Expressive Acts in Wild Child Movie: Pragmatics Study

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Abstract

The purposes of this study are to identify the types and functions of expressive acts in a pragmatic study. This research used descriptive qualitative as the method in providing data analysis. The data were collected from the Wild Child movie. The instruments used in this research are the utterances of the characters. In this research, the data has been analyzed by using the theory of the expressive act by Searle (1976) to answer the research question. According to the findings of this study, there are five different types of expressive acts which are uttered 36 times such as, thanking, praising, greeting, asking for an apology, and congratulating. The data consist of 10 data of apologizing (27.7%), 7 data of praising (19.5%), 7 data of thanking (19.5%), 1 data of congratulating (2.7%), and 11 data of greeting (30.5%). The type of expressive act that is dominant is greeting, which is 30.5% of the data (11 data). The functions of expressive acts that are found in Wild Child movie are 19.5% expressing thanking (7 data), 19.5% expressing praising (7 data), 30.5% expressing greeting (11 data), 27.7% expressing apologizing (10 data), and 2.7% expressing congratulating (1 data). The most dominant function of the expressive act in Wild Child movie is the function of greeting with 11 data (30.5%).

I. Introduction

Humans use language as a system of communication. Fromkin (2009) states that when a person understands a language, he is capable of speaking and communicating with others who are also fluent in that language. When we understand a language, we can communicate or transfer information and knowledge with people using that language. According to Lim (1975) knowledge about language is called linguistic knowledge. The scientific study of language is known as linguistics. The study of language and communication is referred to as linguistics. The branches of linguistics that deal with language structure are divided into phonology (the patterning of sounds), morphology (the structure of words), syntax (the structure of sentences), semantics (meaning), and pragmatics (language in context). Language is one of the most important things in the life of every human being. Each of them is of course inseparable from language, the first time a child gets a language that is heard directly from the father or mother when the child is born into this world. Then as time goes by and as the child grows, they will acquire a language other than the language taught by the mother and father, either in the form of a second, third, foreign language or so on which is called language acquisition where it depends on the social environment and cognitive level possessed by these children through the learning process in their environment. (Purba, N. et al. (2020). language is an interaction of two or more, it means that the speaker and listener involved in it. There are types of spoken language formal and informal. Formal is known as the official communication and need

prepared before the communication, example of formal communication is social gathering, speech and ceremony. Informal communication doesn't take places true the officially and the context of conversation is stretched in all direction. (Purba, N and Mulyadi, 2020)

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies communication. As a tool of human instruction, it plays an important role in studying languages. Yule (1996) states that pragmatics is the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker or writer and interpreted by a listener or reader. Simatupang (2021) states that pragmatics is the study of language, meaning, and context contained in utterances spoken by a speaker. Pragmatics studies how words present information and carry out actions, it is known as speech act.

A speech act is the focus of pragmatics study. Widyowati (2019) states that speech refers to the utterances and act refers to action. Speech acts are classified into three categories: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. According to Leech (1996), Locationary acts perform the act of saying something. It is in the form of the words uttered or the basic act of utterance. Illocutionary acts can be defined as an utterance that has semantic meaning and a certain strength. Five basic kinds of illocutionary acts are representatives (or assertive), directives, commissives, declarations, and expressive. This research focuses on expressive acts because they cannot be distinct from human beings. Expressive acts are a speech acts where the speakers express their feelings and attitude toward something such as thanking someone, praising, greeting, asking for an apology, and congratulating someone. In this study, the researcher focuses on analyzing the use of expressive acts that are uttered in a movie. The author examines the types and functions of expressive acts in the movie "Wild Child ". The purpose of this research is to find out which types and functions of expressive acts are used by the characters in the movie.

1.1 Research Questions
1. What types of expressive acts are used in the movie "Wild Child"?
2. What is the function of expressive acts that are found in that movie?

II. Review of Literature

Pragmatics deals with utterances. Fathonah and Simatupang (2019) state that Pragmatics itself is a study to examine and find the meaning of utterances from the speaker to the addressee or hearer. It is frequently defined as the study of how people utilize language. According to Yule (1996), pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning, which means that pragmatics is an analysis related to the meaning of a speaker's speech. Pragmatics is an instrument that plays an important role in a speaker and a hearer's interaction. In addition, it is the study of how more gets communicated than it is said due to the fact that it inspects how listeners may summarize what the speaker aims to say. An utterance that provides a function in communication is a speech act.

2.1 Speech act
An action that performs through a language is known as a speech act. It is a subfield of pragmatics. This study is concerned with words that are used not only to deliver information but also to carry out actions. Speech act theory states that people use language and its rules to settle roles and goals. According to Austin (1969), when a person utters a sequence of words, the speaker is frequently trying to reach some effects with words; in some cases, the effect has been accomplished by an alternative action. Speech acts are classified into three kinds of action, those are locutionary acts (saying a meaningful statement that can be understood by a hearer), illocutionary acts (to inform the hearer by

saying something in purpose), and perlocutionary acts (saying something that can lead someone to do an act).

2.2 Illocutionary Acts

Word function that is uttered by the speaker is illocutionary acts. An illocutionary act is an utterance that can express an attitude with a certain function in order to do something as the speaker intends. Illocutionary acts are carried out through the communicative power of an utterance such as making statements, offers, explanations, or other communicative purposes. The illocutionary act brings out a directive for the audience, such as promising, ordering, apologizing, and thanking. According to Searle (1979), illocutionary acts are distinguished into five categories: representatives, directives, commissives, declarative, and expressive.

2.3 Expressive acts

Expressive is a type of speech act to express what the speaker feels about something. According to Talumingan (2021), the expressive act is the expression of emotional ideas itself. In using expressive acts, the speaker makes words to appropriate what they feel. Searle identifies that an expressive act is one out of five illocutionary act basic categories, and he mentions that it is the physiological state specified in the sincerity condition. According to Yule (1996), speakers express their feelings through physiological states and these can be statements of pleasure, pain, likes, dislikes, joy, or sorrow. An expressive speech act is a speech act where the speakers express their feelings and attitude toward something such as thanking someone, praising, greeting, asking for an apology, and congratulating someone.

1. Thanking someone is an expression of gratitude to others for doing something beneficial. According to Jautz (2008), gratitude expressions are used when the speaker wants the addressee to know that they are grateful for what the addressee has said. The term thank you is usually used by the speaker to express their gratitude. Thanking is considered a polite form of behavior, and a cultural convention that leads us to manifest good feelings toward people who have something beneficial.

2. Praising is an expression to commend someone's performance or appearance. It is a positive statement that shows admiration of ideas, people, and objects. According to the Oxford Dictionary, praising is an expression of showing approval to someone or something.

3. Greeting is an expression to welcome or recognize someone. According to Hornby (2010), a greeting uses polite words such as wishing somebody's health, or happiness. Generally, the greeting is an expressive act that is used in daily life. Mostly, the speakers may be inclined to express their delight when they meet the hearers by greeting them.

4. Asking for an apology is an expression of requesting forgiveness from someone. Apologizing is a speech act occurring between two participants in which one of them expects to deserve compensation or explanation because of an offense committed by the other. The speakers regret their mistakes of doing something and they confess it. In this situation, the person who makes a mistake can ask for forgiveness or just deny it. Therefore, an apology takes the role of a politeness strategy. There are two types of apologies, direct and indirect apologies. Direct apologies are direct utterances of regret such as performative verbs, such as: "be sorry", "apologize", or "excuse". According to Cohen & Olshtain (1983), Indirect apologies are categorized as providing an

explanation, an acknowledgment of responsibility, an offer of repair, and a promise of forbearance.

5. Congratulating someone is an expression to give someone good wishes when something special happens to them. It is an expression of tender-hearted pleasure. According to the

6. Oxford Dictionary, congratulating someone is an expression of being pleased to receive something special, such as an achievement.

III. Research Method

This research uses descriptive qualitative in providing data analysis. According to Moleong (2017), qualitative research is the purpose of understanding the phenomenon of the research about things that are experienced by the research subject such as behaviorism, perception, motivation, action, etc. Qualitative research is generally described in word forms. Qualitative research methods are referred to as naturalistic research methods because the research is carried out in natural conditions. This research method is chosen by the author because it answers the research questions about the expressive acts in this movie. The method starts with collecting and analyzing the data. The researcher watches the movie "Wild Child". The duration of the movie is 2 hours and 4 minutes to comprehend the whole story. The writer uses English subtitles to make sure and help the writer to understand the data to be analyzed. In collecting the data, the researcher identifies and classifies the types and functions of expressive speech acts in the movie. The data analysis uses descriptive qualitative using the Searle theory.

IV. Result and Discussion

The data analysis is classified into five types of expressive speech acts. Those are: thanking, praising, greeting, apologizing, and congratulating. The function of the expressive act is classified appropriately with its types. In this research, the expressive act that is found in the movie "Wild Child" will be analyzed for the data. This data is put into two categories: the types and the function.

4.1 The Expression Acts of Greeting
Data 1
*Harriet   : "**Hello.**"*
Student 1: "Hi."
Harriet : "Good holiday?" (minute 7:06)

The data above is a conversation between Harriet the head girl and a student. In this context, Harriet, the head girl of a boarding school in the countryside of England greets some students who just restarted their school after a long holiday. She greets them with a smile on her face while shaking their hands. In an expressive speech act, the type of the data above is greeting because Harriet says the term "*hello*" in the conversation.

As can be seen in the conversation above, the function of this speech act is to greet the other students. As the head girl, the speaker has a responsibility to welcome all students kindly in order to make them feel comfortable and pleased for coming back to the boarding school after the long holiday. Hence, the addressee receives the greeting from the speaker warmly and replies with the term "*hi*" while putting a smile on her face.

4.2 The Expression Acts of Praising
Data 2
*Girl 1: "**Wow, look at those shoes!**"*
*Girl 2: "**Look at her!**" (Minute 7:17)*

The data above is being uttered by a student who is stunned when the main character of the movie arrives at her new school. All students are dumbfounded by her appearance because she wears expensive and elegant clothes which are different from the other students. The type of the data above is praising in an expressive act. The speaker praises the main character because of her style and beauty that they have never seen before.

The function of this expressive act is to express how amazed the speakers are by uttering the term *"wow"* to commend the addressee that is aimed even though she gives a repulsive reaction because she thinks that all students are overreacting.

4.3 The Expression Acts of Thanking
Data 3
Harriet   : "Mrs. Kingsley, a gift. One for you, and one for Freddie."
*Mrs. Kingsley: "Oh, **thank you.**" (minute 8:04)*

The data above is a conversation between Harriet and Mrs. Kingsley. In this scene, all students are just coming back to the boarding school after having a long holiday. As a head girl, Harriet gives the headmaster a gift from her hometown. Mrs. Kingsley is so thankful to Harriets for the gift. The type of this expressive act is thanking someone. The term *"oh, thank you"* indicates that the speaker is grateful for what the addressee has done to her.

The function of this act is to express the gratitude of the speaker and to appreciate the addressee for giving a gift to her. The speaker expresses her manner by thanking her. Thus, the addressee feels pleased after receiving the expression act of thanking the speaker.

4.5 The Expression Acts of Apologizing
Data 4
*Drippy: "**Sorry,** foot-in-mouth-disease." (minute 48:14)*

The data above is an utterance spoken by Drippy which is the speaker. In this context, Drippy is surprised by the main character's hair transformation and she accidentally brings up the main character's mom that has died when she was little. She commends the main character's new look by asking if her mother is as pretty as her. The main character says that her mother is more pretty than her. Drippy realizes and regrets the things that she says to the main character are inappropriate. In this situation, Drippy is the speaker of the utterance. In the expressive act, the term "*sorry*" in the data above is apologizing. The speaker feels sorry about what she has done to the hearer.

The function of the data is to inform the main character that she regrets what she has been doing by asking for an apology to express her feelings. The speaker apologizes and hopes the hearer is not mad at her. As can be seen in the data above, the speaker blames herself after saying sorry.

4.6 The Expression Act of Congratulating
Data 5
*Mrs. Kingsley: "**Congratulations**, once again, to our under-18 Lacrosse team who beat Bodley Girls on Saturday, five-two. Well done." (minute 1:03:06)*

The data above is an utterance spoken by Mrs. Kingsley who acts as a speaker. The context of the data above is that Mrs. Kingsley, as a headmaster, gathers all students in an

auditorium to congratulate the school's lacrosse team for winning a competition. The school's team has never defeated any other team before. In the expressive act, the term "*congratulations*" from the data above is congratulating people. The speaker feels being in one's glory for the achievement.

The function of the utterance above is to express how proud the speaker is of the target object. The speaker congratulates them in front of all students to aim them pleased and enthusiastic. Thus, the expressive act that is used by the speaker makes the addressees feel proud of themselves.

V. Conclusion

Based on an analysis of expressive acts' data from the Wild Child movie above, the researcher has made some conclusions. This analysis uses Searle's theory of speech act which is classified into five categories such as thanking someone, praising, greeting, asking for an apology, and congratulating someone. In this movie, there are 36 appropriate utterances that have been found to be analyzed as expressive acts, and the five types of expressive acts occur in the utterances of the characters. In this research, there are 10 data of apologizing (27.7%), 7 data of praising (19.5%), 7 data of thanking (19.5%), 1 data of congratulating (2.7%), and 11 data of greeting (30.5%). The type of expressive act that is often to be used in this movie is greeting which occurs 11 times, which is 30.5% of the data.

The expressive acts have several functions. In each analysis, the function of expressive acts is dissimilar. There are thanking someone with 7 data (19.5%), praising with 7 data (19.5%), greeting with 11 data (30.5%), asking for an apology with 10 data (27.7%), and congratulating someone with 1 data (2.7%). Thanking someone is to express that the speaker is grateful to the hearer for doing something beneficial. Praising is used to make people feel appreciated by commending their performance or appearance. The greeting is an expression that is used to welcome someone using polite words such as wishing their happiness. Asking for an apology is used to express or request forgiveness from someone. Congratulating someone is an expression that is used to give someone great wishes when something special happens to them. Thus, these functions of the expressive acts are found in the utterances of the characters in this movie.

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