

## Compliment Expression Found in Whiplash Movie by Damien Chazelle: Pragmatics Study

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### Abstract

*This research analyzed the speech act of compliment expression and function of compliment expression found in the movie Whiplash. The purpose of this study is to analyze the various types of compliment words and function of compliment expression. To analyze this research is a qualitative descriptive. The data source from Damien Chazelle's movie script and the film. Based on the findings there are 5 types of compliment words appearance (25%), possessions (12,5%), personality, (12,5%), ability (12,5%), achievement (37,5%). In addition, there are three function of compliment expression: to express admiration (62,5%), to create solidarity (25%), to soften threat (12,5%).*

### Keywords

speech act; compliment words;  
function



## I. Introduction

Language is one of the most important things in the life of every human being (Purba, N. et al. (2020). Language is a means of communication between humans which is done every day. All forms that are carried out or expressed from one human to another are called language. In language there is a study that examines language in general, namely linguistics. Linguistics is a study that discusses and examines languages in general, including regional languages, Indonesian and foreign languages. In this linguistic study, there are 3 types that are commonly studied regarding language, namely the meaning of language, language concepts, and language in context. There are linguistics provides subtle instructs that are executed by the brain such as its structure, acquisition, relationship with other forms of communication (Hornby in Irmawati, 2014:116).

In learning a language, the listener must understand what the speaker is saying. Speakers usually in delivering language do not always only speak but there are expressions and actions taken by the speaker. The study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and explicated by a hearer called pragmatics (Yule, 1996). Pragmatics is one aspect that exists in linguistic studies which studies and understands the meaning of language depending on the context in. Linguists are conscious that the effort to obtain the essence of language will not provide the best result without understanding pragmatics (Rahardi, 2019). The pragmatic aspect studies various materials, there are speech acts, implicatures, utterances, compliments, etc. This material is usually used in a conversation because in conversation people usually use feeling so that the message or signal that the speaker wants to deliver to the listener is delivered, for example feeling when he is happy because his friend gets a winner, such as; "amazing!". With this speech, a signal of pleasure will be delivered to the listener or recipient of the speech. These utterances are included in a pragmatic study called compliment words.

Compliment word is speech that is positive and aims to praise or appreciate someone. It's not praising (compliment) is used for several reasons such as: 1. Show approval the speech partner's actions, physical appearance, quality or taste. 2. Showing

taste admiration. 3. Expressing praise. 4. Creating a sense of solidarity between participants in the conversation (Benham and Amizadeh 2011). However, some people give praises out of obligation or mockery. They say something has to do with the subject, and one way of stating it is a complement. 3 topics of compliments can be divided into four categories namely appearance, possession, personality, and ability/performance. Compliment words are also one way to increase solidarity with friends or anyone who receives the speech (Holmes 1996). This statement is bolstered by the explanation from Wu (2008:8) which emphasizes that the main purpose of compliment is not only referential or informative, but also emotional. Compliment words are widely used in various fields where there must be conversations, one of them is in movie. In this study, the researcher examines the words of praise used by the main characters in Whiplash Movie. It is an American film produced by Jason Blum, Helen Estabrook, Michel Litvak and David Lancaster and directed by Damien Chazelle. The cast in this film are Miles Teller, J.K. Simmons and Paul Reiser. The film was released on October 10, 2014 in Unites States and Canada. But this film premiered in competition at the 2014 sundance Film festival on January 16, 2014 as the festival's opening film. This film is suitable to be watched by teenagers or adults who are looking for motivation in life about their future. Whiplash was nominated for and won a number of accolades. Winning Academy awards for Best Film Editing and Best Sound Mixing and also being nominated for Best Picture and Best adapted Screenplay. Fletcher's portrayal of the character won him a best supporting actor nomination in the Academy, BAFTA, Critics' Choice, Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards.

### Research Question

1. What are the type of compliment words in "Whiplas"movie?
2. What are the function of compliment words in thatmovie?

## II. Review of Literature

### 2.1 Pragmatic

Pragmatics is one part of the study of linguistics which studies meaning which depends on the speaker and listener. Pragmatics is also studies signs or symbols included in language. Pragmatics is a science that studies the conditions of use of human language which are basically very much determined by the context that embodies and underlies the language Rahardi (2005:49). Sociopragmatics is the study of local situations, or more precisely, language use in those conditions. In local communities, it is more clearly observed that the principles of collaboration and courtesy manifest themselves differently in different cultures, social conditions, and social strata. In other words, sociopragmatics is pragmatics' sociological border.

As a result, it is evident that the link between sociopragmatics and sociology is problematic. Pragmalinguistics is the study of the general circumstances for the communicative use of language is known as pragmalinguistics. Pragmalinguistics can be used in pragmatic studies aimed at accomplishing linguistic goals, where we take into account the unique resources that language gives for the transmission of specific illusions. Illocutionary is a way of expressing oneself. Grammar and Pragmalinguistics are closely related.

## 2.2 Speech Act

Speech act is a theory that examines the meaning of language based on the relationship between speech and the actions of its speakers. This term was proposed by Austin and Searle. According to them, speech acts are divided into 3, namely locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary. However, Searle added that illocutionary speech is divided into five types, namely, assertive, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative.

## 2.3 Illocutionary Act

Illocutionary act is one part of the speech act that describes speech that explains more specifically what the speaker said. Illocutionary act is a part of speech act which utters something in order to the addressee does something as what the speaker intends Simatupang and Ariesta (2019: 81) such as:

- a. Please bring me that book!
- b. I ask you to get out of here!

## 2.4 Expressive Speech Act

Expressive act is one of the types of illocutionary act that expressed according to (Searle). Expressive act is shows the disclosure felt by the speaker to the situation. For example:

- a. "It's been hard work, but the results are not satisfactory."

This utterance is an expressive speech act of complaining which can be interpreted as an evaluation of what is being said, namely an effort whose results are always unsatisfactory or not as expected, namely an effort

- b. Deepest condolences on the passing of your father.

This utterance is an expressive speech act of disclosure of the feelings felt by the speaker towards the situation that occurred, because the father of one of his friends died.

## 2.5 Compliment Word

Complimentary words are those we say in a conversation to make the other person feel good about themselves. They are usually terms that define some part of a person's personality or existence, or something that belongs to the person who is getting the compliment. Compliments may describe the person's personality, abilities, appearance, achievement, possessions.

## 2.6 Sociolinguistic

Sociolinguistic is the part of linguistic that studies in two area study, namely sociology and linguistics. In sociolinguistics learning about the rules of language used in society in various situations such as: with whom to talk, to whom, about what. With this knowledge, it can be learned that if you communicate in good and correct language, your social level in society will be seen. Then in the compliment words there are the functions of compliment expression, the functions are: to express admiration, to create solidarity, to soften threat/ atmosphere.

### III. Research Method

The type of this research used the descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative research method is the data pure from in that source. According to Sugiyono (2016: 9) qualitative descriptive methods are: research methods based on the philosophy of post-positivism used to examine the condition of natural objects (as the opposite is experiment) where the researcher is the instrument. The key to data collection techniques is triangulation (combined), data analysis is inductive/qualitative, and the results of qualitative research are more emphasize meaning rather than generalization. Cause of qualitative method was chosen for this research because this study aims to explain the use of compliment words used in "Whiplash" movie. The information gathered for this study was in the form of excerpts featuring spoken acts of compliment given by the characters of Whiplash movie.

### IV. Results and Discussion

In this research, the researcher find answers to question problem that have been asked from existing sources. There are 2 topic that discussed in this research namely, Type of compliment and function of compliment.

#### 4.1 Appearance

##### Data 1

*"Your chin very very.. nice" said Andrew. ( 33:38 minute)*

"very nice" is a positive statement. When someone says that to a woman, so the boy is attracted to her about her chin. That utterance was explain by Andrew when they were meet in the café. Andrew and Nicole were talking then they are nervous. Then Nicole says that when she saw his in the theatre he always had his eyes pointed to the floor. Then, Andrew said that his father tells him that Andrew have a problem for making eye contact. Nicole answer that her mother told that her chin was too big. Then, Andrew tells that her chin very nice doesn't look too big, its still looks good.

This data contained in the category of compliments known as appearance. A compliment about someone's look is a word of appreciation that shows interest in the other person regarding his physique or look style. In addition to data 1, which includes the type of appearance, it is also categorized as to create solidarity with other people since data 1 says that Andrew wants to feel closer to Nicole by praising her because at that time Andrew wanted to approach Nicole to be his girlfriend. Based on the above reasons, Data 1 came to the conclusion that it has the type of appearance and the function of connecting people together.

#### 4.2 Possessions

##### Data 2

*"it's the best music school in the country" said by Andrew (At 34:04 minute)*

"it's the best music school.." is the statement that say by Andrew. The utterance shows that the school have a positive comment for the school. The utterance was said by Andrew when they are talking about their life then Nicole said she study at Fordham then Andrew asking why she picked Fordham. Then, Nicole said she has applied some schools and Fordham accept Nicole for study in Fordham. Then, Nicole ask back to Andrew why he study at Shaffer, then he said "it's the best music school in the country"

This data is entered into the category known as possessions, which contains compliments. Compliments that are given in the form of possessions are words of praise that are spoken on the type of property that is used in the form of possessions. In addition, data 2 relates to the possessions type, and it is also included in the to express admiration function because data 2 illustrates that Andrew was amazed and praised Shaffer's school because Shaffer has a good knowledge of music. This is because data 2 shows that Andrew was amazed and praised Shaffer's school because Shaffer has a good knowledge of music. Based on the above reasons, Data 2 came to the conclusion that it has the type of possession and the function to express admiration.

#### 4.3 Personality

##### Data 3

*“good” said by Fletcher (At 24:14 minute)*

In this sentence “good” shows that Fletcher praise Andrew because he has a strong personality and convictions or principles. This data is included in the type of compliment, namely personality. This data is entered into the category known as the personality compliment. This kind is associated to a person's personality or ideals, such as emotionality, steadfastness in life principles, and other such characteristics.

In addition data 3 is also included in the function to express admiration because it shows that Fletcher was amazed and praised Andrew for being confident and steadfast in his convictions about him choosing a music school there. This is why data 3 is included in this functions. Based on the above reasons, Data 3 came to the conclusion that it has the type of personality and the function to express admiration.

#### 4.4 Ability

##### Data 4

*“the talent at this table its stunning.” Said Aunt Emma. (44:51 minute)*

“... its stunning” is the utterance has a meaning of praising someone but if its in a sentence “the talent at this table is stunning” the meaning of the word “stunning” is for the talent that the person have. This utterance explain by Aunt Emma when she was dinner in the table with her family. Then, in that situation they are talking about the talent which they each have, but instead they compare their respective talents. Then, Aunt Emma neutral in that situation and preferring to remain silent and say that the talent that the people have in here or in that table is amazing.

This sentence is part of the ability type. Ability has nothing to do with how a person looks. Instead, it refers to a person's skill in a certain field or, in other contexts, to classifications of a person's skills, preferences, and other traits. In addition to including ability type in data 4, it is also used to lessen threat. This function shows that a compliment word can be a way to break up a tense situation or a situation in which one person is likely to lose. if that's the case in data 4, Aunt Emma steps in when someone in her family is talking about and comparing their skills and accomplishments, and one of her family members feels insulted. Based on the above reasons, Data 3 came to the conclusion that it has the type of personality and the function to express admiration. Based on the above reasons, Data 4 came to the conclusion that it has the type of ability and the function to lessen threat.



## 4.5 Achievement

### Data 5

At 1:20:12 minute “The best performance ever” said by Fletcher. (At 1:20:12 minute)

This utterance was said by Fletcher when he told Andrew about a band player named Charlie Parker where he was trying to be the best band player but by being thrown at the drum by his teacher and then he made a mistake so that the audience laughed but with his efforts he was able to come up with the best performance ever.

This data is included in the achievement type. This type is used when someone achieves something in their life, such as winning a competition or something in an academic or non-academic field. In addition to data 5, which includes the achievement type, it is also included in the to express admiration function because data 5 shows that Fletcher admires Charlie Parker for working hard to put on the best performance possible, and Charlie succeeds. Based on the above reasons, Data 5 concluded that it has the type of achievement and the function to express admiration.

## V. Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion, it can be inferred that there are categories of compliment words and function of compliment words. There are 8 data were finding in this research. The data were classified into three types of compliment words: 2 appearance (25%), 1 possessions (12,5%), 1 personality, (12,5%), 1 ability (12,5%), 3 achievement (37,5%). In addition, there are three function of compliment expression: 5 to express admiration (62,5%), 2 to create solidarity (25%), 1 to soften threat (12,5%).

Therefore, it can be concluded that compliment words most widely used is the achievement type because based on the theme of this film, it is a film that contains elements of building talent or building personal character and if it is achieved, the character will get an achievement in their life and then people can praise and admire them. The most function of compliment that used by the character in this film is admiration type because many conversation that praise the, from their achievement.

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