

EXPRESSIVE SPEECH ACTS IN ELLEN’S TALK SHOW “ELLEN TAUGHT THIS FAN HOW TO SPEAK ENGLISH”

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Abstract

This study focuses on analyzing the expressive speech act used as conversational strategy in Ellen’s Talk Show. The strategies used are direct speech and indirect speech. The purpose of this study is to classify and to investigate the language functions of expressive speech as conversational strategy occurred in Ellen talk show entitled “Ellen Taught this Fan How to Speak English.” This study uses a qualitative method with descriptive approach in analyzing data. This study applied the theory from Searle and Vanderveken (1985) related to the type of expressive speech act. The data source is taken from a conversation between Diana Aquino as their guest and Ellen as the host. This study is a document or content analysis because the data used is from the internet and was previously posted. The technique of data analysis which the researcher used is the interactive model of Miles and Huberman for data analysis, which consisted of three steps, namely data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. The data instrument used is utterances found in Ellen talk show. The results found 8 types of expressive language occurred involves greeting, thanking, complimenting, praising, apologizing, protesting, boasting, and complaining.

Keywords: *Expressive Language, Expressive Speech Act, Ellen Talk Show, Conversation’s Strategy*

1. INTRODUCTION

Communication uses language as a tool to express people’s feelings. Building relationship through communication is important to create strong personal and professional bonding (Negassa, G. J., & Japee, 2023). Contextually, communication contributes to meaning, named Pragmatics. Expression language is conveyed through speaking based on speaker’s intention to delineate illocutionary act (Bonvillain, 2020). Speakers express their psychological state of affairs such as thanking, congratulating, condoling, deploring, welcoming, etc. Speakers are not merely exchanging information but also understanding what people say and how

to respond. The process of speakers’ implies and listeners’ infers is a conversational implicature in which pragmatics focused on (Ariel, 2010). Levinson (1993), in line with this, defines Pragmatics as a study of meaning used in particular context (Wahyuningtyas & Sirniawati, 2023). Something that speakers express to communicate their thoughts and feelings is based on psychological state upon hearers or listeners as receivers to decode message from, named expressive speech acts (Fa’uni, Hanum, & Wulaningrum, 2023). It is a part of illocutionary act that speakers have a power to control their utterances to someone else they speak to in order to maintain their relationship (Tauchid, A., & Rukmini, 2016).

The instrument used to analyze is the script of Ellen talk show entitled “Ellen Taught This Fan How to Speak English.” In the beginning, Ellen interacted with the audience before finally Diana Aquino as her fan came forward and sat next to Ellen. The conversation was talking about Ellen taught this fan about how to speak English. The word “this” here refers to Diana Aquino. She is emigrants from the Dominican Republic twelve years ago. The conversation between Diana Aquino and Ellen is interesting to be analyzed since Diana Aquino knew only two English words (“hello” and “goodbye”) when she moved to United States. The conversation might inspire many people to learn English. Diana Aquino learned and enriched her English through watching Ellen talk show (The Ellen Show, 2018).

Expressive language as language function of speech act is often utilized in conversation the conversation conducted in Ellen talk show entitled “Ellen Taught This Fan How to Speak English.” It engages speakers’ skills and etiquette to send message and to create meaning (Faturrochman, Darmawan, & Faishol, 2021). This research will be based on pragmatics concerned with the relationship between language, expression, and conversation. This motivates the writer to conduct the research because it is an interesting topic for gaining knowledge of speaking skills in education into classroom interactions as a topic rose in Ellen talk show and for communicating in daily conversation. Therefore, this study is aimed at investigating and to find out dominant type of expressive speech act to describe the language function as conversational strategy occurred in Ellen talk show.

Many researchers conducted the use of expressive speech act and its function to be analyzed such as

conversation in comic (Izar, J., Nasution, M. M., Afria, R., Harianto, N., & Sholiha, 2021), in movie (Rahmawati, 2021), (Tanjung, 2021), YouTube web series film (Ricca, H., 2022), etc. Ellen talks show is interested to be analyzed since it is top-ten popular talk show in the United States. This show often invites popular people like actress/actor, artist, singer, and ordinary people with extraordinary talent. This talk show presents serious topics, comedies, and combination aspects such as music, game, human interest issues, to amuse audiences. Previous researchers studied expressive speech acts in Ellen talk show with famous and inspiring people like Billie Eilish (Ngasini, Senowarsito, & Muhrahani, 2021), Oprah Winfrey, Jennifer Aniston, Portia De Rossie (Saraswati, S. C., Sumani, & Chasanatun, 2022). Previous studies showed expressive language of speech act without explaining language functions as conversational strategy. Therefore, the novelty of this research is figuring out the strategy of expressive speech and the language functions produced by the host and the guest in inspirational talk show. This study is interesting to discuss since talk show is a good strategy for everyone who begin to learn English.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Speech act theory, which has its root in pragmatics, investigates the ways in which language is used to conduct acts as well as convey information. Speech act theory, developed by philosopher J.L. Austin and later improved by John Searle, argues that utterances can have two distinct meanings, namely illocutionary force with its intended action or function and locutionary aspects with its literal meaning of words. In pragmatics, comprehending speech acts is essential, as it clarifies how

language is employed to accomplish objectives that surpass the simple communication of ideas. A foundation of pragmatics is necessary to delve into expressive theory which examines how people use language to express their creativity, emotions, and personal identities within the larger context of communication.

Expressive Speech Act

Searle and Vanderveken (1985) classify expressive speech acts as classified into 12 functions as phenomena cases namely lamenting, thanking, apologizing, congratulating, complaining, condoling, protesting, deploring, boasting/exaggerating, complimenting, praising, and greeting/welcoming (Searle, J. R., & Vanderveken, 1985). Those expressive language functions are adopted from previous study conducted to investigate expressive speech act in movie (Arintonang & Ambalegin, 2023). Therefore, this study focused on analyzing expressive speech act used as strategy in conversation. It is aimed at identifying and to find out dominant type of expressive speech act to describe language function as strategy occurred in Ellen talk show. The strategies of speech act determine the success of how a speaker influences a hearer. In this case, there are two ways delivered, namely direct speech act and indirect speech act (Bonvillain, 2020; Ngasini, Senowarsito, & Muhrahani, 2021; Supri, I. Z., & Rahmatiany, n.d.; *The Ellen Show*, 2018). Direct speech act occurs if there is direct relationship between structure and the utterance of function whilst indirect speech act occurs if there is no direct relationship between structure and utterance. Diana Aquino used indirect speech act when she says "I didn't understand anything you were saying, literally. I'm sorry, but I didn't." Diana

Aquino expressed apologize directly to Ellen about feeling difficulty to understand Ellen's utterance. Diana used a direct speech act to show their feeling of apologize to Ellen in the expressive speech act. Once Ellen told the audience using indirect speech when she said, "Stay standing if you watch my show every day" she used direct speech to ask audience in one room to stay standing if they watch Ellen talk show every day. Some of audience sat down after she said, "You should be ashamed of yourselves." After, Ellen continued her saying jokingly, she used indirect speech act which means that people should watch Ellen talk show every day. Ellen expressed complaining to the audience in her statement.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a qualitative descriptive method for data analysis. The method of this study portrays people's manner when they interact each other and overcome issues in particular situation (Miles, Huberman, & Saldana, 2014). It is a research plan and procedure to collect and analyze data (Cresswell, J. W., & Poth, 2016). The data taken are verbal issue (Cresswell, & Cresswell, *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*, 5th Edition, 2018) conducted by Ellen DeGeneres as a host and Diana Aquino as a guest in Ellen talk show. As dynamic research with things happening in a field, the qualitative research design analyzes the data taken in conversation conducted in Ellen talk show entitled "Ellen Taught This Fan How to Speak English." The data document is taken from dialog transcription to be analyzed as a content analysis. Then, expressive speech acts were identified and classified in the data sources using Searle & Vanderveken (1985) theory. The techniques of

collecting data were watching and listening to conversation conducted by Ellen DeGeneres as interviewer, and Diana Aquino as interviewee, transcribing the conversation employed in talk show, reviewing the transcription of the conversation, and selecting the speakers' utterances conducted in conversation. The data analysis was identifying utterances using Searle and Vanderveken (1985) theory of expressive speech act, classifying utterances based on expressive speech act, analyzing frequency, interpreting data, and drawing conclusion. Afterward, the data are classified and analyzed to describe the language function as conversational strategy occurred in Ellen talk show.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

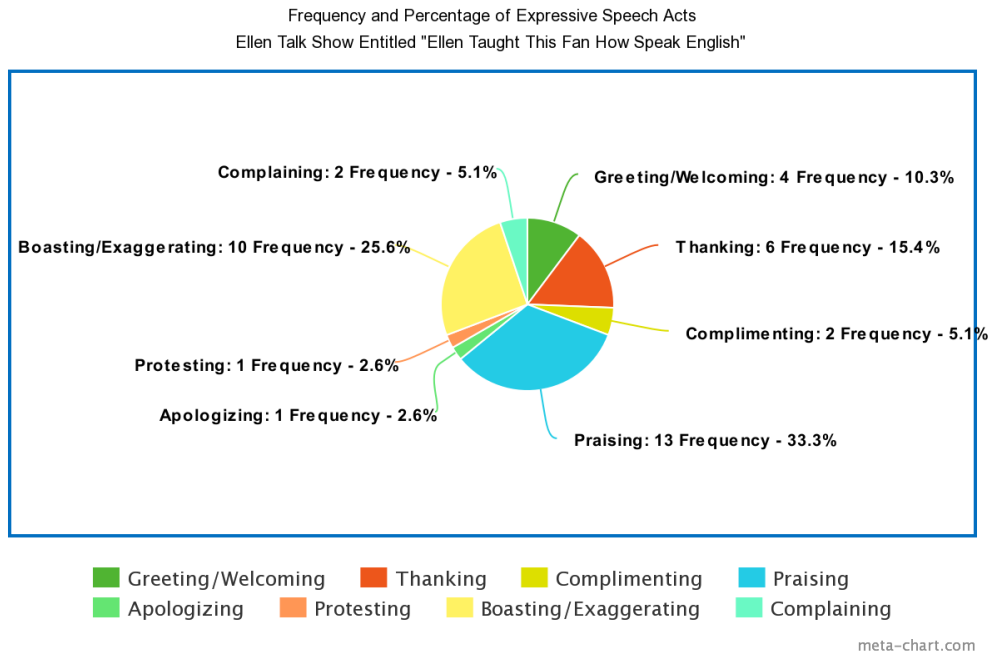
The data of this research are all of utterances that include expressive act founds in Ellen Talk Show entitled "Ellen Taught This Fan How Speak English" as well as the intended meaning of each language functions used in expressive act. There are 39 utterances of expressive speech acts found in Ellen Show conducted by Ellen and Diana Aquino. The researcher discovered 8 language functions of expressive act in the Ellen Show: Ellen Taught This Fan How Speak English. They are greeting, thanking, complimenting, praising, apologizing, protesting, boasting, and complaining found. They are listed in table 1 (see table 1).

Table 1. Frequency and Percentage of Language Functions of Expressive Speech Act in Ellen talk show: Taught This Fan How Speak English

No.	Language Functions of Expressive Act	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Greeting/ Welcoming	4	10,3%
2.	Thanking	6	15,4%
3.	Complimenting	2	5,1%
4.	Praising	13	33,3%
5.	Apologizing	1	2,6%
6.	Protesting	1	2,6%
7.	Boasting/ Exaggerating	10	25,6%
8.	Complaining	2	5,1%
	Total	39	100%

Table 1 depicts that 4 out of 39 data (10,3%) is greeting/welcoming expressive acts, 6 out of 39 data is thanking expressive acts (15,4%), 2 out of 39 data is complimenting expressive acts (5,1%), 13 out of 39 data is praising expressive acts (33,3%), 1 out of 39 data is apologizing expressive acts (2,6%), 1 out of 39 data is protesting expressive acts (2,6%), 10 out of 39 data is boasting/exaggerating expressive acts (25,6%), and 2 out of 39 data is complaining expressive acts (5,1%). From the table, it indicates that praising is the dominant language functions of expressive acts found in Ellen talk show entitled "Taught This Fan How Speak English" with Diana Aquino as a guest and Ellen DeGeneres as a host. The following diagram illustrates language functions found as the type of expressive acts in Ellen talk show entitled "Taught This Fan How Speak English."

Fig.1 Frequency and percentage of expressive speech acts found in Ellen talk show entitled “Ellen Taught This Fan How Speak English.”



The chart of figure 1 above depicts that the most dominant language function found as the expressive speech acts is praising of 33,33%. The second dominant language function of expressive act found is boasting/exaggerating expressive act of 25,6%. It indicates that praising conducted by speakers revealing their grateful to God for having met good people around them. Besides, by expressing boasting/exaggerating acts, speakers expressed their pride with presupposition that things one boasted about is good to speakers and someone they speak to.

Discussion

The types of expressive speech acts are classified by utterances to find language functions conducted. The finding of expressive speech acts by utterances is drawn in the table 2 as below:

Table 2. Language Functions of Expressive Acts conducted in Ellen Talk Show entitled “Ellen Taught This Fan How Speak English.”

No	Expressive speech act	Utterances	Frequency
1.	Greeting	Hi Hello Hi Hi	4
2.	Thanking	I love you I love you too. I love you too. Thank you Thank you so much So I have a gift for you	6
3.	Complimenting	You're very sweet That's so sweet	2
4.	Praising	It was a great way to find out who watches my show every day. She's hilarious.	13

		You will love her.	
		Oh, My God	
		That's so sweet.	
		I love that.	
		I love that.	
		I love Andi.	
		I love Andi	
		I love him, too.	
		He's so cool	
		Oh my god.	
		Oh my god.	
5.	Apologizing	I'm sorry	1
6.	Protesting	No. I literally speak two words. It was hello and goodbye.	1
7.	Boasting	But I got it.	10
		And that stuck with me forever, because I'm loud.	
		I'm affectionate.	
		I like to be kind to everyone.	
		So that just stuck with me to be who I am, with myself.	
		Oh yeah.	
		You'll are very affectionate, and Americans are very uptight.	
		Over there in Dominicans, we are so loud.	
		It's an incredible company that loves sharing life's joy with your education by giving you a check for \$10,000	
		We are still crazy	
8.	Complaining	I didn't understand	2

		anything you were saying, literally	
		You should be ashamed of yourselves	

4.1 Lamenting

The expressive act of lamenting is an expression of sorrow, mourn, and regret. This expression illustrates speakers' emotion through their attitudes toward particular situation they feel such as feeling loss for tragedy struck and injustice. Speakers have no initiation of changing situation. They also convey communal mourning and acknowledge the impact of situation. There is no lamenting expressive act found in conversation between Ellen and Diana Aquino.

4.2 Thanking

The expression of thanking or gratitude is automatically expressed by people in daily lives to appreciate someone else. They express a positive feeling by thanking someone else. The way to express thanking perhaps is different one to another. Diana Aquino expresses thanking by saying "I love you" to Ellen for what Ellen has done as impact for Diana to be good in English. Ellen also responded by saying "I love you, too" to express her thankful to Diana for the positive impact of her talk show could change Diana in a good English-speaking skill. Furthermore, Diana said "thank you" for gift offer from Ellen, and surprisingly Diana said, "thank you so much!" when Ellen surprised her \$10,000 gift.

4.3 Apologizing

The expressive act of apologizing is conducted to show and to communicate regret, remorse for a mistake, wrong doing or harm done to someone else. Speakers seek for

forgiveness as their responsibility for their actions. Speakers convey their message to repair their relationships and strengthen their social ties to others they speak to. The way to apology relies on conditions of sincerity, accountability, and a genuine of other people's hurt. Diana Aquino said sorry by saying "I'm sorry" to Ellen for not understanding Ellen's English during learning English by watching Ellen talk show. Diana was trying to responsible about incapability to understand Ellen's saying in talk show that Diana Aquino watched during her learning in English.

4.4 Congratulating

The expressive act of congratulating conveys speakers to positive emotions and attitudes conducted toward recipients' accomplishment, good fortune, or success. This situation is solely intended to express speakers' emotions to others they talk to without attempting to alter any aspect of situation. There are no indications of speakers' utterance to congratulate in the Ellen talk show entitled "Ellen Taught This Fan How Speak English."

4.5 Complaining

The expressive of complaining expresses speech act appeared from the voice of unhappiness and dissatisfaction toward situation or world. Speakers convey negative emotions and attitudes regarding particular state of affairs occurred at individual, a group, or institution. The goal is not trying to modify the situation happening but to express speakers' discontent and opinions about. The utterance of "you should be ashamed of yourselves" is uttered by Ellen to the audience jokingly about not watching Ellen talk show every day. Complaining expressive act is also conducted by Diana Aquino in her

utterance of "I didn't understand anything you were saying, literally" since she did not understand Ellen's saying in English during Diana's learning by watching Ellen talk show. In this case, Diana complains herself for not understanding what Ellen means by saying English during Diana's watching Ellen talk show.

4.6 Condoling

The expressive of condoling is conveyed by speakers to express sympathy, comfort, and condolences to someone else who has loss and suffers. This goal is not trying to alter the situation but providing emotional support for recipients' well-being. There is no condoling found in Ellen talk show utterances entitled "Ellen Taught This Fan How Speak English."

4.7 Protesting

The expressive act of protesting is conveyed by speakers to communicate dissent, disapproval toward something, or opposition toward particular situation, action, or policy. The aim of this speech act is to influence others, to modify their behaviors, and to highlight a significant matter. Speakers try to endeavor the effect of changing the world. Diana Aquino, in her utterance of "No," denied Ellen's questions whether Diana Aquino did not speak any English at all.

4.8 Deploring

The expressive speech act of deploring illustrated speakers' intense disapproval, condemnation, regarding a particular situation, action, or conduct. The aim of this act is to convey speakers' negative assessment. There is no intention to change the situation in this deploring expressive act but to articulate the speakers' sentiments and position on matter happening. There are no utterances express deploring in Ellen talk

show entitled “Ellen Taught This Fan How Speak English.”

4.9 Boasting/ Exaggeration

The expressive act of boasting indicates that speakers showcase their achievements, capabilities, or possession to promote themselves. This act is conducted to enhance speakers’ self-image or reputation, to impress, or to intimidate others. This act has different forms including exaggeration, self-praise, or comparisons with others either to individuals or groups. It aims to influence others’ beliefs and attitudes. The utterance of “but I got it” is uttered by Diana Aquino to show boasting how her capability to conquer English words by looking up dictionary meant to her. Diana also said in her utterance of “and that stuck with me forever, because I’m loud” to illustrate her exaggerated self-praise. She stated in her utterance “I’m affectionate,” Diana praised herself excessively. She added her previous saying “I like to be kind to everyone” means that Diana explained the reason of her affectionate. Furthermore, she adds “So that just stuck with me to be who I am, with myself” shows that English words stuck them to be who she is proudly. The remark “so yeah,” Diana proudly exclaimed about herself. Ellen’s response in her utterance of “You’ll are very affectionate, and Americans are very uptight” seems that she is boasting about comparing characters of Dominicans and Americans. Diana added by saying “over there in Dominicans, we’re so loud” shows Dominicans’ character to describe herself excessively. Ellen, then, closed the topic of comparing in her utterance of “it’s an incredible company” in “it’s an incredible company that loves sharing life’s joy with your education by giving you a check for \$10,000” excessively she

proudly stated that her company of Ellen talk show was incredible.

4.10 Complimenting

Speakers show complimenting expression through their acts by saying their approval, admiration, or praise to someone’s quality, action, or possession. It aims to convey positive emotions and to enhance other person’s self-image and reputation. The forms used are such as statement, gesture, or gift addressed to individuals or groups. This act has intended meaning to influence the beliefs or the attitudes to someone else who they speak to. Ellen complimented Diana that she is very sweet in her utterance of “you’re very sweet.” The “sweet” here concerns to what Diana did to improve herself in learning English. Ellen added “that’s so sweet” in Diana’s quality of English.

4.11 Praising

This expressive speech act has positive evaluation, admiration, or approval towards a particular action, behavior or situation. It intends to communicate speakers’ positive feelings and attitudes toward recipients addressed to individuals or groups. There is no aim to change the situation but to express speakers’ emotions and attitudes. The forms of praise are like encouragement or achievement recognition. In her utterance if “it was a great way to find out who watches my show every day,” Ellen praised that it was achievement of her talk show inspire many people in learning English. Diana’s utterance of “she’s hilarious” addressed to Ellen is to show encouragement that Ellen did inspire people to learn English in her talk show. Diana’s praise as her mom’s saying that Diana will love her stated in her utterance “you will love her.” Ellen responded to Ellen’s praise by saying “I love that” to express her emotion of

praise repeatedly. Diana also gave her praise to Andi as Ellen's friend in her utterance "I love Andi" twice.

4.12 Greeting/welcoming

Greeting is an expressive act of acknowledging someone's presence as a polite way to start a conversation. The aim is to establish and reinforce social connections and to express positive intentions to someone else's whom speakers greet to. Speakers say "hi", "hello," "good morning," even in questions form such as "how are you?", "where are you going?", and so forth. People sometimes use gestures in greeting, like nodding or waving. Greeting is an integral part in communication that relates to social behavior and influences cultural practices and expectations. Ellen in the talk show greeted Diana Aquino by saying "Hi." Ellen said hi to greet and to welcome Diana to come along with Ellen to make a talk. Then, Ellen continued saying "hello" as greeting again and Diana responded by saying "hi."

5. CONCLUSION

This research is conducted to classify and to investigate language expressions of expressive speech act as conversational strategy occurred in Ellen talk show. After investigating expressive speech acts found in conversation, it was found that 4 out of 39 data (10,3%) is greeting/welcoming expressive acts, 6 out of 39 data is thanking expressive acts (15,4%), 2 out of 39 data is complimenting expressive acts (5,1%), 13 out of 39 data is praising expressive acts (33,3%), 1 out of 39 data is apologizing expressive acts (2,6%), 1 out of 39 data is protesting expressive acts (2,6%), 10 out of 39 data is boasting/exaggerating expressive acts (25,6%), and 2 out of 39 data is complaining expressive acts (5,1%). It

means that there are eight language functions as the data of expressive speech act found in this research. The eight types of expressive language found are greeting, thanking, complimenting, praising, apologizing, protesting, boasting, and complaining. Furthermore, the most dominant language functions of expressive speech act are praising with 13 data (33,3%). The second dominant language functions of expressive speech act are boasting with 10 data found (25,6%). Praising frequently occurred since Ellen and Diana appreciate each other to establish their relationship used by using indirect speech act. Boasting expression that Diana and Ellen said in their utterances indicates that they showcase how good they are as a kind of achievement to make them proud without intimidating each other to inspire audiences. The expression acts that Ellen' saying and Diana's saying in their utterances are their strategies to establish conversation and their relationship by supporting each other.

All types and functions of the expressive act are closely related to the purposes of talk shows. Therefore, expressive speech acts have a great role in involving viewers' emotions to enjoy the entertainment of the talk show itself. These expressive speech acts contribute to the overall conversational strategy in Ellen's talk show, creating an engaging and emotionally resonant experience for both the guests and the audience. By using these expressive acts, Ellen can effectively communicate emotions, show empathy, and create a welcoming atmosphere for her guests and viewers. The expression speech acts conducted implies that Ellen expressed her praising toward what this fan has been doing in learning English by watching Ellen talk show. It indicates that how inspirational talk show succeeds Diana as an English learner.

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