# AN ANALYSIS OF EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ACTS OF MAIN CHARACTER IN THE FILM THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Perdian Sapta Putra
Ahmad Dahlan University
perdiansaptap@gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

The objective of the study are to describe (1) the types of expressive speech acts used by main character in *The Greatest Showman* film, and (2) the dominant expressive speech acts used by main character in *The Greatest Showman* film. This research reveals of expressive speech acts to express the character's feeling, attitude, and emotion. The data were collected by watching the film and reading the script to get information about the utterances that were used by main character in *The Greatest Showman* film. The findings show that there are four kinds of expressive speech acts in thirty utterances used by main character found in the film and expressive speech acts of praising is the dominant expression used by main character in *The Greatest Showman* film.

**Keywords**: pragmatics, speech acts, expressive speech acts

## A. INTRODUCTION

In daily life, communication is very important as a human being. Human needs a language to communicate with each other. Understanding what the speaker says is very important in communication. To understand the utterances by the speaker, it needs pragmatics. It is supported in Yule (2006:3) saying that pragmatics is a study of meaning that convey by the speaker or writer and interpreted by the hearer or the reader.

In order to understand the intended meaning of the speaker, the hearer could observe the action performed by the speaker while speaking. Austin (1962) distinguished three types of speech-related actions: locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Searle (1979) developed the theory of Austin speech act by grouping them into five groups of assertives of illocutionary speech act, directives of illocutionary speech act, commissives of illocutionary speech act, expressive of illocutionary speech act, and declaration of illocutionary speech act. In

this research, the researcher interesting to analyzed the expressive of the speech act in the film *The Greatest Showman.*

Expressive is one of the classifications of the speech act. It is used to understand what the speaker's feeling. Curse (2000:342) stated that expressive make knew the speaker's psychological attitude to a presupposed state of affairs. It consists of *thank, congratulate, condole, praise, blame, forgive,* and *pardon.* Expressing something is usually happens in daily life. People do it because they have an idea or something that they feel, and they want to express. When people express something, they often show their negative or positive expression to the interlocutor. Because of that, why people should know about the types of expressions that can be used to express something.

## B.  THEORETICAL REVIEW

Austin (1962) distinguished three types of speech-related actions: locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. Searle (1979) developed the theory of Austin speech act by grouping them into five groups of assertives of illocutionary speech act, directives of illocutionary speech act, commissives of illocutionary speech act, expressive of illocutionary speech act, and declaration of illocutionary speech act.

1.  The Types of Expressive of Illocutionary Speech Acts

    a.  Expressive speech acts of thanking

    Thanking is an utterance to tell somebody that you are pleased or grateful for something that you have done (Oxford Dictionary). "Thinking is considered a polite form of behavior, and cultural convention leads us to manifest good feelings toward people who have something beneficial for us" (Martinez, 2013:225).

    b.  Expressive speech acts of congratulating

    Congratulating is an expression to tell somebody that you are pleased about their success or achievement (Oxford Dictionary). We congratulate people when something good happens to them (Martinez, 2013:210).

c. Expressive speech acts of condoling

Condoling is an expression of sympathy that you feel for somebody when a person in their family or that they well have died (Oxford Dictionary). Martinez (2013:277) states that condoling is an expression of sympathy to someone who has experienced grief arising from death or misfortune.

d. Expressive speech acts of praising

Praise expression is generally positive statements that show approval, admiration of person, objects, or ideas. Praising is an expression that shows approval or admiration to someone (Oxford Dictionary).

e. Expressive speech acts of blaming

Blaming is an expression to think or say that somebody is responsible for something bad (Oxford Dictionary). It means that blaming is an expression that used to people to respond to someone who has done something bad or wrong.

f. Expressive speech acts of forgiving

Forgiving is an expression to stop feeling angry with somebody who has done something harmful, annoy, or upset to you (Oxford Dictionary).

g. Expressive speech acts of apologizing

Apologizing is an expression to say that you are sorry for doing something wrong or causing a problem (Oxford Dictionary). Martinez (2013:241) states that in apologizing, we acknowledge that we have caused something to happen that is negative to someone else.

## C. RESEARCH METHOD

This research use qualitative method, and the data will be analyzed descriptively. The descriptive qualitative does not use the numeral or the statistic procedures in analyzing the data, but the writer analyzing the data descriptively. It is because of the data that will be collected from the script of *The Greatest Showman* film.

The data of this research is the dialogues taken from *The Greatest Showman* film. Besides the data, the research also discussed the object and the subject research. The research object is the topic that will be discussed in this research. So, as already stated in the title, the topic in this research is an expressive speech act, and the researcher uses *The Greatest Showman* film as the subject as well as the data is the utterances of the main character containing the expressive of illocutionary speech acts in this film.

This research use *simak* method because the data was obtained by observe the language used in *The Greatest Showman* film. *Simak* method has a base technique, namely *sadap* technique, where the researcher acquired the data done by record the language utilize orally or in written language. Mahsun (2017:92) *Sadap* technique then followed by *simak libat cakap* technique, *simak bebas libat cakap* technique, *catat* technique, and *rekam* technique. In this research, the researcher uses *catat* technique. It means that the words which are produced by the speakers are taken to be noted by the researcher. Here are the steps to collect the data:

1. Watching and observing *The Greatest Showman* film.

2. Reading and finding the type of expressive speech act in the script of *The Greatest Showman* film.

3. Noting the dialogue of expressive speech act.

4. Classifying the data of *The Greatest Showman* film.

## D. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

### 1. The Types of Expressive Speech Acts Used By Main Character in The Greatest Showman Film

There are seven kinds of expressive speech act, as follow: expressive of thanking, expressive of congratulating, expressive of condoling, expressive of praising, expressive of blaming, expressive of forgiving, and expressive of apologizing (Cruses 2000:342).

Here below are the data of expressive speech acts used by the main character in *The Greatest Showman* film.

a.  Expressive speech acts of thanking

Thanking is an expression to gratitude used to show appreciation of something. This kind of expressive usually used for people to show appreciation or respond to someone who did something good for them.

Below is the data of utterances containing of thanking expression found in *The Greatest Showman* film.

| (1) Barnum | : The acoustics are actually better in standing room. That's where they should be. |
| Crew | : Miss Lind is ready now. |
| Barnum | : OK. **Thank you. Thank God.**          (47:57 - 48:03) |

In data (1) above, the researcher found the expression of thanking used by Barnum to express his gratitude toward his crew. Barnum's utterance shows that he said "*Thank you*" to his crew because his crew give the information to Barnum that Miss Lind is ready on the stage to perform. And also, *"Thank God"* is the Barnum's utterance to express his gratitude to God.

b.  Expressive speech acts of congratulating

Congratulating is an expression of sympathetic pleasure. People usually use this kind of expressive to give congratulation utterance when people success doing something.

Below is the data of utterances containing of congratulating expression found in *The Greatest Showman* film.

| (10) Caroline | : Did you bring a present? |
| Barnum | : Present, for what? |
| Caroline | : For my birthday |
| Barnum | : Your what? |
| Caroline | : My birthday |

Barnum : **Happy Birthday, Caroline**. This is a wishing machine. You tell it your wishes and keep it them safe until they come true. Even if you forgot them, they are always there.

(13:36 – 14:45)

In data (10), there is a conversation between Barnum and Caroline. Caroline is one of Barnum's daughter. In the dialogue above, Caroline has a birthday and she asks her father, "did you bring a present?". It means that Caroline wishes her father to bring a present for her. But actually her father didn't have anything or any present for her, but Barnum makes something special for Caroline that called wishing machine. Then Barnum gave that wishing machine to his daughter while say *"Happy birthday, Caroline."* to celebrate Caroline's birthday.

c.   Expressive speech acts of praising

Expression of praise is a positive statement, or it is an expression to express admiration toward someone who deserves it. If people get praise from someone, they will feel happy because they got the attention of the person. Praise can be given by action or by words. If by action, they can give a gift to someone. Whereas, if we want to give praise by using words, they can use the expression of praise through the data that the researcher found in *The Greatest Showman* film.

Below is the data of utterances containing of praising expression found in *The Greatest Showman* film.

(11) Caroline : Can I tell a wish?
Barnum : Step right up. Go ahead.
Caroline : I wish to marry Santa Clause.
Barnum : **That's a good wish**.               (14:51 – 15:02)

In data (11) above, there is a conversation between Caroline and Barnum. Barnum is the main character in *The Greatest Showman* film as Caroline's father. The researcher found the expressive of praising used by Barnum. Barnum's utterance shows that he said praises statement with say *"That's a good wish"* because his daughter has a good wish in Caroline's birthday that she wish someday she can marry with Santa Clause.

d.  Expressive speech acts of apologizing

Apologizing is an expression to express regret for having done or said something wrong. The meaning of apologizing is an expression used to show that something must be said causes sadness, disappointment, especially because something unpleasant has happened.

Below is the data of utterances containing of Apologizing expression found in *The Greatest Showman* film.

(27) Hallet         : Charity, come here. Your dress. Is this how we thought you to behave?
Barnum         : **It's my fault, sir**. I made her laugh.
Hallet         : Well, thank you for your honesty. Stay away from my daughter.         (04:03 – 04:30)

In data (27) above, the researcher found the expressive of apologizing used by Barnum to express his apology toward Hallet. Barnum's utterance is an apology sentence because he regretted that he disturbed Charity when she is drinking a cup of water.

2.  **The Dominant Expressive Speech Acts Used By Main Character in The Greatest Showman Film**

| No. | Kinds of Expressive Speech Acts | Frequency of Occurrence | The Percentage (%) |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Expressive speech acts of Thanking | 9 | 30 |
| 2 | Expressive speech acts of Congratulating | 1 | 3.3 |
| 3 | Expressive speech acts of Condoling | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Expressive speech acts of Praising | 16 | 53.3 |
| 5 | Expressive speech acts of Blaming | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Expressive speech acts of Forgiving | 0 | 0 |

| 7 | Expressive speech acts of Apologizing | 4 | 13.3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Expressive speech acts** | | **30** | **100** |

Based on the table above, there are seven kinds of expressive speech acts. There are expressive speech acts of thanking, expressive speech acts of congratulating, expressive speech acts of condoling, expressive speech acts of praising, expressive speech acts of blaming, expressive speech acts of forgiving, and expressive speech acts of apologizing. But the researcher only found four kind expressive speech acts and 30 utterances used by Barnum in *The Greatest Showman* film. There are 9 (30%) expressive speech acts of thanking, 1 (3.3%) expressive speech acts of congratulating, 18 (53.3%) expressive speech acts of praising, and 4 (13.3%) expressive speech acts of apologizing.

## E.  CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis, 30 utterances of expressive speech acts used by Barnum are found in *The Greatest Showman* film. They are 9 (30%) expressive speech acts of thanking, 1 (3.3%) expressive speech acts of Congratulating, 16 (53.3%) expressive speech acts of praising, 4 (13.3%) expressive speech acts of apologizing. The dominant of expressive speech acts used by Barnum found in *The Greatest Showman* film is the expressive of praising.

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