mizutani, 1987).

To ensure the validity of the data, this study employed expert validation through a process of discussion and review of the data classification results by the supervising instructor, who is an expert in the fields of Chinese linguistics and pragmatics (Miles et al., 2014). In addition, the researcher also applied theoretical triangulation (Creswell, John.W & Poth, 2018), which involved comparing the analysis results using Wijana’s (1996) speech act theory with Mizutani and Mizutani’s (1987) politeness factor theory. This validation process was conducted to ensure that the classification of imperative sentence forms and the interpretation of pragmatic factors were carried out consistently, thereby enhancing the credibility and reliability of the research results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Forms of Imperative Sentences and Factors Underlying Their Use

Based on the analysis of prohibitive speech acts, two forms of prohibitive speech acts were identified: direct prohibitive speech acts and indirect prohibitive speech acts. Meanwhile, four factors underlying the use of prohibitive speech acts were also identified. These factors are the level of familiarity, age, social relationship, and gender.

Direct Imperative Sentences

Table 1. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
不要一直 哭闹和吵闹, 安静地玩 这个吧。 Bùyào yīzhí kū nào hé chǎonào, ānjìng de wán zhège ba.	<i>Jangan menangis dan berisik terus, mainkan ini dengan tenang ya.</i> Don't cry and make a fuss – just play this quietly, okay?

According to Wijana (1996), this is a direct command because it uses the imperative mood with the negative marker ‘不要’ (bùyào) means ‘don’t’ in source language and “*jangan*” (“don’t”) in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), caregivers use the direct form due to the familiarity inherent in caregiving; this is softened by the particle “*ya*” (“okay”) in target language.

Table 2. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
公主殿下, 请不要再哭了 Gōngzhǔ diànxia, qǐng bùyào zài kūle	<i>Tu, tuan putri, jangan menangis.</i> Princess, please don’t cry

This includes direct imperative sentences (Wijana, 1996), which are marked by the imperative softener ‘请不要’ (qǐng bùyào) means ‘please don’t’ in source language and “*jangkan*” (“please don’t”). According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the Princess’s social status, which is far higher in absolute terms—requires the servant to use this formal politeness marker in order to maintain court etiquette.

Table 3. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
去那里看看历史书之类的。我今天之内要把作业完成。 Qù nàlǐ kàn kàn lìshǐ shū zhī lèi de. Wǒ jīntiān zhī nèi yào bǎ zuòyè wánchéng.	<i>Pergi ke situ dan baca buku sejarah saja. Aku harus menyelesaikan PR hari ini.</i> Go over there and read a history book. I have to finish my homework today.

This is a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because it uses the pure directive verb ‘去’ (qù) means ‘go’ in source language and “pergi” (“go”) in target language. According to the theory of Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), this direct, no-nonsense form is prompted by the very high level of familiarity and the equal age between the characters of Athanasia and Lucas.

Table 4. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
和我一起练跳舞吧！ Hé wǒ yìqǐ liàn tiàowǔ ba!	<i>Ayo latihan menari denganku!</i> Let's practice dancing with me!

This utterance is classified as a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996), characterized by the imperative mode of invitation, as indicated by the particle ‘吧’ (ba), which mitigates the force of the imperative and makes the utterance sound more polite and less imposing, in source language and the word “ayo” (“let’s”) in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the use of this direct form is driven by a high level of familiarity as well as equality in age and social status between the characters, so that formal politeness markers are not required to convey the directive intent.

Table 5. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesia)
喝完下午茶后和我一起去散步嘛！ Hē wán xiàwǔchá hòu hé wǒ yìqǐ qù sànbù ma!	<i>Setelah minum teh, jalan-jalan denganku ya!</i> After we have some tea, let's go for a walk with me, okay?

This utterance is classified as a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because it uses the imperative mood of invitation, marked by the softening particle ‘嘛’ (ma),

softens the imperative while adding an affectionate and persuasive tone, in source language and the particle “*ya*” (“okay”) in source language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), this informal direct form is influenced by a very close level of familiarity as well as the speaker’s more dominant social status, so that the invitation is conveyed in a familiar and affectionate manner without the need for formal courtly markers.

Table 6. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
别管那东西了，我们走吧。 Bié guǎn nà dōngxi le, wǒmen zǒu ba.	<i>Biarkan saja dia, ayo kita pergi.</i> Just leave him alone; let's go.

This utterance is classified as a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996), characterized by the prohibitive imperative mode ‘别管’ (bié guǎn) means ‘just leave’, “*biarkan*” (“just leave”) and the invitational particle ‘吧’ (ba) which mitigates the force of the imperative and makes the utterance sound more polite and less imposing, “*ayo*” (“let’s”). According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the use of this straightforward direct form is driven by a very strong sense of familiarity and a relaxed conceptual situation between the speakers, thus eliminating the need for formal politeness markers.

Table 7. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
立刻把那丫头从我眼前拖走。 Lìkè bǎnà yātou cóngwǒ yǎnqián tuō zǒu.	<i>Cepat singkirkan bocah itu dari hadapanku.</i> Get that kid out of my sight, quick.

This utterance is classified as a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996), characterized by the emphatic temporal adverb ‘立刻’ (lìkè) means ‘immediately’ in source language and the word “*cepat*” (“quick”) as well as a pure directive verb. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), this high-pressure direct form is triggered by the emperor’s absolute social status and negative emotions in the situational context, thereby eliminating all markers of normative politeness to demonstrate complete authority over the addressee.

Table 8. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
那个垃圾叫你来的，给我据实以告。 nǎgè lājī jiào nǐ lái de, gěi wǒ jùshí yǐ gào.	<i>Suruh sampah itu datang dan katakan yang sebenarnya dengan jujur padaku.</i> Tell that trash to come here and tell me the truth honestly.

This utterance is classified as a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996), characterized by the emphatic structure '给我' (gěi wǒ) means 'give me' in source language and the use of the pure imperative verbs "suruh" ("tell") and "katakan" ("tell") in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the choice of this extremely emphatic direct form is triggered by the speaker's outburst of negative emotion (anger), the use of profanity 垃圾 (lājī) means 'trash' in source language and "sampah" ("trash") in target language, and the speaker's significantly higher social status relative to the addressee, resulting in the demand for compliance being conveyed rudely without regard for normative politeness markers.

Table 9. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language	Target Language
立刻把他找出来带来见我！！ Lìkè bǎ tā zhǎo chū lái dài lái jiàn wǒ!!	<i>Cepat cari dan bawa dia ke hadapanku!!</i> Hurry up and find him and bring him to me!!

This utterance is classified as a Direct Imperative Sentence (Wijana, 1996), characterized by the emphatic lexeme '立刻' (lìkè) means 'immediately' in source language, the word "cepat" ("hurry up") in target language, and the double exclamation marks that emphasize the purely imperative intonation. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), this highly emphatic direct form is driven by the emperor's absolute social status and the urgent situational context, necessitating those instructions be conveyed bluntly and forcefully without formal politeness markers.

Tabel 10. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
请坐！我们来聊天吧。 Qǐng zuò! Wǒmen lái liáotiān ba.	<i>Duduklah! Kita ngobrol.</i> Sit down! Let's talk.

This utterance is classified as a Direct Imperative Sentence (Wijana, 1996), characterized by the politeness lexeme ‘请’ (qǐng) means ‘please’ and the invitation particle 吧 (ba), which softens the imperative force and conveys an invitational meaning, in source language, which is then converted into the imperative mood ending in “-lah” “*duduklah*” (“sit down”) in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), this combination of a direct and polite form is influenced by the speaker’s higher Social Status but is softened by a high degree of Familiarity, so that the command retains its directive force without coming across as intimidating to the addressee.

Table 11. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
退下吧。住处就安排在绿宝石宫。 Tuìxià ba. zhùchù jiù ānpái zài lǜbǎoshí gōng.	<i>Pergilah. Tinggal di Istana Emerald.</i> Go. Live in the Emerald Palace.

This utterance is classified as a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because it uses the pure imperative mood, marked by the directive verb 退下 (tuìxià) means ‘step down’ with the softening particle 吧 (ba), which softens the imperative force and conveys an invitational meaning, in source language, as well as the word “*pergilah*” (“go”) in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), this direct yet calm form is governed by the emperor’s absolute social status dominance over his subordinates, allowing the speaker to directly issue placement instructions without needing to employ indirect strategies or formal pleasantries.

Table 12. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
帮我治好爸爸! Bāng wǒ zhìhǎo bàba!	<i>Tolong sembuhkan Ayahku!</i> Please heal my father!

Although categorized within the group of indirect commands in a personal context, structurally this utterance is a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) that uses the pure directive verb ‘帮’ (bāng) means ‘help’ in source language, which is then softened using the polite lexical item “*tolong*” (“please”) in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the choice of this direct yet imploring form is triggered by a highly urgent conceptual situation involving life-or-death safety, and is supported by a

high level of familiarity with the addressee, allowing the speaker to convey the essence of their request directly without regard for hierarchy or formal pleasantries.

Table 13. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
嗯，跟他说我马上过去。 èn, gēn tā shuō wǒ mǎshàng guòqù.	<i>Baiklah, katakan padanya aku akan segera kesana.</i> All right, tell him I'll be right there.

This utterance is classified as a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because it uses the imperative mood in the form of a pure directive verb, 跟他说 (gēn tā shuō) means 'tell him' in source language and "katakan" ("tell him") in target language, without any structural softening markers. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the choice of this casual and direct form is driven by a high level of familiarity as well as the speaker's social status dominance over the addressee (a subordinate or domestic worker), allowing the instruction to relay the message to be conveyed instantly without the constraints of formal politeness.

Table 14. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
我宣布会议中止，所有人都退下吧。 Wǒ xuānbù huìyì zhōngzhǐ, suǒyǒu rén dōu tuì xià ba.	<i>Rapat selesai, semuanya silahkan kembali.</i> The meeting is over, everyone, please go back to your seats.

This utterance is classified as a Direct Imperative Sentence (Wijana, 1996), characterized by an authoritative declarative mode at the beginning '我宣布' (wǒ xuānbù) means 'I declare', followed by a pure imperative clause 退下吧 (tuì xià ba) means 'step down', which in target language is softened with the polite marker "silakan" ("please"). According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the choice of the direct form in this formal setting is driven by the speaker's absolute social status as the supreme leader or emperor, granting him the prerogative to unilaterally adjourn the meeting, though this is still adapted to public etiquette through the use of a speech softener in target language.

Table 15. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
珍妮特，我們早晚都要進宮，先做好準備	<i>Zenith, bersiaplah untuk masuk ke istana</i>

備吧。 Zhēnnìtè, wǒmen zǎowǎn dōu yào jìng gōng, xiān zuò hǎo zhǔnbèi ba.	<i>sebentar lagi.</i> Zenith, get ready to enter the palace shortly.
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This utterance is classified as a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because it uses the pure imperative mood, marked by the imperative particle 吧 (ba), which softens the imperative force and conveys an invitational meaning, in source language, which is then converted into the imperative form ending in “-lah” “bersiaplah” (“get ready”) in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the use of this direct, straightforward form is governed by a high degree of familiarity and social equality (family or close kinship ties) between the characters, allowing the speaker to directly issue preparation instructions without needing to employ formal polite strategies.

Table 16. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
和公爵谈谈吧！ Hé gōngjué tán tán ba!	<i>Bicaralah dengan Tuan Alpahaeus!</i> Talk to Mr. Alpahaeus!

This utterance is classified as a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996), characterized by the imperative mood through the particle of invitation/suggestion ‘吧’ (ba) for the function as a softening marker in source language and the clitic “-lah” in “bicaralah” (talk) in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), this persuasive direct form is driven by a strong sense of familiarity as well as social status equality between the characters, allowing the speaker to directly and plainly suggest an action without the need for rigid formal politeness markers.

Table 17. Direct Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
休息一下吧。 Xiūxi ba.	<i>Sekarang istirahatlah</i> Now get some rest

This utterance is classified as a direct imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996), characterized by a softened imperative mode through the quantifier 一下 (yīxià) means ‘one time’ and the suggestion particle ‘吧’ (ba) for the function as a softening marker in source language, which is converted into the imperative form ending in “-lah” in

“*istirahatlah*” (“rest”) in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the choice of this polite direct form is influenced by a high degree of familiarity and a sense of mutual care between the characters, allowing the command or suggestion to be conveyed warmly without the need for rigid markers of formality.

Indirect Imperative Sentences

Data 18. Indirect Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
娜西想喝牛奶。请给我冰牛奶。 Nà xī xiǎng hē niúǎi. Qǐng gěi wǒ bīng niúǎi.	<i>Athi mau susu, susu dingin.</i> Athi wants milk, some cold milk.

This utterance is classified as an indirect imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because it uses a declarative mode that expresses a desire ‘娜西想’ (nàxī xiǎng) means ‘Athi wants’ in source language, and “*Athi mau susu*” (“Athi wants milk”) in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), this indirect structure is influenced by the fact that the speaker is still a child and has a high level of familiarity with her caregiver; consequently, the omission of the formal marker 请 (qǐng) means ‘please’ in target language makes the command sound spoiled but is still obeyed due to the speaker’s absolute social status as a princess.

Data 19. Indirect Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
陛下有令。让我们把阿塔那西亚公主殿下拖过去。 Bì xià yǒu lìng , ràng wǒ men bǎ ā tā nà xī yà gōng zhǔ diàn xià tuō guò qù.	<i>Yang mulia memerintahkan untuk langsung membawa Tuan Putri Athanasia sekarang juga.</i> The Lord has ordered that Princess Athanasia be brought here immediately.

This utterance is classified as an indirect imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because the soldier or messenger uses the declarative mode at the beginning to quote the emperor’s decree ‘陛下有令’ (bì xià yǒu lìng) means ‘The Lord has issued an order’ in source language, and “*yang mulia memerintahkan*” (“The Lord has ordered”) as the basis for their action. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the choice of this indirect form is strictly governed by complex differences in social status; the speaker (soldier/guard) has a status far lower than that of the addressee (the Princess), yet they carry the absolute legitimacy of the emperor’s authority. Therefore, target language inserts the emphatic

phrase “*sekarang juga*” (“right now”) to maintain the directive’s force without violating the etiquette surrounding the use of honorific titles ‘公主殿下’ (gōngzhǔ diànxia) means ‘princess’ within the imperial court.

Table 20. Indirect Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
小姐，主人请您到办公室一趟。 Xiǎojiě, zhǔrén qǐng nín dào bàngōngshì yī tàng	<i>Permisi, Nona. Tuan Besar memanggil Nona untuk datang ke ruang kerja.</i> Excuse me, Miss. The Big Boss is asking you to come to his office.

This utterance is classified as an indirect imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because the waitress uses the declarative mode (conveying a message or call from a third party) to give an order to the addressee. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the choice of this indirect form is strictly governed by the social status of the addressee (Miss/Princess), which is significantly higher than that of the speaker (the servant); consequently, the servant is required to include a respectful form of address and the polite lexical item “*permisi*” (“excuse me”) in the target language to uphold the normative etiquette of the palace.

Table 21. Indirect Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
希望所有人都能一起过着幸福快乐日子。 Xīwàng suǒyǒu rén dōu néng yìqǐ guòzhe xìngfú kuàilè de rìzi !	<i>Tolong biarkan kami semua bisa bahagia bersama!</i> Please let us all be happy together!

This utterance is classified as an indirect imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because in source language it uses a declarative mode that expresses hope ‘希望’ (xīwàng) means ‘hope’, but is transformed into a request marked by the polite particle “*tolong*” (“please”) in target language. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), this change in form is influenced by the much higher social status of the addressee (who has absolute power over the speaker’s fate), so the speaker chooses a softened indirect strategy to appeal for mercy without appearing to force or dictate.

Table 22. Indirect Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
公主殿下很忙，您请回吧。 Gōngzhǔ diànxia hěn máng, nín qǐng huí ba.	<i>Tuan putri sibuk, silakan kembali.</i> The princess is busy, please come back later.

This utterance is classified as an indirect imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because the speaker uses the declarative mode in the first clause ‘公主殿下很忙’ (gōngzhǔ diànxia hěn máng) means ‘the princess is very busy’ in source language, and “*tuan putri sangat sibuk*” (“the princess is busy”) in target language as a reason or logical justification for implicitly rejecting the addressee, followed by a clause of polite dismissal. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the choice of this indirect form is governed by the social status of the respected addressee as well as the formal setting of the palace; thus, the speaker is required to insert the honorific pronoun 您 (nín) means “you” in polite ways, the lexical politeness marker 请 (qǐng) means ‘please’, and the softening particle 吧 (ba) to maintain normative politeness and avoid the impression of a rude dismissal.

Table 23. Indirect Imperative Sentence

Source Language (Chinese)	Target Language (Indonesian)
天快黑了，还是先回去吧。 Tiān kuài hēile, háishì xiān huíqù ba.	<i>Matahari sudah terbenam, silakan kembali ke kediaman masing-masing.</i> The sun has set, please return to your homes.

This utterance is classified as an indirect imperative sentence (Wijana, 1996) because it begins with a declarative clause describing natural or situational conditions 天快黑了 (tiān kuài hēile) means ‘it was getting dark’ in source language and “*matahari sudah terbenam*” (“the sun has set”) in target language as the logical justification behind the instruction given. According to Mizutani & Mizutani (1987), the use of this indirect strategy is influenced by factors such as the public’s social status and contextual formality. The speaker chooses to soften the command with the suggestive phrase 还是...吧 (háishì... ba) means ‘better’, which is then made explicit in target language using the polite lexical item “*silakan*” (“please”) and an adjustment to the courtly register “*ke kediaman masing-masing*” (“return to your homes”) so that the order to disperse sounds protective rather than authoritarian.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that imperative sentences in Spoon's digital comic *Who Made Me a Princess* appear in several forms, namely direct commands, prohibitions, invitations, and requests. Each form has distinct linguistic features in Chinese language, such as the use of '快' (kuài) means 'quick', '不要' (bùyào) means 'don't', '请' (qǐng) means 'please', and the particle '吧' (ba) which serves to soften imperative sentences, which are then translated into Indonesian according to the context of the utterance. In general, the translation successfully preserves the directive function of the source language, ensuring that the speaker's intent remains understandable to the reader. However, some elements that serve as markers of politeness – particularly '请' (qǐng) and '吧' (ba) are not always explicitly rendered. As a result, some utterances in Indonesian feel more assertive than their Chinese language counterparts, even though the communicative intent remains unchanged.

On the other hand, the form of imperative sentences cannot be separated from the relationships between characters and the situation in which the speech occurs. Interactions between the emperor, the princess, servants, nannies, and other characters demonstrate that differences in social status, levels of familiarity, and the speaker's intent influence the choice of imperative form used. In formal situations, speakers tend to use more polite expressions, whereas in close relationships or when emotions are running high, speech becomes more direct and assertive. This indicates that translating imperative sentences requires more than just ensuring equivalence of meaning; it also necessitates considering pragmatic aspects so that the relationships between characters, the level of politeness, and the speaker's intent are fully conveyed to readers of the target language.

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