

## **Suggesting Act about Inner Peace in *Eat, Pray, Love* Movie**

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### **Abstrak**

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menentukan jenis-jenis pemberian saran yang digunakan oleh para tokoh dan menentukan bagaimana saran itu diterima. Metode deskripsi kualitatif dan jenis-jenis pemberian saran diterapkan untuk menganalisis data. Data diambil dari ujaran-ujaran yang mengandung pemberian saran yang berhubungan dengan ketenangan jiwa yang diujarkan kepada tokoh utama yaitu Elizabeth Gilbert. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa para tokoh menggunakan tiga jenis pemberian saran: langsung, konvensional, dan tidak langsung. Pemberian saran secara langsung diujarkan dengan menggunakan kalimat perintah, kalimat perintah negatif, pemberian saran secara konvensional diujarkan dengan cara tertentu yaitu menggunakan kalimat tanya, kata kerja 'seharusnya', dan kalimat bersyarat, pemberian saran tidak langsung diujarkan dengan menggunakan isyarat. Pemberian saran secara langsung paling sering digunakan dalam pemberian saran yang berhubungan dengan ketenangan jiwa. Penerimaan saran ditampilkan secara tersurat dengan menyatakannya secara langsung dan secara tersirat dengan hanya tertidam, tersenyum, dan melakukan saran yang diberikan.

**Kata Kunci:** ujaran, pemberian saran, kata kerja performatif, isyarat

### **Abstract**

The objective of this study is to find out the types of suggesting acts used by the characters and to find out the acceptance toward the suggesting act is performed. Descriptive qualitative method and kinds of suggesting act applied to analyze the data. The data was taken from the utterances containing suggesting act that was uttered toward the main character, Elizabeth Gilbert related to inner peace. The result shows that the characters use three types of suggesting act: direct, conventionalized, and indirect suggesting act. Direct suggesting act is performed by *imperative strategy* and *negative imperative strategy*; conventionalized suggesting act is performed by *specific strategy*, the verb of *should*, and *conditional strategy*; indirect suggesting act is performed by the strategy of *hint*. Direct suggesting act is mostly used in suggesting act about inner peace. The acceptance of the suggestion is performed explicitly by stating it directly and implicitly by keeping silent, smiling and by committing what is being suggested to her.

**Keywords:** *utterance, suggesting act, performative verb, hint.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Suggesting act is proposing for consideration or reminding somebody of something. However, suggesting someone or being suggested by someone is to get or give some advice or input certain purpose to build a good character better either mental or physicist. This study focuses on suggesting act given to the main character, Elizabeth Gilbert in *Eat, Pray, Love* movie. The objective of this study is to find out the types of suggesting acts used by the characters and to find out the acceptance of the suggesting act. Descriptive qualitative method and kinds of suggesting act based on several authors are applied to analyze the data

### **SPEECH ACT**

Speech acts is used by the writer besides discourse analysis and contextual features theories. In daily life, people use language to communicate with others. By using language people can express their feeling, give comments, share ideas, and get information or knowledge. When a speaker say something, it may have different meaning depends on how the hearer interprets the utterances.

Speech acts discuss approaches to the identification of social meaning in terms of the activity performed by a speaker in uttering, with respect to analyze which identify actions in term of the conventionally structured sequences in which they occur. Speech or utterance can

express many function of speech act. According to Searle (1996: 16) "speaking a language is performing speech acts, acts such as making statements, giving statements, giving commands, asking questions, making promise and so on". It means that speech act is the basic of utterance to convey meaning, message, and information, in communication and to get someone to acts the speaker wants.

Language also has the function to perform an action. It is not just a matter of utterance or sentence. Speech acts is an act that a speaker performs when making an utterance. As Yule (1996: 47) states, "actions performed via utterances are generally called speech acts and, in English, commonly given more specific labels such as: apology, complaint, invitation, promise, or request".

Moreover, Hurford and Heasley (1984) state "A speech is an action and that language can actually be used to do things". This statement is based on J.L. Austin's theory (1992) of speech acts. Austin asserts, 'In saying anything one is performing some kinds of act' (Coulthard, 1958, p.17), or in simple words, Austin calls it speech acts.

There are three kinds of speech acts, locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Locutionary is nothing other than the act of saying something, action of uttering in accordance with the meaning of a word or sentence meaning. In this case, we do not questioning the intent or purpose of such utterances. Austin (1962: 108) states, "Locutionary is roughly equivalent to uttering a certain sentence with a certain sense and reference, which is again equivalent to meaning in the traditional sense". Illocutionary is central to the concept of speech acts. There are some kinds of acts which are widely accepted as illocutionary, as for example promising, ordering someone, and bequeathing. According to Austin's preliminary informal description, the idea of an "illocutionary act" can be captured by emphasizing that "by saying something, we *do* something". Illocutionary is the act of doing things. Here we are talking about purpose, function and speech in question. Perlocutionary is the effect produced when speakers say something. A perlocutionary act (or perlocutionary effect) is a speech act, as viewed at the level of its psychological consequences, such as persuading, convincing, scaring, enlightening, inspiring, or otherwise getting someone to do or realize something.

## SUGGESTING ACT

Suggesting act is an utterance that the speaker intends the hearer to perceive as a directive to do something that will be to the hearer's benefit. Therefore, the speaker is doing the hearer a favour, because it is not obvious to both the speaker and the hearer that the hearer will do the act without the suggestion being made. (Brown and Levinson, 1987: 38). There are three kinds of suggesting act based on several authors (Wardhaugh 1985; Koike 1994; Banerjee and Carrell 1988; Tsui 1994; Koester 2002): direct suggesting act, conventionalized suggesting act, and indirect suggesting act.

Direct suggestions are performed by using the performative verbs, a noun of suggestion or

"illocutionary forcé indicating device" (Bardovi-Harlig and Hartford 1996:180), imperatives and negative imperatives. The speaker clearly states what he/she means. Tsui (1994:125) also considers the use of the noun to be a very direct suggestion,

As in the example;

"My suggestion to you is to get the book as soon as possible".

According to Edmonson and House (1981); Koike (1994); and Hinkel (1997), the use of imperatives are also regarded as the most direct and impolite forms of making a suggestion because they have the most literal pragmatic forcé, as in "Try using this computer" or "Don't try to use this program".

Conventionalized suggesting act realisations are not as direct as the first type. In making these suggestions (Banerjee and Carrell 1988), this type of suggestion still allow the hearers to understand the speaker's intentions behind the suggestion, since the illocutionary forcé indicator appears in the utterance. Within this group, we find a greater variety of linguistic realisations to be employed, such as the use of specific formulae, expressions of possibility or probability, suggestions performed by means of the verbs *should* and *need*, and the use of the conditional.

The third group of suggesting acts is, *indirect suggestion*. It refers to those expressions in which the speaker's true intentions are not clearly stated. There is no indicator of the suggestive forcé in the utterance. These indirect forms for suggestions do not show any conventionalised form. It makes the hearer to be able to infer that the speaker is actually making a suggestion. The use of different impersonal forms has been regarded as a way of making indirect suggestions (Hinkel 1994; Koike 1994), such as "It would be helpful if you could find his telephone number". The last is the use of hints. It is the most indirect type of comment that can be employed in order to make a suggestion. An example of a hint would be "I've heard that the course is really difficult" (Hinkel 1997:14), which should be inferred by the hearer as a suggestion not to take the course for his/her own benefit.

## THE STRATEGY OF SUGGESTING ACT

There are some strategies of suggesting acts based on several authors (Wardhaugh 1985; Koike 1994; Banerjee and Carrell 1988; Tsui 1994; Koester 2002) which is used toward the characters. They are: performative verbs, imperative and negative imperative, specific strategy, possibility, the word of *should* and *need*, conditional, impersonal, and hints.

**Performative verbs** are historically the first speech acts to be examined within the theory of speech acts. Austin defines a performative as an utterance which contains a performative verb by force of which it performs an action. In correlation with this, (Soekemi, 2008: 118) states "A performative utterance is the concept that describes about ways of the speaker's talking or action. Performative verb use the words or clause such as: *I suggest that you, I advise you to, I recommend that you.*

**Imperative and Negative Imperative Strategies** imply that the hearer is being advised to do something immediately. The example of this strategy is 'Go!' The other direct suggestion using imperative strategy is 'Try using computer to do your homework!' While the examples of negative imperative strategies are 'Do not come home late at night!' and the other direct suggestion using negative imperative strategy is 'don't try to use this machine because of out of order!'

**Specific Strategy** is the strategy used in the interrogative forms of sentences. It was taken from Hinkle's assumption about hedged suggest. Hence, the expression in 'why don't you study hard? It is an advice in a condition where the hearer has a difficulty to pass an examination. Other examples of this strategy are: How about...? What about...? Have you thought about...? And etc.

Expressions of **possibility** or **probability** which imply the use of modal verbs (Banerjee and Carrell 1988; Alcón and Safont 2001) have been considered as expressing suggestions (e.g. "You might want to leave this for tomorrow").

Verbs such as *should* (Edmonson and House 1981; Banerjee and Carrell 1988; Koike 1994) and *need* (Bardovi-Harlig and Hartford 1996) are also employed when making indirect suggestions. Other words that have the same meaning as should are *ought to* and *had better*. They express advisability.

The other strategy, that is to say using the **conditional**, has been defined by Koike (1996: 264) as "an irrealis clause in declarative form", and also serves to express an indirect suggestion as in "If I were you, I would buy a new computer".

The use of **different impersonal forms** has been regarded as a way of making indirect suggestions (Hinkel 1994; Koike 1994), such as "It would be helpful if you could find his telephone number". Based on Oxford dictionary, the impersonal (of a verb) used only with a formal subject (in English usually *it*) and expressing an action not attributable to a definite subject (as in *it is snowing*). It means that in impersonal forms, the subject of the sentences is not clearly stated. This form does not use personal pronouns in the sentences. These are other phrases that belong to the use of impersonal: *One thing (that you can do) would be; Here's one possibility; It would be helpful if you; A good idea would be; and etc.*

Speakers can use constructions that are even more indirect in their intentions. They can go "off record," as Brown and Levinson (1987) note, by giving the hearer "**hints**" or "be[ing] vague or ambiguous" (p. 214) and therefore "invit[ing] conversational implicatures": additional meanings in their utterances that are not overtly stated. The use of hints is the most indirect type of comment that can be employed also in order to make a suggestion. An example of a hint would be "I've heard that the course is really difficult" (Hinkel 1997:14), which should be inferred by the hearer as a suggestion not to take the course for his/her own benefit.

**RESEARCH METHOD**

Descriptive qualitative research was used in this study as stated by Biklen and Bodgan (1992: 28), "A qualitative approach is descriptive. The data are collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers." The primary source of data in this study is *Eat, Pray, Love* movie while the secondary source of data is the movie script. This data is obtained or compiled researchers from various existing resources (researchers as second hand) (Nasution: 1964: 34). Then, the data were taken from the characters' utterances containing suggesting acts given to the main character, Elizabeth Gilbert.

Researcher was the key of the instrument in this study. To collect the data, nonparticipant observation was applied. Video player and personal computer as the instruments were necessary needed, and then did the check list and record the information needed focusing in the use suggesting act.

There are several steps which are used to analyze the data as follows: watching the movie carefully in order to comprehend the content of the whole story, identifying the utterances, classifying the data and categorizing by using the table according to type of the suggesting acts. The table used is figure out in table 3.1

Table 3.1

No	Utterance	Type of suggesting act	Strategy	Note

After categorizing the data, the next step was describing how the suggesting acts are performed by the characters and the last step was drawing a conclusion.

**DISCUSSION**

**Suggesting Act about Inner Peace**

After analyzing the utterances that contain suggesting acts, now the result of the analysis is discussed. In *Eat, Pray, Love* movie, it is found by the researcher the phenomenon of giving suggestion to people which is done by the characters and also getting suggestion which is experienced by the main character namely Elizabeth Gilbert. The characters give suggestion to Gilbert by using different type of suggestions. There are three kinds of suggesting act based on several authors (Wardhaugh 1985; Koike 1994; Banerjee and Carrell 1988; Tsui 1994: and Koestar 2002), they are: *direct suggesting act, conventional suggesting act, and indirect suggesting act*. These three types of suggestions are used by the characters to give Gilbert suggestion. Each type of the suggestion is performed by different strategies. While the acceptances of the suggestion are performed explicitly or implicitly

In finding inner peace, Gilbert gets some suggestion from her friends whom she met in her traveling. The first type of suggesting act is direct suggesting act. It is mostly used relating to inner peace. It is because inner peace is

related to God or spiritual value. Inner peace can be said as the equal portion of the relation to others and relation to God. The suggestions about inner peace which is categorized as direct suggesting act are mostly performed by imperative strategy.

*Ketut : Wait. I have this for you. (1)Keep grounded so it's like you have four legs. That way, you can stay in this world. (2) Also, no looking at world through your head. (3) Look through your heart instead. That way, you will know God. Which is why you came here, no? See you later, alligator.*

*Gilbert : (listen to Ketut carefully)*

The suggestion in (1) belongs to direct suggesting act and is performed by using the strategy of 'imperative'. So does in (3), it is also performed by using 'imperative' strategy. Different from (1) and (3), the suggestion in (2) is performed by using the strategy of 'negative imperative'. Imperative strategy and negative imperative strategy are very direct suggestion in which the speaker is very sure about what he is suggested. For forming imperative suggestion is fairly straightforward, the base (or infinitive) form of the verb is used and the implied subject (you) of the sentence is omitted when it is negative imperative the negation *no* or *not* is placed before the base form.

These three suggestions are uttered by the same person, Ketut Liyer. After predicts Gilbert's future, He tells Gilbert about a piece of paper with certain picture on it. He explains the meaning of the picture to Gilbert. By uttered the statement Ketut means to suggest Gilbert to keep grounded and look world through her heart instead of her head. He performs the suggestion by using *imperative* and *negative imperative* strategy because he knows that his suggestions are convincing. What he suggests to Gilbert is the philosophy of life that will be very useful for her.

Another suggestion that belongs to direct suggesting act is the suggestion in (4). It is performed by using the strategy of 'imperative' strategy. This suggestion is uttered by Ketut. He suggests her directly that to get the balance in her life she has to try to smile not only with her face but also with her mind and her heart. Same as (1) and (3) Ketut uses 'imperative' because he knows that the suggestion is very useful to be done. It is one of efforts that Gilbert should do to stay positive and stay in her balance.

*Ketut : People in Bali understand in order to stay happy, must always know where you are every moment. Right here is perfect balance. Right at meeting of heaven and earth. Not too much God, not too much selfish. ... End of day, you do new meditation. Very simple. Sit in silence and smile.*

*Gilbert : I feel balanced already.*

*Ketut : Not so easy, Liss. (4) Smile with face. Smile with mind. Even smile in liver. See you later, alligator.*

*Gilbert : (smiling)*

The last suggestion belongs to direct suggesting act and is performed by using the strategy of 'imperative' is found in (7). This suggestion is uttered by Richard. He suggests Gilbert directly by mean to assure her that she really needs to commit the suggestion he gives. It is because he has been living in the ashram longer than Gilbert, and he knows what someone should do when they are in trouble like what happened to Gilbert.

*Gilbert : Do you always talk in bumper sticker?*

*Richard : I do, and here's another one. You have to learn to select your thoughts the way you select your clothes every day. That's a power you can cultivate. You wanna come here and control your life so bad, work on the mind. (5) That's the only thing you should control. (6) If you can't master your thoughts, you're in trouble.*

*Gilbert : I am trying.*

*Richard : Yeah, hello, that's the damn problem. Stop trying. Surrender. (7) Go out into the garden and just sit there and still your mind and watch what happens. (8) Why don't you just let it be?*

*Gilbert : Has anyone ever told you, you look like James Taylor?*

*Richard : Every day.*

*Gilbert : God, he really does.*

The second suggestion found is conventionalized suggesting act, such as the suggestion in (5), (6), and (8) that are uttered by Richard. The suggestion in (5) is performed using the strategy of the verb 'should'. It is used by the speaker in making the suggestion in order to give a certain thing to do for the hearer. The use of 'should' means that it is better for the hearer to do one thing than another. Moreover it is used because it is not an obligation, the speaker just would like to give alternative in which according to him is a better way so that the hearer are more open minded in responding the suggestion.

Besides the use of 'should', the strategy of 'conditional sentence' is found in the same topic and occasion that is in (6). Richard performs the suggestion this way because he knows that there are some possibilities in this life. One of them is getting in trouble, and it could happen if one could not master his/ her thought. The same thing may also happen to Gilbert if she cannot master her thought. Then he tries to complete his suggestion by using the 'specific formulae' or 'interrogative form'. The use the question form of *Why don't* in (8) is to make a friendly suggestion and friendly advice to Gilbert. It is because at the first of their conversation Richard and Gilbert are in a high temper. But finally Richard realizes that he should make Gilbert in solving her problem that is why finally he used the 'interrogative form' of suggestion.

The last type of suggestions is indirect suggesting acts. In forming the suggestion by using this type of suggesting act, the speaker does not clearly state his/ her suggestion. This type of suggestion is performed by using 'impersonal' and 'hint'. This indirect suggesting is found in (9), (10), and (11). All of the suggestions in this category are performed by using the strategy of 'hint'. The suggestion in (9) is uttered by Corella, a woman in Indian ashram. Corella tells Gilbert about the benefit of being silent for four weeks and about how she feels when she did it. She provides the fact about 'silent program' that she has done. Corella's statement is regarded as 'hint' since she indirectly suggests Liz to do so, to practice the "silent program"

*Corella : (9) Liz, Liz, I've just taken my badge off today. I've done so well. Four weeks of silence. It was so dull. But it's like a facelift because your face you know, just relaxes and your throat just drops down. It's a bargain. We've got so much to catch up on.*

*Gilbert : (keep silent because she just has wear a 'silent' badge)*

*Corella : Oh, golly. Good for you. You will get so much out of that. And your throat will look amazing as well.*

Another suggestion that belongs to indirect suggesting act, and also performed by using the strategy of 'hint', is found in (10). The suggestion is uttered by Ketut toward Gilbert. Ketut means to suggest Liz indirectly that to keep balance the portion of God and the self should be equal. She has to think not only herself but also God, in the same portion, not too much God, not too much selfish. That is why he uses 'hint' in suggesting Gilbert. Ketut tries to explain to Gilbert by giving the statement which is regarded as suggestion. He means that in order to stay happy people must always know where they are every moment.

*Ketut : People in Bali understand in order to stay happy, must always know where you are every moment. Right here is perfect balance. Right at meeting of heaven and earth. (10) Not too much God, not too much selfish. ... End of day, you do new meditation. Very simple. Sit in silence and smile.*

*Gilbert : I feel balanced already.*

The last suggestion is found in data (11). This suggestion is indirect suggesting act that is performed by using the strategy of 'hint'. It is uttered by the same person as in (10) that is Ketut Liyer. By saying the statement Ketut means to suggest Gilbert not to end her relationship with her boyfriend. According to him Gilbert will not lose her balance even though she continues her relationship with her boyfriend. All the better, it makes her living in balance. The use of 'hint' is chosen in order to make Gilbert has positive view about the suggestion and make her will agree with the suggestion.

*Ketut : You love your new boyfriend?*

*Gilbert : I ended it.*

*Ketut : Don't understand. Why you do that?*

*Gilbert : I couldn't keep my balance.*

*Ketut : Liss, listen to Ketut. (11) Sometimes to lose balance for love is part of living balanced life.*

*Gilbert : (Listen to Ketut attentively)*

### Acceptance of Suggesting Act

In giving a suggestion people always try to give the best solution for others. They try to tell what is better and has good influence for others, especially for the people whom they suggest. Most of the suggestions about balance in the movie are mostly uttered by Ketut Liyer, a medicine man in Bali. They may agree or disagree with the suggestion; they may accept the suggestion and do it or reject it and ignore the suggestion. Based on the analysis, Gilbert mostly accepts the suggestions given by Ketut as her medicine man or it can be said as her spiritual counselor. In accepting a suggestion Gilbert sometimes she states it explicitly and sometimes just keeps silent to show that she agrees.

Gilbert accepts Ketut's suggestion implicitly as in (1), without utters any statement. She just listens to him because she really appreciates him and does not want to interrupt him. Besides that she knows that what Ketut says is important for her. Gilbert's acceptance of the suggestion is proved after she leaved Bali and came back to New York. She commits to do what Ketut suggested to her. She starts to look the world through her heart. She feels that what Ketut says is right and will make her life better. Then it finally makes Gilbert willing to speak to God after a very long time she never does it.

*Ketut : Wait. I have this for you. Keep grounded so it's like you have four legs. That way, you can stay in this world. Also, no looking at world through your head. Look through your heart instead. That way, you will know God. Which is why you came here, no? See you later, alligator.*

*Gilbert : (1) (listen to Ketut carefully)*

The next suggestion that is accepted by Gilbert is in (2). At first, she agrees with the suggestion in by saying *I feel balanced already*. This statement indicates that Gilbert is trying to practice what Ketut has been suggested to her. She believes that by doing suggestion to her she will always feel balance, comfortable, and happy. On the other hand, at second time she agrees with the suggestion indirectly, she does not express it by uttering any statement but just smiling (3). She also shows it by committing to do what Ketut says that is to smile with face, mind, and even heart. She always tries to practice what Ketut has been suggested to her because She believes that by doing it she will get many benefits. This suggestion appears when Gilbert is consulting about how to keep herself balance. Ketut tries to explain to her that in order to keep in balance people must always know

where they are every moment by having the equal portion between God and the self.

*Ketut : People in Bali understand in order to stay happy, must always know where you are every moment. Right here is perfect balance. Right at meeting of heaven and earth. Not too much God, not too much selfish. Otherwise, life too crazy. You lose balance, you lose power. In morning, you do meditation from India. Serious. Very serious. In day, you enjoy Bali. Then in afternoon, come see me. End of day, you do new meditation. Very simple. Sit in silence and smile.*

*Gilbert : (2) I feel balanced already.*

*Ketut : Not so easy, Liss. Smile with face. Smile with mind. Even smile in liver. See you later, alligator.*

*Gilbert : (3) (smiling)*

Same as the previous suggestion the next suggestion accepted by Gilbert is dealing with her balance. In accepting the suggestion Gilbert does not utter any statement. She just smiles (4) when Ketut gives the suggestion but after leaves Ketut, she immediately commits the suggestion by going to meet Felipe after a few days before they had a little conflict. She realizes that end up her relationship and leaves Felipe does not make her keep in balance in contrast it precisely make her lose her balance and create new problem in her life. In this occasion, Ketut indirectly suggest Gilbert not to end up her relation with Felipe because he knows that Gilbert actually loves her boyfriend. That is why Gilbert finally decides to back to Felipe.

*Ketut : You love your new boyfriend?*

*Gilbert : I ended it.*

*Ketut : Don't understand. Why you do that?*

*Gilbert : I couldn't keep my balance.*

*Ketut : Liss, listen to Ketut. Sometimes to lose balance for love is part of living balanced life.*

*Gilbert : (4) (Listen to Ketut attentively)*

In the same way as previous suggestion Gilbert indirectly accepts what Corella suggested (5). She just keeps silent and smile at Corella. She does the same thing as Corella did before, she is now wearing 'silent' badge and trying to practice the spiritual practice by silent. She realizes that she less listening to someone and she is a rambler so that by doing the spiritual practice that is to be silent for four week will give many benefits in her life. Even though Gilbert has done it before Corella suggests her, it is proved that she agrees to Corella. So that it can be said that Gilbert accepts the suggestion.

*Corella : Liz. Liz, I've just taken my badge off today. I've done so well. Four weeks of silence. It was so dull. But it's like a facelift because your face you know, just relaxes and your throat just drops down. It's a bargain. We've got so much to catch up on.*

*Gilbert : (5) (keep silent because she just has wear a 'silent' badge)*

*Corella : Oh, golly. Good for you. You will get so much out of that. And your throat will look amazing as well.*

## CONCLUSION

This study is conducted to describe how suggestion is given and how the acceptance of the suggestion about inner peace figure out in *Eat, Pray, Love* movie. Then, the writer comes to a conclusion that: the characters use three types of suggesting act: direct suggesting act, conventionalized suggesting act, and indirect suggesting act. Direct suggesting act is performed by *imperative strategy* and *negative imperative strategy*; conventionalized suggesting act is performed by *specific strategy* or *interrogative form*, the verb of *should* and *conditional strategy*; and indirect suggesting act is performed by the strategy of *hint*. Direct suggesting act is mostly used in the movie. The acceptance of the suggestion is performed explicitly by stating it directly and implicitly by keeping silent, smiling and by committing what is being suggested to her.

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