EXPRESSIVE ACTS OF CHARACTERS' UTTERANCES IN THE AFTERMATH MOVIE

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Abstract

The researchers conducted the descriptive qualitative research to analyze the expressive acts types. This research used The Aftermath 2019 movie as the data source and data were utterances that characters produced to show their emotions to the hearers. The researchers took the data by using observational method and note-taking. The researchers did not appear in the movie and data were collected by also writing down. In analyzing data, pragmatic identity method and pragmatic competence- in equalizing were used. It was analyzed with the theory of expressive acts by Searle and Vanderveken (1985). The result showed the characters said all expressive acts types. There were 59 data found in the utterances. One data of congratulate, 14 data of apologize, one data of welcome, 15 data of thank, 14 data of greet, seven data of complain, and seven data of compliment. Based on the result, thank was dominant because the characters commonly used this type to show their feelings. The characters frequently expressed gratitude because the speakers got good benefits from the listeners

Keywords: Expressive Acts, Illocutionary Acts, Pragmatics

1. INTRODUCTION

A speaker and hearer cannot be separated from language. It is the tool for people to communicate one another and messages are delivered by using language. The communication tool for people to communicate is language (Ricca & Ambalegin, 2022), In establishing communication, speaker and hearer use language, but speaker and hearer should understand what is said. A speaker generally has additional intention from what is directly produced and the meaning is found by a hearer (Birner, 2013). The meaning is interpreted from context that takes part in the utterance.

Pragmatics studies the contextual meaning and it involves expressive acts

as the topic speaker's psychological state. Emotion of speaker because of something is expressed by using expressive acts (Norrick, 1978). Expressive acts is easily to be found in society and one of the media in society is social media. The researchers found phenomenon of expressive acts in utterance of "Best Jeremy Senaris Dishes" YouTube video and the video was from Master Chef World. It was published on 6th April 2022 and expressive acts appeared at minute 02:09-02:30 where three judges and one participant were involved.

> Jeremy : "It's toasted coconut and white chocolate tres leches cake."
> Michael :"So, you got three layers."
> Jeremy :"And I put white chocolate in between each layer."
> Michael :"**It's absolutely wonderful**!"

In the cooking competition, Jeremy was the hearer and Michael as the speaker. From several participants, Jeremy was the first to be called to the judged table. The speaker wanted to taste the food that the hearer made. The hearer explained the food that he served. The hearer said toasted coconut and white chocolate *tres leches* cake as the name. Then, the hearer said that each layer of the cake was layered with white chocolate. The speaker said that the taste was good and the speaker was satisfied with the result. Based on the purpose, the speaker declared this utterance to express his feelings and there is a phenomenon of expressive acts in the type of compliment. As said

by Searle and Vanderveken, (1985), expressive acts of compliment is the type of expressive acts that is used to praise something good. Thus, compliment was applied in the speaker's utterance.

Informative media also displayed the phenomena of expressive acts. Movie is informative media that contain many utterances and pragmatic elements. In movie, there are characters who take part to tell the story. In the Aftermath movie, these phenomena were found in the utterances of the characters. The movie was released in 2019 and follows Rachel who is saddened by the devastation that she sees when she arrives in Hamburg after the war. The conversation was said in the minute of 00:03:21-00:03:26 and there were Rachel and Lewis.

> Rachel : "Hello, Lewis."
> Lewis   : "My god. Look at you."

Rachel was the speaker at the conversation and Lewis became the hearer. They met at the train station and at that time they got off a different train. In the conversation above, the hearer was smoking and looking around. Then, the speaker walked to the place where the hearer stood. The speaker was also carrying her luggage and the speaker showed excitement as she walked. Based on the speaker's utterance, the speaker showed her psychological state when she first met the hearer. The speaker showed her feelings by greeting the hearer. The utterance that the speaker uttered was "hello", which she addressed to the hearer. It indicates that the speaker involved greet in the

utterance. As Searle and Vanderveken (1985) defined, when someone says "hello" to greet the interlocutor, the speaker is showing a polite manner. To sum up, the speaker used expressive acts of greet to greet the hearer.

It was found that the topic of expressive acts had been investigated in previous research. Rahmawati (2021) aimed at investigating expressive acts in movie. The movie Crazy Rich Asian was taken to be the data source. The theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985) about expressive acts was used to analyze the data. There were 52 utterances that referred to expressive acts and 10 types. The researcher mentioned that the movie characters did not perform expressive acts of boast and condole. Expressive acts that commonly used by the characters were thank, compliment, and apologize. The characters show polite and friendly behavior to other characters.

Ricca and Ambalegin (2022) analyzed the expressive acts on their research. The researchers analyzed the types and took First Swipe web series to be analyzed. The data were taken from expressive utterances uttered by the characters. The theory about expressive acts was used to analyze the data. The researchers found 15 data and the characters produced five expressive acts types. There were three data of thank, two data of apologize, congratulate had one data, compliment type showed eight data, and one data was found in welcome.

Several similarities and differences existed between the present research and previous research. The similarities were object as present and previous research analyzed expressive acts and the theory of Searle and Vanderveken (1985) was applied. The different data source was used because this research took The Aftermath movie as data source. The researchers conducted this research to find out the expressive acts types in The Aftermath movie.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1.1 Expressive Acts

A speaker that wishes to express feelings will produce expressive acts while speaking. In an expressive utterance, the speaker expresses how they feel about someone or something. Expressive acts focus on showing attitudes to hearer (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). It explain that by people say expressive utterance because they want to show they attitudes about something. Furthermore, Alston (2000) expressive acts are illocutionary acts that reflect the speaker psychological state. Explanation based on, all feeling expressed by the speaker is shown through these illocutionary acts.

2.1.1.1 Types of Expressive Acts

Searle and Vanderveken, (1985) mentioned that "the types of expressive acts are congratulate, apologize, welcome, thank, greet, complain, and compliment." (p. 211).

A. Congratulate

A speaker will generally use this type to congratulate an interlocutor when they receive something good. As Searle and Vanderveken, (1985) claimed, people apply this type to

express joy the hearer as the one that feels happy about an achievement. The speaker says this to show that the speaker also feels grateful.

> **"Congratulation dear Jugyeong"** (Muliawati et al., 2020)
> **"Yes, man, congratulations!"** (Rahmawati, 2021)
> **"Never seen anyone interact with a crowd like that."** (Piscesco & Afriana, 2022)

B. Apologize

The act of apologizing conveys a speaker's regret for something bad that has happened. A speaker uses this to apologize because the speaker admits his fault. Apology is delivered to say that the speaker feels sorry because the speaker should not do the bad action (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985).

> **"Sorry, Ay this time papa stressed. You can't leave the house!"** (Selviyani & Pujiati, 2019)
> **"I'm sorry to disturb you so early."** (Virginia & Mubarak, 2021)
> **"I'm terribly sorry. I didn't mean to offend you. I'm sorry."** (Piscesco & Afriana, 2022)

C. Welcome

A welcome utterance is uttered when a speaker feels happy with the hearer's presence. This is mentioned once the hearer has been in the same place. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) said that welcome is applied to welcome someone with pleasure. Welcome also means that the speaker feels glad because the person comes.

> **"Welcome home. Come on in."** (Virginia & Mubarak, 2021)

D. Thank

Thank is said to acknowledge and show gratitude to someone as the person has benefited the speaker. Searle and Vanderveken (1985) defined thank as illocutionary acts that contains speaker's gratitude and the speaker gets benefit. This describes that thank utterance is delivered to show that the speaker's gratefulness because the speaker has done something good.

> **"Thank you very much…"** (Rahmawati, 2021)
> **"Thanks for the flowers"** (**Tanjung**, 2021)
> **"Thank you JK for the served to the nation"** (Rais & **Triyono**, 2019)

E. Greet

This type presents in speaker's utterance that is said to greet someone. A speaker commonly says "hello" to indicate that the speaker is recognizing the person. Searle and Vanderveken (1985), when someone says "hello" to greet the interlocutor, the speaker is showing a polite manner. Therefore, greet type is found in utterance uttered to respect to someone.

> **"Hello."** (Agung Tribawa et al., 2018)

F. Complain

A speaker complains because the speaker feels discontent about something. Complain is applied when a speaker disagree with thing that occurs (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985). The expressive acts of complain conveys discontent about an action that is considered as bad. This type is potential

to represent in situation that triggers a speaker to be mad.

> **"Are you crazy?"** (Abbood & Rasheed, 2022)
>
> **"Did you happen to bump into my car?"** (Masjedi & Paramasivam, 2018)

G. Compliment

Good action done by a hearer will get a compliment from a speaker. According to Searle and Vanderveken, (1985), speaker applies this type to compliment something and it does not need to be advantageous for the speaker. In other words, a compliment utterance is produced when a speaker notices something good happens to the hearer even it is not for the speaker.

> **"How beautiful it is!"** (Fortunasari et al., 2019)

3. RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the researchers used descriptive qualitative because there was observation of phenomena. The Aftermath movie was analyzed and utterances of expressive acts were data. "Qualitative research needs its researcher to analyze, interview, or observe" (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016, p. 2). To get data, the researchers collected data by Sudaryanto (2015)'s observational method and note-taking technique. It is because the researchers collected data by watching movie and after watching, utterances from the movie were noted. At first, researchers watched the movie. Then, researchers watched and listened what the speakers said. Thirdly, the utterances were noted and the researchers highlighted

utterances that speakers use to talk about feelings.

The data then were analyzed by using pragmatic identity method and pragmatic competence- in equalizing. It was used because the researchers looked at the context of utterances to analyze data. The steps began with finding meaning by seeing the context of utterances. Then, the researchers analyzed the data with the theory of expressive acts. The theory from Searle and Vanderveken (1985) was taken for this research. From the analysis, it showed the types that were applied in The Aftermath movie.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
4.1 Result

This research showed the result of expressive acts types in The Aftermath movie. In the movie, the researchers found 59 utterances of expressive acts and all types were used. Based on the total data, the type of thank was dominant because the characters mostly produced expressive acts to show gratitude of the speakers because the hearers got benefits.

Table 1. Types of expressive acts in The Aftermath movie

No.	Type	Occurrence
1.	Congratulate	1
2.	Apologize	14
3.	Welcome	1
4.	Thank	15
5.	Greet	14
6.	Complain	7
7.	Compliment	7
	Total data	59

4.2 Discussion

The researchers took 15 data from 59 data. The researchers reduced the data by using data reduction method from Sugiyono (2013). The data were taken from apologize, welcome, thank, greet, complain, compliment, and congratulate. The researchers did not analyze all data because the researchers discussed the different data in this research. The researchers analyzed apologize type in data 5, 9, 13. Thank was in the data 2, 6, and 11. The researchers analyzed greet in data 3, 8 and 14. Then, complain was in data 1 and 12. Compliment is as seen in 4, 7, 10. Congratulate was in data 15.

Data 1

Rachel and Lewis were on the car after leaving the train station. They were going home while talking each other.

Rachel : "How are you?"
Lewis : "Good. Fine. You?"
Rachel : "It's... **It's been difficult**."
(00:04:37- 00:04:43)

The conversation took place on the car. Rachel communicated with Lewis and the speaker was Rachel. Then, the hearer is Lewis that responded the speaker's utterance. The speaker expressed her feeling because the speaker wanted to show it to the hearer. The speaker said that her current situation was good as it had been difficult for her. In the utterance, there is the expressive acts of complain to show the speaker felt displeasure about an action that happened. The feeling was expressed in the type of complain.

Data 2

Lewis and Rachel finally arrived at the destination and in the conversation below, Lewis talked to Barker.

Lewis : "**Thank you**, Barker."
Barker : [get out from the car]
(00:05:42-00:05:43)

After spending time on the way, Lewis as the speaker had arrived. The speaker arrived at a luxurious house and they were some people there. Because the speaker was driven there, the speaker expresses his pleasure to the hearer. The speaker said thank to the hearer because the hearer had helped Lewis and Rachel. The speaker delivered his thank by expressing his gratefulness to the hearer. The type of thank was produced to the hearer of the conversation.

Data 3

Lubert had waited for Lewis and her wife in the yard. Stephen came closer to the man and talked to him.

Lubert : "Colonel Morgan. **Welcome**!"
Lewis : "Herr Lubert."
(00:05:47-00:05:50)

Lubert produced the utterance to Lewis on the house yard. The speaker was Lubert and Lewis responded as the hearer. The speaker in the utterance said that the speaker welcomed the hearer. It was said because the hearer had just arrived. The hearer's presence then was welcomed as the speaker said "welcome". The speaker felt grateful because he finally went there. The expressive acts was said in the utterance and the speaker chose to use welcome as the type.

Data 4

Stephen invited Rachel and Lewis to come in. The man showed them the finest room of the house.

Lewis : "**It's lovely**, isn't it, darling?"
Rachel : "It's very modern."
(00:06:12-00:06:16)

Stephen talked to Rachel at the room. Stephen presents as the speaker and Rachel was the one that answered it. The speaker said the room was lovely according to him. The room prepared by Stephen was good it was luxurious and it amazed him. The speaker complimented the room and he showed his happy feeling after seeing it. In the utterance, the speaker uses one of expressive acts types called as compliment because he complimented the room.

Data 5

Stephen asked them to see around the house. They were in the balcony while Stephen was talking to Lewis.

Stephen : "Die Elbe. It flows all the way to the... **I'm sorry**, I don't have the English."
Lewis : "The Deutsche Sea?"
(00:07:07-00:07:14)

They were in the balcony and looking at the river of the house. The speaker was Stephen and the man talked to Lewis. The speaker wanted to introduce the river the hearer, but the speaker did not know the English word for explaining about the river. The speaker apologized to the hearer because he could not do it. The speaker uses the expressive acts of apologize to say sorry about what he had done.

The speaker used expressive acts to make the hearer did not get mad.

Data 6

Lubert and Lewis entered the room because Rachel asked to do it. Lubert talked to him that he hoped they would feel happy and he did not bother them.

Lubert : "I hope you can be as happy here as we were. My daughter and I will stay out of your way...until we move to the camp."
Lewis : "**Thank you.** "
(00:07:32-00:07:42)

Lubert talked Lewis and wished him and his wife to be happy in the new house. The speaker added that he and his daughter would stay out of their ways in the house. The hearer responds by showing gratefulness because he benefitted the hearer. The hearer and his wife also would be helped. The hearer said "thank you" as the positive emotion delivered to the speaker. The hearer used the expressive acts of thank to show feeling and he thanked him by using the type.

Data 7

Rachel came to Lewis at the bedroom. They were talking each other in the conversation.

Lewis : "**You look beautiful**."
Rachel : "You've still got this."
(00:08:43-00:08:51)

Rachel sat closer to Lewis and the speaker was Lewis. Rachel was the hearer that responded him. The hearer was the speaker's wife and they had just come to the city to stay there. The

speaker said the utterance to express his feeling after seeing Rachel. The speaker praised her because she looked good. Because of her beauty, the speaker used expressive acts with the type of compliment. The speaker said "you look beautiful" to define the beauty of the hearer and it was the positive feeling that the speaker wanted to express.

Data 8

Morgan arrived at the place that got the effect of war. He came by driving his car and there was Wilkins there.

Morgan : "**Wilkins**."
Wilkins : Sir.
(00:10:48-00:10:50)

Morgan as the speaker came by walking hurriedly to the place. There was Wilkins as the hearer that had arrived. The speaker expressed his feeling by saying the utterance. The speaker used it to show that he recognized the hearer and the speaker greeted him "Wilkins". Because the speaker greeted him, it shows that the speaker showed the hearer a polite manner. In the utterance, the speaker produced expressive acts with type of greet because of the speaker's expression.

Data 9

Rachel walked to the dining room at the morning. There was a maid, Heike than served her breakfast.

Heike : "Good morning, Frau Morgan. Would you like a cup of coffee?"
Rachel : "**I'm sorry,** I... I don't..."
(00:13:53-00:14:14)

Heike came to the dining room to serve Rachel. Heike was the speaker that talked to Rachel as the hearer. The speaker greeted her and asked whether she wanted a cup of coffee, but the speaker talked very fast and the hearer did not understand. The hearer apologized because she did not understand and it was her psychological state that she wanted to deliver. The speaker felt sorry about her inability of understanding what the speaker said. The hearer used the type of apologize to show her psychological state.

Data 10

Lewis came back to the house after checking the situation of the place that he went. Rachel was at the dining room as she was having breakfast.

Lewis : "Sleep well?"
Rachel : "Actually, I did."
Lewis : "**Good**."
(00:14:56-00:15:01)

Lewis as the speaker produced the utterance to Rachel. In the utterance, the hearer was Rachel. The speaker asked her whether she slept well last night and the hearer said that she did. Because of it, the speaker delivered his psychological state to respond the utterance. The speaker responded by complimenting the sleep quality of the hearer. The speaker said "good" and it indicates the speaker felt grateful about the good thing that the hearer felt. The expressive acts of compliment was said to compliment the hearer.

Data 11

Lewis, Rachel, and Freda were having breakfast together. Rachel invited Lewis and Freda to join her.

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Rachel   : "I'm... I have somebody coming over tomorrow to do my hair... if Freda would like to join me."

Lubert   : "Freedie? **Thank you**, Mrs. Morgan."

(01:02:56-01:03:09)

Lubert as the speaker talked to Lubert and the hearer was Rachel. The speaker used the utterance to show the speaker's feeling after hearing the offer given by the hearer. The hearer wanted to invite the speaker's daughter to have her hair done by someone. The speaker thanked her because the hearer would do good thing for the speaker's daughter. To thank the hearer, it needed the speaker to use expressive acts of thank. The speaker used it to show gratefulness about what the hearer had offered.

Data 12

Morgan and some people entered a room, which involved a murderer in it. The man came and angrily talked to him.

Murderer   : "You are like a child who covers his eyes... and thinks the world goes away. **But we won't forget**. We will cut your men's throats in the streets…"

Morgan   : [Attack the murderer]

(01:08:36-01:08:49)

The murder was the speaker and he talked to Morgan as the hearer. The speaker said the utterance to give negative emotion because he complained the hearer. The speaker said he will not forget the bad action that the

hearer did to him. The speaker added that he will do bat thing back to him to make everything equal. In the utterance the speaker used expressive acts and it is in the type complain because he had negative feeling. The speaker felt unhappy with the action done by Morgan.

Data 13

Rachel and Stephen were spending time together on the snow. The woman then made fun of him because he threw the snow ball to him.

Rachel   : "**I'm so sorry**."

Stephen   : "No"

(01:09:37-01:09:41)

Rachel as the speaker tried to make fun of the man. The hearer was Stephen and the hearer at that time was checking his things on bag. The speaker threw the snow ball and expressed her feeling. The speaker apologized to express the feeling and she apologized because she did bad thing to the hearer. In the conversation, it has expressive acts that was included. The speaker used the type of apologize because she felt sorry and wanted to apologize.

Data 14

Morgan came back from work and he came to Rachel, who was playing piano. There was Rachel alone at the living room.

Morgan   : "**Hello**, Rachael. I'm home."

Rachel   : "Lewis."

(01:18:02-01:18:07)

Morgan as the speaker came to the hearer, who was Rachel. Rachel was playing and the man came to her. The speaker uttered the utterance to show that he greeted the hearer, who did not

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see him. The speaker greeted her by saying "hello" and he also mentioned his name. The speaker used it to show his psychological state and polite manner. The expressive acts of greet is used in the utterance to show the good behavior to the hearer.

Data 15

Lubert and Lewis came to a room and Rachel also followed them. Lewis told Lubert that Rachel and him will go home.

> Lewis : "I've been cleared. I knew it."
> Lubert : "**Congratulations**. Burnham must have pulled some strings."
> (01:19:19-01:19:26)

Lubert as the hearer and Lewis came as the speaker. The speaker used the utterance to express a good emotion. The hearer delivered his feeling in which he was happy with the achievement of the speaker. The hearer congratulated him and felt very happy with the result in which everything is clear. The hearer used expressive acts to show it and the type of congratulate was used. The speaker got a good response from the hearer as his boss.

5. CONCLUSION

This research analyzed expressive acts in The Aftermath movie. The movie characters used expressive acts to show their feelings. The result concluded that there were 62 expressive utterances and all types were produced. One data of congratulate, 14 data of apologize, one data of welcome, 15 data of thank, 14 data of greet, seven data of complain, and seven data of compliment

From the result, it showed that the most commonly uttered type was expressive acts of thank. The characters said lots of expressive acts utterances to show their gratefulness because the hearers had done good things for the speakers.

For suggestions, the researchers suggest future researchers to analyze express acts because it is very important to be studied. In daily life, expressive acts is important because it is used in utterances to show what the speaker feels about someone or something. If people understand the types of expressive acts, they will understand what people feel. The future researchers should conduct the research of expressive acts to help language users for understanding ore about it.

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